

# THE PERCEPTION OF DEAF PEOPLE TOWARDS THE USE OF HEARING AIDS

KOLOKIU

Jurnal Pendidikan Luar Sekolah

<http://kolokium.ppi.unp.ac.id/>

Jurusan Pendidikan Luar Sekolah

Fakultas Ilmu Pendidikan

Universitas Negeri Padang

Sumatera Barat, Indonesia

Volume 11, Nomor 2, Tahun 2023

DOI: 10.24036/kolokium.v11i2.631

Received 07 September 2023

Approved 15 Oktober 2023

Published 31 Oktober 2023

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## ABSTRACT

This article discusses the perception of the deaf in using hearing aids. Based on observations, not all deaf people use hearing aids, even though they have experience using hearing aids. A descriptive quantitative approach was used to collect data, involving all members of the Deaf Organization in Padang. As a result, more than a few deaf people have a good perception of the use of hearing aids, they agree that hearing aids are very helpful for communicating and carrying out daily activities and believe hearing aids can help the development of deaf children if used early.

**Keywords:** deafness, hearing aid, perception

## INTRODUCTION

Deaf people have difficulty communicating and socializing in their surroundings. This is one of the deaf people's issues. Almost all deaf people have difficulty communicating verbally (Hernawati, 2007). This is due to deaf people's inability or lack of ability to understand language symbols, rules, and grammar, as well as non-deaf people's lack of knowledge of sign language and ineffective written communication (Nofiaturrahmah, 2018; Solikhatusun, 2013)

Communication barriers have a significant impact on the deaf (Haliza et al., 2020). The interconnected consequences begin with delays in language development in deaf children, which leads to speech delays, and this condition has an impact on social development. Furthermore, the loss of social skills causes the deaf person to become antisocial, aloof, and only join the deaf community (Solikhatusun, 2013; Yulianti, 2018).

Optimizing the remaining hearing of the deaf is one option for reducing barriers in the communication process (Bintoro, 2010). Logically, the more sounds that the deaf can hear, the better their vocabulary understanding, and thus their ability to communicate and socialize with their surroundings. Using a hearing aid is one of the most effective ways to improve hearing loss. Hearing aids should be used as soon as possible to reduce the impact of hearing loss. The use of hearing aids in school helps to develop language, social, emotional, and academic achievement. (Looi et al., 2015; Palmer, 2002)

Hearing aids were created to help people with hearing loss be aware of sounds in complex (noisy) situations and communicate with others (Rahmi, 2015). The ability to hear voices and language in the environment can help deaf people improve their speaking, reading, and writing skills. Furthermore, hearing aids are evolving so that they have increasingly sophisticated technology and come in a variety of shapes and sizes (Palmer, 2002). Hearing aid dysfunction, on the other hand, is common in certain conditions.

According to observations, many deaf people continue to refuse to use hearing aids for a variety of reasons. Some of the reasons include a lack of knowledge about hearing aids, a lack of interest in using hearing aids because they cannot afford to purchase them or are too lazy to purchase them because they are expensive . Others have hearing aids but refuse to use them because they are uncomfortable and unfamiliar, and they lack confidence in using them. Furthermore, it could be the result of faulty hearing aids (Gustafson et al., 2015; Walker et al., 2019). Several members of deaf organizations in Padang stated the same reason. Out of 49 members, only seven are deaf and use hearing aids.

It is necessary to investigate further the knowledge and awareness of deaf people in using hearing aids in order to gain an understanding of the awareness of deaf people in using hearing aids. This is intended as a consideration for interested parties to take action on the effectiveness of using hearing aids for people with hearing impairments.

## **METHOD**

The information in this article was gathered using a questionnaire with total sampling at the Deaf Organization in Padang, which included 49 people. The data is processed using a quantitative descriptive approach that explains the problems statistically. The questionnaire used a Likert scale with agree and disagree options. The percentage formula is used to analyze the research data (Yusuf, 2016).

$$p = \frac{f}{n} \times 100$$

Information:

p = Percentage

f = Frequency Answer

n = The overall value of the respondent

**Tabel 1 . Research questionnaire scale**

| <b>Information</b> | <b>Score</b> |
|--------------------|--------------|
| Angree             | 1            |
| Disagree           | 0            |

## DISCUSSION

The results of this quantitative descriptive study were analyzed using descriptive analysis with a statistical or numerical approach. The data obtained from this study are as follows:

**Table 2. Percentage of respondents' answers**

| Question  | Percentage |
|---|------------|
| Do you want a hearing aids?   | 67.34%     |
| Do you like hearing aids?   | 68.38%     |
| Do you think hearing aids can help you?   | 67.34%     |
| Do you feel happy when you use hearing aids?  | 61.22%     |
| Do you think the deaf should use hearing aids to communicate?                         | 61.22%     |
| Are hearing aids very attractive to use?  | 58.18%     |
| Do the deaf need to use hearing aids?   | 65.30%     |
| Would you like to buy a hearing aid even if it is expensive?                          | 24.48%     |
| Are hearing aids suitable for use in everyday life?                                   | 65.30%     |
| Do you agree that hearing aids can help you hear something you've never heard before? | 63.30%     |

From the results of the study it is known that deaf has a good perception of the use of hearing aids. This can be seen from the respondent's answer stated that they want a hearing aid, like a hearing aid, feel helped by a hearing aid, feeling happy when using hearing aids, agree that deaf must use hearing aids to communicate, hearing aids Very interesting to use, agree that deaf needs to use a hearing aid, agree that a hearing aid can help them hear something that has never been heard before, and feel that the hearing aid is suitable for use in everyday life. But to buy a hearing aid, respondents felt they did not want to buy it because the price was expensive.

According to the study's findings, the deaf have a high level of awareness and motivation to use hearing aids. According to research, the majority of people with hearing impairments want hearing aids to help them in their daily lives. Some hearing impaired claim that hearing aids are very appealing to use, that they can guarantee their future, and that they are not rigid in their use of hearing aids. Furthermore, many hearing impaired are very interested in using hearing aids.

According to these findings, hearing aid awareness is directly proportional to the satisfaction and benefits obtained when using hearing aids (da Silva, da Silva, and Aurélio 2013). Deaf people are generally well-aware of the importance of using hearing aids. They are aware of the benefits of using hearing aids, such as the ability to communicate and socialize with others.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the discussion, we can draw the conclusion that deaf people want to have a hearing aid to support daily activities where these activities require hearing activities, including when communicating, but deaf people objected to buying hearing aids because the price is expensive.

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