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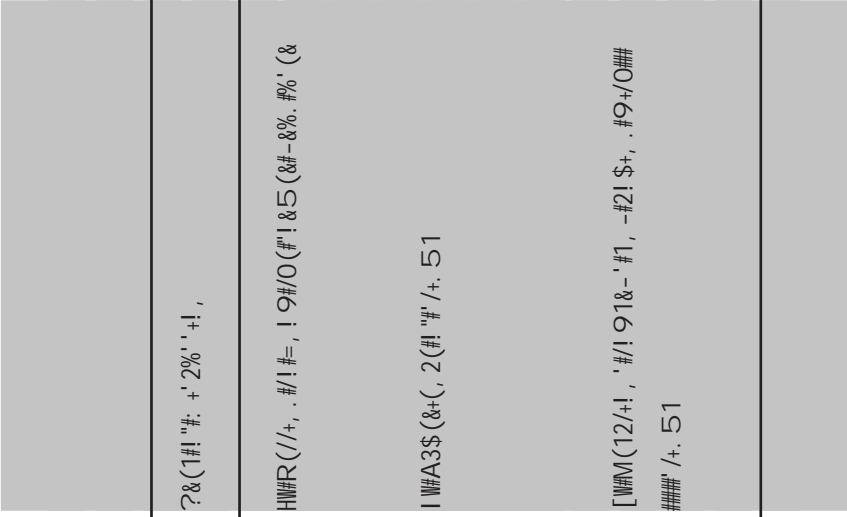
1--2/4(#; (014+! &'0#' /+. 51#01'##(2(, /67#. 1+, (-#5!&(#1//(), /+!, #"&! 5# the research community (Kulesza, Ramsey, Brown, & Larimer, 2014). B%; '/1, 2(#%' (&' #1&(#4+(9(-# 5! &(#2&+/+21667#2! 5\$1&(-#//!#/0! '(#9+/0# severe mental illnesses (Kulesza et al., 2014). Likewise, substance users

seeking behavior (Kulesza et al., 2014; Luoma et al., 2008; Vogel et al., 2007).

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et al., 2007), the Philippines' unique context, and lacking literature on how stigma is experienced and its many consequences.

The study sample consisted of seven participants with five males and two females, ranging in age from 18 to 34.9 years. All participants were former drug dependent, specifically using illicit drugs. Given the nature of the study, sampling was also used as personal acquaintances of some participants.



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<p>2) Psychological Consequences</p>	<p>H)I)###: + 2&+5+, 1/+!, #, #/0(#9! &=#612(H)[]###R1+, +, . #1#, (. 1/+4(#(\$%/1/+!, I)H)###@! 9# (6"<(416%1/+!, I)I)###* ((6+, . #! "%.%+6/#1, -# 015(I)I)###?4! +-1, 2(#! &#! !61/+!, #! ""# (6" []H)###?22(\$/1, 2(#! "#-(-, /+7 []I)###>01, . (#! "#! 2+16#2+&26([]I)###>6+, . +, . #/1# \$-&+/%16+7</p>
<p>4) Sense of Purpose</p>	<p>4.1. Becoming advocates/role-models 4.2. Being better family members 4.3. Pursuance oc] =</p>

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 their acquaintances and neighbors whom they did not know personally
 began inquiring about their drug use. Two participants illustrated this:
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 using?" So ever since, the stigma of me being a former dependent,
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I hear others say, "whatever happens, you'll always be an addict;
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 this, especially when I started joining their dance group. They
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 validated the prejudices they encountered. One participant illustrated
 his early days at the psychiatric ward:

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does have to exist among drug dependents:

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that they are able to empathize and show compassion towards those
90! #1&(#2%&&(, /67#'/&%.. 6+, .#9+/0#/0(+&#-&%. #%')#?' #+, -+4+-%16' #90! #
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0! \$(#! "#+, '\$+&+, . #/0!' (#90! #9(&(#16' ! #+, #/O(#\$&! 2(' '!" #&(2! 4(&7)#UO(#

'/. 51#2! 5+, .#"&! 5#26! ' (#&(61/+!, '#21, #; (#' ((, #1' #1#5! &(\$&! "%, -# 1, -#+, /+51/(\$&! 2(' '#! "#! 2+16#2!, /&! 6#-%(#!/ #/0(#-(((\$&#+, /(/, /+!, #!" relieving the drug user from their habits (Room, 2005).

On the other hand, stigma coming from acquaintances, (+, 0; !&' 8#! ! 66(1. %(' # (6+2+/-#, (. 1/+4(#&(12/+!, '# '%20# 1'#" ((6+, .# 9! &/06(' 8# 1, .&78# 1, -#; (/&17(-)# M(' (1&20# '%. . (' /' # /01/# '%; ' /1, 2(# users are subject to prejudice and judgment and are perceived as a scourge of society (Blendon & Young, 1998; Mora-Ríos et al., 2017). : + ' 2&+5+, 1/! &7#61; (6' #2! 5+, .#"&! 5#1#2! 55%, +/7# /01/#2%6/+41/(-#/0(# ' /+. 51#; &+, .#1-4&' (#\$' 720! 6! . +216#1, -#(5! /+!, 16#(3\$(&+, 2(' # '%20#1' # shame and fear (Rufaedah & Putra, 2018).

