

Interviewee: Naranjo (Pseudonym)

Interviewer: Breida Torres Berumen

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Abstract/Summary: In this meeting, the interviewee responds to personal questions about how the pandemic has affected their life, their customs, and those of their family and acquaintances. Also, this interview covers the topic of the vaccine, fears, and unknowns about the vaccine, the interviewee's consumption of information, the response of the government against the COVID-19 crisis, and their thoughts and suggestions for the future. The interviewee is a rural farm worker originally from Veracruz, Mexico.

Breida 00:00:02

Today's date is March 24th, 2021. Today, there are 29, 708, 385 confirmed cases in the United States and 540, 503 deaths. Also, there are 572,770 confirmed cases in the state of Wisconsin and 6,576 deaths. The first question is going to be: when did you first find out about COVID-19 and what were your thoughts about it? [background voices]

Naranjo 00:00:39

A year ago in December of 2020, we were in 2021. A year ago.

Breida 00:00:56

Oh yes, okay. [laughing] What were your thoughts about it? [background laughing]

Naranjo 00:00:58

Well at first, we took it lightly not believing that it was true or not true. But at the end, it reached us and here we are.

Breida 00:01:11

And how have your thoughts changed since then?

Naranjo 00:01:16

Well, sometimes I was scared. Not just for myself, but for the rest of my family. Yes, if someone has a wife or kids or parents, especially if they are older in age, I've heard that this sickness attacks older people more than younger people. So, because of this, you're scared.

Breida 00:01:45

For your family. [background voices] What problems worried you most during the pandemic?

Naranjo 00:01:52

I can't have my parents by my side and I can't attend, eh I don't know, going to the stores to buy certain goods.

Breida 00:02:07

Errands?

Naranjo 00:02:08

Yes. [background voices]

Breida 00:02:11

What worries did you have about the effects of the coronavirus regarding your job and economic situation and your family's economic situation?

Naranjo 00:02:22

Well...[nervous laugh] [background voices]

Breida 00:02:32

I can repeat the question if you want.

Naranjo 00:02:33

Yes, yes.

Breida 00:02:36

What worries did you have about the effects of the coronavirus regarding your job and economic situation and your family's economic situation?

Naranjo 00:02:46

Ah, we especially had as many problems here, like working, but even before COVID-19, we had a raise every six months, but with this pandemic that has been going on for more than a year, we haven't. We just keep doing what's normal, and it's the same in Mexico. I am from Mexico and as much here as there, prices of everything went up and so we felt the effects of the increase in prices the same.

Breida 00:03:25

Can I ask you where you are from in Mexico?

Naranjo 00:03:28

From Mexico. [nervous laugh]

Breida 00:03:29

Yes, from what part?

Naranjo 00:03:31

The state of Veracruz

Breida 00:03:33

From Veracruz? I am from Durango.

Naranjo 00:03:35

Really?

Breida 00:03:37

Yes. What influence has COVID-19 had on your family?

Naranjo 00:03:48

What influence? Well, the distance. We can't be close to each other. We are aware that other people are older, and that sometimes we might have the symptoms, but don't feel them, but for older individuals, their immune system isn't as strong, and we could feel regret for not distancing ourselves. [background voices]

Breida 00:04:10

You can affect a lot more people in that situation. [background conversation] Eh, has COVID-19 changed your relationships with family members, friends, or your community?

Naranjo 00:04:30

I don't think so with friends. Well, one friend lives in a house where I don't think we go there and wear masks because it's uncomfortable. [laughing] At work, yes they have changed a little bit.

Breida 00:04:46

Yeah? How have they changed?

Naranjo 00:04:47

Normally, we manage the fields but the people that usually come are afraid to talk to us now

because of fear of COVID-19. So instead of talking to us, they stay away. So, we can't physically contact others anymore, but rather we contact them over the phone.

Breida 00:05:15

Yes. Scared to go near other people due to fear of transmitting COVID-19. Did you or someone you know get sick from COVID-19?

Naranjo 00:05:26

Ahhh...No.

Breida 00:05:30

No? Why did you decide to get vaccinated?

Naranjo 00:05:45

Well, I don't know. We have seen cases where people don't get vaccinated or if they are vaccinated, they still get sick and pass away. Well, whether that's the case for me or not, you still have to think about others. Older individuals, especially at my work, my bosses are older and are over 60 years old and so you have to get vaccinated for them because they are the ones giving us work and we want them to live longer. [background voices]

Breida 00:06:19

Yes, what have you heard about the vaccine in the news, online, or what you've maybe seen?

