LIMKOKWING UNIVERSITY OF CREATIVE TECHNOLOGY

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES POSED BY COVID 19

TO STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES AT LIMKOKWING UNIVERSITY OF CREATIVE TECHNOLOGY

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1. INTRODUCTION

- Limkokwing University bears its origins in Malaysia and over the past two decades, it has grown to establish its footprints in Asia, Africa and Europe.

- In Africa, the University has established campuses in Botswana, Lesotho, Eswatini, Sierra Leone. Namibia, Uganda and Rwanda campuses will be opening at the end of 2020/2021.

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- All our campuses support students with disabilities.

- The University does not believe in a one-size-fits-all methodology but prefers a customized approach that takes into consideration the needs of both industry and the community of a nation.

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- Limkokwing University trains its students, believing consummately in their talent and their ability to perform, given the responsibility including those with disabilities as per the SDG 4 which aims to "ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all."

- The University also brought fresh new perspectives that combine teaching methodologies suitable for all students including teaching students with disabilities.

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VISUAL IMPAIRMENT

Visually Impaired Student using perkins Brailler

Partial Visual Impaired Student using closed circuited TV

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- Limkokwing University of Creative Technology is the only private tertiary institution in Botswana that provides support for students with disabilities.
- The university has graduated more than 416 students since 2009.
- Currently it has 102 students drawn from within the country and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region.

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- With the current challenges brought about by Covid-19, The students with disabilities have as well been affected by the COVID19 protocols which encourages social distancing and reduced interactions.

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CHALLENGES

SOME OF THE CHALLENGES BROUGHT BY COVID 19 ARE:

1. **SHOCK** – The pandemic brought an unprecedented shock in the way uncertainty to learning and learners due to the nature of the pandemic wide spread shock was experienced

Reduction in the:

- Extra care
- Support
- Time to students with disabilities.

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2. **CHANGE IN CLASS SETUP** – This was the greatest challenge affecting learners.

   It has taken away the emotional and interactional aspect of learning.

E.g. reduced group interactions for learners.

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3. **LOCKDOWNS** – Have changed the traditional ways of teaching and have expanded to the use of virtual settings. Not all good lecturers are good virtual educators.

Delay in adapting to virtual communities

Access to Specialized Equipment

Peer to Peer Support through virtual communities.

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OPPORTUNITIES

1. **ENHANCED LEARNING–** The outbreak of COVID 19 has provided a better PLATFORM for collaboration with other like minded institutions- Via open access online platforms

   It has cut the distance and the costs associated with having experts come on campus therefore our students can learn and participate with other learners from across the globe.

   **Suffice to say that they still need equipment

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EXAMINATION TIME

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2. **STUDENT CENTRED LEARNING** – This has created opportunities for individualized or students centered methods of learning.

- Promotes individualized education plans.

- It also stimulates students' independent learning, motivation to learn, and the use of self regulation skills.

