



**International Conference:
Evidence in Global Disability and Health**

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ABSTRACT

Title: Assessing Support Services for Deaf People at Tafo Government Hospital in Ashanti Region of Ghana

Abstract text (limited to 300 words, should include background, methods, results and conclusions):

People who are deaf face numerous barriers when trying to access healthcare. It is therefore important to provide support services that will assist them in seeking healthcare. In this regard, provisions have been made in the Persons with Disability Act, 715, demanding that all public places should make their services available and accessible to person with disabilities. This study examined the extent to which this provision has been implemented by assessing the support services available, the quality of services and barriers faced by deaf patients accessing medical care in health centers using Tafo Government Hospital as a case study. The study was a qualitative using a purposive sampling technique to select participants. A focus group discussion was conducted with 12 deaf people from the Faith Assemblies of God Church in Tafo. Besides, three hospital workers were interviewed; one Human Resource Personnel, a Nurse and a Doctor at the Hospital. Data from focus groups and interviews were coded and analyzed using Thematic Analysis. Results showed that lack of policies and LI prevented the implementation of the Persons with Disability Act, and there were no support services of deaf patients due to high cost of employing interpreters. The study recommend that they should be enacted so that provisions in the Disability Act can be implemented.

