



Research in times of Corona

Ines Weber & Vikram Choudhary

Summary: The webinar discusses research, conducted as part of the Master's degree 'Communication and Deafblindness' of the University of Groningen, in times of an international health crisis caused by COVID-19. The fellow Master students, Ines Weber and Vikram Choudhary, will present their Master thesis, and how the current situation affected their research projects.

Ines Weber works in the foundation *stiftung st. franziskus heiligenbronn* in the counselling service for children and adolescents with deafblindness in Germany. In the Master's thesis the focus is on the question of how the functional hearing of individuals with deafblindness and additional complex needs may be assessed and evaluated by educators.

Vikram Choudhary works in the boarding school section of the *Deutsches Taubblindenwerk*, a non-profit organization that supports children and adults with deafblindness in various areas in Hannover, Germany. The focus of his Master research is to gain insight into the benefits of age diversity by connecting youth and adults with acquired deafblindness.

In addition to a short presentation of each Master thesis, there will be an open discussion on the possibilities to conduct research with different methods (e.g. focus groups, online communication platforms, etc.) despite Corona, the effects upon deafblind participants, and the overall importance of research regardless of worldwide contact restrictions. Also, two young deafblind participants will join the open discussion session.