

**Exploring conflict versus consensus pertaining to cultural rights
and participation in the context of migration: a case study of
Manganeng Village.**

Introduction and Background Information

- According to Article 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: *“Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits”*
- This Declaration suggests that all individuals, regardless of origin, social class, background, race and disability have the right to enjoy and participate in the creation of cultural heritage.
- The chapter Two of Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 recognises this Declaration in Section 20 titled, ‘Language and culture’
- *‘Every person has the right to use their own language and follow the culture that they choose. A person has the right to enjoy their culture, use their language and form their own cultural associations in civil society but they cannot do anything that goes against the rights that other people have’*

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- This recognises culture as vital to contemporary and future society.
- Language and cultural rights are therefore central to all considerations of human rights in the contemporary world and Africans regard culture as essential to their lives and future development.
- I deduce that culture shapes and influences every aspect of people lives. As some cultural activities can facilitate social cohesion within a particular community of setting.
- In my view cultural participation does not only help to entertain but can also educate people about who they are, and the knowledge about their background.

Statement of the research problem

- South Africa is a diverse country which has different ethnic and racial groups with various customs, values and traditions which make it unique, some of specific practices are common in a particular ethnic group which are very important.
- Like any other society in the world, for example, Manganeng village is no exception; it has culture practices, beliefs, values, customs, which have great influence on the members of the community as group who share a particular culture and heritage.
- Therefore, culture is the way of living linked to traditions which are found in society. In every society, people are unified by cultural norms which affect or influence our actions

Statement of the research problem

- Without a thorough understanding of how the cultural practices impact on the other people's human rights, it is therefore difficult to design relevant strategies for intervention when the impact is negative.
- Many people, especially those from rural areas, are continuing to enjoy and sometimes are being deprived some of their basic rights because of the clash of cultural practices in urban areas.
- Meanwhile it is does not make sense that, some elements of cultural practices can be obstacles to development of society (Parekh, 2000:142)
- Therefore, culture is the way of living linked to traditions which are found in society. In every society, people are unified by cultural norms which affect or influence our actions
- Researches has shown that the practice of cultural rituals and performance is prohibited in urban areas, which indirectly violate those that believes in traditional customs staying in urban areas.

Research objectives of the study

- The main objective of this study is to assess the impact of people's rights in the participation of their cultural activities that gives the individuals the right to choose the culture they want to participate in and have access to cultural activities within their environment
- **specific objectives:**
 - To examine the way culture changes and why is it significant in the democratic dispensation
 - The challenges encountered in cultural participation
 - The effects of migration on cultural traditions
 - The importance of maintaining cultural roots

Significance of the study

- The study hopes to make a contribution on the dynamic nature of cultural practices in the rural and urban settings.
- By documenting certain cultural practices that emerges especially in traditional customs and practices in rural areas.
- The study intend to make a meaningful contribution to the development of cultural heritage discourses by critically broadening the existing knowledge base of rural contemporary society as it relates to the positives as well as the negative impacts on host communities.
- The study lay a base for future research on how a cultural practices impact on the autonomy of people lives.

The importance of Cultural rights and participation in cultural activities

- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights states: *Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits*
- UNESCO Declaration of the Principles of International Cultural Cooperation states: *Each culture has a dignity and value which must be respected and preserved" (emphasis added), and it describes cultures as part of the common heritage belonging to all mankind.*
- Culture is one significant factor that shapes human thinking and behaviour to a greater extent and its influences on human beings affects their basic attributes on human rights.
- Cultural rights are widely acknowledged to be human rights, and the right to participate in culture appears as a matter of discourse in human rights declarations and interpretive documents.
- Cultural participation has been understood to include several other rights such as freedom of thought, conscience, religion, expression, the right to use one's language and the conservation of culture

- *“These rights are central to participation in cultural life and allow individuals and groups of people to follow, adopt or create a way of life of their own choice.” Hansen (2002)*
- This gives the individuals the right to choose the culture they want to participate in and the authorities the duty to ensure that individuals are entitled to freely enjoy these rights and have access to cultural activities and services of their environment.
- Participation in cultural life can then also be described as a universe of opportunities for people to simultaneously operate in different cultural climates and discourses.
- An-Naim (1992:23) notes that, culture is a primary force in the socialization of individuals and a major determinant of the consciousness and experience of the community.
- Van Zyl (2005:1), the cultural practices of modern society in urban areas are slowly being eroded by on growing emigration brought about by various conflicts, Rapid process of urbanisation, Modernisation and Exploitation by unscrupulous operators.

