

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

FACULTY OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

**PRESERVATION OF INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE BY THE NDEBELE AND KALANGA
IN WARD 19 OF TSHOLOTSHO DISTRICT**

BY

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ABSTRACT

This study investigated the preservation of indigenous knowledge among the Ndebele and Kalanga in ward 19 of Tsholotsho district. It grew out of the realization and concerns that IK is being lost throughout generations. The study adopted the interpretivist paradigm and adopted the qualitative approach within a case study research design. The case study research design was used to obtain comprehensive data from respondents through face to face interviews and participant observation. Purposive and snowball sampling techniques were employed as they empowered the researcher to use her own judgement to non-randomly select respondents that best enabled her to answer the questions and objectives of the research. Presentation of qualitative data was through a narrative that captured the exact thoughts, experiences and views of respondents. The researcher selected quotes that were poignant and most representative of the research findings. The population included elderly men and women, youths and traditional leaders. It was underpinned by the SECI model whose constructs are socialization, externalization, combination and internalization. The study determined how the socialization, externalization, combination and internalization processes influenced the preservation of IK in environmental management, agriculture, primary health care, and science and technology. It unearthed a growing contest between indigenous knowledge and modernization where the younger generation among the Kalanga and Ndebele have disparaged indigenous knowledge as primitive and outdated whilst the elderly still argue that indigenous knowledge is still relevant and advocate for its preservation. The study found that with little notice, vast archives of IK and expertise are being lost leaving humanity in danger of losing its past. It discovered that the gradual loss and subtle disappearance of indigenous knowledge was due to globalization and modernisation, lack of efficient codification and the breakdown of the traditional family structure and functions. The study recommended that policy makers should publicize the value, contribution, and importance of indigenous knowledge through enacting promotion programs in this area. It also recommended that policy makers should implement programs to collect, document, capture and disseminate indigenous knowledge systems. It also commended that elders should be more involved in teaching children to understand and appreciate the traditional knowledge background and sense identity that is associated with indigenous knowledge systems. It is hoped that this study will add to scholarly research and literature in the field, improve policy, and improve practice.