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SUSTAINABILITY IN TIMES OF PANDEMIC (COVID-19)

SUSTENTABILIDADE EM TEMPOS DE PANDEMIA (COVID-19)

SOSTENIBILIDAD EN TIEMPOS DE PANDEMIA (COVID-19)

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ABSTRACT

Technology has allowed the world to become connected, with no more barriers to communication between people. In addition to the ease of communication, it is clear that what happens in a place on the globe is disseminated throughout the planet, however, we are increasingly interconnected and connected. Nature is also part of this connection relationship, because what happens locally can have effects on a global level and this is what we perceive when major natural disasters occur, caused by a virus, or by the forces of nature. Therefore, the objective of this article was to analyze the relationship between the pandemic (COVID-19) and sustainability in the view of people and companies. To this end, an integrative review was carried out based on a systematic search of the Scopus database. As a result, it was identified that the research emerges in the field of Medicines, Social Sciences, Business, Management and Accounting, Computer Science, Energy, Engineering and Health Professions, which allows to weave the state of the art of the theme. We conclude that the pandemic and social isolation made it possible for people to think more about the importance of sustainability, and to take better care of nature as a whole, of environmental problems and thus realize that what happens locally can have negative effects on a global level. In companies it was found that they are implementing actions such as remote work, reducing energy expenditure and implementing attitudes towards a more sustainable world. Therefore, everyone has to do their part within their reality to make the world globally more sustainable, both people, companies and governments through their public institutions.

KEYWORDS: Sustainability. Pandemic. COVID-19. Sustainable. Integrative review

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**RESUMO**

A tecnologia permitiu que o mundo se tornasse conectado, não existindo mais barreiras na comunicação entre as pessoas. Além da facilidade na comunicação, percebe-se que o que acontece num lugar do globo terrestre é divulgado em todo o planeta, todavia, estamos cada vez mais interligados e conectados. A natureza também faz parte dessa relação de conexão, pois o que ocorre localmente pode gerar efeitos em nível global e é isso que percebemos quando ocorrem grandes catástrofes naturais sendo elas provocadas por um vírus, ou pelas forças da natureza. Sendo assim, o objetivo do presente artigo foi analisar as relações entre a pandemia (COVID-19) e a sustentabilidade na visão das pessoas e das empresas. Para tanto, realizou-se a revisão integrativa a partir de uma busca sistemática na base de dados Scopus. Como resultado, identificou-se que a pesquisa emerge no campo de Medicamentos, Ciências Sociais, Negócios, Gestão e Contabilidade, Ciência da Computação, Energia, Engenharia e Profissões da área da Saúde o que permite tecer o estado da arte do tema. Conclui-se que a pandemia e o isolamento social oportunizaram às pessoas pensarem mais sobre a importância da sustentabilidade, e de cuidar melhor da natureza como um todo, dos problemas ambientais e assim a perceberem que o que ocorre localmente pode ter efeitos negativos em nível global. Nas empresas constatou-se que as mesmas estão implementando ações como trabalho remoto, redução do gasto de energia e implementando atitudes para um mundo mais sustentável. Portanto, cada um tem que fazer sua parte dentro de sua realidade para tornar o mundo globalmente mais sustentável, tanto as pessoas, como as empresas e os governos através das suas instituições públicas.

PALAVRAS CHAVES: Sustentabilidade. Pandemia. COVID-19. Sustentável. Revisão integrativa.

RESUMO:

