



A STUDY ON PERSPECTIVES OF PERSONS WITH DEAFNESS ABOUT DEAF CULTURE

By

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Abstract

The present study is a descriptive study and survey method is used to find out the perspectives of persons with Deafness about Deaf culture regarding family and marriage, technology and sign language. Purposive sampling method has been used to select 90 persons with deafness (male-75 and female-15) registered at the five Deaf associations/Organizations in Coimbatore district of Tamil Nadu. The research tool for the present study was developed to measure the perspectives of persons with Deafness about Deaf culture regarding family and marriage, technology and sign language. A rating scale was developed based on Likert's 5 point scale. The data has been analyzed based on the objectives set for the study to test hypotheses and to make recommendations based on the findings. SPSS package was used by selecting appropriate tests: t- test & ANOVA to find out level of significance, F ratio, correlation and multiple comparisons.

The major findings of the study are:

The perspectives of Persons with Deafness about family and marriage vary significantly with respect to different educational groups and spouse with and without Deafness. The perspectives of Persons with Deafness about family and marriage do not vary significantly with respect to different age groups, gender, employment, marital status, siblings with and without Deafness, type of family, income and locality of residence. The perspectives of persons with Deafness regarding use of technology do not vary significantly among different age groups, gender, educational group, status of employment and locality of residence. The perspectives of persons with Deafness regarding sign language do not vary significantly based on their different age groups, gender, educational groups, employment, siblings with and without Deafness, spouse with and without Deafness and locality of residence. However the results indicated that the mean scores of all the three aspects of perspectives of persons with deafness about deaf culture regarding family and marriage, technology, and sign language are 48.41, 52.31 and 59.57 respectively. Therefore the study reveals that the persons with deafness belonging to the deaf associations have strong perceptions on family and marriage, technology and sign language.

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Introduction

Deafness as a disability has been the underlying premise of the education and rehabilitation of the deaf for decades. From the perspective that deafness is impairment, the inability to hear which interferes with a person's ability to respond to environmental cues, to communicate, and to enjoy aspects of mainstream culture such as music. The "debilitating" effects of deafness can be lessened through the use of technology such as hearing aids, cochlear implants, assistive listening devices, and through the use of oralism, being able to speak and visually read others' speech.

Deafness is more than just an inability to hear. It is a very complex phenomenon, involving not only communication but also psychology, demography, education, economics, minorities, social attitudes, and culture. Deaf people do not make up a single, homogenous population, but are characterized by diversity equal to that of the hearing population among which they live.

Deaf culture

Each of us has several cultural identities. Our beliefs and values, from our family, influence the manner in which we respond to our surroundings. Deaf individuals bring these beliefs and values with them. These ideas are then shared and modified to represent the culture of the Deaf community. Within this culture, there is folklore, history, song, poetry and art.

Review of literature

[Leigh, Brice and Meadow-Orlans \(2003\)](#) conducted a study on "Attachment in Deaf Mothers and their Children" and found that there has been a growing interest in how adults conceptualize their relationships with their own parents as well as in the transmission of attachment status from parent to child and the variables that influence that transmission. The primary goal of the present study was to examine the transmission of attachment from deaf mother to child. Adult Attachment Interviews were collected on 32 women with deafness and Strange Situation Procedure data were obtained from their children. While the distribution of mother with deafness attachment classifications was similar to that found with hearing samples, the concordance between mother and child in terms of attachment status was lower than in hearing samples. Having a parent with deafness did not affect a adult with deafness's attachment status. Post hoc analyses suggested a trend towards a dismissing stance in attachment relationships.

[Most, Wiesel and Blitzer \(2006\)](#) assessed the relationships between identity orientations and attitudes toward cochlear implant (CI). A total of 115 adolescents with deafness and hard of hearing (D/HH) completed a demographic questionnaire, the Deaf Identity Developmental Scale (DIDS) and attitudes toward CI questionnaire. The DIDS results showed that participants' bicultural identity was strongest and marginal identity was weakest. In general, participants expressed positive attitudes toward CI. Stronger Deaf identity was associated with less positive attitudes regarding expected CI effects while stronger bicultural identity was associated with more positive attitudes. Also, bicultural identity did not contradict the acceptance of CI technology. It was concluded that exposure of D/HH youngsters to both Deaf culture and the advantages of CI seems desirable.

