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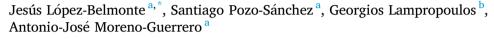
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Research article

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Design and validation of a questionnaire for the evaluation of educational experiences in the metaverse in Spanish students (METAEDU)



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ABSTRACT

The aim of this study is to design and validate an instrument that allows the evaluation of educational experiences and formative assessment in the metaverse from a holistic perspective. Hence, a research design based on the development of a scale has been used. Three hundred and sixty-two Spanish secondary school students participated in the study, selected through purposive sampling. The instrument created has been subjected to an analysis of content validity, validity by expert judgment, construct validity, and reliability. For data analysis, the SPSS and AMOS programs have been used. An exploratory factor analysis and a confirmatory factor analysis have been performed to determine the construct validity. In addition, the Cronbach's alpha has been calculated to verify the internal consistency of the tool. The results reveal several findings that position the resulting questionnaire as a valid and reliable instrument to evaluate educational experiences and practices in the metaverse. In short, this study has led to the development of a comprehensive evaluation tool at the service of educators or any institution interested in implementing its educational praxis within the metaverse, a field of research that has yet to be explored.

1. Introduction

Technology-enhanced learning is becoming more popular as more educators are trying to implement technological applications within their teaching activities (Bayne, 2015). This fact can assist in meeting students' new educational needs and requirements (Moreno-Guerrero et al., 2021). More engaging learning experiences that promote meaningful learning and enable students to actively participate are sought after (Crisol-Moya et al., 2020). With new digital devices and emerging technological applications being rapidly integrated into the educational process (Zawacki-Richter and Latchem, 2018), it is essential to create and apply proper validation tools and instruments to assess their impact, usability and accessibility in educational contexts.

The topic of metaverse is gaining ground. Metaverse is based upon the Generation Z social value that there is no difference between one's offline and online self (Park and Kim, 2022). Metaverse can be regarded as a next-generation internet application, a social form and virtual world which utilizes novel technologies to create a virtual living environment which can be produced and edited by users and integrates economic,

social and identity systems (Ning et al., 2021). These shared, perpetual, concurrent virtual environments are combined to create a perceived and integrated virtual universe (Lee et al., 2021) which is characterized by its hyper spatiotemporal, fully immersive and self-sustaining nature (Wang et al., 2022).

Metaverse capitalizes on virtual reality and augmented reality technologies in order to offer users a virtual presence in shared and parallel computer-generated three-dimensional (3D) virtual worlds (Lemos, 2007). As this virtual environment overcomes the boundaries of time and distance differences and allows real-time interactions and socialization (Falchuk et al., 2018), it can be described as a lifelike digital extension of the real world (Stephenson, 1992) which has interactivity, embodiment and persistence at its core (Castronova, 2001). As metaverse combines "virtually-enhanced physical reality" with "physically persistent virtual space", it enables daily tasks and interactions to move from the physical world and be carried out in the virtual one (Collins, 2008). This fact can greatly affect daily life, human societies and cultures. Moreover, users can share their experiences, thoughts, emotions and culture in these environments (Park et al., 2021) and as a result, they can create social

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identities within virtual communities that promote a sense of belonging and an improved social presence.

The findings of the recent studies, which were analyzed during the identification of the main and most frequent dimensions used to assess the effectiveness of metaverse in education, showed positive results regarding its use in education, the overall educational experience and learning outcomes. In particular, based on these findings, it can be said that metaverse aligns with the participatory and collaborative model and consequently, allows teachers to implement novel pedagogical approaches and didactic methods (Diaz, 2020). When applied in teaching and learning activities, metaverse has the potential to yield several benefits and affect the overall educational process positively by providing meaningful learning opportunities (Baynat and López, 2020). As metaverse constantly evolves both technically and culturally, it can bring about changes to both e-learning and conventional learning experiences in an innovative way (Abeles, 2007). Particularly, metaverse can create immersive, flexible, scalable, diverse and interactive learning environments that enhance students' motivation, active involvement and engagement and promote collaborative and hands-on experiences (Diaz, 2020; Tarouco et al., 2013; Vaca Barahona et al., 2016). Additionally, these environments can create synchronous and asynchronous learning experiences of high quality (Diaz, 2020; Tarouco et al., 2013) as they promote affective learning, help abolish social and identity barriers (Calongne et al., 2013), increase students' soft skills (Nurhidayah et al., 2020), creativity (Garcia, 2011) and overall communication and interaction (Vaca Barahona et al., 2016) as well as enhance subject comprehension and academic performance (Garrido-Inigo & Rodriguez-Moreno, 2013; Reyes, 2020; Schaf et al., 2012). It is worth noting that even though students might face some technical difficulties in the beginning, they are able to quickly familiarize themselves with the metaverse and its various features as they are accustomed to handling digital devices and media (Arcila, 2015). This fact in combination with the game-like nature of the metaverse (Schaf et al., 2012), the opportunity to hone their skills in real-world scenarios (Schlemmer et al., 2009) and to engage in interactive problem-solving activities (Clark, 2009) are the reasons why the use of metaverse in education is positively viewed and widely accepted by students.

