

Essay “Life in Corona Times” by Britta Goerke

No one wanted it, but still we have to deal with it: Corona. The virus, which was first observed in Wuhan in China, now has come all the way to us. It all started at a small market in Wuhan, a city with a population of 10 million, where bats were offered. In the Chinese culture the eating of animals such as dogs, a lot of insects and precisely these bats is not unusual. When the first signs of an infection showed up, people thought it was just a normal cold or a flu which is typical for the winter season. But after a lot of research, the doctors found out that it was a new virus disease, never really seen before and that it had a relatively high mortal rate.

Because we do live in a connected world, this disease was able to spread throughout the whole world in only a couple of months, which is really fast. So, we see the disadvantages of the globalization and everything being connected: a lot of new infections all over the world. And still, we profited from globalization. The typical citizen first heard about the virus in the news, but researchers have the opportunity of exchanging their ideas and goals which might result in a vaccine.

But there's a problem with the vaccine. Normally, if researchers and scientists want to introduce a new vaccine it takes usually up to three to five years until it is finally being used. The vaccine needs to be developed, but after this, it takes a lot longer, there are many tests which need to be taken. First, they test it on animals, then they move on to a small group of people and finally they look for a bigger group of volunteers. Only if all those tests are positive, none of the volunteers show any side effects, and only if it is being approved by the government, they can make the vaccine accessible for the public.

So, the Corona virus has reached Europe at the end of February. Since then, the amount of new infections has increased rapidly. So, the government decided it was time to take action and they established a set of new laws and prohibitions. For example, all the schools are closed, as well as colleges, restaurants, sports clubs and gyms, bars and libraries. And no matter what we think, we somehow have to make our daily life work.

This is a challenge for us, especially the young generation struggles with it. We are used to be in the company of other people all the time. We have school in a class of thirty, then go home to our families, do our sports or other activities and meet friends after. So, if adults, who are used to work, sometimes even do that alone, then go home to their family and are happy, tell us, we need to practice social distancing, we don't get the point. But especially in a situation like we have now, it is really important to limit the social contacts to best minimum, even if it's hard to understand.

And of course, there are other ways of staying in touch with friends and family. In this modern world, almost everyone has a smartphone. So, we can chat, message us, facetime or do videos calls. It is even possible to watch a movie in a chatroom with friends or play video games together. But besides that, the quarantine we all are in, gives us another much bigger opportunity. We finally have time for all the things we wanted to do. We get to spent time with our family or pets, finally be at home without the pressure of going somewhere because we can't go anywhere.

Even though, no one wanted Corona and we all hate it, there is still a way of seeing some positive aspects. This is just another challenge for our country and we will face it as we did with every other challenge.