



CHALLENGES POSED BY THE PANDEMIC TO GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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ABSTRACT

The following article is the result of a critical reflection supported by research, with a focus on the pandemic and the challenges it poses to the 2030 Agenda, carried out in the scope of the UMinho Option: Education for Creative Global Citizenship. The 2030 Agenda, created by the UN, is an integrated roadmap with a series of goals aimed at sustainable development. The arrival of the covid-19 pandemic has, to some extent, conditioned the achievement of some defined goals, however, it has also highlighted the importance of this agenda. In order to assess the influence of the Covid-19 pandemic on the achievement of two of the goals for the 2030 Agenda - sustainability and responsible consumption - the results of related studies were analyzed, debates and moments of reflection were held based on own experience and direct observation of citizens' behavior. These discussions took place both in a working group environment and classroom contexts. As expected, we found that the pandemic caused significant changes in various sectors of society and in the priorities of each human being. What initially started as a health crisis turned into a serious socio-economic crisis. The concerns of citizens, in a first phase, faced with the uncertainty of the future, caused an increase in the affluence to supermarkets and other services, and there was an excessive consumption of some products, unusual until then. On the other hand, in a second phase, the implementation of the mandatory use of masks in enclosed public spaces and the lack of education and an effective collection policy causes the daily increase

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in the amount of this type of waste, improperly discarded, calling into question the overall sustainability. After finishing the research, we can say that the effects of the pandemic in relation to the goals of the 2030 Agenda are not all negative, however, it is necessary to quickly solve some problems that it triggered.

Keywords: Agenda 2030, pandemic; consumption; sustainability.

Introduction

The pandemic brought significant changes in all fields. Social isolation caused changes in people's behavior, making home the main place to live, eat, work and have fun. Aiming to contain the development of the COVID 19 virus, several measures were adopted that had a substantial impact on citizens' lives, leading them to change their consumption habits and attitudes. Consequently, we consider that the challenges that the pandemic places on global citizenship, leads us to reflect on sustainable communities and responsible consumption, as it seems to us a very pertinent theme to be explored, since it is our conviction that this type of changes in people's consumption can influence sustainability. It is, therefore, necessary to reflect collectively on these changes so that they do not create major impacts on societies. With the pandemic, the consumption of certain products became part of everyday life, as is the case of masks, alcohol gel, among others. The demand was so considerable at the beginning of the pandemic that stocks ended up collapsing due to the fear that this product would run out. This type of behavior becomes irresponsible, thus creating habits that will cause problems in the sustainability of communities. These can be observed in the study conducted by the Brazilian Retail and Consumer Society (SBVC, 2020), which shows the increase of online shopping by Brazilians. According to the data made available, 61% of customers who shopped online, during the quarantine, increased the volume of purchases due to social isolation. According to the survey, in 46% of cases, this increase represents more than most, highlighting the purchases of food and beverages for immediate consumption, which grew 79%. Finally, it is fundamental that communities are sustainable, because only in this way will all the people of the world have a similar quality of life, that is, in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The main goal of sustainable communities is to satisfy needs and aspirations without diminishing the resources of future generations. It is essential that these types of communities can become increasingly present in society, because only in this way can we ensure that the future is increasingly egalitarian, both in resources, as is the case of access to drinking water around the world, and in rights, as is the case of the right to education in less developed countries.

Having said this, we will study some topics such as the 2030 Agenda, sustainability, responsible consumption, global citizenship, among others. With this study we intend to see the influence that these issues have on today's societies, since there have been some changes in habits in times of pandemic.

A way of looking at the 2030 Agenda

The 2030 Agenda is a document that points towards sustainable development. It was conceived by the United Nations General Assembly resolution in September 2015, aiming at economic and social growth to decrease concrete problems that plague the world, such as: Poverty, hunger, health, education, global warming, gender inequality, water, sanitation, energy, urbanization, environment and social justice.

The items that make up the 2030 agenda are all interconnected in an integrated and indivisible way. Those responsible for it are the Governments, Municipalities, Businessmen, Civil Society, Private Sector and each one of us. We know the great importance that this project of intentions for humanity has, the timeframe to which everyone has committed themselves, with well-defined goals and that, since it is already underway, may suffer some delay due to the Pandemic.

