Challenges Faced by Deaf Parents In The Education Of Their Deaf Children In Mumbai

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Background

• A research work for Masters of Education (Hearing Impairment) with focus on ‘educational areas of children with hearing impairment’

• A sensitive case of one of deaf schools in Mumbai where deaf parents involved in the fight against the school

• My personal experience: Observing my deaf parents’ struggle in bringing two deaf children.
Methodology

• Qualitative research method; Semi-structured Interviews; Questionnaire as research tool
• Questionnaire of 4 categories:
  – School administration related challenges/concerns
  – Academic related challenges/concerns
  – Technology related challenges/concerns
  – Personal challenges/concerns
• Snowball sampling method; sample size: 12
• Under data analysis: 5 subjects
### Topography: Distribution of subjects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age of deaf parents</th>
<th>No. of families</th>
<th>Family type</th>
<th>No. of families</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>45-50+</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Nuclear</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 – 35+</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>With extended family members</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Use of type of ALD</th>
<th>No. of families</th>
<th>Educational level of deaf children</th>
<th>No. of families</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Digital BTE</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Primary (up to class IV)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CI</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Secondary (up to class VII)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Initial Findings

• Deaf parents of two different generations think and view matters differently.
  – One prefers entire education in deaf schools, other prefers early mainstreaming.
  – Yes / No to CI

• Deaf parents with deaf children using CI strongly promote sign language.

• Decision making: initially manipulated by other groups but later reversed based on experience
  – Refuse to Continuance in special school for CI child
  – Refuse to emulate model of education of CI children
  – Residential school / day school for the deaf
  – Schools for the deaf / mainstreaming
General Findings

• Deaf children of deaf parents excelled in academic performance over other deaf children of hearing parents.

• Deaf parents of deaf children are very alert, watchful and careful of their deaf children regarding studies, use of assistive devices, communication devices (mobiles, tablets).

• Deaf parents educate their deaf children of surroundings, expected struggles for the deaf in later stages of life etc. time to time.
Limitation of the study

• No research references available in the domain of education.
• Limited to City of Mumbai and its suburbs.
• Limited number of participants (those deaf parents whose children already finished school education are excluded).
• No quantitative method applied.
• A number of deaf parents (8 families) from one school for the deaf excluded to avoid researcher bias. (Teachers of the same school is facing legal battle with deaf parents over molestation of deaf children, poor quality education, lack of communication accessibility).
• Thank you for watching the presentation.

• Queries are welcome.