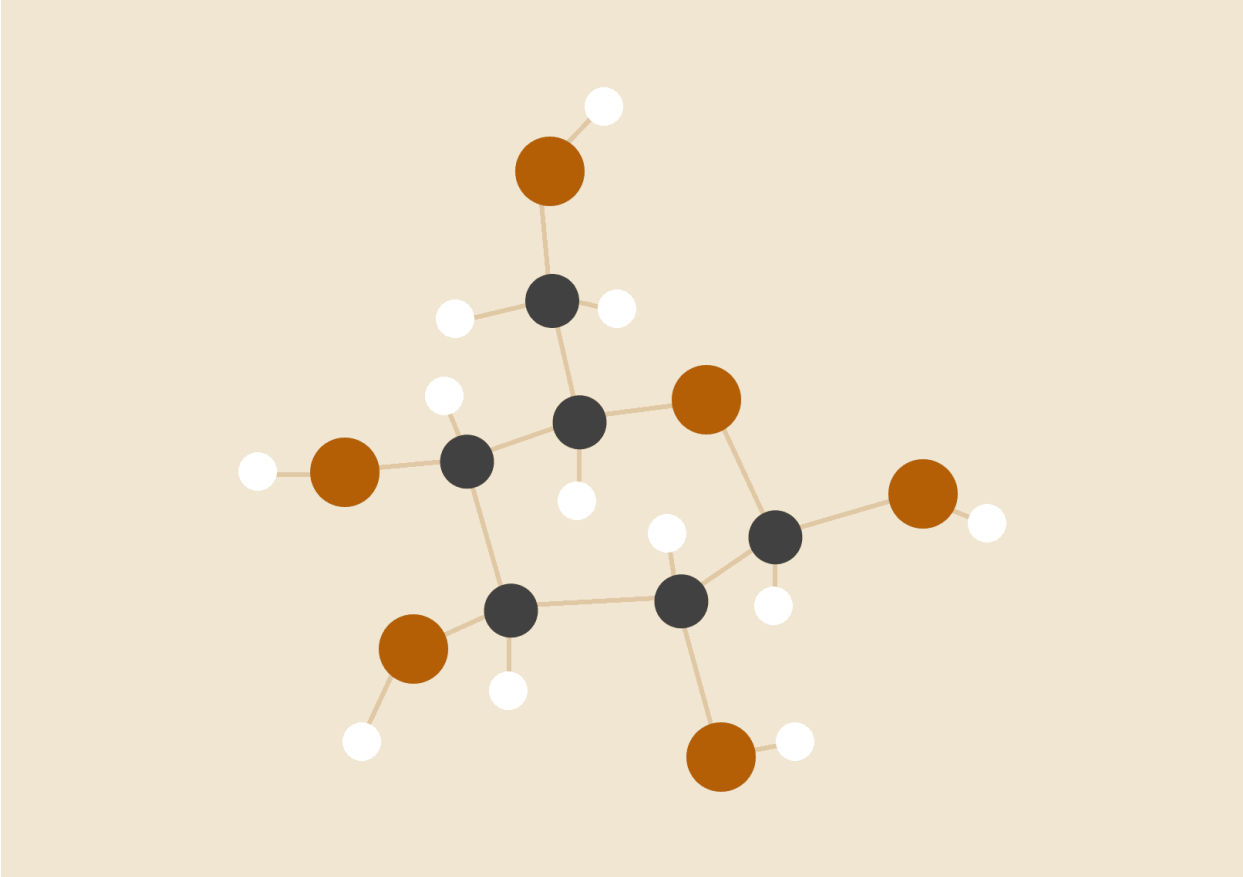
Comparison of how Coronavirus has affected the lives of teens in India VS the US

Results of a survey conducted to measure the comparisons of the experiences of teens in India and the United States.



By Ada Pai, Joesh Nayak and Myesha Phukan

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report, commissioned by the Takshashila Institution, paints a vivid picture of how 2 countries - India and the United States - are dealing with the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. The analysis investigates the patterns of behaviour amongst people of all ages during these times, however the main objective of the study has been about the comparison of how coronavirus has affected teenagers differently in these 2 countries. It examines the effect that the pandemic has had on incomes and jobs across the world, as well as the resultant consequences that have arisen due to social distancing. It additionally explores how public health levels have changed, varying levels of lockdown intensity in contrasting states, and how different people have expressed different levels of consternation due to the virus.

The primary purpose is to provide evidence of how not only these 2 countries, and not only teenagers, but all people from all over the world have experienced the pandemic in different ways, and hope that it will be a useful source of information in the future.

The most striking and perhaps most notable change that we have observed is the abrupt increase in internet usage, with people regardless of country and age increasing their screen time to a great extent. California is a state where teens have completely immersed themselves in their digital worlds, where 95% of them are spending more than 8 hours a day online. When we move across the globe and look at India, and Karnataka in particular, 64% of the same demographic are spending more than 8 hours online. This is compared to 32% and 17% in the same states prior to the pandemic. This is similar in Texas, where we can see a majority of users being online over 8 hours which contradicts the amount of time used before the pandemic at around 2-4 hour range.

Arguably one of the areas that have been affected by this the most, is education. As we know, this pandemic has affected nearly everyone in the world in terms of their schooling and jobs. Almost 95% of California teens have stated that their regular workload has been affected in some way, yet in Karnataka only 63% of teenagers have reported a change in everyday schooling and workloads. Nearly 99% of teens in California have been taking online classes, but only 50% in Karnataka have communicated that they have been doing the same. When the participants were asked if they preferred online or physical classes, more than half of California adolescents did not; they preferred the latter over the former. This seems to be a trend everywhere with almost 70% of teens in Karnataka reporting the same. Texas is similar to California, as

the United States as a whole has taken the practice of online schooling to replace physical learning for the remainder of the school year. 100 % of Texan responders state that they are taking online classes, and a majority of those responses prefer physical learning. This does not mean that they would rather be at school right now, but more a comparison of both ways of learning.

Optimistic views on how the world will change after the pandemic seem to be the norm - with people from all ages all over the world reporting that they believed that the world is going to change for the better after the pandemic. A large 76% of people globally said that they thought that the world is going to see improvement after the pandemic has run its course, and this number increases when we look at India in particular, where 86% of the responders said that the world would be altered in a better way. However, teenagers seem to hold a different opinion - a little more than half of teens in both California and India think that things will change for the better - a considerable decrease from the overall statistic.

While the number of people who reported wearing masks differed largely in these 2 countries - (87% in Karnataka, 23% in California, and 39% in Texas), the majority of people in these places have shown that they have a good civic sense when it comes to washing their hands. In all of these states, 83% of people have stated that they wash their hands more than 5 times on a daily basis.

Most countries that have been affected by the lockdown have implemented stay at home orders like lockdowns and quarantines upon their people - the intensity of which depends on the number of cases and people in a specific region. Globally, about 90% of the surveyed people reported being under a full lockdown or quarantine. In India, this number was even higher at 95%. A clear comparison can be drawn between India and the United States here - 85% of people in Karnataka stated a complete lockdown, while only half of the Texan responses claimed the same.

INTRODUCTION

We are a group of students from India and the United States, conducting this survey to study the differences in the ways coronavirus has affected teenage lives in 2 countries. The survey was split up under 5 distinct sections - Demographics, Health, Economic Effect, Education and Social and Family Life. We have received over 700 responses not only from India and the United States, but from many other countries as well, such as Singapore, Australia, Canada, Norway and more. We have also gathered other compelling inferences which will be evident throughout this paper. Specifically, the state of Karnataka in India, and the states of Texas and California in the United States was focused on. Through the Takshashila Institution, we are presenting our findings to the public in order to make sense of the current times. The pandemic has created a huge disruption in the daily life of teens throughout the globe, so we wanted to find the exact change that has happened and put it to paper through a teen's point of view rather than a news agency. This survey was conducted in late April and so therefore situations may have changed since then - policy and government directives might differ currently. In addition, this survey was mostly conducted within the confines of the upper-middle class in India, so while it might not be representative of all of society, it still provides a decently accurate measure of how lives have changed in this country.

Though the target demographic of the survey was focused on teens in India and the United States, we have collected data from other age groups and countries as well.

