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Educational Innovations and their Adoption: The Case of Gender Awareness in Rural Swaziland.

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A RESEARCH REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION FACULTY OF HUMANITIES, OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE MASTERS IN EDUCATION

JOHANNENSBURG 2008

DECLARATION

This research report is my own unaided work it has not been submitted for any other degree here or elsewhere.

_____

Tibekile A. Manana

_____ day of _____ 2008

ABSTRACT

Despite initiatives by the Swaziland government in conscientising the public about equal participation of women and men in development issues, most women especially in rural areas, do not attribute their economic problems or lack of economic advancement to gender inequality. The aim of this research was to find out factors that contribute to gender awareness with the aim of improving gender awareness adoption that could result in gender related behavioral change. The research used illuminative evaluation methods to understand the gender awareness programme of the Council of Swaziland Churches. The study revealed that although the Council of Swaziland Churches has contributed positively towards raising gender awareness especially amongst its member churches, the gap between cultural practice discourse and legal and political discourse has contributed negatively towards gender adoption. The study argues that since gender is embedded in culture, the dialogic approach to teaching and learning is favored over confrontational approaches.

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DEDICATION

This report is dedicated to my father James Mkhulunyelwa (Madala) Dlamini for the foundation he laid for my education. Unfortunately he cannot share the joy of his effort as he was called to be with the Lord on the 13th February, 2006.

ACRONYMS

ARL	Active Reflection Learning
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
AIR	African Intellectual Resources
CANGO	Coordinating Assembly of Non-governmental Organizations
CAT	The Convention against Torture
CB	Capacity Building
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CSC	Council of Swaziland Churches
CRA	Critical Reflection on Assumption
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
GAD	Gender and Development
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
JPR	Justice Peace and Reconciliation
NGOGSC	Non-governmental Organization's Gender Steering Committee
PRA	Participatory Rural Appraisal
REC	Rural Education Center
REFLECT	Regenerated Freirian Literacy through Empowering Community Techniques
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SCOGWA	Swaziland Committee on Gender and Women's Affairs
WID	Women in Development
WLSA	Women and Law in Southern Africa

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