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## Covid- 19 and Hi-Tech Global Lonely Village

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### Abstract

Human-computer interaction has emerged with the addition of computers to communication processes. The concept of human computer interaction was first used in 1983 by Stuart K. Card in The Psychology of Human Computer Interaction (Card, 1986). Considering the concept of human interaction, the process of human interaction with humans has been almost minimized with the Covid-19 issue. Human communication is not only physically beneficial, but also essential for mental health. Julianne Holt-Lunstad, a professor of psychology and neuroscience at Brigham Young University, in an environment she co-authored, it is clear that loneliness and social isolation are twice as harmful to physical and mental health than obesity (Walker, 2020). However, as a result of all this, the way of communication tend towards evolutionary change and transformation. With the combination of today's technologies with pandemic processes, the future will evolve into a completely virtual and a global world where the masses continue their communication and interaction through the virtual world.

**Keywords:** Covid-19, global village, high technology, distance education, online education.

## Covid-19 ve Yüksek Teknolojik Yalnızlaşan Köy

### Özet

Bilgisayarların iletişim süreçlerine eklenmesi ile insan-bilgisayar etkileşimi ortaya çıkmıştır. İnsan bilgisayar etkileşimi kavramı ilk olarak 1983 yılında Stuart K. Card tarafından The Psychology of Human Computer Interaction (Card, 1986) 'da kullanılmıştır. İnsan etkileşimi kavramı düşünüldüğünde, insanlarla insan etkileşimi süreci Covid-19 sorunu ile neredeyse en aza indirildi. İnsan iletişimi sadece fiziksel olarak yararlı değil, aynı zamanda ruh sağlığı için de gereklidir. Brigham Young Üniversitesi'nde psikoloji ve sinirbilim profesörü olan Julianne Holt-Lunstad, ortak yazarı olduğu bir ortamda, yalnızlık ve sosyal izolasyonun fiziksel ve zihinsel sağlığa obeziteden iki kat daha fazla zararlı olduğu açıktır (Walker, 2020). Bununla birlikte, tüm bunların bir sonucu olarak, iletişim biçimi evrimsel değişime ve dönüşüme yönelir. Günümüz teknolojilerinin pandemik süreçlerle birleşmesiyle gelecek, kitlelerin sanal dünya üzerinden iletişim ve etkileşimlerini sürdürdüğü tamamen sanal ve küresel bir dünyaya evrilecek.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Covid-19, global köy, yüksek teknoloji, uzaktan eğitim, online eğitim.

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## 1. Introduction

When Marshall McLuhan coined the Global Village concept, it was about the concept of a world connected by technology (McLuhan, 1992). This global village actually describes the isolation of people with technology. It appears as an escape from human loneliness, imprisoning himself in front of a computer and traveling in the real world with a virtual avatar. Covid-19 created this new world stuck between virtual and reality. No matter how small the virus is, the world and order it has created has revealed a huge reality. This new order will affect the audience trained in this order much more. This process, which started in December 2019, will cause much greater effects in the future. Trust, belief, learning, consciousness, knowledge and many other concepts have changed radically. The concept of intimacy, which forms the basis of humanity, has changed its meaning and has been replaced by virtual proximity. This new order actually represents a transition period. The apparent situation is that humanity will not be able to return to the period before Covid-19 that emerged in 2019 and that in the changing world order, intimacy, family, relationships, communication, education and many other concepts will be redefined.

Considering the history of humanity, it is seen that people have had to struggle with epidemic diseases from the moment they started to live in a community. "Microbes are the planet's busiest creators and destroyers," Andrew Nikiforuk describes in his book *The Fourth Horseman of the Apocalypse*. Without them, the world would become a static dump of dead animals, plants and humans" (Nikiforuk, 2018, p. 23).

In the last month of 2019, the virus, which emerged in the market where live animals are sold in Wuhan, China, where there is the Huanan Seafood and Livestock Wholesale Market, affected the whole world in a short time. Many different animal species were sold in the market, especially poultry, mice, bats and snakes were also available. In the beginning, only 7 people were detected in the epidemic, but after a while, one of them died. After a short while, scientists announced that this new type of virus was named Coronavirus, COVID-19 (Üstün, Özçiftçi, 2020, p.143). "The novel coronavirus (COVID-19) was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization on March 11, 2020 (Cucinotta & Vanelli, 2020). As a result, many countries in the world instruct their citizens to stay at home, avoid very close physical contact, and take measures of social or physical distancing" (Zheng & Khan, and Hussain, 2020, p. 1). The rapidly spreading virus has soon begun to be known as a pandemic. It is defined as a pandemic because it is a disease that affects the whole world and causes mass deaths. The concepts of distance education and working from home have been a part of the lives of the masses in a short period of time (Aslan, 2020, p. 69). In this context, Marshall McLuhan's technological determinism and global village concepts have an important place in the new world order (Varol & Varol, 2019, p. 137). Coronavirus era, technology has become an indispensable part of life and individual technological life has become a part of mass culture. According to the latest research on coronavirus, the entire society (100%) states that they are aware of the coronavirus (Çoker, 2020).

