Yehudah Senehi

Professor Ruiz

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History 129A

Rebeca Martinez

Coronavirus disease, formally known as COVID-19, has had a major impact on the world over the past few months which will be recorded in history forever. This pandemic has nearly put the entire world to halt and has taken a toll on every person's life in 2020. Coronavirus had taken the world by surprise and people would have never seen this coming especially in 2020. Who would have thought that in 2020, there would be a pandemic that would put the world to stop all because of a bat? This pandemic has affected my life and the life of my family members in many different negative ways and the future that comes along with the virus seems bleak for now.

The repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic have been very severe for me and my family members. In regards to myself, the pandemic has taken quite a toll on my life relating to my education and financial situation. The pandemic has put a strain on my education; instead of attending UCLA and getting first hand knowledge passed from teacher to student, students are now forced to attend zoom classes which are in my opinion not as effective as physically attending a lecture. I am very saddened and devastated by this and miss commuting to UCLA with classmates. I am a transfer student and this is my first year in UCLA. I feel that because of COVID-19, I have missed out on a large portion of my college experience. Students all over the world are required to attend zoom sessions from their homes, take exams from home, and keep up with coursework which may be difficult when dealing with family matters or financial issues; cheating now also occurs at higher rates due schools not proctoring or taking the correct precautions to prevent cheating. Students are also left the responsibility to figure out most things on their own due to this pandemic. For me, it has been difficult keeping up with many school work related things due to me having to worry about many other issues which are in fact greater than my education. In addition to this, a noisey home is not the best place to focus on

schoolwork, but students are forced to do so due to all public places being closed. Personally, my house is very noisy and at times it is very difficult to focus on schoolwork or any type of work for that matter. I find myself becoming distracted very frequently with the interruptions which happen daily. My wifi at times drops due to the high usage by my entire family which is very frustrating when attending a zoom meeting.

My family members have also suffered due to COVID-19. My father, a software engineer, is now working from home which is much harder on him. He explained to me that there are many more distractions and that at times he has trouble focusing on his work that needs to get done. The company he works for has also slashed his pay because they can not afford to pay everyone due to the pandemic. My mother, a private school teacher, is now unemployed because the private school can not afford to pay her. She spends her time doing online tutoring and takes care of the family as best as she can. Even though my parents have some sort of income, the money is just not sufficient to pay for our financial needs. My little brother now attends zoom classes which he is not fond of as well. He attends a private school which is not cheap and my parents are struggling with the payments. My older brother just passed his nursing boards and is now a certified registered nurse, but due to the lack of experience and this pandemic, no company will even consider hiring him. I have not seen my grandmother since this pandemic started due to old people being more at risk of dying if they get the virus. My grandfather passed away a few months ago and my grandmother from my mom's side is all alone. I miss her so much and cannot stand to see her alone with no human interaction. Furthermore, financial issues have taken a role in my life due to this pandemic as well. I am a waiter at a sushi restaurant and due to COVID-19, the restaurant is temporarily shut down

causing me to be unemployed. I have many expenses which have to be paid and now that I am unemployed, I have trouble paying for necessities. These necessities include food, toiletries, phone payments, car payments, etc. Overall the negative impact of this pandemic has not only been severe on myself and my family, but the entire world struggles with these issues as well.

In addition to my education being hurt, another way that the coronavirus has affected me is by making me more sedentary. In the past, I would be a huge advocate for consuming healthy products and doing physical activities, but over the past few weeks I have been very inactive and eating unhealthy. Due to the gym being closed and lack of resources to exercise at home, I have been very inactive and have been eating "junk" food which has made me gain a few pounds. This has also led to me being depressed at times due to a lack of social activity and a lack of exercise. I am terrified to even leave my house to go on a simple walk due to the idea that I could get the disease and transfer it to my parents which are very old. It will take me quite some time to adjust back to my regular exercise routine which is very frustrating and unfortunate. Almost sixty percent of people in the United States are either obese or overweight and this quarantine is just adding to this percentage. This connects me to the wider world because of social media outlets which provide people to show how they have let themselves go from dieting or exercising.