Despite this fact, in order for metaverse to be more widely implemented within educational settings, there still remain some open issues and concerns regarding security, ethics and privacy that should be addressed (Chukwunonso et al., 2022; Fernandez and Hui, 2022; Wang et al., 2022). Additionally, interoperability, scalability, confidentiality, immersive realism and access and identity ubiquity are four of the core areas of metaverse that need to be further examined and developed (Dionisio et al., 2013). Particularly in the case of education, areas such as privacy issues, health concerns, students' protection, access inequality, specific metaverse laws, desensitization and identity hacking remain some main concerns and drawbacks that need to be dealt with (Pereira, 2022). If these issues are not solved, they might hinder the widespread use and the inclusion of all students in some educational activities.

As it can be seen, the implementation of metaverse in education can affect the teaching and learning activities positively and create studentcentered meaningful learning experiences and allow the educational process to take place in purely digital environments. Additionally, due to the immersive and interactive nature, the creation of safe and controlled environments and adaptation to the learners' characteristics, immersive technologies and metaverse specifically can facilitate and increase the inclusion of students in educational activities (López-Belmonte et al., 2022). Nonetheless, in order for metaverse to be more widely adopted and used in educational contexts, there is a clear need for validation and assessment tools to be developed. To evaluate the impact and successful integration of new technologies, applications and approaches within the educational domain, the development, adoption and use of appropriate, sound and reliable validation and assessment tools and instruments are essential (Caeiro et al., 2013; Shepard, 2000). Consequently, the need to have valid and reliable tools that allow the assessment of the educational

practices conducted in the metaverse arises. The expert literature on the state of the issue involves the use of various instruments to perform such a task. However, no instrument has been reported that covers the dimensional spectrum contemplated by the metaverse in the educational field. Therefore, the aim of this study to design, validate, and create a reliable assessment tool, called METAEDU, which allows the evaluation of the educational experiences carried out in the metaverse from a holistic perspective. Under the concept of educational experiences, all those actions designed, planned and implemented by the teacher are included so that the students can achieve the different objectives and didactic contents.

The evaluation tool uses key dimensions that were identified in the literature. These dimensions can be related to students' interaction with the metaverse, its virtual contents as well with other participants (teachers and students), to its accessibility and management, to its intrinsic possibilities as well as to its ability to create fun, interesting, engaging and motivating learning experiences (Pozo-Sánchez et al., 2020). An additional dimension that is essential to be included in the current era is that of netiquette, ethics and digital literacy (Soler-Costa et al., 2021).

2. Method

2.1. Research design

To achieve the scope of the proposed objective, a research design based on the development of a scale has been used (Ato et al., 2013; Parra-González et al., 2022). Additionally, the design is transversal in terms of time and correlational with respect to the stated objective. This type of research design is used to study the psychometric properties of an assessment tool (Hernández et al., 2014).

2.2. Participants

Three hundred and sixty-two Spanish students participated in the study. Of this number, 39.5% are men (n = 143) and the rest (60.5%) are women (n = 219). These students are between the ages of 14 and 16 (M = 15.3; SD = 1.226), enrolled in the 3rd (n = 208; 57.5%) and 4th (n = 154; 42.5%) year of Compulsory Secondary Education of the Spanish Educational System. These subjects were selected through purposive sampling. This technique is justified by researchers in the choice of pilot centers in which innovative educational practices are carried out in the metaverse.

2.3. Instrument

During the literature review phase, a search was made for instruments used in preliminary research. The purpose of the search was to acquire a range of tools with which to explore how the educational experiences carried out in the metaverse by other researchers have been evaluated. After this process, various instruments were reported which were then grouped into the following, most prominent categories: Interviews (Jaffurs, 2011; Schlemmer et al., 2009); Ad hoc questionnaires (Clark, 2009; Reyes, 2020; Tarouco et al., 2013); Observation records (García, 2011; Nurhidayah et al., 2020); Mixed-method tools (Peña, 2014; Díaz et al., 2020); Validated questionnaires (Park et al., 2021).

