



English

Hour

Viral Transformation

Hello, everyone, and welcome to the English Hour. Today, we'll talk about the impact of the virus on our lives and the future. I call this the viral transformation. Well, I've been following the news and there are people who say that nothing will be the same again after this pandemic is over.

And I think they are right to a certain degree, because this virus, this pandemic, has affected our lives in unimaginable ways. And I think the whole world was kind of unprepared because we've never seen something of this scale in the recent past. So I think most countries, most governments were unprepared.

So we'll first look at the current impact of this pandemic, this virus on our lives. And then I'll talk about some of the possible impacts of this virus in the future. So I think one of the major changes was working from home. A lot of companies started working from home.

So due to health hazards, offices were closed. And a lot of people, a lot of employees, a lot of companies started operating from their homes. And this has been a radical shift. This has been a radical transformation for a lot of companies because most people, most employees are not used to working from home. And most companies are not really used to working from home. And some companies used to have a negative view of working from home on the grounds that it would lead to a decline in performance. But I think this has been the trend for now. But we will see how it goes after this health crisis is over.

Another impact of this pandemic is the focus on being self sufficient, because as humans, as citizens of the free world, we're used to simply going out, buying what we need and being able to access things that we want and need.

But in times of a crisis, it becomes difficult to live a regular life. It becomes difficult to even buy toilet paper. And I think this really hit home with a lot of people. And I think there is now a lot more emphasis on being self sufficient. For example, personally, I bought a bread maker and I'm trying to make bread at home. And I feel it's a lot more comfortable than trying to go to the bakery and buying bread and coming back home.

So that's one thing. Another change is social distancing because I mean, different countries have different approaches to social life. For example, in the U.S., I think people are not very close to each other physically because, you know, people have personal space. But in our country in Turkey, for example, people stay very close to each other like hugging and handshakes and different forms of showing closeness and love are very common. So, this is, I think, more difficult, like social distancing is more difficult to apply in countries where people are used to being in close proximity to each other.

But it's, I think, changing our culture and due to the health reasons, we're trying to stay away from each other. And it takes a lot of mental and cultural transformation, social transformation as well. Another interesting impact of the virus, I think is on religion, because, for example, across the world, religious institutions, places of prayer are being shut down. For example, Pope is preaching to empty churches. In Turkey, for example, Friday prayers were generally full and packed, but they are being banned on health grounds and the mosques are empty.

The churches are empty around the world. It's a very interesting, it's a very different time. Apart from these, there are, of course, a lot of economic developments and impacts. Some industries are definitely winning, but some are losing. For example, delivery services are in high demand. I think they are playing a crucial role in these difficult times. But on the other hand, tourism and retail, they are really suffering. And people are canceling their trips.

Airlines are suffering from economic pressure. And in addition to these cafes, restaurants are closing down because due to curfews or due to social distancing, they're not really getting any visitors. So, there are a lot of economic and social impacts of this virus on our lives currently. But let's talk about the impact it might have in the future, because this is a gradual process. It will kind of transform our lives in different ways and in novel ways.

I think after this pandemic is over, most people and companies will have an online first mindset. That means instead of renting office space, instead of focusing on retail and physical trade and physical activities, I think more people and more companies will be interested in an online presence. I think they will allocate bigger budgets to online expansion. I think people will be more interested in online learning and education. So this will probably lead to a digital transformation. And the people and

companies that can transform themselves and the people and companies that can upgrade their infrastructure will flourish.

But the companies and people that cannot upgrade that cannot blend into this new culture will have a really hard time. So, I think it might be a good idea to use our spare time to upgrade our skills, to learn new digital tools, skills and to get ready for the future. I think in the future, working from home will be more acceptable and it will be more common. But this might have a lot of social impacts. A lot of economic impacts on the wider economy, because if people start working from home, that means the office space will be empty, the commercial leases will go down and it might have second order consequences that are not foreseeable right now. It will also have an impact on global trade.

I think currently most companies and most countries, they realize that they need to have local manufacturing because, for example, a lot of European countries, a lot of American countries and even Turkey, a lot of countries are used to outsourcing their manufacturing to China, to India, but especially to China. So, everything almost everything is being produced in China, raw materials, goods and everything. So, when everything is produced in a country, in the case of a supply chain disruption, as we're experiencing right now, the world economy really suffers.

The supply chain really suffers because due to the pandemic, the production in China was stopped and there were supply chain shocks all around the world, which meant companies cannot get their products. Companies could not distribute their products to local markets. And I think after the crisis is over. A lot of companies will start local manufacturing, or they will start to manufacture in countries that are close to their home countries.

For example, in the case of Turkey, I think many European countries will start production in Turkey will set up plants in Turkey because it's very close to Europe by land and by sea and by air compared to China or India. So, some countries might see benefits or an economic boost due to this local manufacturing trend.

And finally, I think there will be an enormous economic transformation because right now many countries are suffering from the financial impact of this crisis. A lot of

people have lost like millions of people, for example, in the U.S. have lost their jobs. And some countries, such as Spain, are considering offering universal basic income, which means that the state will pay everyone a certain wage, a certain allowance.

Universal basic income is a very interesting concept. It's an interesting idea. And I really wonder how it will play out in the future. So, on the one hand, I think it might be a good idea to provide everyone with the basic needs and necessities. But I don't know how it will impact the overall economy and the standard of living for everyone.

So, we will see how it turns out. OK. I think these are basically the impacts or the implications of this pandemic for present and for the future. And if you have any opinions or ideas about the possible impacts of the virus of this pandemic, make sure to share them in the comments. And as always, I'll see in the next episode.

Tüm Bölümler için Transkriptler

Merhaba, İngilizce Saati podcastinin tüm bölümlerinin transkriptlerine Hüseyin Demirtaş Akademi üzerinden [İngilizce Saati Plus üyeliği ile erişebilirsiniz](#).

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