

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.

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_____ 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.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This research report is a result of God's love, grace and His promises that stand forever to those who trust in Him. God has sustained me through the rough tides of life. He has not only sustained my life but also the lives of those I am deeply indebted to the completion of this report. I thank my fellow bretheren, whose prayers, support, and encouragement led to the completion of this report.

I offer my heartfelt gratitude to my supervisor, Jane Castle, who continuously and tirelessly spent her time in challenging me to think critically, scholarly and logically while writing this report.

I thank The Council of Swaziland Churches' staff and workshop participants for allowing me into their programme. Special thanks to Maureen Magwaza, CSC Gender Officer (who was my link with CSC), CSC facilitators Agnes Mtetwa, Gavin Khumalo, Sakhile Dlamini and Lungile Magagula (who willingly worked and provided me with information for the study) and previous CSC workshop participants and whose cooperation and patience during the discussion and response to questionnaires is highly appreciated. I also thank CANGO gender specialist Sizakele Hlatjwako who spared her time to discuss gender awareness approaches with me.

I thank my sponsor, Kellogg Foundation, whose financial support enabled me to realize my educational dream. I also appreciate the time afforded to me by my employer, the Ministry of Education, to further my education.

I am deeply indebted to Gciniwe Nsibande, Pascal Mwale and Luke Sinwell for their time spent reading and making constructive contributions to this report.

Special thanks to my extended and immediate family. To my extended family, thank you for being my pillar of strength. To my husband Shesi and my children Cusilakhe (20), Sifundzile (18) and Setsabile (15), thank you for your patience and understanding whilst I deprived you of my attention as I devoted time to writing this research report.

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

CONTENTS	PAGE
Declaration	ii
Abstract	iii
Acknowledgements	iv
Dedication	v
List of Acronyms/Abbreviations	vi
Contents	viii
CHAPTER ONE – INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY	
1.1 Problem statement	1
1.2 Research aim	2
1.3 Rationale	3
1.4 Research questions	3
1.5 Background of Swaziland	4
1.5.1 Rural Swazi women	5
1.5.2 Initiatives to raise gender awareness	7
1.5.3 The role of non-governmental organizations in gender awareness	9
1.6 The role of the Council of Swaziland Churches in gender awareness.	10
1.7 Methodology, Scope and limitations of the study	10
1.8 Organization of the rest of the study	11
CHAPTER TWO – REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE	
2. Introduction	13
2.1 What is gender?	13
2.1.1 The gender contract	14
2.1.2 Gender inequalities	15
2.1.3 Gender and culture	16
2.1.4 The ambiguous status of Swazi women	18
2.2 Theories of learning and awareness raising approaches	23
2.2. 1 The Behaviorist Theory	25
The Woman in Development Theory	25
The Welfare Approach	26
The Gender Efficiency Approach	27
2.2.2 The Constructivist Theory	28
The Gender and Development Theory	30
Transformative Learning	31
2.3 Implications of the constructivist view to gender awareness approaches	37
2.3.1 Teaching as Negotiation	38
The Gender consciousness and development approach	39
2.3.2 Teaching as Mediation	42
The REFLECT Approach	44

2.3.3 Dialogic Teaching	46
The Popular Knowledge Gender Awareness Approach	47
2.4 Creation of a co-operative learning climate	49
3 Conclusions	51
CHAPTER THREE – THE RESEARCH DESIGN	
3. Introduction	53
3.1 The research method	53
A Case Study	56
3.2 Data collection methods	56
Observation	57
Unstructured Interview	57
Programme Document and Records	58
Focus Group Discussions	58
3.3 Sampling	60
3.4 Validity and Reliability	61
3.5 Ethical Considerations	61
3.6 Data Analysis	62
3.7 Conclusion	62
CHAPTER FOUR – PRESENTATION OF RESULTS	
4 Introduction	63
4.1 Instructional System	64
4.2 Learning Milieu	72
4.2.1 Observations	72
Workshop One- Shiselweni	74
Workshop Two- Manzini	86
Workshop Three - Ngwemphisi	93
4.2.2 Phenomenological concerns - Focus Group Discussions	103
4.3 Conclusion	108
CHAPTER FIVE – DISCUSSION OF RESULTS AND CONCLUSION	
5. Introduction	109
5.1 Advantageous gender consciousness approaches	110
5.2 Adoption of gender awareness programmes	118
5.3 Enhancing the adoption of gender awareness in rural Swaziland	125
5.4 Suggestion for further research	129
5.5 Conclusion	129
REFERENCES	
	132
APPENDICES	
1. Research methods and tools analysis form	136
2. Workshop observation sheet	137
3. Facilitator’s unstructured interview guide	138
4. Participant’s unstructured questionnaire	140

5. Participant's information sheet and consent form	142
6. Ethics clearance letter	143
7. Workshop's programme	144
8. Participants registration/attendance sheet- a) Shiselweni workshop	145
b) Ngwemphisi Inkhundla	147
9. Workshop participant evaluation sheet	149
10. Swaziland's geographical location and map	151

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS AND TABLES

Illustrations:

1. The interacting domains of intentional learning	33
2. Kolb's theory of experiential learning model	36
3. The learning spiral	48
4. Presentation of results	64

Tables:

1. Monologic versus dialogic teaching	49
2. The curriculum	67