



Coronavirus and its completeness

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ABSTRACT

Faced with the impacts triggered by one of the biggest pandemics in human history, it was necessary to address this fact so that it is known what is often not shown on television and the internet. Such camouflaged information corresponds from the true origin of the virus to its sequels. The advance of science in “developed” countries and the absence of it in “underdeveloped” countries, expose the current inequality around the world, at the same time that the effects of globalization are felt by all, even if in a harmful way. The denial of science as an obstacle to fighting the virus, in addition to being responsible for frightening numbers of deaths, are also analyzed in this article in order to warn how dangerous and harmful the denial of truth is. The confinement process - already frightening by name - gave rise to jobs that did not exist before, in addition to establishing a new way of life; the same made people develop physical and mental health problems as a result of living in a new prison. Discussions between people about the right way to prevent triggering friendships are also present in the article as a way of showing how fragile relationships are. In addition to showing the frightening numbers of deaths around the world, with Brazil in the sad position of second place. This being the new world scenario, promoting insecurity and uncertainty about the future.

Key-words: Science, Globalization, Virus.

1 INTRODUCTION

The pandemic of the new coronavirus corresponded to a movement of successive events that impacted all living beings on the planet, even if indirectly. Promoted by the globalization that, according to scholars, does not allow its benefits to all, but when it comes to the transmission of a deadly virus, it performs its role very well. The deaths, the sequels, the fears, the climate changes, all these factors were consequences of a virus that still has its origin studied.

The proliferation of contagious diseases has always occurred around the world, such as the outbreak of smallpox that occurred in Ancient Egypt, being responsible for stopping the construction of much of the public works of the Old Empire, the agglomeration of slaves and servants, contributed to the spread of the virus; in ancient Greece, an outbreak of typhoid fever affected Athens, causing an unprecedented crisis; In the Middle Ages, during the crusades,



European Christians were exposed to a pandemic of leprosy, in addition to the Black Death that consumed about 30% of Europe in the 14th century; in colonial Brazil, the poor working and hygienic conditions facilitated the proliferation of diseases such as yellow fever, cholera, and bladder; the Spanish flu in 1918 caused the largest pandemic in history until then, killing about 50 million people worldwide.

These diseases, as impacting and terrible as they were, cannot be compared to the pandemic experienced in the 21st century. The reason for this lies in the fact that relations between countries today are closer, not in the harmonious sense, but in that of dependence, leading to a single objective: profit, while

The systemic perversity that is at the root of this negative evolution of humanity is related to the unbridled adherence to competitive behaviors that currently characterize hegemonic actions. All these evils are directly or indirectly attributable to the present globalization process (SANTOS, 2001, p. 20).

The intertwining that the globalized world has built especially at the beginning of this century has promoted the impossibility of no direct socialization between people, and the pandemic will do that. The confinement will distance people and ruin businesses. Crises never before seen by countries will loom large. The virus will also show how science has critics and deniers of its knowledge, while proven preventive measures are still subject to criticism and contestation. Even though the many deaths demonstrate this, many doubt the veracity of the virus' power and promote agglomerations and other non-compliances with the law, triggering social disorders. These being only a few examples of the coronavirus' achievements.

2 THE BEFORE OF AN ENDLESS BEGINNING

Since the last decade, the world nations have been facing a series of problems in their political, economic and social situations due to events that have shaken the world, whether internal and/or external. In the case of Brazil, which represents a large part of the exports of primary products in the world, felt its hegemony shaken with the scandal of cardboard found in meat from slaughterhouses, triggering the weak meat operation that affected the export of such product to its main trading partners: China and Europe. The United States, which in no different way, faces instabilities in its broadest sectors before the threat of losing its position as the world's largest economy to China, which in a very accelerated way, seems to deserve this title¹.

¹ It is worth pointing out that an economic potency receives this title not because it takes into account the wishes of society, but only because of what is produced, sold and traded.



With an equally troubled reality, the Middle East, accompanied by its constant ideological instabilities, provokes changes in state power alternating between the government and extremist groups, triggering a shortage of supply of its greatest economic asset that the entire planet uses: oil. On the European continent, the rumors of the United Kingdom's exit from the European Union have produced an alert look on the planet that has repercussions in the most diverse aspects of society. There are also traces of colonialism and imperialism felt especially by the Africans in the constant wars, appropriations, hunger, and slavery that afflict the cradle of humanity, not failing to affect other places.

Such events are only possible to be socialized due to the ever-increasing globalization that shows itself in the intensification of work and in the advancement of means of transportation and communication. Even though, for this to occur, a series of injustices, alienation, and poverty are formed in the so-called production of space. In the composition of this increasingly articulated scenario, attitudes not committed to the health, well-being and rights of individuals will lead to the development and spread of a disease called Covid-19 stemming from the SARC-COV-2 virus, or coronavirus.

It was in late 2019 that the disease became known and fatal in the city of Wuhan in China, a country that yearns to develop at the expense of the right to life. However, in this period the disease had not yet become a pandemic, nor even an endemic. This was only possible a few months later thanks to the complex and at the same time facilitated networks of global interactions. While "New socio-economic relations were needed in all parts of the planet where the transformations were taking place". (SANTANA, 2013, p. 23).

