**13. In what ways has technology been a benefit and detriment for Deaf and Hard Hearing people?**

Technological advancements have been of significant impact on the deaf and hard-of-hearing people. At first, with the introduction of the telephone, deaf people got neglected in society because it only favored people without hearing impairments. Deaf persons could not make phone calls, and therefore, it became hard for them to communicate. Also, while the other people would make a phone call and pass the message within a short period, the deaf people would travel to distant places to directly communicate with the other party. In this case, the invention of the telephone did not benefit deaf persons unless they used other people to make phone calls on their behalf. Also, if the ability to make phone cases was one of the requirements for a job, deaf people could not fit it.

Consequently, many deaf persons could not access such jobs; they remained unemployed hence inability to meet their daily needs. The deaf people also could not fit for the promotions for their jobs since they could not make phone calls, therefore discrimination. However, with time the 'telecommunications device for the deaf' was invented by Robert Weitbrecht in 1964, which helped deaf persons make phone calls. Based on this device, deaf people could easily share information with other parties such as friends; hence it eased their communication. Cochlear plants on the deaf to enhance their hearing ability is also much debated based on their benefit and disadvantages. Although the implants help deaf people hear, they also harm their health by destroying their hearing ability. Through technology also, deaf people get to access education, gain skills, and get employed. Therefore, technology has both beneficial and harmful effects on the deaf, which is still debatable.