

LIBRARY

Cultural practices and political changes in the South: the role of intellectuals and artists

Nomusa Zimu HSRC

**Fifth South-South Summer Institute (APISA -CLASCO -
CODESRIA) in Brazil 2012**



Outline

1. Introduction
2. Definition of concepts
3. Research problem
4. Research objectives
5. Conceptual framework
7. Research methodology
8. Conclusion

LIBRARY



Introduction

- Mazrui argues that cultural embeddedness is important for the originality and vitality of African intellectual creativity (Mkandawire 2005).
- Mkandawire (2005) poses a question: 'How does an African intellectual formed in languages of domination having become an 'informed native' become instrumental in forming other intellectuals?'

Introduction

- Highly regarded intellectuals in Africa: Ben Bella of Algeria; Bourguiba of Tunisia; Kaunda of Zambia; Nkrumah of Ghana; Nyerere of Tanzania; Senghor of Senegal: who advocated for the doctrine of socialism (Mkandawire 2005)
- ‘Alione Diop’ Senegalese intellectual/artist in diaspora’ and ‘Dubois’ founding fathers of the system of Pan-Africanism; ‘Ntsikana’ the first South African intellectual/artist among Southern Nguni; ‘Soga and Steve Biko’ founding fathers Black Consciousness (Mkandawire 2005; Ndletyana 2008)

Cultural practices

- Cultural practice refers to the manifestation of a culture and subculture, esp. in regard to the traditional and customary practices of a particular ethnic or other cultural group developed within specific ethnic cultures, esp. those aspects that have been practiced since time immemorial (**Wikipedia, n.d.**).
- The question on what qualifies as a legitimate cultural practice remains the subject of legal and ethnic community debate.

Examples of cultural practices



Political changes in South Africa (SA)

Date	Action
1600 - 1800	Colonization and European modernity changed the cultural and political practices into multiplicity of cultures (British, Dutch and Portuguese)
1880 -1951	Pixley ka Isaka Seme in resistance invented the idea of the New African Movement (the political organization to represent the national interests of the African people)
1912	South African Native National Congress, today known as (ANC) was founded and launched in Bloemfontein
1960	Apartheid regime banned the ANC, New African Movement (ANC intellectuals), Pan Africanist Congress and Communist Party and there was Sharpeville massacre
1994 -	SA became a democratic country and Mandela became the first black South African President, followed by Mbeki, Motlante: Jacob Zuma is the current

Intellectuals and artists

- Intellectuals are individuals who by virtue of their position in society and intellectual training are preoccupied with abstract ideas not only for self gratification but also to fulfill a public role. They can be divided into various categories like: collective organic; artists; academic; political and grassroots intellectuals. Some can straddle between two or more roles (**Mangcu 2008; Mkandawire 2005; Ndletyana 2008; Nesbitt 2008**)

Honoring intellectuals in Africa / South Africa

Name	Job Title	Project
ANC	Ruling party in SA and Organic intellectual (Gramsci in Mkwandawire 2005) Good constitution and policies in SA Free basic education; FET for skills development, IK databases	Public Protector (Thuli Madonsela); Performance reviews of Ministers; Whistle blowing line;
HSRC/CODESRIA	Organic intellectuals Projects at HSRC; Free downloadable e-books and some at reasonable rates	Various publications
Thabo Mbeki	Political activist; ex president of SA	African Renaissance
Ruth First	Political activist; scholar and journalist	Anti apartheid campaigns
Albert Luthuli	Political activist ; 1st President of the ANC in KZN	Anti apartheid campaigns
Naledi Pandor	Min of Science and Technology	Square Kilometre Array project; Women and Science projects
Nkosazana Zuma	Min of Home Affairs	Rooting out corruption ; Taking services to people; Card Identification system
Maite Nkoane Mashaba	Min of International Relations	Maintaining good international relations; successful Carbon 17 Conference in SA
Bathabile Dlamini	Min of Social Development	Old age Grants and ZeroTolerance hunger projects

Research problem

- Whether intellectuals have contributed in making better the lives of the people particularly in a democratic governance remains a contested topic. Some scholars are of the view that African scholars have contributed in various ways to the marginalization of their own cultural practices (**Ajei 2007**).
- **Mangcu (2008, 2009)** argues that the academic elites have sometimes threatened democracy by not/not effeciently taking projects to the grassroot level e.g. Truth and Reconciliation Project in South Africa

Research Objectives

- To limit the study to the government departments responsible for developing policies and projects on managing indigenous knowledge (Dept of Arts; Trade and Industry and Science and Development) on how they have rolled out and implemented at Dlangubo village .
- To establish various forms of IK at Dlangubo village and how they are managed and preserved for development purposes.
- To establish if villagers aware about policies and projects and how they have used

Conceptual framework

- Willis (2005) argues that definitions of development differ but it is important to understand how they are linked to policy approaches
- Escobar and other post developmentalists argue that Northern dominated economic and political approach has destroyed indigenous culture, threatened the sustainability of natural environments and also created feelings of inferiority among people of the South hence it needs to be challenged (Willis 2005)

Conceptual framework

- Therefore the proposed study will use an alternative strategy called 'grassroots development' which according to Robert McNamara promotes the concept of 'basic needs' Under this approach the focus of development policies is on the poorest people in society and is known as 'Basic needs approach'
- The flow of information will be from bottom to top hence grounded because it is participative and allows the researcher to extract information in which little research has been conducted. It is descriptive and prescriptive (Chenitz and Swanson 1986). The method has been frequently used in health care system research

Literature Review

- Leys (1996) argues that the move to Basic Needs approach was influenced by a need to move away from the usual development theories like: Dependency; Modernization and Neo-liberal approaches
- Quantitative and qualitative methods will be used to identify various forms of indigenous knowledge and how they are managed and preserved for development purposes.

Research methodology

- Cross sectional survey design method will be used to find out how intellectuals have rolled out and implemented various policies and projects
- Creswell (2008) a cross sectional study examines current attitudes, beliefs, attitudes, beliefs, opinions or practices
- Grounded theory will be used with villagers to find out about their various forms of IK and their knowledge about policies and projects used by government to help them manage and presence their IK
- Literature searches
- Purposive and simple random sampling procedure
- Focus groups, interviews and questionnaires

Research methodology

- Cross sectional survey design method will be used to find out how intellectuals have rolled out and implemented various policies and projects
- The same method and grounded theory will be used to determine awareness and impact at the grassroots level
- Creswell (2008) a cross sectional study examines current attitudes, beliefs, attitudes, beliefs, opinions or practices
- Literature searches
- Purposive and simple random sampling procedure
- Focus groups, interviews and questionnaires

Conclusion

- The topic is wide and have tried to narrow it to focus on the management of IK at Dlangubo village and what role have intellectuals in this case government officials responsible for developing, rolling out and managing IK policies played in helping villagers manage and preserve IK for posterity and also for sustainable development purposes

LIBRARY

Thank you

Nomusa Zimu

Nzimu@hsrc.ac.za

