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Option Four

Coronavirus

COVID-19 is a new strain of disease caused by a coronavirus. It was first confirmed in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China. The name COVID-19 stands for, Corona; VI for virus, D the disease, and -19, as 2019, the year the first case of the infection was confirmed. Initially, the virus was thought to have been a common flu as in the case of other outbreaks in the past, but after research and observation of the patients infected, it was evident that its flu-like symptoms were far more severe like pneumonia. The virus spread rapidly in a few months as it has crossed borders to other continents and countries. The World Health Organization (WHO) then declared it a global pandemic. Thorough research was and is still is being conducted by the International Committee Taxonomy of Viruses (I.C.T.V.) and other reputable Research Institution on the cure and medicine.

COVID-19 is transmitted from one person to another when an infected patient contract respiratory droplets when coughing or sneezing in close contact within proximity of about 6feet to other people. Patients with COVID-19 infection exhibit symptoms like Fever, sore throats, mild headaches, and coughs, although symptoms might be mild or severe. Coronavirus has an incubation period of about 14 days. The WHO gave clear guidelines on what to do to avoid the spread of the infection, namely, cleaning hands with soap and running water, social distancing,

and avoiding touching one's face with dirty hands. To date, the virus has infected over 3 million people; it has killed thousands of patients and continues to cause economic havoc worldwide.

How It Has Affected Me

Being a Chinese student, COVID-19 has affected me in very many ways. Humans are naturally very social beings, and so it's inevitable that as a human, you will seek to have friends and connect in more ways than one. Because the most common way the virus spread is when people are in close contact, the most adopted guideline is social distancing. As a result, and for me as a student, I can no longer physically meet my friends, classmates, and make merry as usual. Although we occasionally chat and video call, there is still a huge part of me that wants to physically meet and do merry as usual. In our country to be specific Public restriction is also another huge thing. Stocking up food for up to a month as opposed to doing grocery shopping frequently is a new thing. Also, disconnection from friends, especially those from school, have not been easy. Even though we still hold classes online, most of us still crave physical interaction.

Besides social disconnections, another huge impact of coronavirus is economical and financial disruption. Globally experts believe that such kind of inflation was lastly seen during World War 2. So this gives a clear picture of exactly how the economy has been affected. Like millions of other employees who have lost jobs, My sister's business, too, was not spared. She had to close her small retail business. Even the support I used to get from family back at home has reduced significantly. Lastly, the emotional strain from this disease is enormous. From being affected directly though close friends who contracted the disease to emotional unavailability of peer and family, it has been a season of its own. The reduction of productivity and lack of social interactions might lead to depression.

How It Has Affected My Family

COVID-19 has not only affected individuals but also the primary unit "family."The family is the smallest unit that ultimately makes up a nation, and so, in this case, the children and parents. First, financial disruption as a result of job loss and failure of the employer to pay employees has had its effect in these difficult times. Because of the lockdown being imposed on the people, most families have to stay at home with no source of income and money to spend. Even though the Unemployment program is still available, the process of filing the application has been particularly long and painful. My family, for instance, has had to cut down on numerous expenses and leave on a strictly tight budget to put a meal on the table. Some items that were earlier a necessity had to be treated as luxury goods until things get better. There is also an additional cost of having the whole family at home because of the current lockdown.

A family is a unit of love and affection. We can never dismiss the fact that COVID-19 knows no social status, age, or background, and so everyone is prone to the disease. In case one of the family members is sick, care and responsibility have to be accorded, such a sick person. It's the responsibility of the family to take good care of the patient to full recovery. This responsibility sometimes comes with huge financial costs that might overwhelm the family. Huge bills involved in care and treatment has a huge impact on the family budget.

Co-existence is very important, especially in family matters. Domestic violence involves the use of force to communicate subject issues in a family institution. It has been reported that domestic violence increased significantly during this pandemic. Although my family has not had such an incidence, several of my friends have experienced it thus proving that it is real (Amanda 2). It would be interesting to see what studies assessing violence and the coronavirus pandemic will show in the future.

Economic Effects

At the beginning of the pandemic, it was clear that people's economic lives will never be the same. Economies of most countries would hence suffer the ricochet effects, and many efforts were taken to try and avert the eventualities. The anticipated effects were expected to compete with the vents that happened during the 1939 economic crisis that was considered the worst, then followed by the 2008 economic crisis. Economic events that happened after World War 2 and the bubonic plague are contrasted with coronavirus to prove the similarities (Barro, Robert, Ursua, and Weng 15). Primarily, all social gatherings were banned because the disease spread through contact. Social places, including workplaces, were shut down to contain the spread of the disease. Most People could no longer access their workplaces, and their incomes were affected.

While there are some companies whose activities could be done remotely by workers, places like manufacturing companies and agricultural sectors were totally disrupted. Bankruptcy was imminent, and part of the aversion tactic was to furlough the workers or force them into compulsory leave. Some companies offered to pay half or full salaries for the entire leave periods while some companies could not bear the burden. This factor meant that over a third of the population would lose their employment status, and families would suffer to maintain their economic levels. Unemployment of a significant portion of the population meant that the government had to create contingency plans to meet people's daily needs and businesses. The effort was actualized by giving relief monies and low-interest loans to businesses to help meet the pandemic's tough demands. However, the load of money cannot meet the needs of individuals and families, and it became evident that if a cure is not found soon, then some economies would crumble completely as people suffered and dived deeper below the poverty line.

What the Future Holds

According to the global statistics and the World Health Organization, Coronavirus may not disappear soon. However, it's still important to put follow measures put in place by the World Health Organisation (WHO). Even so, the world has to embrace the "new normal," of social distancing, general hygiene like regular washing of hands, among other precautionary measures. Working from home with computers and online schooling over various platforms like Skype, Zoom, and other platforms might be the future issue (Kavita 2). Moving forward, the world will embrace more of digital life, cashless society, working from home, which is equally as productive. In times to come, after all, this is over the world will be more accommodative to digital life. After all, payments systems, modes of learning COVID-19 has proved to us that student can learn from home via e-learning technologies.

Another new "normal" that we might experience is more travel restriction. Based on the epidemiology of the COVID-19 and how the disease spread rapidly and uncontrollably, the future will see more scrutiny in travel health certificates and past illnesses. In addition to travel restriction and scrutiny, more businesses will operate online as they cushion against such disruption. As a result, organizations will lay off their employees as they discover some functions that could be done easily from home or with minimal supervision. Going digital is inevitable now more than ever. More and more jobs will revolve around the digital space; cybersecurity, Artificial Intelligence, and cloud computing. Some positions in days to come will almost be of non-existence because the digital space will take over most of them, and the workforce will no longer be needed.

Conclusion

COVID-19 has been an eye-opener on a personal and global level. Our "normal" will longer be the same. We must be ready to embrace the 'new normal'. Also, things could change

very fast, and a natural calamity of crisis can escalate quite fast. Everyone needs to remain prepared in case of anything. Preparation efforts also extend to the government because it plays the primary role of ensuring that the welfare of the citizens is maintained. The government has to formulate measures that promote the sustenance of economic activities lest economies crumble. Reviving crumbled economies takes years, and this effort can be averted by developing proper risk aversion measures. Coronavirus has taught all of us that the world could be a global village and that efforts pulled together could put the world at a much better place. Experts are very clear that the human race has improved 5% more immunity towards the illness in the case it ever comes again, and this is great promise looking forward to latter days.

Works cited

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