

# What are the challenges regarding “accessing information” for people with deafblindness in Japan?

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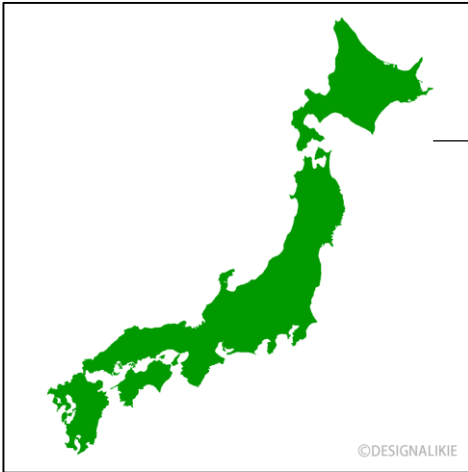
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## Why “accessing information”?

- Communication, Orientation & Mobility (O&M), and accessing information are “the three main challenges”.
- A few studies focus on accessing information.
- “Infrastructure of information for deafblind people” is necessary. (Fukushima & Bounou, 2015)

# Aims



- There are 47 regional groups which consist of
- Deafblind people
  - Their family members
  - Interpreter-guide
  - Volunteers

supporters

The aims of this study are to clarify

- what kind of needs regarding accessing information for people with deafblindness there are.
- what kinds of needs regarding accessing information for supporters there are.

## Research methods



104

Deafblind people  
(18groups)

85

Supporters  
(18groups)



1. I sent request for the surveys.
2. I sent a face sheet and questionnaires to the groups which agreed with participating with this survey.



19 multiple choice  
questions  
5 free descriptive  
questions

19 multiple choice  
questions  
(3 questions for only  
representative person)  
5 free descriptive  
questions



Simple totaling method

SCAT analysis

# Methodology

Free descriptive questions for both...



People with  
deafblindness

and



Supporters

- What is social participation for deafblind people?
- What information are required to achieve the social participation?
- What support do you require for local governments in order to improve accessing information?
- What challenges do you face with when you access (or provide) information?

# Results



People with  
deafblindness

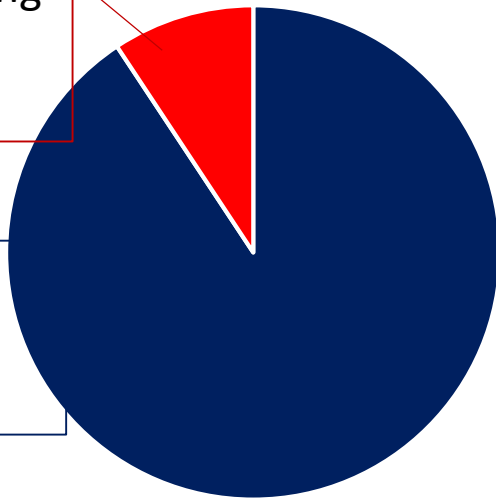
Responses from

**44** participants in 10 groups

Response rate: 42.3%

Don't considering  
lacked  
information

Considering  
lacked  
information



Supporters

Responses from

**31** participants in 11 groups

Response rate: 35.2%

People with deafblindness need...

- More information
- Information when they stay at home
- more time to use Interpreter-guide etc



Some of them don't need more information.

# Results



## People with deafblindness

### COMMUNICATION

- Communication method
- Taking part in activities with any people

### EMERGENCY SITUATION

- Emergency information of Natural disasters

### O&M

- Going out anytime
- map information
- Transport information

### ELECTRONIC DEVICES

- Financial support for getting a laptop and smartphone
- Training for using electronic devices

### CONNECTION

- Joining to opportunities to see deafblind people and supporters
- Being involved in some communities

### PSYCHOLOGICAL ASPECTS

- Removing Anxiety for lacked information
- Opportunities for consulting

### EMPLOYMENT

- Job training
- Learning common sense

### SUPPORT

- Regional differential
- Insufficient support from family

# Results



## Supporters

### COMMUNICATION & CONNECTION

- Interacting with others with appropriate communication methods

### CONNECTION

- Joining to opportunities to see deafblind people and supporters
- Being involved in some communities

### SKILL UP

- Improving the interpretation skills
- More communication methods to use

### SYSTEMS

- Limited time to get interpreter-guide
- Regional differential
- Meet each person's needs
- Connection between local governments and regional groups

### O&M

- Walk independently

### PSYCHOLOGICAL ASPECTS

- Self-esteem

### LIVE WITH NO BARRIERS

- Employment
- Independent life

### ACCURATE INTERPRETATION

- The amount of knowledge that deafblind people have.
- Correcting preconception

### UNDERSTANDING

- Understanding from societies



# Discussion

- Being a lack of information is difficult to recognize. The possibility of a gap of recognizing lacked information between deafblind people and supporters. (both aspects are important)
- The system of Interpreter-guide in Japan is not enough from the aspect of limited time.
- Each local government should work as a connector to support information.

In a future research...



How do deafblind students prepare for social participation from the aspect of accessing information before graduating from a secondary school?

# Main References

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Thank you for your attention ☺👤