Sometimes we hear and read that Covid-19 will bring insurmountable consequences in the pursuit of the path set out by the UN, in terms of trying to meet the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals). However, we believe that this agenda cannot be neglected, let alone postponed. Despite all the support and moratoria, industrial companies, restaurants, and commerce are being greatly affected, throwing thousands of people into unemployment, and the loss of wages leads to situations of poverty, food difficulties and the inability to meet their financial obligations, such as the most basic ones: Paying for water, light, medicines, children's studies, and credit, if any. However, we must not be discouraged, we have the conviction that this situation will soon pass, especially as the application of the vaccine against this virus is imminent and we can then turn our attention to the implementation of the goals that are part of the agenda of such great importance for the planet and for all of us. This being so, and once this setback has been overcome, it is urgent that those who have committed themselves to fulfilling these goals, so essential to minimize what we see every day in the news, from mass flight of people from wars (Cabo Delgado, Mozambique, and Syria, among others), fleeing from floods caused by climate change, participate urgently. Dramatic migrations that move thousands of people to humanitarian camps, with inhumane conditions, often due to overcrowding, in addition to those who try Europe and many of them die at sea, heartbreaking images for this century.

What we proposed to talk about, the 2030 Agenda, contains many seeds which, insofar as they are put into practice and germinate, may remove many of these problems from our planet. This agenda proposes to mend what man has been tearing up, causing serious damage to the earth, damage that has brought calamitous consequences to our lives, starting by remembering the damage caused to the oceans and all water courses, to the forests, the use and abuse of fossil energies and the production of greenhouse gases, among many others.

From this short statement it can be inferred that, in an earth wounded in all its biodiversity, there are, of course, consequences that especially affect the most vulnerable and most geographically exposed to the phenomena derived from climate change. The warnings and solutions are in place, all that is needed is for us all to do our part, in a conscious, participative, and responsible manner.

To go deeper into the direction of our work focus, we have chosen SDG 11 and 12 to focus on.

Sustainable Development Goal 11

The UN has created 17 SDGs and aims to achieve them by the year 2030. In the scope of the reflection presented here, we focus on goals 11 and 12. The eleventh goal is about sustainable cities and communities. In the general framework of this SDG, the UN states that more than half of the world population lives in cities and that, by the year 2030, this figure should increase by at least 60%. Cities and metropolitan regions are the main drivers of economic growth, contributing to an increase in 60% of all global GDP. However, they are also responsible for 70% of all CO2 emissions worldwide. According to data provided by the UN's The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2020, "rapid urbanization is resulting in increasing numbers of slum dwellers, inadequate and overburdened infrastructure and services (such as waste collection and water and sanitation systems, roads and transport), worsening air pollution and unplanned urban sprawl" (Affairs, United Nations, Department for Economic and Social, 2020, p. 46).

After exploring this goal, it becomes increasingly clear to us how urgent this situation is and how it impacts our lives on a daily basis and in the future. Within SDG 11, there are subdivisions that correspond to indicators and specific goals for action. These objectives and indicators have the purpose of further clarifying, defining with more criteria, the details, and intentions of this SDG. Table 1 below shows each one of them and their specifications. This chart was developed in an attempt to have a more objective evidence, exposition and clarification about what are the specificities and what this SDG consists of. Due to its complex specificity, we chose this form of organization of the items and sub-items that format Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

Table 1. SDG 11 targets and indicators: Sustainable Cities and Communities		
Number	Goal	Indicators
11.1	By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe, and affordable housing and basic services and improve slums	11.1.1 - Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements, or inadequate housing
11.2	By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, including through the expansion of public transport, with special attention to the needs of people in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons	11.2.1 - Proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport, by sex, age, and disabled people
11.3	By 2030, strengthen inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated, and sustainable planning and management of human settlements in all countries	11.3.1 - Ratio of land consumption rate to population growth rate
11.4	Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage	11.4.1 - Total expenditure (public and private) per capita spent on preservation, protection, and conservation of all cultural and natural heritage, by type of heritage (cultural, natural, mixed and World Heritage Centre designation), level of government (national, regional and local/municipal), type of expenditure (operating/investment expenditure) and type of private funding (in-kind donations, private non-profit sector, and sponsorships)

