

NTU GLOBAL EXCHANGE

THE INFLUENCE OF COVID-19

MEET THE TEAM

Anait Arutyunyan

'I am 19 years old. I am a Kuban State University student and I study English philology. I am not sure whether English philology is my vocation, but I do enjoy studying the language and literature. Still, if I could, I would study to be a plastic surgeon, detective, writer and pilot at the same time. I enjoy doing something new just for the sake of doing it. I am a person of Armenian and Russian cultures harmoniously mixed together and I am interested in learning about other cultures. I also like discovering new things and gaining knowledge and experience in new fields.'

Sujipa Pethurupillai

'I am from a small island called Ceylon (Sri Lanka) in the Indian ocean. I love learning new languages and get to know about different cultures. Music is as important as food and water to me :) Language is not a barrier for me to enjoy the beauty of music. Trying different cuisines whenever I go out with my friends is one of my favourite thing to do. I love bubble tea and would like to try all the flavours that exists in the world (but the Taiwanese original flavour is my favourite so far :p). And I like Thailand a lot~ (Chan rak Thai mak maak kaa).'

MEET THE TEAM

Sergiu Pastiu

'Hello, fellow partners, my name is Pastiu Sergiu, I am from Romania and i study Economics. I am a very outgoing person (not very much these times haha), I am very talkative and I would love a very good and interesting debate on any topic if you ask me. I don't have many hobbies, but I like to play Football and I love to read Economics based books. I describe myself as a very funny guy, with an out of the box thinking and a very "open to any challenge" type of guy. I like indie rock type of music and action-based films. I am looking forward in meeting you guys, have a great evening.'

Abbegail de Wit

'I am South African and have been living in the UK for about four years now. I moved to the UK by myself in the hopes of going to university here. I am a mature student studying English at Nottingham Trent University. I am a competitive showjumper and am on my way to receiving the qualifications I need to become a horse-riding instructor. I am also an avid traveller; I have travelled to 11 countries either by train backpacking or by a more standard way of travel. I absolutely love animals. I can speak some German too.'



HAVE A LOOK AT WHAT WE SEE

Top left: Sri Lanka. Top Right: Romania.
Bottom Left: Russia. Bottom Right: South
Africa.



HOW HAS THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AFFECTED OUR COUNTRIES?

In the following slides you will find information on our respective countries and how the pandemic has affected them individually.

We each answered separate questions regarding our countries.

RUSSIA: KUBAN STATE UNIVERSITY



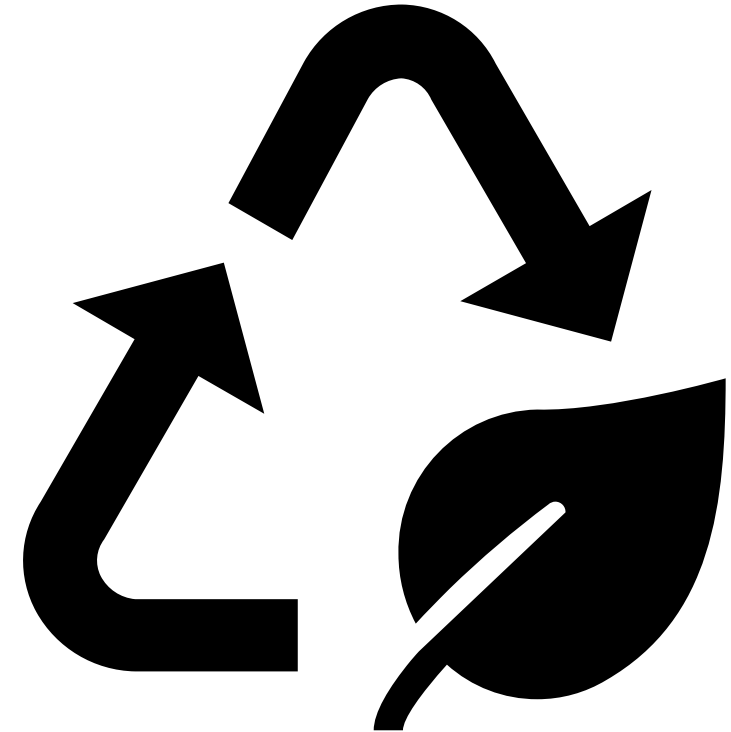
Anait Arutyunyan

Has the pandemic resulted in any positives and / or long-lasting changes in your community?

