Appendix 1. Calculation of the NWFI for stigma assessment

The formulas are as follows:

Weighted Frequency = [-2 x (Frequency-2)] + [-1 x (Frequency -1)] + [0 x (Frequency 0)] + [+1 x (Frequency +1)] + [+2 x (Frequency +2)]

Weighted Frequency Index = Weighted Stigma Frequency / Total Number of Participants

Normalised Weighted Frequency Index = Weighted Stigma Frequency Index / Maximum Absolute Value NWFI

Sample questions and calculations for this question were as follows:

a. Weighted Frequency (WF),

b. Weighted Frequency Index (WFI) and

c. Calculation of Normalized Weighted Frequency Index (NWFI)

Sample question 20: Tuberculosis is a treatable disease.

Participants' response frequencies and stigma scores according to the Likert scale:

- 1 strongly disagree (-2)

- 4 disagree (-1)

- 10 have no idea (0)

- 25 agree (+1)

- 60 strongly agree (+2)

WF = (-2 x 1) + (-1 x 4) + (0 x 10) + (1 x 25) + (2 x 60) = + 139

WFI = + 139 / 100 (sample number of participants) = + 1.39

NWFI = + 1.39 / 3 (3 was accepted as the maximum absolute WFI value in the data set.)

Thus, NWFI ≈ + 0.46 was calculated for virtual sample question 20.

This value gives us an NWFI that remains at + values in the normalised system between -1 and + 1; Question 20 indicates that the participants have a positive attitude. Thus, it was determined which clinical situations or working conditions in the survey questions in our research were more negative and stigmatising for the participants.