La tecnología ha permitido que el mundo se conecte, sin más barreras para la comunicación entre las personas. Además de la facilidad de comunicación, está claro que lo que sucede en un lugar del globo terrestre se difunde por todo el planeta, sin embargo, cada vez estamos más interconectados y conectados. La naturaleza también es parte de esta relación de conexión, porque lo que sucede localmente puede tener efectos a nivel global y esto es lo que percibimos cuando ocurren grandes desastres naturales, provocados por un virus, o por las fuerzas de la naturaleza. Por tanto, el objetivo de este artículo fue analizar la relación entre la pandemia (COVID-19) y la sostenibilidad en la mirada de las personas y las empresas. Para ello se realizó una revisión integradora basada en una búsqueda sistemática en la base de datos Scopus. Como resultado, se identificó que la investigación surge en el campo de los Medicamentos, Ciencias Sociales, Empresariales, Gestión y Contabilidad, Informática, Energía, Ingeniería y Profesiones de la Salud, lo que permite tejer el estado del arte de la temática. Concluimos que la pandemia y el aislamiento social hicieron posible que las personas pensarán más en la importancia de la sustentabilidad, y cuidaran mejor la naturaleza en su conjunto, de los problemas ambientales y así darse cuenta de que lo que sucede localmente puede tener efectos negativos a nivel global. . En las empresas se constató que están implementando acciones como el trabajo a distancia, la reducción del gasto energético y la implementación de actitudes hacia un mundo más sostenible. Por tanto, todos tienen que poner de su parte dentro de su realidad para hacer el mundo globalmente más sostenible, tanto las personas, las empresas y los gobiernos a través de sus instituciones públicas.

PALABRAS CLAVE: sustentabilidad, pandemia, COVID-19, sustentable, revisión integradora.



INTRODUÇÃO

Throughout history man has interfered with nature in order to ensure his survival. Thus, the construction of dams to generate energy, the removal of trees to build houses and industries, are examples of these modifications.

In this way, man started to domesticate animals and master planting techniques after the Agricultural Revolution of the 18th and 19th centuries, which is characterized by the relationship between man and nature. The first settlements appear in this context, announcing the start of the unsustainable use of natural resources. Environmental problems have arisen as a result of this modern way of life in society, such as the loss of more and more animals, the degradation of forests, and the diversion of water flow. In other words, instead of living nomadic lifestyles, humans began to establish permanent residences. In other words, instead of living nomadic lifestyles, humans began to establish permanent residences (TEIXEIRA e SOUZA, 1985). As a result of this social situation, people have become more cooperative in order to preserve their quality of life. According to Dias (2006), at the time, improving one's quality of life was achieved at the expense of the natural environment, because the prevalent belief was that man was at conflict with nature. The Industrial Revolution, which began in the middle of the nineteenth century, altered the natural environment's changes. "The Industrial Revolution changed the situation as threats, from that moment on, came mainly from within the societies themselves" (BEAUD, 1995).

In the nineteenth century, the Industrial Revolution began in England and spread throughout the world. The objective of this "revolution" was to promote economic growth and development by improving the population's quality of life. As a result of the Industrial Revolution, some social benefits were realized, including increased comfort, increased life expectancy, and the advancement of communication, transportation, modern technologies, and food. However, the methods used to bring about societal changes had unintended effects, such as wasteful usage of natural resources and contamination of the air, water, and soil. "More natural resources were used in the manufacture of products in the second half of the twentieth century than in all previous human history" (DIAS, 2006), even more than the earth can regenerate.

And apart from the agricultural and technological revolutions, we may also point to pandemics that have occurred in human history and are linked to human behavior (way of living) on the globe. In globalized society the pandemic that has taken control in the year 2020, is COVID-19. This has forced people to reconsider how they live on the planet. As a result, the aim of this study was to examine the relationship between the pandemic (COVID-19) and sustainability from the perspectives of people and companies.



SUSTENTAINABILITY

The term "sustainability" is ubiquitous in our everyday lives, but despite its pervasiveness, it is not a very concrete concept. This is due to the fact that the word "sustainability" has no common meaning. As a result, there are no hard and fast rules to follow. When anything is long-lasting, environmentally safe, and cost-effective. Many people also understand that "doing the right thing" is a form of sustainability. When something is sustainable, it is long-lasting, environmentally friendly, safe or even reasonable. Many people also understand that "doing the right thing" is a form of sustainability. As a result, the word "sustainability" has a wide range of meanings and requires a definition (Lindsey, 2011). To begin with, we may claim that sustainability is about ecological responsibility, which means that we must use available natural resources wisely so that they can be maintained in the long run and that the portion taken from nature can be replenished in a natural way, ensuring future generations' right to experience similar or better conditions than we do today. As a result, everyone should consider the consequences of their everyday behavior and attitudes. After all, we must act in a way that allows all living creatures, not just humans, to live well and with quality in the future.

Due to the threat of a wood shortage, Hans Carl von Carlowitz, a mining boss from Saxony in Germany, formulated the term sustainability in 1713.

