

Libraries shaping indigenous economies of the rural villagers with special focus on women and girls in Dlangubo village, KwaZulu-Natal

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Outline

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Introduction

- Varied definitions – based on specific aspects emphasized by the writer
- **Contextual definition of IK** - traditional or local knowledge or large body of knowledge and skills that are used as the basis for decision-making in food security; shelter; health and other aspects of life by local community members that have stayed together for a long time.
- **Management** of mainly tacit IK through the use of SECI model
- **Preservation** - the use of in-situ and ex-situ methods

Problem statement

- Existed since time immemorial - not managed like scientific knowledge
- Held in the minds of elders (**largely TACIT**) - culture of sharing. Elders & Women – Primary Keepers
- Traditional tools have not meaningfully contributed to its management
- IP regimes inadequately protect IK
- African educational programmes – foreign values
- Few empirical studies to confirm suitable innovative methods

Research objectives & questions

- What are the various domains of IK most commonly used for daily survival at Dlangubo village?
- What are the methods and tools used in managing and preserving IK?
- Who are the owners and what do they know about the IP law system, especially South African IP laws?
- What role do **women and girls** play?
- What role can libraries, databases and ICTs play in the management & preservation activities?

Literature Review

- **Domains** of tangible & intangible IK: agriculture, traditional medicine and folklores
- **Challenges of managing IK:** Empirical & theoretical studies agree: collection development policies; accessibility; storage and preservation media; intellectual property rights (**Anwar 2010; Lwoga, Ngulube & Stilwell 2010**). Women primary keepers of IK but still suffer major disparities in terms of access to information resources in Africa. Low levels of literacy (**Mchombu 1999; and Young 2012**)
- **Challenges in S.A.:** scarcity of taxonomists;

Literature Review continued

- lack of coordinated organisational structures; lack of taxonomists & sufficient knowledge about IP rights and exploitation of IK (**Hart & Vorster 2006; Raphesu 2010**).
- **Dept of Rural Dev & Land Reform (2010) & HSRC**
- **Strategies for managing and preserving IK (IFLA 2002 and LIS scholars):**
 - Role of libraries & information centres – Policies
 - Codification, documentation or digitization of IK
 - Intellectual Property laws

Research Methodology

- **Research approach:** Qualitative inductive approach of grounded theory (GT). It uses in-depth qualitative interviewing approach to explore and extract data from the participants with extensive experience about their social world. The study will use symbolic interactionist theoretical perspective with constructivist methods (Charmaz in Gubrium & Holsteim 2001:678)
- **Research design:** Qualitative method; Team-work approach (10); participatory mapping methods (RRA & PRA); unstructured data collection methods like interviews; observation; focus groups; and audio-visual aids

Research Methodology continued

- **Study population:** local community members defined as knowledge holders above the age of 18, with special focus on women and girls; local field workers and knowledge intermediaries depending on availability.
- **Sampling procedure:** Convenience; Snowball and Purposive non-random samples will be used
- **Data collection procedure:** will include the use of participatory methods; structured, semi-structured & unstructured interviews; observation and focus groups

Research Methodology continued

- **The application of participatory method:** The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) (2009) provides 6 stages that guide the participatory mapping process: ground preparation; first workshop; first fieldwork; second workshop; second fieldwork; and final workshop (cleaning & finalization of maps). These steps will be used to establish IK domains and challenges & opportunities of managing IK in the are of study.
- **The application of data collection procedures:** includes the use of interviews, participant and non-participant observation and focus groups

Research Methodology continued

- **Data presentation and analysis:** This study will use five steps provided by Ulin, Robinson & Tolley (2005:144). They include: preparation; coding; interpreting; displaying; reducing and displaying
- **Triangulation:** This study will use theoretical triangulation of GT. It refers to a constant grounding process at the level of data gathering and analysis, including internal checks or constant comparison
- **Van Drie & Dekker (2013)** posit that theoretical triangulation involves the use of multiple perspectives when examining a phenomenon

Research Methodology continued

- preservation methods if they have sufficiently and meaningfully contributed to the management of IK. If not what role Dol theory as theory of social change play in introducing innovations and models that can be integrated with traditional methods for better management results.
- The ultimate goal is to develop model that will best suite the area of study, with special focus on women and girls.

Conclusion

- This study concludes that through the use of the qualitative inductive approach of GT; the SECI model and Dol theory, deeper insights regarding the challenges and opportunities of IK management and preservation will be acquired. Dol theory will help in understanding the community's perspectives about libraries; databases; IP laws; policies and ICTs as innovations and exogenous tools that can complement traditional methods in order to help improve the management of IK.