



RESEARCH ARTICLE

THE USE OF GOOGLE WORKSPACE TOOLS IN HIGHER EDUCATION DURING THE PANDEMIC LEARNING IN HIGHER EDUCATION DURING THE PANDEMIC

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Abstract

In this paper, we are going to briefly discuss about Google Workspace's role in higher education during the pandemic, what were the advantages that this tool offered to help people, what were the most used pre-existing methods applied as an aid to education during this pandemic and how it affected people who changed their study routine to adapt to using this tool.

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Introduction:-

It can be stated that, since we experienced a pandemic resulting from the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2, also known as COVID-19, our learning environment completely changed. There was a necessity to adapt the means of study, and one of the most used supporting technologies for educational purposes in this period was Google Workspace, among others. Due to the fact that we had to change our study methods through these tools, there was a turnaround in the way people teach. Therefore, some students and teachers faced difficulties adapting to new tools and methods used for learning.

Considering this change in teaching, several colleges and schools had to adapt to and use these tools, and one of the most used Google Workspace tools was Google Meet, in meetings. Another one that was also widely used was Google Classroom. Both technologies sought to keep up with distance learning due to the pandemic, which had a great impact on this new teaching method that was also called Distance Learning (DL, Ensino à Distância (EaD) in Portuguese), according to Silva and Behar (2019).

Digital skills in DL can be an effective intervention, through actions, to solve problems or to deal with a new situation.

Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) offer a wide range of options concerning resources and tools to innovate the pedagogical practice in classrooms, which happened especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Schools cannot refuse students the right to access technological resources, considering that these are part of their daily lives, that they use to perform a multitude of tasks, according to Lima, José Maria Maciel; "The insertion of new digital technologies in education in times of a pandemic" (March, 2021).

As the pandemic progressed, colleges and schools were compelled to use these tools; the ones with the most visibility were the aforementioned Google Meet and Google Classroom, as well as Gmail. The utilization of these technological assets helped several teachers and students not to have their educational process interrupted; in addition, it has facilitated the learning experience of the vast majority.

Therefore, this paper aims to present the tools that were used during the pandemic and their applicability, and also to show which were the most used ones during this period.

Theoretical Framework

According to Evandro and Vilmar (2021), in order to adapt, there was a pursuit of new teaching methods that would allow the maintenance of the World Health Organization's (WHO) guidelines on social isolation, and one of the most debated solutions concerning these circumstances is the implementation of ICTs.

Based on the articles that were analyzed, a vast idea of several situations was obtained: one of them is that teachers are afraid of being replaced by ICTs; however, these technologies actually assisted teachers with preserving quality teaching in the midst of the pandemic and not having them unemployed. By following WHO's rules on social isolation, teachers and their students were able to maintain social distancing without harming their studies and they were also capable of assimilating and seeing new things that would not have been possible acknowledging before.

Distance Learning

Distance Learning (DL) is a teaching modality in which teachers and students do not need to meet in person. Classes are often recorded or live-streamed. It's fundamental to consider that, supposedly, the teacher and their student would both have their own prearranged class schedule due to the pandemic.

Therefore, one of the advantages of DL is the flexibility of the class schedule, where students can study whenever and wherever they want, and additionally accessed educational content from any device they have at hand, whether it be a cellphone or a computer, for example.

Distance Learning In Higher Education During The Pandemic

According to Lima (2021), in this new circumstance, teachers needed to understand that they would not be replaced by the new ICTs, and that these technological resources should have been seen by the teacher as a form of support, that is, an enriched didactic option, and not as a competition for their role as knowledge sharing mediators (SANTOS, apud LIMA, 2021).

As can be seen, Google Workspace's tools were one of the most used in this time of pandemic. Difficulties were encountered in adapting to this new teaching methods, which had to be adjusted due to social distancing. On this account, there was a need to remodel the teaching styles, which were different even before the pandemic.

Google Workspace

Google Workspace is a tool provided by Google that offers versions of various products that are customized independently of the customer's domain name. It was also heavily used during the COVID-19 pandemic, given that many people were unable to leave their homes.

Pandemic

The pandemic, which was caused by COVID-19, has greatly affected routines and education, given that people have become accustomed to a new and drastically changed daily life.

