

Deaf Education

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Deaf education is a complex academic field of study that concentrates upon the education of students who are challenged by different problems related to hearing and providing the requisite methods that may aid their different needs or help them counter their impairments. Those specializing in this area are often expected to gain expertise in areas of language acquisition as well as be able to grasp an insightful amount of knowledge into the diverse and requisite learning and communication needs of their students. However, like all academic disciplines, the field has found root in various branches of or related to deaf education, ranging from, but not limited to, deaf studies, sign language, and deaf culture.

Deaf studies are one of the broad off-shoot branches of deaf education which concerns itself with the study of the deaf-related aspects of the world. In other words, those specializing in this field focus upon acquiring knowledge about the social life of the deaf on a collective and individual level and with the aim of grasping a close and insightful understanding of the deaf in terms of their anthropology, economics, geography, history, political science, psychology, social studies, and sociology.

Sign language is composed of manual gestures called signs along with various types of non-manual grammar such as mouth morphemes, appropriate facial expression and body movement etc. Within the scope of world's languages, sign language is a distant language which helps those with hearing loss to succeed in environments they have been unable to manage before. Sign language is often the replacement for speech or lip reading in which the deaf is able to read the speech of others from the movements of the lips and mouth.

Deaf culture demonstrates the belief, shared by deaf people, that being unable to hear is not a disability. The deaf culture is based on a collective mindset of people with a hearing loss. They have a strong sense of cooperation which helps them bond with people from other ethnic groups. Those with hearing abilities play an important role in deaf culture as educators and interpreters for the deaf.

Deafness may occur by birth or at any age thereafter. Therefore, parents and family play a key role in developing a deaf child's speech and language. Now there are various treatments and therapies available to help overcome the childhood hearing loss. According to various studies, Deaf education is the most natural and comprehensive education along with today's hearing technologies to enable, those affected, to learn to listen and talk. Deaf education allows people with hearing loss to meet their needs and prepare them for employment and independent living.

People who are deaf deserve the right to understand and be understood therefore it should be ensured that they have access to quality education. Around the world, schools and trained teachers are found for the hearing-impaired. Education for children who are deaf have existed for centuries. But unfortunately there have been too many people who are deaf or have a hearing loss, who have not received quality education. An individual's hearing loss interrupts the developmental process for acquiring language, which later impacts the social development. Therefore, opportunities should be provided to people who are deaf to gain hearing capabilities in a way that help them succeed at the activities of daily life at the same rate as their hearing peers.

References

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