

INTRODUCTION

It has been a common practice around the globe that people having shared troubles, worries and challenges naturally become empathetic to one another, culminating in the building-up of a resilient adventitious bond. Likewise, deaf community also shares a similar bond wherein they have mutual set of values, social beliefs, practices, convention, principles, behaviors, customs, art, literary traditions, history, and institutions of communities that are affected by deafness.

For better understanding, a deaf community is a cultural group wherein people use the sign language for communication and thus share a common heritage. However, when members from different communities interact, they also feel a powerful bond between one another despite having separate cultural identities.

Deaf culture is recognized by UN convention on rights of persons with disabilities which states that “persons with disabilities shall be entitled, on an equal basis with others, to recognition and support of their specific cultural and linguistic identity, including sign languages and deaf culture.”

According to WHO nearly 2.5 billion people are projected to have some degree of hearing loss by 2050 and at least 700 million will require hearing rehabilitation. About 2.5% of the population suffers from profound deafness. With numbers soaring that high, some major questions arise; does this issue get the attention it actually deserves? How does the world treat such a big chunk of population?

From another standpoint, the deaf community is generally perceived as a group of disabled people and absolutely different. However, that's not the belief of deaf people; their perspective is different because deafness and communicating in sign language is something normal to them. Instead of a disability, they see it as a simple difference from other human beings and consider themselves as differently-abled.

Additionally, there are certain distinct perspectives about the deaf

community that have been formed over time and after intensive research in different areas. Each one of them including medical, social, and cultural-linguistic standpoints offer its own unique description pertaining to the treatment of deaf people in the society.

The purpose of this book is to serve the role of a bridge and guideline to fill the gap between deaf community and other people. It highlights the perspective of the deaf world from inside to help the outside world comprehend it. Hopefully, it may help people get a better outlook for understanding and treating the deaf community.





CHAPTER 01

MY INSPIRATION

My Inspiration

I acknowledge the fact that there were times when I felt down and out. Life seemed meaningless to me. However, my turning point or the glow that brought me out of the darkness was when I started counting my blessings. Inevitably, my list of blessings started with all those loving and caring people around me who selflessly made my journey possible. It was indeed an eye-opener and I started practicing gratitude.

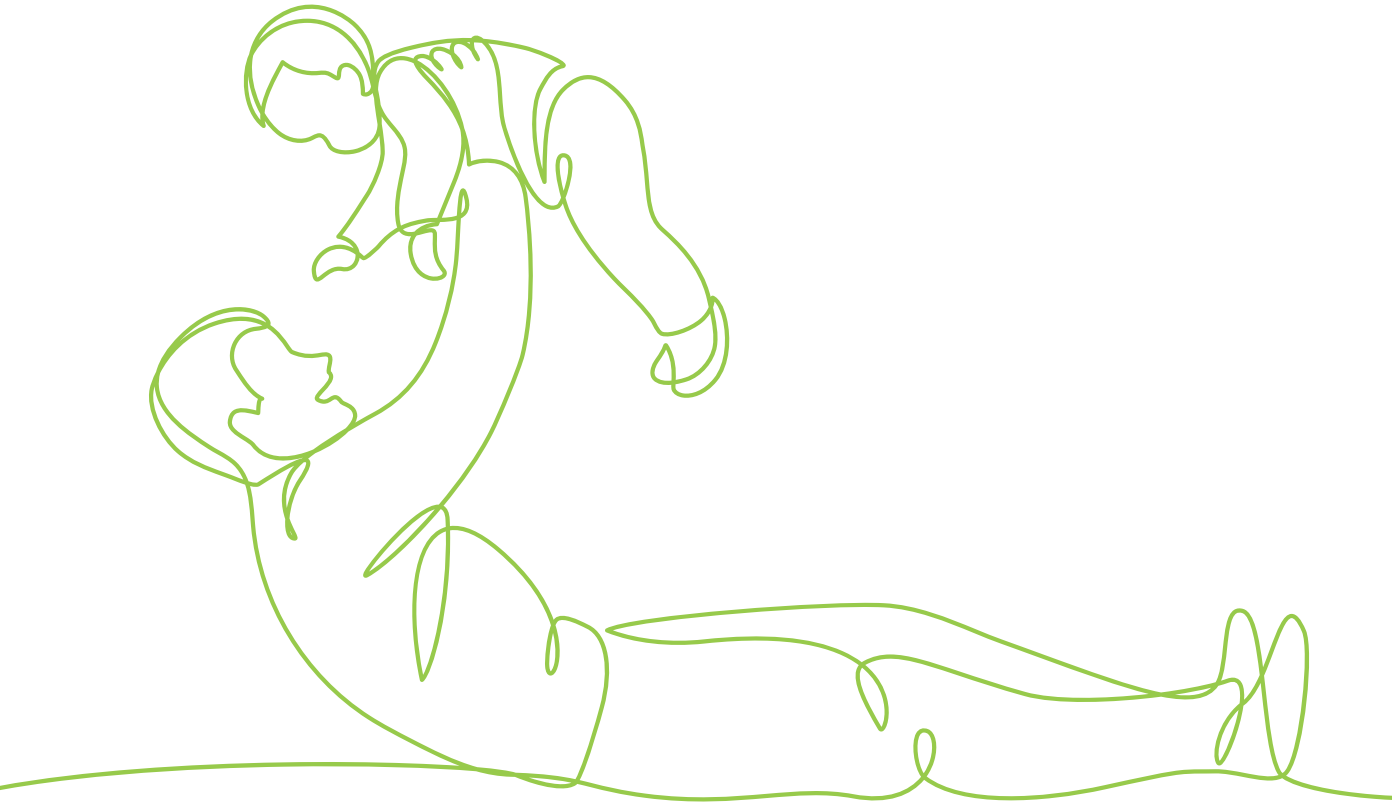
Furthermore, I remember watching “The Lion King” when I was young and its characters played the role of mentors for me. I still often read the lyrics of “The Circle of life” because it soothes me. It makes me realize that the world is bigger than us out there. This is we who are stuck in this endless loop, whereas the ultimate goal is to be there for one another. Being selfless and sacrificing is the real meaning of life and this thought introduced me with my purpose of life that why I have been sent to this world. The movie helped me firmly believe the ongoing journey of human race is not possible without sacrifice for other fellow beings. Simba always had his father, Mufasa, to look up to; same is the case with me - I have My dad!

MY INSPIRATION



CHAPTER 01

I must say the sacrifices made by my father are uncountable and priceless. From raising me as a single parent to always being there for me during my ups and downs. My dad is my real hero. I may not be able to express in words what I feel for him as there are some pure emotions whose meaning have not been defined by any of the world's dictionary. Because I believe they couldn't be heard but felt. I may be deprived of hearing but enriched with feelings.



MY INSPIRATION

On the other hand, I see the inspiring individuals of deaf community who are working tirelessly to make this world a better place. If they won't stop, how can I let my journey end so easily? This question hit me hard and now I see the world from a different perspective. Therefore, I have realized 'there's far too much to take in here.' Thus, I have devoted myself for making lives of other fellow beings better. I have promised to myself that I shall make my father and my country proud.

