**Transcript of Interview with Soham Phadke and Emre Muftu**

Interviewee: Soham Phadke

Interviewer: Emre Muftu

Date: September 19th, 2020

Location (Interviewee):

Location (Interviewer):

Transcriber: otter.ai, 2nd pass by Gilbert Lopez, JOTPY curator

Abstract:

Emre Muftu 0:04

All right. To start off, do you give consent to be interviewed for the COVID-19? archive project?

Soham Phadke 0:14

Yeah, I give consent.

Emre Muftu 0:15

Alright, cool. So to start out, do you want to say your name and state the time and stuff like that?

Soham Phadke 0:24

Yeah. So my name is Soham. And the time right now is to 11pm. And the date is 19. September 2020.

Emre Muftu 0:35

What's your occupation right now? Like, what are you doing?

Soham Phadke 0:38

know right now I'm a student at Northeastern University. And I'm undecided right now, but I, I want to major in computer science or business or both.

Emre Muftu 0:48

That's awesome. Um, so to start out, there's a lot of time in quarantine, there's a lot of like, ways to spend your energy. I was wondering if you did any, like cool projects, or big things that you're proud of doing?

Soham Phadke 1:07

Oh, so big things. I think I spent a lot of my time in quarantine, doing online courses. And I those courses were stuff I would not be able to do in the normal school year. So I think I made good use of that time. And I you know, did some extracurricular activities, I focused on exercising, and I basically try to keep myself healthy during the during these months.

Emre Muftu 1:36

Yeah, that's really awesome. What type of extracurriculars did you do? Like what what were the classes you took?

Soham Phadke 1:43

classes? I took a class in computer science. And then I took a class on investing in the stock market to keep myself busy that way..

Emre Muftu 1:55

oh, nice. Cool. Um, you mentioned health. Um, so as well as physical health, it was kind of hard to keep our mental health during quarantine. Did you have any strategies to cope with mental health during the kind of struggle of quarantine?

Soham Phadke 2:11

Yeah, I think what my struggle was, I didn't have a lot of struggle, I struggle with the fact that there's nothing, you know, really to do. We were just, you know, spending a lot of time in our house. And we couldn't go out we had to wear masks. So what I tried to do is I tried to think of things that I would not be able to do, that I can do now. So the stuff I mentioned before, like courses, exercise, I tried to make a list of things that I, that I, that I can do right now to make use of the time. So I that's that's the one the way I kept myself busy and engaged. And the other thing was, I spend a lot of time with my family. Obviously, I we tried to go out whenever we can, whatever we could, and I tried to keep myself busy and engaged that way.

Emre Muftu 3:10

Did you feel your self like grow closer to your family through quarantine?

Soham Phadke 3:14

Yeah, I think so. I think because spending a lot of time with my family, I think was definitely good. And we had a lot of good conversations about how what's going on in the world right now. And I think it was a good bonding year for us.

Emre Muftu 3:34

Yeah, for sure. Um, was it hard to communicate with your friends while being at home? Or did social media kind of help and play a role in you being able to kind of stay social with people your age?

Soham Phadke 3:48

Yeah, I think social media helped. I video called my friends a lot. I couldn't really meet them. I didn't meet them often. I only met a few but I think social media made the, made that process a lot more simpler and easier.

Emre Muftu 4:05

You mentioned you didn't really meet your friends. Were you like anxious or worried that you were going to get Coronavirus or were you kind of more just looking to say like socially distance and be kind of responsible socially?

Soham Phadke 4:18

Yeah, I think I want I want it to be responsible more than anything. I think. I didn't I wasn't really stressed about getting Coronavirus because I I usually don't get sick and I I even if I got sick I was like mentally ready to face those challenges.

Emre Muftu 4:36

Yeah.

Soham Phadke 4:37

But I also on the other hand, I want it to be cautious and safe and take care of others, not just myself.

Emre Muftu 4:45

Hmm. So what were Corona, what were Corona case numbers looking like in your town.

Soham Phadke 4:52

So I think my down did a really good job of keeping the numbers low like, I think live in a small town, actually. So it was just about, like 20 cases, maybe a little bit more. But I think those are all the cases we had.

Emre Muftu 5:10

So how big was your town to only have 20 cases?

Soham Phadke 5:14

How big was your town? So

Emre Muftu 5:15

yeah.

Soham Phadke 5:18

I'm not sure I think our town did a lot of you know, I think anywhere I went, everyone had a mask on. I never saw someone without without a mask. And we practice social distancing, distancing a lot. So I think that really helped the process.

Emre Muftu 5:39

Did you have a job during quarantine?

Soham Phadke 5:42

No, no, when I started quarantine, I didn't, I was gonna actually start a job. I applied for a job a few weeks before the lockdown started.

Emre Muftu 5:53

Yeah.

Soham Phadke 5:54

So like, I applied for a job. And then my my start date getting delayed and delayed because, you know, because that's when the lockdown started. And eventually, they said they could not hire me. So I was kind of disappointed for that. But then eventually, if eventually they opened up, like internships, and I could apply for that, and provided I work online, of course, so I think it worked out in the end, but at first I thought, like, I was not going to get a job.

Emre Muftu 6:28

So was it an internship or more of like a traditional job?

Soham Phadke 6:31

It was an indention text now that's cool.

Emre Muftu 6:35

Um, okay, so to kind of sum things, sum, sum things up, I kind of want to talk about the beginning and end of quarantine.

Soham Phadke 6:48

Ok.

Emre Muftu 6:49

Um, so I was wondering, what was the first first day or moment you kind of realized when things weren't going to be normal?

Soham Phadke 6:59

I think the first day, a moment would be back in. Back in May, I think the end of May around I don't know the exact date. But that's I thought, initially, when the lockdown started, I thought this would take only three months, and that will be fine. Like the country would open up. But then we went past that date, actually. And that did not seem to happen. The case numbers just started growing and growing. So I thought like, this is gonna go on for a long time now. So that was that struck me like the start of June, I think, May and June.

Emre Muftu 7:39

Okay, so my last question is, do you have any kind of like Corona predictions of like, what's gonna stay with us forever? And what we're kind of going to leave behind from quarantine. I know...

Soham Phadke 7:49

I think what's gonna stay with us is that I think people will be a lot more conscious about their health and sanitation. I think that I hope that people take care of their health, I think and practice social distancing, if they're sick from any disease.

Emre Muftu 8:11

Yeah, for sure.

Soham Phadke 8:12

Like wearing a mask just to keep others safe. I think that's something that we should keep as a society, even after this pandemic ends.

Emre Muftu 8:21

Yeah, I completely agree with you. I hadn't really thought about like social distancing while I was sick with the flu really before Corona.

Soham Phadke 8:31

Right, exactly.

Emre Muftu 8:33

Um, well, thanks for your time. Um, that concludes my questions. Um, thank you very much.

Soham Phadke 8:45

Yeah. Thanks. Thank you.

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