



Willy Ngaka

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Uganda

Literacy and Numeracy Studies

wngaka@gmail.com +27 73 993 4764 <http://willyngaka.cgpublisher.com/index.html>

Willy Ngaka received his PhD from the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) in April 2010. He also holds M.Ed., MPAM, BA (Soc Sciences), Dip in Education and PGC (International Development). Currently, he is pursuing his Postdoctoral programme with UKZN, PMB Campus. Before taking up his Postdoctoral position, Dr. Ngaka was the National Coordinator for Makerere University Centre for Lifelong Learning and a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Adult and Community Education. He is a recipient of 2006 Elva Knight Research of the International Reading Association and a peer reviewer and an associate editor with Common Ground Publishing. He is interested in voluntary work and founded Uganda Rural Literacy and Community Development Association in Uganda (URLCODA).

CURRENT RESEARCH

Topic

Modernizing Agriculture or Feminizing Poverty? An ethnographic study of subsistence farmers' literacy practices in Uganda

Methodology

I am using ethnographic-style research methods to understand the literacy and numeracy practices of subsistence farmers in Uganda based on:

- Observations
- In-depth interviews and focus group discussions
- Collection and analysis of document
- Photographs

Tools to aid the above methods include: interview and focus group discussion guide, observation checklist, digital camera, digital audio recorder, and notebooks for recording field notes

Application

Will enhance an understanding of informal literacy and numeracy practices to promote learning across continuum in the context of agricultural development and poverty-reduction

UKZN main Publications

Past Researches

1. The Role of Literacy in Enhancing Capabilities for Participation in Uganda's Plan for Modernization of Agriculture: Exploring the Experiences of Rural Subsistence Farmers in Manibe Sub-County. PhD thesis submitted to Faculty of Education, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa in 2009.
2. An inquiry into the dynamics of intergenerational learning in URLCODA's adult literacy classes in Arua district, Uganda. M.Ed. thesis submitted to School of Community Development and Adult Learning, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban in 2004.
3. Effects of Urbanization on Wetlands Management in Uganda: The Case of Nakawa Division, Kampala District. MA Dissertation, Submitted to the Department of Political Science and Public Administration, Makerere University, Kampala in 1997.

Future Interests

Multi-disciplinary action-oriented research, making voluntary contribution to community development programmes, and social entrepreneurial ventures

Extra Interests

Short skills focused training programmes, peace studies, peace building, peace education and research