

LEISURE CONSTRAINTS FOR DEAF ADULTS IN THE NORTH WEST PROVINCE

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Introduction

Although everybody is confronted with leisure constraints, the significant difference is in the intensity of the constraints within different population groups. The majority of constraints research accepts three main constraints which are, interpersonal, intrapersonal and structural constraints, although very little research has been done in the regard on deaf individuals. Therefore, the study focused on exploring and describing the leisure constraints of deaf adults in the North West Province.

Methods

A qualitative research design was done in this study, with one on one interviews consisting of semi-structured open ended questions. An accredited sign language interpreter was present throughout the interviews to carry out communication between the research and the participant. Thirteen participants who were severely and profoundly deaf, with no additional disability, formed part of the study.

Results

Through the data analysis process, the three main leisure constraints themes (i.e. intrapersonal, interpersonal and structural constraints) emerged. Although reported constraints could be categorised into the existing constraint framework, the specific constraints of persons with deafness appear to be new and include factors like; lost hope, lack of information about leisure, attitude, communication, and lack of leisure space. Another prominent theme, namely "impacts of constraints" emerged in this study wherein participants reported mixed feelings on how constraints impact their leisure.

Conclusion

The results of this study shows that deaf adults experience unique leisure constraints, which have not been reported previously. Additionally, as deaf communities are often marginalised, it is possible that they might have increased difficulties in overcoming these constrains.

KEY WORDS: Leisure, Leisure constraints, Deaf adults, Recreation, Leisure inclusion

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