



Deaf Culture

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Different Identity

- Culturally Deaf (Deafhood)
- Oral Deaf
- Late Deafened
- Hard of hearing
- Deaf-Blind



Deaf Culture

- Deaf culture is based on the vibrant heritage and traditions of the Deaf community.
- American Sign Language (ASL) is a language of manual gestures called signs, with its own grammatical structure and syntax. It is a recognized language and the language shared by most Deaf people.
- The community is unified based on common experiences of being Deaf in a hearing society, such as: limited accessibility to services, being an oppressed group, isolation, and communication barriers.



Deaf Culture

- Deaf culture includes ASL literature and art, social, political, business and sports organizations, and rules and traditions. Deaf culture meets the definition of a “culture”.
- Subgroups within the Deaf community are based on communication modes used: Users of ASL, Oral Deaf, Signed English users, and other methods.
- Deaf people are very visually oriented. Eyes are not used only to communicate, but also to take in environmental and situational stimuli.



Educational Levels:

- Formal education for many deaf people ends at the 12th grade.
- Upon graduation, 30% are functionally illiterate and 60% read at fourth to fifth grade level.
- However, a significant number of deaf people have graduated from college, and an increasing number of deaf people are going into white-collar jobs such as being lawyers, therapists, and stock brokers.



Acquisition of Information

- Deaf people think in terms of visual concepts and logical sequences, not in auditory terms.
- Seventy five percent of information acquired by hearing people comes from auditory means such as radio, television and other people's conversations; this information is very rarely accessible to deaf people.



Providing Effective Services to Deaf Individuals

- Knowledge of different causes of deafness and its impact on the individual.
- Knowledge of Deaf culture and ASL.
- Knowledge of different communication mode.
 - Provide them with appropriate communication accessibility
- Be willing to work with an advocate, preferably Deaf.
- Choose the most appropriate assistive device and plan ways to deal with potential communication misunderstanding.