METHODOLOGY

1. Google Forms was the chosen online tool for the survey. The settings permitted the responses to be anonymous which was our preferred option. For the respondents, an option of editing their response after submission was also

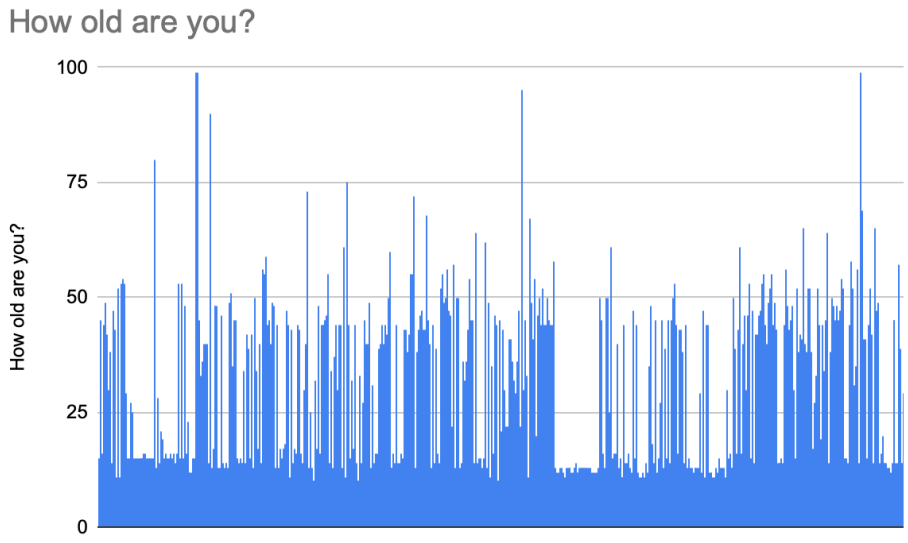
available, as well as the option of looking at summary charts and text responses. However, we did not choose to enable either the former or latter setting as it wasn't viable. There was an option of splitting the survey into different sections, which we chose to do as we could divide the work equally. None of the questions were required.

2. The types of response categories used were multiple choice type questions, short answer text, linear scales, and a multiple choice grid. For most questions, we chose to use linear scales because it would be easy to compare the different graphs.

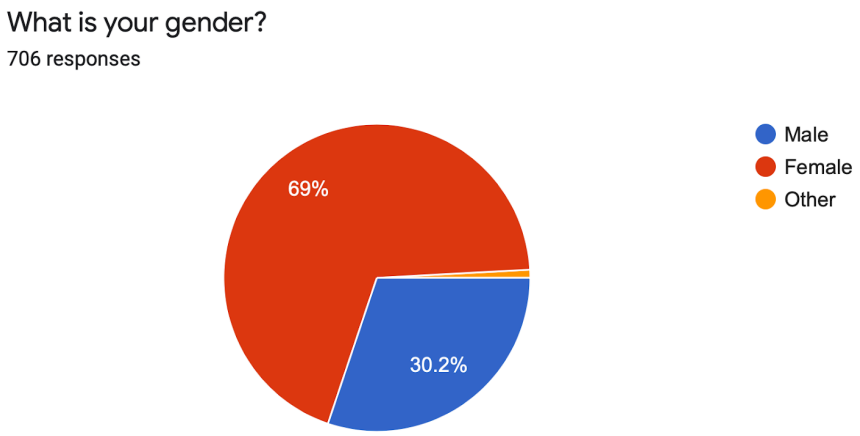
DATA AND RESULTS

Demographics

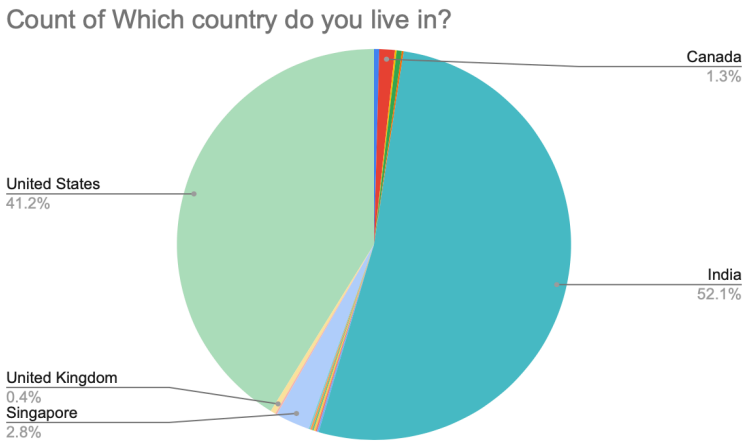
1. 30% of the respondents were in the age group of 13-15.



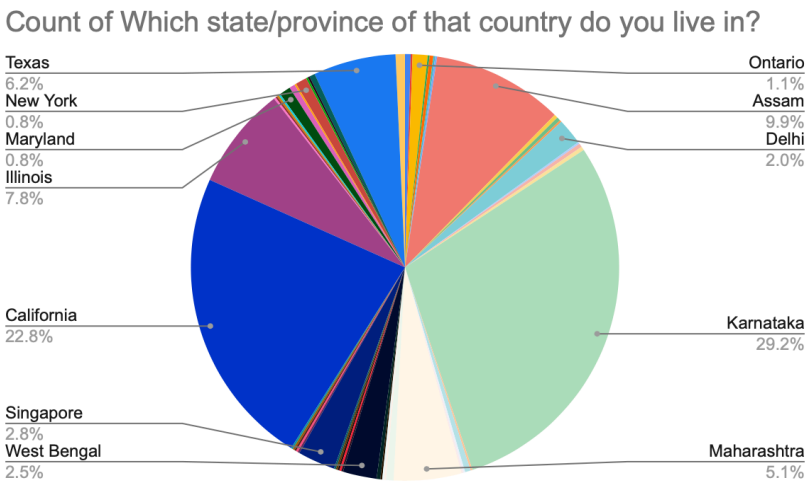
2. About 70% of the responses were female, while the other were male.



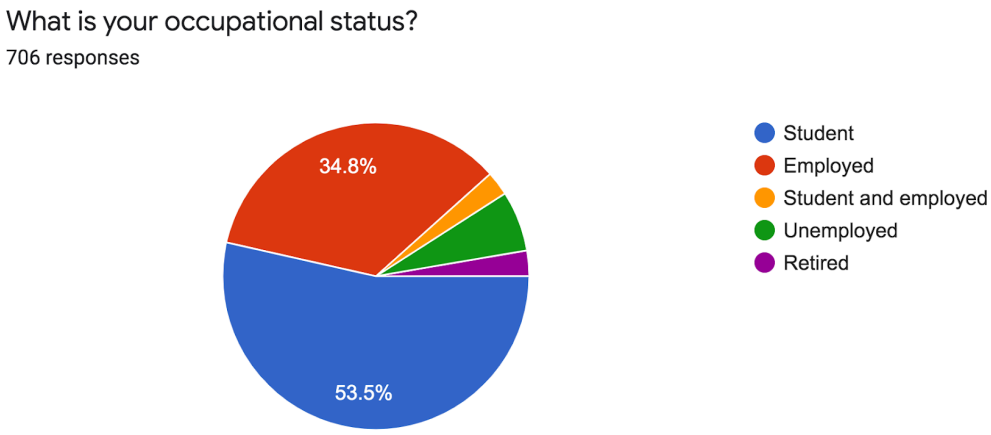
3. Most of the responses came from India and the United States, as well as a significant amount from Singapore.



