



National University of Science and Technology Zimbabwe

**FACULTY OF INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF TEXTILE TECHNOLOGY**

DESIGN OF NDEBELE ETHNIC PRINTS

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ABSTRACT

Design is the organisation of different parts into a coherent whole, hence design is associated with function and ethnic designs have been defined as the designs of specific people and regions and their cultures. Hence the purpose of this report is to insinuate the designs of the Ndebele ethnic group onto a printed fabric. The report includes a study of how the Ndebele came to Zimbabwe and also why the Ndebele culture assimilates that of the Zulu people. In order to depict the Ndebele culture; a study of designs on beads that were traditionally worn by the Ndebele and the designs that were woven onto baskets was carried out. These designs that were on beads and baskets were a way of communication for the Ndebele people and these designs were used as a basis of all the designs in the project. The project also looks into the different colours and geometries that were used by the Ndebele and how they interpreted their combinations. The designs were incorporated onto a woven cloth by means of different methods that are used today. The report also includes a study of the different methods of printing such as batik, tie and dye, screen- printing, block printing, discharge style and the special types of printing. The project also the study of the advantages and disadvantages of these methods pigment printing versus the use of dyes in printing. The project is aimed at fulfilling the functional aspect of designing and also producing an aesthetically pleasing printed fabric.