Stepping up on crisis: collaborative work and social media prototyping facing pandemic scenario.

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The work presented aims to report about a project applied in late 2021 that took place in Escola Internacional de Alphaville, and was developed during science classes. This project had as a central idea the pandemic, students were able to share issues, difficulties, points of view, solutions and suggestions in relation to the global challenge. After all the necessary steps for the development of the project, the prototypes were created to conclude all the previous work exercised by the group. Our prototype was an Instagram account with the purpose to inform people about COVID and how to safely inform themselves about it, since it is pivotal for people to have this knowledge. During the pandemic people were desperate for any knowledge on the virus, so fake news were able to spread effortlessly, also, this disturbing feeling makes people even more vulnerable and prone to believing whatever comes across us, especially in social media, which is why our project has an online form, which makes it more accessible to everyone.

In the context of education, Design Thinking can help students to create solutions that are more student-centered and focused on their needs and interests. It is a method to show us how to solve problems and also analyze new solutions for them. We used this method in our project, and helped us a lot to to desenvolve it. By involving all classes in this process, students feel empowered to take ownership of their own learning and become active participants in the design process.

The execution of our project started by interviewing at least 2 people, aiming to discover and understand people's perception about the news, studies and vaccination against COVID-19. To continue the project, we decided the purpose, a prototype intervention which was to help the public stay informed about veridical information, and basic data about the virus. During this stage we also decided that our target audience would be teenagers and adults that had access to Instagram and used it frequently, and that we would publish weekly. When everything was settled we created the Instagram account and put the project into action. We published many posts that we believed did the best to achieve our project goals, such as: news about which kind of sources you should trust when researching about any news related to COVID-19, how to

identify fake-news and what to do when you actually are actually able to recognize one, why you shouldn't be against vaccination, and lastly if people would be allowed to not use masks anymore at the time.

While creating a project about a current topic that we could relate to, we realized how important group work is. Collaborative work was a really important part of this project, because each of the members of the group had different experiences throughout the pandemic. During this time we learnt to have more empathy, because we never know how people are dealing with a difficult situation, especially one none of us had dealt with before. Some of the people we interviewed commented that they were struggling with depression, anxiety, unmotivation, and other negative emotions. Therefore, while people were discovering mental problems and issues, we tried hard to look at the positive side of the situation. In the beginning of the pandemic, the feeling of confusion and loneliness was severe, due to the fact that we've never experienced anything like it. But having our friends on social media, and being able to feel hope for our future, helped us see the situation in a whole different perspective.

It is crucial to point out that Escola Internacional de Alphaville is IB Continuum and bilingual, exercising the development of several skills additionally to the content taught in the classroom. When doing an activity, for example, the IB Learner Profile is put into practice. The IB Learner Profile are attributes that encompass the ability and responsibility of students which goes far beyond academic success. Attributes give another point of view about the world and respecting everyone, including yourself.

Due to the different methodology provided by the school, this means, the decision to opt for more interactive classes, feelings such as compassion and empathy were comprehended. By selecting this methodology, T7 students were able to not only understand better what each interviewee and each person was feeling in relation to the central idea, but also managed to put into practice attributes of the IB Learner Profile such as principled and thinkers. We were principled as we had integrity when trying to understand other people's situation during the pandemic, we also had a strong sense of fairness, as we had to treat everyone, even if their situation was different from ours, fairly and try to understand how each of them dealt with a quite difficult and different situation. We also acted as thinkers, as we had to consider and deal with a situation none of us had dealt with before. Looking at it with a critical perspective, we also were able to look at it in a creative way, trying to spread solutions in a creative way, which would make people want to look and pay attention to our tips and information while being interested.