

**Community Response / La Comunidad Responde: An Oral History Project
Conducted by Gregorio Luperón High School students**

Interviewee: Elisa

Interviewed by: Anyely Quezada

Relationship:

May 20, 2021

New York, NY

Spanish Version (Original) to English (translated)

Anyely: [00:00:00.51] Muy buenas tardes [Elisa] ¿Cómo se siente el día de hoy?

Anyely: [00: 00: 00.51] *Good afternoon* [Elisa] *How are you feeling today?*

Elisa: [00:00:05.52] Muy buenas tardes [Anyely] muy bien gracias a Dios.

Elisa: [00: 00: 05.52] *Good afternoon* [Anyely] *very well thanks to God.*

Anyely: [00:00:09.57] Que bueno. ¿Me permitirías hacerte algunas preguntas acerca de cómo el coronavirus impactó a tu vida?

Anyely: [00: 00: 09.57] *Good. Would you allow me to ask you some questions about how the coronavirus impacted your life?*

Elisa: [00:00:18.37] Claro, por supuesto.

Elisa: [00: 00: 18.37] *Sure, of course.*

Anyely: [00:00:20.62] Gracias. ¿Como la pandemia afectó tu estado mental?

Anyely: [00: 00: 20.62] *Thank you. How did the pandemic affect your mental state?*

Elisa: [00:00:27.94] Te diría que sí, que [afectó un poco] mi estado [00:00:30.00] mental, porque me estaba [volviendo] absolutamente loca. Es literal, porque salía a la calle, cuando regresaba a la casa ya tenía síntomas, ya tenía fiebre, me dolía el cuerpo, tenía fiebre, dolor de cabeza. Cuando me tomaba la temperatura, mi temperatura estaba normal, tenía que bañarme completa, me lavaba el pelo, nadie podía acercarse porque yo [supuestamente] tenía [coronavirus] porque vine de la calle. O sea, el [Coronavirus] me está afectando mentalmente [00:01:00.00] mucho.

Elisa: [00: 00: 27.94] *I would tell you yes, it [affected a little] my mental state [00: 00: 30.00], because I was [going] absolutely crazy. It's literal, because I went out into the street, when I returned home I already had symptoms, I already had a fever, my body ached, I had a fever, a headache. When I took my temperature, my temperature was normal, I had to bathe completely, I washed my hair, no one could approach me because I [supposedly] had [coronavirus] because I came from the street. I mean, the [Coronavirus] is affecting me mentally [00: 01: 00.00] a lot.*

Anyely: [00:01:02.29] Si. A Muchas personas le pasó lo mismo que, que pensaban que cuando [llegaba] a su casa tenían el coronavirus, cuando en realidad no lo tenían.

Anyely: [00: 01: 02.29] *Yes. The same thing happened to many people who thought that when they [came] home they had the coronavirus, when in reality they did not have it.*

Elisa: [00:01:13.93] *Exactamente.*

Elisa: [00: 01: 13.93] *Exactly.*

Anyely: [00:01:15.34] *¿Qué impacto tuvo la pandemia en su hogar?*

Anyely: [00: 01: 15.34] *What impact did the pandemic have on your home?*

Elisa: [00:01:20.72] *Bueno, la pandemia tuvo un impacto positivo y un impacto negativo. [Porque veíamos mucha noticia, la noticia nos [estaba poniendo] totalmente [00:01:30.00] loco. [A veces durábamos] unas a dos semanas sin salir de la casa y nos sentíamos con síntomas sin estar con otra persona. [Sin nadie ir a la casa o salir fuera de la casa.] Entonces en lo positivo si nos afectó porque nos podíamos sentar como familia a comer, a platicar, a ver una película, a compartir en familia, juegos, familia, cosas que no hacíamos hace años.*

Elisa: [00: 01: 20.72] *Well, the pandemic had a positive impact and a negative impact. [Because we saw a lot of news, the news [was driving us] totally [00: 01: 30.00] crazy. [Sometimes we lasted] about two weeks without leaving the house and we felt symptoms without being with another person. [Without anyone going home or going out of the house.] So it affected us positively because we could as a family eat, talk, watch a movie, spend time with family, games, family, things that we did not do years ago.*

Anyely: [00:01:59.33] *Claro, por [00:02:00.00] un lado fue, a pesar de que tuvo un impacto demasiado fuerte en la sociedad, también unió a muchas familias.*

Anyely: [00: 01: 59.33] *Sure, [00: 02: 00.00] on one side it had too strong an impact on society, but it also brought many families together.*

