

## **Biography of Dr. Ali Sheikh Ahmed AbuBakar**

This biography highlights the remarkable journey and enduring influence of Dr. Ali Shiekh Ahmed on education and society in Somalia.

**Profile: Dr Ali Sheikh Ahmed** ([Somali](#): *Cali Sheekh Ahmed*, [Arabic](#): علي الشيخ احمد)

Ali Sheikh Ahmed Abubakar, from an early age he possessed a keen desire for learning which was inspired by his parents. After completing secondary education in [Mogadishu](#)<sup>1</sup>, the capital of Somalia, he was awarded a scholarship by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to pursue higher education at the [Islamic University of Medinah](#)<sup>2</sup>, where he obtained his BA, MA, and PhD degrees. He subsequently held a lecturer at [King Saud University](#)<sup>3</sup> (1978 – 1992) in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

### **Contribution to Somali Education and Society**

Dr. Ali is a highly admired and influential figure in Islamic advocacy, education, and community awareness. He has made significant contributions towards promoting education especially during [post-civil war](#)<sup>4</sup> (1991-2008). In 1992, Dr. Ali Sheikh was relocated to Mogadishu with the aim of assisting the country's educational and social sectors. He played a crucial role in the restoration of educational institutions, such as schools and universities across the country, bringing hope to many families affected by the conflict.

In 1997, Dr. Ali Shiekh Ahmed became the co-founder and first president of [Mogadishu University](#)<sup>5</sup>, the first post-collapse institution for higher learning in Somalia. Under his leadership, the university expanded rapidly to ten colleges and offered over 40 academic programs.

Despite the challenges of insecurity and political instability in the country, his dedication to providing higher education for Somali youth has endured, and Mogadishu University has

become a renowned institution of excellence. His commitment to promoting quality education and research has inspired students, scholars, and the local community, and he has played a critical role in shaping a brighter future for Somalia.

In 2017, Dr. Ali established the East African Foundation for Scientific Development and Research ([DAD](#))<sup>6</sup> and was appointed president of the organization. This cherished institution is dedicated to promoting peace and development in East Africa through extensive research on the challenges of the region and forming a knowledge base that will help leaders obtain the best available information possible, reflecting Dr. Ali's steadfast dedication in furthering regional development and encouraging scientific inquiry across multiple fields.

In addition to his work on education, Dr. Ali Shiek was one of the five founding members of the Somali Civic Forum<sup>7</sup>, a reconciliation panel formed in 2004, and he established relief organizations<sup>8</sup>, and the promotion of state building.

In conclusion, Dr. Ali Sheikh's life serves as a testament to the transformative impact of unwavering determination, boundless passion, and unrelenting dedication. Through his groundbreaking work, he has inspired progress in Somalia and beyond. Our best wishes for his continued good health and future success.