3 AN ENDLESS BEGINNING

Mathematically speaking, the year 2020 refers to the beginning of a decade, and, according to scholars, it would be the beginning of a more "developed" world, brought about by the boom of technology in all areas. However, the bonanza was nothing more than expectations, and, as a response to these relations, a virus that appeared and that everyone wants to be apparently Chinese, took global proportions and along with it the ignorance of what those apparently flu-like and often fatal symptoms were all about. After much speculation and research, Chinese scientists found that the virus came from bats passed to another mammal and thus infecting humans (Butantan Institute, 2021). The coronavirus was already an old acquaintance of scientists around the world because it has a biological family that is considered large. However, the so-called new coronavirus, a lethal family of the virus, became known to everyone, either because of its fame, or because of the



contact itself. The new coronavirus has a very easy way of contagion: saliva expelled from infected people, or touching something contaminated and putting your hands to your eyes, nose and mouth.

In the face of the chaos that the planet is beginning to face, the longing and desperation for answers led the scientific community and the population in general to suspect that the virus might have been produced in a laboratory by the Chinese. Such a hypothesis led to incessant investigations and early accusations against China. However, the idea was not proven, which was not enough for the suspicions to cease, and there are still speculations that the Asian power had designed the virus, which would thus decrease the commercial value of the world's largest currency: the dollar, causing China to benefit in trade, since it is in a comfortable position regarding the scenario.

Once the hypothesis of birth in a laboratory is discarded, the theory that was formed in the face of evidence such as the first case detected, the world turns its eyes to the fish and live animals market in Wuhan. From studies on the case, the most accepted conclusion has been reached that through natural mutations, the virus was formed in bats. The bats, which lived in the food market (possibly due to a lack of hygiene), contaminated the food products present there, and, when consumed by humans, caused the result that is known today. As a response to this, the open-air market was closed for sanitary inspection, and thus began the wave of unemployment, isolation, economic downturn, and last but not least, mass contamination and death.

4 THE MANY FACETS OF GLOBALIZATION

As analyzed in the beginning of this article, the commercial and social exchange relations in the world are more intensified than ever. This reality, just like any other, has its pros and cons, such as the reduction of transportation costs and spatial barriers for the movement of goods, people, etc. (HARVEY, 2001), and as a consequence of this, the real-time transmission of a virus, respectively. The speed of the arrival of the disease everywhere on the planet, has left the entire society perplexed and worried about the difficulty in eradicating it. On December 31, 2019, the World Health Organization (WHO), was alerted about numerous cases of a pneumonia in Wuhan city, Hubei province, China. 3 months later, on March 11, 2020, the WHO declared the "pneumonia" a pandemic, not because of its severity, but because of the geographical distribution the virus has reached (WHO, 2022).

In the face of this global catastrophe, many conversations and questions about the veracity of the benefits of globalization emerged strongly, especially in the academic environment, rekindling what Berman said:



There is yet another aspect to this idea of modernism as nothing but disturbance: it implies an ideal model of modern society free of disturbance. In so doing, it sets aside "the permanent disturbance of social relations, the endless uncertainty and unrest" that for two hundred years have been the basic facts of modern life (BERMAN, 1986, p. 33).

The cities considered medium and small were also part of this intertwining of relationships, in this case, evil ones. The news of people transmitting the virus to small towns caused a certain shock to the population because they felt, maybe for the first time, how close they were, thousands of miles away, thanks to the modern means of transportation that are located at all levels of "development". In this way, it is possible that the proliferation of the terror of the 21st century will strike everywhere in the world. Thus, what the famous Milton Santos said at the beginning of the century was fulfilled: "Never in history has there been a time when fear was so generalized and reached all areas of our lives: fear of unemployment, fear of hunger, fear of violence, fear of the other" (SANTOS, 2000, p. 58). The last fear highlighted by Santos is one of the following main approaches and in a way the trigger of the others.

