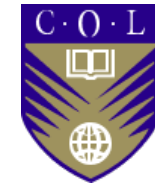




**SOUTHERN AFRICAN
DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY**
CENTRE FOR DISTANCE EDUCATION
Excellence in ODL



**COMMONWEALTH
of LEARNING**

WEBINAR Series 5

Towards Inclusivity in Higher Education in the SADC Region

**Distance without Barriers? Examining Inclusive Realities in
ODL: Insights from Botswana and Mauritius**



21st MAY 2026 | 15:00Hrs SAST



**Ms. Palveena Devi
Cheekoory**
Presenter



**Ms. Elsie Kentse
Mokgadi**
Presenter



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Professional Profile: Ms. Palveena Devi Cheekoory

Ms. Palveena Devi Cheekoory is a Lecturer in Law at the Open University of Mauritius, where she has been contributing to academia since 2023. With a strong academic foundation and a growing research profile, she specialises in company law, insolvency law, financial crimes, and anti-corruption regulations. Her teaching philosophy centres on making complex legal concepts accessible, practical, and engaging for diverse learners, particularly within the Open and Distance Learning (ODL) environment. Ms. Cheekoory holds a Master of Laws (LLM) in Corporate Law, a BA (Hons) in Law and Management from The University of Mauritius, and is currently pursuing a PhD on Combating Financial Crimes through Legislative Framework at the Open University of Mauritius, reflecting

her commitment to addressing pressing global and regional legal challenges. Beyond teaching, Ms. Cheekoory is actively involved in curriculum development, student mentoring, and academic research, contributing to programmes that integrate law with emerging fields such as the blue economy and sustainable development.

Her journey into inclusivity in Open and Distance Learning began with a simple realisation: access to education does not always mean equal opportunity to learn. Moreover, her growing interest in inclusive education was further strengthened by her participation in the regional workshop held in Gaborone, Botswana, in September 2025, titled “Inclusivity for Differently Abled Learners in ODL.” This experience, combined with her

continued engagement in the SADC Webinar Series on Inclusivity in ODL, has shaped her perspective on bridging accessibility gaps in distance education.

Drawing from both Mauritian and regional (SADC) insights, Ms. Cheekoory brings a thoughtful and practical lens to discussions on inclusive learning along with Ms. Elsie Kentse Mokgadi of Botswana. In this webinar, they will explore the realities behind the question: “Distance without barriers?”; critically examining whether ODL systems truly deliver equitable access for differently abled learners and highlighting opportunities for reform and innovation.

Professional Profile: Ms. Elsie Kentse Mokgadi

Ms. Elsie Kentse Mokgadi is a qualified business and management professional with a strong academic background. She holds a Master of Business Administration, a Bachelor of Business Administration, and a Diploma in Business Management from Amity University in India. She is currently pursuing a PhD in Business Management, specialising in Strategic Management at the Philippines Christian University.

Elsie has developed an extensive and progressive career in administration, human resource management, and higher education governance. Since November 2009, she has

been serving at Botswana Open University (BOU). In 2024, she was appointed as a BOU Council Member representing Support Staff. Her professional journey includes key roles such as Acting HR Manager/Executive Coordinator at Limkokwing University, Executive Assistant at the Human Resource Development Council, Executive Coordinator at Gaborone Academy, and Administration Assistant at Unitech College. Throughout her career, she has demonstrated strong leadership, communication, and organisational abilities.

Ms. Mokgadi has also contributed to academic and professional knowledge through

conference participation and research. She has presented at national and international conferences.

Her career objectives are centered on promoting effective and transparent organisational governance, optimising resource management for sustainable institutional growth, and enhancing stakeholder engagement to strengthen organisational reputation and impact.

Ms. Mokgadi is also a farmer, reflecting a commitment to sustainable development and national food production systems.

PROGRAMME

Programme Director: Dr. Mmabaledi K. Seeletso

Welcome Remarks: (10 minutes)

Ms. Boipelo Kesamang

Director; Maun Regional Campus, BOU

Presentation:

Ms. Palveena D. Cheekoory & Ms. Elsie K. Mokgadi

Question & Answer Session (20 minutes):

Moderated by Ms. Naomi Ntwayagae

Closing Remarks (5 minutes):

Ms. Joyce Sengate

Manager Tertiary Programmes, Gaborone Regional Campus, BOU