



SERVICE LEARNING AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT THROUGH HIGHER EDUCATION

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COVID-19 - COMMUNITY IMPACT IN THE HOUSTON AREA

ABSTRACT:

During the COVID-19 pandemic, students conducted a survey to assess the community's impact, including job loss, missed school time, unmet basic needs, and psychological issues such as depression, stress, and substance abuse. The project also analyzed how the community obtained information, whether through news or social media, and their awareness levels during the pandemic's onset. Additionally, the survey evaluated community approval of actions taken by local public officials and the federal government. The findings highlighted significant disruptions in employment and education, increased mental health challenges, and varied levels of information access and awareness. Community approval of government actions varied, reflecting diverse perspectives on pandemic management. The project aimed to provide a comprehensive understanding of the pandemic's multifaceted impact on the community and inform future public health strategies.

THEMATIC FOCUS:

Shifting Foundations: Modern fundamental changes in how communities form, change, and represent themselves.

Convergence and Intersections: How increasing or decreasing hyperconnectivity can impact community engagement.

Floods and Droughts: Too much of one thing, not enough of another. How complimentary partnership can fill the gaps.

BIO:

Nethra Dilip is currently biotechnology major at the University of Houston- Downtown with a strong interest in public health and community well being. Through this service learning project Nethra has examined COVID-19 pandemic affects and compared study results with first hand experience. Looking forward to contribute future efforts that will improve healthcare and strengthen community resilience!