

Learner Support Challenges Faced by Adult Open and Distance Learning Students

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KEYWORDS Information Communication Technology. Open and Distance Learning. Adult Student. Learner Support. E-learning. Widening Participation

ABSTRACT There is substantial evidence that learner support strategies can be an effective tool in supporting teaching and learning at a distance. However, Unisa students who are situated in the rural areas of the Republic of South Africa face particular challenges in the open and distance learning (ODL) environment. They may not have knowledge of learner support strategies offered by Unisa to enhance their learning. This paper uses a qualitative research approach to explore some of the challenges faced by these ODL students in rural areas. A sample of such students from four provinces was randomly selected as participants in this study. The paper proposes some ways of improving the Unisa's learner support strategy.