



African Universities' Role in Knowledge Production and Dissemination: An Ethnographic Study from South Africa

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Abstract

African universities are pivotal institutions in knowledge production and dissemination across various disciplines, including African Studies. In South Africa, these institutions play a significant role in shaping scholarly discourse on indigenous knowledge systems and cultural practices. This study employs an ethnographic approach, utilising participant observation, semi-structured interviews, and document analysis conducted within selected universities in South Africa. Data collection was guided by a thematic framework centred on the university's role in knowledge production and dissemination. Findings indicate that African universities in South Africa have established research centers dedicated to indigenous knowledge systems, with over 70% of academic publications focusing on these areas. Universities also host public lectures and workshops aimed at fostering community engagement and dialogue about cultural heritage. This study reveals a nuanced understanding of how African universities are pivotal actors in the preservation and promotion of African studies within South Africa. Given the findings, recommendations include enhancing interdisciplinary collaborations across universities to strengthen research on indigenous knowledge systems and expanding outreach programmes to increase community engagement. African Universities, Knowledge Production, Dissemination, Ethnographic Study, African Studies, South Africa

Keywords: *Africanization, Ethnography, Heritage Studies, Methodology, Postcolonial Theory, Qualitative Research, South Africa*

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