After analyzing the dimensions and variables of the various tools, it was decided to use the instruments designed by Peña (2014) and Tarouco et al. (2013). Furthermore, to complement these instruments, the European Digital Competence Framework was taken as a reference to incorporate the netiquette dimension and the adaptation of the Motivated Strategies for Learning Questionnaire (MSLQ) to Spanish to measure student motivation (Segura-Robles et al., 2021).

This implied that after the analysis of the previous literature and the validation and reliability process were carried out, the final design of the METAEDU questionnaire consisted of a total of 68 items, grouped into the following 8 dimensions: 1) Interaction with technology; 2) Intrinsic

possibilities; 3) Accessibility and handling; 4) Interaction; 5) Interest; 6) Motivation; 7) Learning; 8) Netiquette (Appendix 1).

The final tool developed uses a six-point Likert-type rating scale (0 = never; 1 = rarely; 2 = occasionally; 3 = frequently; 4 = many times; 5 = always).

In the result section of this manuscript, the different validation and reliability processes carried out in this instrument are detailed with greater precision, with the aim of achieving a valid and reliable tool for the evaluation of educational experiences in the metaverse.

2.4. Procedure

This research is part of the Project called: We arrived at the META: teaching methodology for the transformation of learning in the metaverse, with code 22–115 and endorsed by the University of Granada (Spain).

In this study, a strict process has been followed, structured in different actions: a) review of the literature; b) identification of previous instruments; c) tool design and development; d) content validity; e) construct validity; f) reliability of the instrument. This study was approved by an ethics committee (MTV22). Moreover, informed consent was obtained from participants in this research. The participation of the subjects was completely voluntary. The anonymity of the students was respected at all times. Additionally, the participants had the right to withdraw from the study at any given time if they considered it appropriate.

Once the questionnaire was validated through the judgment of various experts, it was applied to the students virtually through the institutional platforms of the educational centers. A period of 14 days

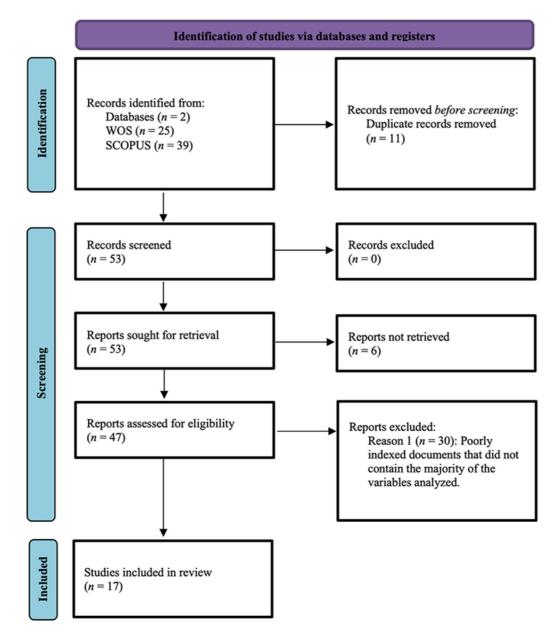


Figure 1. PRISMA protocol phases.

was established for the students to respond to the questions raised. The teachers of these educational centers collaborated so that the students responded to the tool objectively and satisfactorily. Once a relevant number of respondents was reached, the statistical analysis was performed to continue with the validation of the instrument.

2.5. Data analysis

Statistical analysis was conducted with version 25 of the SPSS and AMOS programs. Descriptive statistics were used to provide information on the sociodemographic characteristics of the participants. An exploratory factor analysis (EFA) and subsequent confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) were performed to determine construct validity. Cronbach's alpha (α) was used to verify the internal consistency of the tool. In addition, confidence intervals utilizing boostrap or resampling techniques have been applied, using McDonald's Omega (Romero-Rodríguez et al., 2022).

3. Results

3.1. Content validity

Content validity refers to the degree to which an instrument reflects a specific content domain of what is measured. It is the degree to which the measurement represents the concept or variable measured (Hernández et al., 2014). In this case, the authors of this manuscript reviewed more than 64 documents. To determine the choice of these documents, a search equation was performed in Web of Science (WOS) and SCOPUS, having applied a PRISMA protocol (Figure 1) with the search equation related to "metaverse" for this purpose. Of these documents, 16 were research articles and 1 was a book chapter on the subject of the study. The type of studies analyzed were systematic reviews (n = 2), meta-analyses (n = 0), qualitative studies (n = 5), quantitative studies (n = 6) and mixed studies (n = 4).