Elisa: [00:02:08.59] *[Exactamente] a mi familia lo unió más.*

Elisa: [00: 02: 08.59] *[Exactly] my family got closer.*

Anyely: [00:02:12.86] *¿De qué manera tú crees que el coronavirus impactó al mundo?*

Anyely: [00: 02: 12.86] *How do you think the coronavirus impacted the world?*

Elisa: [00:02:17.84] *O sea, bueno, el Coronavirus, el Coronavirus tuvo un impacto demasiado grande porque el coronavirus cambió el mundo. Todos los países del mundo tuvieron que cerrar. Todos los continentes tomaron medidas drásticas. [00:02:30.00] América, Latinoamérica, Europa, Asia, África. Todos tuvieron que tomar medidas con el coronavirus, desde el que tenía menos contagio hasta el que tenía más contagio tuvieron que cerrar todos los negocios. Una cuarentena total para poder [cuidar] a los ciudadanos para que pudiera bajar un poco el contagio de Coronavirus y bajar los muertos. Pero cada día más iba aumentando el número de muerte que había en el mundo completo, no sólo en un país, sino en el mundo entero. [00:03:00.00] Cambio al mundo entero completo, no solamente un país, no solamente Estados Unidos.No. El país, todos los países en sí tuvieron el mismo tema de la misma magnitud.*

Elisa: [00: 02: 17.84] *I mean, well, the Coronavirus, the Coronavirus had too great of an impact because the coronavirus changed the world. All the countries of the world had to close. All continents took drastic measures. [00: 02: 30.00] America, Latin America, Europe, Asia, Africa, everyone had to take measures with the coronavirus, from the one with the least contagious to the one with the most contagious, they had to close all the businesses. A total*

quarantine to be able [to take care of] citizens so that the contagion of Coronavirus could lower a little and lower the dead. But every day the number of deaths was increasing in the whole world, not only in one country, but in the whole world. [00: 03: 00.00] It changed the whole world, not just one country, not just the United States. No. All the countries themselves had the same issue of the same magnitude.

Anyely: [00:03:14.06] Claro. [También] la manera de seguridad, porque había que cuidarse demasiado. Y por qué tú crees que el [COVID] se propagó tan rápido?

Anyely: [00: 03: 14.06] *Sure. [Also] the way of security, because you had to take care of yourself too much. And why do you think [COVID] spread so fast?*

Elisa: [00:03:26.60] El [COVID] se propagó tan rápido porque [00:03:30.00] no se sabía qué tan en sí, o sea. O sea, la humanidad, los doctores o los científicos no sabían qué tan grave era el asunto. Al principio era un virus desconocido, porque el virus estaba desde noviembre en China, si mal no recuerdo que escuche en la noticia, entonces ellos no tuvieron medidas drásticas, ellos [no hicieron] cuarentena. Cuando ya así se desplazó en el mundo entero que [hizo un boom]. Ahí sí tomaron [00:04:00.00] medidas drásticas. Eso fue algo.

Elisa: [00: 03: 26.60] *[COVID] spread so fast because [00: 03: 30.00] it was not well known. In other words, humanity, doctors or scientists did not know how serious the matter was. At first it was an unknown virus, because the virus had been in China since November, if I remember correctly hearing the news, then they did not have drastic measures, they [did not] quarantine. When it already moved around the world that [made a boom]. That's when they did take [00: 04: 00.00] drastic measures. That was something.*

Anyely: [00:04:04.79] Para poder tomar conciencia fue cuando...

Anyely: [00: 04: 04.79] *In order to become aware was when ...*

Elisa: [00:04:08.84] Exacto. No tomaron, tomaron conciencia cuando ya no se podía hacer nada. Porque si ya han tomado conciencia desde el principio de la situación, pues no habría sido de tal magnitud este fenómeno.

Elisa: [00: 04: 08.84] *Exactly. They did not become aware until nothing could be done. Because if they had already become aware of the situation from the beginning, then this phenomenon would not have been of such magnitude.*

Anyely: [00:04:22.61] Quizás se hubiera podido controlar.

Anyely: [00: 04: 22.61] *Maybe it could have been controlled.*

Elisa: [00:04:26.12] Exactamente.

Elisa: [00: 04: 26.12] *Exactly.*

Anyely: [00:04:27.71] ¿Usted se ha enfermado del coronavirus?

