



Royal Dutch
Kentalis

Awareness Workshop for parents of deaf and hard-of-hearing children

Empowering parents by offering knowledge, hands-on practice, and a positive perspective on the deaf child's future through employing Deaf role-models as facilitators

Introduction

In Africa (like in the rest of the world) 95% of deaf children are born and raised by hearing parents. In many countries in Africa the available statistics show that only 5 percent of deaf children are enrolled in school. Those who are enrolled are not prepared well to start school because they have not yet acquired a (sign) language and are excluded from day-to-day information due to lack of communication with their parents. Parents often have no knowledge on deafness and sign language and are unaware of their children's rights, such as the right to health care, education, sign language and the right to full participation in society. It is of crucial importance for the social-, cognitive-, and language development of deaf children that deafness in children is recognised at a young age and that education starts as early as possible (pre-school). Not being able to fully participate in family life, no or late language development, and being excluded from education makes these deaf children very vulnerable.

Program

The Awareness Workshop for parents aims to empower parents by offering them information and knowledge on the causes of deafness, how to interact and communicate with the child, and information on their human rights. It gives parents a perspective on their child's future because educated Deaf role models are the facilitators of these workshops.

Impact and outcomes of the workshop

Parents understand their child's deafness better and know how to interact with their child. It becomes easier for them to involve the child in family and community life. Parents are able to make informed choices on interaction, communication and enrollment in school. Parents become empowered and can share their knowledge with the community. They have a better understanding of deafness, and there is better interaction between parents and child. Therefore the quality of the child's life is improved and the child becomes less vulnerable. By exposure to, and interaction with educated Deaf role models, the parents are more likely to invest in their child's education and enroll their child in school.

Method

Via the Training-of-Trainers (ToT) principle, future trainers learn how to educate community facilitators to offer workshops to parents of deaf children. Knowledge will be secured in a long lasting and sustainable way, because these ToTs can continue training new community facilitators, who are close to the parents. Before the parental workshop will start, the community is sensitized and the topic is introduced by a mini-seminar for key figures in the community.

Bridging communication barriers

Practical information

1. Workshop for parents

Total hours of the program: 40 hours

- Focusing on information and hands-on practice

- 5 topics:

1. My child is deaf
2. Interaction and communication
3. Social skills and positive parenting
4. Sign language and language development
5. Deaf culture and Human rights

Parents receive a handout with text, but above all images and visualizations.



2. Community Facilitators: Deaf role models

The workshop is offered by certified Deaf facilitators trained by Trainers-of-Trainers of the local deaf association.

3. Training program Community Facilitators (CF)

Community Facilitators: 1 course of 6 weeks (split into three courses of two weeks)

Facilitators trained by certified trainers (ToT) of the local deaf association

Certification after passing exams (theory and practice)

Working with designed materials: Workshop manual, information-calendar, hand-out

Trainers-of-Trainers (TOT)

Training of TOT is a joint venture by Kentalis International and a Deaf Association. One training of 10 weeks by Kentalis International is needed

Trainers-of-Trainers program: 1 course of 10 weeks (split into five courses of two weeks) by Kentalis International

Certification after passing exams (theory and practice)

Working with designed materials: Workshop manual, information-calendar, hand-out

After being certified TOT are independently able to train new community facilitators

More information and enrollment possibilities

The Awareness Workshop for parents of deaf and hard-of-hearing children originated in Zambia and Uganda, where up-scaling is being planned, as is a new roll-out in Rwanda. Contact Kentalis for more information on this program or for possibilities to run this program within your country or in cooperation with your organization.

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Royal Dutch Kentalis is a national organization in the Netherlands that over the past 225 years became specialized in providing diagnostics, care and educational services to people, who are deaf, hard of hearing, deafblind, have a specific language impairment, or who face communication related challenges due to their disability. Our knowledge and expertise is focused on bridging communication barriers. We train not only our own staff, but are also pleased to share our expertise with all professionals who are interested, worldwide.



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