Materials E Methods:-

In this topic, we will address the methods and materials that were used in our research concerning the theme of tools in higher education during the pandemic, and we will show some charts displaying a survey that was done with some people who were at the University during the pandemic.

Materials:-

We will present the essential tools for the project: Google Workspace was used as a tool to carry it out. This tool provides some programs, such as Google Drive, Gmail and Google Meet.

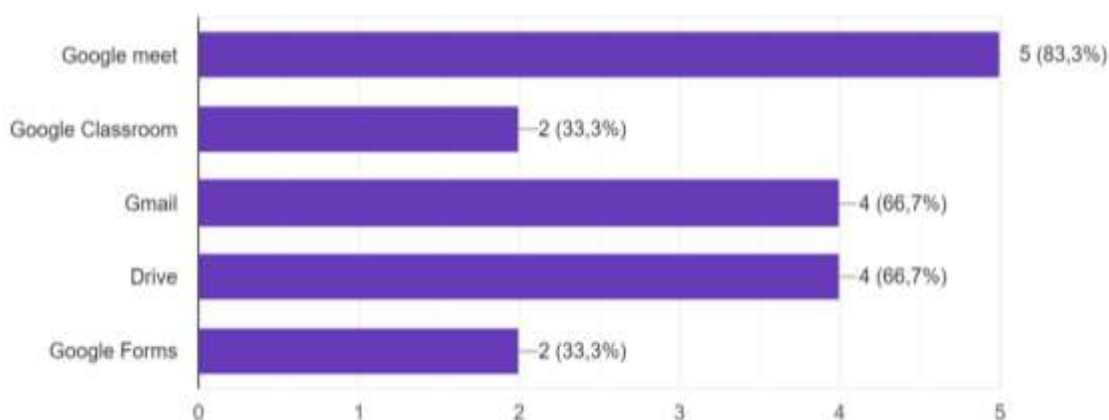
Methods:-

Google Drive was used in a practical way that helped teachers to transfer activities to their students, so that they could have control over the activities answered. Google Drive could also be used to publish the students' tests.

(Chart 1):-

Which of these tools you used the most during the pandemic

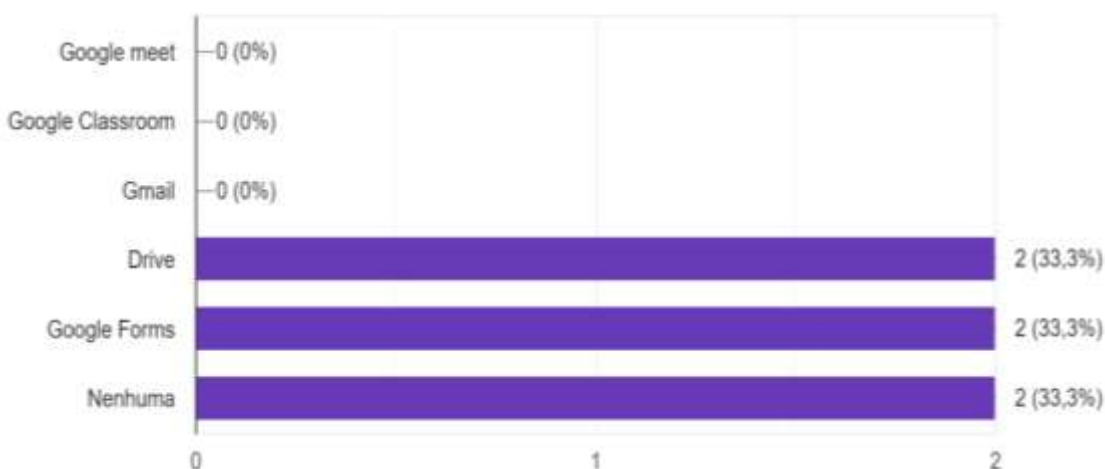
6 respostas



(Chart 2):-

Which of these tools did you find most difficult to learn

6 respostas



(Chart 3):-

Did you already use some of these tools like Google Meet, Drive, Google Classroom and Google Forms, before the pandemic?

