

**Interviewee:** Mauricio (Pseudonym)

**Interviewer:** Wendy Villalva

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**Abstract/Summary:** In this phone interview, the interviewee responds to personal questions about how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected their daily life, their customs, their job, and the lives of their family and community. The interview addresses topics related to the interviewee's consumption of information, means of communication, the news, and care protocols in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. The interviewee is a rural worker.

**Wendy 00:00:00**

Okay, my name is Wendy and I am a student at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. In Wisconsin, there are 618,000 cases of COVID-19 and 7,055 deaths. In the United States there are 28,800,000 cases of COVID-19 and 517,000 deaths from COVID-19. Now, I am going to ask you some background questions. If you prefer not to respond to some questions, that is okay. You just have to say so, but everything will be anonymous. The first question asks a little about your daily life. What are the main things that you do on a normal day? For example, your job, activities, house responsibilities, things like that.

**Mauricio 00:01:10**

Well, the first thing is work from 6:00 am to 4:00 pm. When I come back home, from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm, I make food, get ready for bed, all in order to keep working another day. That's my routine almost every day.

**Wendy 00:01:32**

Okay. When did you first find out about COVID-19? What were your thoughts about it? How have your thoughts changed since then?

**Mauricio 00:01:49**

Well, it was a bit life changing because you kind of knew life wasn't going to be the same anymore. Now, you still don't leave the house with the same confidence when going to the store. At best, you can go for a walk to a park or river. But more than anything, you still can't go out with the same level of comfort or security.

**Wendy 00:02:22**

Yes. And since then, how have your thoughts changed? Do you still think about COVID the same compared to when you first found out about it?

**Mauricio 00:02:36**

Pues mire, más que nada pensamos ahora, actualmente pues piensa uno cuidarse más, por si dice uno, a lo mejor ya está pasando, pero es mentira. A lo mejor en cualquier momento se puede enfermar o no sabes con quién estás conviviendo y te puedes enfermar también de Covid. Tienes que pensar cuidarte más de aquí para adelante, porque no no sabe uno cuando se vaya a enfermar ni con quien convives.

More than anything, right now you think about taking better care of yourself because someone might say maybe it's ending, but that's a lie. It is possible that at any moment you could get sick or that you might not know that someone you're spending time with [is sick] and you could get sick with COVID [from them] as well. You have to think about taking better care of yourself now from here on out because you don't know when you are going to get sick or who you're in contact with.

**Wendy 00:03:09**

Yes, you are right. The next question is, what problems worried you most during the COVID-19 pandemic?

**Mauricio 00:03:24**

Can you say that again, please?

**Wendy 00:03:26**

Yes. What problems worried you the most during the COVID-19 pandemic?

**Mauricio 00:03:33**

Problems?

**Wendy 00:03:37**

Yes. Have you had any problems that have come up and worried you during the pandemic?

**Mauricio 00:03:50**

Well, the sickness that everyone gets. You could start spreading COVID at any moment.

**Wendy 00:04:03**

Yes.

**Mauricio 00:04:05**

You see that, with the flu, it can develop into something worse, a cold too. More than anything, that is what you worry about.

**Wendy 00:04:19**

Yes, I understand. Okay, the next questions will be about your job. The first question is, what are you worried about regarding the effects of COVID-19 on your job, your family's economic situation, community, or anything more in general?

**Mauricio 00:04:40**

Look, at work [ps] you worry [ps] about not working anymore. And not being able to work, well the economy [ps] and the wellbeing of your family depends on that. At the end of the day, work is what you need in order to support your family. There isn't any support for your family when you don't have a job.

**Wendy 00:05:07**

Mmh.

**Mauricio 00:05:08**

Fortunately here, [ps] work on the dairy farm doesn't really stop but yes, it's a little worrying because you imagine not having a job. How are you going to get money? How are you going to support your family?

**Wendy 00:05:30**

Yes. [nods head in agreement] And are you worried if you get let go from your job that your economic situation would be harder?

**Mauricio 00:05:44**

Well, if you are worried about not working anymore, how do I say this? If you don't have a job right now, well, we are working almost every week with two days off. But if you take more days off or if you lose your job, where are you going to get another job?

**Wendy 00:06:12**

Yes, I understand. Okay, next question. Has the Coronavirus affected your job? In what way? Well, you don't have to, or, are there things that you have to do with more cleaning or anything like that?

**Mauricio 00:06:34**

Well, yes. We have to, well, the truth is we have to protect ourselves a little more because here

we also handle some water, and you also have to see what the weather is like. If it's cold, sometimes they say it's going to rain. The temperature also rises and falls. All of that also affects you. Because of that, you have to keep yourself more protected too.

**Wendy 00:07:01**

Okay, the next questions will be about your family and home. The first question is, what influence has COVID-19 had on your family? More specifically, in what way have your family's daily activities changed?