5 THE CONFINEMENT

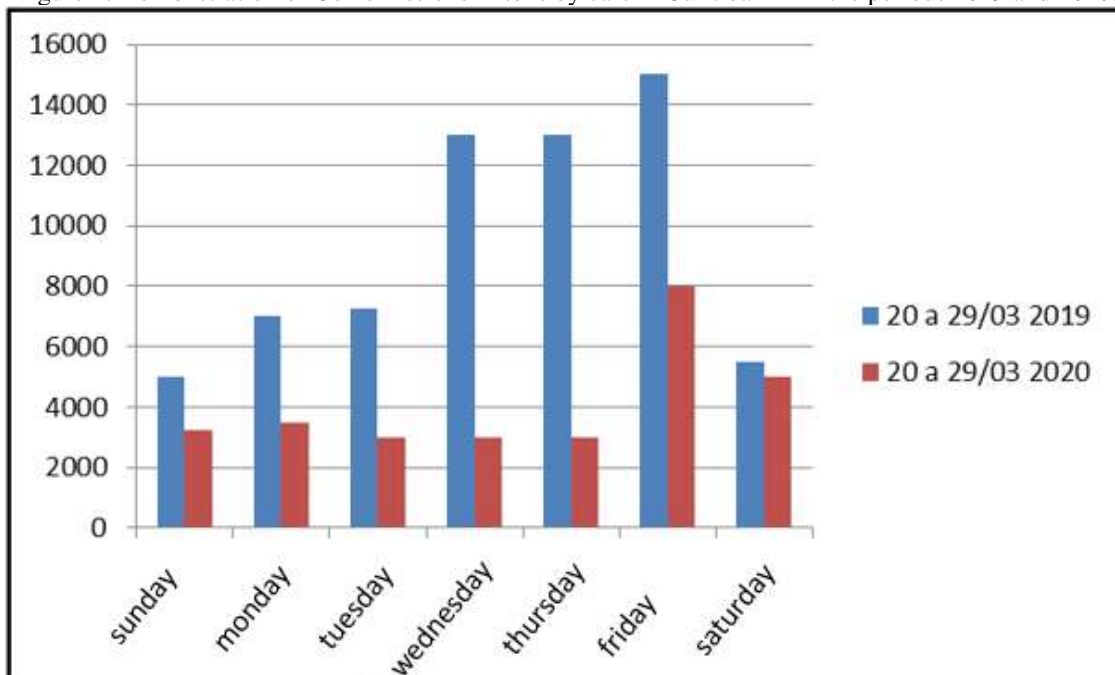
With the spread of the virus and the considerable number of deaths that occurred daily, the competent health authorities requested that as many people as possible be confined to their homes, with only those who performed essential functions (working in hospitals, gas stations, etc.) being allowed to leave. This lockdown was better known in its English version as "lockdown". Along with this, the so-called curfew was also present in the new normal of society, being used to establish a time limit - usually until 9:00 pm - to be in a public environment, after which, it was mandatory for everyone to leave, and then to go back to their homes, to make it difficult to spread the virus. Whoever did not comply with the order would be fined or punished in other ways, according to the legal mandate. This moment, propagated by television artists with the hashtag "fique em casa" (stay at home), in an attempt to promote the population's awareness not to leave their homes.

The new reality experienced by all, being more latent in countries with higher population flow, such as China and the United States, was frightening already by the weight of the term. The last time we heard of confinement and curfew was during World War II (1939-1945), when the threat of persecution, invasions, and bombings forced the population to lock themselves in their homes to defend themselves. The difference from the situation decades later, is that the enemy is invisible, you don't know where he is, you don't even know who is with him, and you can't know what he will provoke. Thus, the ways of counterattack are also unknown.

With the strong lethality of the virus, health agencies established a 40-day period for those who were infected to recover, this procedure became known as quarantine. It is characterized by the total isolation of the infected without any contact with others. This became a problem because, as a precautionary measure, those who did not have the virus were also at home, so that they would inevitably have contact and, consequently, contract the disease. This indicated that during this quarantine period, most infections occurred at home (WHO, 2011).

With the presence of a large part of the population confined, the consumption of goods was drastically reduced, causing, perhaps the only benefit of this period, the reduction in the release of gases harmful to health, which caused a significant leap in the process of preserving the planet. As an example of this progress, the city of Curitiba in Paraná was analyzed, with the emission of CO₂ analyzed for the years 2019 and 2020, the latter being the peak of confirmed cases of the disease and deaths (WHO, 2022). This research was done by Max Anjos, professor Francisco Mendonça and student Yasmin Forigo from UFPR. The figure below shows the reduction in the emission of CO₂, with the data for this gas on the vertical, and the days of the week on the horizontal.

Figure 1: Demonstration of Co2 emissions in tons by cars in Curitiba-PR in the periods 2019 and 2020.



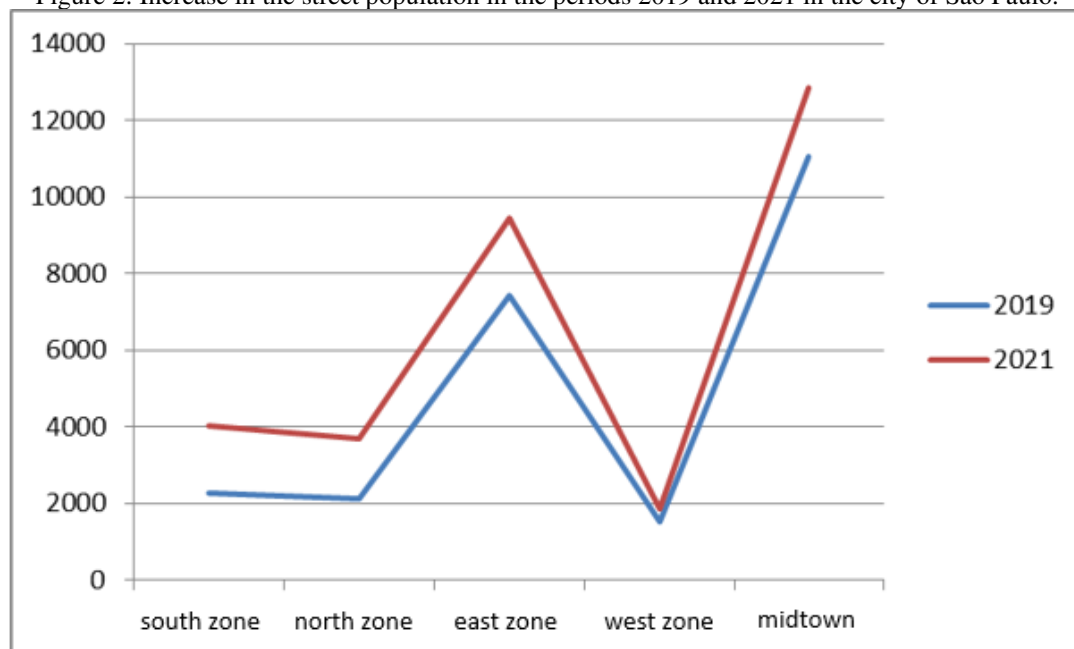
Source: International post-doctoral program PRINT/CAPES, UFPR. Prepared by the author, 2022.

