

Olala Harris

LEARNING MODULE 5: CULTURAL RESPONSES TO COVID-19

Answer the following critical thinking questions and post your answers in the given drop-box

Find your own research material to answer these questions and cite the source material in the answer sheet

Total Points -200

Word Limit: Min 175 each. You can write more.

Q:1 How have cultural behaviors influenced the spread of infectious diseases in human populations? Are there a couple of specific examples that you could share?

For numerous years, cultural behaviors influenced the spread of infectious diseases in human populations. For example, the 1918 influenza pandemic was negatively affected by population movements and censorship of the press due to wartime restrictions during World War I. A more contemporary example might be the resurgence of measles in the US and Western Europe. Groups of people are rejecting vaccines for vaccine-preventable diseases, such as measles. Interestingly, research has shown that vaccine-hesitant people in the US are not uneducated or under-privileged, rather the decision not to vaccinate is due to the use of this behavior as a symbol of group membership and like-mindedness. If we are concerned about the resurgence of vaccine-preventable diseases, health care providers and public health professionals need to think carefully about how to separate this behavior from its status as a symbol of a group membership. All in all, there is evidence that support cultural behaviors influenced the spread of infectious diseases in human populations

Q:2 How culture influences the current spread of COVID-19 worldwide?

In human history, every major pandemic has been worse by cultural behavior in one way or another. For example, three plagues in history that affect people back then were negatively affected by population movement and trades across the world. Even though there was no knowledge about the bacteria that was causing the plague and now we are somewhat at the top of the medicine, culture still has an effect. You see, it is our culture and norm to travel whether international or local and be diverse. As a result, that is how the current spread of COVID-19

worldwide, and I am sure there are other factors that can demonstrate how culture influences the spread of COVID-19 worldwide. It is my Knowledge that certain things like gather also cause this pandemic. For example, when the outbreak just started schools were still open and the commute by public transportation was still in use and there was no knowledge on how to wear mask and protect yourself.

Q:3 Are there particular behaviors that are more prevalent than others throughout history?

There are particular behaviors that are more prevalent than others throughout history. In many cases, populations such as ethnic minorities or immigrant populations have caused the brunt of blame during major pandemics throughout history. This is known as a “germ panic.” Germ panic has been identified in the social responses from the bubonic plague in the middle ages to the way that immigrants and the poor were blamed for tuberculosis in the Victorian era. We are seeing it right now with anti-Asian racism during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is important that we are aware of this pattern of blaming so that we can actively work against it in our own communities. Therefore, we can change the course of this current pandemic, and future by our behavior. As a result, during this pandemic, and even more to come God forbid we still need to be wary of feeling that “nothing happened.

Q4: Why are cultural behaviors important to study when looking at how infectious diseases spread in human populations? What lessons can we draw from history to the current COVID-19 outbreak?

It is said that your now situation is not your destination. As a result, cultural behaviors are important to study when looking at how infectious diseases spread in human populations. This is because even though we have made few errors with dealing with the COVID 19 outbreak in which we did not take into consideration the culture behaviors like Germ panic, instead we turn to what we know best and start pointing fingers at whosoever fit in the shoes. As a result, we can learn from that mistake and help improve the next outbreak or anything that is not of the norm to stop because of what we learn from COVID. The lessons that we can draw from history to the current COVID-19 outbreak is simple and is demonstrated by our actions. All in all, the impact of the disease can be greater or lesser depending on the actions and behaviors of different groups.

Work Cited

<https://www.berlitz.com/a-cultural-response-to-a-pandemic>
<https://www.futurity.org/covid-19-culture-history-2318752/>