

Interviewee: Fernando (pseudonym)

Interviewers: Unknown

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Abstract: In this interview the interviewee responds to questions regarding how the pandemic has affected their life, customs, their family and people they know. The vaccine is also addressed, fears, consumption of information, and the government's response to the COVID-19 crisis. The interviewee works on a farm and their family resides in Mexico.

00:00:00 Interviewer 1

Is it okay if we record this interview?

00:00:04 Fernando

Yes.

00:00:05 Interviewer 1

Good, today is Wednesday March 17, 2021. Today there are 29,619,457 cases of Covid-19 in the United States and there are 533,057 deaths and today there are also 110,737,856 vaccines administered. Well, are we able to start with the questions?

00:00:59 Fernando

Yes.

00:01:00 Interviewer 1

Ahm, when you first found out about Covid-19, what were your thoughts on it? And how have your thoughts changed since then?

00:01:15 Fernando

I first found out about the pandemic when I had just arrived in the country. It was like really a month of already being here in the country. When the topic started being brought up, of the pandemic and quarantining. And well, my reaction was not like that of very surprised with fright because I hardly go out, well, I just do every 15 or 20 days to go shopping for food. But, well, yes it was like staying alert, that you have to take care of yourself, have hygiene, what they said alot, the news more than anything.

00:01:53 Interviewer 1

Yes.

00:01:54 Fernando

But one I did not put much thought to it, from my point of view, because, well, how I told you, I don't go out – I don't go around saying touch me, because I'll let myself, or, more than anything, the same because I don't interact with anyone. Well no, I didn't give it much thought.

00:02:11 Interviewer 1

Ahm. What problems have worried you most during the Covid-19 pandemic?

00:02:19 Fernando

The shortage of food.

00:02:20 Interviewer 1

Food?

00:02:22 Fernando

Yes, a shortage.

00:02:24 Interviewer 1

Okay. Well, and what do you do for a living?

00:02:28 Fernando

Ehh...I am in charge of, I am an agronomist engineer and I am in charge of the calves, or the care of the calves on a farm in Greystoke. [name of the farm is unclear]

00:02:39 Interviewer 1

Okay. well. What worries do you have about the effects of the coronavirus in regards to your employment and the economic situation of your family, community, or even in general? [voices in the background]

00:02:55 Fernando

Here it will be-how? Can you repeat it please? [laughs] I am getting signal [laughs]

00:03:03 Interviewer 1

Okay. What worries do you have about the effects of the coronavirus in regards to your employment and the economic situation of your family, community, or even in general?

00:03:15 Fernando

The worry was, for example, that I would be left without a job, given that I saw that a lot, lots of people in this case, were closing businesses, were closing restaurants, and many people were left unemployed. And well, what happened? That with the fortune of that fear that I wasn't going to have a job, but, well, I am on a farm milking all the cows that you work in the New year, on important dates and, well, the cows don't rest, so to speak. And thank God they haven't. It was from that fear that I did not run out of money, without unemployment.

00:03:58 Interviewer 1

Of course.

00:03:59 Interviewer 2

What influence has Covid-19 had on your family? In particular, in what ways has your family's day-to-day activities changed?

00:04:07 Fernando

My family here or in my country?

00:04:09 Interviewer 2

Ahm, both.

00:04:11 Fernando

I am here alone. Here I do not have a problem, that's all, well I take care of myself and, like I was saying, I do not go out. But in my country, yes, because the Mexican, like you know, is very happy, is very party-going. And what happens? Is that sometimes it is also part of the government that didn't take the responsible measures and the people well they don't take the importance of it, but my family is taking care of themselves right now. They almost never leave because of the same thing, but the care is very different for Covid here than in my country.
[voices in the background]

00:04:44 Interviewer 1

Ahm, and in what way is it different here than in Mexico? [voices in the background]

00:04:54 Fernando

In the sense that, for example, quarantine is respected here, masks are used, restaurants are closed, the nightclubs, I don't know if there are nightclubs here, but all of these public places are all closed. And in Mexico what is happening? What I have seen a lot of, lots of people going to parties, that the nightclubs closed, but a month ago they opened again and there are festivals, dances, and well the people go out a lot, and do not use the responsible measures and because of this the virus is spread more. It is very different and is not like here, they see you and you put on [implying masking oneself], cover up, you take care of yourself. And there in Mexico, well, unfortunately it is not so, there isn't that culture more than anything of the people.

