

FINAL SCRIPT - SOC 295
Class and COVID-19

INTRODUCTION

[Daniela]:

[Erika]: And it also depends on where you are in the world. Like in the US, social mobility is limited. But I know that in western society it is more attainable than it is in say... India, which has a caste system.

RESOURCES AND SCHOOLS

[Erika]: When it comes to COVID specifically and resources, online learning is a huge component.

[Athena]: in the article “The kids are (really) not alright: A synthesis of COVID-19 student surveys”, there was very disproportionate access to technology for people in lower-income homes. Less reliable internet and WIFI made learning a lot harder for them. In turn, by making learning harder motivation is that much harder and even affects mental health.

[Daniela]: Going off of that, looking across the board COVID 19 is a global pandemic and in other cultures, in more impoverished countries the average number of children goes up. You think about families that have 10 children and they don't have 10 computers. Also adds distraction when there is screaming in the background compared to other children who have their own room and space.

[Athena]: with lower-income families, the parents are at work. The kids have to take care of their siblings and don't have time to do online school.

[Autumn]: Some schools were able to buy chrome books for the students, but my sister had to buy a chrome book becau

kids because they needed an extra five days of food. They already have limited resources and now they have to give out even more food.

[Allaire]: Stuff like that is usually overlooked. The wealthy just assume that everyone has computers, and everyone is able to get all three meals each day. More attention definitely needs to be brought to these lower-income families.

[Erika]: I just looked this up - according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, “9 million African Americans in the U.S. received food stamps each month and that represents a quarter of the African American population in the U.S.” That’s one in four.

[Autumn]: Factor in the people who are losing their jobs so there are even more people who can no longer afford food. Which puts more strain on the resources.

MORTALITY

[Erika]: Okay, we’re talking about death. Mortality.

[Daniela]: I think death tolls were kind of unavoidable statistics during a pandemic. I don’t know about you guys, but constantly I’m opening up Twitter and social media, and there are giant numbers just in my face. Like “today, this many people died compared to yesterday…” and there are charts showing these trends—it’s in your face, but how do you really interpret those numbers?

[Autumn]: The human brain can’t really interpret big numbers—we can understand like… 3, but when it

[Athena]: I think if anything, there can be an under-representation of lower-income people and especially lower-

GENDER AND WEALTH

[Autumn]: When they're looking at the jobs figures each month, the net increase in women who are going back to work is close to zero. The number of jobs that women are losing and gaining is about the same, so the number of women in the workforce is the lowest it's been since the 1980s. When it comes down to it, unfortunately, we're still a pretty patriarchal society, and when you have to decide whether you're going to pay a couple thousand dollars to have kids go to daycare or just stop working, for some people, it's just more financially sustainable to stop working, and that falls on the mother a lot.

[Erika]: When I think of gender, I don't really feel that the conversation strays very far from the binary male/female. I went to look up statistics for COVID deaths based on gender, fully expecting to find a graph of all gender identities, and I didn't realize that all of the graphs were male/female or, for example, male/female/other, and there was no data compiled on male-identifying/ female-identifying/ non-binary/ genderfluid people.

[Autumn]: Yeah, there's nothing on that.

[Erika]: It could be broken down so much further, and there's no research on it.

[Autumn]: And maybe that's something that won't happen until years later

[Allaire]: It's also really hurtful to the lower class, there are people in the lower class that are not just male and female, and there's no research on it, so that makes them go unseen and unheard.

[Autumn]: Let's be honest, we know it's going to affect probably that population more because that's just how the world works. Everything affects them negatively because it's not a fair society. But we don't know by how much, so they're going blind into a pandemic, not knowing how it's going to affect them.

[Erika]: Healthcare, when it comes to transgender people - a lot of transgender people have anxiety around seeing their primary health providers in the first place, never mind when it comes to reporting COVID symptoms. The same thing happened in that video we watched about the black woman who was a doctor and was trying to explain to doctors around her that she was in a lot of pain that she needed XYZ treatments, and then she died because they wouldn't give them to her. That same kind of prejudice would apply to someone who doesn't fit the gender binary, being afraid of prejudice, so they might avoid seeking medical treatment in the first place, which then would lead to under-reported cases of COVID

[Autumn]: It also doesn't help that what was considered elective or

[Daniela]: And that can lead to death sometimes. We're talking about life-threatening reality. Like I know it's not urgent to most people because you're not bleeding out, but in a lot of cases, it pushes people to take their own life.

[Autumn]:

[Erika]: And it infuriates me that the wealthy are the ones that are so against higher taxes because they wouldn't even notice... Like, if you make 10 billion dollars, even if someone took a whole billion away, I really don't think there'd be that much damage to your lifestyle if any at all.

[Athena]: like a 10% tax cut affects people who make 30,000 a year much differently than people who make a million a year

[Erika]: Or the fact that the highest tax bracket is \$250,000 and that anybody above that who makes 8 billion dollars pays the same rate for their taxes.

[Autumn]: Warren Buffet didn't donate money but he used his corporate jets to fly masks from china to new york

[Everyone]: What a hero.

[Autumn]: Bill and Melinda gates foundation donated 305 million dollars which is better because he's not worth 200 billion dollars but it's still not great. Donald Trump donated 100,000 dollars to the department of health and human service for corona4 (th) -4 21 Tf [(of) 3 () 5 () 1 (l) 4 (t) 4 1 T1 T9 (o) 4 (n) Tehcecfu1 T #8. G

References

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