VOL. 2 | AUG 2021
COLLEGE BITS

Learner Profiler
College Profiler

Updates on Student Profiling and Support at TVET Colleges in South Africa
www.learnerprofiler.info

"Disability Screening" - Quick Tips

It is a DHET policy imperative that every college screens for student wellness, which includes disabilities.

Colleges must screen for:
- Vision Conditions
- Hearing Conditions
- Neurological Conditions
- Cognition Conditions
- Psychiatric Disorders (Mental Health)
- Physical Conditions
- Other (mixed and overlapping conditions)

Where students report on a disability, they must be interviewed for confirmation.

A college must have a strategy and resource network for referrals after disability/s have been confirmed through a network of doctors, community clinics, NGO's or others.

Colleges must know how to access funding support from bodies like NSFAS and DHET.

OVERVIEW:

Wellness & Disability

Hidden disabilities at TVET Colleges in South Africa have been a significant factor and driver in student performance. Bar a few colleges trying; one would be excused to think that most colleges do not care about disability, let alone about hidden disabilities? What do you think?

Thousands of TVET students report hidden disabilities

Source: Research data Profiler System 2021

Is Disability Support Possible at TVET's?

By Gerald Williamson

Many colleges acknowledge in an explicit fashion that students with disability/s need support. In the same vein, one gets a feeling that many college staff feel under-prepared and overwhelmed with the task of supporting students with special or additional needs emanating from disabilities. It has become increasingly clear that colleges will need to put proper systems (policies and procedures) to assist students on their study journey. For example, they need a first-line screener (Profiler) and clear guidelines for confirmations and referrals. Access to funding is essential, and college staff need to know how to unlock it.

Training

College staff such as lecturers are frontline classroom support. Frontline personnel need to be aware of learning barriers among students and how to adapt classroom materials and the curriculum to suit the needs of students. It is of great concern and can be described as a significant crisis that a large number of lecturers have minimal skills and training to help support students with barriers to learning. The learning barriers are often the outcome of a single, multiple or hidden disabilities.

Therefore, it is incumbent of college management and staff to recognise that responding to student disability and learning needs is to address the human rights of each student.

Many Colleges use the Student Profiler System Creatively!

Colleges are even getting ready to do on-course or exit screening for support using remote technology. For example, students access disability (wellness), study skills, and even work readiness screening on or off-campus via cell phones. Data and wi-fi access make the assessments easy. Low data makes screening highly accessible. Contact Gerald Williamson for more information.
Landline: 011 - 682 1716 or
Cell: 082 89 88681 or
email:gerald@learnerprofiler.com

Webinar presented by Dr Ian Smythe (Senior Researcher and CEO Profiler Systems)

DisabilityTracking, Supporting and Reporting: Using Technology to Maximise Impact (and minimise work)

Mental health, visual difficulties and hearing impairment all have a significant impact on student outcomes. Identifying students who have challenges is essential on (at least) three levels for three separate stakeholders.

1) **To the staff** - To help identify who needs support what kind of support and delivery of the support
2) **To the college institution** - for budgeting and support allocation
3) To DHET - For statistical analysis and to develop national guidelines.

This webinar will be hosted by Dr Ian Smythe. In this webinar, we shall review needs and how technology can REDUCE the work required to deliver all stakeholders' needs (and demands).

<u>Free Online Webinar Invitation</u>

25 Aug 2021@10am -11am

To Join On the Day
Click here