

Trialability and Purposefulness: Their Role Towards Google Classroom Acceptance Following Educational Policy

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Abstract

With the COVID-19 pandemic experiences of Filipino students, the face-to-face mode of instruction in the classroom has been phased out in exchange for online learning platforms such as Google Classroom (GCR) among some K-12 learners. As advised by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), most colleges and universities had to try available learning management systems; hence, this research study aimed to investigate the role of trialability and purposefulness towards GCR acceptance among tertiary institutions following the CHED educational policy. The researchers came up with eight hypotheses, which suggested that purposefulness may influence educational policy and acceptance of GCR. Trialability of GCR may influence educational policy and technical access. One thousand sixty-six (1066) respondents from six public higher institutions of learning were given online questionnaire; however, only 913 users were considered for the structural equation modelling and indirect effect of the suggested factors in this study. Using SmartPLS 3.0, the findings revealed that except for the hypothesis on institutional willingness ($p < 0.054$), all the hypotheses were highly supported at the level of significance $p < 0.00$ to $p < 0.005$. Thus, this study proves that GCR is an appropriate platform for colleges and universities. Trialability and purposefulness are two great factors that contributed to the acceptance and adoption of GCR in higher institutions of learning. Future researchers are therefore encouraged to replicate this study and validate the findings since the use of GCR is relatively new among Filipino teachers and learners.

Keywords

Google classroom; Purposefulness; Educational policy; Trialability; Alternative learning platforms.

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1 Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic has seriously affected the world's educational system. More than 370 million students have not attended school temporarily or permanently worldwide due to school closures imposed by governments of different countries. The outbreak has highlighted various problems involving educational opportunities as well as wider socioeconomic issues (UNESCO, 2020a).

In the Philippines, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) issued COVID-19 Advisories 1 to 6, to prevent the spread of the coronavirus across different institutions. On 13 April 2020, Advisory 6 stated, "All CHED-recognized private higher education institutions, regardless of accreditation status, are allowed to exercise flexibility in determining the extent of adjustments to their approved academic calendar" (De Vera, 2020). Furthermore, higher education institutions (HEI) were given the option to use appropriate alternative learning platforms for their students such as electronic and non-electronic learning methods, simulations, self-directed learning activities, modules and case-based scenarios among others. Given this privilege by the CHED, the researchers attempted to explore which learning modalities had been tried by colleges and universities.

Alternative learning platforms have already been used in many parts of the world. Over 80 percent of colleges and universities in advanced territories have been actively involved in the use of e-learning to improve the education standard (Vaughan, 2010). In advanced countries, public colleges and universities are progressively adopting learning management systems and blended education (UNESCO, 2020b; Endozo & Solomon, 2019).

With students staying at home, the face-to-face learning system is giving way to alternative learning platforms as suggested by the CHED. Many private colleges and universities in the Philippines started the school year in August, and since then, some have had the choice to try more than one learning platform including but not limited to Canvas, Messenger, Zoom and Microsoft Teams. The issue was how to choose a learning management framework for higher learning institutions that would align with the country's educational policy.

Some researchers have indeed noticed that learning management systems (LMS) are becoming more popular (Black et al., 2007; Francom et al., 2021), including Google Classroom, although it is more preferred in K-12 than at colleges (Francom et al., 2021; Fenton 2017). Hence, the researchers have tried to explore the use of Google Classroom in higher education institutions in the Philippines. Adoption of educational resources is challenging for educators especially during this pandemic period. Selecting the most suitable LMS for the institution requires careful decision-making and the necessary know-how of the gadget. Variables that act on the intent of using LMS such as Google Classroom among students in higher education (Francom et al., 2021) need to be properly considered.

In a study conducted by Sibuea (2018), a blended learning strategy in higher institutions required a learning management system (LMS) that is stable, well-proven and accessible to both teachers and students. He made use of Google Classroom due to its cross-platform presence, stability and ease-of-use. While Google Classroom had been used by many K-12 learners in Indonesia, his participants were university students from Pengantar Linguistik Umum who used it for video podcasts, online quizzes and assignments. His findings showed that Google Classroom is an acceptable LMS for blended learning at their university because it is user-friendly and appropriate for higher education institutions.

Francom et al. (2021) compared Google Classroom and D2L Brightspace using the Technology Acceptance Model among their K-12 participants. Their participants had already been using D2L Brightspace prior to their survey, which could be a reason why they preferred D2L Brightspace to Google Classroom. They concluded that Google Classroom may be of help to the personnel of other higher education institutions who have not used Google Classroom yet and are still trying to consider adopting the new and free Google Classroom LMS. Thus, there is a need to review related articles in order to identify the purposes of public

colleges using a specific LMS in accordance with the educational policy during the outbreak of COVID-19. Hopefully, the findings of this study will be valuable additions to the technology acceptance database of attributes and practices, as well as useful to practitioners.

2 Literature Review

This section contains reviews of related articles about the acceptability of technology and the deployment of certain LMS by universities and colleges.

2.1 Studies on Google Classroom as a learning management system (LMS)

Learning management systems (LMS) are extensive platforms that respond to the concerns of academic learning and management training by providing different online learning courses for work and encouraging learners to improve their performance. This is an alternative for those who want to move from face-to-face learning to online learning (Oluyinka et al., 2015). The LMS enables learners to access interactive lessons, exchange ideas with their teachers, compile course materials, take online exams and submit classroom assignments (Nielson, 2017; Solomon et al., 2014).

According to a recent study, the top ten free learning management systems are widely used by universities and colleges, and Google Classroom took first position among the 10 best free learning management systems listed (<https://www.g2.com/categories/learning-management-system-lms>). Between the last three months of 2019 and the first three months of 2020, Google educational applications saw a 90-percent increase in weekly downloads worldwide (Dian, 2020). Google Apps For Education now has over 50 million users, and over 10 million educators and students worldwide are actively using Google Classrooms to teach and learn together, save time and stay organized (Cinthya, 2021).

