

Empowering teachers to support learners with severe to profound disabilities

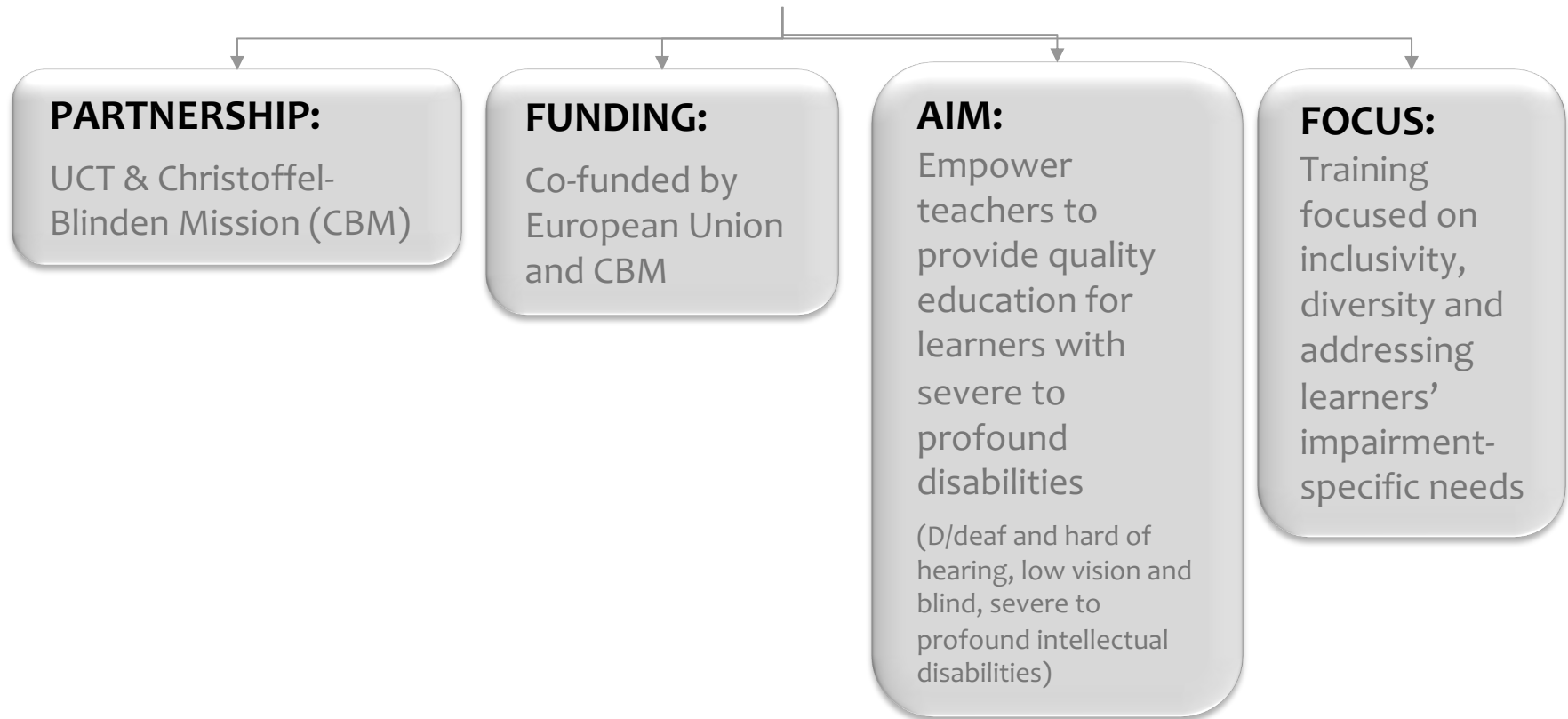
26 September 2019
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What is the TEDI project?



Teacher Empowerment for Disability Inclusion



Project Context: Research findings



- Situational analysis of educational needs of learners with severe to profound disabilities (SPD)
- Analysis of availability of teacher education addressing educational needs of learners with SPD
- Key finding: Teachers not being properly equipped with necessary skills to teach learners with SPD
- TEDI project aims to address this gap through short courses (face-to-face and MOOCs)

TEDI face-to-face courses

Course title	Focus	Piloted
Disability studies in education	Barriers to education for learners with SPD and how changes to education provision can address these barriers	26 participants Learning support advisors, district officials, principals 16-20 June 2018
Education and care of learners with severe to profound intellectual disability	Basic foundation of knowledge and skills needed to teach and care for learners in special care centre setting	30 participants Carers and care centre managers 23-27 June 2018
Teaching learners with visual impairment	Key knowledge and skills regarding all aspects of basic education for learners with visual impairment	26 participants Classroom and learning support teachers 1-5 October 2018
Navigating D/deaf and hard of hearing education: Empowering teachers	How being D/deaf or hard of hearing impacts on learning and teaching, and the role teachers play in providing quality education	32 participants Teachers, Deaf teaching assistants 25-29 March 2019

All courses endorsed by SACE for 15 CPTD points each

Evaluation feedback

- Collaboration and advocacy

“I feel like a I am part of a network of people making a difference for inclusion”

- Understanding disability and implementing inclusion

“I can now work out programmes for the whole class, even if it is a class with different types of children. All children are now made a part of the class”

- Personal and professional development

“This course has transformed me into a new type of teacher and my approach towards my children will be totally different”

