

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

Participant 572

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 a lot, my kids are home without being able to go out and they're stressed. Have a part-time job to help my children with classes; especially 5 year old who has autism and requires assistance.*

**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 television - main source of information. It was alarming that it was something unknown/ new to everyone. Now receive information from internet, social media, and people from community, community orgs.*

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

**P:** *Used zoom to connect, Facebook messenger, and Whatsapp.*

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

**P:** *Some challenges with technology were the lack of knowledge, the need for high-speed internet, and the language barrier — almost everything is in English.*

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

**P:** *Almost all apps are in English.*

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

**P:** *One of the biggest challenges was learning how to use Google classroom & Webex, which were used for my 3 children's classes.*

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

**P:** *Overcame obstacles by learning how to use technology, this is important because everything will be digital in the future. Also, became more aware and careful with washing hands. This will be the cleanest generation.*

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

**P:** *Nonprofit organizations were our allies — they taught me and helped me.*

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

**P:** *Major sources of strength were my kids under my care, I have to be well to take care of them.*

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

**P:** *Greatest happiness was finding peace when you don't live with abuse, this is my greatest happiness.*

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

**P:** *Sadness when I suffered verbal abuse & couldn't find anywhere to move with my 3 kids since I was paralyzed because of the pandemic.*

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

**P:** *Greatest disappointment was finding out that people I considered friends ignored me after finding out that I sued the father of my kids for domestic violence. Women from church went to my home to demand that I drop the case. This was very hard since I have no family in this country.*

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

**P:** *Surprised that the environment got better since no one was going out and the animals were happy to roam in what was once theirs.*

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

**P:** *Main fear going forward is getting sick and not being able to accomplish my goals and even worse abandon my kids. This is why I am first, so I can look over my kids.*

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

**P:** *Act of kindness was when I went to get food out in the cold, it was raining, and I did not know how to get back home with all the heavy things I was carrying. I called my acquaintances to see if they could order me and none could. I called another person that I saw one time, and without hesitation helped me himself with the Uber and helped to take my stuff home. That's something you never forget.*

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

**P:** *One time one of my friends from Peru didn't have any money to buy food and called me asking for help, thank God I was working and I was able to send her money.*

**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: I had a conversation about COVID-19 through Zoom, discussed about maintaining social distance, and using mask, hand sanitizer.*

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

*P: Benefitted from receiving food, masks, and gift cards to buy food.*

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

*P: Yes.*

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

*P: Received information about COVID vaccine through Whatsapp domestic violence group.*

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

*P: Already have vaccine.*

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

*P: In my opinion, Latinos and especially immigrants were last in importance.*

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

*P: Despite paying taxes, just the reason of not having a social security number, those undocumented did not receive assistance from the government.*

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

*P: NJ could've helped everyone regardless of having social or not, we all eat and have the same needs, and pay taxes to the state.*

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

*P: Something that could've been done differently is finding other sources of jobs for those who were left without one, being able to work from home and that way still have some income.*

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

*P: I want to thank all the institutions and people that in good faith supported and helped the community, and continue to do so until this day, this is appreciated from the heart.*