

CHALLENGES FACED BY STUDENTS WITH BLINDNESS STUDYING THROUGH OPEN AND DISTANCE LEARNING

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ABSTRACT

The study sought to find out the problems faced by blind students studying through open and Distance Learning (ODL). A case study of a blind student enrolled in 2014 at Mashonaland Central Regional Campus of the Zimbabwe Open University was the focus of this research. Data were generated through interviews and observation. Data were qualitatively analysed. The study found out that the students with blindness should have the technical equipment that can be presented or adapted to be relevant to them. The study concluded out that ODL is ideal for students that are blind because they learn at their own pace and in the comfort of their homes. However, there is great need for highly trained personnel to assist such students. The study suggests that there is need to establish resource centres at ODL institutions for internet, Braille computers and e-learning to facilitate training of students with blindness.

Keywords: Blindness, Open and Distance Learning, Challenges.