Learning management systems, such as Google Classroom, were created with the goal of enhancing learning skills and promoting self-esteem in both teaching and learning (Kaewsaiha, 2019). They are mostly considered for online learning, but they can also be used for a variety of other purposes, such as serving as a trial portal for online instructional content in asynchronous and synchronous sessions (Singh et al., 2010). In addition, to justify the purpose of using a particular LMS, investigation must be done. Based on the practice of many consumers, any gadget they buy or intend to use has to be studied or tried before it is purchased. This justifies a glance at whether Google Classroom may be a viable platform for higher education institutions during the pandemic stage.

2.2 Technology factors and Google Classroom acceptance

Google Classroom (GCR) is a reasonably free learning management program that started in the year 2014. It takes into account the achievement of specific objectives such as the simplification of student-teacher interaction and the convenience with which assignments are distributed and graded. It offers an opportunity to complete the process of teaching and learning. Its features are appropriate for both learners and teachers. It gives students a flow of information and builds up academic research (Lai & Bower, 2019; Sukmawati & Nensia, 2019).

Interestingly, Google Classroom can improve academic learning skills (Rahmad et al., 2019). It is a self-directed learning tool that provides self-satisfaction for the users. Additionally, as an e-learning technology, it lays the groundwork for improved online courses and academic support services that eventually encourage students to excel in a digital context (Perdana et al., 2020; De Campos et al., 2019). This indicates that GCR can be combined with other applications, e.g., for knowledge discovery, to maximize the practical use potential.

Kumar et al. (2020) investigated how higher education institutions accept Google Classroom. Their study aimed primarily to explore the use of GCR from the students' perspective, and complementing it with the

instructors' perspective. As defended by Washington (2019), the awareness and complexities encountered in using GCR are explored by obtaining feedback from the views and opinions of current users as main users of the online system (Bayarmaa & Lee, 2018; Albashtawi & Al Bataineh, 2020).

2.3 Theoretical framework

Researchers employ a vast number of theories and models for the integration of information technologies, and each model has several versions and expansions. Following a literature review, one conclusion emerges: the theoretical model must be modified as a function of the description of the features of the topic under investigation.

This study was anchored in the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) of Davies (1989, in O'Bannon & Thomas, 2015; Charnes & Boot, 2016; Macedo, 2017; Lazar et al., 2020). It is an information systems theory that models how users come to accept and use a new technology based on customer attitudes. There are two factors that can influence a person's intention to adopt a new technology: perceived ease of use and perceived usefulness (purposefulness). Following this notion, an extended TAM was considered for this study to measure levels of technology adoption across higher education institutions in a new normal learning context.

Therefore, the three main factors, namely perceived ease of use, perceived usefulness (purposefulness) and intention to use (GCR), were considered as the input parameters for this study. They are the result of the action of several external variables describing the educational decision process under the influence of some moderating factors such as *trialability* (Roger, 2003). To establish the best external variables for this study's model, some important aspects of the technology, organization and environment factors such as institutional willingness and educational policy found relevant in terms of top management support and technology readiness (Gutierrez et al., 2015) were considered.

3 Methodology

Based on a methodological point of view, the following were considered:

3.1 Research design

An adaptation of the TAM was utilized in this study to evaluate seven constructs related to the usage of Google Classroom as a learning resource during the COVID-19 epidemic in the Philippines. The aim of this expansion of the basic TAM was to identify and describe as clearly and properly as possible the factors that influence users and educational policy decision makers in public higher education institutions about the usage of Google Classroom.

The current study has expanded the factors utilized to analyse users' experience within the concept of technology acceptance and utilization. As a result, one inquiry model was constructed to interpret the factors that may influence educational policy decisions in such circumstances as a dependent variable. On the other hand, perceived purposefulness, expected attitudes, institutional willingness and perceived technological access are suggested to have an impact on Google Classroom usage. The studies also conceptualized the moderating effects of trial run (*trialability*), educational policy and usage of Google Classroom.

3.2 Instrument development

A variety of methods were used to create a research instrument that assesses the role of *trialability* and purposefulness in the relationship between educational policy and Google Classroom acceptance at public universities and colleges in the Philippines. A questionnaire was used as a research instrument in this study.

A collection of LMS-related questions was utilized to create a consistent and valid version of the research instrument. The recommended instrument was created using relevant tools published in the literature. A 4-point Likert scale ranging from 1, which strongly disagrees, to 4, which strongly agrees, was adopted (Safsouf et al., 2020; Ayodele et al., 2016; Oluyinka et al., 2013; Ajagbe et al., 2014; Ayodele et al., 2018). This was made available as an online survey questionnaire. However, face-to-face interviews were omitted due to the restrictions brought about by the COVID-19 crisis.

As a result, the proposed items were in relation to the theoretical framework and the items were evaluated to ensure their validity and reliability. The validity of the measuring scale was assessed using PLS Algorithm quality criteria, which included construct reliability and discriminants. Structural equation modelling (SEM) and path analyses were used to investigate the relationships between variables. The same multivariate analysis was used to assess the replication generalizability of the measurement scale (SEM and path analyses).

A total of 913 questionnaires were considered based on the Google questionnaire link floated from March to July 2020 to six selected institutions, namely, City College of Angeles, Don Honorio Ventura State University, Mabalacat City College, Bulacan State University, Gordon College and Pampanga State University. After having obtained approval from the presidents and vice-presidents of public HEI to conduct an online survey, learners and educators assisted in the online distribution of the questionnaires through their social media contacts, professional means, faculty associations, and student council contacts.

3.3 Dimension of measures

3.3.1 Expected attitude with use of Google Classroom

The original TAM components were interchanged and expanded with associated external variables in this study. Google Classroom incorporates Google Apps for education, such as Google Docs, Slides and others, as well as additional grading tools based on a literature study. The framework was designed with the goal of generating the desired sentiments about Google Classroom use. The operational definition of this factor comprises the digital technologies utilized as educational materials suited for learning. In this example, the measure was selected to assess users' predicted attitudes towards Google Classroom usage. The items emphasize the users' attitudes in terms of engagement, attractiveness and relevance to overcoming teaching and learning issues while using GCR.

