**WHY DEAF CULTURE?**

Culture is nothing but beliefs and practices of a group of people. Like any other language or culture in the world, Deaf Culture is also a culture with its own unique beliefs and ideas. We need to see the beauty of this culture like any other language in the world as a person is more than their ability to hear. Deafness is not a drawback. But yet it is seen as a drawback even in the 21st century. This is due to the lack of awareness about the community and culture. Equal job opportunities and education must be provided to them. In India there are 18million deaf people and yet only 250 official sign language interpreters.

**WHY PROMOTE DEAF CULTURE?**

It is a persons’ identity to follow their own culture and ideas. The deaf culture allows deaf people to be themselves and enrich their identity. A lot of deaf people are often forced to speech therapy and lip reading. This not only discourages the use of sign language but also shuns the communication level as most deaf people do not feel comfortable talking in a voice they can’t hear or understand. Deaf people are often victims of bullying and social alienation. This needs to br broke down.

**HOW TO BEHAVE TO DEAF PEOPLE?**

There are a lot of things considered to be rude and disrespectful to the deaf people. Deaf people tend to be more straightforward and blander with their answers. These are some do’s and do not’s:

* **EYE CONTATCT**: It is very important to keep eye contact while someone signs. It is rude to look away while signing as equal to walking away when someone is talking.
* **BODY LANGUAGE:** Often people tend to be over expressive with their body languages. Just subtle movements are enough for them to understand rather than extensive motions.
* **PHYSICAL TOUCH AND PROXIMITY:** Deaf people find it difficult to converse in a closed proximity as their sign language is not very clear and visible. They tend to be quite far and opposite apparat from each other for proper vision of the sign language. They also use physical touch and thumping of objects to gain one’s attention.
* **HESITATION**: People often hesitate and avoid having conversation with deaf people. Every person has their own personality and it should not be judged by their ability or inability to hear.