

University of Johannesburg Department of Science and Technology Education

(SciTechEd)

Continuing the Dialogue: Indigenising the Curriculum

Seminar Series

In contributing towards the debate on the indigenisation of the curriculum, the Department of Science and Technology Education at the University of Johannesburg, Faculty of Education has embarked on a series of seminars. The term indigenisation is premised on the notions of inclusivity and diversity that give recognition to cultural assets possessed by all groups of people, including the colonizer and those colonized. People possess indigenous ways of knowing, doing and acting, which can be applied in the teaching, learning and researching of science, mathematics and technology education to ensure relevance and enhance meaningmaking. The seminar series provides a forum within which we grapple with key questions such as: What is meant by a transformed teacher education curriculum? What role can indigenous/cultural knowledge play in curriculum transformation? How can disciplinary knowledge be merged or integrated with indigenous knowledge, if that is our intention? What can be a research agenda for indigenization of the curriculum?

Seminars so far conducted

The inaugural seminar entitled, “Using indigenous knowledge as a vehicle of decolonization: a Pandora’s box or a white elephant?”, held on the 1st of August 2018, was facilitated by Prof. Meshach B. Ogunniyi, Professor Emeritus of Science Education at the School of Science and Mathematics Education (SSME), the University of the Western Cape (UWC). The seminar was successful in helping articulate the rationale for indigenising the curriculum and on the use of indigenous languages, theories and ideologies in teaching, learning and researching science education. The seminar attracted participants from both undergraduate and postgraduate students, and faculties within and outside the UJ campuses.

The second seminar entitled, “eZiko siPheka siSophula: Incorporating indigenous African theory into methodological, epistemological and axiological perspectives in science teaching, learning and research”, was facilitated by Prof. Nomalungelo Goduka, Professor Emeritus at Walter Sisulu University (WSU) and Ms Carina Nomfuzo Rozani Duna (D. Ed student) on 9th of April 2019. The essence of this seminar was on application of the indigenous knowledge systems philosophy in both science and mathematics classrooms and research. Participants had an opportunity to share their eZiko experiences, which is often not always possible in such a forum.

Future plans

The intention is to continue such dialoguing as time and resources permit. Stay tuned in this forum for the next announcement coming soon. We look forward to you joining us.

For further information, kindly contact the following:

Professor Umesh Ramnarain: uramnarain@uj.ac.za Dr Lydia Mavuru: lydiam@uj.ac.za Dr Femi Otulaja: fso2000@nyu.edu