After completing the review, the most frequent dimensions were established: 1) Interaction with technology; 2) Intrinsic possibilities; 3) Accessibility and handling; 4) Interaction; 5) Interest; 6) Motivation; 7) Learning; and 8) Netiquette.

Subsequently, bearing these dimensions in mind, a detailed search was carried out in the scientific literature to determine the possible items that could constitute these dimensions. In this case, the dimensions already established in the studies related to metaverse were used as a basis, but to complement and enrich the instrument, the action presented below was carried out as indicated above.

3.2. Validity of expert judgment

Once the content validity was completed, we proceeded to the expert validity (Escobar-Pérez and Cuervo-Martínez, 2008). For this purpose, questions were asked about the appropriateness of each item. The adequacy criteria were related to quality, coherence, and relevance (Dorantes et al., 2016). Each item was answered by the experts on a 5-point Likert-type scale. The levels were distributed as follows: 1 (Does not meet the criterion), 2 (Low level), 3 (Medium level), 4 (High level) and 5 (Meets the criterion perfectly). In each of the items, the possibility of establishing comments and/or proposals was offered.

The selection of experts was made bearing in mind the following premises:

- Experience in the subject matter: for this purpose, the WOS and SCOPUS databases were visualized to identify experts of the subject in the Spanish context. As the instrument was evaluated and validated in the Spanish context, it was essential for the experts to be familiar with it.
- Experience in the validity of instruments in the educational field: the WOS and SCOPUS databases were visualized to identify the most relevant instruments in both Spanish and international contexts.

• Experience in the educational field: this was done by searching on Twitter, using the hashtag #metaverso and #metaverse. In this case, the aim was to identify the most relevant international educational experts.

For each case, three candidates were selected. Their profiles are displayed in Table 1 of the expert judgment protocol (Romero-Rodríguez et al., 2022):

From the answers given by the experts, the data was compiled taking into account the mean and standard deviation statistics. In addition, the concordance index of each item was taken into consideration in relation to the criteria of clarity, coherence, and relevance (Table 2). The calculation of the concordance index was made taking into account the frequency, represented as a percentage based on the scores given by the authors to each item according to the established Likert scale (1–5).

From the initial 72 items, four items were eliminated and three items were not considered due to their having a mean of less than 3. For those items with mean scores between 4 and 5, the comments of the experts were taken into account to modify and improve them. It should be noted that the experts' ratings below 5 were mainly due to questions of wording or inadequacy for the objectives of the instrument.

3.3. Construct validity of questionnaire

Once the content validity and expert judgment validity had been carried out, a total of 362 Spanish adolescents from different schools in Spain, were selected. This sample was the basis for proceeding to construct validation.

First, an exploratory factor analysis (EFA) was performed. For this purpose, the Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin sample adequacy measure (KMO = 0.836), which allows the assessment of the degree to which each of the variables is predictable from the other variables and Bartlett's test of sphericity (X2 = 1805.531; df = 342); p-value = 0.000) were calculated. The resulting values show the appropriateness of the relevance of conducting the EFA. The community analysis shows that the values are above 0.6, varying between 0.603 and 0.912, being adequately explained by the factor structure. In the principal component analysis with Quartimax rotation with Kaiser, the 68 items were grouped into 8 components that explained 84.56% of the variance. As for the distribution of items per factor, the first factor explained 12.31% of the variance and included six items, those referring to interaction with technology. The second factor accounted for 11.62% and included ten items related to intrinsic possibilities. The third factor represented 10.53% and included seven items,

Table 1. Expert judgment protocol.

Purpose	Confirm the appropriateness of each item on the scale.
Experts	 Expert 1. Doctor in Educational Sciences and educational technology and metaverse expert, with several publications in WOS. Expert 2. Doctor in Educational Sciences and educational technology and metaverse expert, with several publications in WOS. Expert 3. Doctor in Educational Sciences and educational technology and metaverse expert, with several publications in WOS. Expert 4. Doctor in Educational Sciences and expert in instrument validity, with various publications in WOS. Expert 5. Doctor in Educational Sciences and expert in instrument validity, with several publications in WOS. Expert 6. Doctor in Educational Sciences and expert in instrument validity, with various publications in WOS. Expert 7. Teacher specialized in the pedagogical development of the metaverse, with great relevance on Twitter. Expert 9. Teacher specialized in the pedagogical development of the metaverse, with great relevance on Twitter.
Validation mode	Single method. The experts had no connection with each other. Three have been selected according to the type of experience (theme, instrument validity and educational field).

