

Stigma among those infected with the coronavirus

وصمة المرض لدى المصابين بفيروس كورونا

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Abstract

During the outbreak of the Corona pandemic, there was an increased stimulus to the level of social stigma and discrimination against people infected with the virus. Infected persons were suffering from many psychological and physical symptoms as a result of society's reactions towards them.

This work tried to analyze the semi-directed interviews in order to identify the main dimensions of stigmatization among individuals infected with the Corona virus.

The study cases were chosen intentionally. The results of the interview analysis focused on the following three main dimensions:

- 1- Psychological symptoms that appear on people infected with the Corona virus because the stigmatization of the virus.
- 2- The physical symptoms that appear on those infected with the Corona virus because of the disease stigmatization.
- 3- Society's reactions towards people infected with the Corona virus because of the disease stigmatization.

Keywords : Corona, Stigma, Psychological symptoms, Physical symptoms, Community reactions.

ملخص

عند تفشي جائحة كورونا حدث تحفيز متزايد لمستوى الوصم الاجتماعي والسلوكيات التمييزية ضد الأشخاص المصابين بفيروس كوفيد-19، ما أدى إلى معاناتهم من العديد من الاعراض النفسية والجسدية جراء ردود فعل المجتمع اتجاههم. ولقد حاولنا في هذا العمل بالاعتماد على دراسة حالات تحليل مضمون مقابلات نصف موجهة للوقوف على الأبعاد الأساسية للوصم لدى الافراد المصابين بفيروس كورونا، تم اختيارهم بصورة قصدية.

ولقد تمحورت نتائج تحليل المقابلات على ثلاثة أبعاد أساسية:

- 1- الأعراض النفسية التي تظهر على المصابين بفيروس كورونا والنتيجة عن الوصم بالمرض.
- 2- الأعراض الجسدية التي تظهر على المصابين بفيروس كورونا والنتيجة عن الوصم بالمرض.
- 3- ردود فعل المجتمع اتجاه المصابين بفيروس كورونا والنتيجة عن الوصم بالمرض.

الكلمات المفتاحية: كورونا، الوصم، الاعراض النفسية، الاعراض الجسدية، ردود فعل المجتمع.

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1. INTRODUCTION/PROBLEMATIC

Nowadays, Corona pandemic is considered one of the global pandemics, like the rest of the world, Algeria has suffered from its effects in various aspects of life. This pandemic has significantly changed the lives of individuals and has increased their suffering due to the high number of victims. High number of deaths and hundreds of infections were counted daily in Algeria, this has created a traumatic situation whether from the infection or the death of a beloved one, therefore, fear, anxiety and a sense of threat have spread. The situation has also necessitated the implementation of confinement at the community and family level. This has resulted in creating social distancing, isolation, irrational consumption, raising prices, unemployment as well as the suffering of many families without income.

Epidemics and infectious diseases usually raise social stigma, especially when they are associated with a state of uncertainty and lack of control, as in the case of the COVID-19 pandemic. The rapid spread of misinformation and a lack of proper understanding of the transmission patterns of the virus raised many fears and public anxiety during the pandemic.

The stigma of the COVID-19 virus targeted people who have been infected by the disease. Almost Algerian families were infected with it and experienced many relational, living and treatment challenges especially that these challenges coexist with another epidemic which is the stigma, stigma outweighs the negative effects of the biological dimensions of the disease itself. According to the UNICEF, stigma refers to the categorizations that are attached to a person or group of people. Thus, they are negatively distinguished and isolated from others. In an outbreak, this may mean that people are categorized and differentiated (UNICEF, 2020, Quick guide to avoiding coronavirus-related stigma Here's how you can talk about coronavirus without contributing to stigmatization: at: <https://www.unicef.org/wca/guide-against-coronavirus-stigma>).

Negative-dimensional stigma is associated to COVID-19 patients including elderly, adolescents and even children, the stigma of COVID-19 against those infected with the virus is associated with dangerous behaviours practiced against them due to the fear of being source of infection. The denial is prevalent from excluding them from community communication, verbal abuse and devaluation in addition to avoidance and

rejection behaviours that would expand to even psychological and physical violence.

Through this work, we will try to answer the following main question: What are the main dimensions of stigma practiced against individuals infected with the Corona virus?

