

**COMPARATIVE STUDY ON SELF ESTEEM FOR HEARING IMPAIRED AND
PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED STUDENTS IN KAREN TECHNICAL NAIROBI
COUNTY, KENYA**

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to compare the self esteem of hearing impaired and physically challenged students in Karen Nairobi County. The study was guided by the following objectives: to find out the terms used to describe people with hearing impairment and physically challenged; to establish the levels of self esteem for the hearing impaired and physically challenged students in KTTID in Nairobi County and to compare the levels of self esteem for the hearing impaired and physically challenged students of KTTID, in Nairobi County. The study was guided by the Person-Centered theory by Carl Rogers. The study used descriptive research design targeting all the 79 students where 54 are hearing impaired and 25 are physically challenged. Purposive sampling method was used to students with hearing impairments and physically challenged in the school. A self administered questionnaire was used as well as focused discussion groups in collection of data. A pilot study among 10 students with hearing impairments and physically challenged to establish validity and reliability of the instruments. Data was coded, entered into the Statistical Programme for Social Sciences (SPSS) and analyzed using descriptive statistics such as percentages, frequencies, measures of central tendency such as mean, mode and median. The study also found that the most commonly term used to refer to participants with hearing impairment is "Deaf" whereas for the physically challenged participants is "Disabled". For the thoughts and feelings about themselves, 35 hearing impaired participants (68.6%) have low self esteem whereas 16 participants (31.4%) have a desired self esteem level. For the physically challenged participants, 12 of them (60%) have low self esteem while 8 participants (40%) have a normal self esteem level. In conclusion, the study revealed that most of the participants in the institution have a low self esteem. The researcher recommended that people with hearing impairment and physically challenged should be empowered through inclusivity in the society development programs where they can interact with other members. This will enhance and boost their self esteem as they experience a sense of self belonging.