Table 2. Mean, standard deviation and concordance index as a function of frequency.

Relevance 5/0 (100%) 5/0 (100%) 5/0 (100%) 5/0 (100%) 5/0 (100%) 4.33/.500 (86.0 5/0 (100%) 5/0 (100%) 5/0 (100%) 5/0 (100%) 5/0 (100%) 4.32/.410% 4.22/.441 (84.4 4.11/.333 (82.5)
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5/0 (100%)
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5/0 (100%)
5/0 (100%)
2.22/.411 (44.4
5/0 (100%)
5/0 (100%)
5/0 (100%)
4.11/.333 (82.2
4.78/.441 (95.6
5/0 (100%)
5/0 (100%)
1.99/.749 (39.8
5/0 (100%)
5/0 (100%)
4.22/.441 (84.4
4.78/.441 (95.0
4.11/.333 (82.2
5/0 (100%)

Table 2 (continued)

Items	M/SD (%)		
	Clarity	Coherence	Relevance
40 The three-dimensional visual effect (3D) of the environment and the characters of the metaverse have favored my motivation to interact	5/0 (100%)	5/0 (100%)	4.11/.333 (82.2)
41 The immersive experience of the metaverse has generated my interest to continue learning about other metaverses in the educational field	3.11/.413 (62.2)	2.88/.296 (57.6)	2.44/.779 (48.8)
42 The immersive experience of the metaverse has generated my interest in learning about the metaverse in other contexts	2.99/.366 (59.8)	2.11/.227 (2.11)	2.22/.285 (44.4)
43 Communicating through chat in the metaverse was interesting to me	4.22/.441 (84.4)	5/0 (100%)	5/0 (100%)
44 Communicating with a voice in the metaverse was interesting to me	4.78/.441 (95.6)	5/0 (100%)	5/0 (100%)
45 I prefer class material that is really challenging to learn new things	5/0 (100%)	5/0 (100%)	4.22/.441 (84.4)
46 I prefer class material that arouses my curiosity, even if it is difficult to learn	5/0 (100%)	5/0 (100%)	4.78/.441 (95.6)
47 The most satisfying thing for me is to understand the contents in the best possible way	4.11/.333 (82.2)	5/0 (100%)	5/0 (100%)
48 When I have the opportunity to choose, I choose to do tasks in which I can learn even if they do not guarantee a good grade	5/0 (100%)	4.78/.441 (95.6)	5/0 (100%)
49 Getting a good grade in class is the most satisfying thing for me at the moment	5/0 (100%)	5/0 (100%)	4.22/.441 (84.4)
50 The most important thing for me at the moment is to improve the average of my grades, so my main concern is to get good grades	4.78/.441 (95.6)	5/0 (100%)	5/0 (100%)
51 If I can, I want to get better grades than most of the other students	5/0 (100%)	5/0 (100%)	4.11/.333 (82.2)
52 I want to do well in class because it is important to show my ability to my family and social environment (friends, teachers or other people)	5/0 (100%)	4.78/.441 (95.6)	5/0 (100%)
53 Immersion in the metaverse has favored my ability to learn conceptual content (facts, data, and concepts)	5/0 (100%)	4.11/.333 (82.2)	5/0 (100%)
54 Immersion in the metaverse has favored my ability to learn procedural content (know how)	4.11/.333 (82.2)	5/0 (100%)	5/0 (100%)
55 Immersion in the metaverse has favored my ability to learn attitudinal content (values, attitudes, and norms)	5/0 (100%)	5/0 (100%)	4.78/.441 (95.6)
56 Immersion in the metaverse has improved my level of communicative competence	4.11/.333 (82.2)	5/0 (100%)	5/0 (100%)
57 Immersion in the metaverse has improved my ability to process information and digital competence	4.67/.500 (93.4)	5/0 (100%)	5/0 (100%)
58 Immersion in the metaverse has improved my level of social and civic competence	5/0 (100%)	5/0 (100%)	4.78/.441 (95.6)
59 Immersion in the metaverse has improved my level of competence in autonomy and personal initiative	5/0 (100%)	5/0 (100%)	5/0 (100%)
60 Immersion in the metaverse has improved my level of competence in learning to learn	5/0 (100%)	4.11/.333 (82.2)	5/0 (100%)
61 Immersion in the metaverse has allowed me to know and put into practice the proper use of multimedia communication tools within the teaching and learning process	5/0 (100%)	5/0 (100%)	4.67/.500 (93.4)
62 Immersion in the metaverse has favored my academic performance	5/0 (100%)	4.78/.441 (95.6)	5/0 (100%)
63 Immersion in the metaverse has improved my considerations about my self-esteem and my self-concept	2.11/.441 (42.2)	2.11/.349 (42.2)	2.22/.334 (44.4)
64 Immersion in the metaverse has improved my family and social environment perception of my performance	2.88/.221 (57.6)	2.77/.278 (55.4)	2.88/.471 (57.6)
65 I know and use some conventions or rules of written and iconic communication among Internet users	5/0 (100%)	5/0 (100%)	4.11/.333 (82.2)
66 I try to write my messages respectfully and without offending others	4.22/.441 (84.4)	5/0 (100%)	5/0 (100%)
67 I am aware that there are dangers arising from the use of the Internet	5/0 (100%)	5/0 (100%)	4.67/.500 (93.4)
68 I define and characterize the different inappropriate uses of the Internet and its negative effects	4.78/.441 (95.6)	5/0 (100%)	5/0 (100%)
69 I am able to identify and act in the event of cyber-bullying	5/0 (100%)	4.11/.333 (82.2)	5/0 (100%)
70 I feel discomfort and rejection towards any type of discrimination, harassment or inappropriate use of technology	4.67/.500 (93.4)	5/0 (100%)	5/0 (100%)

