



## Is Psychological Distress Alleviating in South America while Coronavirus is still on Surge?

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### Abstract:

As of July 31, 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has over 17 million reported cases, causing more than 667,000 deaths. Countries irrespective of economic status have succumbed to this pandemic. Many aspects of the lives, including health, economy, freedom of movement have been negatively affected by the coronavirus outbreak. Numerous strategies have been taken in order to prevent the outbreak. Some countries took severe resections in the form of full-scale lockdown, while others took a moderate approach of dealing with the pandemics, for example, mass testing, prohibiting large-scale public gatherings, restricting international travels. South America adopted primarily the lockdown strategies due to inadequate economy and health care support. Since the social interactions between the people are primarily affected by the lockdown, psychological distress, e.g. anxiety, stress, fear are supposedly affecting the South American population in a severe way. This paper aims to explore the impact of lockdown over the psychological aspect of the people of all the Spanish speaking South American capitals. We have utilized infodemiology approach by employing large-scale Twitter data-set over 33 million feeds in order to understand people's interaction over the months of this on-going coronavirus pandemic. Our result is surprising: at the beginning of the pandemic, people demonstrated strong emotions (i.e. anxiety, worry, fear) which declined over time even though the actual pandemic is worsening by having more positive cases, and inflicting more deaths.



This leads us to speculate that the South American population is adapting to this pandemic thus improving the overall psychological distress.

### Biography:

Josimar Chire, Young researcher in Artificial Intelligence. Published papers in IEEE, ACM related to Quantum Inspired Evolutionary Algorithms. Leading Research4Tech, WISTI project and Sumatec community. Research interests: Bio-inspired Algorithms, Image Processing and Machine Learning. Actually working on topic covid19 with Text Mining approach.

### Publication of speakers:

1. Josimar Chire; Infeveillance based on Social Sensors to Analyze the impact of Covid19 in South American Population (Preprint) DOI: 10.2196/preprints.19337
2. Josimar Chire; Classification of Pollen Grain Images Based on an Ensemble of Classifiers, December 2017; DOI: 10.1109/ICMLA.2017.0-153

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