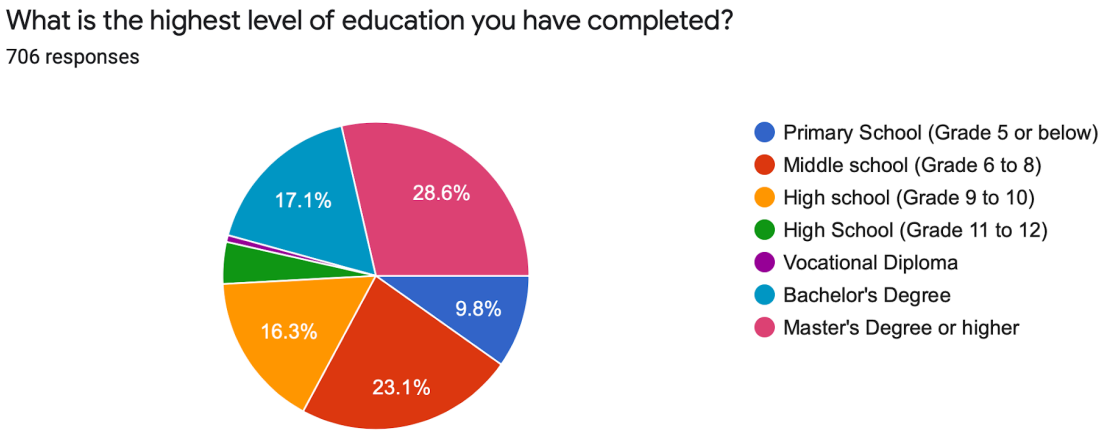
4. Karnataka (India) and California (US) were states where the majority of responses were collected.



5. About 54% of the surveyed people were students, and 34% were employed. Only 2.7% of all the responses were retired.

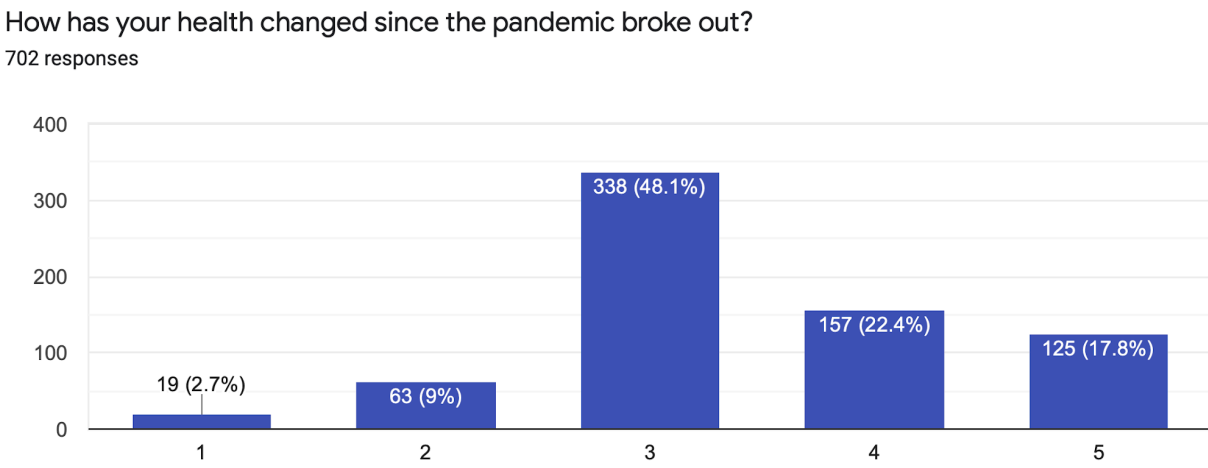


6. More than half of the responses reported to be in grade school. 29% of them claimed a Master's degree or higher.

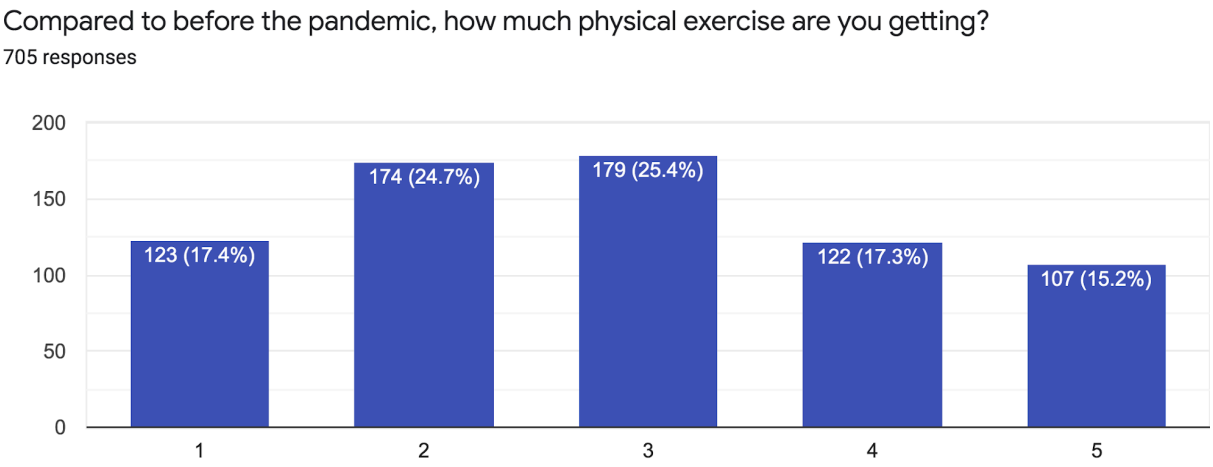


Health

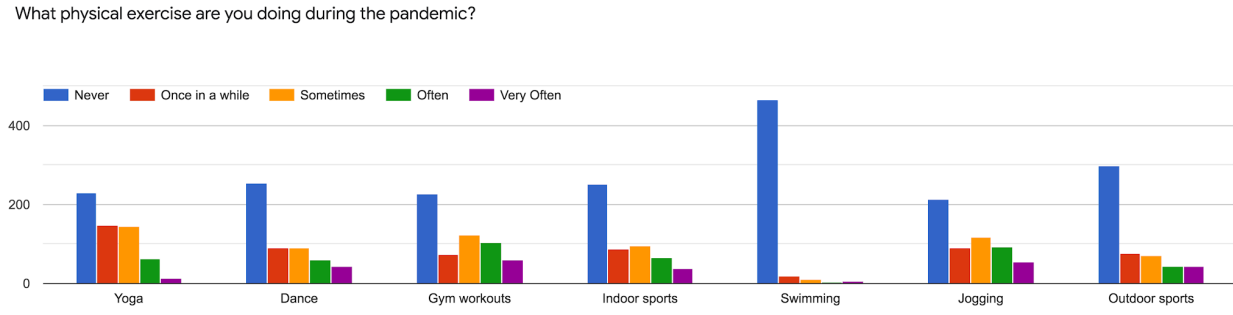
1. Almost about 50% of people who took the survey reported that their health was about the same, while almost 40% affirmed that their health had improved.



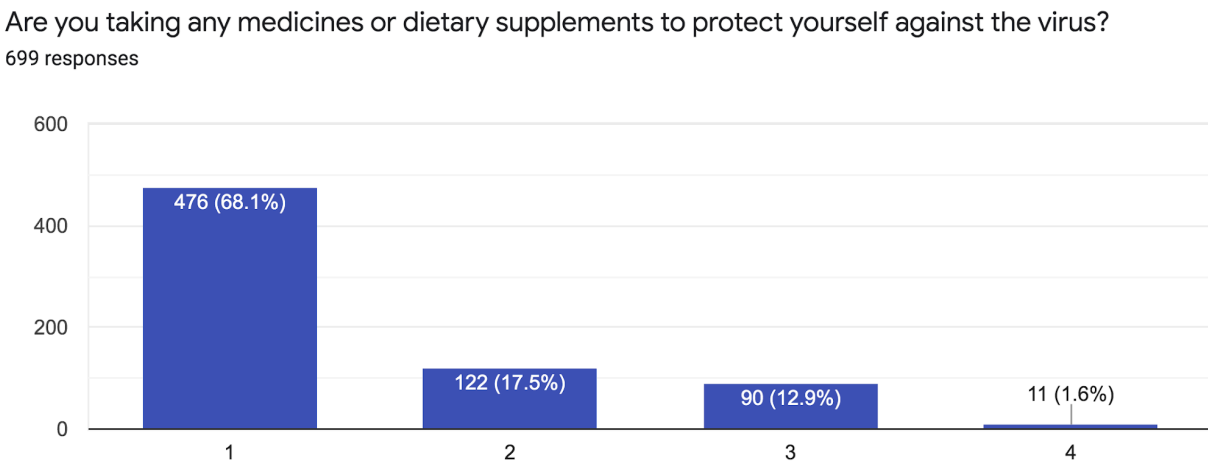
2. A quarter of the people reported that the amount of exercise they were getting was more or less the same as before , while upto 42.3% of the responses have stated that they were getting less than before.



