

Article

Mechanisms for activating social empowerment of deaf people of determination in Kuwait: A study from the perspective of the deaf in the Kuwait club for the deaf

Nourah Saud Fwizan Almutairi

Independent Researcher, Kuwait City 15000, Kuwait; dr.nourahalmutairi@gmail.com

CITATION

Almutairi NSF. (2024). Mechanisms for activating social empowerment of deaf people of determination in Kuwait: A study from the perspective of the deaf in the Kuwait club for the deaf. Journal of Infrastructure, Policy and Development. 8(13): 8999. https://doi.org/10.24294/jipd.v8i13.8999

ARTICLE INFO

Received: 5 September 2024 Accepted: 29 September 2024 Available online: 6 November 2024

COPYRIGHT



Copyright © 2024 by author(s). Journal of Infrastructure, Policy and Development is published by EnPress Publisher, LLC. This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license. https://creativecommons.org/licenses/ by/4.0/ **Abstract:** Encouraging the social empowerment of persons with disabilities—also known as "people of determination" is a crucial step toward advancing equality and inclusion in our communities. Consequently, the current study aimed to identify the mechanisms for activating social empowerment for people of determination from the deaf category. Identify the most prominent mechanisms and proposals from the point of view of the deaf. The study used a social survey approach based on a questionnaire on a sample of (30) deaf males in the Kuwaiti Sports Club for the Deaf, and it is the full sample size. The study reached several results, the most important of which are: integrating deaf people with disabilities into jobs integrated into society, raising the level of cultural awareness of sign language, in addition to spreading awareness of how to deal with deaf people. The study presented some recommendations and proposals, including media focus on the deaf group, and working to hold conferences and workshops targeting the community to spread awareness about the deaf group.

Keywords: social empowerment; people of determination; the deaf; Kuwait Sports Club for the deaf; social policies

1. Introduction

Activating the social empowerment of individuals with disabilities, commonly referred to as people of determination, is a pivotal initiative necessary to promote inclusivity and equality within our societies. The term "people of determination" was given to people with special needs by the Vice President of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, in 2016 in honour of their disability, after which this term spread in Arab countries. By implementing targeted strategies and initiatives directed at enhancing their participation in various aspects of life, we can effectively create a more accessible and accommodating environment for this demographic. This comprehensive approach involves advocating and providing educational opportunities that meet diverse learning needs, driving inclusion in the workplace through broad awareness campaigns and targeted policy reforms, as well as ensuring that public spaces and infrastructure are thoughtfully designed with disability-friendly features integrated throughout. Through collaborative and concerted efforts to empower individuals with disabilities, our overarching goal is to contribute to building a more just and neutral society that values and supports the rights and dignity of all its components, regardless of their abilities or limitations. This commitment to social empowerment not only benefits those directly affected, but also enriches the fabric of our societal fabric, fostering a culture of respect, support, and inclusion for all individuals.

Despite the existence of a social empowerment law in the State of Kuwait, in Chapter Two, Article No. (4): It stipulates: "Taking into account the special needs of persons with disabilities and making necessary explanatory arrangements, the government shall provide regular, integrated and continuous services to persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others in the social and psychological field." (Kuwait Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2010). The role of government institutions in awareness and the process of social empowerment comes through community participation in activities and programs (Al-Qassas, 2017), but many people with hearing disabilities face the process of social communication, which leads to an impact on social development and the acquisition of life experiences for communication that help them communicate with society (Ashour and Al-Shahrani, 2019). The State of Kuwait also enacted the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Chapter Three, Article No. (5), which states: "The government shall take all effective administrative measures and provide the necessary equipment to ensure that persons with disabilities enjoy their civil and political rights. The government is also committed to... This is a sign language interpreter appointed to serve the blind to ensure that they enjoy their rights on an equal basis with others" (Kuwait Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2010). On the other hand, there are still difficulties facing people with hearing disabilities in social empowerment in the State of Kuwait through the difficulty of dealing in society and the lack of. Some community members know sign language and how to deal with them (Abbas, 2005).

Regarding the results of some studies that addressed the reality of government institutions in empowering people of determination socially, Al-Qassas (2017) revealed the low level of social services and the suffering of many people with special needs from problems resulting from not participating in community activities and their preference for isolation. Al-Omari (2021) also confirmed that there are obstacles to social empowerment for people of determination, including obstruction to social integration and marginalization. As mentioned in the study by Al-Jawzi (2020), through the reality of programes, plans, and strategies for social empowerment, social policies for people with disabilities must be reconsidered and changes made. As she indicated.

Mutia et al. (2021) states that there are many factors that hinder the implementation of social empowerment on the part of the government due to the lack of resources and human resources. From the above, the problem of the current study can be identified in the following question: What are the mechanisms for activating social empowerment for people of determination from the deaf category? The study aimed to: identify the most important mechanisms and proposals to activate the social empowerment of the deaf.

