

Sharing Personal Medical Stories: A Deep Dive into the Impacts of Stigma on Experiences and Advocacy

Stigma Refers to the negative attitudes, beliefs, or discriminatory behaviors directed toward individuals or groups based on characteristics such as health conditions, race, gender, or other identities.

In the context of chronic illnesses, stigma can manifest as prejudice, social exclusion, or judgment when individuals share their medical stories, leading to discrimination and other adverse consequences.

1.

Background and Problem Statement Behind Investigation

ICAN Kids is an international organization focused on pediatrics and especially on empowering younger youth to have courage and strength to voice their opinions to better help the community. However, the question arises, to what extent does this organization empower the youth? This study aims to fulfill answering this current gap in research by conducting a survey-based study to understand how big of an impact this organization has on the current youth populations voice.

Research Questions

How have group stigmas surrounding medical conditions and chronic illnesses impacted the willingness of those who are impaired to share their stories?

What is the current stage of advocacy and movement for integration by the impacted communities in raising their voices and concerns to the public?

Where can ICAN kids help raise these communities voices and where has this organization been doing so currently?

- Limitations**
- LIMITED SAMPLE SIZE OF 56 PARTICIPANTS
 - DEMOGRAPHIC IMBALANCE FAVORING OHIO RESPONDENTS
 - GENERALIZABILITY AFFECTED
 - PARTICIPANT CONSENT MAY INTRODUCE BIAS
 - RELIANCE ON SELF-REPORTED DATA COULD LEAD TO INACCURACIES
 - FOCUS ON STIGMA AND MEDICAL CONDITIONS MAY OVERLOOK OTHER FACTORS
 - SOME CATEGORIES HAD NO RESPONSES, LIMITING INSIGHTS
 - CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY DESIGN PREVENTS ESTABLISHING CAUSALITY