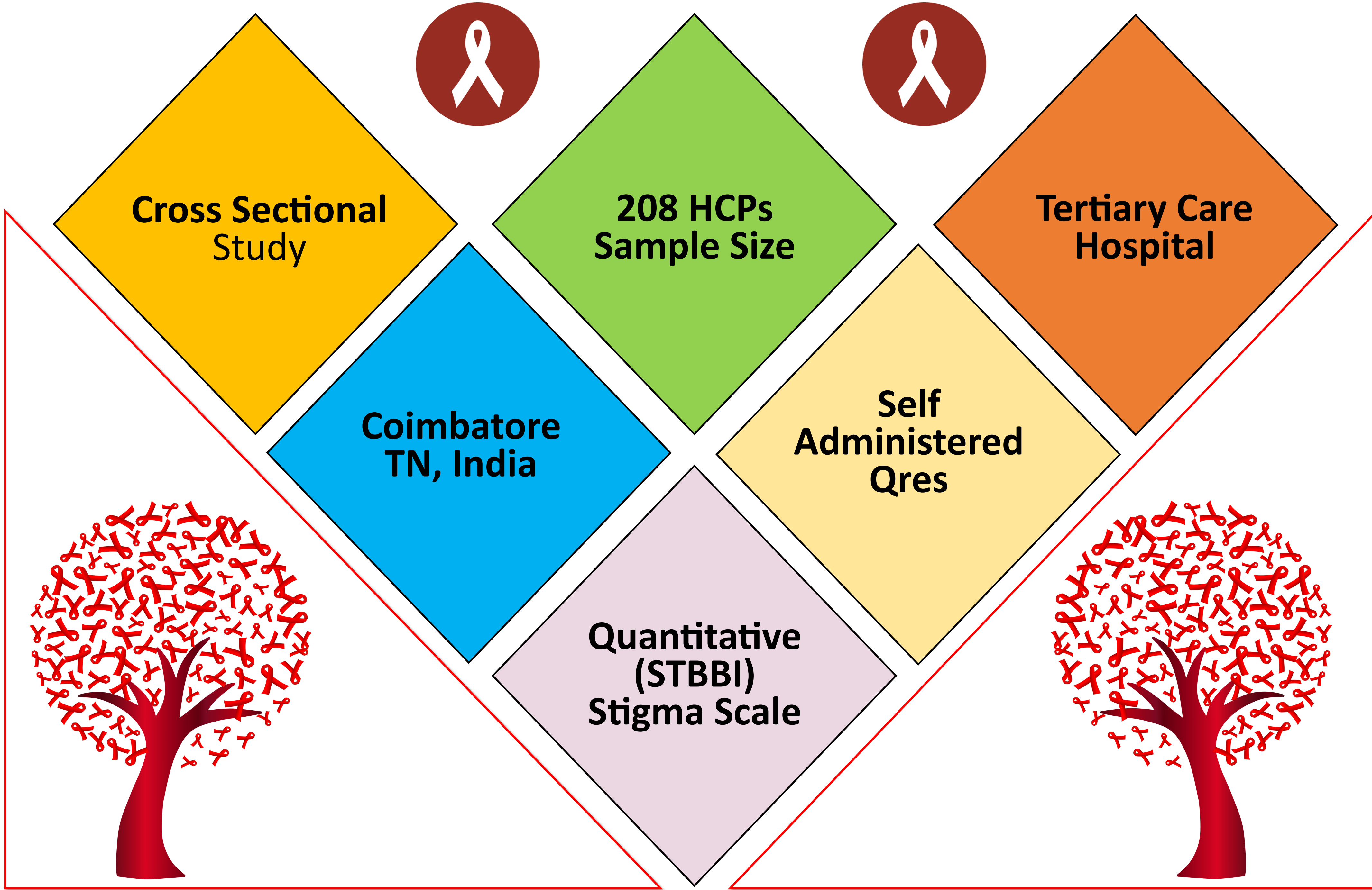


Stigma among Healthcare Providers towards People Living with HIV/AIDS in India

The **Healthcare Providers (HCPs)** are the ones that provide people living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV) with medical care, psychological support & counseling. However, **HIV/AIDS-related stigma and discrimination have been extensively documented amongst them**



Methods: This study is a **cross-sectional study of a convenience sample of 208 healthcare providers** working in a tertiary care hospital in Coimbatore city in the state of Tamil Nadu, India. The data concerning the HCPs' attitudes and acts towards PLHIV were collected using a self-administered questionnaire, and their stigma was quantitatively assessed with the help of the **Sexually Transmitted Blood Borne Infection (STBBI) Stigma Scale**.

Results: A total of 208 healthcare providers participated in the study, out of which 142 (68.3%) were females, 111 (53.4%) were doctors, and 179 (86.1%) were Hindu.