The importance of the study comes from shedding light on the importance of activating social empowerment for people of determination, especially for the deaf group, through programs, plans, and policy-making through government institutions that have the main role in spreading community awareness, enabling the deaf to integrate into society, and working to draw a road map for their social development on an equal footing with individuals. The society, the study is also represented in trying to find out proposals that help the deaf to activate their social empowerment. The

theoretical importance of the study helps to focus on the requirements of the deaf for their social empowerment and contributes to presenting many studies related to the changes. Providing information to agencies for people of determination to know the requirements of people of determination and the challenges they face to empower them socially.

Human development is human capital, so attention must be paid to all segments of society and their social development through social policies and programs. The study contributes to the local and global interest in the deaf category and international experiences by identifying social policies in different countries of the world. Linking the process of social empowerment through the integration of people with disabilities from the deaf category through their practice in making decisions and social policies that will provide a decent life for them.

The scientific importance of the study is firstly due to the scarcity of studies and research that have addressed people with special needs, especially the deaf in the State of Kuwait. Secondly, the process of social empowerment and participation in decision-making for the deaf is considered a right of the deaf for their social development.

2. Literature review

2.1. People of determinations/disabled

Disable, or as they are called in the Arab world "the people of determinations," are those who need support because of a condition that limits their cognitive and/or physical abilities (DOH, 2024). Deaf community members argue that deafness and disability concepts started to become apparent when thinking began with the industrial era. Huntington pointed out that their features have been developed through the interaction of individuals' impairment and society (Guffey and Williamson, 2020). When societies were small with few people or when people needed to rely on each other closely, deaf and people of determination concepts did not exist as an individual status. The category 'Deaf' denotes auditory condition or culture and does not definitively designate a degree of hearing impairment since its establishment in 2002 by the World Federation of the Deaf (Aldalur et al., 2021). Categories of 'Deaf' people and 'deaf' people have developed based on the level of hearing and the use of hearing technologies and communication techniques. 'Deaf' refers to people who are active members of a specific linguistic minority and have a process of acquiring sign language in early development (Chapman, 2021).

It is a state of the individual's inability to meet the requirements of performing the natural cycle of life related to his age, gender, and social and cultural characteristics, as a result of injury or inability to perform physiological or psychological functions. It is a non-inherited characteristic that refers to the adverse psychological, emotional, social, or complex effect resulting from the inability that the individual is prevented or is unable to perform the expected social role, which is considered normal for his age and gender and according to the social and cultural conditions. That is, disability is a state of incapacity that renders the individual incapable of compatibility and fruitful interaction between himself and others (Ghanem, 2014). A deaf person is someone who is born deaf. Hearing completely enough to hinder the construction of speech and language (Abdelkafi, 2014).

2.2. Social empowerment and inclusion

Empowerment is defined as increasing capacity in the political, social, economic, and other contexts that help raise the individual's strength (Blank, 2024). Social Empowerment and Inclusion: A social empowerment approach is based on the belief that people with disabilities should actively participate in creating opportunities for their social development and social inclusion and must impact the quality of programming by engaging in program development and evaluation (Almulhim, 2022). The approach focusses on the development of environments that support the wellbeing of individuals, allow for the participation of all people, promote community, and address inappropriate and unfair social and political conditions that create disparities within society (Almulhim, 2022). Deaf infants and children vary greatly according to the use of technology and communication methods. Those children born to hearing parents and raised by hearing parents show much greater variability regarding language competence at age 8 than those who are raised by Deaf parents (Opoku et al., 2022). To be functionally bilingual, a Deaf child needs to receive and use relatedly balanced first languages at birth or not far from birth (Batamula et al., 2020). This involves providing manual (sign) as well as spoken (aural/oral) language input and opportunities at language conceptual support—in short, educational interaction—from an early age, from before the age of two, well before age 5—in other words, very early, across the critical periods of language learning (Hall, 2020). Thus, barring exceptional circumstances, the timeline of typical bilingualism must begin before age 5. Achieving this goal with the family would represent the desirable outcome of this trial initiative (Zhao and Dixon, 2022).

The concept of empowerment and social inclusion has become one of the most commonly used concepts that desire people to live normal lives and be part of society. Empowerment, in this research, is defined as the association within the community or region to strengthen and promote human participation regardless of their individual characteristics and difficult conditions (Alkahlout and Aljomaa, 2023). Rhodes classified four ranges of empowerment: micro-management (behaviour change), performance such as collective identification with a common outcome, involvement such as partnership and problem-solving, and community control with unique measures of inclusion. According to Capabilities Approach (CA: Sen and Nussbaum) and WHO's International Classification of Functioning (WHO, 2001), empowerment is pursued within three environmental domains in order to improve people of determination's multifaceted experiences: 1) improving inclusion in the community, 2) creating social environments and managing facilities and resources, and 3) multimedia employment (Qian et al., 2022). The ICF model suggests the concept of disability is socially conceived and refers to activity restriction and participatory spaces that society determines on the basis of personal information and choices. In this way, disability policy approaches can be construed at the micro-social transfiguration of the idea of identity, and at the macro-social change of similar practices. In these disciplinary discourses, health, sport and physical activity belong at the periphery (Forstner, 2022).