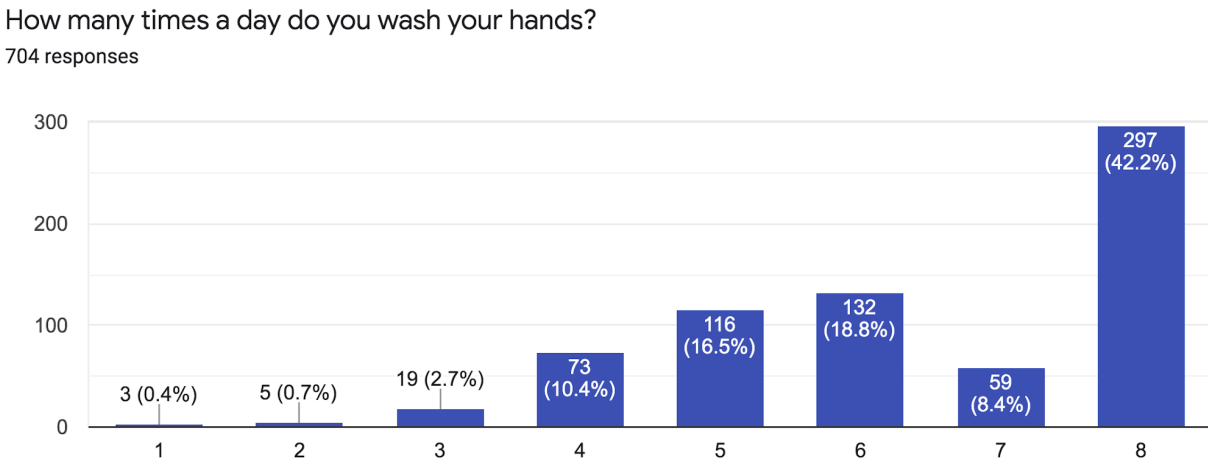
3. As shown below, gym workouts and jogging seem to be the most popular means of staying active.



4. More than half of the responses have asserted that they have not been taking any medicines or supplements to protect themselves against the virus.

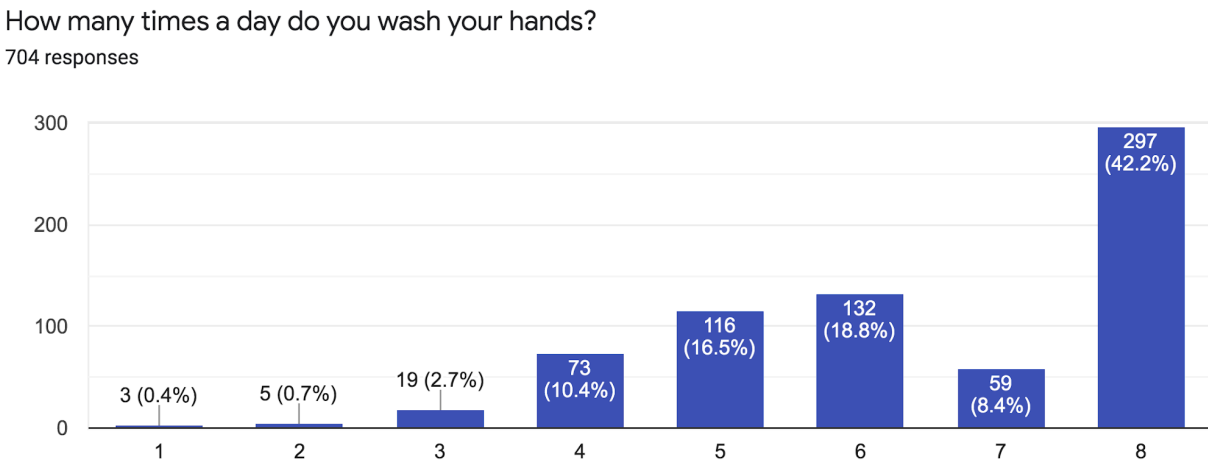


5. Almost 90% of the people who took the survey have maintained that they wash their hands more than 5 times a day.



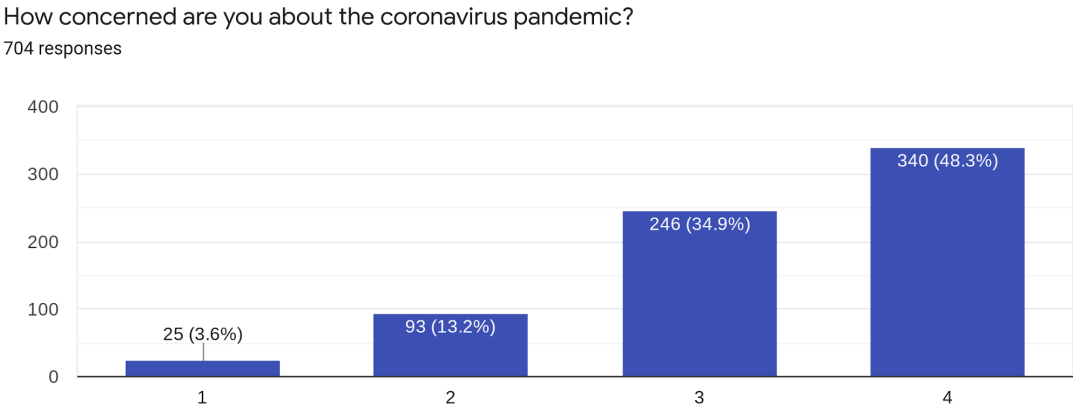
6. 75% of the respondents have reported that they frequently wear masks

while going outside.



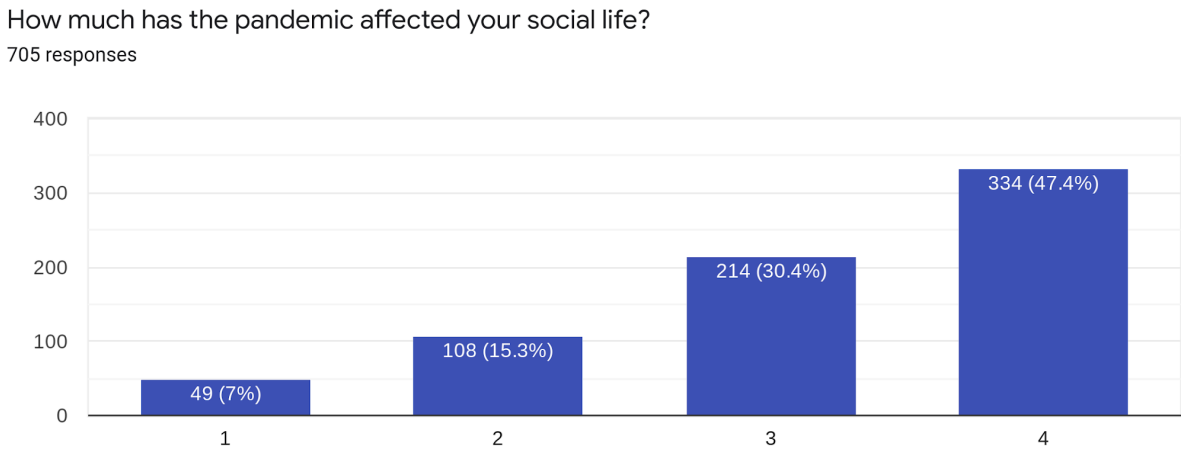
Social and Family Life

1. Nearly 50% of people revealed that they are very concerned about the coronavirus pandemic, while only 17% reported they were not overly worried about the pandemic.