[Senghas and Monaghan \(2002\)](#) investigated that people with deafness have been marked as different and treated problematically by their hearing societies. Recently, studies of deafness have adopted more complex sociocultural perspectives, raising issues of community identity, formation and maintenance, and language

ideology. Anthropological researchers have approached the study of d/Deaf communities from at least three useful angles. The first, focusing on the history of these communities, demonstrates that the current issues have roots in the past, including the central role of education in the creation and maintenance of communities. A second approach centers on ethnic perspectives, drawing on the voices of community members themselves and accounts of ethnographers. A third perspective studies linguistic issues and how particular linguistic issues involving people with deafness articulate with those of their hearing societies.

Need and significance of the study

Persons with Deafness belong to a minority. They have a culture of their own. While the hearing people who have appropriate hearing may think that people with Deafness do not have any culture. They are different and unorganized but Persons with Deafness have their own belief, history and language. There are debates and researches which have focused upon whether the medium of study/instruction should be through oral language do people with deafness prefer to learn and have instructions through sign language. This study attempts to

- find out the belief of persons with Deafness about sign language.
- frame the curriculum and medium of the instruction for persons with Deafness.
- create awareness among hearing people that persons with Deafness are minority but they have their own culture, belief, history, language and norms.
- make close relation between hearing and persons with Deafness.
- Orient family of persons with Deafness to know about Deaf culture, and respecting it.
- make awareness about technology like mobile, internet, hearing aids and cochlear implant as benefits or obstacles to Deaf culture?

Objectives of the study

To study the perspectives of persons with Deafness about Deaf culture regarding

1. family and marriage.
2. To technology.
3. sign language.

The above objectives would be with reference to age, gender, education, employment, siblings with and without Deafness, spouse with and without Deafness and locality of residence

Methodology

The present study is a descriptive study and survey method is used to find out the perspectives of persons with Deafness about Deaf culture regarding family and marriage, technology and sign language.

Selection of sample

Before selection of the sample, researcher developed criteria for sampling as per the different variables of the study. Variables used in the study were as follows

- Age
- Gender
- Education
- Employment: Employed and Unemployed

- Marital status: Married and Unmarried
- Siblings with or without Deafness
- Spouse with or without Deafness
- Type of family: Joint and Nuclear
- Family Income
- Locality: Rural, and Urban

Sample

Purposive sampling method has been used to select 90 persons with Deafness registered at the 5 Deaf associations/Organizations in Coimbatore district of Tamil Nadu. There are five Deaf associations functioning in and around Coimbatore, which are non-government organizations. These associations receive maximum funding from the government of Tamil Nadu. The Leaders/Directors of these associations are accountable to make and implement policies as well as for maintaining related records. Researcher through his personal contacts with professionals working in this area identified the details about Deaf associations/Organizations. The details about Deaf Association/Organization were also collected from District Rehabilitation Officers, District Collector's Office, and Coimbatore. It was estimated that a total number of 350 Deaf people are associated with these organizations/association and the number is increasing continuously. Researcher has included 90 people with Deaf as a sample of this study.

Most of the members used to visit the Deaf associations once or twice a week. It is important to mention that even they do not visit Deaf associations every day but whenever the association keeps any meetings or functions, most of them assemble at association on such occasions.

The inclusion criteria for the subjects were:

- Must be a member of Deaf association/Organization
- Minimum qualification- S.S.C.
- Age: 18-60 years
- Gender: Both male and female
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The exclusion criteria for the subjects were:

- Should not have any associated disabilities like cerebral palsy, visual impairment, autism spectrum disorder, mental illness.

The researcher visited the associations with prior permission and selected the sample as per the inclusion criteria given above through purposive sampling technique.

Development of Tools

The research tool for the present study was developed to measure the perspectives of persons with Deafness about Deaf culture regarding family and marriage, technology and sign language. A rating scale was developed based on Likert's 5 point scale. To collect the opinion of the respondent from Deaf culture, researcher in the beginning, added 63 items, and the items were incorporated to collect the perspectives of Deaf people about

Deaf culture regarding three important areas. The total number of items in the finally developed tool were 45 and each of all the three domains (Family and Marriage, Technology and Sign Language) contains 15 items.

