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**NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

**FACULTY OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SCIENCE**

**DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE**

**FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO THE UNDERUTILIZATION OF ASSISTIVE  
TECHNOLOGIES BY STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: THE CASE OF THE  
MINISTRY OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION INFORMATION CENTRE**

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## ABSTRACT

The study investigated the use of assistive technologies which are available at the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education Information Centre by students with disabilities in primary and secondary schools in Harare. The study addressed the awareness of the information centre by students with disabilities, skills needed in order to use ATs available at the information centre, distance of the information centre from schools or homes with students with disabilities and strategies put in place to promote services to potential users. A qualitative methodology that employed case study was used. Purposive sampling technique was used to draw population from five selected schools in Harare and staff from the Information Centre. For an in depth and multifaceted study the researcher used interviews as a tool for collecting data and presented thematically. The research revealed that students with disabilities were not aware of the information centre and the ATs available hence they do not have skills for using the ATs. Distance to the information centre was also discovered to be one of the deterrent factors hindering students with disabilities to go to the information centre. The study recommended that the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education should come up with marketing strategies for the ATs available at the Information Centre. The study also suggested that schools must introduce training sessions to teach students with disabilities on how to use various ATs.