AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE CONSTRAINTS WHICH HINDER THE PARTICIPATION OF THE DEAF IN ATHLETICS FOR SCHOOLS FOR THE DEAF IN HARARE DISTRICTS WHICH ARE EMERALD HILL, HARARE CHILDREN CENTRE, WATERFALLS CHILDREN CENTRE, DANHIKO SCHOOLS AND BATSIRANAI ZIMCARE BELVEDERE HARARE.

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ABSTRACT

Young people with hearing impairment challenges are among the poorest and most marginalized of the World’s youth. Hearing impairment make much more difficult for them to participate in local activities such as athletics. Deaf athletes are rarely identified as record breakers in athletics as national or international athletes. This study sought to investigate the constraints which hinder the participation of the deaf in primary and secondary schools. This study would provide perception and knowhow on constraints that will aid the understanding of the key hindrances that act as drawback to development of athletics for the deaf prevailing in Primary schools and secondary schools. Literature on the subject and several constraints which hinder the participation of the Deaf in athletics were identified. The following constraints were identified; lack of motivation and confidence, negative school experiences, no support from families and friends, lack of information on opportunities, transport problems, a lack of time and money, poor physical access, family denial, attitudes and discrimination, ineffectiveness on the side of policy makers, lack of visibility on children with hearing impairment and abuse and exploitation, priority as an issue, lack of resources, poverty, administrative issues, lack of respect by the non-disabled people, lack of awareness-raising campaigns, lack of trained working personnel for the children with hearing impairment challenges, lack of self-esteem and aspiration, lack of confidence by the Deaf, sensitive to failure, poor self-concept and lack of motivation. The study was motivated by the realization that deaf athletes are isolated and stigmatised by other non disabled people when it comes to participate in athletics in the society. In this research a sample was made up of five Primary Schools and two secondary schools for the Deaf which were selected using purposive sampling. Questionnaires, based on the literature review, were designed to gather information on the different constraints hindering the participation of the Deaf in athletics. After a pilot study was done to refine the questions, the questionnaires were distributed to 65 participants. 66 respondents responded and contributed to the findings. The results indicated that there are a number of constraints which hinder the participation of the Deaf in athletics. The results showed that lack of motivation and confidence, no support from families and friends, lack of information on opportunities, transport problems, lack of time and money, poor physical access and family denial, attitudes and discrimination, ineffectiveness on the side of policy makers, hearing impairment challenges themselves, lack of visibility on children with hearing impairment challenges, abuse and exploitation, priority as an issue, lack of resources, poverty, administrative issues in schools, lack of respect by the non-disabled people, lack of awareness raising campaigns, lack of trained working personnel for the children with hearing impairment challenges, lack of self-esteem and aspiration, sensitive to failure by the Deaf athletes and poor self-concept all provide sufficient support and clear reflection that the Deaf athletes are sidelined when it comes to participate in athletics.