

An Exploration of Challenges Related to Inclusion of Students with Disabilities at a University of Technology in South Africa

Daphne Gumbi, Madoda Cekiso, Zakhele Gqweta, Beauty Makiwane, Lunga Majeke, Ndenzelinceba Bojanyana, Bulelwa Dlava and Ludabi Wakaba

*Walter Sisulu University, Department of Economic Management Sciences Education
 P/Bag X1, Mthatha, 5117, South Africa*

²University of Fort Hare, English Department, East London, South Africa

KEYWORDS Challenges. Students with Disabilities. University of Technology. Higher Education. Quality of Life

ABSTRACT The present study attempted to explore the challenges related to inclusion of students with disabilities at an institution of technology in South Africa with an intention to suggest recommendations for improvements. A purposive sample of 12 students (5 females and 7 males) with disabilities participated in the study. A semi-structured interview exploring the challenges related to inclusion of students with disabilities at the university was conducted with the participants. The findings of the study revealed that the students with disabilities experienced a number of challenges related to the inclusion of students with disabilities at the university under study. The study revealed that the students with disabilities experienced challenges related to accessibility to the lecture rooms, library, halls/auditoriums, residents, administrative block and learning. The participants believed that the physical infrastructure in the university was not user-friendly for students with disabilities. Recommendations to improve the challenges related to inclusion of students with disabilities were made.