However, the mass presence of the population at home brought with it a reduction in consumption and consequently unemployment. The unemployment rate reached alarming numbers and opened the door to an economic crisis beyond health. According to estimates, the number of unemployed people in Brazil at the beginning of 2021 was 15 million, a number that,

according to the IBGE, is much higher than the estimated pandemic. This increased the amount of informal jobs, often on the streets, which increased the risk of contamination by the virus. In addition to often not being able to afford health insurance - something essential at this time - because people have lost their jobs. The increase in the number of homeless people was also alarming, as the affordability of housing or rent became unaffordable.

Informal jobs have also increased, those in which the individual has no labor rights, where they are their own bosses, and where there are no fixed salaries, because they depend on the opportunity to exercise their labor force, and are popularly known as "odd jobs". The informal services that had the highest growth were the delivery men, the so-called motoboys. There are also those informal jobs that existed before the pandemic and that have been affected, such as the drivers of apps, and as the circulation of people has decreased, so has the demand for this service. Making the number of people living on the streets grow, even if they have a roof over their heads, they acquire their means of survival on the streets, like selling candies at the traffic lights, selling handicrafts, trinkets, among others. What is different from people living on the streets - which also had their numbers increased - because they mean people who, besides making a living on the streets, also live on them. Figure 2 below shows the increase of people living on the streets in the city of São Paulo in 2019 and 2021.

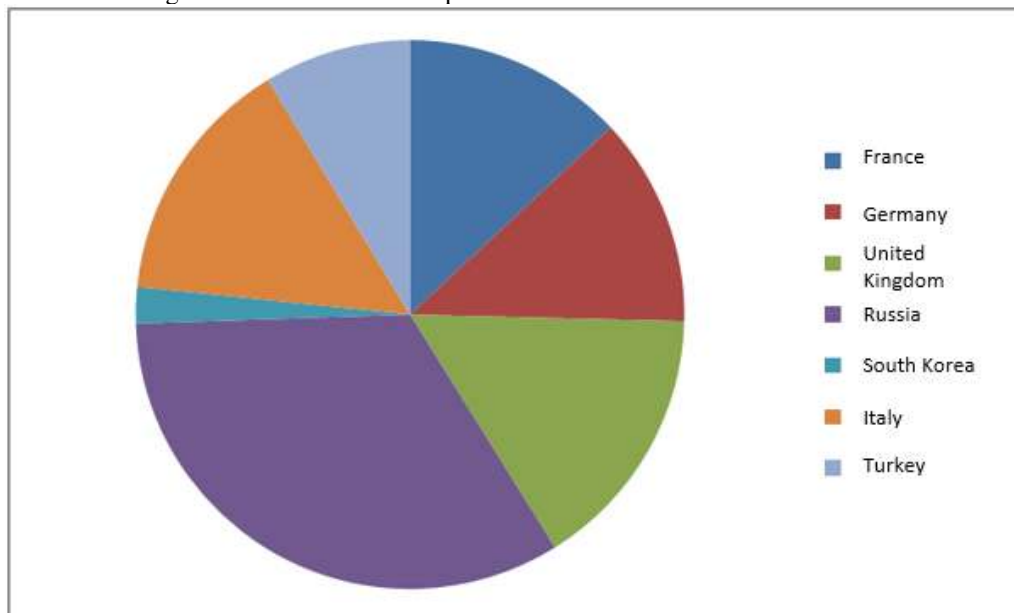
Figure 2: Increase in the street population in the periods 2019 and 2021 in the city of São Paulo.



Source: UNESP. Prepared by the author, 2022.

O cenário que se formava em todo o mundo era assustador: estabelecimentos fechados, ruas vazias, sirenes com barulhos alarmantes avisavam que era hora de retornar para casa, e, o mais temido: o número de mortes cada vez maior. No Brasil, país que ocupa o ranking de 2º país com maior número de mortes, cerca de 670.459, houve dias em que a média no número de mortes ultrapassou a casa dos quatro mil (OMS,2022). Fazendo com que o mundo entrasse em estado de completo perplexidade. Contudo, não havendo o que fazer. Em terceiro lugar em número de mortes está a Índia, com 524.499, e, ocupando o mais alto patamar desse ranking trágico, está a maior potência econômica mundial: ao Estados Unidos, com 1.040.805 mortes por Covid-19. O gráfico abaixo mostra o restante dos países que completam a lista dos 10 maiores em número de mortes.