Over the years, the concept of sustainability has steadily expanded. Development is sustainable "to meet the needs of the present without compromising the capacity of future generations to meet their own needs," according to the United Nations' Brundtland Report of 1987 (MACHADO and PEREIRA, 2019). This is an ecological concept that many scientists and policymakers still adhere to today (WCED, 1987).

In academic literature, the word "sustainability" has many definitions. According to Prugh and Assadourian (2003), the idea of sustainability is linked to something long-lasting, as well as a versatile and open to interpretations.

According to Barter and Russell (2012), the idea of sustainability is related not only to the problem of saving nature, but also to the internalization of policies, thus adding new tools to consent to mutual economic growth and prosperity. The conceptualization of the term "sustainability" (Machado, Pereira, 2019), refers to a development of processes and practices that involves action and aims to improve the quality of human life on the planet.



The "Agenda 21," the final text of the 1992 Rio de Janeiro environmental conference, was a turning point in the debate of sustainability (HOFER, 2009). The Agenda is the world's first international climate change treaty, with 172 countries signing on. It is a turning point in international environmental policy and a roadmap for greater sustainability in the twenty-first century. The concrete action guidelines, which have become a global blueprint for more sustainable growth, have a primary objective of sustainability in the social, environmental, and economic fields at the local, national, and global levels. All municipalities in the signatory countries were encouraged to create their own local Agenda 21 under the slogan "Think internationally, act locally" (SELMAN, 1998).

Agenda 21 is a global program that aims to develop in favor of a more sustainable planet. It's a tool for citizens, government, and business to work together to create a more prosperous society that incorporates strategies for greater social justice, environmental security, and, of course, economic efficiency (UN, 2013).

Sustainability can be defined as follows: "Sustainable development means considering environmental aspects on an equal level with social and economic aspects. We must leave our children and grandchildren an intact ecological, social, and economic world". In the so-called sustainability triangle, the ecological, economic, and social elements are thus brought together and equated: for both of us, and future generations, ecological sustainability means preserving the diversity of existence while maintaining the natural foundations of life. Just consume resources to the degree that nature's regeneration allows. Economic sustainability requires a well-functioning economy that does not present a risk to future generations. Equal opportunity, stability, education, and community for everyone are the main priorities of social sustainability for all. This model, however, repeatedly criticizes the equal weighting of the three components; in practice, ecological sustainability should be the basis of our actions (ELKINGTON, 1994).

In 2015, the United Nations (UN, 2020) set another milestone with the formulation of the Sustainable Development Agenda, in which 17 goals were developed, i.e., a map of the goals to be achieved over the next 15 years, as mentioned below:

Table 1- Goals of the sustainable development agenda

SDG	Title
Goal 1	End poverty in all its forms everywhere
Goal 2	End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
Goal 3	Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
Goal 4	Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
Goal 5	Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls



Goal 6	Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
Goal 7	Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
Goal 8	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
Goal 9	Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
Goal 10	Reduce inequality within and among countries
Goal 11	Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
Goal 12	Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
Goal 13	Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
Goal 14	Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
Goal 15	Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
Goal 16	Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
Goal 17	Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

Source: UNPD – United Nations Development Programme (2015).

These Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), are areas of intervention needed to achieve sustainable development (COLGLAZIER, 2015). These emphasize the importance of sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystem functioning to maintain economic activities and the well-being of local communities (MARTÍN; GIORDANO; PAGANO; KEUR; COSTA, 2020). Many of the SDGs and their related goals explicitly address biodiversity and ecosystems. For example, SDG 14 highlights the importance of protecting oceans, seas and marine resources to achieve sustainable development (FAIVRE; FRITZ; FREITAS; BOISSEZON; VANDEWOESTIJNE, 2017).

To meet the 2030 Agenda, new initiatives and strategies aimed at enhancing and protecting ecosystems and their services have become the core of action to be developed, i.e. ecosystem-based adaptation, green infrastructure, ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction or natural water retention measures (FAIVRE; FRITZ; FREITAS; BOISSEZON; VANDEWOESTIJNE, 2017; MUNANG; THIAW; ALVERSON; MUMBA; LIU; RIVINGTON, 2013; SCHÄFFLER; SWILLING, 2013).