00:05:41 Interviewer 1

And in Mexico, do you need to wear a mask?

00:05:47 Fernando

Yes, but the people don't, they don't do it. [all laugh]

00:05:53 Interviewer 1

Like some people here as well.

00:05:55 Fernando

In other words, not only in Mexico.

00:05:59 Interviewer 1

Okay. Has Covid-19 changed your relationships with family, friends, and the community?

00:06:10 Fernando

Mmm, no.

00:06:10 Interviewer 2

No? Good! So, have you or someone you know gotten sick during the pandemic?

00:06:21 Fernando

Here? No. In my country, yes.

00:06:24 Interviewer 2

And how about your family or friends?

00:06:27 Fernando

Friends, yes.

00:06:30 Interviewer 2

And what has been their experience with the illness?

00:06:35 Fernando

Well, it can be said that none, because, well, like I tell them I am taking care of myself and I take the responsible measures. Well, I have not had contact with people and more than anything this is what I avoid with my job, house from house, work and I can't say much more for that.

00:06:56 Interviewer 1

Yes. What have been your primary sources of news during the pandemic?

00:07:01 Fernando

Facebook, Instagram... that's it, yes, social media. [laughs]

00:07:08 Interviewer 1

Is there some source in particular like ABC, NBC, or just the news in general?

00:07:18 Fernando

Only the news on the internet and gossip, to put it another way. [laughs]

00:07:27 Interviewer 2

And do you have any opinion about how local, state, or federal leaders are responding to the crisis?

00:07:38 Fernando

Here I do not have doubt. In my opinion, well the truth is, it is very good how they manage it. That yes, I am able to say I respect it. I do not have anything that I could complain about.

00:07:50 Interviewer 1

And have your experiences with the pandemic transformed the way you think about your family, friends, and/or your community?

00:08:02 Fernando

Well only with the intention to think things through. Because sometimes, for example, I repeated with my family or leave that for example, like my brother, he is a veterinarian in Mexico and gets up moving each moment, I tell him to take care of himself because he could, I don't say, for a salary you are going to get sick from a virus. Now I say it is going to be worse that for those pesos that you are going to earn you are going to die. I say to him that one must think things through and what consequences you are going to bring if you do this. And well, I say to him, here well, it's just that I can't be one to talk to because I don't go out. [laughs]

00:08:42 Interviewer 2

Oh, sure! Given what you know now, what do you believe people, communities, or governments should keep in mind for the future?

00:09:01 Fernando

To have for the future? Can you repeat it, please, for me to understand it better? [laughs]

00:09:08 Interviewer 2

Given what you know now, what do you believe people, communities, or governments should keep in mind for the future?

00:09:18 Fernando

Society, the culture of society is what is important, because for example, if the government told you or came to you to say we are going to do this as if society actually did not want to do it, it is not going to function. If for another example, I put it in the case of my country that lots of the blame is thrown at the government and, for example, here it could be the same, but if one like, for say, doesn't do it and doesn't accept the rules, it is not going to function. More than anything they have to look at what society actually wants to do, because and to have more in account the consequences that are going to cause it to happen or what will happen in the future.

00:09:56 Interviewer 1

Sure.

00:09:58 Interviewer 2

I am a nursing student and something that we say in Public Health is that if we do not have confidence, we do not have public health. Because if the people are not going to do the things that I recommend, what are we going to do? [laughing in the background]

00:10:13 Fernando

Yes, it is similar in this way in my country, exactly the same. [laughing in the background]
[laughs]

00:10:14 Interviewer 1

I have one more question. Why did you decide to get vaccinated?

00:10:24 Fernando

From my personal point of view, protection and wellbeing are more than anything- as to not transmit it in the future. Because right now I have not had symptoms I have not had, or the case of the virus, but well more than anything so I am not going to have the virus in the future and I at least want people close to me not to be infected. Or people at my work more than anything, because if I transmit it what is going to happen? It will spread, spread, and well work is going to close. And well I said more than anything to prevent it in the future.

00:10:57 Interviewer 1

Aha. [nods] And it's free right? [laughs]

00:10:59 Fernando

Mhm. [nods]

00:11:00 Interviewer 2

That has been a good thing for us, as students, that it is free. Good! [laughs]

00:11:03 Interviewer 1

Okay. Thank you very much for sharing your experiences.

00:11:13 Fernando

You're welcome.