Figure 3: Countries in the top 10 list in number of coronavirus deaths.



Source: WHO. Prepared by the author, 2022.

Among the many abnormalities triggered by the virus, the return of people to their small towns and cities became common, mainly triggered by unemployment. The costs that the big city promoted, such as rent and other expenses, became impossible to pay due to the critical economic situation that was forming. The solution that many found - different from those who went to the streets - was to return to their hometowns, because staying with relatives and helping each other, made it easier to spend less, besides being, in a way, more "protected" from the virus, since the circulation of people was smaller. A large number of "Brazilians who once went to the big cities in search of a better life are now returning to their homeland, either because of increased unemployment or fear of Covid-19" (G1, 2022).



However, in order to gain entry and stay in these cities, one had to go through a so-called rigid system of temperature monitoring and symptom checking, which included in addition to fever, headache, body aches, and fatigue. If someone presented any of these symptoms, they were directed to a specific place and monitored by health agents for a period of fifteen days. After this period without symptoms, the individual was released for public circulation. This precaution was also carried out between nearby municipalities, with the preparation of tents at the entrances of the cities where health agents provided care, often for 24 hours, consisting in taking the temperature and making the necessary referrals.

6 THE NEW REALITY

As a way to survive this new reality for a large part of the population, not only in Brazil, but also in the world, countless forms of alternative work have been adopted by this part of society. Informal work has also grown in the countryside, such as manual services in the fields and in the small cities, the number of nannies, housemaids and seamstresses has increased considerably, including fabric masking, being a commodity that has become of great demand in the scenario under analysis. The production of homemade food for sale at home has also made itself present as a form of economic gain.

While many struggle for financial gain, others struggle for life. The number of ICU admissions and deaths rose every day around the world. The incessant demand for hospital beds was also increasing, crowding the health system, especially the public health system. This caused, besides the physical and mental fatigue of health professionals, the infection and death of many of them, causing a very large deficit in the area, while many people yearn for care and attention. This is a theme debated by scholars and scientists such as Professor Carmita Abdo who says: "These challenges imposed by Covid-19 come to add to other emotional pictures that already accompany health professionals (ABDO, 2020).

In the face of cases that ravaged the world, rumors of food shortages began to emerge. Unemployment and the departure of many people from the urban and industrial areas made speculation about the access to quality and quantity food for the population grow. As a consequence of this uncertainty, a large number of people stored food in their homes for a period of approximately three months, as a way to ensure themselves against the shortages that were to come. This began to generate debates and conflicts among people, especially among those who could not afford to make a large one-time purchase. These, in turn, claimed that it was unfair for



many people to overbuy, while the less economically fortunate individuals would go hungry first. This was not the only situation of conflict between people in this nebulous period.

With the news that alcohol, both in liquid and gel form, was fighting the virus, a relentless race for the product in the most diverse establishments also acted with force. The constant shortages of the product on the shelves due to the high demand created even greater tension and fear among the people. When the product was present, countless conflicts were also constant in the commercial establishments. Many of them promoted limits on the amount of the product that could be bought, but in many cases it was not enough because of the constant non-compliance with the norm, thus generating more conflicts. Another resource also recommended by health authorities is regular hand washing with soap and water. Even though it is a cheaper alternative, many individuals in various parts of the world do not have access to clean drinking water. This shows how unequal the distribution of resources is across the planet, which is natural. This situation behaves like the objective of the pandemic: to unmask the inequalities that were previously camouflaged.

Facing these inequalities, the population group that is most affected is the street population. The constant presence in public places and the contact with unhygienized objects make this population more vulnerable, besides the lack of means to fight the virus. As a response to this, the number of people who became infected and who did not resist was very large. About 96 people did not resist and died in the city of São Paulo alone (O GLOBO, 2022). This scenario brings to light the reality of this part of society that is a minority in terms of receiving rights, however, they are made into a considerable number of people who have no roof over their heads; suffer with food insecurity; and lack basic forms of hygiene.

Amidst the gloomy scenario formed, many speculations about various issues were formed in society, among them, the doubt whether domestic animals could transmit the virus. As the most accepted theory about the appearance of the virus shows that it was transmitted from bats to other mammals, the doubt if cats and dogs could transmit the virus circulated strongly in the social environment. As a response to this, many breeders decided to give up their animals out of fear, and the entry of domestic animals into various establishments was prohibited. In response to the concerns of society, scientists and researchers investigated and came to the conclusion that animals can indeed transmit the disease, but these are rare cases, and most of the time the symptoms are mild. Humans are thus the biggest transmitters (BBC, 2022).