PANDEMIC (COVID-19)

On December 31, 2019, China announced for the first time that some residents of the Chinese city of Wuhan have become ill due to an unknown lung disease. A wild animal market in the same town was frequented by many of them. It becomes clear that the pathogen is a novel coronavirus that has yet to be identified. The number of infected people increases considerably.



As a way of containing the virus, China has implemented social isolation. For the first time since late February 2020, the number of new infections has begun to decline. Statistics indicate that by early March 2020, more people had recovered from viral infection than had been newly infected (WHO, 2020).

Everything under control? No! In Europe, a few cases in the northern Italian municipality of Bergamo turn into a huge number of infected and dead within weeks. Hospitals in Lombardy are forced to turn away seriously ill patients due to hospital overcrowding. Italy is in a state of emergency. On March 11, the WHO finally declares the coronavirus outbreak, defined as Sars-CoV-2, a pandemic. From mid-March on, outbreaks occur throughout Europe: countries such as Italy, Spain, France, and Great Britain are particularly hard hit, but from mid-April the number of infections decreases noticeably in Europe. The peak of affected countries moves to the American continent, with the United States and Brazil being the most affected countries.

The illness, known as COVID-19, is a lung infection with symptoms such as fever, cough, respiratory problems, rhinitis, and diarrhea. It can also cause a life-threatening pneumonia. In most cases, the infection is mild, and the patient recovers. Transmission is normally through the air or by personal contact with infected secretions, such as saliva droplets, sneezing, coughing, or phlegm, or near personal contact, such as rubbing or shaking hands, but it may also be by contact with contaminated items or surfaces, accompanied by contact with the mouth, nose, or eyes. There are a large number of unreported cases of infected individuals, perhaps in almost all countries, due to a low number of tests being done, as well as the fact that the infection is usually mild or asymptomatic (BRAZIL, 2020).

The coronavirus and the associated social isolation have put companies all over the world in a difficult economic situation. The COVID-19 pandemic should also be seen as an opportunity and a starting point for a global change toward greater environmental, economic, and social sustainability in order to avoid future health crises. If we look at the national and international news, we see that they are more concerned with the economic and social implications, rather than the issue of why the epidemic emerged so unexpectedly and spread so rapidly - the pandemic is rarely connected to the question of sustainability. However, its outbreak is significantly linked to the unsustainable way of life and human behavior.

Extensive land use by agriculture, mining, road building, and deforestation, for example, has resulted in a loss of biological diversity and the destruction of many wild animals' natural habitats. The absence of these natural refuges, which are used for food, started a process of using wild animals in the menu of some civilizations, thus increasing the spread of zoonoses and viruses.



In the case of coronavirus Sars-CoV-2, however, the exact origin of the virus has not yet been conclusively clarified, although there are many indications that it is also a zoonotic disease - just like SARS, MERS or Ebola (DE OLIVEIRA LIMA, 2020).

Furthermore, the increasingly globalized economy, with its long and complex value chains and numerous related international business trips, has helped in the rapid spread of the coronavirus. And the current consequences of the coronavirus crisis also reveal the lack of economic sustainability: while it is possible to have goods from all over the world delivered quickly and cheaply to one's doorstep, given the heavy concentration of supply chains in a few low-wage countries like China and just-in-time production, the global economic system also lacks any rescue system to absorb any disruptions, as has now happened rather violently in the current pandemic. In other words, it is not a very "resilient" system.

METODOLOGY

To conduct the study, an integrative literature review was adopted. This methodology is based on an online database search. Scopus, a database of abstracts and citations of articles for academic journals/magazines, was chosen, because it is considered a referential source of impact of peer-reviewed scientific literature, in addition to being an interdisciplinary source that contributes to a broad view of scientific publications (SILVA; DIANA; CATAPAN and SPANHOL, 2014). Thus, the work involved the following five phases designed for integrative review described below (TORRACO, 2016 and MACHADO et al., 2019).

The first phase was the formulation of the problem, which originated the following question: what are the relationships between the pandemic (COVID-19) and sustainability in the vision of people and companies? The second phase involved defining the sources and conducting searches. Both need to be comprehensive, but with a specific focus, considering that scientific research in databases is a transparent and reproducible process.

The third phase was the selection of articles and/or conferences related to the identified problem, according to various eligibility criteria, such as defined timeline, specific sources, keywords, and others.

