

# **Indigenous Knowledge creation Methodology Analysis**

Ntokozo Mthembu

*Email:* [ntokozomt@hotmail.com/mthembun@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:ntokozomt@hotmail.com/mthembun@ukzn.ac.za)

Lecturer – School of Sociology and Social Science, University of KwaZulu-Natal,  
Durban, South Africa

## Foreword

The first session will focus on the critical review of the study conducted in 2005 that focussed on the survival strategies of the unemployed workers of which was also recorded through a digital video data. In addition, the paper will look at ethnography in relation to reflexive sociological craft in consideration of the experiences of the above mentioned study.

Therefore, this session look at various scholars that contributed towards improvement of ethnography that resulted in formulation of different theories. Furthermore, It will also revisit theories such as the constructivism theory (Marcus, 1995) and epistemologically reflexive (Foley, 2002) in relation to information creation processes and as well as the different types of ethnography.

Lastly, it will look at challenges and opportunities that come with reflexive sociological craft such as usage of unconventional ways such as usage of video machine in production of knowledge and presentation (Marcus, 1995). In addition, the paper will explore different views from ethnography practitioners and also utilizes the 2005 study as the bases of reviewing what other practitioners in this field have discovered.

The second session will focus on some of the contemporary forms of data gathering and analysis that is normally is not acknowledged and recognised despite its historical usability in almost all daily of which form part and parcel of human interactions. In order to easy identify various methods that contribute in achievement of one objective that is to collect information, get informed about issue under scrutiny and take some of action and summed it as the *activist collection of information and analysis for action approach*.

When trying to understand *activist collection of information and analysis for action approach*, the Workers College through its research activities that helped in providing practical experiences on various types of action research experimentations that contributed to the acknowledgement and recognition of the approach as from 2003 to

2010. This session will look at historical development of this method, how the participants engage with this methodology, comparison with other action research approached in attempting to redress apartheid legacy especially when it comes to indigenous knowledge creation and its systems.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Firstly, I would like extend my heartfelt thanks to the Director Kessie Moodley of Workers' College, Durban South Africa (Azania) for his unwavering support and generous for his time and advice. These helped immeasurably in clarifying my thoughts and indeed stimulated me to proceed with this project.

Secondly, I would like to thank all staff of the Workers' College especially: Nomkhosi Xulu, Thulisile Mphambukeli, Desmond Peterson, Nkongolo Ngalamulume and other Facilitators for their hearty, constructive contribution and criticism of the work reproduced here.

Thirdly, I would like to extend my special thanks to Aoibheann O'Sullivan for her contribution erstwhile visiting the Centre for Civil Society, School of Development Studies at University of KwaZulu-Natal in filming the documentary: *Abasebenzi e-Wyatt Road in Durban, (South Africa)* to be a reality. Her continuous contribution through screening this documentary globally, helped in enabling me to reflect on this project as a sociological craft.

And finally, I would like to extend my special thank-you to all employed and unemployed people and community members who participated in all different phases of this project for their time, courage, understanding, love and support and most of all their humbleness to narrate their affliction. Thus, this project is *dedicated* to the advancement of the indigenous knowledge creation systems and total emancipation agenda of the proletarianised and landless indigenes universally, who remain subjected to selling their labour power and forced to roam the city streets and exposure to unhealthy conditions posed by the neo liberal capitalist democratic dictatorship as part of job seeking strategy with high hope of things will be better.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

|   |    |
|---|----|
| <b>SECTION A</b>  | 1  |
| The analysis and forecast of a reflexive sociological craft   |    |
| The scrutiny and prospects of a reflexive sociological craft: a case of unemployed workers a digital video data title – <i>Abasebenzi e Wyatt Road</i> in Durban, Azania (South Africa) | 3  |
| <i>Findings and analysis: Ethnographic Experience - a digital audio visual video data title – Abasebenzi e Wyatt Road South Africa</i>  | 13 |
| Challenges facing a reflexive sociological craft  | 21 |
| Opportunities for a reflexive sociological craft  | 24 |
| <b>SECTION B</b>  | 35 |
| Contemporary approach on universal data gathering for the marginalised people   |    |
| Action Research evolution review: a case of activists' ways of data collection and analysis for action approach   | 37 |
| Theoretical framework   | 41 |
| Research Methodology  | 44 |
| Review of contemporary approach for information gathering and analysis  | 48 |

Rationale: Activist's ways of collecting information  
and analysis for action approach

71