

EYFON VIG YouthDays 2021

“My future perspective with Corona”



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In a world full of uncertainties, unpredictable and precarious times, a pandemic was the event that shook every foundation and changed the flow of many people's lives to a greater extent than we had ever imagined. There was doubt about the coming steps, fear in people's eyes, melancholy in our minds, and chaos was what best described our daily lives. Puzzling times also bring puzzling thoughts: the feeling of despair and the loss of hope effectively stifled the energy of many people. For others, however, this was one of the most significant turning points in their lives, and I dare say, I was one of them.

As a high school student, I still remember the morning when my country announced that the school would be closed immediately and we would all have to isolate ourselves. In that rush of emotion, my whole world came crashing down before my eyes. Nothing was the same anymore: I couldn't go to school, I couldn't meet with my friends and teachers, I couldn't go to the park or a restaurant with my parents, and I had to part with the people I spent most of my life with. In this state of numbness, I saw absolutely no point in planning for my future in fear of envisioning it destroyed one last time. I had no motivation to get up every morning and do things in my tiny room, the same tasks I used to enjoy doing in various places in the big city, surrounded by my peers and the vibrant community. But as the days went by, life began to change drastically. I had online classes, I video-called my friends and relatives whenever I wanted, and I was able to spend more quality time with my family. Therefore, the whole situation was not so bad, and surprisingly, I was not the only one who thought so. Although it was not easy for those who worked in the healthcare and business sector, those who got infected, or those who lost their loved ones due to the pandemic, it was still to be lauded how most countries managed to mobilize and somewhat balance things out in such a chaotic situation. That got me thinking about how well we humans can deal with crises, be they health, social, economic, political, or, as in our case, altogether.

This change of perspective made me realize that there is no reason to be afraid in such difficult situations. Instead, it is carefulness, responsibility, being organized and adaptable to the environment which allows a society to progress in small steps or even develop fully in the long run. To gain a better understanding of what the future might look like, I took a look at the past, in particular at one of the greatest pandemics of all time, the Black Death. The plague, which killed more than a third of the entire European population, was the starting point of quarantine, isolation, and social distancing, even if these were far more brutal than they are today. Nevertheless, the plague was at the same time the spark for the introduction of new technologies to increase productivity, printing presses for the first time in medicine, and one of the very reasons why many Europeans took to the sea to discover new lands.

By learning all this, my future vision became brighter and more innovative, adding a certain sparkle to today's world despite its still unsettling status due to Corona. Needing an immediate response to COVID-19, especially the medical field and businesses have speeded the adoption of advanced digital technologies, and this is a very positive move.

Scientists and other parties can finally use actual data around the world to make it easier to push through tough times: just like many schools worldwide successfully converted to online learning, many employees finally had the chance to work remotely from home, and nature taking a well-deserved rest from human activities, the society soon faced with another world, a more compact and productive one.

Seeing and experiencing all these from up close brought to me the previously missing motivation, the focus in my life, and the ability to be more critical while I kept working for my goals and objectives. The future was no more a dusty, unhopeful, and miserable world but a completely new one, with a better prepared and integrated society, and although it will be hard for many to get used to a different lifestyle, I can see a lot of positive aspects coming with it. Though all its negative parts, the pandemic gave us a better sense of proportion back that many of us had lost in our previous mad schedules. We learned to value small things in life that we mostly take for granted but truly miss the moment they are gone. We also gained more consciousness on environmental issues, and by experiencing from up close how big of a difference it brought to the planet the fact that we were in total isolation for at least 14 days, we all were moved to be eager to do something more for this cause.

To conclude, my future perspective with Corona is not something we should only see through a pessimistic lence. It is one of the humans' essential characteristics that we are social beings, and we have to live in a society in order to survive. With this being said, I also think we will continue working together to restore the unpredictable changes a pandemic brings within itself.

As the world will continue to be full of spontaneous surprises, uncertain and definite deeds, each individual must play their utmost as part of society, as the only way we can manage to build a better future and brighter perspectives during these times, as in the time of speaking, during the Covid-19 pandemic.