

Characteristics of Deaf Culture

Origin:

Schools for the Deaf / Sign Language School

Language:

- Sign Language as first language
- Spoken Language as second language

Social Endogenic marriage:

- Socialising/Social Clubs/Groups
- Opposition to integration with hearing people

Sport:

- Own Sport network

Values and Norms:

- Give you a Sign name/must know and use it
- Sign Language, respecting the deaf way, socialising
- Straightforward/Direct
- Loyalty to Deaf Community/Support
- Sexuality – Hearing people perceive it as crude and blatant
- Right or wrong (critical)
- Refined body language/facial expressions
- Share information/teach one another
- Manner in Communication : Eye contact

Poetry/Art/Humour

- Humour is mostly not language bound, but concentrates on non-verbal reactions and sings
- Poetry is based on visual accessing
- Art is often one dimensional and detailed/specific
- Human orientated

Habits and Customs:

- Cultural Deaf people enjoy getting together and discuss people and experiences
- Enjoy sport
- At functions and dinners there are never leftovers
- Will write notes to hearing people.
- The telephone is not a primary part of their way of life
- Do not knock on a door/light.
- Importance of light, e.g. lovers, functions, etc.
- Deaf-telegram

- Do not clap hands/wave hands
- Manner of calling
- Rhythm of music

Religious Aspects

Own congregations of Deaf people

No Organ music

Sing in Sign Language

Pray open-eyed in Sign Language