Anyely: [00: 04: 27.71] *Have you gotten sick from the coronavirus?*

Elisa: [00:04:32.09] No [00:04:30.00] tenía conocimiento de que el coronavirus me había dado porque no tuve síntomas. Cuando me hice el test de la sangre para ver si tenía, si me había dado coronavirus. Entonces sí, efectivamente me dio coronavirus, pero no lo supe porque tenía, o sea, todavía tengo los anticuerpos. Pero en si yo no

sentí síntomas, yo sí recuerdo [00:05:00.00] que tenía una gripe, una gripe un poco mala y solamente pensé que era una gripe [se me fue] el gusto, el olor, pero nada que ver de gravedad.

Elisa: [00: 04: 32.09] *No [00: 04: 30.00] I wasn't aware that I had the coronavirus because I had no symptoms. When I took the blood test to see if I had it, if I had the coronavirus. So yes, indeed I got coronavirus, but I didn't know it because I had, that is, I still have the antibodies, but I didn't feel symptoms. I do remember [00: 05: 00.00] that I had a flu, a flu, a little bad and I just thought it was a flu [went away] the taste, the smell, but nothing serious.*

Anyely: [00:05:12.11] Claro, hay personas que no le dan tan grave como a algunas, porque hay personas que le dan super grave y hay que hasta internarla. Pero yo creo que...

Anyely: [00: 05: 12.11] *Of course, there are people who do not take it as seriously as some, because there are people who take it super seriously and you even have to hospitalize them.. But I think ...*

Elisa: [00:05:22.88] Si, pierden su vida.

Elisa: [00: 05: 22.88] *Yes, they lose their life.*

Anyely: [00:05:24.83] Uhum. Yo creo que es dependiendo tu cuerpo porque no todos los [cuerpos son iguales.]

Anyely: [00: 05: 24.83] *Uhum. I think it depends on your body because not all [bodies are the same.]*

Elisa: [00:05:30.50] Exacto, [00:05:30.00] exacto. Yo creo que [es dependiendo] como tú tengas tu defensa como [tu tengas tu sistema inmunológico] que qué complicaciones tú tengas. Porque si tienes una enfermedad, claro está, si tu tienes una enfermedad, con esa enfermedad de dicha magnitud, claro que vas a tener problema. Con eso creo que fueron tantas muertes de corona virus.

Elisa: [00: 05: 30.50] *Exactly, [00: 05: 30.00] exactly. I believe that [it depends] on how you have your defense as [you have your immune system] that's what complications you have. Because if you have a disease, of course, if you have a disease, with a disease of that magnitude, of course you are going to have a problem. With that I think there were so many deaths from the coronavirus.*

Anyely: [00:05:53.60] Claro.¿Tú crees que el Coronavirus termine, termine pronto?

Anyely: [00: 05: 53.60] *Sure. Do you think the Coronavirus will end soon?*

Elisa: [00:06:00.77] Que [00:06:00.00] [le digo] el coronavirus eh? No sé cuando termine, si termine pronto, si termine en una semana, si termina en un año o si termina mañana. Yo no tengo la potestad de decir el Coronavirus se va a acabar porque no se sabe. Pero como estamos los seres humanos que no nos importa nada. Como que no hay coronavirus, como que no hay virus, como que no hay pandemia. Como que no ha pasado nada en la calle, en las discotecas, en los [clubs], en [00:06:30.00] todos todos los [clubs] amontonándose el coronavirus va a seguir subiendo. O sea, no va a bajar. Si tomáramos un poco más de conciencia, el coronavirus si disminuye cada día más. Si la viera disminuir.

Elisa: [00: 06: 00.77] *What [00: 06: 00.00] [I tell you] the coronavirus eh? I don't know when it ends, whether it ends soon, whether it ends in a week, whether it ends in a year, or whether it ends tomorrow. I do not have the power to say the Coronavirus is going to end because it is not known. But as we humans are, we don't care about anything. Like there is no coronavirus, like there is no virus, like there is no pandemic. It's like nothing has happened on the street, in the discotheques, in the [clubs], at [00: 06: 30.00] all the [clubs] piling up and the coronavirus will continue*

to rise. I mean, it's not going down. If we become a little more aware, the coronavirus decreases every day. Yes we will see it decrease.

Anyely: [00:06:50.40] Claro, porque es que él corona virus se propaga y tan rápido por que hay personas que no tienen conciencia y salen sin mascarilla, no se cuidan [00:07:00.00] ni nada.