## 2. Education Independent of Time and Place: Hi-Tech Tsunami

The Covid-19 pandemic appears to trigger a long-awaited technological tsunami effect. Therefore, the adaptation process was affected by this tsunami. When looked around the world, it is seen in the 2000s that technological change and transformation started to be reflected in education processes. However, the perception that education will continue with students who fill the classroom and the classroom has undergone a great change with the Covid-19 pandemic process. It has been observed that the classroom and the school are not just a place with a roof and an environment full of students. People produce remedies when needed. As Marshall McLuhan stated that technology is the extension of human beings, human beings seek solutions with technology for the parts they lack. When a person's McLuhan suggests that there is a link between technology and imagination. Imagination is the only way to see the world that embraces us own limbs are insufficient. He seeks a solution with technology. If it were not for imagination, humanity would not be able to invent anything until now (Çelik Varol & Varol, 2019, p. 139).

It emerged in this troubled period when people were restricted from living together in an educational environment outside of time and space, and brought about a social education reform. The main message sent by Internet technologies at the moment is that the education system has turned into an education system where independent of time and space, as David Harvey said in his argument for buildings independent of time and space.

The influence of science and technology in modern times has continued not by fixing but by transforming, causing the emergence of new and different social patterns. This new situation is the postmodern situation itself, which is simply defined as sustainable modernity in social sciences. David Harvey defines this situation with time and space compression (Çağan, 2007, p. 143). Harvey talks about the changes occurring in the objective qualities of space and time with the concept of time-space compression. The term "congestion" refers to the increase in the speed of life and the disappearance of spatial barriers in the capitalist process. Time speed actually describes the speed offered by the Internet (Harvey, 2003).

Considering the possibilities offered by technology, especially in the context of online education, its positive and negative sides can be listed.

### 3. Research

21 of the technology has been transferred to the exchanged also without communicating. It seems that it has something to do with people's technology adaptation and communication processes and digital contact information. In technology education, the most preferred education online will now be graduates. Online education is the most easily adaptable students. Online education has also introduced the concept of higher education equipment. In many education and training programs, the online processing process has started to be carried out much more easily.

In the research, education center in education was asked in different classes of universities. It is planned to make an estimation about whether the student motivation will be increased in terms of the acquisition of technology. This was interviewed with the person at the university in Istanbul. The development of high technology will increase and increase the increase of its dissemination along with the Covid-19 process.

The results are stated in terms of comparisons regarding the common points of the participants.

The questions posed to university students were formed from the theoretical framework of the research and were determined as follows.

1. What are your thoughts on high-tech education practices at university level?
2. What are your views on the effects of online education and distance education applications at the university on the motivation of the students towards the course?
3. What are your views on the effects of online education and distance education applications at the university on the success of the student towards the course?
4. What are your views on the continuation of the online education processes, which started to be implemented in higher education with the Covid-19 process, after the pandemic?

#### **Participant 1: Age 22, 3rd year student, Female**

I am of the opinion that technology-based courses applied at the university are actively beneficial for students. Especially since it allows the lessons to be watched whenever we want, it also makes it easy to follow. In particular, we can do the application work instantly on the computer with our teacher. I think that it increased my motivation towards the course and increased success. I hope that after the pandemic period is over, online education applications will continue in many of our courses. Online education is very advantageous in terms of saving time.

#### **Participant 2: Age 23, Year 4 student, Female**

Considering the use of technology in lessons, we can say that online education has created a field beyond technology. Thanks to online education, we can continue to study in a comfortable environment at home. In terms of motivation, sometimes attending the class may not be as enjoyable as face-to-face education. In this sense, there were times when I actually forced myself to go in front of the computer. However, especially the lessons we practice made me much more motivated with the computer. In terms of success, my grades started to be higher during the online education process. I think that online education applications will continue even if it is not as intense.

#### **Participant 3: Age 22, Year 4 student, Male**

I think that the transition to online education or distance education applications is very fast. Some of my friends were able to start their business life much earlier thanks to online education. Now it has become much easier to work and study at the same time. I think that online education will continue in the next period. Even universities that offer only online education can be opened. Thanks to online education, there are no courses that I do not attend. I can watch reruns later. In this way, I think that both motivation and success increase.

#### **Participant 4: Age 19, Year 1 student, Male**

Having online education from home is a very good practice, but taking education from home constantly hinders people from socializing. This also lowers motivation. Being in the classroom with our friends, attending classes and socializing is not possible in online education. However, I think it has an aspect that increases student success. The grade point average of many of my friends increased during this period. I am of the opinion that the online education processes will go much further in the future.

