First Wave of Covid-19

Covid-19 also known as Coronavirus is an infectious disease, developed first in December 2019 in China. Covid-19 is one of the many diseases from the Coronaviruses family. Coronaviruses cause disease in mammals and birds. They cause respiratory tract infection. Coronaviruses have a spike shape with a bulge in the middle, the spike shape helps in both spreading of the disease and infection. Coronavirus can spread through objects (by sticking to the objects) and through the air. They can also spread through physical contact with someone or something.

The first case of covid-19 was documented in Wuhan, China in December of 2019, soon the disease started spreading around China, and through travels it spread to other countries as well. Just in a few months thousands of people were getting infected daily. By January 23, 2020 around 600 cases and 17 deaths had been reported, The Chinese government announced a lockdown in Wuhan and some other cities which lasted around 2 and a half months. Lockdown is a temporary condition imposed by governmental authorities (as during the outbreak of an epidemic disease) in which people are required to stay in their homes and refrain from or limit activities outside the home involving public contact. This created a mass panic among the people, resulting in people rushing to markets and stores to buy and store food and some people just leaving the affected areas or the areas that lockdowns had been announced in. In the next few weeks people from other countries had also been reported positive due to traveling, and Covid-19 became a global pandemic.

The first cases of Covid-19 in India had been reported on 30 January 2020 in Kerala. The disease spread very quickly and soon had taken over the whole country. Covid-19 symptoms may not be visible even in the first 14 days of being infected which made it harder to test whether someone was infected or not. On 24 March 2020 the government of India announced a nationwide lockdown for 21 days. The lockdown limited the movement of 1.39 billion people living in India, and as with China this announcement created mass panic among the people. People were rushing to stores and markets to buy and save as much food as they could, and people who had left their villages due to work were now trying to go back to their homes. This movement of people caused more people to get infected.

Covid-19 affected the global economy, and people's social lives. People were no longer able to meet up or gather around, instead everything shifted online. School had been shut down temporarily but in a few months most schools started teaching online. This made many changes to people's lives, platforms such as YouTube and Netflix were being used a lot more since everyone was stuck inside. Majority of the online meetings were being done through Zoom and Google Meet. The online community became much more active than they were previously and tons of people were trying to make positive changes during this tough time. For me this time was mostly spent on YouTube, some on good and useful content, others on less useful content, but ultimately they were most of the time entertaining and stopped me from worrying about the situation. The pandemic also had a negative effect on people's mental health. According to a study conducted by _The Lancet Regional Health – Americas_ depression rate has nearly tripled since the beginning of Covid-19 in America.

Covid-19 had a big effect on the global economy, online platforms, and delivery services were making a lot of money while factory jobs were no longer available. Sadly many people lost their jobs, and many businesses went bankrupt such as JC Penny, Hertz, J.Crew, etc… . Medicines, masks, ventilator machines, and oxygen tanks were in a lot of demand which some countries had a shortage of, but thankful the global community came together to help each other out with supplies. Covid-19 negatively affected many countries economically. The GDP (Gross Domestic Product) of India dropped 7% from 2019 to 2020.

A lot of people lost their jobs, family members, and even hope in life during this tough time. Businesses went bankrupt. Covid-19 had many bad impacts in our social life and economy. It made us realize how much we need each other and how important it is for us to interact with each other. It sort of reunited the world. It was a sad year but thankfully it's getting better.