Social empowerment helps individuals or communities take control of their lives and improve their social status and well-being. It involves providing individuals with the resources, opportunities and support they need to participate fully in society and make decisions that affect their lives. Social empowerment can take different forms, including economic empowerment, political empowerment, and cultural empowerment. It aims to address social inequality, promote social justice, and improve the overall quality of life of individuals and communities. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in India is an example of a policy aimed at empowering the rural poor through merit-based employment, leading to various social empowerment effects such as enhanced social security, freedom from seasonal unemployment, and political reform. Capacity building of the poor (Romanek, 2022).

Factors that contribute to social empowerment are access to education and knowledge, economic opportunities and financial resources, gender equality and women's empowerment, inclusive governance and participation in decision-making processes, access to health care and social services, social networks and community support, infrastructure development and access to basic facilities, Legal rights and protection from discrimination, awareness and advocacy for social justice and human rights, capacity building and skills development programs, these factors contribute to social empowerment by enabling individuals and communities to have greater control over their lives, participate in social and economic activities, and have a voice in shaping their future. (Afzal and Abid, 2023).

2.3. Social empowerment for people with special needs

Social empowerment has many aspects, so we will discuss social empowerment for people with special needs, especially in the social policies and programs offered by the Kuwaiti government for the deaf. The people with disabilities a variety of opportunities to discover themselves, understand their environment, become aware of their rights, control their lives, and participate in important decisions that lead to their destiny (Tsengu et al., 2016).

2.4. Activating social empowerment for the deaf

Social empowerment of deaf people includes addressing the power dynamics and inequalities between the hearing majority and the deaf minority. Efforts should focus on influencing the environment and institutions that impact the lives of deaf individuals, such as language, mindsets, representations, norms, and professional power. Successful bilingualism and education can play an important role in empowering Deaf community, Deaf empowerment initiatives should aim to transform society as a whole. By targeting both the deaf community and society as a whole, it is important to collect and analyze data on the status of deaf people, including education, employment and gender, to identify and address inequalities (Trovato and Folchi, 2022).

Deaf social empowerment is activated Recognizing and respecting the unique culture, language and identity of the Deaf community, Challenging oppressive systems and promoting self-determination for the Deaf community, Creating inclusive environments that provide equal opportunities for Deaf people in education, employment and health care, Ensuring access to communication resources and technologies that facilitate effective Deaf communication, Advocacy About the rights of the deaf community and working to eliminate discrimination and stigma, providing training and support to deaf individuals to develop their skills and talents, and enabling them to actively participate in society (Grushkin, 2022).

According to O'Connell (2021), the study aimed to find out how deaf people face discrimination in jobs, a problem that has not been well studied before. This type of discrimination is called Audism. Autism is when people are treated unfairly because they can't hear, and this study looks at how this happens in the workplace. Understanding these unfair experiences can help make things better for deaf people when they are looking for jobs. The study found that deaf people often face unfair treatment when trying to get jobs because they cannot hear, which is known as audism. This unfair treatment can make it difficult for deaf people to find work, even though they have the skills and want to work. Understanding these challenges is important to help make the job search fairer for deaf people. Recommendations Employers should recognize deafness and stop unfair treatment of deaf people when applying for jobs. Companies can set up special training for their employees to make sure they treat everyone the same way, including deaf people. It's important for workplaces to have tools and technology that help deaf employees do their jobs well. This study addressed jobs in general without specifying government jobs, as government agencies are among the most attractive jobs for people with special needs, as they provide job stability for people with disabilities. Therefore, this study helps the deaf accurately in government jobs, which are the first to employ people with disabilities, and provides more accurate recommendations for governments to help the deaf participate effectively.

Study by Al-Shahrani and Fahd (2020). The study aimed to identify government institutions in the city of Abha in empowering people with disabilities in the deaf category. And identifying the most prominent problems that people with hearing disabilities suffer from in government agencies in the city of Abha in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The study used a questionnaire-based social survey. The participants' answers were reached to a high degree in this role, and the ability to agree on the most prominent problems that the deaf suffer from was weak. One of the most important suggestions that the study came up with is working on training and making the necessary adjustments for a profession suitable for the deaf. This study discussed government institutions, but there is a gap in identifying the social policies provided by government agencies and how to develop them. Therefore, this article will contribute to identifying government policies and their impact on integrating the deaf into jobs from the deaf's point of view.

Batna and Hadda (2019) aimed to achieve proposed mechanisms to empower and activate the role of the disabled in society, in addition to working to change the culture of society from a culture of marginalizing the disabled to empowering them. The questionnaire was used as a tool to collect data from a sample of 30 specialists from Algeria and some Arab countries. The study found that those working in the field with the disabled emphasized the importance of development for the disabled, and that there is social exclusion for them. The study also proposed mechanisms to combat marginalization, including: working to activate attention to the disabled themselves, focusing on and developing their abilities and advantages, in addition to supporting vocational rehabilitation institutions working in the field, and finally making fundamental structural changes in the educational system. The study emphasized the importance of activating the role of people with special needs, which was limited to empowerment in the educational system. However, there is a gap in the functional stage, so this article will help to put forward recommendations for the process of integrating the deaf study community with society.

