## Abstract

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused many consequences, including a severe worldwide halt in education, as students, professors and all learning institutions had to quickly adapt to a brand new and constantly changing reality.

The pandemic has influenced the learning community to a point that it even affected the welfare and health conditions. Academic and professional planning suffered the consequences to a level we have yet to understand.

As learning institutions were trying to navigate their way in this new normal, millions of people had to change and adapt their daily lives and routines. Because of the restrictive measures imposed to minimize the risk of contagion that could come with the “crowded” classroom environment, all face-to-face academic and administrative activities were halted.

In this sense, learning institutions all over the country had to deploy strategies to face the sanitary crisis, the main strategy being the change from in-loco activities to remote activities on “digital means”.

The overall Brazilian social situation is expected to worsen considering the upsurge of the pandemic in early 2021, the challenges faced by the public health system in Brazil (SUS) and the extremely slow advances regarding vaccination. It is possible to conclude that immediate consequences from the extension of digital learning and isolation measures to avoid contagion will lead to severe consequences to the academic and pedagogical development.

Considering all the factors mentioned and the worldwide emergency situation of the pandemic, the aim of this research is to study the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic on the higher education community. As well as to collect exploratory data to understand how professors and students are experiencing this event and to discover the short- and long-term impacts in the teaching-learning process affected by the strategies deployed by learning institutions.

To make conjectures this research study intends to use a non-probabilistic and convenience sample of a relatively large number of Brazilian university students and professors (N >= 2000).

The research should cover different levels of higher education (undergraduate, *lato* and *stricto sensu* postgraduate courses), types of maintaining institution (private and public) as well as individuals at different stages of academic and professional life (freshman and veterans).

The proposed exploratory and descriptive survey method will seek to offer the safest preliminary conditions for comprehension and advance of the knowledge about the impact caused by the COVID-19 pandemic on the Brazilian university community. It will also make this phenomenon better known and understood.

For data collection, online questionnaires will be used with open- and closed-ended questions.

Exploratory Data Analysis (EDA) will be performed after data collection using graphical and quantitative data visualization techniques in order to maximize hidden trends and patterns discovering on the dataset. One a second step build a model to gain understanding and make predictions.

Research results have the potential in generating data and knowledge about both short and long-term COVID-19 pandemic impacts on the higher-education academic communities. It will also contribute to private and public educational institution's decision-making process and assist public administrators in new possible strategies taken during this pandemic.