Table 2 (continued)

Items	M/SD (%)	M/SD (%)							
	Clarity	Coherence	Relevance						
71 I know the basic rules of education when I communicate with my peers.	5/0 (100%)	5/0 (100%)	4.78/.441 (95.6)						
72 I avoid using words or images that may be offensive or misunderstood by the recipients of my messages	4.22/.441 (84.4)	5/0 (100%)	5/0 (100%)						

Table 3. Rotated component matrix.								
Items	Factor 1	Factor 2	Factor 3	Factor 4	Factor 5	Factor 6	Factor 7	Factor 8
1 I play network role-playing games in my everyday life	0.731							
2 I interact in virtual worlds on a daily basis	0.634							
3 I use social networking social media daily	0.812							
4 I make video-conferences with other people	0.607							
5 I receive virtual education through platforms	0.711							
6 Work collaboratively through content management platforms or the cloud.	0.912							
7 I teleport to other places in the metaverse		0.603						
8 I modify my physical appearance in the metaverse		0.785						
9 I usually change the way I dress in the metaverse		0.662						
10 I handle different objects that I have in my personal inventory		0.872						
11 I open boxes that I find to expand my inventory of objects		0.650						
12 I communicate with other people in the metaverse in different formats (e.g. voice, text)		0.709						
13 I take and save photos from places that I like in the metaverse		0.635						
14 I use vehicles or other means of transportation to move around the metaverse		0.883						
15 I enjoy interacting with other people in the metaverse		0.619						
16 I interact daily in the metaverse		0.713						
17 I overcame the difficulties of access and use thanks to my teachers			0.699					
18 I overcame the difficulties of access and use thanks to my colleagues			0.769					
19 I overcame the difficulties of access and use thanks to the help of tutorials			0.714					
20 I overcame the difficulties of access and use thanks to personal research			0.881					
21 I overcame the difficulties of access and use thanks to the suggestions and help services of the system			0.701					
22 The teachers used appropriate methodologies to encourage the creative activity of the			0.634					
metaverse								
23 The tutorials were useful to resolve doubts			0.661					
24 The tutorials were useful to improve control of the system as a user			0.315					
25 The interaction in the metaverse has modified my habits of organizing free time				0.771				
26 The interaction in the metaverse has modified my sleeping habits				0.827				
27 I would like to carry out academic activities in the metaverse				0.609				
28 Interacting through my avatar has allowed me to relate easily to other people				0.901				
29 Interacting with other people in the metaverse has allowed me to relate better in real life				0.802				
30 Interacting with other people in the metaverse has allowed me to feel freer to express my ideas in real life				0.667				
31 Interacting from my virtual avatar has motivated me to learn in the metaverse				0.747				
32 Interacting with other avatars has been familiar to me due to real-life experiences				0.418				
33 Interacting in the metaverse has increased my feeling of belonging to the training community				0.613				
34 Attending classes in the metaverse has been interesting to me					0.775			
35 Solving problems in the metaverse has been interesting to me					0.893			
36 Exchanging ideas among colleagues in the metaverse has helped me strengthen my digital competence					0.704			
37 Interacting in the metaverse has improved my ability to communicate in digital environments					0.691			
38 Interacting with colleagues in the metaverse has fostered my socialization					0.887			
39 The visual communication used during the course was motivating					0.613			
40 The three-dimensional visual effect (3D) of the environment and the characters of the metaverse have favored my motivation to interact					0.730			
41 Communicating through chat in the metaverse was interesting to me					0.771			
42 Communicating with a voice in the metaverse was interesting to me					0.615			