According to the study by De Clerck (2011) the research highlights the importance of recognizing and valuing the indigenous knowledge and cultural practices of the Cameroonian deaf community to empower them. The research focused on the deaf community in Cameroon, looking at their unique ways of learning and understanding the world. The study found that learning about and using the knowledge and culture of the Cameroonian deaf community helps them feel more empowered. It has been observed that when the deaf community in Cameroon participates in research that respects their ways of knowing, it can lead to their growth. Research indicates that there is a need for better education and training of individuals. Among the most important recommendations of the study are working to support local initiatives and social security systems that help the deaf community in Cameroon grow and increase self-reliance, creating an integrative framework that includes the indigenous knowledge of African deaf people, to ensure that the development of the deaf community is culturally sensitive and empowering, improving access to Education and training for deaf individuals, including the provision of interpreters and resources, to enable them to advocate for themselves and participate fully in society, encourage international training programs that can help educate deaf adults in self-advocacy, and bridge the gap between those with formal education and those Who don't have it. This study mentioned wonderfully the training practices, but there is a lack in how to train and raise community awareness of sign language in general through communication and awareness programs on radio and television in particular, as we live in a fast-paced world, so this important aspect must be studied.

2.5. Theoretical framework

Human interests have changed with the rapid development of the world from material interests to moral interests. Therefore, the empowerment theory was applied to highlight the importance of activating social empowerment for the deaf disabled. The core theoretical underpinning of this study was rooted in the Empowerment theory, which served as the primary framework guiding the research endeavour. Complementing this foundational theory were several other essential constructs that contributed to shaping the study's conceptual framework.

Utilizing the Theory Evaluation Scale (TES) as a framework for analysis, the concept of empowerment emerges as highly proficient across various dimensions. With respect to coherence, empowerment demonstrates a robust and logically consistent structure that integrates seamlessly with existing theories and principles. Its philosophical assumptions are founded on notions of equality, self-determination, and social justice, underscoring its alignment with core ethical values. Furthermore, empowerment's deep-rooted historical foundations underscore its resilience and enduring relevance in addressing societal challenges (Joseph, 2019).

The human relations school of empowerment theory works on the process of organizing relations between isolated individuals with society by integrating workers with organizational leadership to help motivate and empower them in the work environment as well as society (Saud and Ahmad, 2021). This is what this study applies to in the theory of empowerment, especially in empowering people with disabilities in society. Therefore, the study question was about identifying the importance of identifying the mechanisms for activating social empowerment for deaf people with disabilities in Kuwait, and the extent of people with disabilities' knowledge of the policies applied to them. In addition, the empowerment theory was applied through structuring the questionnaire questions to determine the extent of the knowledge of the deaf disabled of the mechanisms of government policies in the process of integrating the disabled into policies and programs and what their needs are for their empowerment and social integration.

3. Methodology

3.1. Study's approach

This study employs a social survey. Survey research is a systematic method of collecting and analysing data from a large sample of individuals to gain insights into the prevailing beliefs, opinions, or behaviours within a specific population. By employing a structured approach involving uniform questionnaires or standardized interviews administered uniformly to all participants, survey research aims to achieve a comprehensive understanding of the collective sentiments or actions of a diverse range of individuals. This methodical process allows researchers to draw statistically significant conclusions and identify patterns or trends that may be indicative of broader societal inclinations or behavioural norms. The uniform distribution of survey instruments ensures equitable treatment of all respondents and facilitates the aggregation of data for meaningful analysis and interpretation. Through the rigorous application of survey research techniques, researchers can extract valuable information that illuminates the attitudes, preferences, or tendencies of a broad spectrum of individuals, contributing to a deeper comprehension of prevalent perspectives or practices within a given demographic or community (Ali et al., 2022).

3.2. Research design

The study uses quantitative research, by collecting data through a closed questionnaire, and it was designed in an easy-to-read and understandable way to be understood smoothly by deaf disabled people. Quantitative research plays a vital role in the systematic examination of social issues through the collection of numerical data. This methodological approach enables researchers to delve deeply into various phenomena, ultimately leading to a comprehensive understanding of patterns, behaviours, and trends in a precise and easily digestible manner. By utilising quantitative data, researchers can employ statistical analyses to identify correlations and draw meaningful conclusions, shedding light on complex societal dynamics that may otherwise remain obscured. Through the systematic application of quantitative research methods, invaluable insights are gleaned, providing a solid foundation for

evidence-based decision-making and the formulation of effective strategies to address pressing social concerns (Ali et al., 2022).

A specially tailored survey questionnaire has been meticulously crafted to cater to the unique needs of Deaf individuals who communicate using sign language. This initiative aims to tackle the inherent challenges researchers encounter when gathering data from this specific demographic, providing an effective and user-friendly solution for streamlined data collection processes. By accommodating the preferred mode of communication of Deaf sign language users, this questionnaire not only ensures inclusive participation but also enhances the overall quality and accuracy of the data obtained. The meticulous attention to detail invested in the design of this survey instrument underscores a commitment to promoting accessibility and inclusivity in research practices, ultimately facilitating a more comprehensive understanding of the perspectives and experiences of Deaf individuals within the academic and broader societal contexts (Henney and Prangnat Chininthorn, 2021).

