

IMPORTANCE OF VIDEOCONFERENCING IN EDUCATION AND COMPARISON OF SOME TYPES OF APPLICATIONS

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ABSTRACT

The given article presents information on the topic of videoconferencing and a comparison of different tools for creating effective online lessons. This study aims to determine the demand for videoconferencing and what conferencing applications could be applied in the process of education. The findings indicate that the main distinguishing feature of those applications is the content that is aimed to be shared and the number of participants. Those applications create opportunities for making the lesson more authentic. Particular attention is paid to the analysis of capacities of three applications as Microsoft Teams, Google Meets, and Zoom.

KEYWORDS: *Videoconferencing, Application, Online Education, Technology, Zoom, Google Meets, Microsoft Teams.*

INTRODUCTION

Recent changes in ecology and pandemic have made the life of humanity much more different from the traditional way and have created several obstacles for people to fulfill their duties. However, despite those changes, it has brought a lot of opportunities for the development of modern technology as well as creating a sufficient atmosphere for digitalization in all spheres. The vivid changes have also taken place in the field of education. Numerous types of distance learning tools are available nowadays. More and more network applications and software has been widely used in most spheres of life. A vivid example of innovative systems is video conferencing. Video conferencing has become the key to major problems and made it available for people to communicate and deal with their business wherever they are. With the presence of modernization, various apps have been created and made access easier. One can easily use those apps no matter they have computers or not, as those apps can be easily installed on phones and tablets. Some examples of the apps are Zoom, Microsoft Teams, and Google meet. [1]

Initially, it is essential to mention the video of the convenience conferencing offers in the process of education. There are plenty of benefits that video conferencing can offer. One of the most essential conveniences of video conferencing is without doubt distance, as it allows holding lectures and lessons remotely. It is of avail both for students and lecturers for the reason that instead of simply emailing files, participants have the opportunity to share documents and files in real-time and discuss them. Furthermore, video conferencing facilitate interaction by bringing

people together. This is essential in all spheres, especially for language learners, giving opportunity for them to participate in the lectures of foreign teachers and learn the language better. Recording functionality is another benefit and it assists students to understand the topic in more detail in case they misunderstand any part. Finally, it develops not only the knowledge of students but also the ability to use modern technology and various applications. In fact, by taking into consideration above mentioned reasons it can be predicted that video conferencing may develop even more in the future. According to the recent analysis by Grand View Research, Inc., the global video conferencing market is predicted to reach \$ 9.95 billion by 2028, with a compound annual growth rate of 11.4% over a period. [2]

Despite the advantages of video conferencing, there are some disadvantages. First of all, having less personal contact and understanding make it less preferable in the educational process. In case students have their questions, they may feel unconfident to ask. Moreover, in most cases, distractions are another obstacle that might be inconvenient for the participants. Paying increased attention to the ability of usage of technology leads to the loss of meaning of the purpose of education. [3] Video conferencing directly relies on technology; thus, it is obvious that software disorder, poor internet connection, and lack of technological awareness can prevent users from sufficient collaboration.

To decide which tool is the best one, it is essential to compare them and discuss their pros and cons of them.

One of the most used tools is Microsoft Teams which allows users to organize video or audio meetings with a single person or a group of people all from one application. One of the biggest advantages of this tool is that external visitors can join meeting through their web browser not downloading the application. It is beneficial because downloading applications may be a hindrance for students and Microsoft Teams alleviates the situation. This video conferencing platform also includes all the features of a top software provider, such as live subtitle, screen sharing, call recording, and others. In addition, Microsoft Teams offer advanced security and privacy measures. While using Teams, the teacher can create a notebook of the group - "One Note", share information, and assess the tasks. Built-in OneNote Class Notebooks and end-to-end assignment management enable educators to organize effective and timely feedback. Administrators and educational staff can stay up to date and collaborate using in-house teams for announcement and topical conversations. Teachers can share materials in professional-pedagogical communities. [4]

An alternative tool for video conferencing can be Google Meets, which creates major possibilities to make conferencing much easier. "Google Meet has become our go-to for providing professional development for our staff, allowing them to access PD from a location that is comfortable for them. "Meet makes it easy to record these sessions, so teachers who are unable to attend live can still access the content and learn from it," says Megan Swope, technology coach in Pennsbury School District. [5]

It offers a free version and paid version that can be customized. At the same time compared to other conferencing tools, Google Meet offers a simplified user interface that makes it easier to use. Despite the above-mentioned advantages, Google Meet is considered a secondary option for an online meeting tool. [6] This might be because a Gmail account is mandatory for this tool whereas a student may use other ids. Google Meet creates the possibility to use the integrated

board. Creators used the famous Jamboard, which is integrated with the app to conduct meetings. To clarify, Jamboard is an e-board that is used online and both teachers and students can use it and write their notes on it. With Google Meet you can use it by the link created by the teacher.

Known as a primary conferencing tool, Zoom is a natural choice for teaching classes and facilitating a meeting with polling, recording, and other special features. [7] One of the biggest advantages of this tool is that it works with all major browsers and devices. Moreover, Zoom is easy to set up and has a range of scalable features. It allows the users to share and collaborate on their screens. There is a chance to save and search shared files and searchable history and a 10-year archive. Zoom makes it possible for the organizer to create a so-called “waiting room”. It allows using various games and activities effectively. While sharing files, Zoom as well as other videoconferencing tools creates an opportunity to share the screen. More importantly, the teacher can allow others to use and make notes to the main screen and document. One of the unique features of the Zoom application is that it has got the function of creating sessional rooms. While having traditional learning, there might be various types of activities that require dividing students into different groups and presenting tasks, especially during the lessons of foreign languages. Zoom meets has the function of separating participants into different groups and at the same time not turning them off completely. The organizer, in this case -the teacher can observe all the groups one by one and answer the questions if required.

Undoubtedly, it is true to say that even though various tools can be used to create online classes, one thing that prevents teachers from using these tools is the lack of ability to use them. For that reason, it is vital to increase the capability of teachers and help them to acquire modern technologies and software for creating online classes. “Day by day, utilizing from ICTs are getting more and more convenient, there are a lot of and various ways for teachers that can use during lessons as pedagogical tools, as teachers are considered the key player in successful implementation of educational reforms”.

Taking the above-mentioned ideas it should be stated that there have been radical changes in the way people live and think. With the presence of modernization, obstacles can be easily overcome and borders vanish. Despite the epidemiological situation in the world modern innovations create the possibility to interact, communicate and increase the degree of productivity of all spheres, in particular, the sphere of education by making it more interesting for students, motivating them, and enabling them to get qualified knowledge.

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