

July 17 at 11:54 AM

Hello everyone. My name is Lara and I'm 16 years old. 🙋

For me Covid-19 was an obstacle at the very beginning. I felt depressed, worried about my educational level, my future and what is coming next, my family, friends and so much more. But I did something good I restricted the quarantine from the beginning of March with my family.

My education: I felt stressed, we started using WhatsApp to study not Zoom or a professional platform. It was just videos and voice notes (repeating the same information twice and maybe more, so the voice note is 6min and more 😊) that I should copy to my copy books and study them in a short time. It was difficult because Lebanon in general isn't prepared for such pandemics for example the internet problem, electricity, some teachers who are old and don't know how to use it. However, it was a step from the Ministry of Education to take a step forward and continue the curriculum. (PS: we faced a lot of problems during studying but it was a good step but not making a decision for this year was a mess and students in general felt paranoid). Sometimes I don't understand my teachers in school, so how can I understand them virtually?

However, it wasn't just Covid-19 but also the revolution in Lebanon. And due to this we passed a lot of days and lessons accumulated.

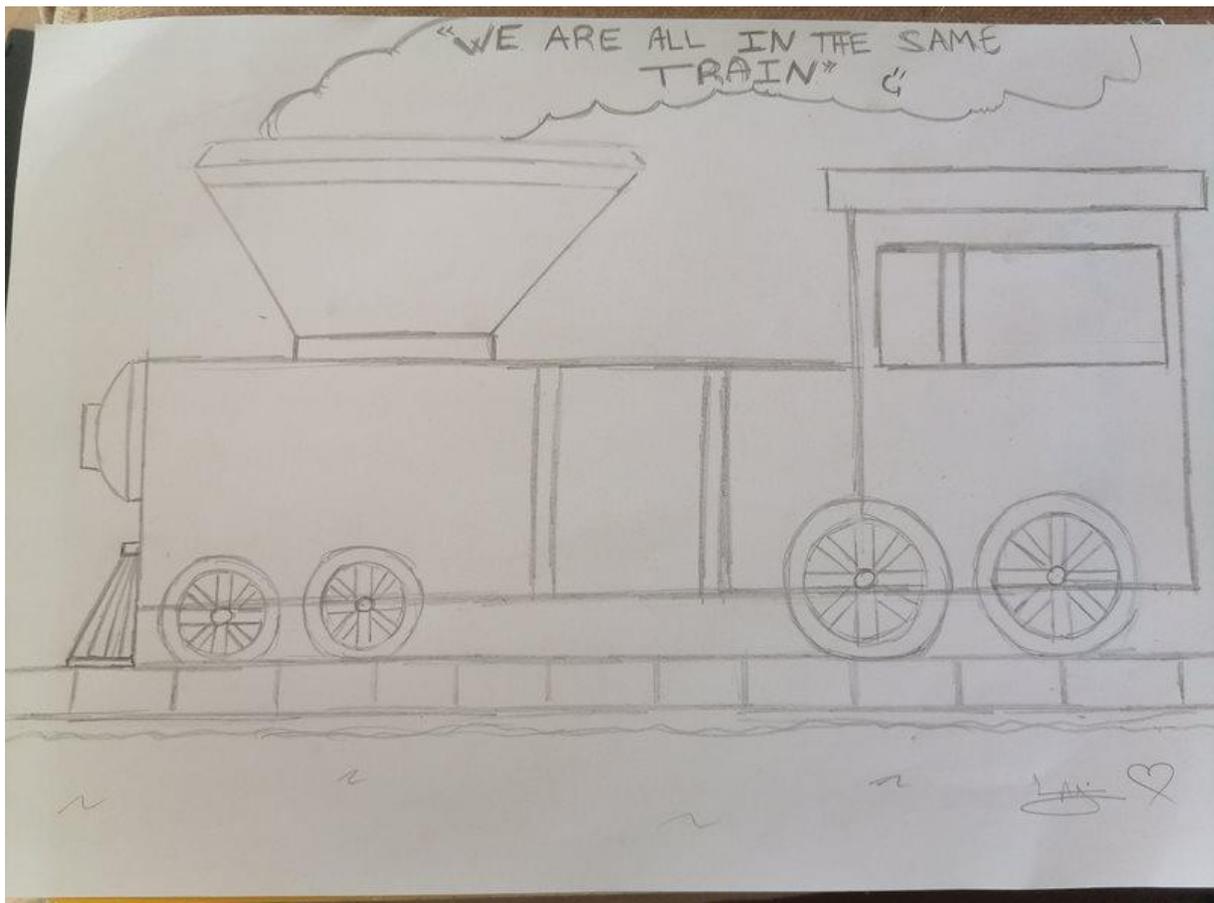
My future: well as any other person I started asking myself what will happen next? How it will end? Is there going to be a vaccine? How long should we wait to know answers? Is it going to steal more time from me? But then after one month or two I realized that all the world is in the same train. Everyone is worried, everyone is trying to escape from this pandemic, and I decided to take advantage of my time and invest it into learning new things in order to improve myself because sitting and worrying won't change anything.

My family and friends: I did research about Covid-19 and there is something that this virus only affects people who have problems with their immune system (disorder or weak), elderly people or young people. But for me youth aren't in the safe zone. I thought that I'm going to lose my beloved ones. In the same year, my best friend emigrated to USA and you know what happened there: cases were escalated quickly, the toilet paper thing, and she was/still is working at a food restaurant. So, can you imagine it? Another friend of mine was in London studying - he's in university and I can't describe how he was. His mental health, physical one... He was so down and depressed especially that the embassy wasn't responding to him.

As for my family I worried about my father because he had a heart operation, my grandparents because they are old and I can't reach them.

For us family is always number one. It's been like 4 months we didn't meet, we didn't celebrate Mother's Day... Just sending virtual hugs and kisses through WhatsApp.

Ps: excuse my drawing 🙄



July 24 at 12:23 PM

"Once you choose hope, anything's possible"~ Christopher Reeve

Hello everyone,

As I said before, Covid-19 was an obstacle at the beginning. It was hard to deal with, all the news are talking about it, death rates, theories about conspiracy, economic crisis faced in every country... So as any other human being I was worried, scared, depressed... It was a mess.

I decided to change my mentality, and change my priorities in life, it's my time and I'm wasting it.

I've wasted it watching Netflix, TV, sitting and not doing anything in the first month of the quarantine but then I realized that I am affecting myself negatively. I felt bored actually... same routine each day. But then something changed...

I couldn't stay at home watching how people aren't dealing with this virus in a proper way, some of them are not committed with the precautions and others are frightened which is normal somehow, I guess. So I took the action, my responsibility as a citizen in this country/community I helped organizations to raise awareness, we posted posters on the walls, in markets, social media, megaphone in the village... It was like throwing a stone in the lake and you'll never know how deep and far it might go but luckily the ripple gets bigger and bigger.

I can't describe my feeling back then I was afraid and risking my life but showing that I am strong for others, it's not difficult but at night when you come home and start recalling what happened and how people are desperate and losing hope it kills.. Your mentality changes, I wanted to scream but I couldn't because it was like brick on my chest... I wish I could do more... Even if you have a team or an organization, a bunch of people aiming to change and helping others but you feel like something is missing, maybe you need a friend just to listen to you but you can't because they are also having a lot of problems... So in order to overcome this feeling, to discover what's missing I started writing, walking (an hour per day), yoga (application). I gave time for myself and also helped people in the afternoon.

We should NEVER lose hope, because its absence makes everything tasteless.