3.3. The study's physical location

The study was a group of deaf people in the Kuwait Sports Club for the Deaf.

3.4. The study's population

The population of this study are deaf people who attend the Kuwaiti Club for the Deaf.

3.5. Sample and sampling technique

The study tool was designed by using a closed questionnaire to collect data and facilitating the vocabulary of the phrase to make it easier for the sample to understand it as they are people with hearing disabilities. Sample was a group of people with hearing disabilities in the Kuwait Sports Club for the Deaf, and they numbered 30 volunteers and trainees in the Deaf Club. The research was applied in the State of Kuwait, the Capital Governorate, the Granada area, and the Kuwaiti Sports Club for the Deaf. The data collection period was two weeks from 5 November to 19 November 2023.

Non-random sampling is used in case studies and observational studies that are intended for sample quality. However, this type of method faces many challenges, including high non-response rates (Kim, 2022). An interpreter was provided and the participants were directed to the Kuwait Club for the Deaf and asked to fill out the questionnaire through all the deaf people present only. A sign language interpreter was used to translate the questionnaire questions so that they could answer the questions after the interpreter explained firstly, introducing them to the researcher by name and academic position. Secondly, informing them of the research objectives and the points that would be answered. Thirdly, informing them that they have the right to withdraw or not complete answering the questions. Finally, their data is strictly confidential and will not be discussed.

The sample consists of deaf people, so dealing with this group in answering the questionnaire is difficult and requires a lot of costs, such as the materials needed to provide a translator to translate the question to reach the deaf person clearly to answer

this questionnaire, so the number of sample members is 30 individuals, which is enough to strengthen the results reached by this study and is also enough to generalize it. According to the study of Memon et al. (2020), large samples are required in constantly changing results, while small samples reach accurate results valid for generalization without any disturbances like large samples. The sample also included only males, as the Kuwait Sports Club for the Deaf is only for deaf males.

3.6. Data gathering and analysis technique

The research used a closed questionnaire to collect the data for this study. The questionnaire was developed using the theoretical framework of empowerment theory and previous studies and research that addressed the subject of the study. The questionnaire was then tested before being presented to the Kuwaiti Sports Club for the Deaf on 3 deaf people to ensure the extent to which the deaf people understood aspects of the questions.

3.7. Research ethics

An ethical review was required to protect the participants and researchers. Obtaining ethical approval demonstrates that the researcher has adhered to the accepted ethical standards required of a research study. Written approval was obtained from the director of the Kuwait Sports Club for the Deaf. Consent to fill out the questionnaire was very necessary for each person before they participated in filling out the form. Participation was voluntary so that the respondent could withdraw or not answer during filling out the questionnaire. A sign language interpreter was also provided to explain what the questionnaire was and what its practical objectives were.

4. Result

The current study relied on the descriptive approach to describe and analyze the responses collected from the field of study.

The study sample consisted of 30 deaf male people who attended the Deaf Sports Club in Kuwait. Sampling was done by chance, that is, only those who responded to the questionnaire and expressed their consent to participate. Below are the sample specifications (see **Table 1**).

Age	Number	Marital Status	Number	Educational Qualification	Number	Employment Status	Number
18–28	5	Single	8	Middle school	7	Employee	13
29–39	7	Married	13	High School	17	Unemployed	2
40–50	10	Divorced	6	University	6	Retired	15
51 And above	8	Widower	3	Postgraduate	0		

Table 1. Represents the specifications of the study sample.

(Source: Own).

The sample included 30 Kuwaiti male Muslims who participated in the Kuwait Deaf Club, ages ranged between 18 and 51 years, as this age group is very affected by the empowerment process, and who have their needs, requirements and opinions on the empowerment process, as the vast majority are employees who are currently exercising their rights and duties, and retirees who still have demands for empowerment on a personal, psychological and professional level for future generations. As for the social status, the sample had the largest number of married people with 13 out of 30 individuals, followed by 8 single deaf people, in addition to 6 divorced people, and 3 widows.

Empowerment also represents great importance for educational qualifications, as empowerment works to enhance access to knowledge and skills so that empowerment works to participate in political processes and decision-making. It became clear that the educational qualification of the sample was the largest number of high school graduates, with 17 out of 30, followed by middle school graduates with 7 people, while for university graduates, there were only 6. Since a large percentage of them were high school graduates only, this somewhat affected the sample's answers, as there was a large percentage of questionnaire answers with "I don't know." (see **Table 2**).

	The question		Degree of response					D D
			Yes	I don't know	No	— SMA	Standard deviation	Degree Response
1	Integrating the deaf into government		28	2	0	2.02	0.252	11, 1
1	jobs	%	88.8	11.1	0	2.93	0.253	High
2	Encouraging the conduct of research	Ν	23	7	0	2.76	0.430	High
2	and special studies on the deaf	%	88.8	11.1	0			
2	Holding conferences and workshops	Ν	22	8	0	0.70	0.449	High
3	targeting the deaf community	%	83.3	16.6	0	2.73		
	Spreading awareness of how to deal	Ν	26	4	0	2.86	0.345	High
4	with deaf people in society	%	83.3	16.6	0			
~	D	Ν	27	3	0	2.9	0.305	High
5	aising awareness of sign language	%	88.8	11.1	0			
<i>.</i>	Creating television and radio programs	N	25	5	0	0.92	0.270	11, 1
6	that support the deaf		77.7	22.2	0	2.83	0.379	High
Gei	General average					2.83	0.360	High

Table 2. Shows the sample's responses to the question.