**Mauricio 00:07:26**

Well, one thing is that you still don't go out as much as before. You stay at home more now. For the same reasons if you go out, you go out with more protection and with more fear if you are going to get sick at any time. Yes, I have to protect myself and keep things cleaner.

**Wendy 00:08:01**

Yes, you are right. How would you describe the activities that you do inside of your home?

**Mauricio 00:08:09**

Sorry?

**Wendy 00:08:11**

How would you describe those activities, if you still do them at home?

**Mauricio 00:08:16**

How would I describe them?

**Wendy 00:08:23**

Yes, for example do you still get together with family? Do you chat on the phone or things like that?

**Mauricio 00:08:34**

Well, more than anything, now communication is more over the phone. But COVID has also made you communicate more to know how your family is doing, also, how their day was too. Worrying about COVID-19.

**Wendy 00:09:00**

Okay. What have been the greatest challenges that you or your family have faced during the COVID-19 outbreak?

**Mauricio 00:09:13**

Challenges...

**Wendy 00:09:15**

Yes.

**Mauricio 00:09:20**

Wow...challenges like, well it would be like, again protecting yourself more like I said. Not going out in order to stay safer.

**Wendy 00:09:45**

Yes, okay. Do you have kids or do you live with your parents, grandparents, siblings, kids, etc.?

**Mauricio 00:09:58**

I have three kids, two sons and a daughter in Mexico and a wife. Yes. I live with them in Mexico, but here I just live with my one kid.

**Wendy 00:10:18**

Okay. So, what have you all done to have fun during COVID-19? Yes, it's—you can—[nervous laugh].

**Mauricio 00:10:30**

What have we done to have fun? Well, thank goodness for Facebook, spending time on the phone watching Facebook.

**Wendy 00:10:42**

Oh yes.

**Mauricio 00:10:46**

Facebook. If you read, how do I say this, we can't go out feeling safe, more than anything.

**Wendy 00:10:51**

Yes, I understand.

**Mauricio 00:10:53**

Right now, what you do is watch the phone or the TV for a while.

**Wendy 00:10:58**

Okay.

**Mauricio 00:10:59**

There's nothing else to do.

**Wendy 00:11:02**

Okay, yes. The next questions will be about your community. Has COVID-19 changed your relationships with family members, friends, or community? If so, in what way have they changed?

**Mauricio 00:11:24**

Within my community, it has changed in the way that distant family members that don't live in the same community as us, well we can't visit them like we used to. You think about how during the course of your trip or while you are traveling, that anyone could get sick along the way or carry a sickness that could infect their family. A lot of people still haven't had communication with their family members. That's how it has been for me at least.

**Wendy 00:12:05**

And do you feel that this has changed your relationships, your faith, your family, sorry, or your friends?

**Mauricio 00:12:16**

Well, practically yeah. Listen, both my family and friends don't visit each other often because they are scared to go out. In general, you just don't visit each other as much as you want.

**Wendy 00:12:32**

Yes, that happens. Okay, how has the COVID-19 outbreak affected your community? For example, school, clubs, church, work, things like that.

**Mauricio 00:12:54**

Well, it has affected everything. People don't go to church anymore. The kids, at least the ones in my community, don't go to school. Everything is online. It's not the same anymore. So, yes a lot. More than anything, the community's economy seems a little worse because even before, there wasn't a lot of business and with COVID, business has dropped even more.

**Wendy 00:13:35**

[nods head in agreement] Do you feel that because you have kids that still go to school, that it's harder to do school online?

**Mauricio 00:13:45**

Look, fortunately my kids aren't studying right now. They're already done with school. Two of them [my sons] are already done. My daughter is the one that didn't finish school but regardless I don't have kids that are still in school. But I have a granddaughter that knows it's hard to do school online and be present in all of the classes, do the homework and everything. It's harder and more complicated.

**Wendy 00:14:17**

Yes, of course. What's the hardest part? Not having teachers right next to you to ask questions about the material?

**Mauricio 00:14:28**

Yes.

**Wendy 00:14:31**

Okay, the next questions will be about health. Did you or someone you know get sick during the pandemic? And what was...?

**Mauricio 00:14:41**

Yes, go ahead, I'm listening.

**Wendy 00:14:51**

Okay, and what has been your experience with COVID?

**Mauricio 00:14:57**

A niece of mine got sick. But it wasn't too bad because she got better in eight days.

**Wendy 00:15:14**

Oh, that's great!

**Mauricio 00:15:15**

Yes, she recovered fast.

**Wendy 00:15:19**

Yes, that's good. Is there anyone else that you know that got sick?

**Mauricio 00:15:25**

Well, no. [ps] other than a family acquaintance, no.

**Wendy 00:15:30**

Oh, that's good. Yes, and in what way do you think that the Coronavirus is affecting people's mental and/or physical health?

**Mauricio 00:15:45**

Well, COVID-19 affects a lot of people because people are realizing that a lot of other people are suffering mentally too. So, they are suffering mentally, and yes that makes them sick.