3.3.2 Institutional willingness vis-à-vis educational policy

This concept is regarded as an integrated variable and in this study, *institutional willingness* is defined as the school's acceptance to choose and use digital learning resources in accordance with the policy of the educational advisory board. The purpose is to look into how higher education institutions have been experimenting with Google Classroom as a learning management system (LMS). The construct highlights the institution's mission and commitment in using technology as well as receiving prompt assistance and incentives.

3.3.3 Perceived purposefulness vis-à-vis educational policy and use of Google Classroom

Adoption of LMS tools is largely measured by the purpose of improving educational quality, boosting user knowledge sharing or expanding users' intents if utilized. In order to investigate the perceived usefulness of using Google Classroom in relation to educational policy, four items were chosen. One of the perceived purposes was to address the interruption of the face-to-face education system; the LMS was adopted for the purpose of completing academic duties conveniently and on time.

3.3.4 Role of trial run as moderator among technical access, educational policy and use of Google Classroom

According to Roger (2003), trialability is the extent to which an innovation can be tested on a limited basis. New innovations require a time investment. A *trial run* used as a moderator among technical access, educational policy and use of Google classroom was suggested as another dimension in this study. The degree to which an individual perceives that a technological infrastructure exists to enable use of the system is referred to as technical access; in this situation, *perceived technical access* represents objective factors (connectivity, gadgets, power supply) that can aid in the execution of educational policies related to the construct of use of Google Classroom assumed in this study.

The construction of trial runs is performed because users would like to try a gadget first before deciding whether to purchase it, the gadget is adequately available for users if recommended, there is a chance to have a demo trial, they experience the necessity of using it and make a trial to confirm its relevance to academic activities. The technical construction emphasizes that users have access to a computer/laptop/phone with an internet connection at home, a dependable internet browser app, connectivity with neighbours/family at home, access to a printer and others.

Furthermore, the development of the Google Classroom construct was based on the following: understanding the cost implications of using it, providing timely feedback, being able to blend it with traditional learning systems, organizing assignments and creating a paperless study environment, improving communication skills for low self-esteem users, encouraging collaboration among faculty, students and management, and being equipped with the same features as other learning management systems.

3.4 Questionnaire

This study used or created items to explore the attitudes that are expected when using Google Classroom (Safsouf et al., 2020; Rahmad et al., 2019). Items that assess *perceived purposefulness* (usefulness) have been generated in similar research (Ivanovic & Milenkovski, 2019; Yalung et al., 2020; Roger, 2003). Meanwhile, elements to assess *institutional willingness* have been observed to be linked (Tom et al., 2019; Abazi-Bexheti et al., 2012; Jajaga & Abazi-Alili, 2018; Toquero, 2020).

Perceived technical access was found to be related to the facilitation conditions for user acceptance of information technology established by Venkatesh et al. (2003). Items to measure perceived technical access construct in this study have also been identified in other related studies (Siswanto et al., 2018; Duan et al., 2010).

Trialability, on the other hand, represents the extent to which an innovation may be assessed. In this study, items used to assess trial runs (trialability) have been shown to be consistent (Rogers, 2004; Waheed et al., 2015; Pandl et al., 2021). The educational policy construct was assessed using four linked items derived from other studies (Al-Marooof & Al-Emran, 2018; Webster et al., 2013).

Google Classroom (GCR), the main subject of this study, is a free application that provides timely feedback for a face-to-face learning system; it is suitable for organizing assignments and creating paperless learning. With GCR, teaching and learning take place in a simple setting. It enhances communication skills for low self-esteem users, encourages collaboration among faculty, students and management, and is recommended as a learning management system due to its features. Five foreign education experts from New Zealand, USA, Malaysia, Turkey and Nigeria, as well as two internal experts from Baliuag University and De La Salle Araneta University in the Philippines, were requested to validate the questionnaire. Some items were revised and modified in response to the experts' observations. After the second review, the final draft of the questionnaire retained 33 items, all of which were answered on a four-point Likert scale

ranging from 1 (strongly disagree) to 4 (strongly agree). Nonetheless, for the sake of ethics, consent and openness, a Google Form survey link is included herein to solicit responses (see Data Availability Section).

3.5 Analysis methods

This study is a quantitative study using SmartPLS 3.0 in order to get the desired results (Sarstedt & Cheah, 2019; Yalung et al., 2020; Roman, 2020; Pangilinan et al., 2020). SmartPLS 3.0 makes simple group analysis easier to execute than other frequently used packages (e.g., IBM SPSS AMOS). WarpPLS 6.0 and SPSS Macro can also be good tools for moderation analysis but they have no graphical output (Ezekiel & Oluyinka, 2020; Memon et al., 2017; Oluyinka, 2016; Oluyinka et al., 2013). One aspect of this study is to describe the moderating effect of trialability in the relationship between educational policy and GCR. However, steps involved in analysing a moderating effect vary based on the statistical package and the approach used. It is almost out of scope of this study to explain the analytical steps of each approach using different packages.

Factor analysis, based on maximum likelihood estimate (Ringle et al., 2018), was performed using the SmartPLS 3.0 statistics software to describe the experimental data. In addition, factor analysis was used to assess the reliability and validity of the dimensions (Hair et al., 2017). Multiple criteria, as proposed in the literature, were utilized to explain the data quality and the measurement model (Hair et al., 2019).

Cronbach's alpha, rho-A, composite reliability (CR), and average variance extracted (AVE) were the *construct reliability and validity* quality criteria utilized (Memon et al., 2019; Oluyinka et al., 2021). Cronbach's alpha, rho-A, CR, and AVE were all acceptable values of 0.7 or above (Oluyinka et al., 2021; Memon et al., 2019; Roman et al., 2020).

The extent of the linkages between latent components impacted on the *discriminant validity* of the variables (Lee, 2019; Leuteritz et al., 2019). Fornell and Larcker (1981) define discriminant validity as "each concept's AVE being greater than the construct's squared correlation with any other construct". For assessing discriminant validity, the square root of the AVE of each variable was compared to the inter-factor correlations (Ramírez-Correa et al., 2015).