The fourth phase was the evaluation of the selection, an assessment of the quality and the degree of the integrative review, which will depend on the sample: that includes the sources, the methods and the instruments.



The fifth phase was translated into the synthesis process with qualitative and narrative analysis for qualitative and quantitative studies. The synthesis can take a form of a table or template to present the results. The main method that can be used consists of data reduction; data display; data comparison; conclusion drawing and verification (WHITTEMORE et al., 2005).

To address the question of this study, we tried to work from an exploratory-descriptive view with the inductive method with the objective of mapping the theme and increasing the familiarity of the researchers with the fact from sufficient data allowing the researcher to infer a truth.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The integrative review contributes to the systematic visualization of the state of the art (MACHADO; SOUSA; NAWAZ; MARTINS., 2019) on the research subject as well as its timeline to the level of production by area, avoiding minimization or repetition of studies. For this analysis, the research was organized into five phases, namely: problem formulation, definition of research sources, article selection, screening evaluation, and analytical synthesis of the results.

The main search question was what are the relationships between the pandemic (COVID-19) and sustainability in the view of people and companies?

To answer this question a search was conducted in the Scopus database between the months of August and September 2020.

In the second phase, some criteria for the selection of the search were defined, such as the delimitation of the research base. We chose to work with the electronic database Scopus (www.scopus.com), considered relevant due to the number of abstracts and references indexed in the peer-reviewed space, as well as its impact on the academic field in the interdisciplinary scope.

Considering the problem question was the third phase (article selection). For the database search the following search terms or expressions were delimited: Sustainability and pandemic and COVID-19 and people and organizations. The variations of the expressions adopted for the search are presented in a broader context, in the same proposal, because a concept depends on the context to which it is related and on its historical trajectory and conceptual analysis.

The fourth phase (selection evaluation), based on the previously defined criteria, totaled five indexed papers, all from the year 2020 in which the COVID-19 pandemic occurred.



It was identified that these publications were written by 14 authors, linked to seven institutions. Fifty-one keywords were used to identify and index the publications, which were distributed in eight areas of knowledge. Four countries stood out in these publications: India, Iran, South Africa, and the United States. It was identified that of the universe of 5 peer-reviewed scientific papers composing the sample for an integrative analysis in the area of Medicine, Social Sciences, Business, Management and Accounting, Chemical Engineering, Computer Science, Energy, Engineering and Health Professions which allows weaving the state of the art of the theme from the consulted database. Table 2 shows the results of the data collection in an overall analysis of the results obtained from the Scopus database.

Table 2 - General bibliometric data obtained from the Scopus database

Database	Scopus
Search terms	<i>"Sustainability" and "pandemic" and "COVID-19" and "people" and "organizations"</i>
Search fields	<i>"title", "abstract", "keyword"</i>
Total number of retrieved papers	5
Authors	14
Institutions	7
Countries	4
Keywords	51
Knowledge fields	8

Source: Prepared by the authors based on survey data (2020)

Initially, the temporal distribution of the papers was analyzed, which allowed identifying that the first publication is dated 2020, the year the pandemic occurred in the country and the year the research was conducted.

The fifth phase of the research was the formulation of the problem that guides this study. This will answer the question: what are the relationships between the pandemic (COVID-19) and sustainability in the view of people and companies? The five papers were selected for full reading according to the online search and open access papers, in order to analyze the relationship between the pandemic (COVID-19) and sustainability in the view of people and companies, thus establishing the following schematic summary presented below:

Table 3 - Schematic summary

Year	Authors	Title	Relations between the pandemic (COVID-19) and sustainability in the view of people and companies
2020	Patrikar,	Projections for novel coronavirus	The article does not spell out



