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AN ANALYTICAL STUDY OF ACADEMIC NEEDS OF THE HEARING IMPAIRED STUDENTS AT HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

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Abstract: Hearing impairment is one among the partial inability to hear the sound producing around a person. Hearing impairment can cause due to several factors but not limited to age, illness, physical trauma, etc., hearing aid is a small electronic device which helps to hear the sound in our surroundings just by wearing behind your ears. With the help of this e-device a hearing-impaired person can able to hear the sound, can listen and helps to communicate with others usual as others. This research article is about a survey regarding number of students with hearing impaired doing their higher studies in and around Coimbatore and find out their difficulties faced by them by accessing the study materials.

Keywords: *Hearing-impairment; Higher studies; E-devices; Troubles facing.*

I. Introduction

The major limitation for the hearing-impaired children is that they do not communicate to their teachers, press and others that they cannot hear. They feel shy to ask for repetitions and to use the hearing aids.

The tapping of residential hearing, proper selection of communication mode and a boost in the confidence are of vital importance for including the CWHI in mainstream education.

II. Hearing Impaired Learners at Higher Education

The natural mother tongue of the hearing impaired is sign language. When the student with a hearing impairment is denied of visual clues, he finds it difficult to cope up with the educational settings. Unlike the schools, the special educational support is unavailable at higher educational institutions.

However, for several reasons, there are fewer students with hearing impairment enrolled for higher educational courses. Additionally, the students with hearing impairment who enroll in these higher classes face several challenges, which in turn hamper their academic growth.

The hearing impaired shall access education better if they are provided with appropriate teaching learning materials. Keeping this in mind the investigator wanted to explore the need of the students with hearing impairment in accessing the higher education.

III. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are to

1. find out the hearing-impaired students pursuing higher education in and around Coimbatore
2. figure out the difficulties faced by them in accessing the educational materials

IV. Need for the Study

All of us are aware that the hearing-impaired students shall be given better access to education if we shall provide modified instruction. But there are challenges in the higher education institutions admitting hearing impaired learners in creating a conducive ambience for learning. The learning materials available in print are to be interpreted in pupil friendly forms for easy access of the hearing-impaired learners. Due to scarcity of the resources, special educational support and scattered population of the hearing impaired in higher educational institutions, it is imperative that the materials are available in forms other than print that shall be easily shared among the hearing-impaired students with due economy. Hence the researcher wanted to explore the needs of the hearing-impaired learners and ask them to suggest solutions for the same.

V. Scope of the Study

Hearing impaired learners shall utilize their cognition better for the development of the nation if they are given due access to higher education. An education that truly taps their cognition, aids metacognition and also fosters scientific temperament among the hearing impaired. This need not be a dream alone, this shall be easily reached with today's technological support. If the educational materials are available to suit the unique needs of the hearing-impaired learners and if the students are given access to it, it is sure that they would develop newer zones and reach higher horizons. The scope of the hearing impaired becoming an entrepreneur in the educational material preparation for his peers would not be a dream coming true.

VI.Design of the Study

Keeping in mind the nature of the problem in hand, after going through the different types of research, the investigator selected quasi experimental - pre-post test design without a control group for the present study.

An informal survey was taken up to find out the details of the hearing-impaired students enrolled in the higher education institutions in and around Coimbatore. The special education teachers of the higher secondary schools were contacted and it was found that the Sankara college of Science and Commerce has enrolled 34 hearing impaired students in the B. Com. course.

The hearing-impaired students were supported through a resource room and two special teachers that are hearing impaired at the Sankara college of Science and Commerce.

A survey was prepared to locate and prioritize the need of the students in the accessing the higher educational academia and distributed.

Table 1: Details of the Sample

Year	Course of Study	Number of students	
I Year	B.Com	9	11 students in I year
	B.Com CA	1	
	B.A. English	1	
II Year	B.Com	8	12 students in II year
	B.Com CA	4	
III Year	B.Com	8	11 students in III year
	B.Com CA	3	
Total		34	

Table 2: Need for accessing the higher educational academia as expressed by the Sample

Item	Yes (%)	No (%)
Do you have accessibility to the educational material in the course you are presently enrolled in	15	85
Have you used multi-Media packages for your learning needs?	0	100
Suggest some ideas for accessing the educational materials?		
1. Sign Language classes	90	0
2. Sign language interpretation	100	
3. Video lessons with sign language subtitles	30	
4. Flow charts with key words	20	
5. Video recordings of the classes with sign language subtitles	40	

All the hearing-impaired students at the Sankara College of Science and Commerce were enquired about the availability of the educational materials that are highly accessible for them. Only a few could manage with the educational materials available with them. When they were asked about multimedia packages, they said they have not accessed any. All the 34 students said that they need sign language interpretation in accessing the educational materials. Since they had two hearing

impaired staff who were facilitating in accessing the print, they could manage to continue with their higher education. In many a place such facilities are not available. If sign language interpretation materials are available, they said they could definitely go higher planes in their academic performance. This table clearly depicts the need for sign language interpretation materials in higher education for easy access of higher education for the hearing impaired.

VII. Conclusion

The analysis of the data and the experience with the hearing impaired at the higher education calls for an urgent need for such material preparation. This would definitely foster the learning ambience of the students with hearing impairment at the institutes of higher learning.

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