

EDUCATION EXPERTS DISCUSS TRANSFORMATION OF TEACHER EDUCATION



Symposium participants in high spirits

Research based transformation in teacher education should be about basing teacher preparation on the latest empirical evidence and not on how we were taught decades ago", said Dr Charmaine Villet, Dean of the Faculty of Education. She was speaking at the recent 17th Biennial BOLESWANA International Educational Research Symposium. About 110 participants from Australia, Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, USA and Zambia gathered at UNAM's Khomasdal Campus.

The main theme was "Research for the Transformation of Teacher Education: Teaching for Equity and Relevance". Topics discussed ranged from curriculum design and

implementation, issues of the 21st Century educational praxis, issues that are informed by ICT applications, social media and cyber space induced virtual realities.

BOLESWANA is an educational research network consisting of the Botswana Educational Research Association (BERA), the Lesotho Educational Research Association (LERA), the Swaziland Educational Research Association (SERA) and the Namibia Educational Research Association (NERA). BOLESWANA has recently been joined by the South African Educational Research Association (SAERA). The symposium was hosted under the umbrella of the Namibia Educational Research Association (NERA), in partnership with

the University of Namibia.

The main goal of the educational research network is to build educational research capacity amongst its sister educational research associations and promote contemporary evidence-based educational policy and practice in its member countries.

The main sponsors of the symposium were NASHUA, NAMPOST, Namibia National Commission for UNESCO, JUTA, Old Mutual and UNAM.

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OSHAKATI CAMPUS STIMULATES RESEARCH OUTPUT



In an effort to upsurge research undertakings, the Northern campuses of UNAM held an intra-research seminar, targeting resident staff of Oshakati Campus, those at Hifikepunye Pohamba and Ogongo Campuses, respectively. Appropriately themed "Research for development and human wellbeing", the seminar sought to expand on research about wellbeing in different contexts.

To that end, the guest speaker was Professor Brooke A. Scelza, a leading anthropologist conducting research

amongst the Himba community in the Kunene Region. His speech set the tone for the rest of the seminar and encouraged more research about Namibia.

One major outcome of the seminar, was the compilation of a research booklet containing participants' names, abstracts of the research results; works-in-progress and proposals presented at the seminar. A member of the organising committee, Dr Lucia Pinehas was thrilled by the attendance rate and the momentum of the seminar. About twelve topics

were presented by the researchers. "The seminar was aimed at promoting research activities and collaboration amongst the participating campuses and the UNAM community at large," said Dr Pinehas after the seminar. She added, "It is the belief of the Oshakati Campus Research Committee members that the continuous hosting of research events will facilitate and increase research activities amongst staff members." For those who may have an interest in the topics discussed, the booklet is available on request from the Oshakati Campus Research Committee.

UNAM' OPEN ACCESS INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORY

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Some of the publications available online

One of the mandates of the University of Namibia is to advance and disseminate knowledge, and so contribute to the social and economic development of Namibia. In fulfilling this mandate the University established an open access Institutional Repository.

According to e-Resources Librarian at the University's Information & Learning Resource Centre, Anna Leonard, the purpose of the UNAM Repository is to "provide open access to institutional research output and make the local content easily accessible", to advance research nationally, inform national policy decision making and for personal development and knowledge enhancement of individuals.

"The Institutional Repository aims to create global visibility for the University's scholarly publications, store and preserve the institutional intellectual output and other institutional digital assets, such as research reports and un-published

thesis and dissertations," Anna explains. The UNAM institutional repository can be accessed and searched at: www.repository.unam.edu.na

The Institutional Repository hosts among others, all-current UNAM published journals, thesis and dissertations, internationally published articles by UNAM researchers, books, book chapters, conference papers and proceedings, as well as technical reports. These publications can be accessed from any computer and mobile device free of charge.

Since its establishment, the UNAM Repository has been widely accessed and searched from across the globe. Anna shared that "as of 2014 to date about 1,178,586 publications have been downloaded/read from the repository." These downloads come from different countries, mainly China, UK, USA, Namibia and many other African countries.

UNAM SECRETARIES CELEBRATE "SECRETARY DAY", 5TH SEPTEMBER

Like pistons in an engine, secretaries create the momentum that move managers & organisations



Blissful UNAM Secretaries pose for a picture