(Source: own).

We note that the general average of the sample members' answers to the questionnaire questions was high, which is 2.83 out of a full score of 3.00, meaning that individuals with disabilities, the deaf category, want to work on integrating them into government jobs more, as the arithmetic average was high. They also wish to work on encouraging their research and studies, as the degree of response is clearly high, with an arithmetic average of 2.76 out of 3.00, because the number of studies for the deaf group in Kuwait is very few and almost negligible. In addition, there is also a high score for the phrase "holding conferences and workshops targeting the deaf," with a high response rate of 2.73 out of 3.00. He also asked those attending the Kuwaiti Deaf Sports Club to spread awareness of how to deal with deaf people in society, with a rate of 83.3% and a high score of 2.86 out of 3.00. They also believe that the level of awareness of sign language in society must be raised, as the response score is a high

2.9 out of 3.00. Finally, many of the Kuwaiti Deaf Club's visitors requested that television and radio programs be made that support the deaf. The response rate was also high, with a score of 2.83 out of 3.00.

5. Discussion

1) The results of the study indicated that there was a consensus among participants on the idea of the necessity of ewffectively integrating individuals with hearing disabilities into the fabric of society. This consensus stressed the need to provide job opportunities for this population group as a critical mechanism to facilitate their smooth integration into various societal fields. The deaf stacking machine works in an environment where only deaf people work, which leads to the non-integration of deaf disabled people into society, which leads to a large gap between the deaf and society. Wherefore, participants collectively recognized the importance of collaborative efforts between the hearing-impaired community and the broader community in order to promote inclusivity and create an environment that supports their full participation in social, economic and cultural activities. Emphasis was placed on implementing proactive measures aimed at breaking down barriers and promoting the active participation of individuals with hearing disabilities in all aspects of community life.

2) The vast majority of individuals surveyed expressed their consensus in support of promoting dedicated studies and research focused on individuals with special needs, with a particular focus on the deaf community. It was uniformly agreed that comprehensive examination of the unique needs, challenges, and requirements of individuals with disabilities, especially those who are deaf, is critical. Participants stressed the need to delve deeper into the nuanced complexities of this demographic group to enhance understanding and provide personalized support. This widespread support indicates a collective recognition of the importance of prioritizing specialized research initiatives aimed at facilitating improved outcomes and increased inclusion for individuals with disabilities, especially within the deaf community.

3) Participants stressed the important role played by conferences and workshops in targeting the broader community to enhance social awareness. These events serve as valuable platforms to educate the public on how to interact with deaf individuals, and promote a better understanding of their needs and challenges. Furthermore, such gatherings provide a unique opportunity to introduce sign language as a means of promoting communication and inclusivity. By organizing conferences and workshops that focus on these key aspects, a ripple effect can be achieved of increasing awareness and support for the deaf community, ultimately contributing to a more inclusive and compassionate society.

4) Co-producing television programs aimed at providing support to the deaf community involves a multi-faceted approach that emphasizes the importance of inclusivity and accessibility. Through the strategic integration of sign language interpretation, closed captioning services, and visual storytelling technologies, these programs bridge communication gaps and promote a more inclusive viewing experience for individuals with hearing disabilities. By collaborating with experienced sign language interpreters, technical teams, and content creators, these initiatives ensure important information and narratives are effectively conveyed to all viewers, regardless of their hearing abilities. Furthermore, by adhering to industry best practices in deaf-friendly broadcast standards and leveraging cutting-edge technologies, these programs not only advocate for social justice, but also embody the transformative power of media in promoting inclusivity and community representation.

5) Integrating the deaf disabled in making their own decisions is very important because these policies are in the interest of the deaf disabled. Which led, through answering this questionnaire, to the lack of knowledge and participation of the deaf disabled in drawing up policies and programs. Which leads to ignoring this ethnic group that should participate and share in what concerns them because they are the ones who know what they need. By having a seat for them in decision-making places, for example, senior management in governments.

6. Conclusion

1) Working on television programs aimed at supporting the deaf community requires a deep understanding of accessibility and inclusion. It entails creating content that not only entertains, but also educates and empowers individuals with hearing loss. By incorporating sign language interpreters, captions and visual cues, these programs strive to bridge the communication gap and ensure deaf viewers are able to fully engage with the content. Moreover, producing such television shows involves a collaborative effort between producers, directors, screenwriters, and technical crew members who are committed to making television more inclusive and diverse. Through careful and thoughtful planning, these programs play a pivotal role in supporting accessibility in the media landscape and advocating for equal opportunities for all viewers, regardless of their hearing abilities.