	Poojary, Basannar, Faujdar and Kunte	(COVID-19) and evaluation of epidemic response strategies for India	variables on the research topic, however it does address that social isolation measures seem to have worked for India for the treatment of COVID-19, however the sustainability of these measures is uncertain.
2020	Chaudhari, Nakhate and Rautrao	Role of HR Trends in Corona-Crisis Management and Organizational: sustainability readiness	The article explains the relationship between the pandemic and sustainability in the new roles assumed by human resources in companies. It states that this relationship is part of the lesson we have learned from the pandemic, which is to be more human, thus worrying first about the safety of individuals.
2020	Mortazavi, Mortazavi and Parsaei	Pandemic: how to use artificial intelligence to choose non-vulnerable workers for positions with the highest possible levels of exposure to the novel coronavirus	The article brings the relationship between pandemic and sustainability through the use of artificial intelligence technology to ensure: workforce safety and sustainability in business and jobs.
2020	Sheller	Reconstructing tourism in the Caribbean: connecting pandemic recovery, climate resilience and sustainable tourism through mobility justice	The article develops the theoretical concept of "mobility justice" as a relationship between sustainability and the COVID pandemic (19) in companies. Such a relationship allows thinking about the problem of sustainability in transitions in relation to tourist mobilities, climate change, and disaster recovery.
2020	Rich and Pather	A response to the persistent digital divide: critical components of a community network ecosystem	The article points out the relationships between the pandemic (COVID-19) and sustainability in people's view through the holistic and comprehensive perspective of an ecosystem network in each community.

Source: Prepared by the authors based on research data (2020).

The other analysis performed, based on the set of papers retrieved from the Scopus database, were the keywords used, synthesized into 51 different words. The highlight was the keyword "COVID-19" with 5 occurrences. Next comes "pandemic" and "sustainability" with three occurrences each. In fourth position are the words "human" and "public health", with two occurrences each. The word cloud shown in figure 1, below, presents the main key words found in this search.



the environment, but on the other hand we have the beginning of the decade of environmental recovery, declared by the UN. The United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030) calls on everyone to drastically scale up restoration efforts to resurrect our degraded ecosystems. As a consequence, the pandemic is seen as a symbol for the end of the twentieth century and the beginning of a new era for a more sustainable world.

In the economic scenario, the pandemic has fundamentally changed the consumer's profile, since today more thought is given to regional products and less to activities that involve agglomerations (QUEIROZ et al, 2020). Regarding the economy and consumer behavior, it is believed that COVID-19 has changed the frequency and the way people consume. According to Sheller (2020), the coronavirus crisis may accelerate trends that have already begun to emerge, such as the decline in importance of visiting shopping malls in cities and the rise in demand for regionally produced organic products. In order to satisfy these new consumer demands, the economy is redesigning itself, more and more, into a "bio-economy" and a "sharing economy".

The relationship between the pandemic and sustainability in organizations has become a concept that must be linked not only to stop harming nature, but also, more broadly, to ecosystem recovery strategies.

FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

It was observed that of the five retrieved articles to answer the research question, only four answered the main research question of the present article. The relationships between pandemic (COVID-19) and sustainability in the view of people and companies, according to Chaudhari et al., (2020) addresses that this intersection is seen by the new role of the human resources sector in companies in times of COVID-19, which was first concerned with the safety of its employees. Mortazavi et al. (2020), meanwhile, explains that the relationship between pandemic and sustainability may be solved through the use of artificial intelligence technology, thus ensuring workforce safety and sustainability in business and jobs. Sheller (2020) explains that in the period of the COVID-19 pandemic, sustainability was thought through the concept of mobility justice, which deals with tourist mobility, climate change, and disaster recovery. For Rich and Pather (2020), the interconnections between the pandemic and sustainability, from the people's perspective, are being approached through a holistic view with the intention of building an ecosystemic network in each community.

The relationships between COVID-19 and sustainability in the view of people and companies, have driven several activities and attitudes, such as: 1) search for more sustainability; 2) remote work; 3) greater adherence to distance learning; 4) adherence to the "less is more" concept; 5) reconfiguration



of retail spaces and public environments with respect to health and well-being; 6) the demand for companies to have a greater social, environmental responsibility, i.e.: socio-environmental, not only focusing on profit; 7) immersive cultural experiences, such as online concerts and shows; 8) increased search for information through videoconferences; 9) online work meetings; and 10) search for new knowledge. This provides an opportunity to think about the importance of a more sustainable world for companies and for people.

The subject of this paper needs a lot of further research, because it is a new and important topic that will mark the history of life on the planet. Thus, the authors suggests for future work the study of social and environmental responsibility in companies, circular economy, also addressing the issues of sustainability in organizations.

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