

Inclusive Policy and Service Needs Survey among Students with Disabilities in an Institution of Higher Education

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ABSTRACT Policy and service needs can be crucial in strengthening educational inclusion for students with disabilities in educational institutions. However, inclusive policies and acts have challenges in terms of implementation on the ground. This paper examines inclusive policy and service needs of students with disabilities at the University of Venda. The study employed a cross-sectional descriptive design using questionnaires to collect data. Of the 132 questionnaires administered, 67 were returned. The participants' ages ranged between 19 and 44 years and 34 (50.7%) were males. Almost 2 in 5 (41.8%) were mobility impaired, whilst 10 (15.0%) participants indicated that there was a need for an all-inclusive policy in the institution, about a quarter (25.5%) indicated the need to improve safety and sanitation services. The findings suggest that needs of students with disabilities heavily outweigh the existing inclusive policy practices. Hence, disability policies should be informed by the needs of affected students.