

## Research Fellows and Research Projects

Department of Science and Technology (DST) – National Research Foundation (NRF) Centre in Indigenous Knowledge Systems (CIKS)

**RESEARCH FOCUS AREA:** Food Security / Traditional Medicine /Biodiversity / Environment etc.



**Full Name:** Musiiwa Ivy Rambau

**Country of Research:** South Africa

**Research Topic:** The experiences of female traditional healers on their practice in Makhado municipality, Vhembe district.

**Institutional Affiliation:** University of Venda

**Research Supervisor:** Dr. J. Takalani

### Research Background

The shortage of modern health care facilities in South African rural communities' causes many people to be reliant upon traditional healers. Clarke (2005) commented that, up to 80% of black South Africans consult with traditional healers for assistance in matters of health care, and this is particularly prevalent in the rural communities. Traditional healers are often as one of the health care in rural areas (Kang'ethe 2008). In 2003 the 56th World Health Assembly of the WHO resolved in its global strategy for alternative medicine, that its member states needed to ensure

that their health care systems promoted and supported the provision of training and, if necessary, retraining of the traditional health practitioners, and that there was a system for the qualification and/or accreditation or licensing of traditional practitioners (Ndhlalambi 2009). Over 60% of the people living in rural communities in South Africa seek help and treatment from traditional healers before visiting a medical doctor, and those who seek formal health care also continue to consult traditional healers (Kang'the 2008). Traditional healing provides its services to the rural people of Africa. African women, particularly older ones in rural communities, utilize the traditional healer's timeless and ancient caregiving when faced with symptoms of mental and physical illness.

**Email:** rambauivy@gmail.com