

Cultural Influence Militating Against Effective Data Collection in the Field: The Case of Two African Countries

Michael Bamidele Adeyemi

*Department of Languages & Social Sciences Education, University of Botswana,
P. O. Box UB 70291, Gaborone, Botswana
Fax: (267) 3815096; E-mail: adeyemim@mopipi.ub.bw*

KEYWORDS Culture. Effect. Belief. Research. Data. Nigeria. Botswana

ABSTRACT This paper investigates the cultural influences/problems militating against effective data collection in the field from the experience of 25 and 27 final year students of Social Studies education in Botswana and Nigeria, respectively. A questionnaire administered on these final year students with some of their accompanying comments indicate the following cultural problems they encountered in the field in order of priority: lack of cooperation to sensitive questions, inflation/deflation of actual data, total non-response, suspicion of the data collectors by respondents, and a sort of traditional diplomacy to answering questions. On the basis of these findings, the pertinent implications for teacher education such as curriculum development, teaching strategies and the need for further research were discussed.