TEDI MOOCs



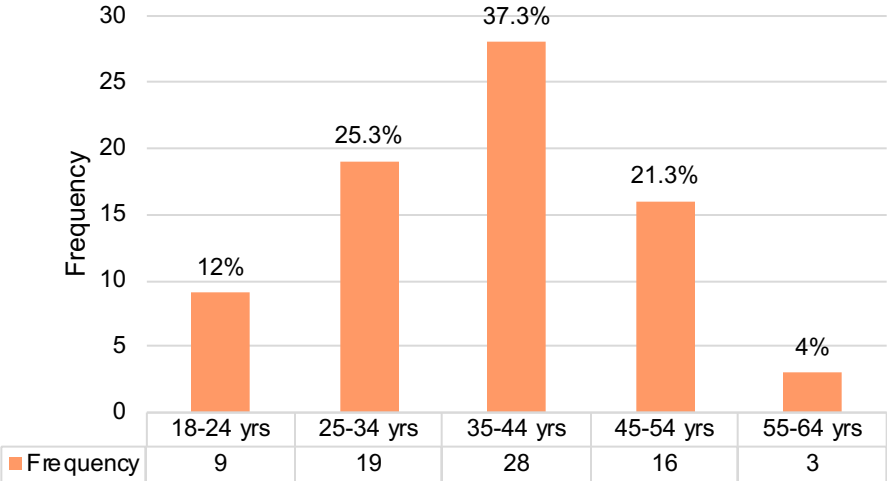
- Massive Open Online Courses. Hosted on Coursera
- Self-directed, non formal learning
- Open to public - Students from around the world learn from one another's diverse experiences
- Short video lectures (7-10 min), podcasts, quizzes, peer review assignments, discussion forums, readings, additional resources
- Encourages students to apply what they have learnt to offline environments
- Flexibility: Students can enroll at any time and complete at their leisure; access course materials after course completion
- Open education resources

TEDI MOOCs

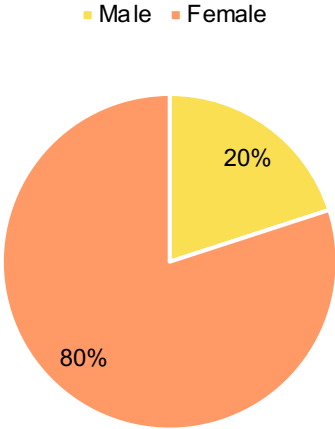
Course title	Focus	Launch
Disability inclusion in education: Building systems of support	How teachers can be supported by education systems to promote equity, equal access and dignity for learners with SPD	January 2019 1456 enrolments 126 active learners
Educating Deaf children: Becoming an empowered teacher	How educators can modify learning environment and make accommodations to meet needs of Deaf children and support them holistically	July 2019 253 enrolments 37 active learners
Severe to profound intellectual disability: Circles of care and education:	What intellectual disability entails, support needs, planning learning activities and building relationships of care and respect	September 2019 83 enrolments 32 active learners
Teaching children with visual impairment: Creating empowering classrooms	Understanding the visually impaired child, the expanded core curriculum, and creating relationships and networks of support	To be launched October 2019

Disability Inclusion in Education

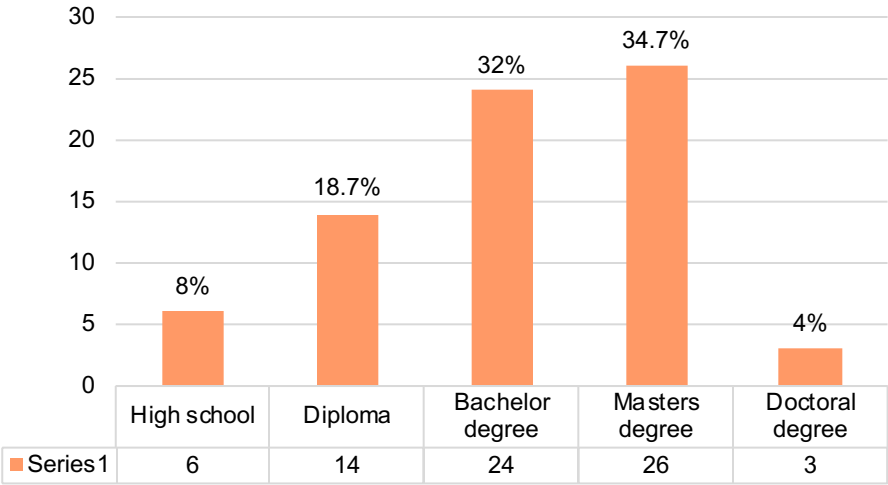
Age range



Gender



Level of education



Disability Inclusion in Education



I can apply this knowledge in the classroom and with my colleagues. We can talk about inclusion watching the videos and discussing how to effectively make the school a better place that accepts children and enhances their learning regardless of the barriers they might have.

The course has given me the skills and confidence to get into a class with learners with different impairment and utilize the opportunity to give them the best education.

Currently, I have been partnering with parents and families, and with school leaders with the goal of sharing and training caregivers and educators to build disability confidence. This course has helped me to be more systematic, more proactive and be more competent with my profession.

Conclusions



- While short courses alone cannot fill the gap that exists in teacher education, they are a good place to start, and could address needs of teachers in special, full-service and regular schools.
- Focus of short courses should be not only on upskilling teachers, but also empowering them – teachers take charge of their own growth and professional development
- Because of their flexibility, MOOCs have a particularly important role to play here.
- MOOCs can be used for communities of practice: Educators and other professionals can do MOOCs together and learn from one another