11.5	By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially reduce direct economic losses in relation to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations	11.5.1 - Number of deaths, missing persons and persons affected by the disaster per 100,000 people 11.5.2 - Direct economic losses per disaster in relation to overall GDP, including damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services
11.6	By 2030, reduce the adverse environmental impact per capita of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management	11.6.1 - Proportion of municipal solid waste regularly collected and with adequate final discharge of the total municipal solid waste produced, by cities
11.7	By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive, and accessible green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities	11.6.2 - Annual average levels of fine particulate matter (e.g. PM2.5 and PM10) in cities (population weighted)
11.a	Support positive economic, social, and environmental linkages between urban, peri-urban, and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning	11.7.1 - Average share of built-up area of cities that is public open space for all, by gender, age, and people with disabilities
11.b	By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans for inclusion, resource efficiency, climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster resilience, and develop and implement, in accordance with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels	11.b.1 - Proportion of local governments adopting and implementing local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 11.b.2 - Number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies

11.c	Support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, in constructing sustainable and resilient buildings using local materials	11.c.1 - Proportion of financial support to least developed countries that is allocated to construction and retrofitting of sustainable, resilient, and resource-efficient buildings using local materials
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Source: UN, 2020, available at: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2020/goal-11/>

We can observe that there is a great effort on the behalf of the UN to be able to fulfil and plan in a precise way the steps to achieve these goals by 2030. One of the main goals is to "ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services by 2030 and to improve slums".

Sustainable Development Goal 12

As the second SDG to be analyzed and discussed for this work, we have the twelfth which is called "Goals and indicators for SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production". Its main theme is: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns. In our perspective, this goal greatly complements and adds to the theme chosen to be discussed in this work, which addresses, among other dimensions, responsible consumption.

According to the UN, "worldwide consumption and production - a driving force of the global economy - depend on the use of the natural environment and resources in a way that continues to have destructive impacts on the planet. Economic and social progress over the last century has been accompanied by environmental degradation that is endangering the very systems on which our future development - indeed, our very survival - depends" (Affairs, United Nations, Department for Economic and Social, 2020, p. 48).

It is vitally important that we pay more attention, have responsibility, empathy, and care to the way we consume and use natural resources. It is surprising that every year approximately one third of all food produced, about 1 billion tons, is thrown away. Whether due to irresponsible consumption by citizens or the incorrect way of transporting food. If in the year 2050 the world population reaches 9.6 billion people, which is what is expected, at least three planet Earths will be necessary to sustain the current lifestyle. Exercising global citizenship, in addition to many things, is also thinking about our fellow human being, reviewing their consumption and production habits, and acting to try to find a better balance in their lifestyle.

With the intention of monitoring and mobilizing citizens to act towards an improvement in lifestyle and, consequently, preservation of planet earth, the UN created objectives and indicators to measure these progresses, actions, and processes. In table 2, below, are the objectives and indicators used to monitor the implementation of actions aimed at fulfilling the twelfth Sustainable Development Goal (SDG). In this way, it is possible to keep in view, and

aligned, the paths that must be taken in order to meet these goals. As for Goal 11, this table was developed to provide greater organization and clarification about the goals and indicators that comprise SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

Table 2. SDG 12 goals and indicators: Responsible Consumption and Production		
Number	Goal	Indicators
12.1	Implement the 10-year framework of programs on sustainable consumption and production, with all countries acting, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capacities of developing countries	12.1.1 - Number of countries with national sustainable consumption and production (SCP) action plans or SCP integrated as a priority or target in national policies
12.2	By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources	12.2.1 - Material footprint, per capita material footprint, and material footprint per GDP 12.2.2 - Domestic material consumption, per capita material consumption, and domestic material consumption per GDP
12.3	By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses	12.3.1 - Overall food loss index
12.4	By 2020, achieve environmentally sound management of chemicals and all waste throughout their life cycle, in line with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment	12.4.1 - Number of parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste and other chemicals that meet their commitments and obligations to report as required by each relevant agreement 12.4.2 - Hazardous waste generated per capita and proportion of hazardous waste treated, by type of treatment
12.5	By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling, and reuse	12.5.1 - National recycling rate, tons of material recycled

