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Assessing the Effect of Affiliate Stigma on People with Conditions Considered to Be Stigmatizing: A Scoping Review Protocol

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ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Support - Biomedical Research Unit (BRC).

Review Stage at time of this submission - Formal screening of search results against eligibility criteria.

Conflicts of interest - None declared.

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Amendments - This protocol was registered with the International Platform of Registered Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Protocols (INPLASY) on 14 September 2023 and was last updated on 14 September 2023.

INTRODUCTION

Review question / Objective This scoping review aims to identify literature that assesses the effect of affiliate stigma on people with conditions considered to be stigmatizing.

Background Stigma is conceptualized as the process of discrediting, devaluing, and shaming a person because of specific characteristics or attributes that they possess. As a result, the stigmatized individual may be subject to adverse negative reactions because of these preconceived notions. Stigma can be an important factor in determining one's health and well-being. It can influence morbidity, mortality, and health disparities. Stigma is commonly known as a "second" or "hidden" disorder due to its added burden of disease, which can lead to impaired psychosocial functioning, social withdrawal, and isolation from society. Stigmatized individuals may experience stress, fear, and reluctance. Stigma

impacts not only individuals who have the stigmatizing condition but also those who have close associations with them, such as family members or primary caregivers. This type of stigma is referred to as 'courtesy' or 'associative' stigma. It is reported in the literature that if caregivers or families accept or endorse courtesy or associative stigma, it could affect both the caregiver and the individual under their care (i.e., the stigmatized individual). This internalization and belief in criticism from others is known as affiliate or self-stigma. There they majorly propose that mitigating affiliate stigma can enhance help-seeking behaviours in both the caregiver and the stigmatized individual through stigma reduction fostering open communication, and offering support. There are several systematic reviews and scoping reviews that indirectly assess the effect of affiliate stigma on individuals with a stigmatizing condition, i.e., they focus on the impact of affiliate stigma on the affiliate and secondarily discuss the potential impacts of affiliate stigma on the individual with the stigmatizing condition.

Rationale We are conducting the current scoping review to address the gap in the literature regarding the direct impact of affiliate stigma on the individual with the stigmatizing condition. This is important because understanding affiliate stigma at a holistic level will help us design more successful and practical interventions.

Although there have been recent reviews on this topic, their aim and focus are different from this review. There is a scarcity of literature to understand how the impact of affiliate stigma has been measured across literature and health and disease, how affiliate stigma affects the affiliate's behaviors, and, more crucially, how this impacts the person with the stigmatizing condition. The scoping review will pave the way for more research and practical implications on this critical subject.

METHODS

Strategy of data synthesis Quantitative data synthesis.

Eligibility criteria The Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI) guidelines are followed in defining the scope of the review. This review will include studies that have investigated the effect of affiliate stigma on the stigmatized individual. We want to understand whether affiliate stigma caused the affiliate to behave in a particular way that could impact the stigmatized individual (e.g. socially withdrawing the child), subsequently, we want to explore whether this affected the stigmatized individual or not (e.g. depression, behavioral problems, etc.).

1- Population: General population without age limit.

2-Concept: Effect of affiliate stigma on the stigmatized individual

3- Context: Theses, Conference papers, peer-reviewed papers, book chapters, and preprints.

Source of evidence screening and selection

Relevant studies will be identified through a systematic literature search in the following electronic databases: PubMed, Scopus, Web of Science, and Psych INFO. No restriction on the publication date is imposed.

Four of the authors will independently review the title and abstract to check against the inclusion and exclusion criteria, and any disagreements will be resolved by discussion or consulting a fifth author. Relevant studies will be divided in such a way that each one is reviewed in full by two authors. This method aims to ensure a thorough and consistent review process. A PRISMA flow diagram will be used to illustrate the selection process.

Data management Articles will be imported into reference manager software for managing and finding duplicate records. Articles will be exported to spreadsheet software using the reference manager software and checked manually for duplication by the authors.

Language restriction Only research published in English will be considered.

Country(ies) involved UK (University of Manchester).

Keywords (((affiliat* OR courtesy*)) AND stigma)).

Dissemination plans The results will be published in a peer-reviewed journal and presented at conferences.

Contributions of each author

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