From this main question, the following sub-questions have extracted:

- What are the psychological symptoms of people infected with the Corona virus because of the disease stigma?
- What are the physical symptoms that appear on people infected with the Corona virus because of the disease stigma?
- What are the society's reactions towards those infected with the Corona virus because of the disease stigma?

2- THE STUDY OBJECTIVES

- Recognize the basic dimensions of stigma practiced against people infected with the Corona virus.
- Recognize the psychological symptoms that appear on people infected with the Corona virus because of the disease stigma.
- Recognize the physical symptoms that appear on people infected with the Corona virus because of the disease stigma.
- Identify the society's reactions towards those infected with the Corona virus because of the disease stigma.

3- THE STUDY CONCEPTS

3-1- Stigma: Linguistically, a stigma means the presence of a sign that offends the one who bears it. In the American dictionary, it is the synonym of smudge (Boumediene, 2001, p 212). It is also defined as everything that is practiced including responses, actions or names given whether intentionally or unintentionally. Those practices express disapproval and contempt, sometimes exaggerated pity. Thus, the patient feel inferior, bears a negative characteristic that distinguishes him from others, affects himself and limits his social interaction, makes him feel ostracized and isolated (Talhi, 2006, p126). For Goffman, stigma includes negative concepts that are rooted in the stigmatized individuals based on the social meanings of the mark. The mark and the associated stereotypes lead members of the society to treat the stigmatized person with less than a human being (Goffman,

1963, p3). As for the World Health Organization, it is considered a sign of shame, disgrace, or rejection that is attached to individuals. It may result in the isolation of the individual that causes prejudice, discrimination and harassment (WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE, The European Mental Health Action Plan, Çeşme Izmir, Turkey, 16–19 September 2013). Accordingly, stigma is all negative and racist behaviours towards individuals infected with the Corona virus, it is also the resulting feelings of shame and low self-esteem as a result of associating them with physical, mental, psychological or social qualities that make them feel excluded from society.

3-2- Corona virus: This newly created virus belongs to a new strain of corona virus, the virus is dangerous because it infects the human respiratory system, with no definitive treatment known yet. (Guideline for the prevention of corona virus disease Covid-19 for outreach workers in the community, on the website: <https://www.unicef.org/yemen/media/4221/file.pdf>). Pandemic public health groups monitor and post updated information online. Among those groups we mention the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO), those organizations have issued recommendations about disease prevention and treatment. (2019 nCoV, at :<https://www.mayoclinic.org/ar/diseasesconditions/coronavirus/symptoms-causes/syc-20479963>).

Covid-19 is known as the severe acute respiratory syndrome corona (SARS-COV-2) which causes a disease in the respiratory system that leads to severe infections in the lungs. Its symptoms are associated with symptoms similar to those of the common cold, symptoms of Covid-19 may include loss of taste or smell, in advanced cases, the patient may have great difficulty breathing and may directly lead to death in people who already suffer from chronic diseases, it is transmitted through direct contact with an infected person.

3-3- Symptoms: The symptoms are defined: «as a clear sign of the presence of some disease, phenomena or complications, it is the way in which the disease or health complications are manifested despite the presence of internal symptoms that cannot be observed with the naked eye». (Article entitled: facts-news.org, Browsing date: November 2021, at: <https://ar.facts-news.org/taaryf-alaaarad>). Concerning the psychological symptom, Freud discovered from his clinic of hysteria and obsessive

neurosis that the symptoms speak (le symptôme parle), which is meaningful. Freud added that the symptom tells the «truth» to the patient. (Breuer J. et Freud S, 1981, p 47)

Hence, the symptom is the automatic expression evoked by the patient, it often expresses the observed aspect of the disorder or disease as it attempts to end the internal suffering of the soul or body.

3-4-Society: «A society is a group of individuals with special characteristics that distinguish them from other groups that live on an area of land for a period not less than the average chronological age of its members. Also, its members are linked by a set of ties that give them the sense of belonging to this group and constitute the components of their culture» (Mohsin Ali Attia 2010, p164). «Among the constituents of society, we list geographical borders, population, social relations, sense of loyalty and belonging to society, social interaction, and social status» (Rashwan, 2010, p19-22).

We know that man is social by nature, therefore, society is a social fabric of intertwined human-made relationships, it consists of a set of laws that define acceptable and unacceptable standards and behaviours of the members of this society.