Anyely: [00: 06: 50.40] *Of course, because the coronavirus spreads so fast because there are people who have no conscience and come out without a mask, they don't take care of themselves [00: 07: 00.00] or anything.*

Elisa: [00:07:02.38] No obstante, hay personas que tienen coronavirus que van a lugares públicos sabiendo que tienen coronavirus. Si usted tiene coronavirus usted tiene que saber que usted tiene que tomar una cuarentena. A mí me dio coronavirus, pero si yo hubiera sabido que tenía el virus no salgo a la calle, hago mi cuarentena aislada, sola de mi familia y de mis seres queridos porque no quiero que se contagie también. O sea, ese es mi pensar.

Elisa: [00: 07: 02.38] *However, there are people who have coronavirus who go to public places knowing that they have coronavirus. If you have coronavirus you have to know that you have to do a quarantine. I got coronavirus, but if I had known I had the virus, I wouldn't go out on the street, I would do my quarantine in isolation, alone from my family and my loved ones because I don't want them to get infected as well. I mean, that's my thinking.*

Anyely: [00:07:30.48] Claro, [00:07:30.00] pero hay personas que no tienen el mismo pensar. Pero ¿Tú crees que las vacunas que están poniendo ahora tú crees que funcionará?

Anyely: [00: 07: 30.48] *Sure, [00: 07: 30.00] but there are people who don't have the same way of thinking. But do you think that the vaccines they are using now, do you think they will work?*

Elisa: [00:07:42.84] Claro que sí, claro que van a hacer efectivo. Yo pienso que cuando la mitad de la pobla [ya este] vacunada en el mundo entero, creo que si van a parar los contagios un poco más. Por que [el coronavirus] siempre va a estar ahí al igual que el flu. Lo que pasa es que era un virus [00:08:00.00] que no tenía, o sea, su medicina, o sea, para parar. Eso es igual que el flu, el flu si tú no lo tratas, el te mata. Por eso tenemos que vacunarnos anualmente con la vacuna contra el flu.

Elisa: [00: 07: 42.84] *Of course they are, of course they are going to be effective. I think that when half the population [is already] vaccinated throughout the world, I think that it will stop the infections a little more. Because [the coronavirus] is always going to be there just like the flu. What happens is that it was a virus [00: 08: 00.00] that they did not have, that is, the medicine, that is, to stop it. That's the same as the flu, the flu, if you don't treat it, it kills you. That is why we have to get vaccinated annually with the flu vaccine.*

Anyely: [00:08:16.14] ¿Y tú crees que el Gobierno ha tomado las medidas correctas para para combatir el coronavirus?

Anyely: [00: 08: 16.14] *And do you think that the Government has taken the correct measures to combat the coronavirus?*

Elisa: [00:08:24.99] Claro que sí. Yo creo que el Gobierno ha tomado todas sus medidas. Hasta ahora ha tomado [00:08:30.00] todas las todas las medidas que ha tomado han sido para apoyar a la población, para tenerla sano. Porque el gobierno no quiere nada malo para sus ciudadanos. Claro.

Elisa: [00: 08: 24.99] *Of course I do. I believe that the Government has taken all its measures. Up to now it has taken [00: 08: 30.00] all the measures it has taken have been to support the population, to keep it healthy. Because the government doesn't want anything bad for its citizens. Sure.*

Anyely: [00:08:44.67] ¿Por qué? ¿Por qué tú consideras que el [COVID] ha durado más de un año?

Anyely: [00: 08: 44.67] *Why? Why do you consider that [COVID] has lasted more than a year?*

Elisa: [00:08:58.18] Yo pienso que el [COVID ha durado más de un año] por nosotras [00:09:00.00] mismas, porque cuando estaba en la cuarentena nos desesperamos. El verano pasado aquí en Nueva York, las personas salían para la calle [como que no había coronavirus]. Y [Coronavirus todavía existía porque el coronavirus] siempre va a existir. Y se hacen reuniones party's. O sea, [hacían] cosas que no iban con el reglamento que puso el gobernador. Nosotros estábamos desesperados porque claro, tengo que incluirme, todos estábamos desesperados [00:09:30.00] por salir afuera. Desde que llegó el verano, todo el mundo afuera, todo el mundo con tragos y el contagio seguía subiendo. No paraba. Es una de las cosas, el coronavirus no ha parado por nosotros mismos. Los seres humanos que no tenemos [conciencia]. Si tuviéramos un poco de [conciencia], si pudiera bajar un poco.

