



AFRICA CALL ORGANISATION - SHALOM SKILL CENTRE

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INCLUSION ARTICLE

AFRICA CALL ORGANIZATION - SHALOM SKILL CENTRE, is an inclusive skills Centre that have valued the importance of inclusion in the agricultural skills development. For more than 4 years, the Centre had been recording very interesting inclusive stories in every intake, indeed inclusion is more than a noble idea, but it is the heartbeat of our community toward development. For us, inclusion means ensuring every young person with interest in the skills we offer, regardless of physical ability, learning difference, or social background, finds a place where they are valued and empowered with life skill which make them beneficial members of the society.

The center consider inclusion to be the strongest pillars for its existence which is highly supported by individual interests in the particular skills and when a youth with a disability or specific need joins our Centre we focus on their potential, not their limitations.

In order to ensure that our students achieve their maximum potential, we include individual assessments, consider recommendations from their previous schools to those who were in schools and we have parities working closely with their parents to understand their physical, emotional, and learning needs. This has been our strongest tools to understand whether a student requires tailored tools, physical accommodations, or extra patience during teaching and learning. This strategy does not only support learning but it also helped to create a warm, family or pervious school -like environment where no one feels left behind.

Equal Opportunities: Strategies for Daily Learning

To make equal opportunity a reality, we adapt our teaching methods and environment through practical daily strategies:

- **Adaptive Vocational Training:** our training focus achieving the **TEVETA** standard and objects while considering difference in the learning abilities. our training includes modification of training tools, instructions and training period for our students. These efforts are there to ensure that our students acquire necessary skills which they will make use of in the community.



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- **Peer Support & Teamwork:** this is another importance tools which our skills center uses to break down social stigma, and builds genuine friendships among students. Using this tool, our students are grouped or paired varying on abilities when doing some tasks and as such students are able to appreciate each other's abilities.
Peer to peer support for our inclusive Centre is not only appreciated in the academic and vocation trainings, but we have also appreciated in our extra curricula activities such as dram. This strategy support student to accept each other within and outside school environment because we strongly believe that if student can play together, then they can protect each other even outside school environment. This means that our center has been the foundation of inclusion to our student and the community.
- **Accessible Spaces:** We continuously adapt classrooms and communal spaces to ensure safe access for all. Our classrooms and training friend has been set up with the mind of difference in the abilities such that even our students who may be having physical disabilities will find it beneficial to learn and appreciate our training even in our hardest periods when our space is affected with frauds

Real Impact: Achievements & A Story of Hope

Our centers greatest achievements are not just awarding certificates, but seeing isolated youths, or a youth n who never had hope and lost confidence become confident, independent and beneficial community members makes us happier than ever because we strongly believe inclusive is the key for community development. Scores of graduates who once faced social isolation are now earning an income and contributing proudly to their households and further upgrading their studies in higher university.

Loveday's junior

It began with a slight blurriness around the edges of the printed pages. The National Examinations for which he had worked so hard were over and for a while, for Loveday, the world went black. For several days he sat in the room where he had done his best work, struggling to read the thick black haze that had descended and trying to draw straight lines



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When the result come out, the defeat cut deeper than the blindness itself. To Loveday, those low marks felt like a final judgment on his worth because his last hope was that at least if he can have good results he ask for some sponsorship for his university.

*Months passed in quiet despair until a community advocacy team from Africa call organization encouraged his family to visit **Shalom Skills Centre**, a local vocational institute known for its inclusive approach to education. The Centre offers open entry programs in integrated agriculture and he was interested to train in integrated agriculture program.*

When Loveday first stepped onto the center's grounds, he was oriented about environment around, given institution expectation and given instruction on how best he can find help. He interacted with other students without and with different disabilities. this made Loveday regain self-confidence and

When they were given their first task, Loveday observed that some student where finding it hard to follow some verbal instruction but for him remembering was easier for him. This made most of students to choose him as their partner in the group tasks.

At Shalom, inclusion was not just a policy; it was a way of life. Loveday was placed in the horticulture and agricultural production unit alongside students of all abilities. Where he once saw barriers, the instructors showed him adaptations:

- **Tactile Soil Assessment:** Learning to judge soil moisture and texture entirely through touch.
- **Structured Crop Layouts:** Using measured spacing ropes and raised nursery beds to plant straight, healthy rows of vegetables without needing sight.

“thank Africa call- shalom skill Centre for the big opportunity you gave me. I never had hope for myself but now I am a valuable member of the community and my family because I am able to do what I was trained it at our back yard garden...”

To all of you who have read this article to the end, to everyone who follows the progress of our Centre and our students with interest, and who continues to support us, I extend my deepest gratitude.