Abstract
The Health Service is today having financial problems, which has resulted in massive cut-downs in the care of weak and ill patients. The elderly in the Swedish society is rapidly growing and this group is among the exposed patients. Hearing loss is part of ageing, which at certain occasions will affect the communication at different degrees. A variation of hearing devices can be fitted at the Audiology Department, and it can in most cases provide good amplification of sound and speech. Elderly often need help with the hearing device by the employees. This requires basic knowledge about hearing loss, its problems and technical hearing devices. However, experiences among audiologists show that employees lack thorough knowledge in this area.

The present study intend to delineate the knowledge about hearing and hearing devices among employees at some nursing homes in Stockholm as a first step to improve the conditions for the hearing impaired elderly living there. An inquiry was used at five nursing homes: 140 delivered, 65 answered. The result was presented in words, tables and figures and was conducted as follows. The knowledge was low and the respondents expressed a certain wish of education. The respondents previous education had not focused on the problems concerning hearing and the communicative barriers it create. Further, knowledge about hearing devices was also low. Despite this, the employees were very aware of the great importance hearing has in communication and showed a relatively high interest in hearing education.