

Assessing the Accessibility of Sexual Reproductive Health Services by Hearing Impaired  
Persons: A Case of Nairobi County

by

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APPROVAL

ASSESSING THE ACCESSIBILITY OF SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES  
BY HEARING IMPAIRED PERSONS: A CASE OF NAIROBI COUNTY

by

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In accordance with Daystar University policies, this thesis is accepted in partial fulfilment of requirements for the Master of Master of Arts degree.

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DECLARATION

ASSESSING THE ACCESSIBILITY OF SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES  
BY HEARING IMPAIRED PERSONS: A CASE OF NAIROBI COUNTY

I declare that this thesis is my original work and has not been submitted to any other college or university for academic credit

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

APPROVAL .....	ii
DECLARATION .....	iv
TABLE OF CONTENT .....	vi
LIST OF TABLES .....	viii
LIST OF FIGURES .....	ix
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS .....	x
ABSTRACT .....	xi
DEDICATION .....	xii
CHAPTER ONE .....	1
INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY .....	1
Introduction .....	1
Background of the Study .....	2
Statement of the Problem .....	5
Purpose of the Study .....	6
Objectives of the Study .....	7
Research Questions .....	7
Justification of the Study .....	8
Significance of the Study .....	9
Assumptions of the Study .....	10
Scope of the Study .....	11
Limitations and Delimitations of the Study .....	11
Definition of Terms .....	12
Summary .....	13
CHAPTER TWO .....	14
LITERATURE REVIEW .....	14
Introduction .....	14
Theoretical Framework .....	14
General Literature Review .....	19
Empirical Literature Review .....	29
Conceptual Framework .....	32
Discussion .....	32
Summary .....	35
CHAPTER THREE .....	36
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY .....	36
Introduction .....	36
Research Design .....	36
Population of the Study .....	38
Target Population .....	38
Sample Size .....	39
Sampling Technique .....	40
Data Collection Instruments .....	40
Types of Data .....	41
Data Collection Procedures .....	41

Pretesting.....	42
Data Analysis Plan.....	43
Ethical Consideration.....	43
Summary.....	44
CHAPTER FOUR.....	46
DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION.....	46
Introduction.....	46
Presentation, Analysis and Interpretation.....	46
Summary of Key Findings.....	69
Summary.....	70
CHAPTER FIVE.....	71
DISCUSSIONS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	71
Introduction.....	71
Discussions of Key Findings.....	71
Conclusions.....	79
Recommendations.....	80
Recommendations for Further Studies.....	82
REFERENCES.....	83
APPENDICES.....	94
Appendix A: Questionnaire.....	94
Appendix B: Research Permit.....	106
Appendix C: Anti-Plagiarism Report.....	107
Appendix D: Ethical Clearance.....	106

## LIST OF TABLES

<i>Table 4. 1: Age of Respondents</i> .....	47
<i>Table 4. 2: Whether Respondents had Multiple Boyfriends or Wives</i> .....	52
<i>Table 4. 3: Source of Financial Resources</i> .....	54
<i>Table 4. 4: SRHs Available at Health Facilities</i> .....	56
<i>Table 4. 5: Ratings of Health Services Access by the Deaf</i> .....	58
<i>Table 4. 6: Ratings of Health Services Access by the Health Personnel</i> .....	58
<i>Table 4. 7: Form of Support that Health Personnel Provided to the Deaf</i> .....	60
<i>Table 4. 8: Communication Methods Used in Information Dissemination</i> .....	58
<i>Table 4. 9: Effects of the Constraints in Accessing SRH Services by the Deaf</i> .....	67

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## LIST OF FIGURES

<i>Figure 4. 1: Gender of Deaf Respondents</i> .....	48
<i>Figure 4. 2: Gender of Health Personnel</i> .....	49
<i>Figure 4. 3: Category of Health Personnel</i> .....	49
<i>Figure 4. 4: Level of Education</i> .....	50
<i>Figure 4. 5: Marital Status of Respondents</i> .....	51
<i>Figure 4. 6: Severity of Deafness</i> .....	52
<i>Figure 4. 7: Employment Status</i> .....	53
<i>Figure 4. 8: Availability of SRHs</i> .....	55
<i>Figure 4. 9: Frequency of Access to Reproductive Health Services by the Deaf</i> .....	56
<i>Figure 4. 10: Frequency of Access to SRHs by the Health Personnel</i> .....	57
<i>Figure 4. 11: Health Personnel Support for the Deaf</i> .....	60
<i>Figure 4. 12: Factors Influencing Access and Use of SRHs by the Deaf</i> .....	62
<i>Figure 4. 13: Sources of Information on SRH Services by the Deaf</i> .....	63
<i>Figure 4. 14: Constraints in Accessing SRH Services and HIV Information</i> .....	66
<i>Figure 4. 15: Improving Accessibility of SRHs and HIV Information among Deaf</i> .....	68

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
FIDA	Federation of Women Lawyers
HBM	Health Belief Model
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ICPD	International Council for Population and Development
KNBS	Kenya National Bureau of Statistics
KNCHR	Kenya National Commission for Human Rights
LVCT	Liverpool VCT
MDGS	Millennium Development Goals
NACC	National Aids Control Council
NACOSTI	National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation
NCPD	National Council for Population and Development
NGO	Non-Governmental Organizations
PWDs	People Living with Disability
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
SRHs	Sexual Reproductive Health Services
UN	United Nations
UNFPA	United Nations Fund for Population Activities
WHO	World Health Organization

## ABSTRACT

The study sought to assess accessibility of sexual reproductive health services among persons with disabilities in Nairobi County, a case study of the deaf. In many societies, the deaf and other disabled persons are mistakenly perceived as unable to carry out the physical act of sexual intimacy. Further, cultural myths and wrong notions surround their sexual and reproductive health. This implies that they are constantly left without support and information which causes constraints that bar their access to sexual reproductive health services (SRHs). The objectives of the study were to identify factors that influence access and use of SRHs by the deaf persons in Nairobi County and to establish the sources of information on SRH services and the communication strategies used to disseminate the information to the deaf. The other objective was to find out the major constraints and their effects in accessing SRH services and HIV information by the deaf and to recommend options for improving accessibility of SRH services and HIV information among deaf. The researcher applied a descriptive research design. A census was conducted for all the 96 respondents. Data was collected using questionnaires and descriptively analysed using SPSS version 21. The study revealed that the factors that influenced access and use of SRHs were restriction by parents and marriage partners at 48%, unfriendly service providers at 62%, cultural beliefs at 12%, and cost of SRHs constraints at 54%. The main constraints in accessing SRH services were negative attitudes from health workers at 78%, high cost of services at 80%, stigma and discrimination at 64%. The study concluded that SRHs access constraints reported in this study had major implications for accessibility and HIV prevention outcomes. The study recommended that the government and other healthcare stakeholders should initiate policy changes to ensure the deaf have unlimited access to SRHs and HIV services.

## DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to the memory of my parents, Raphael Nzau Ndunda, and Caroline Nduku Jimmy. I also dedicate to my husband, Frederick Waudu Mulaku, My children, Shanelle Nawire Mulaku , Ivan Shalom Nyangi Mulaku and Jed Okwaro Mulaku. I cherish you and thank God for you. You've been a blessing in my life and I love you all.

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