Memon et al. (2019) stated that a moderator variable (M) may or may not have an effect on the dependent variable (Y). As a result, a meaningful relationship between the moderating effect (Z) and the dependent variable can be used to determine if there is a moderating effect (Y). In addition, researchers must measure and record the impact size (f^2) as a function of the moderation. The *route analysis and structure modelling* of the current study involve testing the links between the dimensions to use the specified LMS. This was formed using a structural equation modelling technique to reveal the moderating effect of trial runs as well as the influence of perceived purposefulness in the relationship between educational policy and use of Google Classroom.

The design and assessment of a measurement model within the context of the SEM structural equation modelling improves factor estimate accuracy and the validity of research results (Calma & Oluyinka, 2020; Hair et al., 2019). Path analysis was utilized to discover factors that influence dependent variables such as educational policy, perceived technical access and utilization of Google Classroom (Lai & Bower, 2019; Sukmawati & Nensia, 2019). Therefore, the measures were subsequently subjected to a path analytic model to validate the hypothesized relationships among factors. Accordingly, the method allowed the study to quantify and compare the effects of external variables on each of the internal effects of the variables.

3.6 Research hypotheses

The study's primary goal was to validate the impact of perceived purposefulness and the influence of trial runs on Google Classroom usage in line with educational policy. In addition, the major variables

impacting on the acceptability of the specified learning management system in public higher education institutions were investigated, and the links among the various constructions were tested. To achieve the study objective, eight unique research hypotheses were proposed.

3.6.1 Hypothetical statements

Some foreign studies have validated the acceptance of GCR among students (Robinson, 2017). In this study, the researchers attempted to investigate the role of trialability and purposefulness towards Google Classroom acceptance following the CHED educational policy. Thus, hypotheses were developed as shown in the following paragraphs.

H1: Attitude may influence GCR acceptance: Attitude towards the use of GCR was supported in the research study. Accordingly, students' impressions about GCR may be influenced by teachers' attitudes (Safsouf et al., 2020; Rahmad et al., 2019). In addition, Pan's (2020) study affirmed that attitude is one of the factors to illustrate the relationship between students' perceptions of technology environments and self-directed learning. Moreover, Abd Manan and Hanafi (2019) backed up their views on the use of GCR in a study where Google Classroom is adopted and used in Islamic education. Learners have a positive attitude towards technology acceptance according to some studies (Mousa et al., 2020; Kanwal & Rehman, 2017). Supportively, Hussein (2017) also affirmed that attitude plays a significant role in persuading students to use e-learning. Furthermore, several studies on attitudes and intentions to use e-learning have supported this conclusion. According to Altawallbeh et al. (2015) and Granić & Marangunić (2019), attitude is a critical factor in determining whether to use technology or not. Thus, it is assumed that *attitude may influence GCR acceptance (H1)*.

H2-3: Institutional willingness and educational policy lead to GCR acceptance: Abazi-Bexheti et al. (2018) asserted that LMS is considered a key technology to support HEI learning. The study further acknowledged that almost every institution varies in terms of experience in using the system. Toquero (2020) asserted that quality higher education is considered a crucial factor to produce competent professionals that would build a strong nation and the best way to get along with global competition (Ajagbe et al., 2011; Al-Marroof & Al-Emran, 2018). The study concluded that interactive teaching materials from GCR could be used to achieve the institution's educational goals. Therefore, this study assumes that *educational policy may influence acceptance of GCR (H2) and that institutional willingness among the HEI may influence educational policy to accept GCR (H3)*.

H4: Moderating effects of trialability: Moderating variables are introduced when there is an unexpectedly weak or inconsistent relation between an antecedent (independent variable) and an outcome across studies (Baron & Kenny, 1986; Frazier et al., 2004). Andersson et al. (2014) affirmed that moderating variables can also be tested for the purpose of obtaining new theoretical insights. According to Gardner et al. (2017) and Froese et al. (2018), if *M* moderates the relationship between the variable *X* and the variable *Y*, this may not necessarily be a good hypothesis. Thus, the purpose of this study was to hypothesize a moderating role of trialability in the relationship between technical access and educational advisory (Aguinis et al., 2017; Memon et al., 2019). Trialability paths are being considered because the Philippine educational advisory allows colleges and universities to select the LMS of their choice. Furthermore, Kousar et al. (2017) emphasized that state intervention considerably moderates the relationship among difficulty, relative benefits, trialability and technology adoption. Ngafeeson and Sun's (2015) study on the moderating effects of system exposure indicated that the implemented program has a moderating effect on the electronic textbook adoption behaviour of users. It was hypothesized that device exposure moderated the impact of two variables on behavioural intent: ease of use and subjective norm (Vafaei-Zadeh et al., 2018; Shiau & Chau, 2016). Considering these facts, it is thus hypothesized that *trialability of GCR may have a moderating effect on educational policy (H4)*.

H5-H6: Perceived purposefulness and educational policy lead to the use of Google Classroom: Ewing and Cooper (2021) stated that the pandemic has accelerated the implementation of emerging technologies in classrooms. Ivanovic and Milenkovski (2019) also stressed that the advancement of technology is accelerating teaching and learning, providing a faster way to transfer knowledge, values and skills. New ways of gaining different competencies are rapidly being introduced as today's generation requires the use and support of the latest types of modern IT solutions. The younger generations are getting interested in the online world of the internet and other computer-based technologies. Technical benefits of cost savings, rapid growth and development and faster processes have been achieved with the use of many innovations. Perceived usefulness strongly influenced peoples' intentions (Davis et al., 1989). Therefore, it is hypothesized that *purposefulness may influence educational policy (H5) and that purposefulness may influence Google Classroom acceptance (H6)*.

H7-8: Trialability and technology acceptance decision: Trialability reflects the extent to which an invention may be evaluated. It eliminates confusion for those who learn by doing and for those who restrict themselves before making any commitment (Rogers, 2004; Waheed et al., 2015). Innovations that allow trial periods attract more users and positively influence their adoption (Oluyinka et al., 2015; Pandl et al., 2021). The belief of teachers and students that GCR can be tested before it is decided for use and approved by the other stakeholders is referred to as trialability in this study. In a report on e-learning adoption in China, Duan et al. (2010) found that only perceived compatibility and trialability have a substantial impact on e-learning adoption intention. Rai et al. (2020) and Siswanto et al. (2018) asserted that technical facility access corresponds to the external factors that facilitate an operation. This includes hardware availability, software, quick internet connectivity and technical support, among others, which facilitate users' accessing and using of technology (Webster et al., 2013) suggested that educational policy could be influenced by the element of innovation diffusion. Thus, this study expects that *trialability of GCR may influence educational policy (H7) and that trialability of GCR may influence technical access (H8)*.