The pandemic has influenced almost all the spheres of our lives. Though it has lasted for a relatively short historical period, its impact on the society is difficult to overestimate. Notwithstanding all the negative and even tragic consequences of the pandemic, there has been some positive ones. Firstly, it is the impact on nature. It was especially notable at the beginning of the pandemic, when the most 'severe' restrictions were imposed. These restrictions reduced traffic in cities greatly, making air better and clearer. Secondly, as many people had to work and study from home, they got the chance to spend more time with their families. People found more time for themselves and for their relatives. Thus, people's point of view on many family values has changed mostly for the better.

HAS THERE BEEN A GREEN IMPACT IN YOUR COMMUNITY AS A RESULT OF THE PANDEMIC?

I think it is important to state how people's mindset has changed during the pandemic. The whole situation with the virus has made people feel how dependent they really are on nature. As a result, their attitude towards nature has changed – there has been many ecological movements for preserving natural world and doing something at the legislative level.



HOW HAS THE MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE PANDEMIC IN YOUR COUNTRY / COMMUNITY SHAPED YOUR UNDERSTANDING, VIEWS AND PERCEPTION OF IT?

As the media is the main way for people to learn the news about the coronavirus situation in the country and in the world, it has the power to shape people's understanding of the pandemic. At the very beginning of the pandemic the media covered it in a quite emotional way, which naturally caused emotional response in many people, including myself. As a result, I was eager to follow all the restrictions and advice and do as much as I could to help somehow the situation in my city and country. But soon the emotional media coverage of the pandemic gradually became more rationalized; people calmed down and understood the situation better and more precisely.

As the media is the most powerful way to shape people's opinion about something, this power must be used in the best way. After the vaccine being invented in our country, the media focused on spreading a good image of it. Many famous people have been shown getting vaccinated in order to motivate people to get a vaccine.





SRI LANKA: NOTTINGHAM TRENT UNIVERSITY

Has the pandemic resulted in any positive and / or long-lasting changes in your community?

Yes. As the covid is spreading fast, people were unable to go outside. The fact that random people coming to help the vulnerable, shows a positive side on having a strong community. Maintaining a high level of enthusiasm throughout this crisis by thanking the front-line healthcare workers and all the workers who stayed positive and worked hard during this pandemic through social media or in persons.

Sujipa Pethurupillai

HAS THERE BEEN A
GREEN IMPACT IN
YOUR COMMUNITY AS
A RESULT OF THE
PANDEMIC?

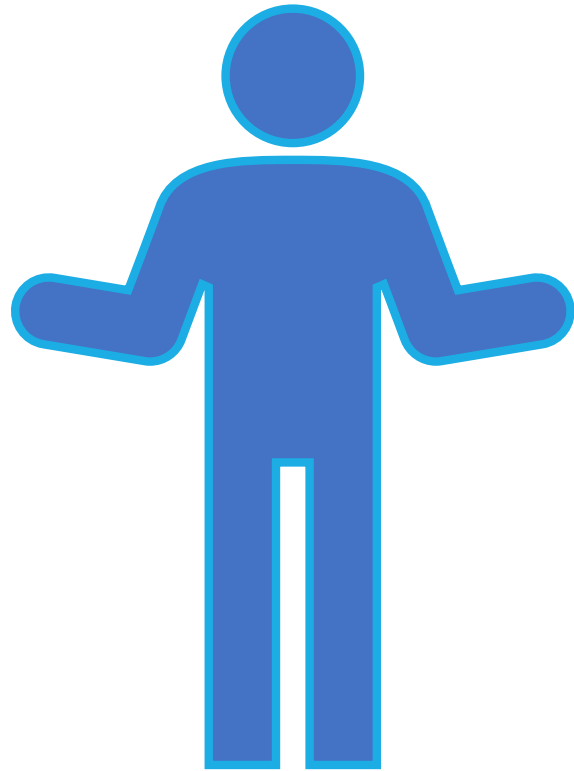
Yes, the covid-19 impacted the environment and the climate positively for some time due to all the restrictions and lockdowns and the temporary closing of the industries, and mainly with all the people staying at home not using any transports. Many cities in France has improve the air reducing the daily basis pollutions. This made the politicians think more about what they are doing wrong in trying to boost the economy of the country by destroying the environment little by little unconsciously.



