

**TITLE:** Hearing Loss and Its Social Impacts in Adult Age

**AUTHOR:** Tereza Skákalová

**DEPARTMENT:** Department of Special Education

**SUPERVISOR:** doc. PhDr. Lea Květoňová, Ph.D.

**ABSTRACT:**

The present dissertation deals with the issue of the social impacts of hearing loss in adults. The thesis compiles the theoretical knowledge about the hard of hearing and society's attitudes towards them. The gradual change in attitude towards these people throughout various historical periods is described and this description of the evolution of their social status is concluded with the analysis of the current situation in the Czech Republic.

The empirical part examines the influence of hearing loss on a person's involvement in modern day society. The research is qualitative and it examines the opinions of the affected people themselves and also experts working with this target group. The results of the research reflect a positive shift in the attitude towards the hard of hearing, but simultaneously show that their needs and abilities remain misunderstood. The most problematic issue is their capability of contribution at work.

The findings are compared with other research. On the basis of this comparison the suggestions are formulated to improve the situation. The results of this dissertation can help raise the quality of the support system for adults with hearing loss and they can be a significant contribution to the theoretical advancement of special education.

**KEYWORDS:**

hearing loss, hard of hearing, social impact, attitudes, prejudice