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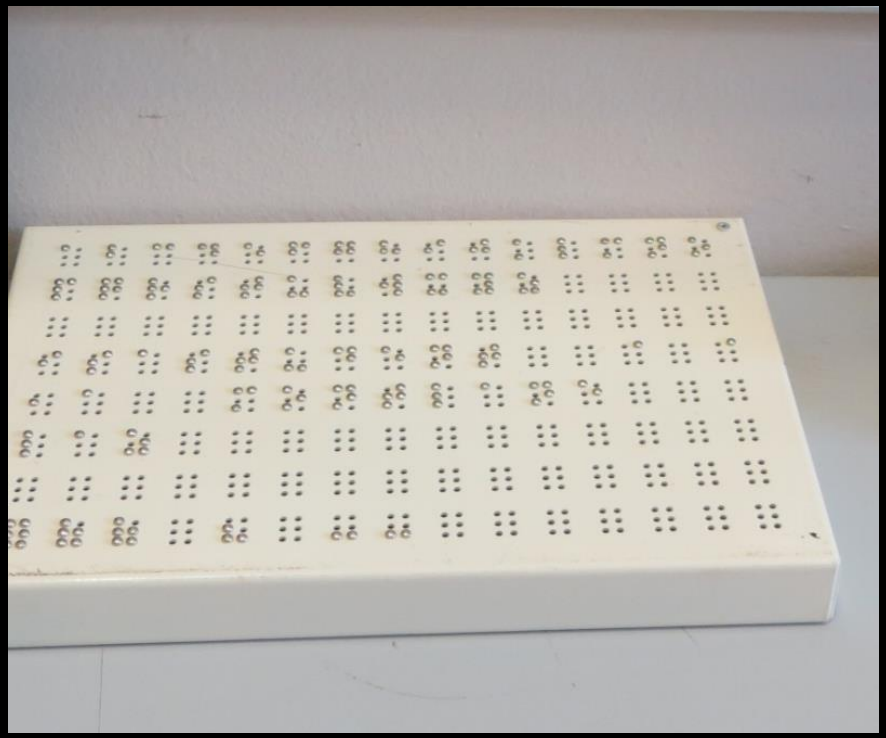
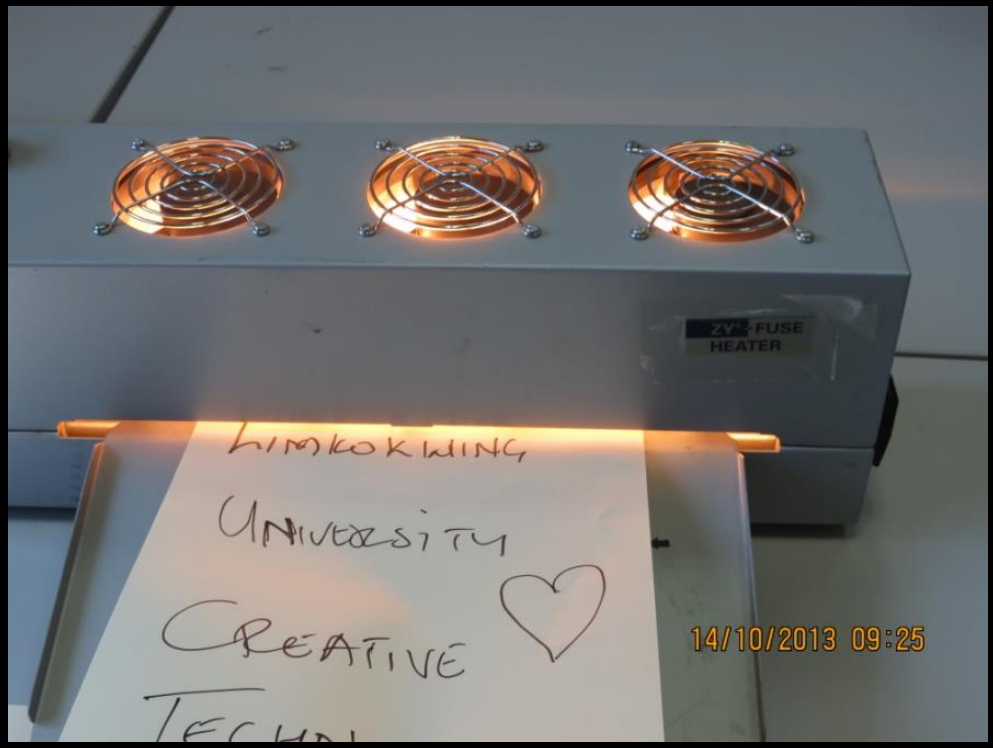
RESOURCES/EQUIPMENTS IN THE SPECIAL NEEDS UNIT



Braillet board with pins



Zyfuse Machine

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3. PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Parental encouragement

Parental modeling

Parental reinforcement

Parental instructions

Pastoral care

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Youth with Disability Pitso

LUCT Students with disabilities receiving awards for participating in the Youth with Disability Pitso Training

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SPECIAL NEEDS AEROBICS TEAM- BOOT CAMP

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THANK YOU

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