

# Narrative of HIV Stigma in West Sumatra

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# Narrative of HIV Stigma in West Sumatra

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**Abstract.** This research is a qualitative research which is a library research. The data analysis technique used is content analysis method. There are two sources of data in this study, namely primary sources and secondary sources. The data presented is data in the form of words that require processing to be concise and systematic. While the writing tools in this study were a check list for the classification of written materials, writing schemes/maps and written note formats. At first the narrative of stigma in West Sumatra was only a moral and religious issue, then it became a narrative of HIV related to certain groups. The unresolved increase in injecting drug use during the mid-1990s added to the HIV narrative that "HIV is a deadly disease", "HIV has no cure", "PLWHA is just waiting to die". Entering the year 2000, the narrative of HIV stigma began to shift from people to modes of transmission such as "HIV can be transmitted through social contact", "HIV is transmitted in theaters through needles", and "HIV is transmitted through razor blades" . left continuously. Misinformation about HIV and AIDS needs to be justified to prevent discriminatory behavior on PLWHA so as not to worsen the condition of PLWHA. Because often, the cause of death of PLWHA is not the disease they suffer from, but discriminatory behavior that makes them lose the opportunity to get proper treatment and care.

**Keywords:** STIGMA; PLWHA; West Sumatra

## 1 Introduction

Since its inception, HIV and AIDS has been seen not only as a medical condition but also as a stigmatized disease<sup>1,2</sup>. Scambler (2003) states clearly in his writings that HIV and AIDS has been medicalized as a disease and moralized as a stigma, this is because HIV and AIDS uniquely combine "sex, drugs, death, and transmission" making HIV and AIDS a disease that very stigmatizing.

The stigma obtained by PLWHA causes a psychological and social burden on PLWHA<sup>4</sup>. In addition, it can also hinder PLWHA in the treatment and care process<sup>5,6</sup>. This is because PLWHA feel afraid, embarrassed, ignored and get discriminatory behavior and there is no positive support<sup>4,7,8</sup>. On the other hand, stigma can also hinder HIV prevention strategies, for example PLWHA who are stigmatized will tend to be 2.4 times slower to report their condition<sup>9,10</sup>.

Stigma against PLWHA is not only happened to one time only, but keep going occur its every year. This can be seen from the data released by the Community Legal Aid Institute, where along

in 2016-2017 there were 387 cases of stigma and discrimination against PLWHA <sup>11</sup>. Whereas in 2018, there were 103 cases related to stigma and discrimination <sup>12</sup>. In 2019, there were 53 cases of stigma spread throughout regions in Indonesia <sup>12</sup>. Deployment case the like in the picture following:



**Figure 1**Cases of Stigma Against PLWHA in Indonesia

Source : Community Legal Aid Institute (2020)

From the picture the known that stigma against PLWHA occurs almost throughout province in Indonesia, where three province with highest stigma case against PLWHA is province West Java, East Java and West Sumatra. Based on these data researcher choose West Sumatra Province as studies in study this because Becomes province outside Island Java with highest number of stigmas against PLWHA.

In study this , researcher want to follow up on the data and provide description how is the stigma against PLWHA in West Sumatra from time to time . This thing urgent for studied more in because of the stigma as construction social processes shaped by social processes . Each social process this could operate by different in context sociocultural . because that for studying and intervening in HIV stigma in context sociocultural certain , then must develop understanding about social processes like HIV stigma narrative .

Study this is study qualitative that is study literature with study source reliable , good in form written nor in the relevant digital format without plunge live to field . Data analysis techniques used is method analysis contents . **Data presented is data in the form of words that require processing to be concise and systematic** . This post expected give benefits and input , as well as Becomes ingredient consideration for takers decision in skeleton study and determine various policy related handling stigma against PLWHA in the future .

## 2 Discussion

At first the stigma against PLWHA in West Sumatra revolved around the HIV narrative as a moral and religious issues . The stigma in the form of trust about the law of karma is public often

say that somebody will reap results from what have did<sup>13</sup>. Besides that HIV and AIDS often linked with trust that disease is curse from God to a group of people who violate religious teachings<sup>14</sup>. This thing make public look at that a person infected with HIV is caused because his behavior bad that he work on in Century then<sup>15</sup>.

Narrative of the stigma of HIV and AIDS as moral and religious issues have been echoed since the 1980s at the time first case of HIV and AIDS announced<sup>16</sup>. according to Writer narration this appear along with not yet existence explanation scientific related with an invading virus system immune human, plus with not yet existence draft AIDS at that time. That thing make public assume through approaches and explanations with values direct religion connected with moral issues as narration big with destination for could interesting thread Red from existing problem.

when The first HIV case was announced in Indonesia making stigma against PLWHA increases where in the beginning only dwelling on moral and religious issues increases Becomes narration that HIV is linked with group certain that is group profession sex, user drugs inject as well as homosexual. Narrative this aggravated with discourse general Muslims, the Indonesian Ulema Council (MUI) issued a fatwa dividing living Muslims with HIV and AIDS to in different categories, which in the end give birth to category class social new and improve discrimination<sup>17</sup>.

