Technology and the New Normal
Young Democrats

The second anniversary of the COVID-19 pandemic is nearing its mark. People all over the world have hoped that the pandemic would end even before the first year ended. However, the virus has proven deadly and relentless, creating a new normal. The pandemic has caused a global reconsideration on the status quo. It has compelled the world to adapt to the new circumstances, foregoing comfort zones.

Work and school dynamics have thoroughly changed. Many, if not all, interactions have gone from a physical setting to a virtual setting to combat the spread of the virus. With that in mind, it has been crucial for people working remotely to have access to adequate materials, namely technological, for work or education. Overall, the pandemic has disrupted life as we know it. People have lost loved ones as well as livelihoods.

The big question that remains is how we deal with a crisis that has made a domino effect on everyone. The pandemic has been approached in various ways by many different countries. However, it has also uncovered issues that have been problematic since before the COVID-19 outbreak. "I think we've discovered fault lines in our societies, to attack societies that we thought were pretty well organized," Jules Maaten argued in CALD Youth's podcast episode. Even in well-organized countries assumed to have the best healthcare, the disruption has been felt and is continued to be felt. Studying the reactions of countries towards the pandemic has been fascinating, showing the cultural differences between countries like Sweden and Germany and how they are managing the pandemic in their respective regions.

Reiterating the need for technology in this virtual setting, there has been an inequity. Maaten discussed further that, "this is the new caste system. Who can deal with technology and who can't? And it's partly a generational question. It's partly socio-economic question. But there are other aspects to it as well." While in this era of the internet, access to the internet is important, there are still people who are either opposed or would rather not bother accessing the internet. Many who cannot access the internet, whether by choice or not, are faced with a problem in the transition of physical settings to virtual settings. How then are we going to reach out to these groups in order to adapt to the new normal?

Learn more about adapting to the new normal in the post-COVID 19 outbreak, and how communication and technology plays a part through CALD Youth's podcast episode IX, "Reaching Outside the Bubble," with Singapore Democratic Party's Min Cheong and Jules Maaten.

https://open.spotify.com/episode/6L2e8Uz6LrcJt7LITAtIeM?si=dc9d841d6c4f4d3d