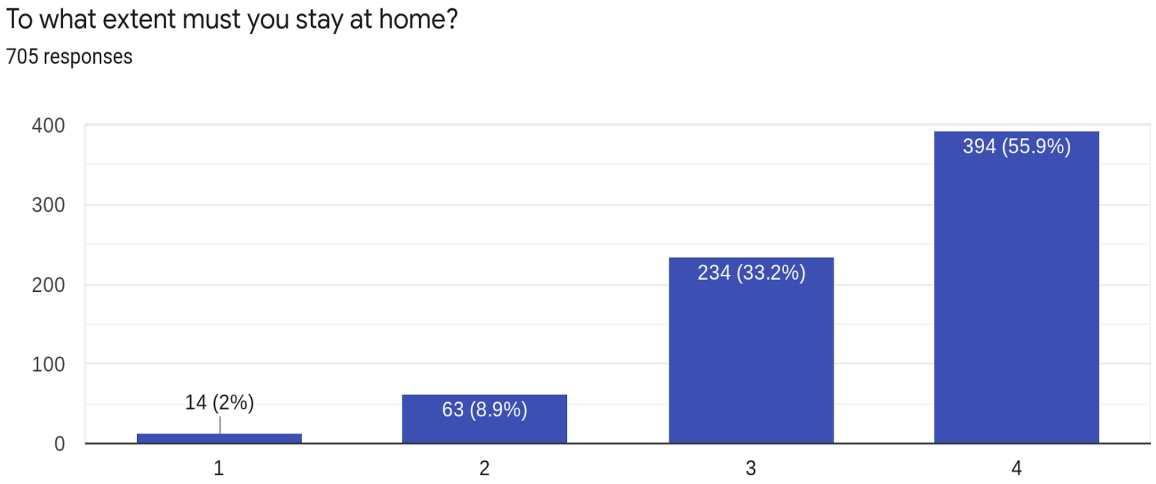


2. Four in five people affirmed that their social life was moderately to greatly

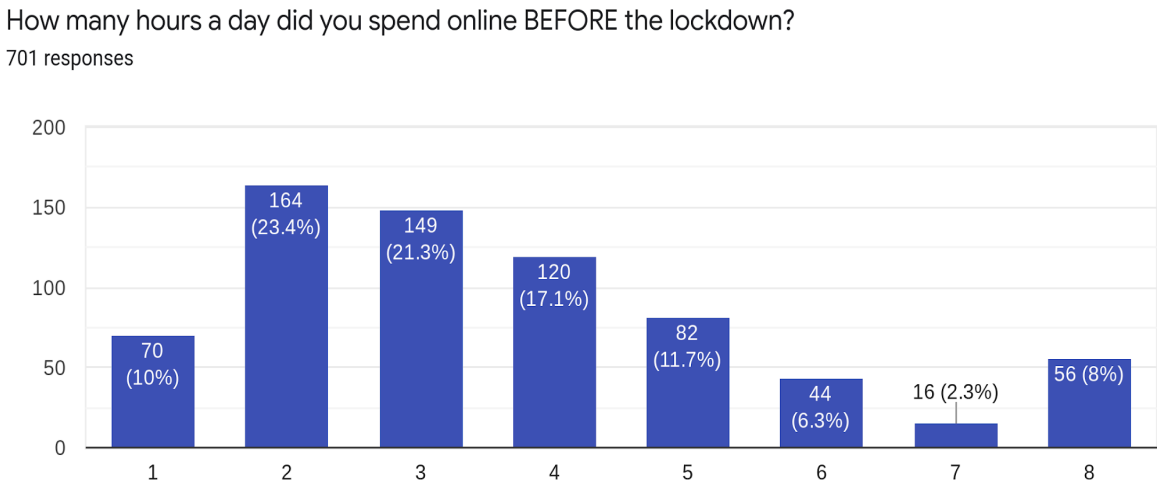
affected, while about 23% stated that their social life was not affected.



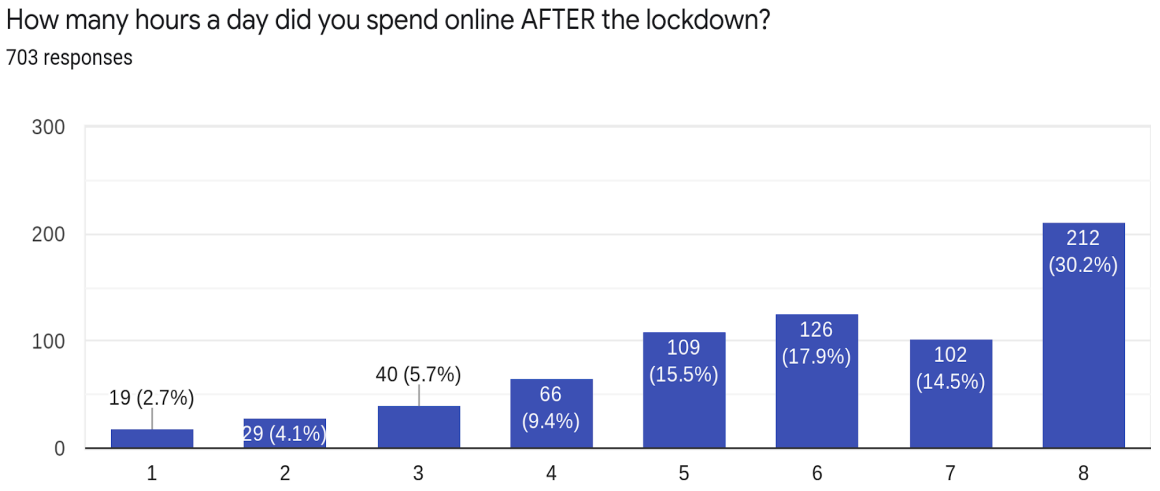
3. About 60% of people reported that they are under a full lockdown/stay at home order.



4. Less than 25% of people spent 5 or more hours a day online before the pandemic.

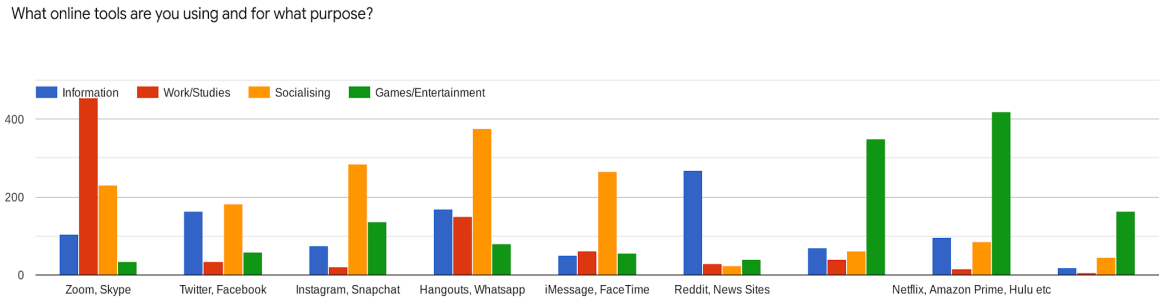


5. Almost 80% of the respondents have asserted that they are spending 5-8 hours online during this pandemic.

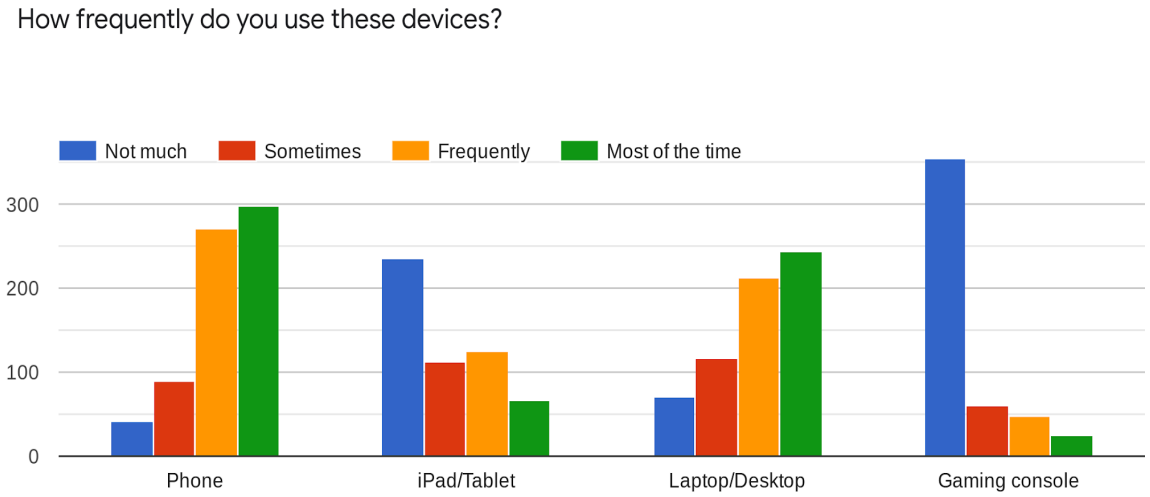


6. As shown below, Zoom and Skype are the platforms most used for work or studies, while most social media apps are being used for socialising or

