

YES, WERE EVOLVING FAST NOW!

We're changing into a new society that is more interfaceable with the hearing society!

Of course, this change is being met with strong resistance from those who wish to preserve and protect a society, a culture, from diminishing.

Utilizing technological advances along with educational advances, the deaf communities are becoming a new society that allows them to access safety, health, and productivity opportunities easier than they ever could before.

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Evolution Of The Deaf Society



**ORANGE COUNTY
DEAF
ADVOCACY
CENTER**

"RE-INVENTING ADVOCACY"

**It is not
“DEAF GENOCIDE”
it’s the
*Evolution of Deaf
Society***

“As society advances, there shouldn’t be a reason why the deaf communities can’t advance with them.” – Richard Roehm

In the year 2020, deaf society will be very different from the way we know it. Thanks to improvements in medical technologies, communication technologies, and education resources to improve life outcomes for people, especially children, with hearing disabilities. Resistance to these advances in deaf society have been strong to the point of claiming “deaf genocide” and they are gradually toning down as these advances have become more attractive to members of the deaf communities. These are the things that are making it happen.

**NEW TECHNOLOGY IN
MITIGATION OF DEAFNESS**

Improved hearing aids enable people with hearing disabilities develop and retain their aural capabilities. They now come in smaller, more powerful, and even implantable types.

Cochlear implants are the latest devices in the development of a deaf child’s hearing,

speech, and communication skills. This is the forefront and the most controversial of the available remedies to hearing disabilities and hearing loss. Much of the resistance in the deaf communities have been focused directly at cochlear implants than any other means of mitigating deafness or hearing loss. Many deaf organizations are slowly accepting the use of cochlear implants.

**NEW TECHNOLOGY IN
COMMUNICATION**

Improvements in TTY communication devices. These devices that hook up to the telephone enable deaf people to use them on any telephone and even cell phones.

Cell phones now have text messaging services and that enables deaf people to communicate from places that were ‘privileged’ to the hearing people.

Online based communication programs level the playing field between the deaf and hearing communities. Deaf workers can be told of a project by their boss using an internet messaging program. Online versions of the traditional telephone relay services have made access to telephone services more achievable.

New ‘face to face’ equipment resembling a pair of keyboards with screens enable deaf people to communicate with a hearing person and participate in conferences.

**IMPROVEMENTS IN DEAF
EDUCATION RESOURCES**

The best way is to discuss some important projects that are geared to improving the educational outcomes of children with hearing and speech disabilities. The Oberkötter Foundation has their oral deaf education film and information office in Palo Alto, California. They are in charge of producing and distributing printed and video resources. Resources like their parent kit, 3 key videos in different languages, and their early intervention program provide valuable information and resources for parents of children with hearing and speech disabilities and they are easily accessible to anyone that needs it.

Local schools have been able to access these and other resources and help them develop and implement oral deaf education programs so children with hearing disabilities can attend their nearest school instead of being bused to regional schools for the deaf.

**BETTER OUTLOOK AT
SAFETY, HEALTH, AND
PRODUCTIVITY
OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE
NEW DEAF SOCIETY**