

**DETERMINE THE PROBLEMS FACED AND COPING STRATEGIES ADOPTED BY
THE PATIENTS WITH HANSEN'S DISEASE WHO ARE ATTENDING
THE SELECTED LEPROSY HOSPITAL, MANAMADURAI**

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ABSTRACT

Leprosy is often called a “social disease”. There are social factors which favour the spread of leprosy in the community such as poor housing, lack of education, lack of personal hygiene and above all fear, guilt and unfounded prejudices regarding the disease. Social isolation is a major problem experienced by leprosy-affected persons.

Stigma still remains a major factor leading to delay in patients seeking treatment. Stigma towards persons affected by leprosy and their families has also adversely affected their quality of life due to its impact on their mobility, interpersonal relationships, marriage, employment, leisure and social activities.

Adequate social support in terms of emotional, physical and financial help and encouraging appropriate use of coping strategies enable him to cope better to the illness.

KEYWORDS: Determine the Problems Faced and Coping Strategies Adopted, Leprosy, “Social Disease”