THE ROLE OF HEALTH CARE WORKERS IN ADDRESSING STIGMA

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<th>Disclosure of speaker’s interests</th>
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What is stigma?

Wikipedia: the disapproval of a person based on physical or behavioral characteristics that distinguish them from others

Disapproval

Distinguish
Exercise
Self-stigma and shame

- Inside all of us
- A big influence on our lives
- Important to recognise
A patient story
STANDARD RECIPE FOR CREATING STIGMA

stigmatize
mark differences as "not normal"

- new labels
- medicalize
- pathologize
STIGMA

- mark differences as "not normal"

- attach meanings to differences

- Re-frame as unnatural, dangerous, unpredictable, untrustworthy
- Link to other disparaged
- recast as "victims" - without agency
- Locate responsibility for difference
mark differences as "not normal"

attach meanings to differences

create distance

- Dehumanize
- Separate 'marked' and 'unmarked'
- Infantilize
mark differences as "not normal"

attach meanings to differences

create distance

justify

• rationalize, legitimate,
• Blame
• Render unworthy of consideration, investment, engagement
mark differences as "not normal"

attach meanings to differences

create distance

justify

Violate rights, harm
At its core, stigmatization is all about:

1. Keeping people *out*
2. Keeping people *down*
3. Keeping people *away*
Ruth’s story
STIGMA

Link to danger + Link to illness + Link to bad behaviors + Blame for disease = TB STIGMA
Exercise
TB Patient pathway
Stigma reduces or improves health seeking behavior

Stigma lowers MD’s index of suspicion for some groups

Fear of Stigmatization reduces use of masks/ separation infection control contributing to transmission?

Stigma reduces or improves health seeking behavior

Stigma undermines the patient provider partnership

Stigma undermines full recovery and sense of self, affects contact tracing

Stigma causes stress which contributes to breakdown to disease?

Stigma leads to aggressive screening in some groups and no screening in other at-risk communities

Stigma obstructs accurate recording and reporting – impact disease and mortality estimates
Impact of TB stigma upon:

1. Public support for pro-TB Public policies
2. Health seeking for TB symptoms
3. Quality and quantity of TB services (access)
4. Treatment adherence
5. Recovery and sequelae
Stigma reduction

- Patients
- Health care workers
- General public
Tools to bring it up for discussion

- TB Photo Voices

**The Photovoices process**

1. Training workshop team of coaches and facilitators
2. Six group PV sessions with patients
3. Launch Exhibition for Advocacy
4. Long term use products in HCs, NGOs, public spaces
“The world through the cracks of life. When I had TB, it felt my heart was broken and my life had stopped.
“Like this puppy, I hid from people when I got TB”
Tools to bring it up for discussion
Tools to bring it up for discussion
WHAT IS STIGMA

Stigma is defined as the relationship between an attribute, such as being HIV-positive, and a negative stereotype. The stereotype assigns undesirable labels, qualities, and behaviors to a person, such as being unclean or an outcast. Individuals that are labeled like this are discredited in the society which leads to inequality and discrimination. “Stop the Stigma”
What is the effectiveness of the interventions?

For more information:
Acknowledgements

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- Many thanks for patients who shared their stories
Thank you for your attention!

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A world free of TB!