Elisa: [00: 08: 58.18] *I think that [COVID has lasted more than a year] for us [00: 09: 00.00] ourselves, because when I was in quarantine we were desperate. Last summer here in New York, people were out in the streets [like there was no coronavirus]. And [Coronavirus still existed because coronavirus] will always exist. And meetings are held. In other words, [they did] things that did not go with the regulations that the governor put in place. We were desperate because of course, I have to include myself, we were all desperate [00: 09: 30.00] to go outside. Since summer came, everyone's outside, everyone with drinks and the contagion continued to rise. It did not stop. It is one of the things, the coronavirus has not stopped because of ourselves. Human beings that don't have [awareness]. If we had a little [awareness], it could go down a little.*

Anyely: [00:09:52.54] Si tenemos que crear un poco de conciencia porque queremos que todo esto termine pronto, entonces tenemos [00:10:00.00] que ayudar para que esto termine pronto también.

Anyely: [00: 09: 52.54] *If we have to raise a little awareness because we want all of this to end soon, then we have [00: 10: 00.00] to help so this will end soon as well.*

Elisa: [00:10:04.54] Si, tenemos que colaborar. Pero nosotros no queremos colaborar.

Elisa: [00: 10: 04.54] *Yes, we have to collaborate. But we don't want to collaborate.*

Anyely: [00:10:08.62] Qué? Qué les recomendarías a los ciudadanos para, para combatir el [COVID]?

Anyely: [00: 10: 08.62] *What? What would you recommend to citizens to combat [COVID]?*

Elisa: [00:10:18.73] Bueno, les recomendaría que por favor tengan el distanciamiento social. Que siempre usen su mascarilla. Que tenga un poco más de conciencia. Número uno si tienen [COVID] nos salgan a la calle [00:10:30.00] porque van a contagiar a las demás personas que están sanos [sic]. Número 2 Por favor, tomen conciencia, distanciamientos social sobre todo. No hagan reuniones. O sea, mientras menos personas, mientras con menos personas se reúnan es mucho mejor. Eso es un [sic] conciencia.

Elisa: [00: 10: 18.73] *Well, I would recommend that you please have social distancing. Always wear your mask. Have a little more awareness. Number one, if they have [COVID] they shouldn't go out on the street [00: 10: 30.00] because they are going to infect other people who are healthy. Number 2, please be aware, social distancing above all. Don't hold meetings. In other words, the less people, the less people they meet, the better. That is awareness.*

Anyely: [00:10:52.42] Claro. Así hay menos casos de Coronavirus, a lo que la mayoría de ciudadanos [00:11:00.00] terminen [sic] de vacunarse.

Anyely: [00: 10: 52.42] *Sure. Thus there are fewer cases of Coronavirus, to which the majority of citizens [00: 11: 00.00] finish getting vaccinated.*

Elisa: [00:11:03.94] *Exactamente. A también les recomiendo que por favor todos los ciudadanos se pongan la vacuna. Que eso es [un tabú] que la vacuna mata, [que la vacuna esto, que la vacuna lo otro.] Señor, señor, nadie en ningún laboratorio le va a poner, va a elaborar una vacuna que mate a la población, que le de menos años de vida a otras cosas más. Creen conciencia [00:11:30.00] y vacunense.*

Elisa: [00: 11: 03.94] *Exactly. I also recommend that all citizens please get the vaccine. That is [a taboo] that the vaccine kills, [that the vaccine is this, that the vaccine that.] Sir, sir, no one in any laboratory is going to put, will make a vaccine that kills the population, that gives less years of life to other things. Raise awareness [00: 11: 30.00] and get vaccinated.*

Anyely: [00:11:32.62] *Hay que tomar conciencia ya y [concientizar] a la sociedad a que el [COVID] termine exactamente. Gracias Elisa por tomar un poquito de tu tiempo y responderme estas preguntas.*

Anyely: [00: 11: 32.62] *We have to become aware now and [raise awareness] in society so that [COVID] ends exactly. Thank you Elisa for letting me take a little bit of your time and answering these questions.*

Elisa: [00:11:49.34] *De Nada. Estamos aquí para que lo que necesite. Si necesita otras preguntas o otras cosas [acerca del covid] estoy muy dispuesta a hablar con usted.*

Elisa: [00: 11: 49.34] *You're welcome. I'm here for whatever you need. If you have other questions or other things [about covid] I am very willing to speak with you.*

Anyely: [00:11:59.05] *Gracias por la oportunidad. [00:12:00.00] Mil gracias de verdad.*

Anyely: [00: 11: 59.05] *Thanks for the opportunity. [00: 12: 00.00] Thank you very much.*

Elisa: [00:12:03.50] *De nada.*

Elisa: [00: 12: 03.50] *You're welcome.*