


Hearing impairment is the handicap that I have chosen to investigate in relation to the social elements of impairments. Hearing loss can be acquired or congenital, meaning it has been there since birth. They both share similar symptoms. Some signs of hearing loss, according to the Mayo Clinic website, may include muffled speech and sounds, difficulty understanding words, particularly over noisy environments or a crowd, difficulty hearing consonants, retreat from conversations, and a general avoidance of social settings. (Mayo, 2021). 

A hearing disability goes toward the side of the spectrum that doesn't have much stigmatization when compared to other disabilities, in my opinion. This is not to imply that stigmatization is impossible, but it is less frequent. The six factors that influence stigma are as follows. The ability to remain hidden is the first aspect of stigma. The degree to which a state is hidden or visible to others is referred to as concealability. Disruptiveness, or how much it obstructs relationships and social interactions, is the second aspect of stigma. The third aspect is aesthetics, or how other people view the situation and feel repulsed or disgusted by it. The fourth

dimension is origin. The term "origin" refers to the cause or ongoing maintenance of the stigmatized state. The fifth dimension, of course, refers to how easily a state can be changed or how quickly it degenerates. The final factor is peril, which refers to whether the illness poses a risk of morally, socially, or physically infecting others. Given that a person could remove their hearing aid at any time, a hearing impairment is easily concealed. However, if the person with the handicap is talking too loudly, has trouble hearing the other person, has trouble reading lips, or invades other people's personal space to hear better, it could possibly be disruptive to social interactions. Considering people don't see a hearing impairment with disgust, I would suggest it has nothing to do with aesthetics. When considering the origin component, there could be stigma if people think the person brought the condition on themselves; however, this is not the case for persons who were born with a hearing impairment. Due to the fact that hearing loss can become gradually degenerative, it may be related of course. Last but not least, no one believes that being around someone with a hearing impairment will cause them to "get" or develop one themselves, therefore danger is irrelevant. When these factors are taken into account, a hearing impairment is typically not stigmatized.

Passing and disclosure are the key strategies used by people with hearing impairments. In essence, passing entails attempting to pass as not having the stated impairment. Some persons may pass to create the appearance that they don't have a hearing loss by hiding their handicap. The goal of passing is to minimize any potential stigma associated with having a hearing impairment. A person who employs the passing technique is not permitted to wear or remove their hearing aids in order to pass as having "normal" hearing. Disclosure is a different strategy that a person with hearing loss could employ. The act of revealing to others or making them aware of your impairment is precisely what it sounds like. People who are confident and at ease with their impairment will frequently employ this technique. They believe that it is preferable for individuals to know than to not know. At times, a person will even play the situation up while admitting their disability. I have hearing loss, but it's actually not that horrible once you're engaged, as an illustration.

Parenting a hearing-impaired family member needs patience and adaptation. The entire family is impacted, not only the child and the parents, in terms of the family unit. The website for Oticon makes an excellent point: (Oticon, 2022) "As a parent, your expectations for your child with hearing loss will be influenced by the

child's birth order. Whether it is your eldest, middle, or youngest child, there is a difference. It's crucial to let your child with hearing loss be the "older" sibling if they have a younger sibling, and to prevent the younger sibling from being assigned the responsibility of being the more responsible since they can hear more. Small modifications may also need to be made; these may be as simple as turning on subtitles for the Television, Ipads, etc with the family because the noise level can interfere with hearing devices. The household might need to get used to speaking more loudly, occasionally speaking more slowly, and assuring their mouth or lips are apparent while communicating. Dealing with the impairment can be more psychological for the person than anything else, particularly if it is acquired rather than congenital. They have never known anything different since they were born with a hearing impairment. It could be a little more difficult for someone to adjust physically and mentally upon getting one. An individual with the impairment must first embrace it and become acquainted with it before learning to function in daily life. A person who struggles with hearing loss could experience rejection, grieving, and stigma. Along with dealing with their impairment, a person must also deal with prejudice. According to the Terror Management Theory, many people may very well have inner worries about disability that they project onto the person who has a disability. The person manages the disability in addition to making social changes like being closer to those speaking so they can be heard,

creating better speech loudness, and becoming a master at understanding lip movement. When it comes to dealing with hearing impairments, the surroundings have fewer issues to juggle; in my opinion, the family and the individual are more responsible for navigating and making adaptations. The world goes on as usual, and there aren't always the best circumstances for those with hearing loss. Access to those with hearing impairments and their needs is typically given second priority. At a concert, nobody actually considers using closed captioning. Nobody really considers how hearing aid wearers may be impacted by intercoms at sporting events. The list is endless. On the other hand, hearing problems are occasionally addressed by the environment. There must be closed captioning in movie theaters.

Schools are a place where those who have hearing loss struggle. Peer interactions are one reason why attending school might be difficult for persons who have hearing loss. Normative Theory could be capable of explaining the reasons for this. According to the normative theory, societal and peer pressure can promote peace or hatred. In other words, because children imitate each other, if one is acting discriminatory, numerous others are going to follow suit. The National Library of Medicine reports that people with hearing impairments encounter more peer issues and have fewer friends than people without

impairments. The severity of the hearing loss, the type of vocabulary, and interaction may all have an impact on the peer relationships and friendships of people who have hearing impairments. According to a study conducted by the National Library of Medicine, people with hearing loss felt less secure than their hearing peers and had more trouble forming friends, despite sharing the same social abilities and behavior as people without hearing loss. Although it presented a different viewpoint, the journal of deaf research and deaf school shared the idea that attending school can be difficult for those who have hearing loss. The journal emphasizes that schools aren't always tolerant. Seating arrangements, classroom setting and visual problems are only a few examples of classroom-related challenges. (Terletski, 2020). The surroundings can play a big part in why people with hearing impairments are more likely to act disruptively inside the school. The latest results, which were published in the journal, indicate a functional link between the physical atmosphere and a rise in student performance. (Academic, 2022) The very last post examined how educators were not doing enough to accommodate deaf children, which contributes to their struggles, and touched on a similar subject. According to studies, kids having profound hearing loss often achieve less academically than their classmates. Insufficient access leads students to overlook critical material in lectures and classroom conversations, which can

result in poor school success. One point is shared by all articles: hearing impaired students suffer in educational settings.

