

Abstract

The present study is an exploratory research which investigated 1) the pattern of demographics of Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing (D/HH) people in each of the identity group, 2) the influence of type of identity formed by D/HH people on their microaggressions experience in terms of frequency of encounters and severity of distress experienced, and 3) the mental health status of D/HH people with different identity, considered together their microaggressions experience, through a cross-sectional self-report questionnaire presented in written Chinese.

Demographics analysis revealed that members of the four identity groups differed in age range, preferred mode of communications, education level, etc. With reference to Hong Kong's historical background and social context, possible explanations to their identity development were suggested. Correlation and ANOVA results indicated that D/HH people's identity affected their experience of microaggressions in terms of frequency of encounters and severity of distress perceived, and that significant between-group differences were found in both frequency and distress scores. Findings also indicated the relationship between identity and mental health, with experience of microaggressions being one possible reason for the hampered mental health in some groups.