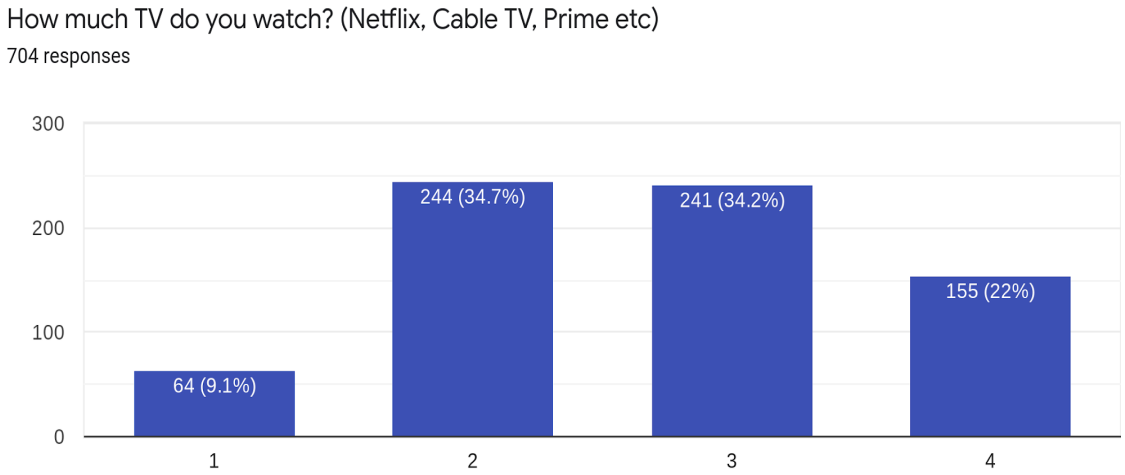
entertainment.



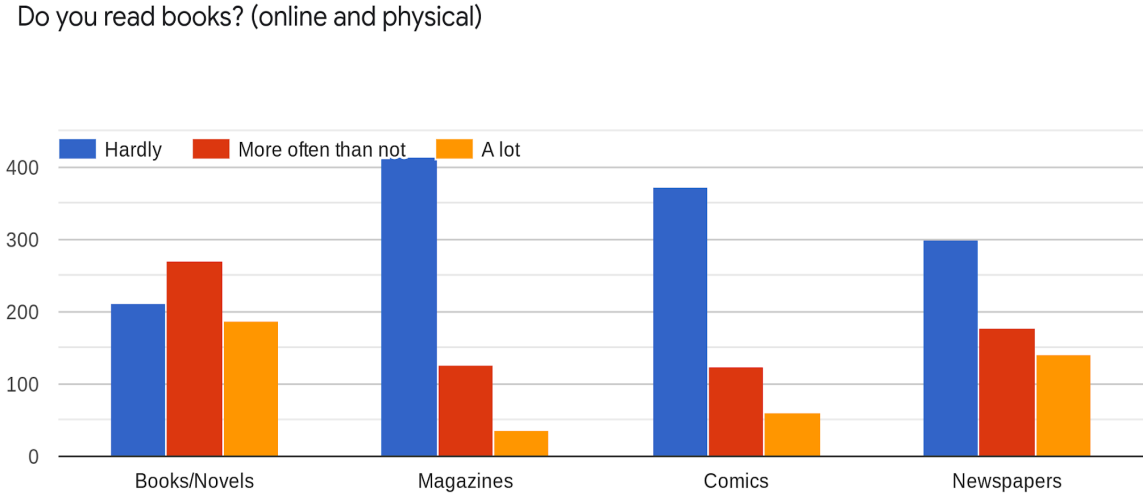
7. As the chart shows, phones and laptops are the most frequently used devices.



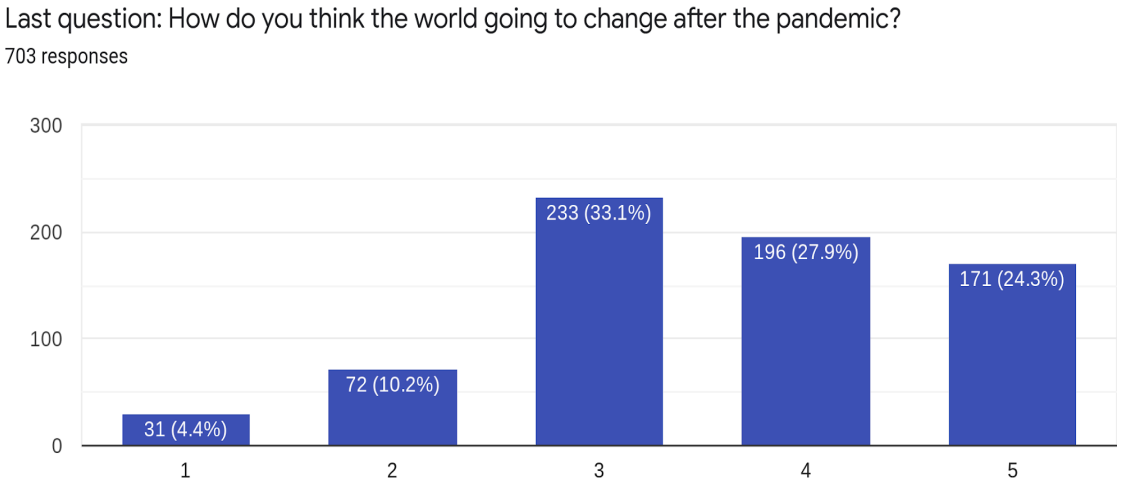
8. Almost 70% of the people who took the survey have reported that they watch a moderate amount of TV.