4- FIELD STUDY

4-1- Study cases Description: Due to the difficulty of enumerating the vocabulary of the research community, we relied on a case study by resorting to the intentional method through dealing with cases that were infected with the Corona virus, the study cases are presented in the following table:

Table 1. shows the characteristics of the study cases

Number	Age	Gendre	Profession	Experience	Period of infection (period of severe symptoms)
N 01:	41	Male	Computer science engineer	12 years	11 days
N 02:	37	Female	University teacher	10 years	One month
N 03:	33	Male	Cooker	4 years	18 days
N 04:	46	Male	Army retired	Retired	A Month

N 05:	29	Female	Housewife	00	Two months of pregnancy period
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Source: the researcher, from study interviews.

4-2- Study progress: The semi-directed interviews were conducted with the five individuals in five sessions in the month of July 2021 with the interview pre-scheduling. The sufficient time to conduct the interview was allocated, it did not exceed 45 minutes in total with adhering the conditions and precautionary measures against Corona virus. It is worth noting that the five cases had a previous infection with the Corona virus, we have already informed the cases about the nature and purpose of the research, then, we asked the specific questions in the interview protocol through the scientific positions that we tried to adopt in order to attract the case study to the research aspects. We took into consideration the gradual formation of the relationship with them. We tried to write what the case says literally without neglecting any expression.

4-3- Study tools: The data collection process was carried out by semi-guided interviews which took from 30 to 45 minutes, as English defines it: «The interview is a purposeful conversation that one person carries out with another person or people, with the aim of eliciting certain types of information, exploiting them in scientific research, using them for guidance, diagnosis and treatment» (Omar, 2009, p 93). The half-directed interview should not be very soft, that is exposed to what the special situation suggests, the interviewer should be given the freedom to answer according to what he sees appropriate, the topics of discussion should be prepared in advance (Angers, 2006, p197). We have applied this type of interview because it is the most appropriate to the topic, we asked a set of questions that were prepared in advance and were standardized for all interviews conducted with the study cases, they were formulated as follows:

***The first question:** What are the psychological symptoms that you have experienced due to your exposure to racism as a result of your infection with the Corona virus?

***The second question:** What are the physical symptoms that you have experienced because of your exposure to racism as a result of your infection with the Corona virus?

***The third question:** What were the reactions of people towards you because of your infection with the virus?

The «content analysis» method was adopted as a method for processing and analyzing data, it is defined by Osgood as: « Content analysis does not contain the instrumental aspect only, its main point is not in the countable and measurable elements but the ideas and intentions that it comprises at the level of the second analysis that is presented by Osgood as the representative aspect» (Ben Morslli, 2005, p257). Birelson sees that content analysis is: «One of the research methods that are used to describe the apparent or explicit content objectively, systematically, and quantitatively. He also defined it as the research method that aims at analyzing the apparent content or the explicit content of the communication material and describes it objectively, systematically and quantitatively in numbers» (Abu Allam, 2006, p441). What was written in the interviews expresses the apparent elements of the content from which we try to reach the expressed meanings through: qualitative analysis, which is not based on the language of numbers in explaining the contents, however, it is based on the characteristics of things that distinguish them from each other, in addition to the quantitative analysis which is based on the interpretation of data quantitatively by calculating the degree of its frequency in its various forms (word, sentence, category ...). This technique has basic steps, by dividing the text into parts known as units. Those units were used to measure the frequency of the studied subject, then, these units were arranged into specific categories according to the research objectives. (Mucchielli, R, 1982, p11-17)

In order to analyze the results, the content of the interviews was divided into meaningful units in a form of categories, those categories were classified within three dimensions related to the responses of individuals infected with the virus, they were expressed as follows:

The first dimension: the psychological symptoms that appear on people infected with the Corona virus because of the disease stigma.

The second dimension: the physical symptoms that appear on those infected with the Corona virus because of the disease stigma.

The third dimension: society's reactions towards those infected with the Corona virus, because of the disease stigma.

For the law of calculating percentages:

For categories: $\% = k * 100 / K$

k: is the frequency of the category.

K: is the frequency of the dimension categories.

T: the sum of the frequencies of all the categories.

5- PRESENTATION OF THE STUDY RESULTS

5-1- Results of the analysis of the first interview: where T = 31.