Table 3 (continued)

Items	Factor	Factor	Factor	Factor	Factor	Factor	Factor	Factor
42. I profess along motorial that is really shallonging to loam new things	1	2	3	4	5	6 0.611	7	8
43 I prefer class material that is really challenging to learn new things						0.802		
44 I prefer class material that arouses my curiosity, even if it is difficult to learn						0.802		
45 The most satisfying thing for me is to understand the contents in the best possible way 46 When I have the opportunity to choose, I choose to do tasks in which I can learn even if						0.838		
they do not guarantee a good grade						0.073		
47 Getting a good grade in class is the most satisfying thing for me at the moment						0.669		
48 The most important thing for me at the moment is to improve the average of my grades, so my main concern is to get good grades						0.715		
49 If I can, I want to get better grades than most of the other students						0.728		
50 I want to do well in class because it is important to show my ability to my family and social environment (friends, teachers or other people)						0.822		
51 Immersion in the metaverse has favored my ability to learn conceptual content (facts, data, and concepts)							0.649	
52 Immersion in the metaverse has favored my ability to learn procedural content (know how)							0.616	
53 Immersion in the metaverse has favored my ability to learn attitudinal content (values, attitudes, and norms)							0.673	
54 Immersion in the metaverse has improved my level of communicative competence							0.782	
55 Immersion in the metaverse has improved my ability to process information and digital competence							0.648	
56 Immersion in the metaverse has improved my level of social and civic competence							0.793	
57 Immersion in the metaverse has improved my level of competence in autonomy and personal initiative							0.662	
58 Immersion in the metaverse has improved my level of competence in learning to learn							0.672	
59 Immersion in the metaverse has allowed me to know and put into practice the proper use of multimedia communication tools within the teaching and learning process							0.701	
60 Immersion in the metaverse has favored my academic performance							0.661	
61 I know and use some conventions or rules of written and iconic communication among Internet users								0.886
62 I try to write my messages respectfully and without offending others								0.664
63 I am aware that there are dangers arising from the use of the Internet								0.748
64 I define and characterize the different inappropriate uses of the Internet and its negative effects								0.619
65 I am able to identify and act in any case of cyber-bullying that arises								0.649
66 I feel discomfort and rejection towards any type of discrimination, harassment or inappropriate use of technology								0.705
67 I know the basic rules of education when I communicate with my peers								0.667
68 I avoid using words or images that may be offensive or misunderstood by the recipients of my messages								0.793

Note: Dimension 1. Interaction with technology; Dimension 2. Intrinsic possibilities; Dimension 3. Accessibility and management; Dimension 4. Interaction; Dimension 5. Interest; Dimension 6. Motivation; Dimension 7. Learning; Dimension 8. Netiquette.

corresponding to accessibility and handling. The fourth factor represented 10.42% and included eight items, related to interaction. The fifth factor represented 10.31% and included nine items related to interest. The sixth factor represented 10.11% and included eight items related to motivation. The seventh factor represented 9.92% and included ten items related to learning. The eighth and last factor represented 9.34% and included eight items related to netiquette. The factor model consisted of appropriate construct indicators (Table 3).

For the confirmatory factor analysis (CFA), goodness-of-fit indices were collected that were adequate for the model established in the validation of the instrument. Thus, the root mean square error of approximation (RMSEA = 0.015) indicated the anticipated fit with the total population value. The standardized root mean square root (SRMR = 0.048) revealed measures of the size of the model error. The goodness-offit index (GFI = 0.917) and adjusted goodness-of-fit index (AGFI = 0.872) indicated the absolute best performing rates. The Normalized Fit Index (NFI = 0.914) evaluated the decrease in the χ 2 statistic of the adopted model with respect to the base model. And the Comparative Fit Index (CFI = 0.973) reflected the percentage representativeness of the covariance that could be reproduced by the model. On the other hand, the correlations between the dimensions were positive in all cases, with the correlation established between interaction-label (R = 0.221) and interaction with technology-learning (R = 0.201) and motivation-learning (R = 0.209) being significant.