The three domains of the rating scales were:

Reliability of Tool

Test/retest reliability was established by distributing the rating scale to 10 persons with Deafness and mean scores were calculated. After a gap of 15 days again the rating scale were distributed to the same people. The reliability coefficient was .92. When the reliability coefficient of three different domains was .87, .94 and .89 for family and marriage, use of technology and sign language.

Data collection

Written permission for data collection was taken from head of all the above mentioned organizations. After explaining the purpose of the study, the presidents/Directors/Leaders agreed to support in all aspects. The APPDDC was circulated to the selected sample and collected from them back. The researcher took the help of a Deaf person to explain the purpose and give related information. The same procedure was used to collect the data from all the other four associations.

Researcher has developed a schedule for calling participants of different association/organization for data collection. The schedule was prepared with the help of head of the association and as per the suitability of the respondents available in particular association/organization.

Data Analysis

The data collected was entered on the excel sheet and analyzed on SPSS package. Mainly t test and ANOVA were used to test the hypotheses. The analysis and interpretation of the collected data were done on the basis of the objective of the study. The objective of the study is to find out the perspectives of persons with Deafness about Deaf culture regarding family and marriage, technology and sign language in Coimbatore. The data collected from 90 persons with deafness on the perspectives of persons with deafness about the deaf culture has been analyzed in terms of objectives set for the study.

Result and discussion

The present study was designed to find out the effect of demographical variables on the perspectives of persons with Deafness about Deaf culture regarding family and marriage, technology and sign language. The data has been analyzed based on the objectives set for the study to test hypotheses and to make recommendations based on the findings. SPSS package was used by selecting appropriate tests: t- test & ANOVA to find out level of significance, F ratio, correlation and multiple comparisons.

The main aims of the study were to develop a tool: APPDDC (Assessment on perspectives of persons with deafness about Deaf culture) assess the perspectives of persons with Deafness about Deaf culture regarding

family and marriage, technology and sign language. The total scores on APPDDC-F & M, Tech and SL and were obtained by adding the scores on three areas.

Family and marriage, Technology and Sign Language

Objective wise discussion:

1. To study the perspectives of persons with Deafness about Deaf culture regarding family and marriage.

The objective (1.1) was to study the perspectives of persons with Deafness about Deaf culture regarding family and marriage with reference to age.

One way ANOVA was applied to find whether perspectives of selected sample on family and marriage score vary significantly among age groups. The ANOVA result shows that the calculated F-ratio value is 1.269 which is less than the table value of 2.479. Since the calculated value is less than the table value, it is inferred that the scores of respondents regarding family and marriage do not vary significantly among different age groups. Hence the hypothesis-*"the perspectives of persons with Deafness about family and marriage do not vary among their different age groups"* is accepted at 0.05 level of significance.

The objective (1.2) was to study the perspectives of persons with Deafness about Deaf culture regarding family and marriage with reference to gender

The t-test was applied to find whether the family and marriage scores varied significantly between male and female. The calculated t-value is 1.827 which is less than the table value of 1.987. Since the calculated value is less than the table value, it is inferred that the family and marriage scores do not vary significantly between the two groups. Hence the hypothesis- *"the perspectives of persons with Deafness about family and marriage do not vary significantly based on their gender"* is accepted at 0.05 level of significance.

The objective (1.3) was to study the perspectives of persons with Deafness about Deaf culture regarding family and marriage with reference to education.

One way ANOVA was applied to find whether family and marriage score varies significantly among educational groups. The ANOVA result shows that the calculated F-ratio value is 2.879 which are greater than the table value of 2.711. Since the calculated value is greater than the table value, it is inferred that the family and marriage scores varied significantly among different educational groups. Hence the hypothesis-*"the perspectives of persons with Deafness about family and marriage do not vary significantly among different educational groups"* is rejected at 0.05 level of significance.

The objective (1.4) was to study the perspectives of persons with Deafness about Deaf culture regarding family and marriage with reference to employment.

The t-test was applied to find whether the family and marriage scores varied significantly between employed and unemployed. The calculated t-value is 0.184, which is less than the table value of 1.987. Since the calculated value is less than the table value, it is inferred that the family and marriage scores do not vary significantly between the two groups. Hence the hypothesis – “*the perspective of persons with Deafness about family and marriage do not vary significantly based on their employment*” is accepted at 0.05 level of significance.

The objective (1.5) was to study the perspectives of persons with Deafness about Deaf culture regarding family and marriage with reference to marital status.