Moreover, Figure 1 shows the hypothetical conceptual framework of the study.

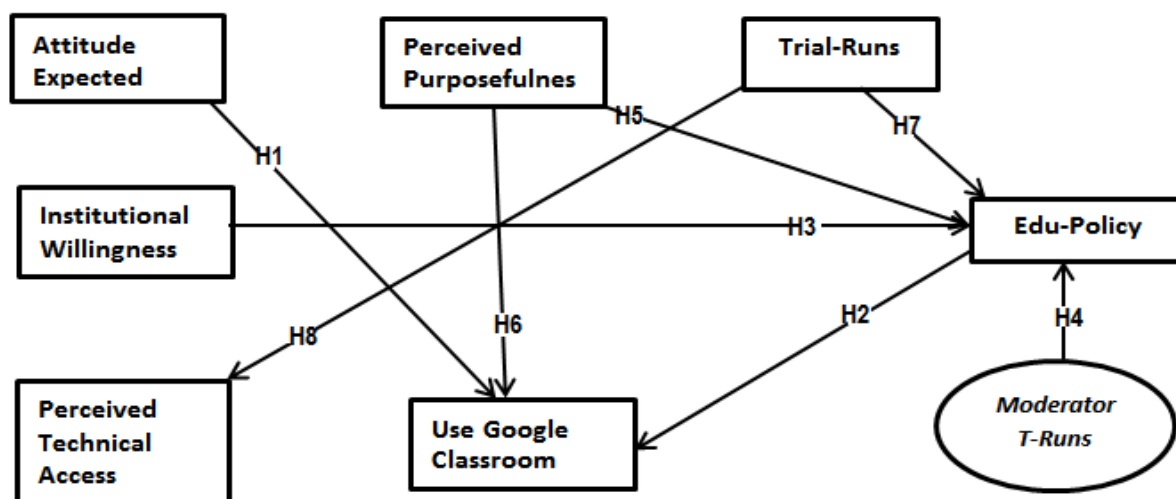


Figure 1. Conceptual framework of the study.

4 Analysis and Results

4.1 Participants' demographic information

The study included students (82% of the total) and teachers (18% of the total). The age groups were 18 to 25 years old (71%) and 26 to 33 years old (16% of the total). The study is dominated by females (51% of total); and males make up only 41% of total, while 8% chose not to indicate. It is widely predicted that the

mathematical expressions of teachers and students would be at least at a ratio of 1 to 3 (Dana & Yendol-Hoppey, 2019). Thus, the present research had a total sample size of 913 participants, which can be viewed as adequate (Türel, 2011).

4.2 Reliability and validity analysis

A total of 33 measures were subjected to a composite reliability test, which confirmed the discriminant validity of the constructs between 0.86 to 0.97 based on the average correlation above 0.5 (Sarstedt et al., 2019; Oluyinka et al., 2018). Nevertheless, the coefficient for the moderator constructs indicated 1.000 as expected (Jiménez-Carvelo, 2019). An initial sample of 913 was bootstrapped to 5000 samples in the SmartPLS 3.0 subsample setting. A *p*-value of less than 0.05 was adopted, and variance explained was likewise adopted to predict the good fit of the model (Oluyinka et al., 2018; Dayrit & Lacap, 2020; Calma & Oluyinka, 2020; Oluyinka et al., 2021). This study further examined the validity of the instruments using discriminant tests after the justification of Cronbach's alpha.

Furthermore, the discriminant validity of the constructs justified the recommended average correlation above 0.5 (Sarstedt et al., 2019; Oluyinka et al., 2018). As a result, considerable reliability and internal consistency were obtained among the items in the factor loading, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Measurement items retained.

Codes: construct reliability and validity				
Retained items	Factor loading	Alpha	Composite reliability	Average variance extracted
Attitude				
ATT1: I can use GCR to engage in the teaching and learning process.	.834	.878		.779
ATT2 : Using technology is a pleasant idea during the COVID- 19 pandemic.	.920		.879	
ATT3: I think using Google Classroom is an appealing idea.	.892			
Educational policy				
EP1: I think providing distance learning during pandemic by the HEI is in accordance with CHED's advisory or directive.	.712	.897		.605.
EP2 : CHED's advisory supported the use of learning management system at home with parental guidance.	.794		.799	
EP3: I think the government will support blended learning using GCR.	.824			
Google Classroom				
GCR1: Google Classroom is a free application for users to an extent.	.856	.845		.695
GCR2: It provides timely feedback and could be blended with the face-to-face learning system.	.861			
GCR5: I feel the application may enhance communication skills for low self-esteem users.	.787		.940	
GCR6: I think it encourages collaboration among faculty, students and management.	.876			
GCR7 : I feel GCR is equipped with the same features as other learning management systems.	.784			
Institutional willingness				
IW1: Use of a learning management system is in line with the institution's mission.	.883	.879		.732
IW2 : My school is committed to using technology in achieving academic objectives beyond just education.	.896		.911	
IW4 : My institution encourages the use of a non-traditional or technology-based teaching and learning svstem.	.740			

Codes: construct reliability and validity				
Retained items	Factor loading	Alpha	Composite reliability	Average variance extracted
Perceived purposefulness				
PP1: I think Google Classroom is an alternative to disrupted face-to- face learning system.	.869	.848		.686
PP2 : The technology is useful to complete my academic activities conveniently.	.831		.919	
PP3: The application is efficiently useful and serves its purpose in terms of time management.	.782			
Technical access				
PTA2: I have access to a computer/laptop/phone with an internet connection at home.	.822	.828		.694
PTA3:I have a dependable computer/laptop/phone with a dependable browser.	.828		.906	
PTA5 : I can easily connect my computer/laptop/phone monitor, printer and others.	.849			
Trial runs (TRUNS)				
TRU2: I think the application is adequately available for me to test-run if recommended.	.893	.912		.823
TRU3: I would like to base my decision to use GCR as a result of the demo trial.	.922			
TRU5 : I would like to test-run GCR as a learning management system with my academic activities.	.834		.908	
Moderator TRUNS →Educational policy	.974	1.000	1.000	

A total of 23 out of 33 items were retained for the structural equation modelling. On the Google Classroom measures, the measurements for reliability and validity examinations suggested, respectively, the deletion of two items: “The application organizes assignments and creates a paperless study environment” (GCR3) and “I guess teaching and learning can take place online with the use of the application” (GCR4) and one item: “I think my teaching methods and learning goals are being addressed in GCR” (ATT4).

