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Copy and paste the prompt you respond to below this line.

**The spread of Covid-19 around the world and the response to the pandemic has created and revealed new problems such as prejudice against Asians and greater socioeconomic inequality. Think of an example where such a source of conflict was activated by the pandemic and discuss how those specific circumstances are affecting people’s identities.**

Write your full essay (900-1100 words) in font size 12 below this line and write the word count at the end of it. Include your in text citations and list of references.

Since the COVID-19 epidemic, it has had a significant impact on how people perceive families and cultural identities. Especially for the Chinese, the family is considered to be one of the most central institutions, contains the most important relationships for individuals, and forms the foundations of all social (Scroope, Evason, 2017). The pandemic might have had a detrimental effect on Asian families' bonds to one another. As the lockdowns and quarantine procedures disruptions on typical family structures, it weakens the ties between family members. Moreover, the pandemic's effects on community and social support may also have harmed Asian families' sense of cultural identity because Asian societies place a high value on social unity and community support, which may have been weakened by socially discriminatory behaviors. Also, familiess might experience stress and anxiety as a result of the discrimination, which could have further strained interactions between relatives. Overall, it could be argued that Asian families' sense of identity and the strength of their familial relationships may have been reduced by the detrimental impacts of COVID-19.

The pandemic-induced disruptions to traditional family structures may have weakened the bonds between Asian family members. Quarantine measures and lockdowns forced families to live apart or rely on virtual communication to stay connected. A journal published from Neurology (Bhatt, 2022) showed that virtual meetings limits particular parts of our brain, the visual cortex, to identify facial expressions and emotions from human. The lack of human interaction in front of cameras may leads to more misunderstanding. This could also be interpreted for family gatherings, with insufficient interactions between family members may lead to confusion, isolation and separation, leading to weakened family bonding. Research has stated the relationship conflicts are some of the bio‐psycho‐social challenges facing individuals and their families during the COVID‐19 pandemic (Amorin‐Woods et al., 2020; Falicov, Nino, & D’urso, 2020; Fraenkel & Cho, 2020). Leaving these conflicts being unsolved, it may worsen the sense of belongings to the family and lower one’s family identity. Also, the pandemic puts a challenge to the traditional culture. One of the values is filial piety. The article suggested that Confusion value people showing respect and obedience to parent and ancestors. (Bary, 2013) As people prefer to stay at home and distance themselves to prevent the spread of the virus to the elderly, it reduces the chance of taking care of the parents. The pandemic created a dilemma which Asian families may feel torn between their obligation to care for their older relatives and their need to protect them from the virus. If there is a conflict in such value between ones and their parents, this may worsen relationships between families and result in loosen familial ties.

The pandemic's impact on community and social support may have further weakened the sense of cultural identity within Asian families. Social distancing policies and restrictions on gatherings may have disrupted the traditional emphasis on social continuity and support from different communities in Asian cultures. For example, funerals were often limited to a small number of family members, and ancestral rites could not be performed in the traditional manner. Weddings were also affected, with many couples having to postpone or significantly alter their wedding plans due to restrictions on gatherings (Ebery, 1991). Traditional rituals are one of the important parts of cultural identity for Chinese society, it provides a sense of continuity and connection to the past and with the big family tree as these rituals have been passed down for several centuries. If the traditional rituals are stopped, it may break the bonding with other family members and their ancestors. Events such as funeral, ancestral rites and weddings are the several ways which gathers to mourn for the ancestors and bonds with other relatives from the big family. Without these activities, one may become more apart from the family and feel segregated, which will decrease the sense of cultural identity of a family.

The discrimination faced by Asian families can have a significant impact on their sense of identity and belonging. Anti-Asian hate and racism can lead to a sense of isolation and exclusion from the broader community, which can make it difficult for Asian families to maintain their cultural traditions and values. A study analyzed the forum of international Chinese students to look for their biggest challenges caused by COVID-19. (Pollak & Yuen, 2022) As there is a stereotype that the virus was brought in by the Chinese, the biggest challenge they are facing is taking the blame of producing the pandemic virus. Discrimination could greatly affect the mental health and well-being of family members, leading to increased stress and anxiety. These negative experiences can create barriers to intergenerational relationships and to the transmission of cultural knowledge and values. As one might feel ashamed of their own race, they might not accept the traditional cultures and follow the family traditions. This could further erode the sense of family identity and belonging.

In conclusion, Asian families' sense of identity and the tenacity of their familial relationships have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 epidemic. This adverse effect has been exacerbated by stigmatization, disturbances to conventional family structures brought on by the pandemic, and the effects on social support and community. It is critical to address these detrimental consequences going forward and work to reinforce cultural and family bonds among Asian communities. This could involve creating social support networks, fostering cultural practices and traditions, and facilitating chances for group meetings even in spite of continued pandemic-related difficulties.

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   , 2013, Columbia University Press, pp. 7-19.

**Summary table**

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| **Items requiring major attention**  (You should summarize how you have attempted to respond to these items in the cover sheet you submit with the *final* essay. See [example](https://gohkust.sharepoint.com/teams/HUMA1000/Open%20Access/8-Multimedia/Example%20for%20students-Completed%20cover%20sheet.jpg?Web=1).) | |
| Thesis statement absent |  |
| Thesis statement ineffective |  |
| Paragraphs with too little argumentation or evidence |  |
| Paragraphs with problematic claims (e.g., invalid, irrelevant, incautious, unconstrained) |  |
| No citations from course material |  |
| No matching list of references |  |
| Major coherence and/or clarity issues |  |
| Counterargument and/or refutation absent or faulty |  |
| Word limit not met or exceeded |  |
| Noticeably imbalanced paragraph lengths or paragraphs too long to read easily |  |
| Frequent language errors impair understanding |  |