Table 2. shows the technical stages of analyzing the content of the first interview

Dimentions	Categories	K	Dimention %
Psychological symptoms that appear on people infected with the Corona virus because of the disease stigma.	Feeling of low self-esteem.	05	47.82 %
	Sadness and lack of desire to establish relationships with others.	03	
	Excessive thinking	03	
	Total k	11	
The physical symptoms that appear on people infected with the Corona virus because of the disease stigma.	Feeling of pressure and tension.	03	30.43
	Feeling of suffocation and chest tightness.	02	
	Stomach and intestinal pain.	02	
	feeling tired.	04	
	Loss of appetite.	03	
	Total k	14	
Society's reactions towards people infected with the Corona virus because of the disease stigma.	The fragility of the relationship with others, especially with relatives.	01	26.08
	Avoidance.	01	
	Lack of support and assistance.	02	
	Hearing some offensive words.	02	
	Total k	06	

Source: the researcher, from study interviews.

Through the analysis of the first interview, (31) categories were extracted, they were grouped according to the meaning they suggested into three basic dimensions, the first dimension appeared with a percentage of (47.82%), in the aspect of the psychological effects that appear on the

infected by the virus and caused by the stigma, the case study has mentioned some points. In the first and second categories, some points were confirmed including low self esteem, sadness and lack of desire to establish relations with others. Then, it confirms that in the third category in which it refers to the excessive thinking about infection with the virus and exhaustion of thinking. The second dimension which is related to the physical symptoms that appear on those infected with the Corona virus because of the disease stigmatization appeared at a rate of (30.43%). The case focused on the feeling of stress and tension, the feeling of suffocation and chest tightness, stomach and intestine pain, fatigue, loss of appetite. This is with a frequency of (03) for the first category, (02) for the second category, (02) for the third category, (04) for the fourth category, and (03) for the last category. This indicates that the case suffers from a number of psycho-physical symptoms. The last dimension which is related to the perception of the situation about the society's reactions towards those infected with the Corona virus because of the disease stigmatization appears to have (26.08%), it was highlighted that most members of society, including relatives in particular, avoided it. It does not receive support and assistance as well as hearing some offensive words.

5-2- The results of the second interview analysis: where T = 42.

Table 3. shows the technical stages of analyzing the content of the second interview

Dimention	Categories	K	Dimention %
Psychological symptoms that appear on people infected with the Corona virus due to disease stigmatization.	Feeling afraid of the other`s look.	03	33.33
	Lack of self-control because of mockery.	03	
	anger	01	
	Sadness and isolation.	02	
	Feeling of contempt for myself.	03	
	Nightmares and scary dreams.	02	
	Total k	14	
The physical symptoms that appear on people infected with the Corona virus due to disease	high fever	01	28.57
	Irritable Bowel Syndrome and stomach.	04	
	Feeling of pressure on the left side of the body.	02	

stigmatization.	Trembling and inability to control my hands.	05	
	Total k	12	
Society's reactions towards people infected with the Corona virus due to the disease stigmatization.	Get away of me.	02	38.09
	Loss of confidence when I tell them that I am recovered of the disease.	03	
	Indifference and careless to my feelings.	03	
	Avoiding me and run away when they see me.	04	
	Depriving me of family events.	04	
	Total k	16	

Source: the researcher, from study interviews.

By analyzing the content of the second interview, (42) categories were grouped according to the three previous dimensions. The first dimension appeared at a rate of (33.33%) through six (06) categories. The case has dealt with describing a number of psychological symptoms resulting from stigmatization which are post-traumatic symptoms (psycho-traumatic) mainly: a sense of fear from the view of others, lack of self-control, anger, isolation, a sense of self-contempt, nightmares, and scary dreams. The second dimension of the physical symptoms that appear on people infected with the Corona virus and resulting from the stigma of the disease appeared at a rate of (28.57%). Four (04) categories have emerged: high fever, irritable bowel syndrome and stomach pain, feeling of pressure on the left side of the body, trembling and inability to control my hand which indicates a relation to the first dimension.

By observing the categories of the third dimension which is related to society's reactions towards those infected with the Corona virus resulting from the stigmatization of the disease, the two categories "Avoidance and running away when they see me" and "Depriving me of family events" took the lead by a frequency of (04) indicating their importance to the case, then, the other categories: "staying away from me, losing confidence when I tell them that I have recovered from the disease, indifference and careless to my feelings" are related to the previous categories, this dimension appeared at a rate of (38.09%).