The t-test was applied to find whether the family and marriage scores varied significantly between married and unmarried. The calculated t-value is 1.567 which is less than the table value of 1.987. Since the calculated value is less than the table value, it is inferred that the family and marriage scores do not vary significantly between the two groups. Hence the hypothesis-“*the perspective of persons with Deafness about family and marriage do not vary significantly based on their marital status*” is accepted at 0.05 level of significance. The objective (1.6) was to study the perspectives of persons with Deafness about Deaf culture regarding family and marriage with reference to siblings with and without Deafness.

The t-test was applied to find whether the family and marriage scores varied significantly between siblings with and without Deafness. The calculated t-value is 1.942 which is less than the table value of 1.987. Since the calculated value is less than the table value, it is inferred that the family and marriage scores do not vary significantly between the two groups. Hence the hypothesis-“*the perspectives of persons with Deafness about family and marriage do not vary significantly based on their siblings with and without Deafness*” is accepted at 0.05 level of significance.

The objective (1.7) was to study the perspectives of persons with Deafness about Deaf culture regarding family and marriage with reference to spouse with and without Deafness.

The t-test was applied to find whether the family and marriage scores varied significantly between spouse with and without Deafness. The calculated t-value is 2.365 which greater than the table value of 1.987. Since the calculated value it is greater than the table value, it is inferred that the family and marriage scores varied significantly between the two groups. Hence the hypothesis-“*the perspective of persons with Deafness about family and marriage do not vary significantly based on their spouse with and without Deafness*” is rejected at 0.05 level of significance.

The objective (1.8) was to study the perspectives of persons with Deafness about Deaf culture regarding family and marriage with reference to type of family.

The t-test was applied to find whether the family and marriage scores varied significantly between joint and nuclear family. The calculated t-value is 0.004 which is less than the table value of 1.987. Since the calculated value is less than the table value, it is inferred that the family and marriage scores do not vary significantly between the two groups. Hence the hypothesis-*“the perspectives of persons with Deafness about family and marriage do not vary significantly based on the type of their family”* is accepted at 0.05 level of significance. The objective (1.9) was to study the perspectives of persons with Deafness about Deaf culture regarding family and marriage with reference to family income.

One way ANOVA was applied to find whether family and marriage score varies significantly among family income. The ANOVA result shows that the calculated F-ratio value is 0.059 which is less than the table value of 2.711. Since the calculated value is less than the table value, it is inferred that the family and marriage scores do not vary significantly among family income. Hence the hypothesis-*“the perspective of persons with Deafness about family and marriage do not vary significantly among different family income ”* is accepted at 0.05 level of significance.

The objective (1.10) was to study the perspectives of persons with Deafness about Deaf culture regarding family and marriage with reference to locality of residence.

The t-test was applied to find whether the family and marriage scores varied significantly between rural and urban. The calculated t-value is 0.342 which is less than the table value of 1.987. Since the calculated value is less than the table value, it is inferred that the family and marriage scores do not vary significantly between the two groups. Hence the hypothesis- *“the perspectives of persons with Deafness about family and marriage do not vary significantly based on their locality of residence”* is accepted at 0.05 level of significance.

2. To study the perspectives of persons with Deafness about Deaf culture regarding technology The objective (2.1) was to study the perspectives of persons with Deafness about Deaf culture regarding technology with reference to age.

One way ANOVA was applied to find whether technology score varies significantly among age groups. The ANOVA result shows that the calculated F-ratio value is 0.253 which is less than the table value of 2.479. Since the calculated value is less than the table value, it is inferred that the scores on perspectives of persons with deafness about the use of technology do not vary significantly among different age groups. Hence the hypothesis-*“the perspectives of persons with Deafness regarding use of technology do not vary among different age groups”* is accepted at 0.05 level of significance.

The objective (2.2) was to study the perspectives of persons with Deafness about Deaf culture regarding technology with reference to gender.

The t-test was applied to find whether the technology scores varied significantly between male and female. The calculated t-value is 1.246 which is less than the table value of 1.987. Since the calculated value is less than the table value, it is inferred that the use of technology scores does not vary significantly between the two groups. Hence the hypothesis- *the perspectives of persons with Deafness regarding use of technology do not vary significantly based on their gender*” is accepted at 0.05 level of significance.