#### **Participant 5: Age 21, Year 2 student, Male**

Being able to study from home or attend classes from anywhere creates a situation that makes our life much easier and the learning process easier. I think that it is a situation that increases motivation that people are not dependent on a building or place for learning. However, I do not think that online education will continue. In online education, it is not very clear who listens or follows how many lessons. However, in face-to-face education, many people did not

listen to the lesson even though they were in the classroom. Although online education continues, it will not continue with this intensity. However, online education increases success because we can watch the lessons as much as we want. We can reach our teachers whenever we want. We can reach many of them, or rather, there are some that we still cannot reach.

**Participant 6: Age 20, Year 3 student, Female**

Online education has changed many things in my life, but the main thing is Covid-19. My personal opinion is that we have difficulties in motivation and focusing on the lesson due to the pandemic, but some of our teachers managed this process very well. In particular, they gave motivating speeches in their classes. In terms of success, I think that everyone's level of success in online education has increased in general, but the success rate of those who did not attend the course was low. I think that online education will continue, but it will not be as intense as it is now.

**Participant 7: Age 21, Year 4 student, Female**

Distance education allowed me to stay with my family. I was able to complete the last two years of university from my hometown without going to school. The biggest benefit of online education is the advantage it provides to those who cannot go to the university they won because their family does not send them abroad. In this sense, I think that it is necessary to offer students a choice for online education, especially in the coming period and after the pandemic. I think it is beneficial in terms of being successful, but I think that face-to-face training is more motivating in terms of motivation.

**Participant 8: Age 18, 1st grader, Male**

Online education, which has entered our lives with Covid-19, is the way of education of the future. I think there is no need to teach in such crowded classrooms anymore. Everyone can watch the lessons from their home, wherever they want. I think this is a great convenience, at the same time, we can work and follow the lessons at the same time. I think all this is a great convenience. In this sense, in terms of motivation, I can sometimes say that instead of participating in online training, I will watch the replay later. But I also think it increases success. Our teachers repeat the lessons more often, which is beneficial in this sense. The only problem is internet outages. If the technological infrastructure is improved, online education will be much more preferred.

**Participant 9: Age 24, Year 4 student, Female**

I think that the intensive use of technology in education offers us many opportunities as young people. Since we only went to school to socialize, we can say that we are now looking for other pursuits. I think that online education is the education of the future. I even think that virtual classroom environments will be created with avatar characters. However, I think that so many online processes will negatively affect people's health and motivation. I think that the benefits and harms of online education should be well thought out and planned accordingly.

**Participant 10: Age 23, 3rd grader, Female**

Thanks to the classes I attend online, there are no classes that I missed or missed anymore. Usually my biggest problem was being late for classes, but I can join online classes right away. In this sense, I think that online education is a great opportunity in terms of time. Sometimes I am more willing to participate in online education than I show about going to the classroom. However, online education can be problematic in terms of success, especially when there is a lack of connection to listen and follow the lessons. However, in general, I am satisfied with online education and I want this form of education to continue.

#### **4. Result of the research**

As a result of the research, 6 of the students participating in the research are female and 4 male participants. It is seen that female participants stated that they are satisfied with online education because it provides education opportunities in their hometowns. The number of people who stated that online education processes cause problems especially in motivation is seen as 9 out of 10 people. 10 participants state that online education increases student success. They state that they think that online education processes will shape the education system of the future. A single participant states that online education will develop in the future and people will receive training in virtual classrooms by including their own avatars in the education process. They state that online education saves time on the road to reach school, as it allows participation in the lesson from home. They state that they are satisfied with the online education process as it allows them to both work and continue their education. It is seen that online education processes are generally welcomed by students, but this application has been made due to the pandemic Covid-19 process and they expect the situation to return to normal. However, it is also seen that they are of the opinion that some of their courses will continue online in the next term. In general, it is seen that students are more motivated in face-to-face education in terms of motivation, but student success is higher in online education.

#### **5. Conclusion**

Eric Fromm describes the inevitability of social and technological change when he says that "the only constant is change itself." Humanity changes technology and technology changes humanity. The future society is evolving into a less emotionally connected, intense virtual communicating world. This world order has the potential to reveal a structure that can cause the masses to become lonely and unhappy. It is seen that David Harvey mentions a world in which everything is volatile and almost exhausted while defining postmodernism in his work *The State of Post Modernity*. With Covid-19 and online education, we can state that he got his share of this postmodernist discourse in his education.

Online education has increased the speed of education in every aspect. However, this brought about an environment of inequality in the education process. Not all students have the technology and technological equipment equally. The importance of ensuring equality of technological equipment in social welfare and mass education processes has emerged with the online education process. With the online education, the masses are especially distant from human interaction. Considering all these points, it is seen that online education will shape the future of education, but there are many deficiencies in terms of society and technology.

It is seen that the change of technology and the active application of online education in higher education institutions together with Covid-19 have a positive effect on students. However, it is also seen that students abstain from the continuation of this process. Especially in terms of motivation, it is seen that online education reduces the motivation process but increases the level of success. In the future, it can be foreseen that online education will also take place for the education forms of higher education institutions. In the light of technological changes, it can be predicted that online education applications will continue to change and increase. Online education processes and individualized education may cause social isolation. However, this situation will be the subject of further research.

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