3-5- The results of the third interview analysis: where T = 19**Table 4. shows the technical stages of analyzing the content of the third interview**

Dimentions	Categories	K	Dimention %
Psychological symptoms that appear on people infected with the Corona virus due to the disease stigmatization	low mood.	02	33.33
	Feeling of stress and anxiety.	02	
	Lack of self control.	03	
	Total k	07	
The physical symptoms that appear on people infected with the Corona virus due to disease stigmatization	High diabetes because I have it despite my young age.	01	36.84
	Shivering when they offend me.	03	
	Feeling tired and exhausted.	03	
	Total k	07	
Society's reactions towards people infected with the Corona virus due to the disease stigmatization.	Mockery of all patients, especially when they are young.	02	26.31
	Some words that detract your personal value.	03	
	Total k	05	

Source: the researcher, from study interviews.

By analyzing the third interview, (19) categories were obtained, they were grouped according to the three main dimensions. The first dimension is related to the psychological symptoms that appear on people infected with the Corona virus and resulting from the stigmatization of the disease, it has appeared with a percentage of (36.84%), the case was totally different of the other cases because it was not talkative, but it expressed the most important psychological symptoms through three interrelated categories which are: "low mood, sense of tension and anxiety, lack of self-control". In the second dimension which is related to the physical symptoms that appear on people infected with the Corona virus and resulting from the stigmatization of the disease has appeared at rate of (36.84 %) in three related categories. The case expressed these symptoms by saying: "I feel high in sugar because I have it despite my young age, and shivering, with a feeling of fatigue and tiredness when they misbehave due to my infection with the virus."

The last dimension is related to the perception of the situation about the

society's reactions towards those infected with the Corona virus which resulted from the stigmatization of the disease. It was found that its appearance was (26.31%). In this dimension, it was highlighted that some members of society deliberately of the patients, especially if they were young.

5-4- Results of the analysis of the fourth interview: where T = 29.

Table 5. shows the technical stages of analyzing the content of the fourth interview

Dimentions	Categories	K	Dimention %
Psychological symptoms that appear on people infected with the Corona virus due to the disease stigmatization.	Low self esteem.	03	37.93
	Fear of others and unwillingness to meet them.	03	
	Anxiety .	02	
	Excessive movement when I am alone.	03	
	Total K	11	
The physical symptoms that appear on people infected with the Corona virus due to the disease stigmatization	Sleep disturbance and inability to rest when I sleep.	04	36.84
	Loss of appetite and unwillingness to eat with others.	03	
	Feeling of tension and trembling in all parts of my body.	03	
	Total k	10	
Society's reactions towards people infected with the Corona virus due to the disease stigmatization	People mock of me, especially when I began to recover.	02	26.31
	People avoid me and stay away of me.	03	
	Lack of moral support and avoid the infected.	03	
	Total k	08	

Source: the researcher, from study interviews.

Through the analysis of the fourth interview, (29) categories were grouped under the same previous three dimensions. The first dimension of

the psychological symptoms that appear on people infected with the Corona virus due to the disease stigmatization, appeared with (37.93%), here, we note that the case clearly stated that it suffers from low self-esteem, fear of others and unwillingness to meet them, anxiety, as well as excessive movement when it is alone. The second dimension appeared at a rate of (34.48%), it included three categories with a frequency of (10) times. The case has shown the physical symptoms that appear on those infected with the Corona virus due to the disease stigmatization in terms of feeling disturbed sleep and inability to rest as well as loss of appetite and the unwillingness to eat with others. In addition, it feels stress and trembling in all parts of the body. In an attempt to reveal the society's reactions towards those infected with the Corona virus, the case has provided us with indicators that we have summarized in the third dimension which appeared at a rate of (27.58%) through three interrelated categories. The first was about suffering from mocking, especially after recovering from the disease. The second category was avoiding it and keeping it away by the other people. In the third category, it showed suffering from lack of moral support from others.