The investigation also advised the removal of “I believe the government may include incentives for technology users in the future” (EP4) from the educational policy measures. Similarly, “The school gives chances and prompt help to instructors” (IW3) was suggested as one of the institutional policy measures to be removed. This was on perceived purposefulness, which is why “I believe that during this time of pandemic, the purpose of LMS such as GCR is timely” (PP4) was eliminated from the modelling. Moreover, the examination suggested two items for deletion: “I have a smartphone with an installed necessary application for online teaching and learning” (PTA1) and “I am willing to seek connectivity with neighbours/family at home” (PTA4) on the basis of perceived technical access. Likewise, two items were removed: “I think I would like to try them first before deciding to use GCR” (TRU1) and “I think before deciding on using GCR or not, I want to experience the necessity of using it” (TRU4).

4.3 Measurement validity

The convergent and discriminant validity coefficients corresponding to the considered total sample were computed. The calculated values of convergent and discriminant validity coefficients exceeded the threshold values (Hair et al., 2012). The heterotrait-monotrait ratio of correlations (HTMT) also found a supported range of 0.164 to 0.794, all below 0.85 (Ringle et al., 2018), as shown in Figure 2.

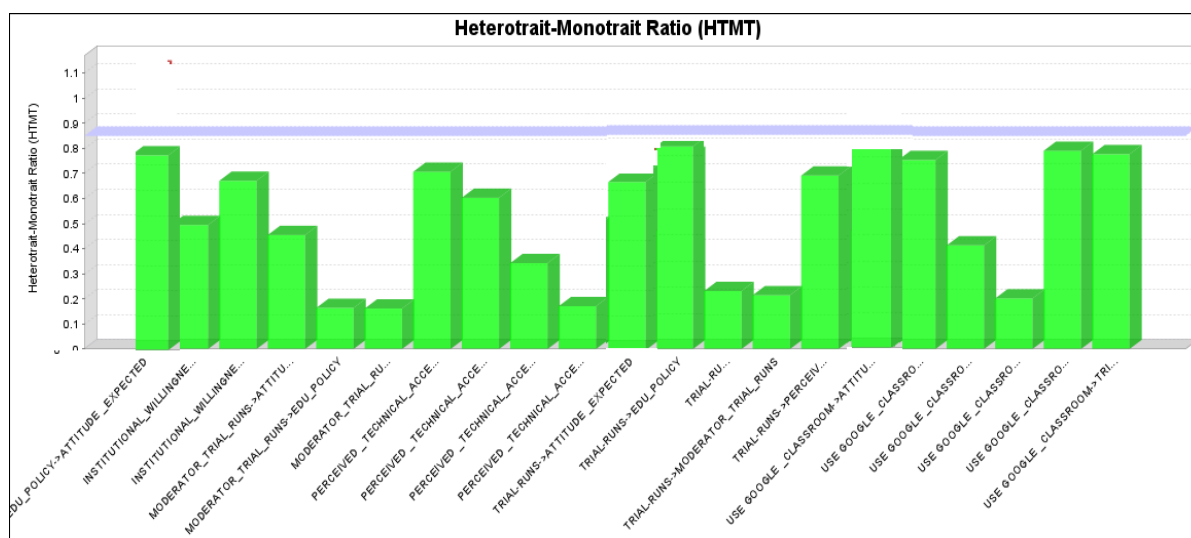


Figure 2. Heterotrait-monotrait ratio of correlation.

The Cronbach's alpha ranges from 0.742 to 0.908, the rho_A ranges from 0.724 to 0.911, the composite reliability (CR) ranges from 0.744 to 0.932, and the average variance explained (AVE) ranges from 0.533 to 0.733. Nevertheless, the value of 1.000 noted in the moderator_trial_runs and edu_policy is the default setting of the moderating effect property estimate of SmartPLS 3.0 (Ringle et al., 2018; Memon et al., 2019). Table 2 depicts the measurement construction for reliability and validity in structural equation modelling.

Table 2. Measurement construction reliability and validity.

Matrix	Cronbach's alpha	Rho_A	Composite reliability	A V E
Attitude_Expected	0.788	0.724	0.744	0.533
Edu_Policy	0.781	0.789	0.873	0.696
Institutional_Willingness	0.910	0.900	0.789	0.556
Moderator_Trial_Runs	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
Edu_Policy*	-	1.000	-	-
Perceived_Technical_Access	0.742	0.750	0.854	0.662
Trail_Runs	0.908	0.911	0.932	0.733
UseGoogle_Classroom	0.894	0.899	0.921	0.702

Furthermore, the SmartPLS 3.0 algorithm report revealed that all of the model's dimensions have acceptable discriminant validity and are reliable for bootstrapping towards the final structural equation modelling of this study.

4.4 Structural model outcomes

The structural variance tests were performed after a good fit of the measurement model was established. A structural equation modelling (SEM) approach was used in this study to evaluate the moderating impact of trial runs as well as the influence of perceived purposefulness in the link between educational policy and the use of Google Classroom. The structure of the path diagram (Figure 4 and Table 2) illustrates the connections between the dimensions based on the tested assumptions. In this way, it is possible to visualize both the direct and indirect effect of one factor on others. The significance of the hypotheses is justified by *t*-statistics (usually $\leq \pm 1.96$) and the computed *p*-value (usually ≤ 0.05). The

results showed that all the fit indexes examined in the case of the hypothesized structural model were significant according to quality index values (Solomon et al., 2014; Ringle et al., 2018; Memon et al., 2019; Agboola & Oluyinka, 2019).

