

## Migrants ? Ethnicity and visually impaired person : what do you mean and what am I understanding ...



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**ALFPHV**



## Belonging associations

- **CRESAM** : Resource Center for deaf blind and deaf low vision children and adults – Poitiers  
DBI and DBLVI  
centre.res@cresam.org  
Next symposium « **CHARGE syndrom** »  
24 – 25/09/2010 Poitiers France
- **ALFPHV** : National association of french language psychologists specialised for low vision and blind children and adults  
alfphv@gmail.com  
Next symposium « **Clinic and neuropsychology** »  
March 2011 BELGIUM

## ECψVI and ALFPHV / CRESAM...



*Some of our common experiences ...with langage and communication questions :*

- Copenhagen 2006 : a specific presentation about « **how to work for children belonging to migrant families** »
- Copenhagen 2009 : « Know Pro Vip »
  - **Vision impaired refugees / immigrants**
  - Elderly vision impaired 60 +
  - Acquired deafblindness

## Migrants ? ethnicity and visually impaired person : what do you mean and what am I understanding ...



*Some of our french reactions ...*

ECψVI and ALFPHV...

- **Surprise**  
Surprise to hear and to listen about specific professional attention for low vision persons belonging to **migrant groups**
- **Interest**  
« Migrant groups » unkwown concept in our french blind and low vision professionnel field
- **Curiosity**
  - Curious to share our differences of **vocabulary and ethic rules**,
  - Curious to analyse the consequences of different professional european languages, practices and psychologist positions towards visually impaired persons.

## CASE STORY

### The story of Gamze and Gözde

a turkish originally family , 5 children, 2 daughters with nystagmus

#### Gamze , 5 years old

- Very shy,
- **excellent pupil**
- **Strong mother**
- Very serious for her assessment
- Teenager : refuse optic aids

#### Gözde, baby

- **Cute with high relation capacities**
- **Strong mother**
- Only visual assessment until school age
- Very normal development

**Death of the mother's father** : family crise, mother depression and parents divorce

## CASE STORY... *In consequences*

#### Gamze, 12 years old

- Mute
- Rejects helps for school
- ansocial life
- **Abandonns school effort**

#### Gözde, 5 years old

- still cute
- no school problem
- no social problem
- **no more regular assessment**

Is this family emotional situation and its consequences on the 2 daughters lifes a specific migrant clinical case?

## *Some main ideas to organize our talk ...*



- French laws
- French clinical experiences and his consequences
- Migrants and ethnicity
- Transculturality
  - Language
  - Religious
  - Transborder concept

## *Migrants ? Ethnicity and visually impaired person : what do you mean and what am I understanding ...*



*Some main ideas to organize our talk with you about  
european langage ... today*

- French laws = european model

*In France, 2 laws exist for visually impaired and blind children :*

1975 *education ministry -*

*integration law :human and material support*

2005 *solidarity ministry's law -*

*« rights and chances equality , participation and citizenship for  
handicaped persons », for adults and children*

## Migrants ? Ethnicity and visually impaired person : what do you mean and what am I understanding ...

- French clinical experiences and its consequences

The **ordinary baby** is welcomed after at least 9 months of dream with the project of a good enough child, able to realize a normal life corresponding to the family's expectations and culture.

It's different for the **visually impaired baby** who generally arrives as an « alien » in his own ordinary migrant or no migrant family

## Migrants ? Ethnicity and visually impaired person : what do you mean and what am I understanding ...

### In consequence

All parents are totally desoriented and unhappy. **They think themselves not able to bring up this « alien » child ... a stranger ? :**

- No family transmission,
- No family model to share
- No natural project to think
- No internal reference to lean on
- No common language or vocabulary with professionals : medicine, psychology, technicity, rehabilitation, assessment...
- No natural capacities : to put contrast, to switch on the light, describe room to tell their baby where he is...

## Migrants ? Ethnicity and visually impaired person : what do you mean and what am I understanding ...

- Migrants ? Ethnicity

Ethnic group is a group with a common social cultural heritage,  
like a language, religion or common traditions

definition from « intercultural Littré »

### In consequence

What is the identity of the low vision child as he is already  
looked as « an alien » at home and in the society, as he feels  
himself exiled from the ordinary way of life ?

Don't you think *he is already « a migrant » because of his visual  
difference ?*

## Migrants ? Ethnicity and visually impaired person : what do you mean and what am I understanding ...

- Transculturality :

ALFPHV Paris 2005

The psychologists and professionals – historian, anthropologists,  
searchers... - have worked about this subject of  
« transculturality and visually impairment »

And said « In a society which pushes to uniformisation and to  
efficiency, how to support the visually impaired person in his  
singularity... » Agnès GUIBORA, Psdt ALFPHV

## Migrants ? Ethnicity and visually impaired person : what do you mean and what am I understanding ...



- Transculturality and visually impaired person ...

- Language

For all the families, the understanding of professional language is never obvious

- ✘ Because of the specificities of medical and social vocabulary
    - ✘ Because of the emotional barrier in the psychism of the parents
    - ✘ And in some cases because of the different native language

## Migrants ? Ethnicity and visually impaired person : what do you mean and what am I understanding ...



- Transculturality

- Religious

For all the believing families , religion can be a resource ; it's never an obstacle to

- ✘ A family dynamic
    - ✘ A family solidarity
    - ✘ A confidence relationship with professionals
    - ✘ An personal project for their child
    - ✘ A depressive reaction and or attitude for long...

Don't you think that we are all rich of transculturality and that visually impaired person would be in danger if we try and succeed to rub out his singularity ?

## Migrants ? Ethnicity and visually impaired person : what do you mean and what am I understanding ...

### Visually impaired child identity ?

- « Transborder » concept

The visually impaired child could have

« a border identity » with 2 sides : 1 outside + 1 inside of the society,

So he would never be in a rigid position, always balancing from one side to the other, no barrier...

#### In the european community

- the real border are not geographic neither visible but social, family, cultural, sexual, political...
- the human exchanges and ideas capacities are enlarged; but if it proposes an artificial curative model, it risks to build human being who would be a foreigner for himself : **alien ?**

## Conclusion

- *Some main questions about migrant groups ?*

*to organize our talk with you...*

*... today*

- ✓ What about Gamze and Gözde ?
- ✓ What is the identity of the low vision child as he is already looked as « an alien » at home and in the society, as he feels himself exiled from the ordinary way of life ?
- ✓ Don't you think *he is already « a migrant » because of his visual difference ?*
- ✓ Don't you think that we are all rich of transculturality and that visually impaired person would be in danger if we try and succeed to rub out his singularity through an universal model ?