The challenges of cultural participation.

- Thabede (2014:237) states that empirical researchers into African culture proclaim that the African people have changed, that their traditional beliefs have collapsed and that they have become modern.
- Strauss (2017: ii), urbanisation tends to cause rural people to move away from conservative attitudes, specifically regarding cultural participation, use of own languages, participation in religious activities and willingness to conform to their traditional beliefs.
- Akande (2002) seems to understand more of this negative impact when he said that western adventures made efforts to undermine the cultural heritage of various peoples around the world through colonization, imperialism and now globalization. He said that cultural imperialism left the colonized in a state of cultural disorientation which is vulnerable to cultural invasion.

African traditional belief system

- People from rural areas still participate solely in traditional belief system, and still recognizing the role of their ancestors and influence in their lives.
- The ancestors are believed to be the mediators between God and the living ones (Kilonzo & Hogan, 1999; Radzilani, 2010).
- Magubane (1998) alluded that the Northern Sotho people believes that the ancestors play an important role in curing a wide variety of diseases and ailments. Their assistance is invoked through divination by a person called Ngaka (Doctor).
- Ancestors have power to influence events bad and good, and they are regularly expected to be appeased. They usually communicate messages in various ways such casting a spell or misfortune for disobedience, this happen when reason they are angry and having been neglected.
- The ancestors are one of examples that traditional belief systems are still prevalent and being practiced in rural areas

- A qualitative research approach was employed in this study to allow in-depth interviews and discussions with the key information that affects the cultural rights participation.
- The population of the study comprises of 20 people
- No sampling was needed.
- The qualitative data was sorted, classified and arranged using a thematic content analysis.
- Participants were informed prior to the research and completed an informed consent.

Data analysis and Findings

- Through conducting the interviews, the results that were generated conform that people still participate in culture even though there are some challenges and people in the process try to imitate others and modify their culture. One responded said that cultural participation is not affected that much is still the same way things were done during the olden days.
- **why culture is changing in the contemporary society and what is the significant of it?.**
- Diverse ethnic groups lead to changing of culture and in urban areas is no longer effective like in rural areas
- The rural African culture is threatened by the present era of modernization and people seems to be forgetting our culture in the process
- It shows that if people don't make efforts to protect our culture, we will soon lose our identity

Discussions

- The results showed that the presence of cultural activities in the rural areas contributes significantly to the well-being of its people.
- I have observed that these activities can develop and strengthen relationships within and across communities, build capacity within the community, and promote community development and regeneration.
- The new customs and characteristics arise as a result of exposure and interaction with different groups and customs. This is most evident in the urban areas where diverse people met and socialise.
- One would agree that western culture influences the rural cultural practices norms and have contributed to the mutation and modification of some customs and beliefs.
- In urban areas, people tend to think that rural traditional culture is ‘primitive’ or ‘backward’ and also people from rural areas they tend to think that urban culture is ‘hollow’ or ‘ignorant’. But by the look of things urban culture tends to take over traditional culture because modern culture is powerful.

Conclusions and recommendations

- This study concludes that there is a low cultural participation in urban areas. However, this is due to the fact that urban areas are prohibited in performing cultural rituals.
- There is a need for the national and government authorities to address these problems so as to provide an enabling environment that will ensure better involvement of cultural participation.
- Wahab, Odunsi, and Ajiboye (2012: 6) argues that, government and political power should use its influences to encourage people in cultural participation irrespective of their tribal divergence and develop interest in promoting and marketing their cultural uniqueness and potency which could be of socioeconomic advantage.
- This will ensure that there is unity in diversity. Nothing makes the diversity other than culture. In other words, every culture has its own ‘peculiarities and idiosyncrasies’ that make it stand out.

obrigado

Dank U

Merci

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спасибо

Grazie

Thank
you

mauruuru

Takk

Gracias

Dziękuję

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Kiitos