

**AN INVESTIGATION INTO AFRICAN TRADITIONAL LEGAL SYSTEM  
TRADITIONAL SOMALI CUSTOMARY LAW**

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**A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE  
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## ABSTRACT

This article examines the nature of the Somali customary dispute resolutions. The study identifies three forms of Somali customary law Xeer dispute resolution systems (i.e., negotiation, mediation, arbitration) but focuses on arbitration because, of the three customary dispute resolution mechanisms in Somalia, arbitration is the most commonly used but also the least researched in the studies of the Xeer system. The study puts forward three arguments. First, Xeer is an alternative dispute resolution system that facilitates reconciliation and promotes restorative justice. Second, Xeer arbitration is relatively simple, familiar, transparent and accessible to those who wish to use it. Third, Xeer arbitration has emerged as the best way to resolve disputes in contemporary Somalia. However, the success of Xeer arbitration and customary dispute resolutions in general is contingent on the participation of the victims, perpetrators, and communities

The research is focused in understanding the Somali customary law in –depth its success and challenges facing in its use and its impacts in the user community in northern regions

Combinations of observation, focus group discussions questioners and documentary analysis will be used to collect data and gets in –depth analyses of how xeer is administered . The target population will be 100 this will include Chiefs, village elders , khadis and women groups

The collected data will be adequately analyzed and tabulated into percentages, frequencies, and charts while the qualitative data will be coded into themes

The findings will be significant to the ministry of justice ,national cohesions , policy makers of the local authority and , researchers and academicians