The objective (2.3) was to study the perspectives of persons with Deafness about Deaf culture regarding technology with reference to education.

One way ANOVA was applied to find whether technology score varies significantly among educational status. The ANOVA result shows that the calculated F-ratio value is 2.133 which is less than the table value of 2.711. Since the calculated value is less than the table value, it is inferred that the use of technology scores do not vary significantly among educational status. Hence the hypothesis- *“the perspectives of persons with Deafness regarding use of technology do not vary among different educational status”* is accepted at 0.05 level of significance.

The objective (2.4) was to study the perspectives of persons with Deafness about Deaf culture regarding technology with reference to employment.

The t-test was applied to find whether the technology scores varied significantly between employed and unemployed. The calculated t-value is 0.422 which is less than the table value of 1.987. Since the calculated value is less than the table value, it is inferred that the technology scores do not vary significantly between the two groups. Hence the hypothesis- *“the perspectives of persons with Deafness regarding use of technology do not vary significantly based on the status of their employment”* is accepted at 0.05 level of significance. The

objective (2.5) was to study the perspectives of persons with Deafness about Deaf culture regarding technology with reference to locality of residence.

The t-test was applied to find whether the technology scores varied significantly between rural and urban. The calculated t-value is 1.292 which is less than the table value of 1.987. Since the calculated value is less than the table value, it is inferred that the technology scores do not vary significantly between the two groups. Hence the hypothesis- *“the perspectives of persons with Deafness regarding use of technology do not vary significantly based on locality of residence”* is accepted at 0.05 level of significance.

3. To study the perspectives of persons with Deafness about Deaf culture regarding sign language.

The objective (3.1) was to study the perspectives of persons with Deafness about Deaf culture regarding sign language with reference to age.

One way ANOVA was applied to find whether sign language score varies significantly among age groups. The ANOVA result shows that the calculated F-ratio value is 0.044 which is less than the table value of 2.479. Since the calculated value is less than the table value, it is inferred that the sign language scores do not vary significantly among different age groups. Hence the hypothesis- "*the perspectives of persons with Deafness regarding sign language do not vary significantly among different age groups*" is accepted at 0.05 level of significance.

The objective (3.2) was to study the perspectives of persons with Deafness about Deaf culture regarding sign language with reference to gender.

The t-test was applied to find whether the sign language scores varied significantly between male and female. The calculated t-value is 0.620 which is less than the table value of 1.987. Since the calculated value is less than the table value it is inferred that the sign language scores do not vary significantly between the two groups. Hence the hypothesis- "*the perspectives of persons with Deafness regarding sign language do not vary significantly based on their gender*" is accepted at 0.05 level of significance.

The objective (3.3) was to study the perspectives of persons with Deafness about Deaf culture regarding sign language with reference to education.

One way ANOVA was applied to find whether the sign language score varies significantly among educational status. The ANOVA result shows that the calculated F-ratio value is 1.161 which is less than the table value of 2.711. Since the calculated value is less than the table value, it is inferred that the sign language scores do not vary significantly among educational groups. Hence the hypothesis- "*the perspectives of persons with Deafness regarding sign language do not vary significantly among their*

educational status" is accepted at 0.05 level of significance.

The objective (3.4) was to study the perspectives of persons with Deafness about Deaf culture regarding sign language with reference to employment.

The t-test was applied to find whether the sign language scores varied significantly between employed and unemployed. The calculated t-value is 0.179 which is less than the table value of 1.987. Since the calculated value is less than the table value, it is inferred that the sign language scores do not vary significantly between the two groups. Hence the hypothesis- "*the perspectives of persons with Deafness regarding use of technology do not vary significantly based on their employment*" is accepted at 0.05 level of significance.

The objective (3.5) was to study the perspectives of persons with Deafness about Deaf culture regarding sign language with reference to siblings with and without Deafness.

The t-test was applied to find whether the sign language scores varied significantly between siblings with Deafness and without Deafness. The calculated t-value is 1.895 which is less than the table value of 1.987. Since the calculated value is less than the table value, it is inferred that the sign language scores do not vary significantly between the two groups. Hence the hypothesis- "*the perspectives of persons with Deafness regarding sign language do not vary significantly between siblings with and without Deafness*" is accepted at 0.05 level of significance.

The objective (3.6) was to study the perspectives of persons with Deafness about Deaf culture regarding sign language with reference to spouse with and without Deafness.

