

Training for the supervision of undergraduate research projects

The University of Namibia (UNAM), under the Faculty of Education with the support of UNESCO Namibia organized a two-day workshop, 11-12 September 2017, for 50 UNAM lecturers in the Department of Early Childhood and Lower Primary Education from the different UNAM Campuses across the country. The aim of the workshop was to build capacity of supervisors, when supervising undergraduate research projects through the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs).

The main facilitator of the training was Prof. Z. Desai, former Dean of the Faculty of Education at the University of the Western Cape, South Africa. Prof. Desai has vast experience in supervising research projects and he was supported by lecturers from UNAM as well as the Education Faculty Dean at UNAM during the training sessions.

One of the other main objectives of the workshop was to conclude the sessions with a final version of introduction in order to help the lecturers to guide the students on how the project should be conceptualized and carried out. The introduction would also inform the students of the expectations the lecturers have with regards to the project.

During the sessions, participants went through presentations concerning the steps when supervising research projects, introducing new concepts and points of view, with questions to engage the participants. Different options of ICTs that can make supervising more manageable, were shown and a practical activity was conducted.

Participants had space to give feedback regarding the challenges faced while supervising and discussed solutions that could be implemented as well as reflective activities to come up with a final draft of the guiding introduction and the way forward for the team. SDG 4 'Quality Education'