12.6	Encourage companies, especially large companies, and transnational corporations, to adopt sustainable practices and integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle	12.6.1 - Number of companies publishing sustainability reports
12.7	Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities	12.7.1 - Number of countries implementing sustainable public procurement policies and action plans
12.8	By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness of sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature	12.8.1 - Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development (including climate change education) are integrated into (a) national education policies; (b) curricula; (c) teacher training; and (d) student assessment
12.a	Support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable consumption and production patterns	12.a.1 - Amount of support to developing countries in research and development for sustainable consumption and production and environmentally sound technologies
12.b	Develop and implement tools to monitor the impacts of sustainable development for sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products	12.b.1 - Number of sustainable tourism strategies or policies and action plans implemented with agreed monitoring and evaluation tools
12.c	Rationalize inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption by removing market distortions, according to national circumstances, including through restructuring taxation and phasing out such harmful subsidies, where they exist, to reflect their environmental impacts, taking full account of the specific needs and conditions of developing countries and minimizing possible adverse impacts on their development, so as to protect the poor and affected communities	12.c.1 - Amount of fossil fuel subsidies per unit of GDP (production and consumption) and as a proportion of total national expenditure on fossil fuels

As the focus of sustainable goal 12 we note a great concern for the way products are produced and consumed, walking with objectives so that these are made responsibly. Aligned to one of the goals mentioned in the table "By 2030, substantially reduce waste production through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse", there are actions that seek the same goal, but they are not yet executed effectively and equally all over the world. This delays the agenda and may compromise the success of the effective fulfilment of this goal.

What is Global Citizenship

The concept of global citizenship is directly linked to the concept of citizenship. Ferreira (1993) defines citizenship as the image of nationality that originates in class society. According to Dallari (1998, p.14): "Citizenship expresses a set of rights that gives the person the possibility to actively participate in the life and government of his people". While the concept of citizenship dates to ancient Greece, the concept of global citizenship is a recent concept, arising from the progressive awareness that there is a global interdependence between all regions and people of the world (Gonçalves & Sousa, 2012).

The priority of global citizenship is to propose, in equal condition, the rights of everyone in the world, guaranteeing to anyone the tangible global space as a common space, where, through social consonance, integration and cooperativism are possible (Jesus, 2016). The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted and proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly (1948), safeguarded the rights of peace and equality among all human beings, recognizing them as equal citizens anywhere in the world.

What is Sustainability

In line with what was previously mentioned, and according to William Rees (1989), the creator of the concept of "ecological footprint", sustainability can be defined as any activity realized in an infinite way. It is considered "sustainability" any system capable of operating and maintaining itself over long periods (Mander & Tiezzi, 2006). Sustainability can be seen as the ability to meet our needs in the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Sustainability is increasingly important for the long-term strategies of companies and their customers. From the growing demand for natural resources to economic disparities and climate change, businesses now face many challenges and risks.

Dimensions of Sustainability

Sustainability is a holistic approach that considers environmental, social, and economic dimensions, recognizing that all must be considered together for lasting prosperity:

Environmental dimension: natural resources must be conserved and managed, especially those that are non-renewable or are fundamental to life support. To this end, actions should be implemented to minimize negative impacts on air, water, and soil, preserve biodiversity, protect, and improve the quality of the environment and promote responsible production and consumption.

Social dimension: human rights and equal opportunities for all individuals in society must be respected. Promoting a more just society, with social inclusion and equitable distribution of goods with a focus on eliminating poverty is imperative. The cultural diversity of local communities must also be recognized and respected, avoiding any form of exploitation.

Economic dimension: refers to prosperity at different levels of society and the efficiency of economic activity, including the viability of organizations and their activities in generating wealth and promoting decent employment.

Considering Wackernagel's (1996) proposals, it is possible to develop this system, namely through the reduction of the cost of piped water supply and sewage/waste collection infrastructures; awareness raising for the use of public transportation, aiming at the reduction of energy consumption; awareness raising for recycling, among others.

In short, we should always bear in mind that sustainability is not a goal but a process (Munier, 2005).

Environmental impacts from the perspective of pandemic COVID-19

The measures adopted to combat the pandemic of COVID-19 provided, in a first phase, the reduction of pollution and greenhouse gas emissions in several places around the world (Carvalho, 2020). According to Carbon Brief (2020), carbon dioxide emissions decreased by about 25% in China after the Chinese New Year, and globally, emissions could reach a 7% reduction by the end of 2020. In contrast, with deconfinement came a new environmental problem: the masks and gloves that are improperly disposed off into the environment on a daily basis. As the world continues to deal with the virus, the amount of these types of products, which are improperly discarded, has increased exponentially. The correct disposal of this equipment has been neglected and this waste is now often found in streets, pavements, sewers, and oceans.

