

Civic Education in Community Development in South Africa: Reflections of a Community Development Practitioner

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ABSTRACT This paper argues for the inclusion of civic education in community development packages for South African communities. Using desktop research as a methodology, the paper analyzes the concept citizen, typologies of citizens and various conceptions of civic education. The paper discusses main paradigms of civic education in an attempt to position the nature of civic education that South Africa needs to include in community development practice. The paper draws examples of the effectiveness of civic education in various contexts mainly from within Africa. The paper argues that for South Africa, the need for improved patriotism, more social integration and sustained democracy should be the anchors of a community development practice that includes civic education. The centrality of civic knowledge, civic skills, civic dispensations and civic responsibilities as well as the duality of rights and responsibilities is emphasized.