

From “Deafness” to “Aphasia”: A Study of Social Retreat of Families With Hearing-Impaired Children. Interviews with 12 Mothers of Hearing-Impaired Children in Beijing

Authors : Yang Jiayue, Liang Junwen

Abstract : Case interviews with 12 mothers of hearing-impaired children in Beijing found that families with hard-of-hearing children make all-out efforts for rescue and rehabilitation until they exhaust family resources, they travel to work places, homes, and rehabilitation institutions every day, and social relations gradually shrink inward. In the stigmatized social environment, children with hearing impairment find it difficult to integrate into regular communication and gradually return to a silent world; their parents also suffer from social discrimination and affiliate stigma, and they gradually reduce contact with others. Finally, families with hearing-impaired children become invisible people in society; the "deafness" of children leads families to "loss of voice."

Keywords : family with hearing-impaired children, social retreat, social exclusion, stigma

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