

PhD Candidate, Tamirat Tadesse Deneke

Personal Profile



I was inspired to attend Alemaya College of Agriculture after watching an old black-and-white film brought by my Canadian instructor at Ethiopian Adventist College. The film, borrowed from the U.S. Embassy, was recorded during the period when Alemaya was affiliated with Oklahoma State University. One vivid scene that stayed with me was milk being served in cups to students lined up for breakfast in the college canteen. The rest of the footage was equally compelling and painted an appealing picture of campus life.

Yet, this allure stood in contrast to my genuine aspiration to pursue a career in Education, a passion I had expressed with honesty and conviction, even featured in *The Rift Valley Rays 1980*, Ethiopian Adventist College Official 12th grade graduation Yearbook. As a young student, I found myself at a crossroads, torn between two distinct academic paths (Agriculture or Education) and navigating without the guidance of a career advisor, a challenge that continues to affect many students across Ethiopia today. Now, nearly four decades later, I am finally following the path I was truly passionate about. I take great satisfaction in being a PhD candidate at Addis Ababa university, studying Curriculum and Comparative Education, fully immersed in the process of writing my thesis.

Academic Qualification

PhD Candidate, Conducting Research	AAU
MSc. Data Comm. Science Middlesex University	UK
MSc Agri. Economics Aberdeen University	UK
PGD Economics & Marketing, Reading Uni.	UK
Certificate in Community Leadership Birbeck Uni.	UK
BSc. Animal Sciences Alemaya College	AAU ETH

Vocational Skills Qualification

Vocational Skills Development (ILO)	ITALY
Entrepreneurship Skill Training (UNDP)	ETH
Higher Education Teaching Qualification	UK
Education & Training Quality inspector	UK
Learning Assessment with Evidence	UK
Digital Instructional Design	GIZ, ETH

Rediscovering Purpose: A Journey Through Education and Reinvention:

Attending Alemaya College turned out to be a hidden blessing. After five years of service at the Ministry of Agriculture, I was fortunate to receive a World Bank funded opportunity to pursue a master's degree in the UK. During my time there, I shifted my focus to AG. Economics. However, after completing the program, I couldn't secure employment in that field. Thanks to the then-available free education system in UK, I was able to continue my studies, doing 2 ICT diplomas in one-year, followed by a one and half year MSc in Computer Science funded by the European Union. This pivot proved fruitful, as I landed a job in the thriving IT industry immediately after graduation.

As I approached my 40s, I gradually transitioned into teaching and training management. While in job, I received professional training in areas such as lecturing in Higher Education, Educational Quality Inspection, and Assessing Learning and Candidate's Competence through diverse sources of evidence. It was during this phase that I began to reconnect with a long held passion for Education, a dream rooted in childhood that I had never been able to pursue since.

My time to translate success into service and leaving a legacy:

While serving as an Education Quality Manager in a college in the UK, I developed a profound sense of gratitude and duty toward my homeland, particularly in the field of education. This inspired my return to Ethiopia with a strong commitment to contribute meaningfully. Since then, I have trained over 2,000 teachers on the concept of quality education, led the creation of Ethiopia's **first Basic Digital Skills** training resources, and delivered specialized instruction to over 200 ICT instructors from 10 Polytechnic Colleges. The course materials were handed over to *MINT, *MOSHE and distributed freely to numerous institutions. In addition, I have written several papers on topics including "Understanding Quality Education" and "Assessment of Ethiopia's unstructured Occupational Standard (OS) and Curriculum Development Process and its impact on the quality of TVET Program," and co-authored an academic article published in an international journal. *"Integration of postmodern perspectives in curriculum & instruction in "Ethiopian schools"* DOI: 10.1080/2331186X.2024.2447165.

Family history,

I'm married and have three children (2 boys & a girl) from a previous marriage, all UK born and university educated two with MSc qualifications. Currently employed full-time, they maintain a strong connection to Ethiopia and are eager to contribute their skills and energy to the country of their heritage.

*MINT= Ministry Information and Technology, MOSHE= Ministry of Science and Higher Education (2018 -2021) Merged with MoE in 2021.