6 respostas



(Chart 4):-

Which of these meeting tools have you used the most

6 respuestas

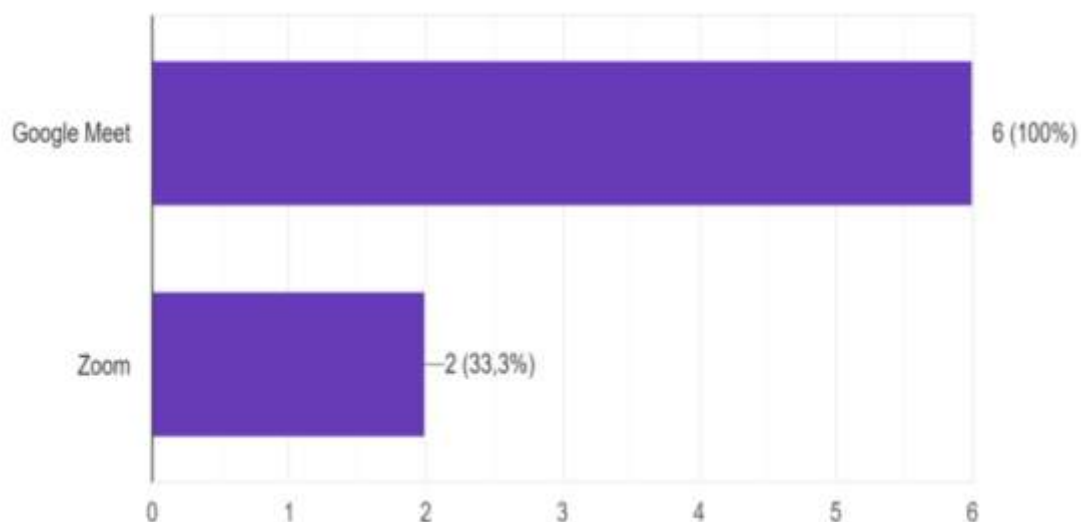
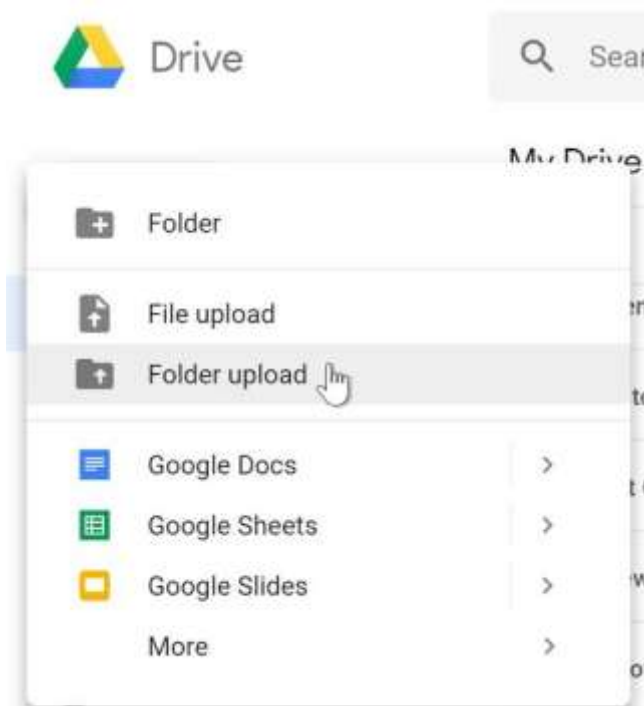


Figure 1:- Google Drive.



Source: [edu.gcfglobal.org/en/googledriveanddocs/uploading-files-to-google-drive\(2021\)](https://edu.gcfglobal.org/en/googledriveanddocs/uploading-files-to-google-drive/).

Figure 1 displays how students could upload their homework, tests or assignments. The same goes for teachers, who could be able to publish the activities for their students.

Google Meet was also heavily used, as no one could leave their homes; classes became remote and it was one of the main tools during the pandemic.

Figure 2:- Google Meet.



Source: tudocelular.com/google/noticias/n178198/google-meet-atualizaçao-novas-opcoes-host, (12/08/2021).

Conclusion:-

This article discussed the use of Google Workspace tools, the difficulties encountered in their essential utilization due to the pandemic caused by COVID-19, the most used tools and how they impacted this new form of learning, called Distance Learning (DL), also due to the pandemic. In addition, it was proven that among the various tools offered by Google Workspace, the most used ones were Google Drive and Google Meet.

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