IS IT POSSIBLE TO CREATE A SENSE OF INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY THAT BRINGS PEOPLE TOGETHER / BUILDS A TEAM WHILST ONLY COMMUNITY VIRTUALLY?

Yes, is it possible to create an inclusive community because of the current covid-19 situation, people tend to be lonely as they can't go out to meet other friends and families. Due to many losses across the world and in France, the mental health of many French is affected. Therefore, contacting others via social media and having an exchange with them could help them feel less lonely. For those who love to travel but couldn't do it for some time, exchanging with people from other countries can give them a kind of satisfaction. Just like how this exchange program is making me feel like I'm travelling from one country to another just by talking about the respective countries.

HAS THE PANDEMIC CHANGED THE MINDSET OF EMPLOYERS? IF SO, IN WHAT WAYS AND WHAT WILL IT BE?



The pandemic is controlling people's minds in a way making people feel more worried about what is going on but employers are trying to find an alternative positive way to control and help their business and company such as

Developing an adaptable workforce

A better work environment

A better time plan

Motivation

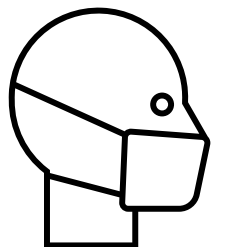
Finding a purpose

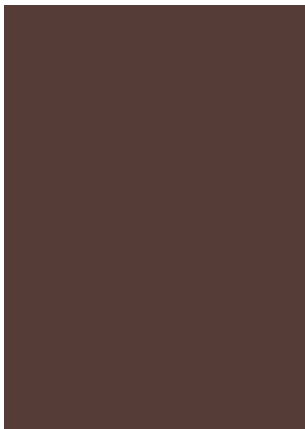
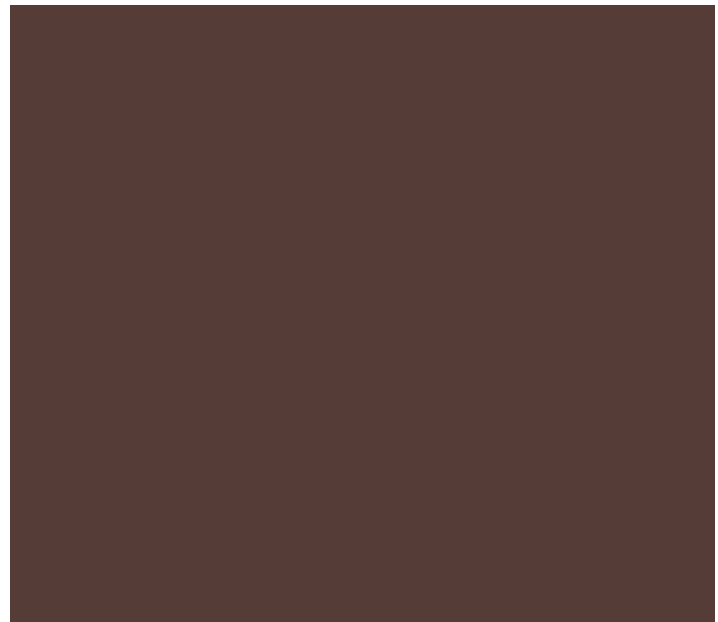
Rely of other leaders

On critical time like this the employers know that the best way to keep everything go smoothly in an enjoyable way is a positive and calm mindset within the workplace.

