**“The things society does hurts us more than the virus” – a narrative inquiry of stigma among patients with COVID 19 in Chennai, India.**

**Qualitative Data Analysis – Coding Tree**

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| **Open Codes** | **Axial Codes** | **Themes** |
| stigma is unacceptable | Characteristics of stigma | Characteristics of stigma |
| loss of trust in humanity |
| Violation of rights |
| social stigma worse than the disease itself |
| concern for welfare of others |
| Justification of stigma |
| normalization of stigma |
| solidarity reduces stigma | Solidarity | Factors Mitigating Stigma |
| Sense of community - builds solidarity |
| public health support helped against stigma | Public Health Action |
| Child upbringing - teach that stigma is bad | Information & Communication Technology |
| technology helpful as a coping mechanism |
| Need to move to faraway place to escape from stigma | Awareness and Self Isolation |
| Change of surroundings provides relief against stigma |
| Being alone removes worry about family and friends |
| Not being socially active is helpful |
| Acceptance of risk |
| Familiarity with disease reduces stigma |
| mentally prepared for isolation |
| Familiarity with disease reduces stigma |
| When many people in community have disease, stigma is less |
| No stigma within family if more than one affected |
| Protecting confidentiality will mitigate stigma | Confidentiality |
| Reassurance by efficiency of the public health system | Efficiency of health system |
| Fear of transmission to family members | Fear of disease | Factors aggravating stigma |
| Fear of death |
| Fear of disease |
| Irrational fear of transmission of disease |
| fear of spreading infection |
| Lack of awareness causes stigma | Lack of awareness |
| lack of information |
| lack of awareness created fear |
| Rude behaviour of public health personnel | Rude behaviour of health care providers |
| Inappropriate involvement of police | Inappropriate involvement of police force |
| involvement of police criminalizes illness |
| Public health measures increase stigma | Mandatory public health measures |
| Forceful admission in hospital against will |
| exclusion from public spaces | Social Exclusion | Manifestation of stigma |
| Restriction of movements |
| Avoidance by neighbours |
| exclusion from neighbourhood |
| Exclusion from essential services |
| Exclusion from work place |
| Exclusion from own home |
| struggle for simple logistics due to stigma |
| physical violence due to stigma | Physical Violence |
| Loss of livelihood due to stigma | Loss of Livelihood |
| Avoidance by family | Loss of Support |
| Loss of neighbourly support |
| Hurtful communication | Hurtful communication |
| avoidance by HCP | Stigma by health care providers |
| stigmatization by HCP |
| Insensitive behaviour of HCP | Insensitive and rude health care providers |
| Exaggerated inappropriate response by HCP |
| socially insensitive HCP |
| uncertainty | Psycho-social consequences of stigma | Psychosocial consequence of stigma |
| Anger |
| loneliness |
| Lonely feeling due to stigma |
| Lack of support due to stigma |
| Humiliation |
| anxiety due to anticipation of stigma |
| Sense of abandoning family |
| Helplessness |
| Anxiety |
| Anxiety about being alone in the isolation ward |
| Emotional distress of stigma |