5-5- Results of the analysis of the fifth interview: where T = 40

Table 6. shows the technical stages of analyzing the content of the fifth interview

Dimentions	Categories	K	Dimention %
Psychological symptoms that appear on people infected with the Corona virus due to the disease stigmatization	Self-loathing and loss of self-confidence.	04	35
	Lack of focus and lack of self-control with rapid irritability.	03	
	Some fears and frightening perceptions of breaking relations with me.	02	
	Fear of re-infection, especially with poor health conditions.	02	
	Lack of motivation to do anything even to do housework.	02	
	Total K	14	
The physical	inability to sleep.	03	32.5

symptoms that appear on people infected with the Corona virus due to the disease stigmatization	Chest tightness and a feeling of anxiety in the heart.	04	
	Irritable Bowel Syndrome and Heartburn.	02	
	Fatigue and failure.	04	
	Total k	13	
Society's reactions towards people infected with the Corona virus due to disease stigmatization	Spacing and avoidance.	04	32.5
	Insult and contempt.	04	
	Marginalization, lack of moral or material assistance, and lack of compassion.	05	
	Total k	13	

Source: the researcher, from study interviews.

By analyzing the content of the fifth interview, (40) categories were extracted that were treated in the same way. We note from the table that the first dimension of the psychological symptoms that appear on people infected with the Corona virus and resulting from stigmatization of the disease contained the largest number of categories with a total of five (05) interrelated categories. They express self-contempt and loss of self-confidence, lack of focus and lack of self-control with agitation, suffering from fears and frightening perceptions of interrupting relations with me, fear of re-infection, especially with poor health conditions, and lack of motivation to do anything even to do housework, this dimension had a percentage of (35%). The second dimension which is related to the physical symptoms that appear on people infected with the Corona virus and resulting from the stigma of the disease appeared at a percentage of (32.5%), it contained four interrelated categories that revolved around the inability to sleep, chest tightness and anxiety in the heart, suffering from irritable bowel syndrome and stomach pain, in addition to the sense of fatigue and failure. In our search for society's reactions towards people infected with the Corona virus, resulting from stigmatization of the disease, the case gave us indicators that we have summarized in the third dimension. It appeared at a rate of (32.5%) through three interrelated categories. The first was about distance and avoidance. The second category was about

abuse and contempt. The third category showed suffering from marginalization, lack of moral or material assistance, and lack of compassion.

6- ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION:

After the process of analyzing the content of the five interviews, we will try to collect the final results in a general table that includes the various main dimensions and the categories they contain. We will get three general tables according to the dimensions studied in order to analyze and interpret those results, as follows:

Table 7. shows the general results for the first dimension

The sum of the frequencies of the first dimension categories						21	36.84	
						category		
Feeling of low self-esteem.	*	*	*	*	*	04	19.05	
Sadness and lack of desire to establish relationships with others.	*	*				02	09.52	
Excessive thinking.	*					01	04.76	
Feeling of fear and anxiety from the other's view.		*	*	**	*	05	23.81	
Lack of self-control because of their mockery.		*	*		*	03	14.26	
Anger, excessive movement when I am alone.		*		*		02	09.52	
Nightmares and scary dreams.		*				01	04.76	
Low mood, lack of motivation.			*		*	02	09.52	
Fear of re-infection, especially with poor health conditions.					*	01	04.76	
Interviews		1	2	3	4	5	sum	100

Source: the researcher, from study interviews.

Table 8. shows the general results for the second dimension

The sum of the frequencies of the second dimension categories						19	33.33
						category	
Feeling of stress, tension and tightness in the chest.	**	*			*	04	21.05
Stomach and intestinal pain.	*	*			*	03	15.79

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Feeling tired and fatigue.	*		*		*	03	15.79	
Loss of appetite.	*				*	02	10.53	
high fever.			*			01	05.26	
Tremors and inability to control my hands .		*	*	*		03	15.79	
High diabetes because I have it despite my young age.				*		01	05.26	
sleep disturbance.					*	*	02	10.53
Interviews	1	2	3	4	5	sum	100	

Source: the researcher, from study interviews.

Table 9. shows the general results for the third dimension

The sum of the frequencies of the third dimension categories						17	29.82
						category	
The fragility of the relationship with others, especially with relatives.	*					04	05.88
Avoidance and distrust of me.	*	***		*	*	02	35.29
Lack of support and assistance and deprived me of family events.	*	*		*	*	01	23.53
Sarcasm and hearing some offensive words.	*		**	*	*		
ignorance and lack of care to my feelings.		*	*			05	29.41
Interviews	1	2	3	4	5	sum	100

Source: the researcher, from study interviews.

