



Integrating Digital Literacy for Learners with Visual Impairments Tanzanian Universities: Case of the University of Dar es Salaam

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Purpose of the Presentation

- Highlight the importance of early digital literacy training
- Examine the role of assistive digital technologies
- Share institutional practices (University of Dar es Salaam)
- Provide recommendations for inclusive higher education

Importance of Early Digital Literacy



- Breaks educational barriers
- Enhances independence and confidence
- Supports academic success
- Promotes social inclusion



Academic Benefits of Digital Literacy

AFRICAN  AMERICAN
CONFERENCE ON DISABILITIES

- Enables independent computer use by students with total blindness
- Supports writing of assignments, dissertations, and theses
- Facilitates learning of complex subjects (e.g., mathematics)
- Provides rigorous and meaningful learning experiences



Digital Literacy and Inclusion

- Enhances interaction with sighted peers
- Improves communication between lecturers and students
- Encourages lecturer responsibility and engagement
- Promotes inclusive learning environments



Existing Challenges

- Limited early exposure to digital literacy
- Inadequate training opportunities
- Shortage of assistive technology personnel
- Digital illiteracy among many students with visual impairments

Role of Assistive Technologies



- Screen readers enable interaction with computers through speech
- OCR software converts scanned images to text
- Screen magnification supports students with low vision
- Electronic Braille devices enable digital Braille access



Case Example: University of Dar es Salaam



- Digital literacy training for first-year students with visual impairments
- Training coordinated through the Centre for Disability Services (CDS)
- Provision of accessible digital devices and software
- Dedicated resource rooms with assistive technologies



Impact of Digital Literacy Training

- Improved performance in assignments and examinations
- Enhanced participation in research and presentations
- Better access to online learning materials
- Effective participation in online classes and events



Key Recommendations

- Integrate digital literacy early in university education
- Build capacity of educators in assistive technologies
- Invest in accessible digital infrastructure
- Promote collaboration among stakeholders



Key Take Aways

- Purpose of the Presentation
- Importance and Academic Benefits of Early Digital Literacy
- Digital Literacy and Inclusion
- Role of Assistive Technologies
- Existing Challenges
- Case Example: University of Dar es Salaam
- Impact of Digital Literacy Training
- Key Recommendations

Thank You

- Thank you for listening attentively