**HOW HAS THE SOCIAL
MEDIA COVERAGE OF
THE PANDEMIC IN
YOUR COUNTRY /
COMMUNITY SHAPED
THE UNDERSTANDING,
VIEWS AND
PERCEPTION OF IT?**

Social media became an important way of communication for most people during this pandemic. It is a tool that can connect two or more people who lives in different or in the same country easily. Social media identify all the health theme regarding covid-19 and inform everyone about the safety measures to take and its importants.







ROMANIA: WEST UNIVERSITY OF TIMISOARA

Has the pandemic resulted in any positives and / or long-lasting changes in your community?

This pandemic had some positive changes in my community, like for example, now we are closer to each other (not physical) , because now we call each other more often to see if we are ok and healthy. My community is very small, so the pandemic didn't have such a big impact to make long-lasting changes.

Sergiu Pastiu

HAS THERE BEEN A GREEN IMPACT IN YOUR COMMUNITY AS A RESULT OF THE PANDEMIC?



There has been no green impact in my community, as much as I hate to say that, because in my community people are not aware of the benefit that green energy has on the environment.

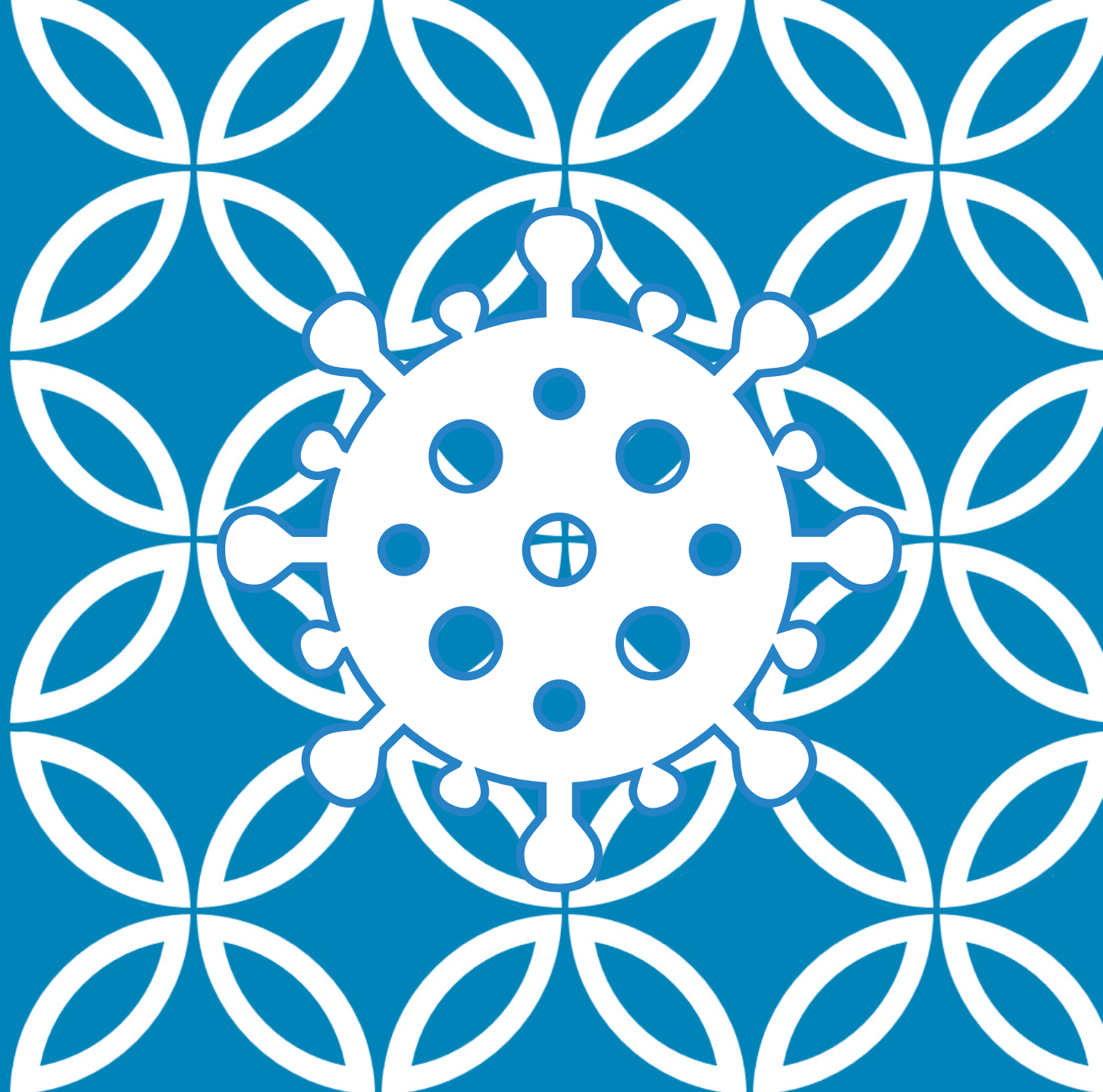
IS IT POSSIBLE TO CREATE A SENSE OF INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY THAT BRINGS PEOPLE TOGETHER / BUILDS A TEAM WHILST ONLY COMMUNICATING VIRTUALLY?

