

Didactic deafblindness!

By: Alex Garcia – Deafblind person from Brazil!

In deafblindness you must be sure about some specific and basic questions. First of all, you have to know who are the deafblind.

We are in two groups:

- Pre symbolic deafblind: it's that person who became deafblind before he or she would structure the native language. Normally, are described as congenital deafblind. The use of the word congenital is incorrect because this word means "be present at birth", but not always being a pre symbolic means "being present at birth", he or she may be a pre symbolic of "young" age. The person can be a congenital deafblind, but present good traces, specially a good auditory trace and then, with a little more effort, can learn his or her own language as any other person.

- Post symbolic deafblind: it's that person who became deafblind after would have been structured his or her native language. Normally, are described as acquired deafblind people.

Classification:

- Blind with low hearing**
- Deaf with low sight**
- Low sight and low hearing**
- Total deafblind**

An important fact:

There are many deafblind people that, besides the deafblindness, they present other deficiencies, that can be physical, intellectual or autism. It's certain that, being deafblind and having multiple disabilities, everything will be more difficult. Every deafblind people are inserted in these groups. It means that it's not always complete darkness and silence. They can have low sight and hearing traces.

Many of them are like these, but chose for running out of the problem and, running, they got in to a hole which is difficult to get out. The best to do is to face the problem and continuously adapt themselves.

Another issue:

Today I am forty-one years old, deafblind and a multiple deficient person and I always felt that we, those who have more than the deafblindness, as well as those who are total deafblind, are more excluded than those who present sight

and hearing traces. As time goes by, I started to advocate that in practice there are deafblind who are more exposed and of lower complexity. Here there are those with functional traces and lack of any other disability. And there are deafblind less exposed, those more invisible to society as well as of major complexities. Here are the total pre and post symbolic deafblind or those who present non functional traces as well as those with other disabilities.

Therefore, in practice, the exclusion and barriers are much bigger for the less frequent deafblind. To me, Alex Garcia, there is no comparison between a more frequent and a less frequent. In other words, the abandonment affects much more the less frequent.

The concept of deafblind – This is a functional concept:

The deafblind person is that one who does not compensate one sense by another. What do I want to say with this? Let's imagine the blind people. How do they compensate their blindness? The blind people compensate their blindness because they hear perfectly well. How do the deaf people compensate their deafness? The deaf people compensate their deafness because they see perfectly. And now? How do the deafblind compensate? That is the "x" of the question, I mean, in the compensation. That is why there are deafblind with traces, but these can not compensate the loss of the other sense in its totality. A blind person with hearing traces, can present compensation lapses. A deaf person with sight traces can present compensation lapses. And then, people who have audio visual traces, for sure, present compensation lapses. This is to be deafblind, but in my country Brazil, these questions are rarely taken in consideration. You can reflect that we have millions of deafblind people in Brazil, even though they don't know they are deafblind. It is a very complicated situation the one we live in Brazil, which is aggravated by the lack of Public Policies that could collaborate with our effective development.

Another concept of deafblind people – also functional concept. This concept was developed by me, Alex Garcia.

Deafblind people are those who necessarily receive the receptive communication through ways and methods (together or separated), proximal (need to be near), tactile (involves touch) and kinesthetic (involves movement).

It would be a serious fault of me if I wouldn't have made the connection between two key points, I mean, the link between Human Development and Deafblindness.

How does the Human Development occur?

The Human Development occurs in the following way: "The understanding precedes the execution". In practice, first of all the human being has to understand and after that, has to carry out.

This is the human being development. By pointing out the word “Understanding”, what does it mean? It means that the receptive communication is the “engine” or the “soul” of development. Exactly, that is!

Well, it is here that there is the link with the deafblind person. Where is the obstacle in the deafblind person?

It is precisely in his/her receptive communication. Yes, you that is reading this now can understand! The barrier of deafblind people is precisely the receptive communication therefore; it affects directly his/her development.

Besides that, I would like to emphasize that:

Deafblindness is and must be considered an Only Deficiency Condition, an Only Deficiency and not the sum of deafness and blindness.

Deafblindness by itself, has a strong trend of multiplying deficiencies. You must pay careful attention.

If a deafblind person does not receive motivation, it is quite likely that other different conditions may appear, other deficiencies. So, a very close attention must be paid to this trace which is a deafblindness multiplier.

I hope this brief reflection may be useful!

Alex Garcia – Deafblind person.