Notably, only 13% of providers believed that they lack training required to handle HIV patients, but 37% of the providers expressed their hesitation in dealing with them.

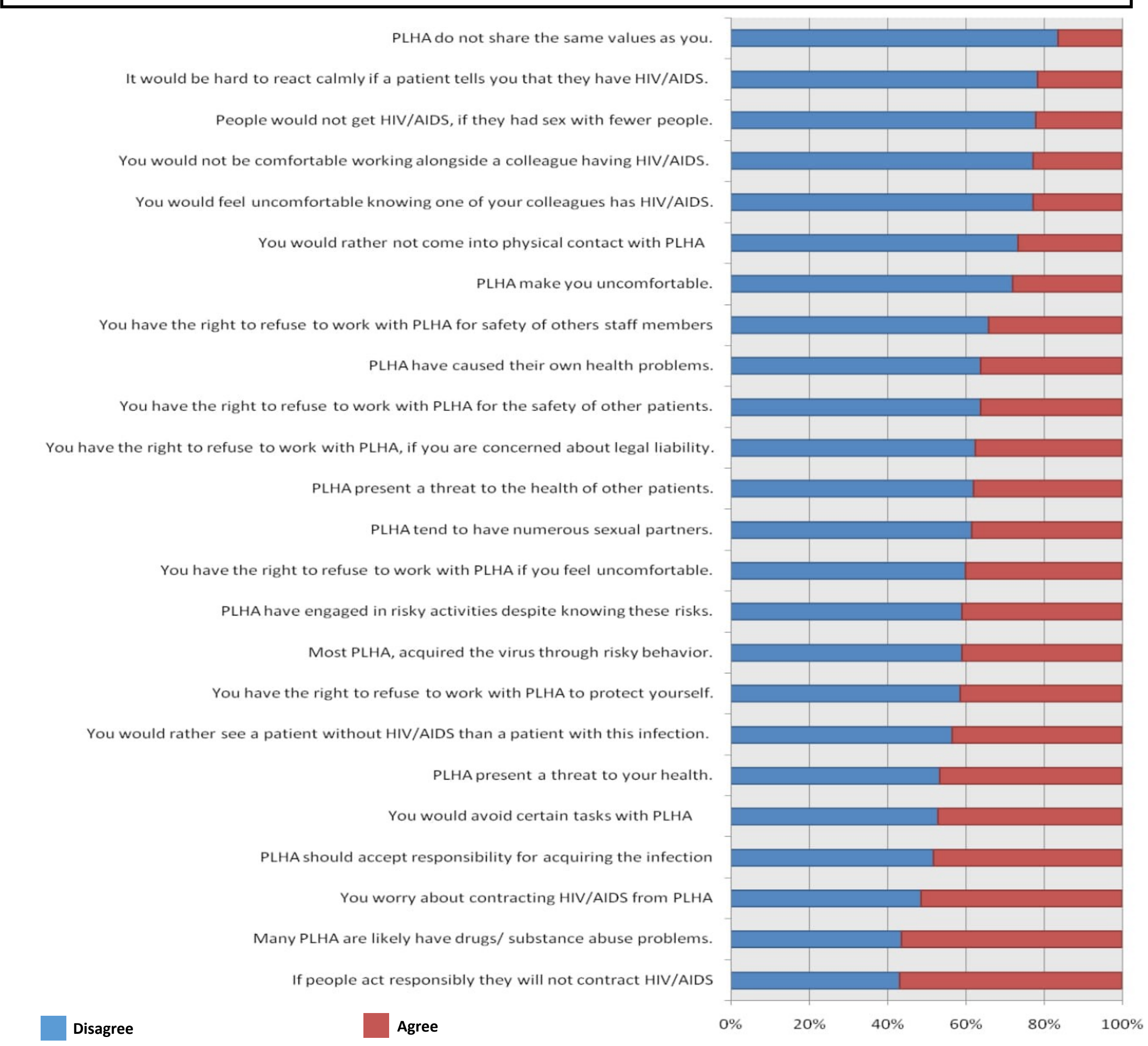
The mean score of STBBI stigma scale was 2.71 +/- SD 1.08.

The mean scores of stereotype, prejudice and discrimination subscales were 2.81 +/- SD 1.07, 2.57 +/- SD 1.19 and 2.78 +/- SD 1.37, respectively.

Gender (male as compared to female), occupation (doctors as compared to nurses and other staff), and an experience of less than 5 years were significantly associated with presence of stigma.

ANOVA test was used to find the association between stigma and age, and it was deduced that the age group of 25 to 29 years was significantly associated with higher stigma scores as compared to other age groups.

Responses of Healthcare Providers in response to statements regarding stereotype prejudice & discrimination towards PLHIV



Conclusion: A large number of HCPs demonstrated stereotype, prejudice and discrimination towards HIV patients, and this attitude can adversely affect the quality of care.

