

Review of: "The Noisy Silence of Deaf villagers of Dhadkai, Jammu, India: A Case Study"

Ashwani Bhat

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this paper. The research question is an innovative one and has the potential to contribute to the field. The authors have done great work in highlighting one of the highly neglected aspects of our socioeconomic milieu.

However, I do have a few concerns with regards to the study. My comments are summarized below.

Introduction:

This is the most important part of a manuscript and provides the reader with the insight into the problem.

Here the introduction is too lengthy and discordant. There is no need to entirely focus on the socioeconomic aspects in detail. Rather the authors could have provided us with the problem statement regarding "disabilities" and their subsequent impact on the quality of life and the Socioeconomic status respectively and how this further ends like a vicious cycle.

Therefore, the authors could curtail the initial part of the introduction to make it more context-oriented.

Another pertinent question is why was deafness chosen as a parameter and why among the said villages was this specific village chosen? The rationale behind the same should be explained.

The authors have written the "review of literature" in detail. However, the objectives of the study could have been more defined and specific. 'Understand' and 'Explore' are terms that denote broad objectives. The authors should be specific about the objectives.

Methodology:

The section has not been described in detail. The type of study done should be described in detail along with the various tools used. For example the description about the interview schedules and any specific questionnaire used should be written in detail. Were any specific definitions used for any parameters in the study?

The way the study population has been described in detail is commendable. The possible cause for the deafness has also been well elucidated with references. This can be helpful in the future for possible treatment and rehabilitative measures in these areas on a larger scale. Moreover, this will also help in making educative and policy related programs for similar disorders where primordial prevention is helpful.

The authors could have elaborated the findings section or presented the same in a tabulated format.

There should have been a separate section on discussion about the findings, the possible explanation of the findings, comparison with previous similar studies (global or Indian) and measures to be taken.

The conclusion should be brief/ to the point and not about other what data and studies. It doesn't have to agree with other studies.

Final comments:

This is a novel study with an innovative research idea and great potential to contribute not only to science and research but also the community.

The authors have done a praiseworthy job by touching a grey area of our socioeconomic milieu. I hope the study will encourage many young researchers like me to participate in community based studies.