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Pandemic Crisis

The diseases occurring over a wide geographic area and affecting an exceptionally high proportion of the population is a pandemic. Covid-19 also known as Corona virus has left the United States of America with numerous negative impacts and less positive impacts.

Describing how CVS looks like and other related spaces beside It. Before Covid-19 started in my neighborhood. The pharmacy Known as CVS located In Queens (Far rockaway) Is a pharmaceutical organization or a background where people could get their medication or prescriptions. The pharmacy came into existence in 1995 and incorporated In New York. Besides CVS other stores are located which are Bank of America, Supermarket (fine fair), a pizza store and a dry-cleaning store. Moreover, these stores are all different and attract different customers. CVS pharmacy was always open and wasn't a restricted area. Inside CVS pharmacy the entrance of the space Is big with two automatic sliding doors with a security standing beside the door outside. There is no decoration, It Is painted white, It Is only decorated during the holidays. They have their logos printed on chairs, on the tables, posters on the wall. People always came into the store to buy whatever they liked, pick up their medications or go see a pharmacist and the pharmacy had baby accessories, other products like Body creams and facial products, candies and chocolates etc. Nobody had to struggle to get into the store or stay In line, everything was

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going smoothly and everyone minded their businesses. There were no complaints about anything. Also, people liked going to the pharmacy because it was easy and they could just walk there without having to stress themselves.

On Friday April 24, 2020, I went to CVS pharmacy to buy some facial products but before I could go get all the things I wanted to buy, it occurred to me to check my environment and try to observe how things were going in my surroundings. Also, because I haven't gone outside since the whole pandemic started. That day before I got into the pharmacy, I realized we all had to stand in a line before we could enter the pharmacy to buy whatever we wanted which was new to everyone. Also, only 5-10 people were allowed to enter the pharmacy and that was one of the reasons why there was a long line. I was annoyed and frustrated with the way the line was too long and it was cold on that same day. Everyone was all practicing the social distancing we were told to do and a lot of people were wearing their masks and gloves. Which was obvious because of the pandemic that was going on.

Additionally, I saw a man that came, and he wasn't putting on his gloves or wearing a mask and the security didn't let the man go inside the pharmacy because of that. I was so confused with all that going on that I didn't have a choice than to ask people questions. So, I saw my neighbor whose name is Fayemi. She was working close to the pharmacy, and she saw me on the line and asked me if I could let her get in front of me so I said yes and asked her why she was here and she told me she came out to pick up some medications for her patient and that she can't leave her patient alone for too long which I understood because I do the same job which is



working as a home health aide. So, we got to talking because we were on the line for a little while and then we were all looking and waiting till It's our time to get into the pharmacy. So, I decided

to ask her questions about the environment in Queens because she has lived In Queens for a long time going 5 years now. And she didn't stop working during the pandemic. The first question I asked her was “how Queens was like before the pandemic started, and everyone had to go on lockdown. She told me that Queens was a quiet neighborhood, everyone minded their business, goes to work, children went to their school and came back home in the morning. Everyone Is busy because people are rushing to go to work, and students are rushing to go to school. Even the train stations are overcrowded. So, I asked what the train stations were like during the lockdown and the difference before the lockdown because she was given her experience about what she had noticed that changed. And she replied saying yes, she had taken the train during the lockdown and the train station wasn't crowded even In the train there weren't a lot of people that take the public transportation and even the people that take public transport practice social distance staying 6-8 ft apart and wearing their face mask and gloves. Fayemi also told me that going to the grocery store or anywhere, the fact that you are stepping out of the house you must put on your face mask and gloves and practice 6ft distancing but before we all didn't have to do that you just go into the store and buy whatever you want to buy and pay for It. So, I asked her If keeping the 6 ft distancing actually helps us not get the virus and she said didn't give me a direct answer I felt like she wasn't so sure but what she said was that it could because then you won't come In contact with anyone who carried the virus and they didn't know and also It hasn't really been proved it helps. “Six feet may turn out to be more of a minimum safe distance. It doesn't