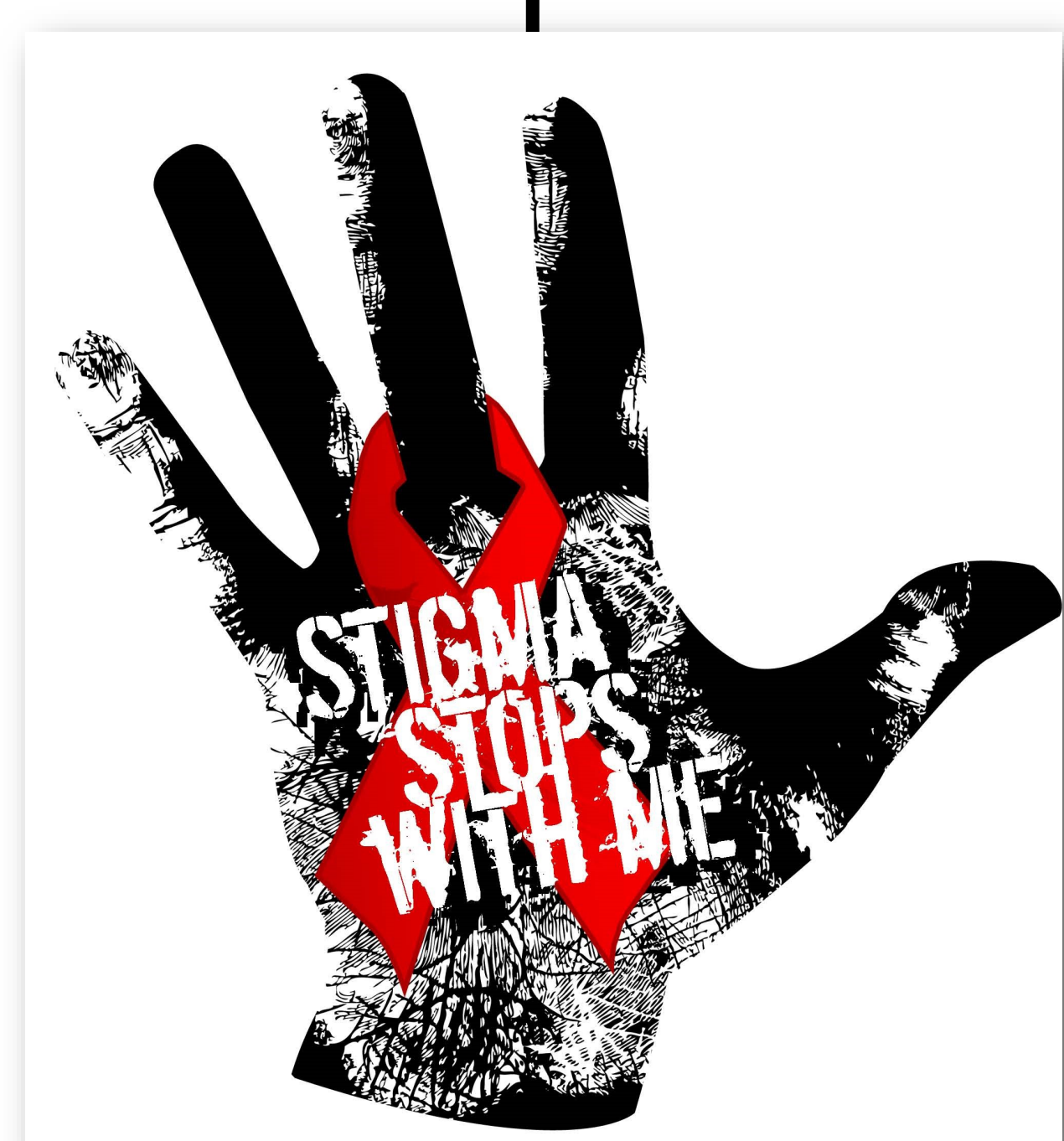
Addressing HIV Stigma in healthcare workers requires a holistic approach that tackles their fear, creates a supportive environment for the consistent implementation of universal precautions & addresses the socio-cultural aspects of stigma.

Dr. Akanksha Rathi
Assistant Professor
Dr BSA Medical College
New Delhi, India

Dr. Naveen P Jayaraj
Assistant Professor
KIRMS, Coimbatore
Tamil Nadu, India

Dr. Vikas Kumar
Assistant Professor
Dr BSA Medical College
New Delhi, India

Dr. SV Singh
Director Professor & Head
Dr BSA Medical College
New Delhi, India

The logo for 'stop stigma' is located in the bottom right corner. It features the words 'stop' and 'stigma' in a bold, black, sans-serif font, stacked vertically. The letters are white with a thick black outline. A large, solid red comma is positioned to the right of the word 'stigma'.