In an attempt to wake up from such a nightmare, the scientific community around the world was in a relentless race to find the answer that everyone desperately yearned for: a cure. Countless



drug and vaccine trials were conducted, but without success. Many science and vaccine deniers tried to promote alternative treatments for the disease such as the use of the drug hydroxychloroquine. The inclination for the drug was due to the fact that it was indicated to treat infectious diseases, being widely used in the malaria outbreak that occurred in Africa years before. Because the coronavirus has similar characteristics to malaria, the use of chloroquine was widely used in the treatment of Covid, however, many deaths were detected due to the use of this drug because of its negative reaction in the human body (FAVC, 2022). As a response, the society in a state of despair and mourning for the loss of family members and friends, triggered by the incorrect use of the drug, carried out revolt movements and repudiation notes in their social networks as a result of the events.

Due to the absence of perspectives to control the situation, besides the fact that people are the main transmitters of the disease, visits and affectionate gestures such as kisses and hugs have become forbidden and inconvenient. The practice, considered common and pleasant, of visiting friends, has become something feared and made impossible by some people. The issue took such serious proportions that the practice of making an unannounced visit generated discomfort, and often the termination of friendships. When, rarely, friends and family members met in public spaces, the form of greeting was a closed hand touching, which made the transmission of the virus difficult. The experience between people generated by the new reality is fearful, frightening, and seemingly endless. Its roots are deep and relate to the structures of the "modern" world analyzed at the beginning of this article, characterized among many other terms of liquid modernity, exemplified by Zygmunt Bauman, in which he says:

The disintegration of the social network, the collapse of effective agencies of collective action, is often received with great anxiety and lamented as an unanticipated "side effect" of the new lightness and fluidity of increasingly mobile, slippery, elusive, and fugitive power. But social disintegration is both a condition and a result of the new technique of power, whose main tools are disengagement and the art of flight (BAUMAN, 1999, p. 18).

As an alternative to face the new reality, the use of the internet and its mechanisms to perform work and school tasks has become very present in society. To this end, there has been a growing increase in the creation of programs, applications, video lectures, among other mechanisms to better meet the needs that have arisen. Classes started to be taught online, which required students and teachers to face a challenge to fit into the functioning of such technologies. An even greater challenge for those who did not have internet and/or computer at home. Demonstrating once again the social inequalities that surround society. In the field of work,



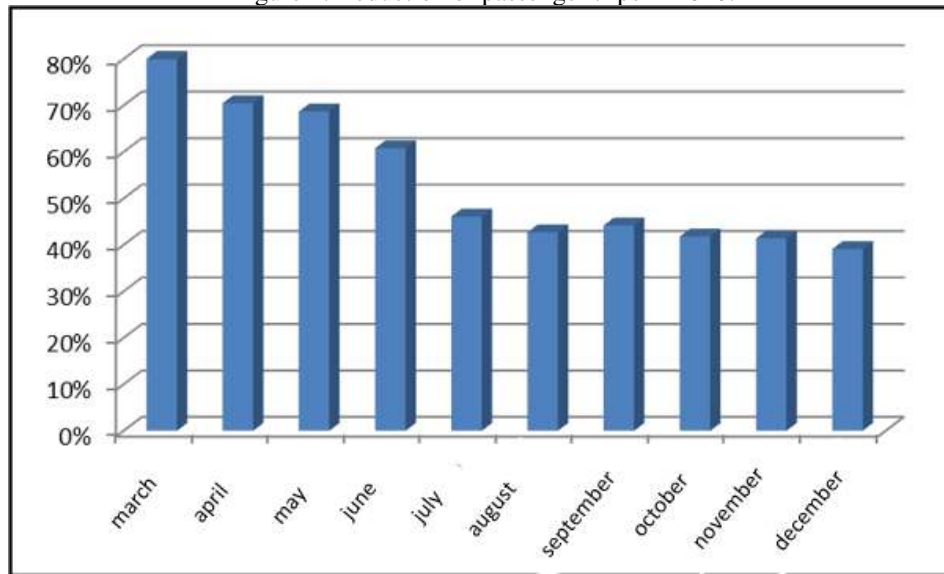
technology has also been strongly concentrated, receiving the name of home office, which translated means office at home, being a reality for many workers.

In the face of the health crisis that has formed in the world, leading to a drastic reduction in jobs, an economic crisis has also formed. In Brazil, the situation was one of the most alarming. As the second leading country in numbers and active cases, the government implemented an allowance called emergency aid. The aid would go to those who had no proven income and to the unemployed. However, due to the fragility of the system in verifying the information of the people who really needed the benefit, numerous frauds were detected of people who didn't need it and were receiving the aid, meanwhile, countless individuals who fit the requirements for receiving it, didn't receive it. According to investigations by the federal police, only in some cities of São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, the damage by fraud in the aid reached about 1 million reais (AGÊNCIA BRASIL, 2022).

Initially, this allowance was R\$600 per person, with some families receiving up to R\$1600, for a minimum of three months, starting in April 2020. However, due to the economic difficulties that were still present, the aid was extended for another two months, period in which the aid was reduced to R\$300 per person. At the beginning of the following year, this benefit is cancelled and only returns three months later in the amount of 375 reais on average, made available to a smaller number of people. The periods in which the aid was not present, the country went back to the hunger map again, a consequence effect of more than 2.5% of the population facing chronic food shortage (G1, 2022). Along with the implementation of the emergency aid, a political propaganda was also present in the social environment leading to the beginning of a polarization of those post and against the aid, contributing to further raise the levels of social, economic, ideological and health conflicts.