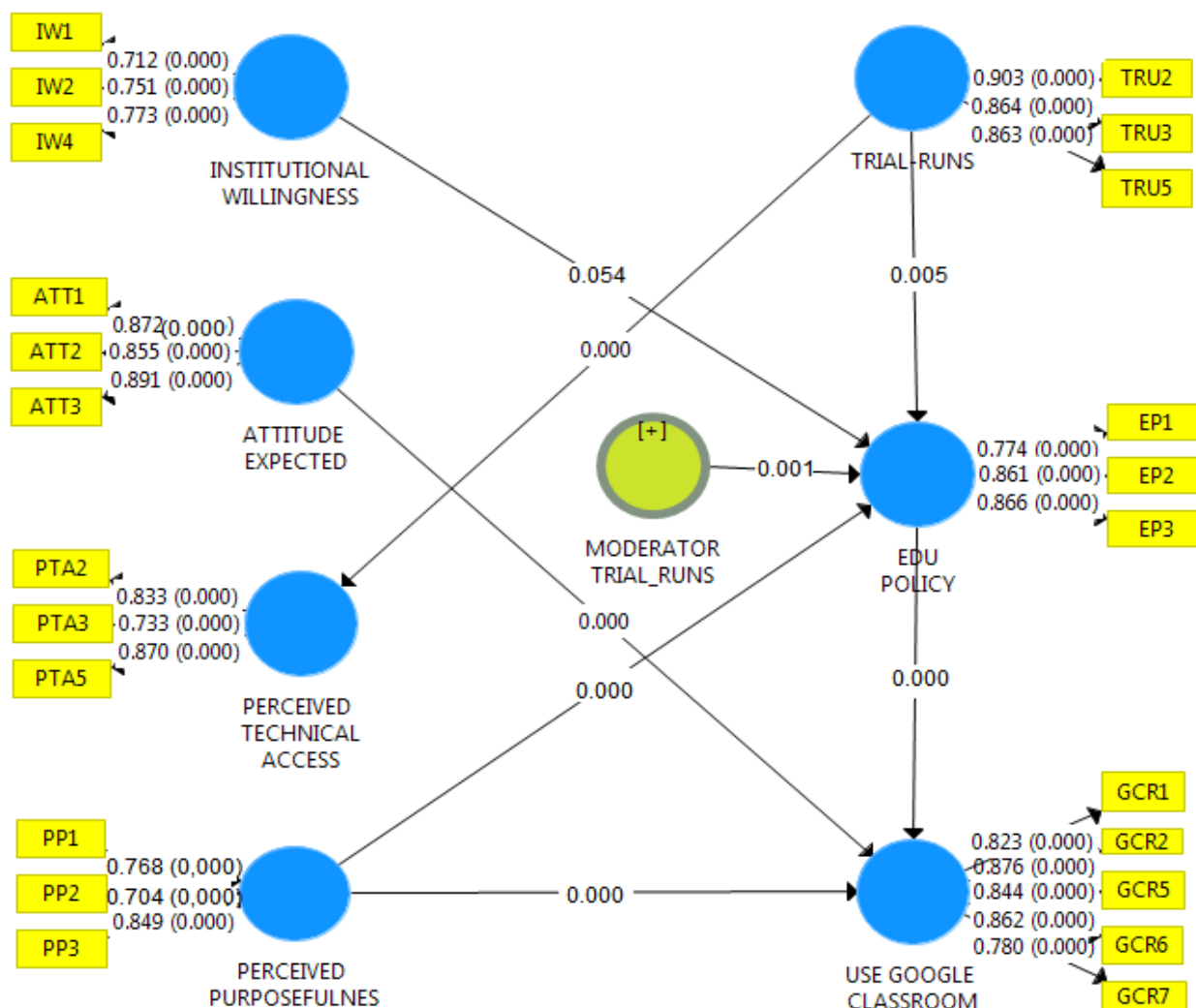


Figure 3. Trial runs and purposefulness effect of GCR acceptance structured model.

Table 3 illustrates the hypothetical and path coefficients of the study.

Table 3. Hypothetical path coefficients.

Hypothesized paths				Mean	SEerror	T-stat	P-value
H1	Attitude Expected	→	Use Google Classroom	0.272	0.116	2.787	0.005
H2	Educational Policy	→	Use Google Classroom	0.404	0.146	5.941	0.000
H3	Institutional willingness	→	Educational Policy	0.069	0.079	1.923	0.054
H4	Moderator-TRuns	→	Educational Policy	0.412	0.114	3.282	0.001
H5	Perceived Purposefulness	→	Educational Policy	0.611	0.092	6.615	0.000

H6	Perceived Purposefulness	→	Use Google Classroom	0.422	0.096	4.088	0.000
H7	Trial Runs	→	Educational Policy	0.303	0.113	2.803	0.005
H8	Trial Runs	→	Perceived Technological Access	0.579	0.891	9.769	0.000

Table 3 indicates that all the stated hypotheses are supported from values < 0.00 to < 0.054 . For H1: Attitude is expected to influence GCR acceptance; this is supported at $t = 2.787$; $p < 0.005$. This indicates that the attitude of the students and teachers investigated revealed that acceptance of Google Classroom is influenced by the expected attitude of the users. For H2: Educational policy may influence acceptance of GCR; it is supported at $t = 5.941$; $p < 0.000$, which is suggested as one of the most significant findings of this study; this implies that a clear decision with respect to a learning management system such as Google Classroom, acceptance can be influenced by the CHED. For H3: Institutional willingness may influence educational policy to accept GCR among the HEI; it is partially supported at $t = 1.923$; $p < 0.054$. For H4: Trialability of GCR may have a moderating effect on educational policy; it is also supported at $t = 3.282$; $p < 0.001$. Furthermore, H5: Perceived purposefulness may influence educational policy; this has been found to be highly supported ($t = 6.615$; $p < 0.000$) as well as H6: *Purposefulness may influence Google Classroom acceptance* ($t = 4.088$; $p < 0.000$). For H7: Trialability of GCR may influence educational policy among the users; it is supported at $t = 2.803$; $p < 0.005$. Nevertheless, the hypothesis H8: Trialability of GCR may influence technical access, has been found to be the most influential assumption in this study ($t = 9.769$; $p < 0.000$). This is highly considered among the public HEI in Region III, Philippines.

