

October 2019

Book Review

None None
None

Follow this and additional works at: <https://repository.wcsu.edu/jadara>

Recommended Citation

None, N. (2019). Book Review. *JADARA*, 16(1). Retrieved from <https://repository.wcsu.edu/jadara/vol16/iss1/9>

BOOK REVIEWS

Rehabilitating People with Disabilities into the Mainstream of Society, Spiegel, A.D., Podair, S. & Fiorito, E., (Editors) Park Ridge, New Jersey: Noyes Medical Publications, 1981. 350 pp., \$28.00 (hard cover)

The problems faced by deaf people as they interact with the mainstream of society are not unlike the problems of other minority groups. Our society focuses on the "majority" treating those who are disabled and handicapped as different. Professionals working in the field of rehabilitation of deaf persons may benefit greatly from an understanding of the problems of other disabled groups. It is to this end that the review has found this book to be an excellent source of information.

The goals of the book as stated by the editors are: to inform and educate the public of the rights of disabled people in all aspects of life; to help disabled people in their physical and psychological adjustment to society; to promote preventive measures and the rehabilitation of disabled people; and to encourage research projects to facilitate the participation of disabled people in daily life.

To accomplish these goals the editors incorporated 38 articles written by 67 authors. The articles are divided into the following sections: Attitudes; Reliefs and Concepts; Health Concerns; Transportation is Vital; Housing for Independent Living; Education for a Future; Gainful Employment is a Must; and Recreation is a Part of Living.

In the reviewer's opinion, while all of the sections are meaningful and relevant, the sections on attitudes and employment provide a base of information that is vital for every professional working with deaf clients.

The section on attitudes explores the concepts and misconceptions about disabilities. The author of one article chooses to call these "handicapsisms". This section will assist the reader in understanding additional handicapping features placed on all disabled persons due to the impressions of our society concerning disability. Professionals will have a clearer understanding of the realistic problems faced by deaf persons entering the mainstream of society by understanding which problems are caused by the unique

characteristics of deafness and which problems exist due to the impressions of society. A clear understanding of the problem is the first step to more lasting solutions. In the reviewer's opinion, not enough attention has been given in the professional literature to those problems which arise due to the deeply rooted impressions held by society.

The section on employment presents articles describing relevant considerations in hiring a disabled person. The article titled, "The Disabled Employee: Separating Myth From Fact", explores questions of insurance, dependability, productivity, and the cost of accommodating an employee with a disability. The hard data demonstrating that hiring the handicapped is good business is conveyed in a clear, concise and believable manner.

A unique job-developing method is explained. In this method a disabled person will be viewed by the employer as an able-bodied employee. Another article presents a model program of unions and affirmative action groups working together. This type of information has proven to be of extreme value in working with deaf clients.

This book is *not* designed to be a text on the unique characteristics of deafness. The book *is* designed to assist professionals in understanding the more global problems deaf people have as members of a larger society.

A useful characteristic of the book is its well organized structure. In an extremely orderly and readable fashion, the editors pose problems, present articles representing current thinking on the topics, and suggest areas for further investigations. The structure, complete with references at the end of each article, make the book an extremely valuable tool for researchers.

As a final note, the book would make an excellent text for formal courses or discussion groups. The topics and the supporting articles lend themselves to extremely practical and meaningful discussions.

Thomas Walen, Ed.D.
Supervisor
Independent Living Program
Lexington School for the Deaf
Queens, New York

BOOK REVIEWS

DEAFNESS AND MENTAL HEALTH

L. Stein, Ph.D.; Eugene Mindel, M.D., and T. Jablakey, M.A., New York: Grune & Stratton, 1981. 256 pp. (hard cover)

Deafness and Mental Health presents a comprehensive perspective of mental health concerns that impact on the deaf child, the deaf adult, parents of deaf children, and those professionals with research and clinical orientations in the area of deafness.

The general format of the book includes a number of updated papers presented in 1974 at the First National Symposium on the Mental Health Needs of Deaf Adults and Children sponsored by the David T. Siegel Institute of Michael Reese Hospital. These, and other original papers, represent contributions by a wide array of practitioners including counselors, educators, parents, psychologists, and members of the medical and legal service delivery systems.

Various issues are presented in the form of anecdotal experiences, case histories, theoretical discussions, and research and demographic information. A most appealing and valuable aspect of this book lies in its emphasis on preventive and prescriptive mental health, and practical intervention or treatment strategies. Discussed in specific

detail are topics and examples of pastoral counseling; models of family counseling; behavior modification; and psychotherapy with deaf clients.

A final section of the book details a number of societal issues that it is believed interface directly with the mental health service delivery system for deaf people. These issues include legal considerations as well as research and professional training needs.

Deafness and Mental Health represents a timely resource for professional practitioners in the helping or social services professions. It also has appeal as a resource for professional training and preparation programs.

Taken in its entirety, the text presents a significant illustration of the mutually complementary impact educational and social service systems have on the mental health well-being of deaf children and adults.

Dianne K. Brooks
Chairperson
Department of Psychological
Services
National Technical Institute for
the Deaf
Rochester Institute of Technology
Rochester, New York

PROFESSOR OF REHABILITATION

Earned doctorate with emphasis on rehabilitation counseling with the deaf and experience in a vocational rehabilitation setting. The candidate shall have the ability to teach and direct research of graduate students. Possibly may direct interpreter training program. Apply to Dr. Bob Johnson, Search Committee, Rehabilitation Department, College of Education, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ 85721.