Because of the Lockdown and restrictive measures around the world, travel numbers plummeted. Travel agencies had their worst moments as airline and even ground ticket reservations, and the hotel network decreased considerably. This reality contributed to the increase in unemployment and was consequently responsible for the cooling of the economy. The graph below shows the reduction in travel between cities in Brazil by 2020.

Figure 4: Reduction of passenger trips in 2020.



Source: NTU, 2022. Prepared by the author, 2022.

7 VACCINE: DREAMED OF AND FEARED

With studies and tests being conducted at full speed by science around the world, the vaccine for the prevention of Covid-19 is developed and distributed to the world (at a speed proportional to the economic development of each country). The European continent has intensified the distribution of doses in all its countries, with England being the first country to apply the dose. The immunizer used was the one manufactured by the partnership between the US pharmaceutical company Pfizer and the German biotechnology company Biontech (G1, 2022).

As it was an urgent, necessary and, consequently, expensive commodity, the bureaucracies surrounding its purchase and sale favored the increase in deaths. These bureaucracies, which ranged from the supply, with privileges given to the countries that had the greatest purchasing power, to the distribution of the lots in the most diverse health points, preventing access to the part of the population that really needed it. There was also the fear of the international community in taking the vaccine manufactured in China, while rumors warned about the presence of the virus itself in the vaccine, which would promote mass infection. China's goal in doing so was not presented, at least not clearly.

With the various studies about the vaccine around the world, the effectiveness of each one was not the same. There were those that required two doses for immunization, as the Pfizer, of U.S. origin, which after the second dose has an efficacy of 95% seven days later; the Oxford / AstraZeneca that has an efficacy of 63.09% after the second dose; the Coronavac, of Brazilian origin, with 62.3% in average effectiveness; and there is also the Janssen, which uses only one dose, has about 85% effectiveness after 28 days of application (BUTANTAN, 2022). Thus,



disputes and conflicts arising from the population in acquiring the most effective vaccine immunizing, were made with constancy throughout Brazil. Groups in social networks of Pfizer vaccine supporters mobilized, consisting in not adhering to other vaccines, triggering less prevention and more infection. Given the above, the state and municipal health secretariats adopted the rule of weighing the punishments of those who did not take the vaccine, such as not being allowed to enter closed places, besides being unable to travel, which caused a cooling down in such movements by denying specific types of vaccine.

However, while there were those who refused certain vaccines, others were completely against any immunization, the so-called denialists. These had the argument that the doses were composed of substances that would act negatively on the body, causing irreversible side effects, or even death. Such discourse gained strength with some cases of side effects in some people after taking the vaccine, and the thought that such effect was generalized was adhered to by many. For these individuals, the prevention of the virus consisted of a drug called hydroxychloroquine, indicated to treat viruses similar to the current virus, but which has no proven effectiveness, on the contrary, in severe cases of covid, the chloroquine can react leading the individual to death. This denialist ideology has been supported by the Brazilian government, which has a bias against science and promotes ideas contrary to the truth. However, thanks to numerous studies on the case, it was proven that the drug is not indicated in the treatment of the virus, which made this ideology of denial to science decline considerably.

Even with the understanding that the vaccine is the solution to the problem, access to it still remains very slow and restricted. Even though health agencies worked incessantly to manufacture the doses, the demand was very high, besides the need for two doses in most cases, which delayed even more the population's access, and there was also the issue of territorial size and population quantity in the countries, making the distribution process even more difficult. The most critical case of access to the vaccine is the African continent, while the scarcity of resources and historical devaluation in such region, contributed to the large numbers of people who have not yet reached the first dose, with only 11% of the continent's adult population being vaccinated with the second dose (UN NEWS, 2022). The delay in the arrival of the vaccine has caused many lives to be lost.

This vaccine, which in addition to being necessary to save lives, was essential for the routine to gradually return to normal, while in order to have access to numerous activities in society, proof of the two doses (or a single dose, as the case may be) was necessary. Thus, those who refused to take the immunizers were forbidden to access closed places; universities; they also



could not access their workplaces, especially if these were of State origin, thus leading to dismissals for just cause while immunization was considered mandatory.

With the access to vaccines, even if gradually, we could see a considerable percentage of establishments starting to open their doors. The schools timidly started their in-person classes with all due care and precaution; the jobs that were temporarily in home office returned in-person; bars and restaurants that had closed their doors, thinking it was definitive, started opening them again and hiring employees; travel agencies were authorized (within the sanitary strictness) to reopen their doors and promote national and international trips. Thus, a light at the end of the tunnel was seen with all these events, promoting hope amidst the wreckage. However, the virus was still circulating intensely in the environment, and only essential activities, as seen above, were allowed to return to normal. This led to certain dissatisfactions on the part of some, while non-essential events such as representative festivals, among them São João and Carnaval, in the case of Brazil, were wanted. They claimed that if some activities and establishments were back in operation, such events should also be, since they are part of the country's identity. However, the health authorities stated that these events, which include large gatherings of people, could only take place if the majority of the population had been vaccinated with the first dose of booster, or the third dose (this one still being tested). Whereas life and essential services should be prioritized first.