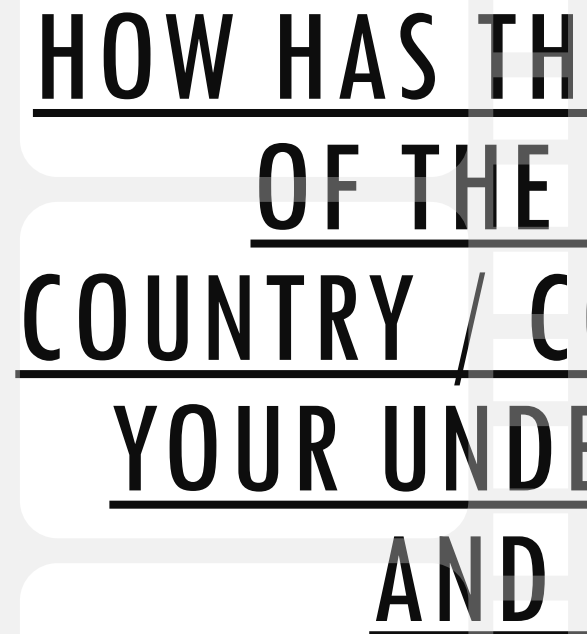
In my opinion, it is very possible to create a sense of inclusive community that brings people together. My experience told me that even if it's virtually you can still meet and start a friendship with some people, at my faculty me and my classmates didn't know each other physically until the end of this semester, but we did still create through a screen and a microphone a great relationship between each other, even in the exchange I had the opportunity to meet amazing people that I hope will be my friends long time after this exchange is over, people with different pasts and manners that I could hear about and be amazed.



HAS THE PANDEMIC CHANGED
THE MINDSET OF EMPLOYERS?
IF SO, IN WHAT WAYS AND
WILL THIS BE LONG-LASTING?

In my opinion, the pandemic changed the mindset of employers, because now they know how important is to be more freely and they know now to make the jobs more flexible, but I don't think this will be a long-lasting practice.





HOW HAS THE MEDIA COVERAGE
OF THE PANDEMIC IN YOUR
COUNTRY / COMMUNITY SHAPED
YOUR UNDERSTANDING, VIEWS
AND PERCEPTION OF IT?

The media in my country is controlled by political individuals, and the spread of misinformation and conspiracy's were at all time high. The media did a very poor job in making people understand what is happening and how to manage the situation, in exchange they promoted lies and deceptions. In my community people tended to believe the conspiracy that this pandemic doesn't exist, but I did a community job and explained to my neighbors why is good to stay inside and protected and how beneficial the vaccine is for them.





