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| ARTICLE COVID-19, internet, and mobility: The rise of telework, telehealth, e-learning, and e-shopping |
| REFERENCE to the article (APA style) <p>Mouratidis, K., & Papagiannakis, A. (2021). COVID-19, internet, and mobility: The rise of telework, telehealth, e-learning, and e-shopping. <i>Sustainable Cities and Society</i>, 74, 103182.</p> |
| ABSTRACT <p>This study provides new <u>evidence on changes in a range of online activities due to the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.</u>¹ <u>Online activities replaced physical participation in activities and contributed to changes in urban mobility during the pandemic.</u>² <u>Using data from a nationwide survey in Greece, the paper examines changes in the importance and the frequency of engaging in online activities before and during COVID-19.</u>³ <u>Findings show that both the importance and the frequency of engaging in telework, teleconferencing, online learning (e-learning), telehealth, and online (e-shopping) significantly increased during COVID-19 compared to pre-COVID-19. Substantial increases in importance were reported for telework, teleconferencing, online learning, and telehealth.</u>⁴ Urban mobility in the post-COVID-19 era is likely to depend on the degree of prevalence and acceptance of these remote online activities, together with a set of complex and interconnected factors related to urban form, the spatial planning and decision-making system, and social awareness about the future of cities.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The purpose of the article. 2. The theoretical background of the article. 3. The methodology of data collection. 4. The results of the survey. |
| THEORETICAL BACKGROUND <p>The article is based on the development of the idea of "Virtual Mobility" during the pandemic. Specifically, the evolution of immediate digitalisation, online activities and finally the expansion of opportunities that the internet provides.</p> |
| PURPOSE <p>The aim of this article is to interrogate firstly, the degree of the difference caused by COVID-19 on various online activities and secondly the alteration of the frequency of the use of teleactivities. It also informs about the effects that the pandemic had on our daily life.</p> |

METHODOLOGY

The researchers began a population-based survey in Greece to collect the wanted data. The campaign was done with the help of social media incorporated with snowball sampling. People between the ages of 18-79, where the median age was 41, were asked about their life during the covid pandemic and right before it. There were also questions about the use of the online activities used at the time and how much did they help them and how frequent they used them. The answers were given on an ordinal scale from 1 to 5. The tests were utilised to identify important contrasts in the matters of each online activity before and during COVID-19. So by the end of the day, 1201 people answered paired sample t-tests of difference in mean and Wilcoxon signed-rank tests.

RESULTS

The outcome of the adoption of online activities in peoples' everyday life, due to the pandemic, was the growth of both their use and importance. According to the statistics , telework, teleconferencing ,and online learning were the forms of online activities that had the highest increase of significance during COVID-19. Even though , the most important ones appear to be telework and online shopping regardless of the virus . Furthermore, the importance of online activities in general was expanded as well, but in lower levels than teleactivities. That was expectable , since the use of smartphones ,social media and the internet was really at the peak both before and after the pandemic. The statistics also show that the number of people that teleworked and video called during covid is multiplied by four , while the e-learners are multiplied by seven. In contrast, the pandemic's affect on online shopping and telehealth was minimum and finally ,the online dating's rates did not even change at all.

YOUR REFLECTION (250 words)

My partner and I were looking for an article that would fit our interests and likings, we wanted something that we "encounter" every day. So we selected this hot topic. Overall COVID has changed our lives dramatically and we thought it would be interesting and maybe helpful to select this article.

The article was easy to read as it didn't contain any specific terminology or difficult vocabulary. It was well written and everything was explained very detailed and also it contained graphs that enlightened the reader, so it wasn't required to be a connoisseur of the subject to understand it.

The authors described the increase in the use of online activities during the pandemic, something that everybody noticed, as it was the only way to communicate with each other and the only way to continue our everyday life. But for us the teenagers, that we use technology on a daily basis that growth wasn't that noticeable.

However, the idea of "Virtual Mobility" is of vital importance for the society. Each individual's health is endangered in any case that involves physical contact and attendance in crowded places. To avoid taking such risks, online activities provide people the opportunity to complete any task or activity they have to do through the Internet.As students in this pandemic, we are privileged that we had a chance to attend online classes. The opportunities that online activities provide are uncountable and really beneficial for the society and every single one of us and i am looking forward to learn more out of it.

I highly recommend all my co-students to check this article to get a reality-hit check, so they can know at what condition we are in.