



## A STUDY ON PSYCHO-SOCIAL CONDITION OF MOTHER OF HEARING IMPAIRED CHILDREN

### Abstract:

*The child in a family is a gift of almighty. When the child grows and develops it is the richest experience as humans for family members. That can be parent, grand parent, sibling, etc. the things go smoothly with an arrival of a newborn with normal state but when there is an entry of physically or mentally unsound organism in family, there are chances that the peaceful environment get disturbed from this condition. As we all know that the Indian society is well known for its family system and culture. But with the changes in time, the family system of India has broken down. As a result, the influence of family has reduced.*

*The present paper briefly highlight about the type of disability – Hearing Impaired. Further it explores the dilemmas faced by the mothers of such children. The paper specifically throws light on the mother's problem. The reason for this is that, the society where do we stay has considered a female character for the etiology of any negativity in family. Blaming her by all means is common nowadays. The article attempts to orient the readers about the problems faced by the mothers of Hearing Impaired children.*

**Key words:** family system, physical disability, Indian society

### Introduction:

**Hearing Impaired:** Earlier a belief was that those who are deaf from birth also have an intellectual defect, hence the term deaf the notion of a double infirmity. This belief continued until it was realized that the absence of speech in born deaf was not related to a deficiency of the vocal organs and was only the consequences of the lack of hearing.

Deafness or impairment in hearing capacity is defined in terms of degree of hearing loss. Total inability to hear is deafness but those whose sense of hearing is defective but who manage with or without hearing aids are called hard of hearing. Deafness might occur before the child acquires language or afterwards due to certain environmental problems. The hard of hearing are those in whom the sense of hearing although defective is functional with or without a hearing aid. Deaf individuals have hearing problems that are so severe that speech cannot be understood when it is transmitted through the ear but hard of hearing can still use the auditory channel as their major avenue for speech and language development.

### Definitions of Hearing Impairment:

“Deafness” means a hearing impaired that is so severe that the child is impairing in processing linguistic information through hearing with or without amplification that adversely affects a child's educational performance. **(Individuals With Disabilities Education Act, 1990).**

Eligibility of services under the categories of deafness and hearing impairment is based on degree of hearing loss. People with normal hearing can understand without a hearing aid. People who are deaf are

unable to understand speech even with the help of a hearing aid. Between normal hearing and deafness are various degrees of hearing loss.

Hearing loss can be classified on the following basis. **Congenital** means hearing loss at the time of birth and **Acquired i.e.** Hearing loss acquired any time in one's life.

**Conductive Hearing loss:** A conductive hearing loss occurs when the transmission of sound is interrupted. This occurs in the outer ear or more frequently, in the middle ear. In children the most cause of middle dysfunction is otitis media, or middle ear infection. In adults, the most common cause of conductive hearing impairment is otosclerosis, a disease of the middle ear ossicles which may cause the footplate of the stapes to attach to the oval window.

The most common cause of conductive hearing impairment among the geriatric population is ear canal collapse. Other less communal causes of conductive hearing loss are oral atresia (close external auditory canal), stenosis (narrow external auditory canal), & external otitis (infected and swollen external auditory canal, also known as swimmer's ear).

**Sensorineural Hearing Loss:-** A Sensorineural hearing loss occurs when the hair cells of the cochlea of the acoustic nerve (CNVIII) are damaged the impairment is associated with the loss of hearing through bone conduction, and it is considered a permanent impairment. Causes of Sensorineural hearing loss include:

- Ototoxicity, or damage from drugs(including certain antibiotics)
- Infections, such as meningitis or maternal rubella.
- Genetic factors such as certain birth defects that result in partially developed or missing parts of the cochlea or auditory nerve.
- Syphilis or anoxia contracted with the effects of aging.
- Meniere diseases, a unilateral disease i.e. characterized by vertigo (dizziness) & tinnitus (noise in the ear).

**Mixed Hearing Loss:** Mixed Hearing Loss involves a combination of conductive and Sensorineural loss. Both air and bone conduction path ways are involved so the hearing loss is partially conductive and partially Sensorineural, but the hearing by bone conduction is typically the better of the two (Bess & Humes, 1990). The Sensorineural components of hearing loss determine the amount of speech sound distortion that is present. Thus, bone conduction audiograms are the best indicators of the degree of difficulty a client will have recognizing and discriminating speech, even if it is amplified (Marting, 1990).

#### **Degree of Hearing Loss:**

**Normal: 0-25 %, Mild: 26-40 %, Moderate: 41-55 %, Moderately Severe: 56-70 %, Severe: 71-90 % & Profound: 91+ %.**

#### **Etiology of Hearing Loss:-**

The causes mentioned below are based upon when the deafness occurs and whether or not there is a genetic element to the etiology. There may be a genetic element in both prenatal and postnatal causes of deafness.