Trialability moderating effects in the relationship between educational policy and use of Google Classroom were based on a two-stage calculation method. Product term generation which was based on standardized default was adopted (Hair et al., 2017; Henseler et al., 2012). The moderating effects of trialability and purposefulness on GCR to educational policy revealed an explained variance of 0.858, or 86% of the variance. This was generated and reported based on the SmartPLS 3.0 default. Moreover, the expected attitude, perceived purposefulness, and educational policy on use of Google Classroom indicated 95% variance. Details are provided in Figure 4 and Table 3. In Table 4, the total effects of trialability and purposefulness by rank are shown.

Table 4. Total effects of trialability and purposefulness by rank.

No.	Hypothetical paths	T-statistics	Supported/Not	Rank
1	Trial runs -> educational policy	11.667	Supported	Top 1
2	Perceived purposefulness -> use Google Classroom	8.793	Supported	Top 3
3	Attitude expected -> use Google Classroom	3.552	Supported	Top 6
4	Educational policy -> use Google Classroom	8.743	Supported	Top 4
5	Institutional willingness -> educational policy	1.987	Partially supported	Top 8
6	Moderator t-runs -> educational policy	3.414	Supported	Top 7
7	Perceived purposefulness -> educational policy	6.946	Supported	Top 5
8	Trial runs -> perceived technical access	11.133	Supported	Top 2

5 Discussion and Implications

The hypotheses raised in this study had all been supported, which proves that Google Classroom is an appropriate platform for colleges and universities. Influenced by two most important factors, namely trialability and purposefulness, Google Classroom has been accepted and adopted in higher institutions of learning.

The study described some relationships which assessed willingness to use GCR. It examined the impact of purposefulness, perception of technological access, and the moderating effects of trial runs in line with the CHED's advisory to use online learning modalities. Supported by the studies of Toquero (2020) and Rahmad et al. (2019), the findings justified the fact that the acceptance and adoption of Google Classroom depends on the positive relationship and agreement between public higher education institutions and the consideration of the educational board on distance learning.

The construct has a positive overall correlation with the use of GCR, educational policy, anticipated attitude and institutional willingness. According to the statistical explanations for the target objectives, a trial run on the technical access path is considered the most significant in this analysis. In addition, findings indicate that the trial runs play a moderating role in the policies and aims of the education board allowing GCR to be used by the public HEI. Studies have found support for these results (Abd Manan & Hanafi, 2019; Albashtawi & Al Bataineh, 2020).

Moreover, the findings of this study are expected to guide students to concentrate on the skills required to be developed, resulting in effective learning during and after the outbreak of COVID-19. Effective use and adoption of GCR establishes an academic learning atmosphere where both teachers and students encourage acceptance of the system.

The moderating effect analysis indicates that total effect exists among the suggested factors to use Google Classroom. It distinguishes the total moderating effects of trialability on educational policy to use Google Classroom. This means that a trial of the learning system called *Google Classroom* should be considered in Philippine higher education institutions during the COVID-19 pandemic. The said technology could serve as a point of reference to substantially contribute to the current educational system.

6 Conclusions and Recommendations

The present study adopted the TAM model and reviewed studies related to the acceptance of technology in education. A structural equation model with the specification of complete bootstrapped, regression and moderating effects and built-in SmartPLS 3.0 for analysis was used to achieve the objectives of the study. However, trial runs were adopted as moderating factors. This was done considering that there were setbacks on perceived technical access, attitude, educational policy, institutional willingness and perceived purposefulness towards GCR among the justified predictable constructs investigated based on 5000 bootstrapped settings samples.

The findings of the study reveal that seven of the hypotheses raised were highly supported and only one was partially supported. This proves that Google Classroom is an appropriate platform for colleges and universities. Influenced by two most important factors, namely trialability and purposefulness, Google Classroom has been accepted and adopted in higher institutions of learning.

Hence, the following conclusions can be made: Google Classroom has been found to be very effective; thus, it has been accepted by Filipino students and teachers in the present study, trialability and

purposefulness are two great factors that helped in the acceptance and adoption of Google Classroom in colleges and universities. Professional development programmes such as workshops and seminars are needed by the teachers and the learners. Furthermore, Google Classroom is used in other countries. Its effectiveness has been supported in the studies of Alajmi et al. (2018) and Washington (2019). On the part of tools, SmartPLS 3.0 has been found to be very helpful in analysing the moderation of a specified factor, and internet connection is a problem among teachers and learners.

Nevertheless, based on the conclusions given, the following are recommended: the education board led by the CHED should consider the adoption of GCR and public HEI should support users with an internet connection and further promote technology acceptance. In addition, professional development programmes need to be arranged for teachers to encourage the use of GCR for learning activities outside the classroom. The generalizability of our findings may be confirmed by performing another study, which is strongly recommended. Meanwhile, future researchers may need to double-check the research findings and look into the influence of other factors such as expected attitude or educational policy in the context of the moderator. Institutions should be prepared to identify strategies for promoting and inspiring student engagement as well as understanding the value of learning skills in GCR. More time should be allocated for slow students to finish their homework due to a low level of connectivity as indicated in the research concerns. Students who are unable to have full access to technology at home should be given alternative activities in performing their assigned school tasks.

Additional Information and Declarations

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Conflict of Interests: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

Author Contributions: S.O.: conceptualization, data curation, formal analysis, software, investigation, project administration, supervision, validation, writing – original draft. M.C.: funding acquisition, methodology, resources, visualization, writing – review and editing.

Data Availability: The data that support the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author. Attached herein is the link to questionnaire:

<https://forms.gle/4opnfR6jZNKwbfdS6>

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