2) Recommendations to advance the advancement of specialized studies and research dedicated to individuals with special needs, especially within the deaf community, are critical to promoting a more inclusive society. By advocating for funds to be allocated to targeted research initiatives, stakeholders can contribute to a deeper understanding of the unique challenges faced by people with hearing loss. Furthermore, strengthening collaboration between academic institutions and organizations that support deaf populations can facilitate the development of comprehensive studies aimed at improving quality of life and opportunities for this minority population. Harnessing the power of technology to create accessible platforms and tools for individuals with disabilities, such as sign language interpretation apps and educational resources, can also play an important role in ensuring equitable access to information and services. Prioritizing the dissemination of research findings through conferences, publications, and community outreach programs is essential to raise awareness and create positive change in the way society views and accommodates individuals with special needs, especially those who are deaf. Ultimately, by supporting dedicated studies and research in this area, we can pave the way to a more inclusive and equitable future for all members of society.

3) Conferences and workshops aimed at engaging the wider community play a crucial role in spreading awareness and knowledge regarding the deaf community. These events serve as powerful platforms to increase understanding and promote

inclusivity. By providing valuable insights into how to effectively interact with individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, such gatherings facilitate the promotion of sign language as a means of enhancing communication and sensitivity. By disseminating information and practical guidance, community conferences and workshops contribute significantly to enhancing awareness, thus promoting a more inclusive and supportive Deaf community.

4) Working on television programs aimed at supporting the deaf community requires a deep understanding of accessibility and inclusion. It entails creating content that not only entertains, but also educates and empowers individuals with hearing loss. By incorporating sign language interpreters, captions and visual cues, these programs strive to bridge the communication gap and ensure deaf viewers are able to fully engage with the content. Moreover, producing such television shows involves a collaborative effort between producers, directors, screenwriters, and technical crew members who are committed to making television more inclusive and diverse. Through careful and thoughtful planning, these programs play a pivotal role in supporting accessibility in the media landscape and advocating for equal opportunities for all viewers, regardless of their hearing abilities.

Acknowledgments: The author thanks to the participants of this study.

Data availability statement: The data that support the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author, upon reasonable request.

Conflict of interest: The author declares no conflict of interest.

Reference

- Abbas, Jassim. (2005, August 24). Deaf and hard of hearing people face difficulties in the social adaptation process in Kuwait. Al-Qabas newspaper. https://www.alqabas.com/article/159741
- Abdelkafi, Ismail. (2014). Those punished with hearing and speech impairment (deaf and mute). Alexandria Book Center.

Afzal, A., & Abid Ghafoor Chaudhry. (2023). SMALL DAMS AND SOCIAL EMPOWERMENT: A CASE STUDY OF

- POTOHAR, PAKISTAN. Pakistan Journal of Social Research, 05(02), 132–140. https://doi.org/10.52567/pjsr.v5i02.1176
- Aldalur, A., Pick, L. H., & Schooler, D. (2021). Navigating deaf and hearing cultures: An exploration of deaf acculturative stress. The Journal of Deaf Studies and Deaf Education, 26(3), 299-313. [HTML]
- Al-Jawzi, Wahiba. (2020). The role of social accompaniment in the social empowerment of people with special needs in Algerian society. Scientific Journal of Special Education, 4.
- Alkahlout, O., & Aljomaa, N. (2023). People with Disabilities in Qatar: Empowerment, Aspirations, and Society's Behaviour Influences. IJDS Indonesian Journal of Disability Studies, 10(1). coventry.ac.uk
- Almubayei, D. S. (2024). Sign language choice and policy among the signing community in Kuwait. Digest of Middle East Studies. [HTML]
- Almulhim, F. A. S. (2022). Deaf People's Education and Employment Experiences in Saudi Arabia: An Islamic Social Model Perspective. whiterose.ac.uk
- Al-Omari, Salima. (2021). The importance of social empowerment for people with special needs in society. Generation Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences, 73, 69. https://doi.org/10.33685/1316-000-073-005
- Al-Qassas, Mahdi. (2017). Social empowerment for people with special needs. Second Arab Conference on Mental Disability between Avoidance and Care, 9(1).
- Al-Shahrani, Fahd. (2020). The role of governmental and private institutions in empowering deaf people with disabilities in the city of Abha: an applied study on a sample of people with disabilities. College of Human Development Journal, 9(1).
- Ashour, Hatem, & Al-Shahwani, Muhammad. (2019). Social support and its relationship to self-concept among hearing-impaired children. Journal of Psychological and Educational Sciences.

- Batamula, C., Herbold, B. J. K., & Mitchiner, J. (2020). Family language planning with Deaf and hard of hearing children: Fostering Multilingual Development. Odyssey: New Directions in Deaf Education, 21, 8-13. ed.gov
- Batna, Hadda. (2019). Mechanisms of social empowerment for people with special needs in the face of marginalization and exclusion from the point of view of specialists in Algeria and some Arab countries an exploratory study. Journal of Human Sciences of Oum El Bouaghi University, 6(1).