guarantee you won't get sick, but it probably reduces the chances significantly. In any case, it's clear that many people are still struggling with this concept or simply don't care at all. At this point I think it's pretty clear that the only way to keep people from gathering on beaches and in parks is to close them. I'm not sure what we're supposed to do about crowded markets and laundromats though. One idea is to promote the use of masks in public." (HOT AIR By John Sexton). This quote is important because it talks about how social distancing plays a role in the pandemic that has been going on and if it helps us not to get infected with the virus. She also said before the pandemic she went anywhere she wanted to go, like going to the DMV then she could walk in now you have to schedule an appointment and it must be if it is important. Hair and nail salons were always open. No one was scared, everyone was living their lives, hanging out with friends, partying, going out to fun places, celebrating in their favorite restaurants etc. Now everyone must stay indoors in their house, worry about staying safe and practice social distance. After that, it was our turn to go inside the store, so we all went to go buy whatever we wanted. I learnt a lot from what I saw and what Fayemi told me.

Furthermore, the next day I went to my aunt's house because she lived close to me, and it was just a two minutes' walk. My aunt's name is Kate. She is a nurse, and she was able to give me details about how things were in the nursing home. I asked her how it was like working for patients in the nursing home before the pandemic started. Kate said it was safe and no one had to bother about coronavirus but now they had the fear in them. Before they only cared about taking care of their patients but now, they cared about their lives too as much as their patients own. Before the pandemic other nurses did not stop working for any reason except if it was to take



vacations or it was their day off from work or for emergency purposes. But now during the crisis they don't because They are all scared of their lives, and they have families they don't want to get Infected and lost their lives because some are single parents too and also, they didn't have enough masks and gloves available for them some of them had to buy their own and bring It to work. "At this point most hospitals and nursing homes In the New York City metropolitan area, which Is the national epicenter of the pandemic, continue to operate under 'crisis conservation' standards because they do not have enough PPE to distribute to our desperate staff." The nurse that made the complaint was Patricia Kane from (New York Post). This quote explains some of the reasons why some nurses were scared to work during the lockdown which can also be because of the shortages of the PPE, and they had families and kids they wouldn't want to lose their lives too.

So, I asked her why she didn't stop working and she said she must save lives and she believes that if she Is protected and believes in God that nothing would happen to her and also, she reduced her hours. My aunt Is a Christian and Is very religious, so she had faith In God. Also, I asked her If she had any patients who have had the diseases where she was working, and she said no.

However, Due to the crisis, people in my Neighborhood people got scared, stayed Inside the house. Some stopped working, and people that go to work don't stay outside late. I noticed that the people who continued working were the ones who were health care workers or government workers and people who believed they still had to make money to make provisions for their family because they were going to practice the precautions that were told to be taken. For example, those who worked In restaurants and supermarkets fell under that category. And



some people didn't care about the money they needed. Their health was more Important to them than going to work to risk their lives. Although it was scary because they were always listening to the news on TV and reading newspapers and we were told that New York had the largest population that were already infected and had died of the virus. "New York state has more confirmed coronavirus cases than any other country outside of the United States, according to data from Johns Hopkins University. New York City, which has become the epicenter of the outbreak, has had at least 5,150 deaths, according to the latest tallies from Johns Hopkins University." (From CNBC NEWS). This quote signifies where I got my information from and It gives me the statistics of the amount of deaths that has taken place in New York since the pandemic started.

In addition, people that also needed to go to the hospital for scheduled appointments with their doctors had to cancel the appointments because they were told that patients who had coronavirus were all in the hospitals and the hospitals were full so they were scared and cancelled their appointments with their doctors. Also places that were opened during the lockdown their closing hours changed; they started to close early. Restaurants that were opened mostly had driven thru or made restrictions, and most people did pick up and deliver. Students were unable to take their classes physically; they all had to do online classes which were tough. During this period things were difficult, and we all had to adapt to the new changes, because there was no cure for It.



In conclusion, Covid -19 Impacted the society negatively and positively. According to The Washington Post, more than 22 million Americans have filed for unemployment aid. Millions of Americans have lost their jobs and can no longer provide for themselves and their family. Another negative impact of this pandemic is that it restricts movements of individuals in the society. Although this virus has severely affected the Nation as a whole, it also leaves us with some advantages and disadvantages. As a result, people have taken the chance to reflect on themselves and use this opportunity to have a better relationship with God and discover hidden talents that they never really had time to find out.

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