



**NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

AN INVESTIGATION OF THE DISSEMINATION OF HIV AND AIDS INFORMATION  
TO THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED: THE CASE OF THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN  
INFORMATION AND DISSEMINATION SERVICE (SAfaIDS).

BY

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A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF  
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE  
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE

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## **ABSTRACT**

Anecdotal evidence suggests that visually impaired people are less likely than their non disabled peers to access HIV and AIDS services. They experience a double burden in relation to HIV and AIDS : increased risk of infection and reduced access to information. The research intended to investigate the effectiveness of dissemination of HIV and AIDS information to people with visual impairments by SAfAIDS. A descriptive survey methodology was adopted in a bid to do a qualitative analysis of data. The population consisted of 21 visually impaired people from Harare urban and 5 SAfAIDS staff members. Research instruments employed in data gathering were observations, questionnaires and interviews. The sampling methods employed were purposive and snowball. Findings revealed among other things that, information services for people with visual impairments are neglected due to lack of funding, needs assessment and planning. It was recommended that there is a need for greater integration of visually impaired people into HIV and AIDS programmes. Information services organisations need to partner with disability organisations in a bid to provide disability-friendly HIV and AIDS information services.