

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

Participant 579

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 drastically in the various aspects of daily life, including education, social events, family, and personally.*

**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:** Main sources of information were the media outlets of the television, the local news as well as the global news, social media, or information from family. When I received this information I began to change all of my habits with society and family to be able to have a better life.*

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

***P:** Nowadays we live with a relationship with technology and with all the digital media to be able to perform any type of activity in life and be able to complete with all of our obligations with everyone else.*

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

***P:** Biggest technological challenges was to find reliable information that wasn't false, this way to actually know what is happening and then take the precautions with the actions we take.*

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

***P:** We've had certain difficulties with the language barrier.*

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

***P:** Biggest challenge during the pandemic was not being able to spend time with our loved ones to avoid any type of illness.*

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

***P:** Principle challenges are the lack of jobs to provide the necessities of my family, the different legal procedures and processes, as well as trying to get a medical appointment at the different health centers.*

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

*P: Allies were my family that always supported me and that way move forward.*

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

*P: Greatest sources of strength was in the family and the moral support of each of our friends, felt less strong to know family and friends contracted the new virus.*

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

*P: Being able to overcome the illness and seeing my family again brought me happiness.*

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

*P: To know that I was sick and not know the aftermath that the illness was going to leave us, and the isolation; feeling alone.*

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

*P: Greatest disappointments were not being able to complete all the ideals and proposed plans for this time.*

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

*P: Biggest surprise was knowing how fast it spread and to know the number of people that were dying every day.*

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

*P: Biggest fears moving forward are the lack of jobs and opportunities that present in daily life.*

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

*P: Act of kindness were the phone calls in time of COVID-19 and the moral support they provided.*

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

*P: I was able to help one of my neighbors that are in a very critical situation of the pandemic and be able to bring them food and drinks so they could overcome the illness.*

**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: There were calls with conversations about COVID-19 but due to the language barrier it wasn't understood in the best way.*

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

*P: I have knowledge about the food banks.*

**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:** *I have knowledge about the vaccine thanks to television and social media.*

**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 the vaccine to be able to prevent any other type of spread and guarantee the health of my family members.*

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

**P:** *In some sectors there existed favoritism and the benefit during these times of COVID-19.*

**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.*

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

**P:** *New Jersey should've provided equitable assistance and help those who most need it.*

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

**P:** *Something done differently would have been that if I was in a better economic position, I could've helped with meals and medical services.*

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

**P:** *No.*