This order was not obeyed to the letter by most of the population, and in many cases it was necessary to call the police to stop parties that held many people and individuals who went out on the streets after the hours established by the curfew. This situation does not allow us to forget the chaotic and unsafe reality that society lived. The most frequent complaints of non-compliance with sanitary norms were the funk dances in São Paulo; the number of people larger than allowed in bars and restaurants; and the presence of people in public or private places at unauthorized hours, which gave opportunity for greater proliferation of the virus. This scenario made it impossible to forget what was happening, even if the return of some services tried to do so..

8 THE LIMITED RETURN

Among the establishments that closed their doors, the ones that suffered the greatest losses were the schools. The learning deficit of the students was blatant, because several issues were involved: the difficulty of parents to reconcile work (which also became at home), household chores, and also to help their children with school demands, which are quite complicated. The online teaching does not reach the same level as the one offered in person, both because of the limitation of resources and the ease with which the children can disperse, which contributed a lot to this learning difficulty. The news of the return of the classes in person caused fear, but the



feeling of rest was also present. This was done in a very restricted and limited way, including the uninterrupted use of masks, the use of alcohol gel, and a minimum distance of one meter between people. For this, the classrooms had to be adapted to the new reality, holding only half of the students that could fit in the room, and the other half continued in the online format for parents and guardians who did not feel comfortable sending their children to school. In the universities the scenario was no different. After facing a long process of remote classes, the face-to-face activities returned with numerous restrictive measures, among them the mandatory wearing of masks, social distancing, and vaccination proof.

This return, although accompanied by restrictive measures, brought with it variants of the disease. Contact between vaccinated and non-vaccinated people has triggered a mutation of Covid-19, causing variants that in many cases are more resistant and have a greater transmission capacity. Among the variants, there is the so-called Delta, which was first detected in India, but soon spread around the world; another variant is the Omicron, having its genesis in South Africa, classified as a variant of concern (CNN,2022). These mutations have further increased world tensions and restricted travel, shaking the financial market. To the deniers, these variants were nothing more than side effects of the vaccine. Another variant was Alpha, first identified in the UK, which is highly transmissible and present in more than 80 countries (CNN, 2022). Among other variants with less transmission power, there are the Gamma and the One, both identified in different parts of the world.

9 THE BOOSTER SHOTS AND THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS

With the urgency to resume daily life and the need for greater security, the health communities around the world, through much effort, developed the third dose of the vaccine, thus providing greater comfort for people and safety of movement. For, the numbers of infection, hospitalizations, and deaths have decreased considerably. The minimum time to take the third dose varied depending on which vaccine was taken in the second dose, on average four months. Later, the fourth and fifth doses were approved, further increasing the flexibility in society, such as the non-mandatory use of masks in open places and in some closed places. In addition, events with unlimited numbers of people were allowed again.

Such openings in society, however, promoted a greater circulation of the virus that still existed, even if people wanted to show otherwise. Even though most of the population was vaccinated, a large portion was not, which caused the disease to spread with greater speed and intensity due to the presence of variants that were many times more lethal than Covid-19. This



scenario became known as the second wave of the coronavirus. This wave caused a larger number of deaths compared to the first wave. In the first wave, 133,379 confirmed cases were reported in 232 days, while in the second wave there were 100,875 new cases in 99 days in Brazil (UFPB, 2022).

As a response to the new cases of infections and deaths around the world, restrictive measures have also become part of citizens' daily lives again. The mandatory use of masks in closed places is back in force, besides the need for proof of vaccination of at least three doses in order to have access to these environments. And just as every action has a reaction, as a response to the return of prevention, it was noticeable that a few months later, the number of infections and deaths decreased a lot. Once again, it was seen that the combat measures once again decreased the active cases of the disease. This is the reason, according to experts, for the effectiveness of the vaccine.

10 FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

The consequences that remained throughout the world regarding the pandemic were many. Comprising from the "discovery" of alarming social inequalities around the planet, to ideological conflicts concerning the need or not of masks until today. The latter was responsible for physical conflicts that led to the end of friendships and family arguments. People up to the end of 2019 would not have imagined that a virus of still speculative origin that emerged in China's interior would cause their death or that of their relatives. Even those who survived could not imagine that they would join the ranks of those who obtained jobs that only came into existence after the pandemic, such as home offices that previously only existed in person.

Even today there are people who could not face reality back home (if it is the same) because of the fear of leaving home, and there are a large number of people who still live confined in their homes without sunlight. People who have developed chronic diseases such as anxiety and depression. Revealing that there are not only changes in the physical environment of society as a decrease in Co2 emissions, but also, and above all, internal and personal changes that are even worse due to the fact that it is individuals, in individual and collective actions that build society. If these individuals are not doing well, neither are societies.



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