

## Looking at stigma and SRHR

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### Key messages:

Stigma is the result of a process in which five interrelated components combine to generate stigma (Link B. G. and Phelan J.C., 2006)

- People identifying and labelling human differences (social selection process)
- Process of stereotyping
- Separation: « us » and « them »
- Discrimination and loss of status
- Exercise of power

There is a strong link between stigma and discrimination.

Stigma processes often go unrecognised but may have an enormous impact on people's lives and health (negatively affect access to medical care, source of chronic stress...).

Stigma reflects social and cultural values and differences in health programmes and health staff behaviour.

It is a strong barrier to treatment and treatment adherence, and a potent form of social control.

Stigma is a major cause of violence, discrimination and violation of the right to health.

Stigma can be addressed by the law but laws do not necessarily change social attitudes.