

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

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Thank you for sending the article to me for a review

The medical aspects of the topic are not discussed at length is what I feel.

Please see if it is possible to address the following queries that I have:

As intermarriage was found to be the cause of deafness in the village, how much of the village has been educated to the fact, and how have they perceived it? What are the changes adopted by the village in response to the education?

I also feel that the medical support given or not given to the villagers could also be highlighted and the number of camps conducted in the village to help them in a yearly basis or so would be a good highlight.

Have the villagers or the govt attempted to introduce ISL into the curriculum of the school? Who provides the door-to-door services to teach ISL?

Is it possible to obtain the mental health status of the deaf and their families?

How does the local sign language differ from ISL? What words and concepts were more predominant in their language compared to the ISL?

How has the prevalence of deafness affected the culture of the village?

Another change that I would advise is to add the USD equivalents of all the Indian denominations presented in the paper as it helps an international audience to have better access to the understanding of the economical situations cited.

Perhaps also give a reference to, or provide the pedigree charts of the families.

Here is a reference to the article which talks about the genetic basis of the hearing loss.

Pandey N, Rashid T, Jalvi R, Sharma M, Rangasayee R, Andrabi KI, Anand A. Mutations in *OTOF*, *CLDN14* & *SLC26A4* genes as major causes of hearing impairment in Dhadkai village, Jammu & Kashmir, India. Indian J Med Res. 2017 Oct;146(4):489-497. doi: 10.4103/ijmr.IJMR\_635\_15. PMID: 29434063; PMCID: PMC5819031.

Thank You

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