It is estimated that around 129 billion masks are needed worldwide every month. According to the ENGO. by using one disposable mask a day, after one year, three billion of this waste ends up in the trash (Silva, 2020). An alternative to combat this environmental problem is

recycling. The Institute of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine of the New University of Lisbon (2020) highlights the urgent need to develop reusable respiratory Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), which can be decontaminated and subsequently recycled.

Definition of responsible consumption

Responsible Consumption (RC) is the intervention of a consumer who understands that his/her daily choices affect his/her quality of life, society, economy, and nature. It also means acquiring ethically correct products, that is, whose manufacture does not involve the exploitation of human beings, animals and does not cause damage to the environment. When one looks for a good, or feels the need to buy something, one must think about some questions, such as: Why to buy? What to buy? How to buy? Who to buy from? How to use it? How to dispose of it? These 6 questions were released by the Akatu Institute on the Environment Day (June 5th).

These are some of the questions that should be considered when a purchase or a simple payment is made. In general, what we see is people choosing products to buy based on desire and need, without thinking about what this act causes. When buying food, most people worry more about appearance, taste, and price, leaving aside very important factors such as the environment, society, culture, the economy and the world.

Reflecting on our consumption and looking for more sustainable and responsible alternatives is one of the greatest challenges that mankind faces today to effectively contribute to building a better quality of life for itself and for others, for everyone. When we talk about responsible consumption, we can approach many factors that influence this concept, as is the case of fashion. Sometimes we are influenced by trends, advertising or even by states of mind.

Changes in consumption behaviour

Considering the recent global outbreak of COVID-19, many countries have started to face a major economic crisis. This crisis has had and continues to have a significant impact on shopping practices and the way consumers justify their consumption patterns. Once consumption behavior is all overhauled, economic concerns will increase dramatically (Khatib, 2020). According to this author, with the pandemic, consumers have become more rational and deliberate throughout the stages of their purchasing process. During the pre-purchase stage, the most common practices are reconsidering the need, comparison shopping (in terms of price, quality, durability etc.) and postponing the purchase. Reconsideration affects even the post-purchase stage, provoking feelings of regret and distress, which probably result from an unsatisfactory impulse or emotional purchase decision.

At an early stage, with the threat of confinement, the pandemic forced consumers to change their management of storing food and essentials in their homes as a precaution against

future disruptions in supply chains. Many people ended up going to supermarkets, markets and grocery stores to buy a large amount of food and store it in their homes, consequently, the shelves of food and some essential goods quickly became empty in most retail outlets. In addition, some countries such as China, Jordan and Egypt decided to bring forward their food purchases in order to resist possible supply problems that could arise as the pandemic worsened (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 2020). On the other hand, Sammer (2020) warns of the risks of instability in society associated with the panic caused by the shortage of supplies. According to its international studies, COVID-19 has evidenced that people are willing to hoard food, regardless of prices, quality and the short expiry dates. As countries declared a state of emergency, supermarket shelves became increasingly empty. This shows that purchasing behaviour is strongly linked to consumer psychology. During economic crises, consumers tend to eliminate the purchase of non-food or non-essential products and services, such as eating out, going to the cinema and theatre, attending social and fitness clubs and buying newspapers, magazines and alcoholic beverages (Zurawicki & Braidot, 2005).

In the context of clothing, consumers currently face a conflict between the desire to buy, due to rapidly evolving fashion trends, and coping with diminishing purchasing power. This imbalance usually generates negative emotions such as anger, distress, frustration, regret and anxiety (Khatib, 2020). Due to economic concerns, consumers often involuntarily restrict their fashion purchases by reducing their frequency and/or quantity. On the other hand, the crisis may have a positive regulatory impact with regard to hyper-consumption. The results of the studies conducted by Khatib (2020) reveal that the recent economic crisis caused by the outbreak of the new coronavirus has caused an increasing trend in second-hand (reuse) use. Rising prices and decreasing purchasing power force consumers to reuse clothes belonging to other family members, increase do-it-yourself activities, repair, recycle and use handicrafts or shop in second-hand channels.

Discussion

It is noticeable that there are initiatives to try to shape and regulate these actions of responsible consumption, waste disposal and following the goals of the 2030 Agenda. Despite the UN making a big promotion of the 2030 Agenda Goals, the member states that compose the European Union fail to effectively meet and implement these goals. It could not have been foreseen that an event, with the scale of the Covid-19 pandemic, would impact the world and its societies to such an extent, further compromising their fulfilment.

