The Challenge!

Most blind children in Zimbabwe have their first computers encounter at higher education level. Such delays can be attributed to factors including technophobia, financial constraints, technical skills gap or lack of interest and cooperation from stakeholders in education.

Implications

Products
Thirty nine special schools and mainstream schools working with blind learners are receiving 5 to 10 laptops for practicing computer skills. More are still needed to ensure that each learner has a personal laptop.

Provision
About 4500 blind learners in the 39 primary and secondary school will graduate computer skills. This will ease work for blind students in higher education as currently, most of them have a double workload in learning computer skills when they should concentrate on their course modules.

Personnel
Ninety teachers currently working in 39 special schools and mainstream resources units in Zimbabwe will be trained on how to teach computer skills to blind learners in August 2017.

Policy
The aim of this project is to influence policy makers in order for them to embrace assistive technology in inclusive education.

Implications for Research Global Agenda

Why Computer Skills to blind Children?
✓ It gives them self-confidence.
✓ They can better reach their potential.
✓ It can help them be more independent.
✓ It makes the curriculum available to all.
✓ It can boost their engagement in the learning process

Local Strategies for Building Global Capacity

A computer initiative for blind learners has been successfully launched at one of the primary schools. The success of this initiative is not imaginary. In less than six months, blind children at one primary schools acquired computer skills that enabled them to independently use the laptops for learning purposes.

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