COVID-19 has not only had an affect on my physical health, but it has also affected my mental health. Being that we are in quarantine, I have not seen many of my friends for months now. The only time I see them is on zoom calls which is not the same as seeing them in person. The only physical activity I have had is with my family. This has put me in a state of sadness and depression. I feel trapped and I feel as though I have been robbed of a part of my youth. Mental health in my opinion is just as important as physical health. I wanted to pursue a career in

medicine in the future due to my passion for it. This pandemic is giving me secondary thought because people in the healthcare profession are putting their lives at risk which is an idea that scares me.

A few social, economic, and political consequences which have occured due to the COVID-19 are many businesses taking losses and the stock market dropping. Many businesses could not withstand the impact of the coronavirus and were forced to close down because of it. Socially, people are being prevented from working which is a very big deal. Businesses do not have the means to continue supplying their products without the demand of the customers which ultimately leads to them filing for bankruptcy or closing down. The economy has been down because of Coronavirus which is not a shock because pandemics tend to destroy economies. The production and distribution of companies is at a very concerning low due to there being less of a demand now that this pandemic has struck. The stock market also is very unpredictable and volatile due to the pandemic. People are concerned that the stock market is going to crash and cause a recession like in 2008. This is very concerning for people who have high stakes in companies or even people who work in contracting options. As a person who dabbles in stocks, I am scared for the money I have invested in the stock market over time. The government has provided people with stimulus checks which were a great help to pay for necessities. I believe that the government is working effortlessly to help maintain the coronavirus and is taking the correct precautions to control the spread of the virus.

In regards to the future, I am scared of what it might hold for humankind as a whole. The CDC has announced that a vaccine would not be released for up to a year from mid March which is a terrifying idea to digest. This is very scary because in theory without a vaccine, no one is

safe. They might lift quarantine, but this does not guarantee that people would not get the virus. In 2020 we as a nation should be so technologically advanced that precautions should have been taken to prevent this virus from spreading, but here we are with the pandemic. We as humans do not know how long this virus will take its course which leaves the future to be seen as a mystery. The virus could mutate and become stronger or die out, but no one knows what is for certain. I am personally terrified and believe that pandemic will peak in the summer. People tend to go out and socialize with others during the summer time even if it is not advised to leave a person's home. This will cause a spike in the coronavirus cases in my opinion, but only time will tell the future of coronavirus.

This pandemic can be compared to a once deadly disease called smallpox. The smallpox virus took many lives including the inhabitants of the Americas around 1520 which was introduced by the Spanish. In the case of COVID-19, the Spanish would be similar to Wuhan China and Mexico would be the rest of the world. Smallpox took millions of lives and left lives in despair due to people not being able to prevent the spread or find a cure. As we learn about smallpox in our current history class, so too we will learn about the impacts of coronavirus in the future. Although the mortality rate of smallpox surpasses the mortality rate of COVID-19, one must put both into perspective. The lack of medical advancements during 1520 is a major reason that the disease was so successful in killing as many people as it did. Since the technology today is far greater than it was before, many healthcare professionals were able to advise people to help themselves and others to stay safe. In terms of people who had smallpox, we cases of people self isolating in order not to spread the disease to others. So too with COVID-19, people who have the virus self isolate in order not to spread the virus onto others.

Overall, coronavirus has taken quite a major role in my life, the lives of my family members, and the people of the world. The pandemic has left people at their worst, either it being physically or mentally and has left a dent that the world will remember. In the future, people will reminisce at the time quarantine took place because of COVID-19 and students will learn about the consequences of the virus. Society will in time return to normalcy, but at what cost? People have lost so much to the virus that life will never be the same. I can say for myself that this pandemic is one that I will remember for the rest of my life.