

Transcript of Interview with Emre Muftu by Soham Phadke

Interviewer: Soham Phadke

Interviewee: Emre Muftu

Date: 12/08/2020

Location (Interviewee):

Location (Interviewer):

Transcriber: Lily Crigler

Abstract: Soham Phadke interviews his classmate about how his perception of Covid-19 has changed.

Soham Phadke 0:03

All right. Do you consent to being recorded?

Emre Muftu 0:06

Yes, I do.

Soham Phadke 0:08

And can you introduce yourself?

Emre Muftu 0:12

My name is Emery Muftu, and I am a student at Northeastern University.

Soham Phadke 0:18

Can you state the date and time right now?

Emre Muftu 0:21

Um, it is December 8, 2020, at two o'clock on a Tuesday.

Soham Phadke 0:28

All right. So I just have a few questions for you. Do you think that learning about past pandemics is important to understand the one right now?

Emre Muftu 0:39

Um, well, obviously, like people always say like, history repeats itself. I don't know that this is true every time but for sure there are elements sort of that repeat themselves each time. So learning about those elements can kind of help us kind of further understand, like, why things are so crazy, and why maybe like, those things aren't so actually crazy, but like, they're kind of bound to happen.

Soham Phadke 1:13

Right, and has your like, perspective changed about COVID since- since you started taking this class, like before, was it different and right now, has it changed?

Emre Muftu 1:26

Yes. So um, for sure, it's changed. Kind of continuing off my like, last point, like, in the beginning of COVID, it kind of, like, up until school, I was just like, why is COVID happening like this? This seems like a once in a million year thing. But you kind of eventually realized that it- it's just kind of normal. It's happened throughout history. And then, yeah.

Soham Phadke 2:07

Has this class made you more optimistic or pessimistic about COVID- about COVID getting better over time?

Emre Muftu 2:16

Well, for COVID, it's made me more pessimistic, because I've understood that, you know, the way that things were handled, like, wasn't the best way or the most efficient way. But it's made me more optimistic for the future. And that- and that- I think that people are going to see how like, kind of earth shattering that COVID was that like, something so small could like- just like, kind of just stop our whole country for like, several, or like, months or years. So I think people are gonna take it more seriously and like stuff like that.

Soham Phadke 3:03

And how do you think the world has dealt with COVID? Like the US and the rest of the world, could- do you think we could have done better and why?

Emre Muftu 3:13

I'm- so actually something in this class that I wish we learned more about was actually COVID itself and learning how the US handled it versus how the world handled it. So I don't really know how I could. Or, I don't know how, like, I'm not super educated on this subject. But I think for sure the US could have handled it better. Just, yeah, I feel like any- any person with an acute understanding of pandemics could know that the way the US handled pandemics wasn't appropriate or smart.

Soham Phadke 4:02

Well, what can we do to prevent the next pandemics whenever it arises?

Emre Muftu 4:07

Um, so I think that we need to have a better global health system. One that communicates with each other accurately, and, you know, as- as quickly as possible. We've seen kind of like information delays for COVID. And we've seen vast nationalism. That's kind of scary. So yeah, just like a more global centric point- point of view in relation to pandemic is-

Soham Phadke 4:53

And just, yeah.

Emre Muftu 4:55

Oh, and also, we need to feed people who don't have food. That's like probably the main thing. People shouldn't be eating wild animals.

Soham Phadke 5:07

And so if we just talk about COVID right now, how do you think we should mitigate it? Like, what can we do right now to stop it? Or just slow the spread before the vaccine comes out?

Emre Muftu 5:21

Um, whew. Um, I don't know if I have the answers here on this one. But just like people need to keep wearing masks and staying inside and like following guidelines, like people probably just need to like hunker down for a while. But I don't think that that's going to happen.

Soham Phadke 5:55

And do you think the vaccine is the ultimate solution to the pandemic, or do you think we have to do something in addition to actually like, end this thing?

Emre Muftu 6:06

Um, I think, a vaccine- I hope that a vaccine would ultimately be the solution to this pandemic. But, um, with that, we also have to just like, convince our people to get it because you know, about, like, I think like less than 60% of the American population would get the vaccine at this stage. It's like, sort of trial maybe. So, I don't know. I think like the fight here is more kind of like a- I don't want to say we have to like market the, like, vaccine to people, but like, that's not the right way of phrasing it. But I think we have to do like a- I'm not thinking of the right words right now. But just like a public health push to, like, make people realize that everybody like, that everybody should take the vaccine.

Soham Phadke 7:21

Well, thank you so much for your time.

Emre Muftu 7:24

Yeah, thanks so much.