

Interview for App-Covid19 – Project.

Persona: Andy. 18 – 25 years old.

Case Presentation:

We are doing a study on how young people have lived through the pandemic and we are interested in listening to different versions to have a broad vision of what leisure time has been, for example, or how it has affected your social life in general

- How old are you?

23 years old.

- Where do you live?

In Santoña, but I come from Salamanca.

- Why are you living in Santoña then?

I'm studying in the militar academy there. I want to apply for the promotion exams by the end of this year.

- Do you live alone?

No. Well yes. I have my own room in the academy but I share all other spaces with my colleagues. So we are like a big family with separated rooms.

- Are you colleagues same age than you?

Yes. The average is between 18 and 24. There are people who is older... Like there is one who is 32. But most of us are 22, 23...

- How is your relationship in there?

It's really good. As I said we are like a big family. We do most of the things together. Even after lessons. We play something together or if the pubs are open we go for a drink together... It's quite nice in there.

- How many times a week do you make "after-work" plans?

It depends on the week..... I would say like 3 times a week. But sometimes we have exams and we to study more and then we don't do plans... We are very good guys.

- What do you do?

We basically go for a drink. They already know us in the pub and how they reserve a separated space for us. They are cool. And since the bars are open in Santoña, we take advantage of it. It is very nice on the terrace, although it is almost winter. We go there and so we can change the “landscape” a bit.

- Do you go back home for the weekends?

It depends on the week as well. And now with the restrictions regarding the mobility, even more. But if I have to study a lot or maybe there is not enough time to travel, I stay there. Although I try to come to Salamanca whenever I can. To see the family ... Well my lifelong colleagues are here. And my girlfriend too.

- Do you meet your friends when you go back to Salamanca?

It's a bit complicated now. There is nothing to do there. No pubs, restaurants... We also have night curfew, and sometimes I don't have time to see them. They work until late afternoon and after that there is no more time. The person I meet the most is my girlfriend, obviously. I try to spend as much time as I can with her.

- Did the pandemic affect to your meetings? Ooof... So much.
- Tell me more.

We can't see each other, basically. We have always in mind that we have to be careful. There are thousand of restrictions so we can't do many things we would like to. And of course there is a virus out there... Nowbody wants to be sick. We also live with our parents and that is also a risk. We miss a lot of things...

- The first wave was very bad here, in this country. How was it for you? Where were you?

I was in Ovido, where I lived the last year.

- Did you live alone?

And two more guys. My flatmates.

- How was it with them?

Actually pretty cool. We were in a bubble. I used to play videogames until late night.... And besides that all of us three were working in the military operation which took place during that time. So we didn't feel the lockdown so much and everyday was different, not like now.

- Explain me that.

Now i just can study and maybe I can go to the pub. But nothing else is allowed. The days seem exactly the same and everything is so slow and boring... I feel that I'm missing something. I nice part of the life. A very nice one.

- Did you missed the social life during your time working in the militar operation?

Of course... But I also didn't think a lot about it. Everything was so... all of a sudden. There wasn't time to react. And I was living with my flatmates... That make the situation a bit lighter that probably being stuck at home with your parents.

- Did you miss your family?

Yes. I couldn't see them for such a long time. I worked very colse to the virus and I was very affraid of being contagious... My father has heart issues.

- Tell me more about your responsibilities in the army? What did you have to wdo during that time?

I was working in a hospital. Doing desinfection work, helping hoptal workers to move patients from one part of the hospital to a different one. I also worked in the airport, in the entrance control.

- Was it hard?

It wasn't a hard work. But the situation was emotionally very hard.

- Why?

On the one hand, what we all know, I think. Nobody knows what this is, international health emergency, the president on TV 24h a day, the numbers of people dying ... It was a feeling of being in the middle of something you didn't know about. And on the other hand, I have to say that as a soldier it made me feel very good that I could finally work in the national territory to try to help people. It sounds a bit contradictory, but it was.

- Regarding this second wave, there are many restrictions in order to control the situation. Let few people meet, outdoors if possible, try to use a mask whenever possible, disinfectant gel, etc. Do you see that your closest people is respecting them?

Absolutely. As much as we can.

- Do you think that this is the common behaviour? Do you think that other young people like you and your friends are respecting the restrictions and advices?

I think so ... What happens is that the people who don't, even if they are not so many, they are easily noticeable. They make a lot of "noise" and media loves that. Those who appear in the news are not the majority, although they are the ones who screw up. There are people who are just stupid.

- Do you think that the information in the new or newspapers is accurate?

I get the information in the army and think this is a very good thing. At least the information is very direct and not biased. The media is somehow very sensationalist and depending on what you see or read, there is a bias. There is not neutral information.

- Would you change some of the existing restrictions?

There is one I would definitely change. The night curfew.

- Why?

I don't think it's useful. It's like ... The pubs are already closed, why do you make people go into their houses at such an hour? Do you think you are going to prevent them from meeting? Quite the contrary. If they want they will do it. I think it was conceived as a way to prevent the party, but those people who party do not care and they are going to do it anyway. I think it is a nonsense thing. I understand all the other restrictions.

- Why?

Because many people are incapable of setting limits. I see it at work. People need rules because if they don't have them they will do what they want whenever they want to do it. That is why there must be restrictions. If people were differently ... I don't know. Maybe the governments should try a different strategy. Maybe trust people. But I won't do it. I don't like the current situation, not hanging out with my colleagues and so on, but I understand that it has to be that way now.

- You told me you have girlfriend, can you meet regularly?

When I go to Salamanca I try to spend the most of the time with her.

- How are your dates?

We usually buy food to go and we drive to a random place out of the city. It's also nice.

- Does the pandemic affects your relationship?

For a while yes. There was a bad streak especially in March, April ... around there. We couldn't see each other and we didn't know how long the situation was going to be... This was very hard. I asked myself several times if it was worth it or not, but hey, there are such moments. It is definitely worth it.

- How are your skills in technology?

I'm good. I'm not a hacker. But I use it a lot. Mostly Youtube.

- Why? What does it give you?

Because YouTube is a space-time portal. Everything you want is there. I spend hours watching crap on YouTube. It is very relaxing and I learn a lot of things too. And then online videogames... You can spend so much time doing that too.

- During this time of almost no socializing, did you spend more time using electronic devices?

Yes, of course. I used to play lots of videogames, watch Youtube and chat with friends. But I personally spent a lot of time painting warhammers too. I really like it. I am a bit freak.

- Do you consider the technology as a positive thing? Yes
- Why?

It helped so much. The time ran away faster. And also... I used platforms like skype, zoom and so on to keep connected with my friends and family. I got used to pay more attention to the mobile phone and social media.

- Which social media or communication methods do you use the most to keep in contact with your friends and family?

Facebook, whatsapp and instagram.

- Why?

Mostly Facebook and Whatsapp to talk to people. And I also use Instagram. But not so much actually. I like to see stories but nothing else regarding this platform.

- Do you use them more now than before the pandemic? Mmmmmmh ye. But not a huge difference..
- Why?

I used to use them "quite a lot" before the pandemic. I was living away from home and having friends and family far away since few years, so I got used to have them on hand.

- Is there something that you miss especially?

Saturday night It makes me suffer. I like Saturday night a lot. And now we have to hold on. That and I also miss making with my friends like doing outdoor activities. We love it, we used to hang out a lot before. We'll do it again whenever this ends.