C, #1--+/+!, #/! #/0(#' /+. 51#(3\$(&+, 2(-#"&! 5#26! ' (#1, -#+, /+51/(# relationships, the participants disclosed how the stigma affected them 1/#9! &=#_! /#!, 67#--+/0(7#((6#/0(#-+ -1+, #"&! 5#0(+! 9! &=(8' 8#/0(+&# 9! &=#\$(#&! &51, 2(#16' !#-(26+, (-)#: (' \$+/(#014+, .#6(' '#9! &=6! 1-' #1, -# 1''+. , 5(, /' 8#+, -+4+-%16' #"(6/#! ! #1' 015(-8#.%+6/78#1, -#(5; 1&&1' (-#! # (4(, #1' =#! ! &(#9! &=#) #0(' (#(3\$(&+, 2(' #66%' /&1/(!, !/0(&#(3/(&, 1667< (3\$(&+, 2(-#"! &5#! "#' /+. 51#2166(-# /&%2/%&16# /+. 51a 1#"! &5#! "#' /+. 51# embedded in government and institutional policies (Corrigan, 2004). Not only does this form of stigma influence public attitudes, but it 16' !#-(\$&+4(' #-&% .#-((\$, -(, /' #! "#122(' '#! #+, /(&4(, /+!, ' 8#1, -#0+, -(#&' them from seeking further help (Merrill & Monti, 2015). A study on 9! &=#612(# /+. 51#16' ! #&(4(16(-#01/#(5\$6! 7(('#1+6#/# ((=#0(6\$#! �(+&# '%; ' /1, 2(%' (#; (21%' (# "#' /+. 51<+, -%2(-#9! &=#(, 4+&! , 5(, /' #KQ(, , (/## & Lehman, 2001). In his narrative as a former addict, Grinspoon (2018) shared how various areas are compromised in the life of a stigmatized substance user, including one's finances and professional reputation. E(#&(\$! &/(-#/01/#/0(&(#+' #1#/#(, -(, 27#"! &#+, -+4+-%16' #&(2! 4(&+, .#"&! 5# addiction to disproportionately suffer from feelings of guilt, shame, 1, -#(5; 1&&1' ' 5(, /#1, -#/01/#/0(' (#(5! /+!, ' #1&(#! /(/, #; &! %. 0/#! /#0(# "!"&(!, /#90(, (4(&#&(/%&, +, .#! #/0(#9! &=#6120)

Internalized experiences of stigma among drug dependents are 1//&+; %/1; 6(#! #/0(#\$%; 6+2#1, -# /&%2/%&16# /+. 51)#: %&+, .#/0(+&#-&%. #' (' 1, -#; ("! �(+&#&(2! 4(&7# \$01' (8#/0(7#'/&% . 6(-#9+/0#; !/0#(5! /+!, 16# K().)8#"((6+, .# 015("6#1, -#. %+6/7W#1, -#2! ., +/+4(#K().)8#6! 9#(6"<' /((5W# -+' /&(') #U0(' (#(3\$(&+, 2(' #66%' /&1/(!0! 9#-&% .#-((\$, -(, /' #517#014(# suffered most from self-stigma (Corrigan, Watson, & Barr, 2006) and

structural phenomenon. These factors influence the internal aspects of experiences. These interpretations and meanings reflect their internal (3\$ (&+ (, 2 (' #/01/#6(1-#/#51, +) (' /1/+!, ' #! "#' (6"<' /+. 51#K>! &&+. 1, #(/#16)8# 2006) and enacted stigma (Luoma et al., 2007). But more importantly, /0(' (# (3\$ (&+ (, 2 (' # 16' !# 6(-# /0(5# /! 91&- '# 5! &(# \$!' +/4(# 2! \$+, . # 5 (201, + ' 5' #1, -# /0(#- (' +&(#/! #201, .)

Another important finding of this study is with regards to coping strategies employed by recovering dependent emerged: 1) acceptance !"#+-(, /+/78# I W# 201, . +, . # ' ! 2+16# 2+&26(8# 1, -# [W# 26+, . +, . # /! #' \$+&+%16+/7)# Stigma, perceived as a major stressor, requires effective coping strategies to develop resilience and recovery (Miller & Kaiser, 2001).

?22(\$/1, 2(#91' #51, +) (' /(-#+, # \$1&+/2+\$1, /' #90(, #/0(7# \$ (&2(+4(-# '/+. 51# 15!, . # -&%.# %' (&' # /! # ; (# V, ! &516X# 1, -# %' (-# /0+' # " ! &# ' (6"< -+' 2+\$6+,)# ?6/0! %. 0#/0+' #' /&1/ (. 7#+ # &(61/(-#/# \$!' +/4(# \$' 720! 6! . +216# adjustments (Major & Schmader, 1998), it is also deemed less adaptive since stigma is a constant and pervasive stressor (Miller & Kaiser, 2001).

coping that allows the individual to connect to God (Yabut, 2013).

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&(-%2+, .# +, /(&4(, /+!, '#&(61/(-#/'!# '%; '/1, 2(#%' (#K@+4+, .'/!, # (/# 16)8#
2011). However, the use of each coping strategy is subjective. For

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that significantly improved the manuscript. This paper was based on
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