

Differences of general beliefs in a just world and anxiety levels between deaf and blind patients

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INTRODUCTION: Deafness is defined as a partial or total inability to hear. Blindness is defined as visual acuity of less than 3/60 in the better eye with best possible correction. Onset of deafness and blindness can cause psychiatric disorders.

AIM: The aim of this study was to compare the influences of long-lasting deafness and blindness on the level of anxiety of participants and on their attitudes towards justice in the world.

METHODS: Anxiety levels were measured using the Beck Anxiety Inventory. Attitudes towards justice were measured using the General Belief in a Just World Scale. A group of deaf people was interviewed by a researcher using Croatian Sign Language, a group of blind people was interviewed also by the researcher and healthy subjects from the control group solved the test themselves. There wasn't gender and number difference (N = 30, 15 women, 15 men) or age difference between two groups.

RESULTS: Blind patients had a significantly higher General Belief score compared to the group of deaf people ($p < 0.01$) but there was no difference between Beck Anxiety score. In both groups the General Belief score was significantly higher if the Beck Anxiety score was lower ($p < 0.01$).

CONCLUSION: The results of this study revealed significantly better attitudes of blind people towards a just world compared to deaf people and they showed a reverse proportional ratio between positive attitudes and anxiety score in both groups.

Keywords: blindness, deafness, just world, anxiety

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