

Abstract No. 4.8

Wednesday 6th September 2017 at 12:00-12:45

Title: Group training for communication of young adults with visual and hearing impairments

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Main focus: Mainly practice/Both congenital and acquired deafblindness

Abstract: Difficulties in communication of deafblind people happen also when it comes to the communication among the deafblind itself. Deafblind people among themselves are not homogenous. Ones have lost deaf or vision gradually, another borned deaf, but with vision, third – visually impaired but hearing. Therefore they prefer different tools of communication: verbal speech, dactylology, sign language, tactile sign language. At the same time, there is a number of other difficulties that aggravate the communication. For example, the deafblind person not always knows who is in the room, he is not able to see or hear his statements, reaction. Communication often happens between two sides, the deafblind person not immediately understand who he is communicating with. Statements are often interposed as in all sorts of communication of people without disabilities.

The goal of training: creation of supportive environment for substantial dialogue and communication in the group of young deafblind adults, development of positive experience of interaction. This goal we propose to achieve by several means:

1. Overcoming of objective difficulties in communication
2. Deep informal acquaintance within the process of training.
3. Experience to express independently your our opinion in front of the group of people
4. Personal and creative potential fulfillment

Rules:

- Each of participants should have assistant-interpreter;
- All who is sitting in the circle should introduce themselves
- Everybody starts communication (in its turn), everybody starts communication with everybody;
- Thoughts should be formulated in short but utmost manner. Communication should not be interposed as in routine situation;
- Topics for discussion are aimed on strengthening of emotional contact.

Structure:

- Preparatory part: all the participants find out who is attending the training and where is he or she sitting. Everybody is prepared to work.
- Main part: carrying out exercises to boost the effective communication.
- Discussion: participants tell what have been their feelings like, what did they like, what was comfortable/uncomfortable, easy/hard.

Length: 8 meetings

Results:

- According to the comments of participants it is clear that they start to know each other much better, learn a lot of new things about each other;
- According to the observations of specialists many of participants, who used to communicate only with familiar close circle of people and with others – through the mediators, start to express their own opinion, maybe first time in their life;
- Training on communication allows to show the initiative and creates positive experience in communication with more wide circle of people. After training the participants continue gathering together.