Human Rights & Global Health for Deaf Women

7th International Deaf Academics & Researchers Conference

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Why is women’s health important?

“Women, whether healthy or not, are at the heart of family and society”
(Murray, 2008:12)
Some Differences between Women & Men

• Biological

• Gender-based in society
e.g., role of caregiver
Literature Review on Deaf Women’s Health
[Web of Science, PubMed & Psych Abstracts]

*Lack of affirming Deaf culture and sign language

*Stereotypes (e.g., women with disabilities)

*Limited to low functioning individuals

*Mentally deficient

*Comparative analysis with hearing women
Women’s Global Health & Human Rights

- Birth control
- Women and HIV
- Literacy (Murray, 2008)
- Violence against females (Murthy & Smith, 2010)
WFD & WHO Reports

- Deaf People and Human Rights Report (2009)
- The WHO Report on Disability (2011)
Dr. Liisa Kauppinen
Former WFD President
Key Concepts

- Stigma & marginalization
- Inequalities in access to healthcare
- Negative attitudes, assumptions & stereotypes
- Disabled women of low caste, low social class, or from poor areas or rural communities
MPV 2
Issues in research

• Lack of global and national data

• Complexities
  • Languages
  • Infrastructure
  • Societal barriers
  • Research design

• Researchers
  • Unique skills and cultural access required
  • Telephone or written surveys inaccessible or inappropriate
MPV 4
In the American Political Science Review in 2012, Mala Htun and S. Laurel Weldon looked at 70 countries over four decades to examine the most effective way to reduce violence against women.

“Strong and thriving feminist movements help to shape public and government agendas and create the political will to address against women.”
HUMAN & HEALTH RIGHTS

Change can be promoted from within the culture

Bottom-up approach in development work: economic & social change

Can be cost-effective- broader social & cultural factors related to globalization
MPV3
“Men and Women Work Together”

By those who share the values and understand culturally sensitive issues: genital cutting

“Encouraging villagers to discuss the human rights and health issues relating to cutting and then make their own choices. ‘Soft sell’ and involve men in the discussion” (p.225)

Changing village attitudes as a whole.

*Half the Sky* by Kristoff & WuDun, 2009
Human rights are women’s rights.

Women’s rights are human rights.

—Hillary Rodham Clinton, UN 4th World Conference on Women Plenary Session, 1995, Beijing, China
Four videos are open-captioned, signed and voice-interpreted in English.

*WFD Presentation: Language Rights

*UNCRPD Presentation

*Women’s Reception Presentation: Personal Stories about My Life and Work

*Interview with Dr. Liisa Kauppinen