The increase in the erroneous disposal of surgical masks, consumption and overbought food products, as well as toilet paper and instant noodles spells out an unpreparedness of the population for how to deal with the situation. The government and power institutions have not made an assertive and clear informative communication, leading to these behaviors that go

against what is responsible consumption and sustainable communities. It is perceived that countries needed to “shift their gaze” a little in meeting the goals of the 2030 agenda and focus more on the area of health. The increase in unemployment is one of the most visible consequences of the crisis brought by the pandemic. To counteract the scenario, experts defend the need for more and different social supports. The most recent ban on the use of community masks calls into question, on an economic level, the decrease in wages received by some textile companies. Furthermore, as a consequence of the mandatory use of surgical masks, there will also be environmental implications due to the irregular and informal disposal of the same.

Conclusion

It is perceived, therefore, that actions and implementation of government rules and laws that protect the environment and guide the population in a more assertive way, about the disposal of surgical masks are necessary. The pandemic will still last for more months, which reinforces the need to continue to value the implementation of actions that ensure and reinforce responsible consumption, leading to the construction of sustainable communities.

Another fundamental point is the instruction that all citizens should opt for responsible consumption, we think that this is the only way to achieve greater access to all products. Problems such as those that happened at the beginning of the pandemic should be avoided, since they will only negatively influence society.

Despite the numerous global initiatives aimed at sustainable development, as is the case of the 2030 agenda, with the pandemic we can see that the Member States of the UN were not quick enough to put in place effective measures/policies that could instruct their citizens on how they should behave in the face of the uncertainties of an unprecedented pandemic. Instead, there was an unbridled rush to some unusual services, increasing the consumption of some products that people considered essential to spend several months at home, instead of buying them gradually. This has led to an excessive consumption of some products that undermines the goals of the 2030 agenda. Moreover, the need for actions to contain social mobility, such as isolation and quarantine, as well as the speed and urgency of testing drugs and vaccines, highlight ethical and human rights implications that deserve critical analysis and prudence.

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DESAFIOS QUE A PANDEMIA COLOCA À CIDADANIA GLOBAL E O DESENVOLVIMENTO SUSTENTÁVEL

RESUMO

O seguinte artigo é resultado de uma reflexão crítica sustentada em investigação, com foco na pandemia e nos desafios que esta coloca à Agenda 2030, realizada no âmbito na Opção UMinho: Educação para a Cidadania Global Criativa.

A agenda 2030 é uma agenda, criada pela ONU, com um programa repleto de uma série de objetivos que visam o desenvolvimento sustentável. A chegada da pandemia da covid-19 veio, de certa forma, condicionar o cumprimento de algumas metas definidas, porém, veio também realçar a importância desta agenda. De modo a avaliar a influência da pandemia da Covid-19 no cumprimento de dois dos objetivos da Agenda 2030 – a sustentabilidade e o consumo responsável – analisaram-se os resultados de estudos relacionados outrora realizados e efetuaram-se debates e momentos de reflexão tendo por base experiência própria e a observação direta dos comportamentos dos cidadãos. Estes debates decorreram tanto em contexto de grupo de trabalho como em contexto de aula. Como era de esperar, verificámos que a pandemia provocou mudanças significativas nos diversos setores da sociedade e nas próprias prioridades de cada ser humano. O que inicialmente começou por ser uma crise de saúde, transformou-se numa grave crise sócio-económica. As preocupações dos cidadãos, numa primeira fase, face à incerteza do futuro, fez com que aumentassem a afluência a supermercados e outros serviços e houvesse um consumo excessivo de alguns produtos, incomum até então. Por outro lado, numa segunda fase, a implementação do uso obrigatório de máscara em espaços públicos fechados e a falta de instrução e de uma política de recolha eficaz faz com que, diariamente, aumentem as quantidades de resíduos deste tipo, descartados indevidamente, pondo em causa a sustentabilidade global. Terminada a investigação podemos afirmar que os efeitos da pandemia em relação aos objetivos da Agenda 2030 não são todos negativos, no entanto, é necessário resolver rapidamente alguns problemas que esta despoletou.

Palavras-Chave: Agenda 2030, pandemia; consumo; sustentabilidade.