**The causes of hearing loss further can be classified as under:**

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>CAUSE</b>
<b>PRENATAL</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maternofoetal rhesus incompatibility.</li> <li>• Toxoplasmosis</li> <li>• Use of certain drugs during pregnancy.</li> <li>• Developmental anomalies of the ear</li> <li>• Skeletal/ craniofacial anomalies of the ear</li> <li>• Neurological Disorders e.g. Usher's syndrome</li> <li>• Metabolic/ Endocrine/Renal disorders</li> </ul>
<b>PERINATAL</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traumatic delivery</li> <li>• Neonatal asphyxia</li> <li>• Hypoxia</li> <li>• Respiratory distress</li> <li>• Neonatal distress</li> <li>• Incubator noise induced Hearing Loss.</li> </ul>
<b>POSTNATAL</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sensorineural loss</li> <li>• Genetic cause</li> <li>• Non Genetic cause</li> <li>• Meningitis</li> <li>• Measles</li> <li>• Trauma</li> <li>• Exposure to ototoxic drugs.</li> </ul>

**Mothers with the hearing-impaired kids:**

Children suffering from hearing impairment need early identification and intervention for proper rehabilitation, which can be done best by the mother by becoming a link between rehabilitation professionals and the child.

“Hearing is prerequisite for a child’s speech language development. This could be severely hampered in the absence of hearing ability. Here mothers can play a very important role.

Mother spends the most time with the child. Hence she can identify the handicap in the child and approach professionals like ENT specialist or pediatrician for help.

As soon as the disability is detected, the child should be given a hearing aid. Then pictorial depiction of everyday activities and their physical imitation is the best way to teach the child. For example, regarding brushing teeth, mother should give a running commentary of the activity involving in the brushing activity explaining each action in detail and imitate it before the child. Then get the child repeat the process with her

Similarly for animal or bird sounds, she should show pictures of the animal or bird or a film based on animals. Show the association between object and the sound by showing it and pronounce the sound.

It is the birthright of every child to get a hearing aid by six months of age. Parents should ensure that by the first birthday, the child is able to pronounce at least 10 to 15 words.

## **“The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights & Full Participation) Act, 1995”.**

"The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995" has come into force on February 7, 1996.

This law is an important landmark and is a significant step in the direction of ensuring equal opportunities for people with disabilities and their full participation in the nation building.

The Act provides for both preventive and promotional aspects of rehabilitation like education, employment and vocational training, job reservation, research and manpower development, creation of barrier-free environment, rehabilitation of persons with disability, unemployment allowance for the disabled, special insurance scheme for the disabled employees and establishment of homes for persons with severe disability etc.

### **Main Provisions of the Disabilities Act:-**

- Preventions and Detections of Disabilities
- Education
- Employment
- Non-Discrimination
- Research and Manpower Development
- Affirmative Action
- Social Security
- Grievance Redressal

### **Research methodology**

To collect the factual information is the purpose of this study so the research design is exploratory as it provides the true and factual picture of the mothers of Hearing Impaired children. It is descriptive because it describes the social and psychic status of mothers of Hearing Impaired children.

- ◆ **Universe:-**All the mothers of hearing impaired children of S.G.Brahmbhatt badhir vidhyavihar from Nadiad city constitutes as universe of the study.
- ◆ **Sample Size:** The sample of the study is 40 mothers of hearing impaired children of S.G.Brahmbhatt badhir vidhyavihar, Nadiad..
- ◆ **Sampling Method:** The study has adopted Simple Random Sampling procedure.
- ◆ **Tools of data collection:** Interview Schedule Method was used as a primary tool of data collection. Observation Method and Home Visits are secondary source.

### **Conclusion:**

The basic objective behind the study is to be oriented on the condition of the mothers of the hearing impaired children. The study is very positive at some extent. When the issue of the taking care of child comes majority of the mothers faces problems to understand them means proper communication is lacking here. Another finding was also that those children who live in joint family majority of the members take interest in the child and the development takes place. While in some cases in nuclear family the total attention is given to the child only and he/she gradually develops. The respondents show their view on merits and demerits of joint & nuclear family.

One of the important finding has come out wherein all respondents were home makers. This can be interpreted in a manner that due to the disability of the child, they had to give up zeal to go for remunerative work as they are being engaged in taking care of the child. Moreover, it revealed that, the respondents' family monthly income falls 5000-10000. This clearly shows that at some point of time, they do face financial crisis but the females.

Another matter has come in focus that many of the respondents believe that having a special child in family is their misfortune. May be due to the bad deeds they are punished by god. This is their thinking.

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