Abbegail de Wit

SOUTH AFRICA: NOTTINGHAM TRENT UNIVERSITY

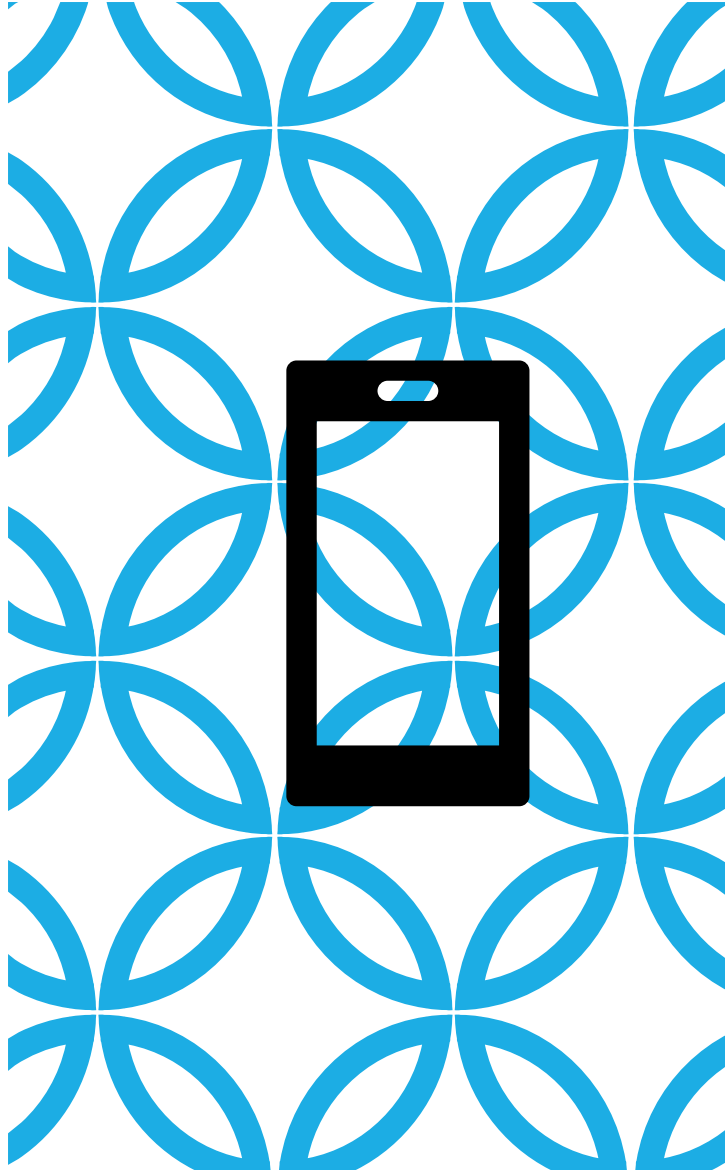
Has the pandemic resulted in any positive and / or long-lasting changes in your community?

Not necessarily in South Africa, the country hasn't dealt with the pandemic very effectively. There is a lack of rules and the rules that have been implemented have not been ones that make a difference and most definitely they are not long lasting.

HAS THE PANDEMIC CHANGED
THE MINDSET OF EMPLOYERS? IF
SO, IN WHAT WAYS AND WHAT
WILL IT BE?



Yes, with the other members of our group not having worked much they are not entirely experienced in this matter however, I work in a Store as a supervisors who assists in the employment process and I have noticed changes in the hiring process. For instance: many employers now are more careful in hiring people as they need to ensure that they will be able to support their current members of staff in the case of another national lockdown that would prevent people from working. They are also more aware of health conditions in employees. I don't believe it will be entirely long-lasting as once the economy reaches a more stable status the need for more staff with an increasing sales rate or workload will be necessary.



HOW HAS THE SOCIAL MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE PANDEMIC IN YOUR COUNTRY / COMMUNITY SHAPED THE UNDERSTANDING, VIEWS AND PERCEPTION OF IT?

Well, in my country there has been very little media coverage on the pandemic, however that is a constant theme in South Africa, pandemic or not. I have not heard much about the countries of my partners in the media and believe that that shows exactly how little coverage there truly is at the moment that reaches beyond a country's own borders, to a certain extent. The little things go unnoticed. The lack of media representation in South Africa has changed the way many of the citizens approach the severity of the virus, for instance my mother whom is vulnerable was very lenient with her precautions against the virus because she was simply not aware of the severity of the spread of covid and its effects.

THE END

Thank you for taking the time to view our project and we hope you enjoyed it just as much as we have!

