

# Improving health access for people with hard hearing/deaf in Chitungwiza health care institutions: Zimbabwe

PhD Proposal Presentation

By

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# Presentation Outline

- Introduction and background to the proposed research
- Research Questions
- Research Aim and Research Objectives
- Proposed Research methodology
- Research Analysis
- Research Ethics

# INTRODUCTION

- The purpose of this presentation is to provide basic background and proposed methodology for PhD study into the experiences of people who are hard of hearing/ deaf in their search for health services.
- The proposed research topic is:

***“Improving health access for people with hard hearing/deaf in Chitungwiza health care institutions: Zimbabwe”***

to the World Health Organization (WHO), (2012), 360 million people in the world have disabling hearing loss (5.3% of the world's population). 328 million (91%) of these are adults (183 million males, 145 million females).

- Sub-Saharan Africa prevalence for hearing impairment estimates for adults aged >15 years old was 15.7% & 4.9% high income countries(WHO,2015)
- Children aged 5-14years prevalence was 1.9%

# Research Background

- World Health Organization (WHO), (2012), 360 million people in the world have disabling hearing loss (5.3% of the world's population). 328 million (91%) of these are adults (183 million males, 145 million females).
- Sub-Saharan Africa prevalence for hearing impairment estimates for adults aged >15 years old was 15.7% & 4.9% high income countries(WHO,2015)
- Children aged 5-14years prevalence was 1.9%

# Problem Statement

- Globally it is estimated that about 10% of the population lives with some form of disability.
- Despite this realization people with disabilities still face formidable challenges to access primary healthcare services.
- At primary health care level where most basic health services are accessed health personnel at this level rarely have requisite skills to communicate and provide quality health services to the hard of hearing or deaf people.
- Research in Zimbabwe is scarce on the experiences of hard of hearing patients and their families in their quest to enjoy quality health services .
- This research aims to address this gap through exploring the experiences of hard of hearing patients in their quest to access health as well solicit the views of health professionals on what can be done to improve access to health services.

# Research Questions

The research will seek to answer the following main research question:

- What factors that are perceived to promote improved access to health services for hard of hearing / deaf people in Chitungwiza?

The research will answer the following research sub-questions:

1. What are the **challenges** encountered by hard of hearing/deaf people in accessing health services in Chitungwiza?
2. What is the role and effectiveness of **community support groups** in improving access to health and adherence to health guidelines for the hard of hearing/ deaf people in Chitungwiza?
3. To what extend can the training and regular use of **standardized sign language** in health institutions help to improve access to health for the hard of hearing/deaf people in Chitungwiza?

# Research Aim and Objectives

## **Research Aim:**

- To explore the experiences of people with hard hearing/deaf as they access health services in Chitungwiza health care delivery institutions.

## **Research Objectives**

1. To explore the challenges encountered by hard of hearing/deaf people in accessing health services in Chitungwiza?
2. To establish the role and effectiveness of community support groups in improving access to health and adherence to health guidelines for the hard of hearing/ deaf people in Chitungwiza?
3. To determine the potential impact of regular training and use of standardized sign language by nurses help to improve access to health for the hard of hearing/deaf people in Chitungwiza?

# RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

- The proposed research study will be mixed design method both qualitative and quantitative.
- The research study will qualitatively explore the experiences of deaf people and their community level support systems through key informant interviews.
- The data from the qualitative interviews will be complemented with randomized control trial with nurses and key informants in the health delivery system.
- Proposed **population of the study** will include:
  - Qualitative: 10 Hard of hearing/ deaf patients and 10 Community key informants
  - Quantitative: 100 nurses and nurse tutors



# Methodology Continued

## **Sampling:**

Randomized controlled trial sampling will be used for quantitative component of the study while purposive sampling will be used for the qualitative component.

## **Data collection:**

- For the qualitative component of the research will be conducted by the researcher while quantitative questionnaires will be administered through 3 research assistants. Noting that the researcher has basic appreciation of sign language for th qualitative component she will be assisted by one sign language lecturer.

## **Research Analysis:**

- Qualitative data will be analyzed using thematic analysis approach.
- Quantitative data will be analyzed using descriptive SPSS statistical package.

# Ethical Considerations

In an academic study of this nature, research ethics are professional issues. These include issues such as such as trustworthiness, justice, and respect for persons (Creswell, 2014):

- **Informed consent** will be prioritised in order to respect the right of participants to exercise freedom to decide whether to take part or not to.
- In this study, participants will be fully told about the exact nature of the study (an academic study).
- Participants will be fully told about the exact nature of the study. They will be told that this research is an academic study and no deception will be used to entice them into taking part.
- Each interview will be branded using a participant-based method so as to uphold the values of confidentiality and anonymity. All the names that will appear in the findings section of this study will not be the actual names of the participants.
- In this study, participants will not be given any form of remuneration for their participation. Giving them any form of remuneration will compromise the principle of voluntarism given the fact that paying remuneration is considered a form of coercion.
- The researcher, three assistants and one translator will carry out the data gathering process.

# The end

Thank You