9. As the chart shows, most people affirmed that they hardly read magazines and comics.

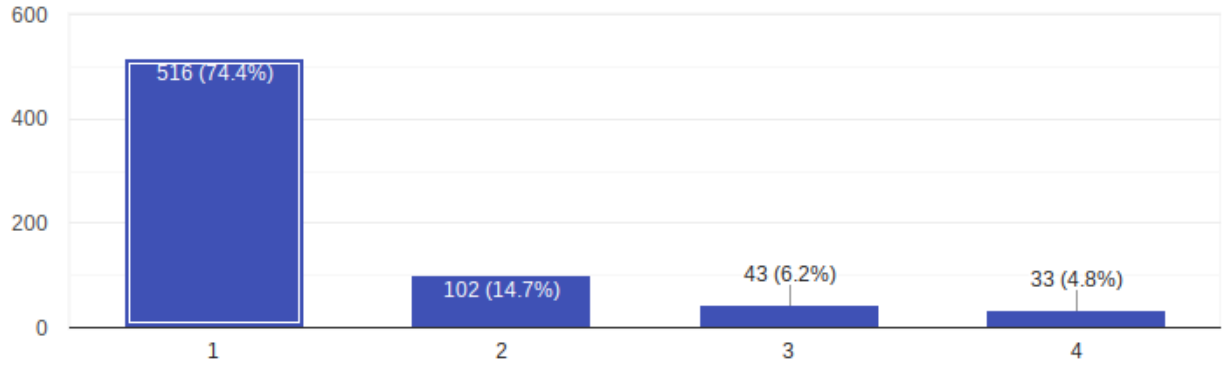


10. More than half of the surveyed people believe that the world is going to change for the better after this pandemic.

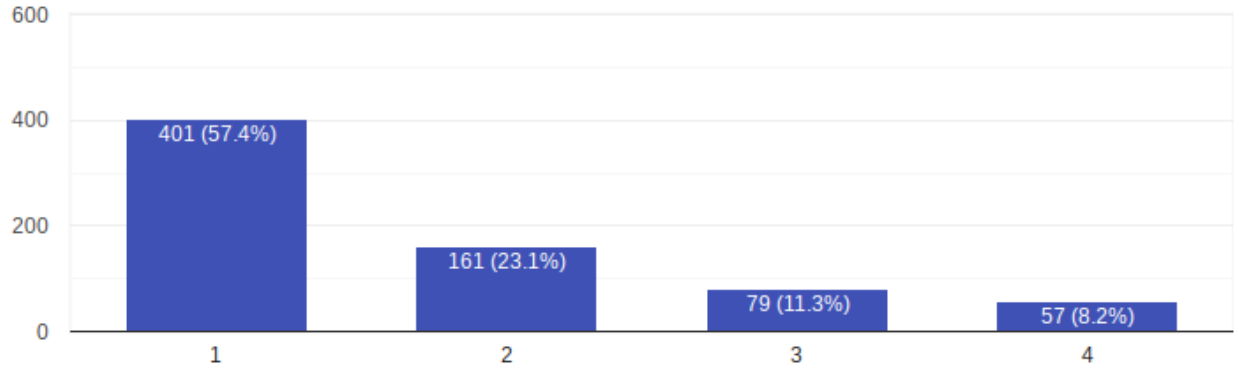


Economic Effect

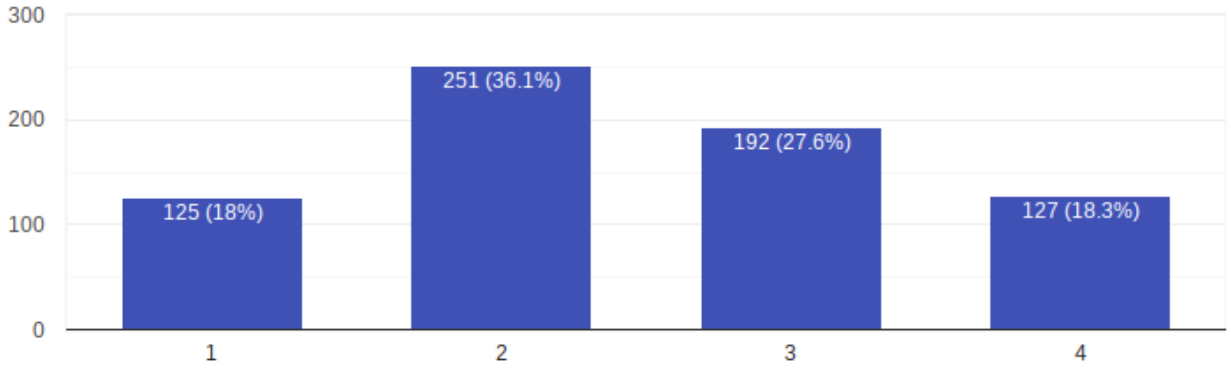
1. Nearly 75% of the surveyed people affirmed that they hadn't faced a loss of income/job at all.



2. A little less than 60% of people affirmed that no one in their family faced a loss of income/loss of job. However, almost 43% of people stated that someone in their family did face a loss of income/loss of job, if not wholly but partially.

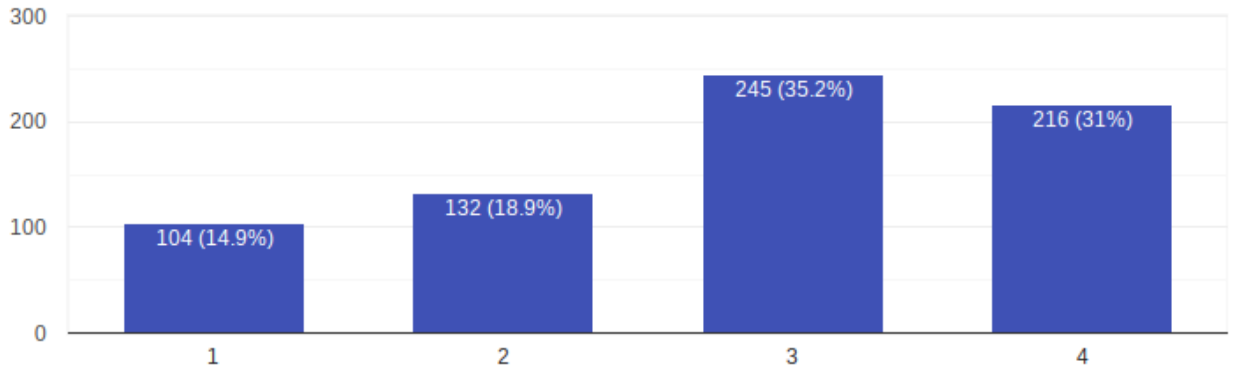


3. Most people surveyed picked a “2” or “3” on the scale, meaning a slight increase in workload.

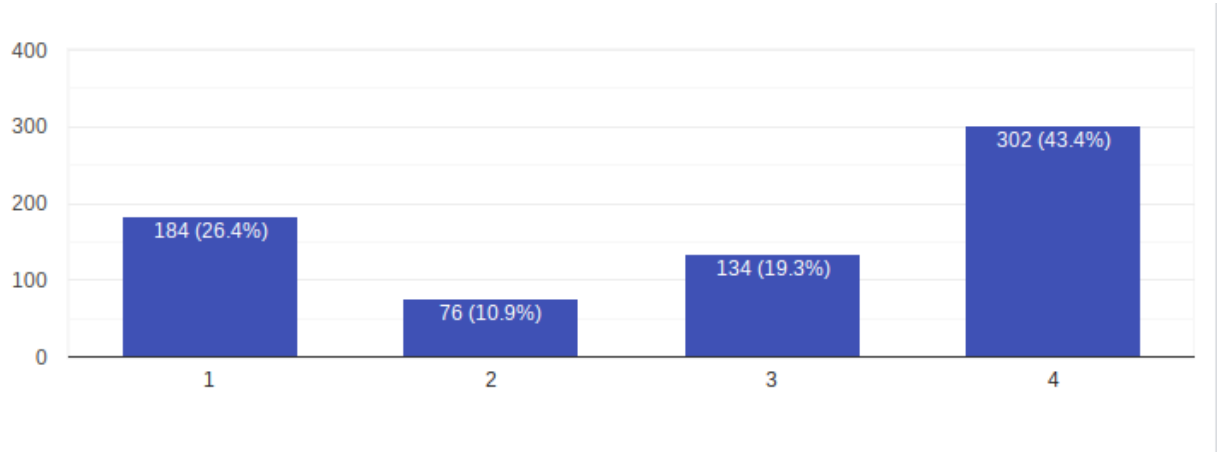


Education

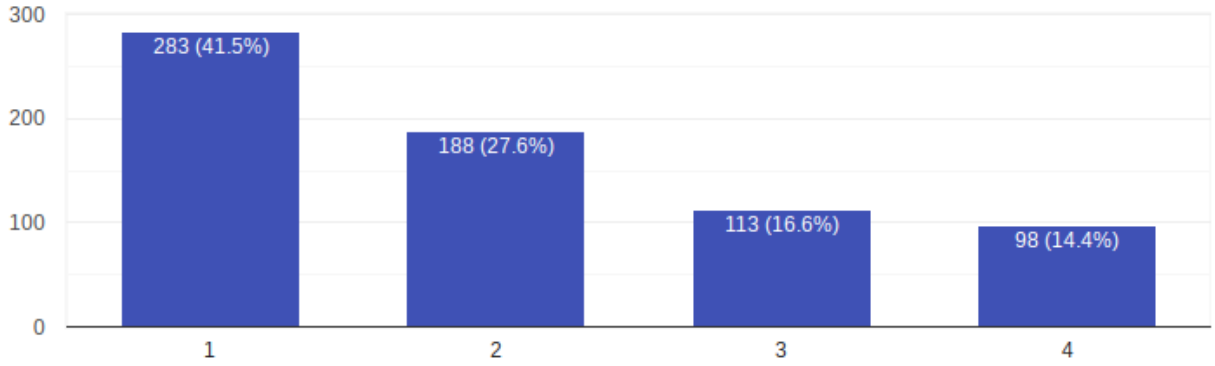
1. Most people surveyed responded with picking “3” or “4”, meaning that their workload had increased.



