

# Preface

This book grew out of discussions and work done by the authors in their different capacities for 9 years on various forms of research 2004 and 2013. We are grateful to many colleagues who informed the book and offered suggestions through related conferences, partnerships with Kellogg Foundation, British Academy and the Implementing the Third Mission of Universities in Africa partners for collaborative action research work which culminated in case studies that gave us an opportunity to write this book. We are especially indebted to Professors Julia Preece of the University of Kwa Zulu Natal, Idouw Biao of Adult Education, University of Botswana, and another colleague from UNISA, Professor Peter Dzvimbo who provided guidance and editorial work to make this book what it is for the readers.

Whether or not “Lifelong learning, poverty and community engagement” becomes a new global reality and whether lifelong learning proves to be an active strategy for poverty reduction and university community engagement remain central questions. The authors simply documented what they existentially experienced during the 8 year period which informed the book.

There are no easy answers and there is much contestation and debate ahead because lifelong learning is not uniform; learning is a very personal and internal process which is never the same for different learners. The sense that learners make out of their experiences is not the same. How poverty is defined determined strategies to tackle it. Some of the poor are better able to make a breakthrough for a transition to non- poverty than others, while some remain poor and destitute despite efforts they make to rid themselves off poverty in their individual, family and wider collective lives.

Community service and engagement is also practiced differently and targets different aspects of human and community life. Community engagement strategies are human and therefore infested with human error. However, the struggle towards lifelong learning, and fighting poverty through community engagement continues within Botswana’s national boundaries, African and global contexts.

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