

**STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION TOWARDS PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS IN SRINAGAR
JAMMU AND KASHMIR**

ABSTRACT

Since 1981 AIDS is an alarming issue of public health. 40.1 million people died because of AIDS globally. This silent killer kills people not only physically but also psychologically, emotionally, and socially too. The present study was to investigate the effect of stigma and discrimination among people living with HIV/AIDS. HIV stigma and discrimination are major projects facing humans residing with HIV (PLHIV) globally. This study assessed the stigmatization and discrimination experienced by people living with HIV (PLWHIV) within families, and communities, and highlights issues of HIV stigma as a social process in Srinagar (J&K). A total of 95 participants (43.6%) males, and (56.8%) females were interviewed about stigma and discrimination towards them. The findings showed that participants experienced stigma and discrimination across settings, including in families and neighborhoods, communities, and workplaces. The poor and middle economic classes and unemployed patients reported more stigmatization and discrimination from the community. Stigma is a fundamental determinant of health that directly affects patient quality of life.

Keywords: HIV stigma, discrimination, social process, Srinagar Kashmir.