

COMMUNITY EAR AND HEARING HEALTH

2008; 5:17-32 Issue No. 8

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Supported by

Christian Blind Mission eV

World Health Organization

The Scottish Government

Printed by

Gilmour Print

Stewarton, Scotland, UK

sales@ictus.co.uk

ISSN 1743-9914

Deafness in the developing world: the place of cochlear implantation

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Introduction: This paper attempts to review changes in the lives of hearing-impaired patients within the developing world, brought about by globalisation and development. The paper also explores limitations to improved care and addresses the collective moral responsibility of developed nations.

Methods: Analysis of literature.

Results: Within developing nations, large populations have emerged with a similar pattern of problems, access to information and aspirations as those living in developed nations. However, marked differences in income have persisted. These trends have resulted in a relative increase in the proportion of the hearing-impaired population in need of

cochlear implantation, while at the same time restricting their access to such treatment.

Conclusions: The emergence of global markets and media and a shared sense of destiny amongst the people of this planet should translate into a concerted, worldwide effort to assist the deaf in developing countries. Much more can be done within existing resources and frameworks to improve the quality of these peoples' lives.

Published courtesy of:

J Laryngol Otol. 2008; 17:1-4.



COMMUNITY EAR AND HEARING HEALTH

Aim

- To promote ear and hearing health in developing countries

Objectives

- To facilitate continuing education for all levels of health worker, particularly in developing countries
- To provide a forum for the exchange of ideas, experience and information in order to encourage improvements in the delivery of ear and hearing health care and rehabilitation.

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