



## TITLE: The Effect of COVID19

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### ABSTRACT (up to 300 words)

Coal is the largest source of energy on earth and is used to supply electricity in many countries. Unfortunately, as much as it helps light up some communities, coal-fired power plants are also the world's biggest industrial polluters. This study investigated the environment and health conditions of the community before, and 20 years after the construction of the coal. It explored the perception of the respondents on the presence of a coal-fired power plant in their community and determined strategies that can help protect the community against the coal-fired power plant. We utilized descriptive phenomenological design using in-depth interviews through snowball sampling. Data were analyzed through Colaizzi method and was guided by the health belief model. Three themes emerged from the analysis: (1) realization of the deterioration of the environment and the residents' health, (2) awareness on the interplay between economic gain, politics, and impact on health and environment, and (3) recognizing the need for increased community empowerment on health and environment. The presence of a coal-fired power plant in the community brings about negative changes in health and the environment. Sustainable efforts to combat such negative effects are needed, and community residents in the vicinity of the power plant need to be empowered to conduct check-and-balance for their own health and environmental safety.

### BIOGRAPHY (upto 200 words)

Mary Jane Botabara-Yap is a Registered Nurse and possesses a master's in nursing from Monash University, Australia, and a doctorate in public health from the Philippines. She has long experience as a clinical nurse, nursing lecturer, public health educator, community interventionist, and researcher. She has published both descriptive and intervention studies which focus on improving the overall health of communities. Aside from her work in a not-for-profit organization in Malaysia as Health Director and Public Health Educator, she is also an Associate Professor and Adjunct faculty of the graduate public health department of the Adventist University of the Philippines. She also holds a position as chair of the Ethics Review Board in Manila Adventist College. It is her goal to see a more equitable community in terms of access to health prevention and community care. She currently resides in Malaysia with her husband.



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