Stigmatized group the because after 1987 to by 1996 the spread of HIV in Indonesia had two pattern that is connection sex risk and use needle inject by alternate<sup>18</sup>. Two pattern this each other relate because Indonesia is experiencing enhancement use drugs inject During the mid-1990s, which sparked increase in HIV through share needle injection and, by no direct, via profession sex.

The spread of HIV through use needle inject by alternate shown to the group user drugs inject. Whereas related stigma narrative with group emerging homosexuals is "homosexual" source disease", "homosexual the people of the Prophet Lut", or "homosexual" disease contagious". according to Writer narration this appear along spreading news at the time that related with Gay and transgender people are one of the group who has risk tall to HIV infection and AIDS. That thing appear because found the first HIV case in Indonesia, namely Dead a gay man who is a Dutch citizen at Sanglah Hospital, Bali, who is recognized Department of health caused by AIDS<sup>19</sup>. Besides that, various results research at the time it shows that from amount homosexual and bisexual in the outreach program, 10.9% of them exposed to the HIV and AIDS virus<sup>18</sup>.

Enhancement use drugs injections that don't could solved with good During mid 1990 's implement on improvement number of people infected with HIV who end up dying at baseline the 2000s. This thing supported by various results estimation showing that total case always increase from time to time. In 1999 it is projected estimated number of Indonesians infected with HIV reached 50,000 people and as many as 12,000 of them will die<sup>20</sup>.

That thing cause narrative of a new stigma in West Sumatran society against PLWHA. The narrative of the stigma namely "HIV disease" turn off", "HIV is not there is the cure", "PLWHA only waiting death". according to Writer appear the narrative of the stigma because Besides increase number the death of PLWHA is also due to access to antiretroviral (ARV) still hard, though In May 1997, the Directorate General of POM sent letter official to The Directorate General of Customs and Excise explained that when customs accept antiretroviral drugs intended for drug AIDS Pokdisus then drug the could issued without must tested try Directorate General of POM until the month of June, ARV drugs are available in Indonesia. However price no affordable for the majority of PLWHA.

Besides that narrative stigma "HIV disease turn off", "HIV is not there is the cure", "PLWHA only waiting death" appear because of the media where in October 1998, RCTI started showing soap operas Butterfly purple. Soap operas 13 episodes this describe various problem medical, social, psychological and myth about HIV and AIDS.

According to writer dramatize problem about HIV is meant as one how to get the audience interested so that information submitted appropriate target precisely can on the contrary. That thing because from a number of scenes shown in soap operas this is clear no describe problem reality (reality) faced by PLWHA. Even Nano Riantarno alone say soap operas this no story real, but also not story fictitious. Theory for scenario soap operas this got it from story told many people to him about PLWHA.

Besides that, according to writer narrative stigma "HIV disease lethal" reinforced with various news in 1999 related with death star Indonesian advertisement, Didi Mirhad, on August 25, 1999. Where is the moment that still many news headlines that highlight Didi Mirhad die due to AIDS. News headlines featuring Didi Mirhad die as a result of AIDS push pattern think public because the media has strength in influence public so that public looking at that what is conveyed by the media is a truth<sup>21</sup>. General public tend accept it without many question about assessment and selection news, highlight news as well as election terms and language used<sup>22</sup>.

News headlines featuring Didi Mirhad die due to AIDS, causing narrative of a new stigma in West Sumatran society where having HIV means suffer from AIDS. Many people consider infected with HIV means suffer from acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) and will quick dead.

Enter In 2000, the HIV stigma narrative began shift toward from people to method transmission such as "HIV can" infectious through contact social, "HIV transmission in cinema past needle injection", and "HIV is contagious through razor blades". Narratives that's enough discredit and stigmatize for PLWHA. After year enter 2000's the narrative of stigma is a the problem always exists and continues repeated every year in West Sumatra. The narrative of the stigma covers the narration at the time early HIV appeared until moment now this.

According to writer the narrative of the HIV stigma keep going among the people of West Sumatra because no everyone has adequate knowledge about HIV. Especially for those who have background behind non-health education and not once exposed with information related to HIV and AIDS. Low knowledge public against HIV AND AIDS is very unfortunate, considering that in this day and age information whatever could obtained only with very touch, including information about HIV and AIDS.

### **3 Conclusions**

Various HIV stigma narrative still many growing in the community, good it's in West Sumatra and other areas. Until moment this, still just there is assumption that HIV and AIDS are a "curse" disease and only picked up by peddlers sex, group homosexuals, and users needle inject. Some people believe that HIV and AIDS can infectious only with touch live with the sufferer. Assume it's wrong and necessary quick allowed for prevent happening discrimination against PLWHA. If not, the stigma can limit right rights for PLWHA for get job, place live, and a decent life.

Besides that if narrative of societal stigma against PLWHA silenced and not solved with quick then this stigma will the more develop keep around society . PLWHA are excluded and rejected everywhere so that impact live in the treatment and care of PLWHA. That thing caused because PLWHA feel afraid , embarrassed , ignored and get behavior discriminatory as well as no there is endorsement positive.

Because that's a stigma on PLWHA of course no can left . Error information about HIV and AIDS need allowed for prevent behavior discriminatory against PLWHA so as not to make it worse PLHA condition . Because often , the cause the death of PLWHA is not his illness , but behavior discriminatory that makes it lost chance for get proper treatment and care.

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