

## **Community Conversations: NJ's COVID-19 Storytelling Project**

Participant 575

Written Interview collected March 30, 2021

Translated June 7, 2021

**Interview Question (written):** How has your life changed since March as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic?

***Participant (written):** Life has changed completely, not able to go out, not able to work which caused debts.*

**I:** What were the main or most trusted sources you received information about COVID-19 from? How did you act upon the information you received? Have you developed any new sources of information?

***P:** Received information from news.*

**I:** With many aspects of daily life going virtual, what types of technology, or digital resources, have you relied on?

***P:** I didn't trust any technology, only television.*

**I:** Please describe any challenges you faced in accessing technology or digital resources during the pandemic.

***P:** No trouble with technology.*

**I:** Have you experienced any difficulty navigating resources or information related to a language barrier? If so, please explain.

***P:** Did not want to seek resources due to everything being about the pandemic, made me more nervous.*

**I:** What was the hardest/biggest challenge for you or your family during/amidst COVID-19?

***P:** Greatest challenge was facing the debts since I had no job and the months passed and passed, and there was nowhere to get money from.*

**I:** In what ways did you address the challenges of COVID-19? What challenges do you expect will remain post-COVID-19?

***P:** I practically faced sickness, since I had to go out and look (translator note: for a job) and the pandemic was everywhere, but the need was greater.*

**I:** Who were your allies? Who were you able to lean on?

***P:** Allies were the benefits from NJ that supported me.*

**I:** What were your greatest sources of strength? Where/when did you feel less strong?

*P: Greatest source of strength was the health of my daughter. Felt weak when I would go out to look for food and couldn't find any since it was far away from my house, and I couldn't find a job and the rent wasn't waiting for me.*

**I:** What brought you/Where did you find happiness?

*P: Found happiness when I found a job.*

**I:** What brought you/Where did you find sadness?

*P: Found sadness when I found out my uncle had COVID.*

**I:** What were your greatest disappointments as a result of the pandemic?

*P: Greatest disappointments was that there wasn't enough capacity for patients in hospitals and people kept dying and dying.*

**I:** What surprised you about the pandemic?

*P: I was surprised by the love, the kindness of some people for their neighbor.*

**I:** What are your greatest fears moving forward?

*P: No fears, with God's help I am on my feet, strong, for my daughter.*

**I:** Please describe one act of kindness that was done for you.

*P: Act of kindness when ICC helped us with some money.*

**I:** Please describe one act of kindness that you did for someone else.

*P: I notified a friend of where to get help and took her there to get some help.*

**I:** Did you have any conversations with healthcare or other service providers about COVID-19? What did this conversation look like? Who said what?

*P: No conversations about health/ COVID-19.*

**I:** What COVID-19 resources are you aware of, or have you benefited from?

*P: I haven't benefitted, but I have heard there are vaccines.*

**I:** Do you know where you can get tested for COVID-19?

*P: Clinics and hospitals for testing.*

**I:** What have you learned, or where have you received information about COVID-19 vaccine development?

*P: I've learned about vaccines through the news.*

**I:** When a vaccine for COVID-19 is made available to the public, would you choose to receive it? Why or why not?

*P: I would receive vaccine; for protection.*

**I:** Do you think that all communities have been treated equally during COVID? Were there populations who were favored over others?

*P: There wasn't an equal treatment, even though the illness went after everyone, the attention was majorly on the people with a legal status.*

**I:** Who do you think was left out of NJ's emergency COVID response? Why were they left out?

*P: Undocumented people were left out, since they did not have legal documentation.*

**I:** What do you think NJ could have done better?

*P: The state could have ensured equality for all, especially in hospitals, clinics, etc.*

**I:** If there was one thing that you or someone else could have done differently, what would it be?

*P: People could have treated/ provided care for everyone with COVID, equally.*

**I:** Is there anything else you would like to share that was not asked?

*P: None.*