**Wendy 00:16:07**

Do you think that the Coronavirus is affecting people's physical health?

**Mauricio 00:16:17**

The Coronavirus? How what? Sorry.

**Wendy 00:16:21**

Yes. Do you think that the Coronavirus is affecting people's physical health?

**Mauricio 00:16:29**

Anyone who gets sick from COVID is affected physically. It affects them in the sense that they stop eating, lose their hunger, or lose their taste. It makes people not really feel anything. And if you don't eat, that affects you, well it affects your physical health.

**Wendy 00:16:53**

[nods head in agreement] Do you think that is what happened to your niece?

**Mauricio 00:16:59**

Well, a little because yes, it affected her physically. She lost a little weight.

**Wendy 00:17:11**

Yeah. The next questions will be about information. What have been your primary news sources during the pandemic?

**Mauricio 00:17:26**

The TV more than anything. You watch more TV.

**Wendy 00:17:34**

Okay and what are some important issues that the media broadcasts or doesn't broadcast, in your opinion?

**Mauricio 00:17:43**



Sorry. I didn't understand the question.

**Wendy 00:17:46**

Okay. What are some important issues that the media broadcasts or doesn't broadcast, in your opinion? Do you think there's a topic that the media isn't covering?

**Mauricio 00:17:59**

Oh...something important. Well, in reality, they aren't covering the actual cases of COVID. More than anything it's that sometimes, they manipulate information or don't give exact facts.

**Wendy 00:18:28**

Yes. In what way do you think that they are manipulating the information?

**Mauricio 00:18:37**

It could be in the form of them not giving you exact estimates of the cases or sometimes even altering the number of cases. They can tell you less than what is true or not tell you the truth at all.

**Wendy 00:18:54**

Yes. Okay. The next questions will be about the government. Do you have any opinion about how local, state, or federal leaders are responding to the crisis?

**Mauricio 00:19:14**

Can you repeat that, please?

**Wendy 00:19:16**

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

**Mauricio 00:19:34**

What would it be like?

**Wendy 00:19:36**

Yes. Do you think that they are doing a good job, or if not...what is it that they can do better?

**Mauricio 00:19:40**

I think that they are doing the best that they can because sometimes we as human beings don't always do what they say we need to do. Sometimes when they try to get us to do something or try to implement a new protocol, they want us to do it exactly how they say. However, a lot of

people don't do it exactly how they want. So if someone doesn't follow the orders for protecting the community, things just won't work.

**Wendy 00:20:24**

[nods head in agreement] No, you are right. Okay, two more questions left. These questions will be about the future. The first question is, have your experiences with the pandemic transformed your way of thinking about your family, friends, or your community? And if yes, in what way?

**Mauricio 00:21:00**

Excuse me, can you repeat that again so that I can understand you better?

**Wendy 00:21:04**

Yes, have your experiences with the pandemic transformed your way of thinking about your family, friends, or your community? And if yes, in what way?

**Mauricio 00:21:21**

Right now or in the future?

**Wendy 00:21:28**

Well, right now. Yes, that's alright.

**Mauricio 00:21:32**

Yes, if it's regarding right now, out of everything that has changed, it's as I've been saying. The economy is getting worse, families can't enjoy each other's company, and now they don't have as much physical contact as before. Well, the pandemic affects practically all of that.

**Wendy 00:21:52**

Yes. Do you feel that you have better or worse relationships compared to before the pandemic? Regarding your family or your friends?

**Mauricio 00:22:06**

Well, there can be better communication. It can be better because you are more concerned about them even though it's just over the phone. You are more worried about them. You ask, "how are you?" You try to make yourself be with them more in a sense.

**Wendy 00:22:34**

Yes, okay. The last question. Given what you know today, what do you think people, communities, or governments should take into account for the future?

**Mauricio 00:22:48**

Prevention. Preventative measures that are quicker.

**Wendy 00:22:56**

Yes.

**Mauricio 00:22:58**

And not letting time pass. [ps] Sometimes when you let time pass, that is when a sickness or something like that gets worse.

**Wendy 00:23:13**

Yes, you're right. Okay those are all of my questions for today. Do you have anything else that you want to share with us?

**Mauricio 00:23:30**

Well, no. I think that's it.

**Wendy 00:23:34**

Okay. Thank you so much for your time.

**Mauricio 00:23:39**

No [ps], thank you for giving me so much time. I want to see how long we've been doing the interview, and I don't think you can.

**Wendy 00:23:47**

Yes, no that's alright. Don't worry about it. Thank you so much again for giving us your time and this interview. It will help us a lot. Thank you.

**Mauricio 00:23:59**

I hope that it is helpful for you all.

**Wendy 00:24:00**

Yes, for sure. Goodbye.

**Mauricio 00:24:04**

Good, okay. Have a good afternoon.

**Wendy 00:24:08**

Okay. Goodbye.