After analyzing the various results of the study, they were collected in three main dimensions: The first dimension: the psychological symptoms that appear on people infected with the Corona virus due to the disease stigmatization. The second dimension: the physical symptoms that appear on those infected with the Corona virus due to the disease stigmatization. The third dimension: society's reactions towards those infected with the Corona virus due to disease stigmatization, these dimensions included the various categories mentioned in the content of the five interviews, which numbered (57) categories. The value of their repetition in all interviews was

calculated and their percentage was calculated according to the previous dimensions. It is known that whenever an agreement is signed about a particular category, the percentage of its appearance rises, and vice versa. We have noticed that the percentages of the three dimensions were very close. The first dimension appeared at a rate of (36.84%). It included (21) categories, the percentage of which differed from one category to another according to the degree of agreement between the study members or the degree of their difference. It is noted that there are two categories among (10) Categories in which agreement occurred between most of the cases. They are the category of “feeling fear and anxiety from the view of others” and the category of “feeling low in one’s self-worth”. It is noticeable that the two categories are related because the feeling of low self-worth is due to the presence of conflict and great internal psychological anxiety. As for the rest of the categories, their frequency ranged between 1,2,3, respectively.

The second dimension appeared at a rate of (33.33%), including (19) categories, almost cases agreed that the most important physical symptoms resulting from stigmatization of infection with the Corona virus is the suffering from many psychosomatic diseases. Three Cases agreed about the suffering from a feeling of pressure, tension and chest tightness, stomach and intestine pain, feeling tired and fatigue, trembling and the inability to control the body (the dislocation) ,the rest of the groups had the weakest frequency and the lowest percentage, equivalent to (01), (02), (05.26%) and (10.53), respectively.

The third dimension has a percentage of (29.82%) and contained (17) categories. Among the categories that have significant proportions and with the agreement of most cases are: the category of “avoidance, keeping me away and not trusting me”, “sarcasm and hearing some offensive words , the lack of support and assistance, deprived me of family events.» As for the rest of the groups they had the weakest recurrence and the lowest percentage as they were repeated once by each patient.

CONCLUSION

The stigma of COVID-19 against those infected with it is linked to a dangerous behavior due to the fear of being a source of infection, those infected with the virus have been subjected to devaluation of social value, in addition to behaviors of avoidance, rejection and even psychological and

physical violence. The negative effects of the stigma do not only affect the infected person, but they also reach the societal level and people around him. Through the content analysis technique, we have tried to monitor stigma indicators by analyzing the ideas, attitudes and experiences of people infected with the Corona virus. After analyzing the content of the obtained results through interviews with cases, we have grouped them in three basic dimensions:

- **The first dimension:** the psychological symptoms that appear on people infected with the Corona virus due to the disease stigmatization.
- **The second dimension:** the physical symptoms that appear on those infected with the Corona virus due to the disease stigmatization.
- **The third dimension:** society's reactions towards those infected with the Corona virus due to disease stigmatization.

The most important results obtained are the following:

1. First: The psychological symptoms that appear on people infected with the Corona virus due to disease stigmatization are as follows: Feeling of low self-esteem, sadness and lack of desire to establish relationships with others, excessive thinking, feeling fear and anxiety from the others view, lack of self-control due to exposure to mockery, anger, nightmares and frightening dreams, low mood, lack of motivation, fear of re-infection, especially with poor health conditions.

2.Second: The physical symptoms that appear on people infected with the Corona virus due to disease stigmatization are as follows: a feeling of pressure, tension and tightness in the chest, stomach and intestine pain, a feeling of fatigue and tiredness, loss of appetite, high fever, trembling and inability to control the body, diabetes and sleep disturbances.

3. Third: Society's reactions towards those infected with the Corona virus due to disease stigmatization are as follows: the fragility of the relationship with others especially with relatives, avoidance and distance, lack of support and assistance and deprivation of family events, sarcasm and hearing some offensive words, finally suffering from indifference.

Finally, a recommendation can be made to conduct awareness-raising campaigns to reduce the phenomenon of stigma among people infected with the virus, especially in light of the continuing outbreak of the Corona pandemic.

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