



Lecture 5:

Overview of Deaf Education in Nigeria

Lecture Objectives:

By the end of the lecture, students will be able to:

- Explain how deaf education started in Nigeria
- Mention individuals who played a role in the development of deaf education in Nigeria
- Elucidate the contribution of each of the individuals to the development of deaf education in Nigeria
- Mention some facts and figures with respect to deaf people in Nigeria
- Exhibit correct signs for question words and some verbs.

Timeline in the development of deaf education in Nigeria

- 1957: a group of missionaries from the Lutheran Church decided to have social interaction with Deaf people in Lagos under the aegis of “friends of the deaf”
- 1958: Dr. Andrew Forster, an African-American graduate of Gallaudet University visited Ibadan in Nigeria, and some West African countries on familiarization visits preparatory to his plans to establish deaf Churches in those places
- 1960: Dr. Forster started a Church school in Ibadan called the Christian Mission for the Deaf
- During his visits to nurture the deaf Church, Dr. Forster also persuaded many deaf Nigerians to attend Gallaudet College

Timeline contd:

- 1970: a sizeable number of deaf Nigerians were given Government scholarships to study in Gallaudet College
- 1974: Kwara State Schools for the Handicapped was established by a Gallaudet returnee, Mr. Gabriel Adepoju
- 1974: another Gallaudet returnee, Dr. Pius Mba, helped establish the first special education Department in a Nigerian University – University of Ibadan. He became the first deaf Head of Department in a Nigerian University
- 1977: Plateau School for the Deaf was established by yet another Gallaudet returnee, Mr. Ezekiel Sambo
- There are over 50 schools for the deaf in Nigeria at present

Profile of Deaf people in Nigeria

- There is an estimated 4 million deaf people in Nigeria at present (a newspaper report called them “a growing army”. Punch newspaper, Feb 5 & 12)
- 40% of deaf Nigerians have no education. 30% have low education. 30% have some form of education
- Deaf Nigerians can be found in works of life, example, Executive arms of government, Judiciary, Education sector, business and NGOS



Dr. Andrew Forster: He is the pioneer deaf educator in Nigeria



Tanko Almakura is the Governor of Nassarawa State in North Central Nigeria. He is a cochlear implant user. He has a deaf son.



7 minutes break

ASL practices: 'wh' questions and verbs

• What	when	where	who
• Whose	what's up?		
• Come	go	buy	sell
• Walk	run	sit	stand
• work	play	give	take
• Laugh	cry	dance	rest
• Eat	sleep	teach	learn
• Clean up	mess up	cook	serve
• Draw	paint	read	write