Does Pandemic Covid 19 Influence Romantic Relationship?

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ABSTRACT

The COVID 19 pandemic that hit many countries around the world not only has bad impact on economic sector, but also on romantic relationships. The purpose of this study was to explore various aspects of romantic relationships during pandemic 1) perception of harmony, 2) increased conflict, 3) reasons for conflict, 4) intensity of relationships during pandemic. This study used a survey with open-ended questions and several questions with tiered answer responses. The sampling method was incidental sampling with the respondent criteria married, dating, and no official status. Data analysis employed was coding and categorization, as well as Kruskal Wallis analysis. There were 345 respondents aged 13-51 years. The results showed that in general there was an increase in the frequency of conflict between partners during pandemic, where the main reason was meeting difficulty due to social restrictions, lack of communication, and other reasons not directly related to the pandemic. The results of Kruskal Wallis showed that the harmony of partners and the frequency of conflict during the pandemic is related to the type of status (no official status, dating, and married), length of relationship, intensity of communication, and intensity of meeting. Respondents with married status have the highest perception of harmony while dating status has the highest conflict frequency. Couples with length of relationship over 2 years and rarely communicate perceived the highest increase in conflict. Based on the intensity of meeting, the couples whose intensity of meeting often had the highest perception of harmony, although on the other hand the frequent meetings also led to an increase in conflict.

Keywords: Romantic relationship, pandemic COVID 19, conflict, communication.