The t-test was applied to find whether the sign language scores varied significantly between spouses with Deafness and without Deafness. The calculated t-value is 0.474 which is less than the table value of 1.987. Since the calculated value is less than the table value, it is inferred that the sign language scores do not vary significantly between the two groups. Hence the hypothesis- "*the perspectives of persons with Deafness regarding sign language do not vary significantly between spouse with and without Deafness*" is accepted at 1.05 level of significance.

The objective (3.7) was to study the perspectives of persons with Deafness about Deaf culture regarding sign language with reference to locality of residence.

The t-test was applied to find whether the sign language scores varied significantly between rural and urban area. The calculated t-value is 0.266 which is less than the table value of 1.987. Since the calculated value is less than the table value, it is inferred that the sign language scores do not vary significantly between the two groups. Hence the hypothesis- "*the perspectives of persons with Deafness regarding sign language do not vary significantly based on their locality of residence*" is accepted at 0.05 level of significance.

The mean scores of family and marriage, technology, and sign language are 48.41, 52.31 and 59.57 respectively. Therefore the study reveals that the persons with deafness belong to the deaf associations have strong perceptions on family and marriage, technology and sign language.

Table No. 4 Mean scores and level of perspectives of persons with Deafness towards Deaf culture based on three domains (Family and Marriage, Technology and Sign Language)

	Family and Marriage	Technology	Sign language
Total Score	4357	4708	5362
Mean Score	48.41	52.31	59.57
Level of perspective towards Deaf culture	Strong	Strong	Strong

Maximum possible score on one objective= $15 \times 5 \times 90 = 6750$

Maximum possible mean score on one objective=75

Table No. 5

Level of perspective based on the mean score

1	0-15	Very poor perspective
2	16-30	Poor perspective
3	31-45	Mild/Average perspective
4	46-60	Strong perspective
5	61-75	Very strong perspective

Table No. 6

The table depicts the mean scores of all the three aspects of perspectives of persons with deafness about deaf culture. The mean scores of family and marriage, technology, and sign language are 48.41, 52.31 and 59.57 respectively. Therefore the study reveals that the persons with deafness belong to the deaf associations have strong perceptions on family and marriage, technology and sign language.

Major findings The main findings of the study are:

The perspectives of persons with Deafness about family and marriage vary significantly with respect to different educational groups and spouse with and without Deafness.

The perspectives of persons with Deafness about family and marriage do not vary significantly with respect to different age groups, gender, employment, marital status, siblings with and without Deafness, type of family, income and locality of residence.

The perspectives of persons with Deafness regarding use of technology do not vary significantly among different age groups, gender, educational group, status of employment and locality of residence.

The perspectives of persons with Deafness regarding sign language do not vary significantly based on their different age groups, gender, educational groups, employment. Siblings with and without Deafness, Spouse with and without Deafness and locality of residence.

The study depicts the mean scores of all the three aspects of perspectives of persons with deafness about deaf culture. The mean scores of family and marriage, technology, and sign language are 48.41, 52.31 and 59.57 respectively. Therefore the study reveals that the persons with deafness belong to the deaf associations have strong perceptions on family and marriage, technology and sign language.

Conclusion:

There are many perspectives such as family, marriage, technology, club, norms, belief, tradition, custom, language and mode of communication. Persons with deafness may be organized but persons with Deafness have their own belief, history and language. In India, we can find some good research studies on assessment and intervention of persons with hearing impairment, but studies on Deaf culture are conspicuous at present. In the USA and some other countries the study on Deaf culture has been done in the area of special education. Since the Deaf culture is unique in itself having particular belief, tradition, custom, language and mode of communication which the hearing community is almost unaware. Hence the researcher felt to take up the present study to find out the different perspectives of Deaf culture regarding family and marital status, use of technology and sign language, so that hearing community as well as professionals working for them can be made aware about the uniqueness of Deaf culture which in turn would help the culture to flourish without any prejudice and ultimately lead them to contribute for positive development and in taking right step in future.

The study depicts the mean scores of all the three aspects of perspectives of persons with deafness about Deaf culture. The mean scores of family and marriage, technology, and sign language are 48.41, 52.31 and 59.57 respectively. Therefore the study reveals that the persons with deafness belonging to the deaf

associations which were part of this study have strong perceptions on family and marriage, technology and sign language.

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