Naranjo 00:06:24

Well, for good or for worse, if they are deceiving us or not deceiving us, but at a certain point, they never tell the truth, they just always scare people. But you still have to take the risk and here we are. Whatever God says. [both laugh]

Breida 00:06:41

What have been your primary news sources during the pandemic?

Naranjo 00:06:52

Well, social media.

Breida 00:06:55

Social media? Which one? Facebook?

Naranjo 00:06:58

Especially. [laughing]

Breida 00:07:05

Yes, do you read the publications on Facebook?

Naranjo 00:07:09

Yes, in fact, I read about each vaccine that is given out to see which one is the best. I hope one of those is here, whatever God says, right?

Breida 00:07:16

Yes, whatever they give you. [both laugh]

Naranjo 00:07:20

It's good.

Breida 00:07:23

Has the coronavirus affected your job?

Naranjo 00:07:27

Yes, a lot.

Breida 00:07:29

In what way?

Naranjo 00:07:40

The economy. Sometimes, well sometimes, normally the price of milk goes up but it hasn't because of this pandemic. On some farms, they've had to dump out milk. Many businesses essentially weren't open because there wasn't any staff. So COVID-19 affected that. The stores didn't sell as much milk, but here we are. [nervous laugh]

Breida 00:08:11

Yes, have you ever been scared to lose your job or anything like that?

Naranjo 00:08:17

Mmm, no not really.

Breida 00:08:18

No, you feel safe?

Naranjo 00:08:20

Yes.

Breida 00:08:22

Work is always going to be there.

Naranjo 00:08:23

[laughing] It's always going to be there.

Breida 00:08:25

Yes, what's good about working on a dairy farm is that the cows are always going to be there.

Naranjo 00:08:30

Yes, because even though we say that with the pandemic, we the workers have to quarantine, the cows aren't going to wait a month for us while we're locked up at home. Who is going to give them food? Who is going to milk them? Who is going to clean everything? With as much milk as there is, there is going to be a...they are going to burst, no? So we can't quarantine. [laughing]

Breida 00:09:08

[background voices] Do you have kids? Do you live with your parents, grandparents, or siblings?

Naranjo 00:09:14

I don't have kids. My parents are in Mexico. They stayed there.

Breida 00:09:19

Alone?

Naranjo 00:09:20

Yes.

Breida 00:09:27

How has the COVID-19 outbreak affected your community?

Naranjo 00:09:30

In my community, it's rural and getting vaccines there will be difficult. Slow, but with time. But I especially tell my parents or my loved ones, family members, friends, that they take precautions, use masks, and practice personal hygiene. Because if there aren't cases, but there already have been cases in my community, there have already been two or three people who have passed away from COVID. Now, we're waiting for the vaccine. [both laugh] [background conversation]

Breida 00:10:23

Do you have an opinion about how local, state, or federal leaders are responding to the crisis?

Naranjo 00:10:37

Well, a year ago we didn't have an answer. But now, in order to weaken the COVID-19 outbreak, the new president promised that he was going to give millions of doses of the vaccine within 100 days. I mean, it appears that he is resolving the COVID crisis. [background laughing] Well, even though we didn't think he could do it, he is resolving everything and we hope that this ends soon in order to be able to continue with our work. [share laughing]

Breida 00:11:17

Given what you know today about the pandemic, everything that we have done during the past year, what do you think that the people and communities or governments should take into account for the future?

Naranjo 00:11:36

Well that they still don't take it lightly, like a game. That they are prepared. Well, how do they say, worse things are coming and they have to anticipate them, be prepared, and be ready. [background conversation]

Breida 00:12:16

I am seeing what's coming. [papers shuffling] Do you know someone that has been affected in their employment because of the pandemic?

Naranjo 00:12:25

Mmm, my job?

Breida 00:12:26

Yes. Knowing something whose job has been affected.

Naranjo 00:12:34

Yes, I know a friend that where they worked, it practically closed, or no, the farm closed. They sold the cows, so he had to look for another job.

Breida 00:12:50

Was it close to here, or?

Naranjo 00:12:51

Yes, close to here.

Breida 00:12:59

So, do you feel worried about the possibility of that happening or not?

Naranjo 00:13:08

I think we have already seen the worst of it, a few months ago. Now, with as many vaccine doses, we can hope that it gets better. Not at once but, little by little.

Breida 00:13:24

Yes.

Naranjo 00:13:26

We can be slightly more confident.

Breida 00:13:30

Eh, okay, I think that is all of the questions. I am going to stop the...