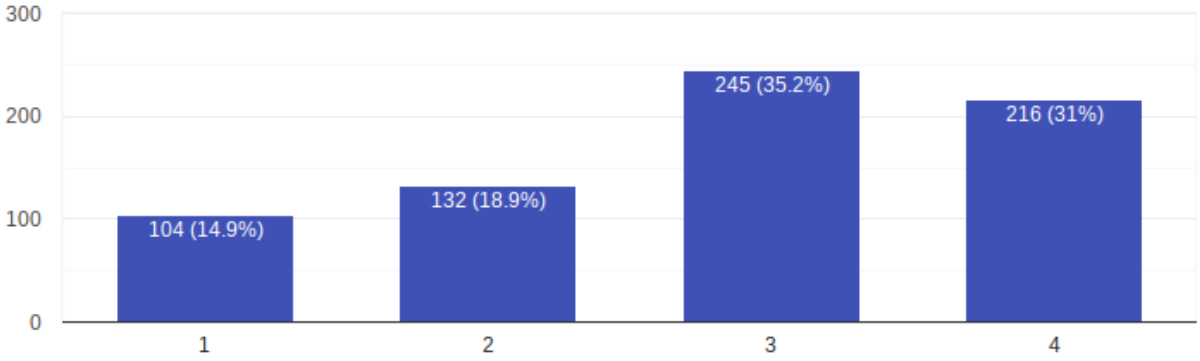
2. Half of the people that responded to the question “are you taking classes online?” with a 4, meaning that they are.



3. Almost 50% of participants stated that they did not prefer online classes over physical ones.



4. When the participants were asked how many of their extracurricular activities had been moved online, over half of the respondents replied with a 3 or 4, meaning most of their activities have been converted to virtual ones.


300
200
100
0
104 (14.9%)
132 (18.9%)
245 (35.2%)
216 (31%)
1
2
3
4

DISCUSSION

It is interesting to note that people have displayed a cautiously optimistic view towards the question of how the world is going to change after the pandemic is over. Most people regardless of country have chosen 4 or 5 on the linear scale, showing that they are of the opinion that that world is going to change for the better. Another surprising inference obtained is that almost 90% of the surveyed people had reported that their health had remained either the same or had improved since the pandemic started. It is noteworthy to see that almost 80% of the surveyed people residing in India have been wearing a mask every time they go outside of the house. Another surprising fact was how often people are washing their hands during this pandemic. Around 70% of people living in the United States have reported that they have been washing their 8 or more times a day. Across the world, 40% of those surveyed have seen an improvement in their health since this pandemic. More than 70% of people in different countries have reported that they are not taking any supplements or medicine to protect themselves against the virus, yet they are still in good health.

One thing that was looked at during this survey was how long teenagers were online during the day. It is noteworthy to see just how much screen time usage increased during this pandemic. Most teenagers across all locations are now spending 5 or more hours online every day. Another compelling result was that almost 70% of people worldwide have been watching a moderate amount of TV during this pandemic.

One of the main aspects of people's lives that has been affected is their education or work and studies. This has affected nearly all people - regardless of country, age or gender. Globally, more than three - quarters of the surveyed people reported that their regular work and studies had been affected. On a global scale, 70% of people said that they did not prefer online classes over physical; they preferred the latter over the former.

We also looked at how the pandemic has affected people's livelihood. From the analyzed results, we have inferred that 75% of people from each of these

demographics - Global, India and Karnataka have not personally suffered through a loss of income or job at all.

Since the practice of social distancing has been enforced in many places, including India and the United States, it is not difficult to predict that people's social lives have been greatly affected. Nearly 85% of people all over the world claim there has been a drastic change in their social lives. Concern for the pandemic has also been expressed to the same extent, with 70% of people worldwide reporting extremely high apprehension regarding the subject of coronavirus. Many countries have also implemented stay-at-home orders upon their people, like quarantines and lockdowns. Looking on a global scale, 89% of people have reported being under full/quarantine lockdown.

COMPARISON

The vast majority of the people who took the survey came from India and the United States, wherein Karnataka and California made up a significant section of the responses.

- After analysing the results under the section of Economic Effect, we come to the conclusion that people in Karnataka have been appreciably more affected by the virus than people in California, with almost half of teens in Karnataka reporting that someone in their family has faced a loss of income/loss of job and this number is 28% higher when compared to California. However, when asked if they had faced a direct loss of income or job, the responses tended to be similar, with 9% of teens in Karnataka asserting that they had faced a loss, when 8% of teens in California asserted the same. In Texas, only 5 % of respondents have lost a direct source of income due to the pandemic, and 7 % have a family member that has lost a direct source of income.
- People in Karnataka were more likely to report a betterment in health, with upto 45% of people stating improvement in that area, and another 45% affirming that their health was the same as before.. Alternately, in Texas, about 70% of people supported that their health had either stayed the same or was seeing improvement, of which 50% affirmed the former.
- Physical exercise is an area that many people in India (including Karnataka) seem to be engaging in more, with 61% of people affirming an increase in physical activity - of which 26% of the surveyed people said that they were getting the same as before. Almost the exact opposite can be seen in California, where a little more than half of people reported that they were getting less exercise than before. Again in Texas we see a similar trend, where 70% of the respondents asserted that they were not getting as much exercise as before. This could be due to the fact that outdoor sports are one of the most popular means of staying fit in Texas, and so due to obvious social distancing, people would not be able to partake in as much physical activity as they usually do.
- In both the practices of wearing masks and washing hands, Karnataka seems to be ahead of the curve. 87% of Karnataka's surveyed people reported that if not always, they very frequently wore a mask while going outside, while only 23% of California residents affirmed the same. Additionally, only 39 % of Texans wear a mask when going outside. This could show that the United States is less cautious compared to India when relating to the virus. It is however, interesting to note

that 83% of Karnataka, California, and Texas residents stated that they washed their hands more than 5 times a day. This is perhaps due to the practice being strongly endorsed in both countries, by both the governments and the media, and much more encouraged than wearing masks. The global number for the same question was at an even higher level, at 86%. This could be due to varying lockdown intensity and therefore different government directives and recommendations in different places.

- Education and work is an area that almost everyone around the world has been affected by. Almost 95% of Californian teens have stated that their regular workload has been affected in some way, yet in Karnataka only 63% of teenagers have reported a change in everyday schooling and workloads. Nearly 99% of teens in California have been taking online classes, but only 50% in Karnataka have communicated that they have been doing the same. When the participants were asked if they preferred online or physical classes, more than half of California adolescents did not; they preferred the latter over the former. This seems to be a trend everywhere with almost 70% of teens in Karnataka reporting the same.
- Arguably one of the things that has been affected by this is internet usage. Before this pandemic 32% of teens in California spent more than 5 hours online, compared to 15% of teens in Karnataka. Though the order of numbers has stayed the same (Karnataka using less than California), it is shocking to see how much those numbers increased. During the pandemic, almost **95%** of teens living in California have been spending 5 or more hours online. Though the number is still smaller than California, there are now % of teenagers in Karnataka online 5+ hours a day. Another thing that has changed is the amount of TV usage. Throughout this pandemic, 97% of California teens are spending a moderate amount of time watching TV. The number of teens watching TV moderately in Karnataka is larger than the number in California, with almost 97% of teens watching TV a moderate amount.
- The practice of social distancing seems to be enforced everywhere, including the USA and India. Since this rule is quite common, it is not surprising to see that people's social lives have been affected. 81% of Californian teen residents have responded by saying that their social life has been drastically affected, while only 68% of teenagers in Karnataka have reported the same. Concern about the coronavirus pandemic has been expressed on the same scale as around 78% of teens living in California have stated that they are very highly apprehensive about this pandemic. Though this number is high, it is still interesting to note that only

50% of teens in Karnataka show that same concern about this current virus. Many countries have implemented a stay-at-home order as well as social distancing. Almost 90% of Californian teens have reported being under a serious stay-at-home/lockdown order. It is shocking to see how much that number decreases when we look at teens in Karnataka. Only 51% of teens residing there have reported being under a full lockdown order.