

## **SELF-ESTEEM AND COPING SKILLS OF ADOLESCENTS WITH HEARING IMPAIRMENT ATTENDING MAINSTREAM SCHOOLS**

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This study investigates self-esteem level and coping skills when faced with communication difficulties, used by adolescents with hearing impairment in mainstream schools. A total of 22 adolescents presented with hearing impairment with age range of 13 - 18 years old, using oral communication, and had received early intervention were divided into prelingual hearing loss group and postlingual hearing loss group. All subjects completed two questionnaires, Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale and Coping Strategies Scale, and the data were analyzed descriptively. Results showed that both groups with prelingual- and postlingual hearing loss indicated a moderately high self-esteem level. In terms of coping skills, both groups most frequently used the Bicultural coping skills, in which they are involved almost exclusively in the hearing culture but not in the deaf culture. This research may generate recommendations on improving current early intervention programs in terms of the management of the psychosocial aspects, specifically with regards to self-esteem and coping skills usage in their daily life.

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