Blank, B. (2024). Was ist Empowerment? FSC. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/380068317_Was_ist_Empowerment

- Chapman, M. (2021). Representation and resistance: A qualitative study of narratives of Deaf cultural identity. Culture & Psychology. [HTML]
- De Clerck, G. A. (2011). Fostering Deaf People's Empowerment: the Cameroonian deaf community and epistemological equity. Third World Quarterly, 32(8), 1419–1435. https://doi.org/10.1080/01436597.2011.604516
- DOH. (2024). Standard Accreditation Standards for Healthcare Facilities (Hospitals) (p. 12). Department of health UAE. https://www.doh.gov.ae/-/media/CEAEB3597E1C4EB8A18A12BF36B263FA.ashx
- Forstner, M. (2022). Conceptual models of disability: the development of the consideration of non-biomedical aspects. Disabilities. mdpi.com
- Friedner, M. & Kusters, A. (2020). Deaf anthropology. Annual Review of Anthropology. researchgate.net
- Ghanem, Muhammad. (2014). Hearing disability. Ministry of Culture.
- Grushkin, D. A. (2022). Deaf Empowerment: Towards Decolonization. Practicing Anthropology, 44(4), 19–25. https://doi.org/10.17730/0888-4552.44.4.19
- Guffey, E. & Williamson, B. (2020). Introduction: Rethinking design history through disability, rethinking disability through design. Making disability modern: Design histories. [HTML]
- Hall, M. L. (2020). The input matters: Assessing cumulative language access in deaf and hard of hearing individuals and populations. Frontiers in Psychology. frontiers in.org
- Hassana, H. (2021). Sociocultural Backgrounds and Quality Teacher Education in Africa: A Qualitative Case Study of Pedagogical Reform Projects of the Evangelical Church of Cameroon uni-hamburg.de
- Joseph, R. (2019). The theory of empowerment: A critical analysis with the theory evaluation scale. Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment, 30(2), 138–157. https://doi.org/10.1080/10911359.2019.1660294
- Kim, K.-S. (2022). Methodology of Non-probability Sampling in Survey Research. American Journal of Biological Sciences and Research, 15(6), 616–618. https://doi.org/10.34297/AJBSR.2022.15.002166
- Law of the State of Kuwait regarding the rights of persons with disabilities, Law No. 8 (2010).
- Mallery, G. (2023). Sign Language among North American Indians: Compared with That among Other Peoples and Deaf-Mutes. mpg.de

Meadow, K. P. (2023). Deafness and child development. [HTML]

- Memon, M. A., Ting, H., Cheah, J.-H., Thurasamy, R., Chuah, F., & Cham, T. H. (2020). Sample Size for Survey Research: Review and Recommendations. Journal of Applied Structural Equation Modeling, 4(2). https://doi.org/10.47263/jasem.4(2)01
- Mutia, N. -, Gani, I. A., & Syahbandir, M. (2021). Social Empowerment for People with Disability as Aceh Social Department Responsibility. Kanun Jurnal Ilmu Hukum, 23(2), 211–232. https://doi.org/10.24815/kanun.v23i2.21022
- O'Connell, N. (2021). "Opportunity Blocked": Deaf People, Employment and the Sociology of Audism. Humanity & Society, 46(2), 016059762199550. https://doi.org/10.1177/0160597621995505
- Opoku, M. P., Nketsia, W., Benefo, E. B., & Mprah, W. K. (2022). Understanding the parental experiences of raising deaf children in Ghana. Journal of Family Studies, 28(4), 1235-1254. [HTML]
- Othman, A., Dhouib, A., Chalghoumi, H., Elghoul, O., & Al-Mutawaa, A. (2024). The Acceptance of Culturally Adapted Signing Avatars Among Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Individuals. IEEE Access. ieee.org
- Qian, X., Shogren, K., Odejimi, O. A., & Little, T. (2022). Differences in self-determination across disability categories: Findings from National Longitudinal Transition Study 2012. Journal of Disability Policy Studies, 32(4), 245-256. [HTML]

Robinson, T. F. (2022). Deaf Education and the Rise of English Melodrama. Essays in Romanticism. [HTML]

Romanek, K. (2022). Social Empowerment an Unintended Consequence. In Inclusive Development Through Guaranteed Employment. India's MGNREGA Experiences. https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-981-15-7443-6_7

Saud, A., & Ahmad, F. (2021). Theoretical approaches to the concept of empowerment. Journal of Humanities, 21(2), 390–409. https://www.asjp.cerist.dz/en/article/168773

- Subih, M. (2023). The Intersectionality of Disability, Religion, Ethnicity, and Gender: Muslim Arabs in the United States. udel.edu
- Trovato, S., & Folchi, A. (2022). The Social Condition of Deaf People. In De Gruyter eBooks. De Gruyter. https://doi.org/10.1515/9783110763140
- Tsengu, D., Brodtkorb, S., & Almnes, T. (n.d.). CBR and Economic Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities. In CBR and Economic Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities. University College London. https://asksource.info/cbr-book/cbraspart_04.pdf

Wright, S. J. (2021). Deafnormativity: Who belongs in deaf culture?. Disability & Society. [HTML]

Zhao, J. & Dixon, L. Q. (2022). bilingual language development. The Development of Language. [HTML]