The factor weights of each of the dimensions showed the adequacy of each item with respect to the dimension of which they are part. Additionally, the dimension "interaction with technology" was composed of items 1,2,3,3,4,5 and 6 with factor weights ranging from 0.36 to 0.89. The dimension "intrinsic possibilities" was composed of items 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 with factor weights ranging between 0.31 and 0.79. The "accessibility and handling" dimension was composed of items 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22 and 23 with factor weights ranging from 0.37 to 0.86. The "interaction" dimension consisted of items 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 and 31 with factor weights ranging from 0.41 to 0.92. The "interest" dimension was composed of items 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 37, 38, 39 and 40 with factor weights ranging from 0.37 to 0.81. The "motivation" dimension consisted of items 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47 and 48 with factor weights ranging from 0.39 to 0.82. The "learning" dimension comprised of items 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 55, 56, 57 and 58 with factor weights ranging from 0.37 to 0.81. The "netiquette" dimension

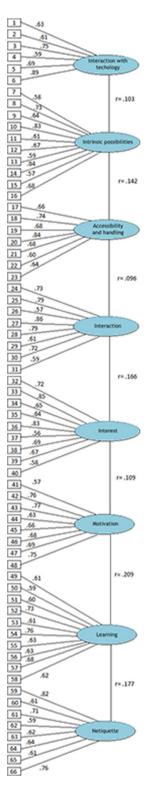


Figure 2. Confirmatory factor analysis.

consisted of items 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65 and 66 with factor weights ranging between 0.32 and 0.71 (Figure 2 and Table 4).

3.4. Reliability analysis

Reliability was calculated using Cronbach's alpha coefficient (α) and McDonald's Omega (W), being the most commonly used indices to calculate the reliability of the instruments. The overall reliability of the

Table 4. Interdimensional correlation index of the confirmatory factor analysis.

Dimensional Correlations	Correlation index
Interaction with technology-accessibility and management	r = .167
Interaction with technology-interaction	r = .091
Interaction with technology-interest	r = .112
Interaction with technology-motivation	r = .132
Interaction with technology-learning	r = .201
Interaction with technology-netiquette	r = .164
Intrinsic possibilities-interaction	r = .183
Intrinsic possibilities-interest	r = .056
Intrinsic possibilities-motivation	r = .103
Intrinsic possibilities-learning	r = .117
Intrinsic possibilities-netiquette	r = .128
Accessibility and handling-interest	r = .102
Accessibility and handling	r = .199
Accessibility and driving-learning	r = .124
Accessibility and handling-netiquette	r = .099
Interaction-motivation	r = .155
Interaction-learning	r = .138
Interaction-netiquette	r = .221
Interest-learning	r = .114
Interest-netiquette	r = .172
Motivation-netiquette	r = .101

instrument was acceptable ($\alpha = 0.81$; W = 0.82). On the other hand, for each of the dimensions the reliability was: interaction with technology (α = 0.79; W = 0.80); intrinsic possibilities (α = 0.78; W = 0.79); accessibility and handling (α = 0. 73; W = 0.75); interaction (α = 0.71; W = 0.72); interest (α = 0.70; W = 0.71); motivation (α = 0.69; W = 0.70); learning (α = 0.67; W = 0.69); netiquette (α = 0.65; W = 0.66).

4. Discussion

The analysis of the scientific literature carried out in this research shows that the metaverse as an educational environment is still under development (Crisol-Moya et al., 2020; Diaz, 2020). This is due to the fact that research into metaverse is still at its initial and exploratory stages, finding a significant gap in the scientific literature on the subject, especially in the educational field (Baynat and Lopez, 2020; Nurhidayah et al., 2020; Park et al., 2021). Thus, the proliferation of studies that analyze this new socio-educational reality on the rise is essential to exploit all its potentials for interactivity in virtual environments that are controlled and adaptable to the needs of students (Abeles, 2007; Garrido-Inigo and Rodriguez-Moreno, 2013; Reyes, 2020; Schaf et al., 2012; Schlemmer et al., 2009; Tarouco et al., 2013).

This research has addressed the need for valid and reliable tools to assess educational practices in the metaverse. Consequently, the design, validation, and reliability of an instrument to assess the educational experiences carried out in the metaverse from a holistic perspective has been conducted. The analysis of the scientific literature reflected the existence of research that has addressed this topic of study in a preliminary way, focusing on various instruments for data collection (Clark, 2009; Díaz et al., 2020; García, 2011; Jaffurs, 2011; Nurhidayah et al., 2020; Park et al., 2021; Reyes, 2020; Schlemmer et al., 2009).

Although the evaluation of learning is a common topic among questionnaires validated and published in the scientific literature, great difficulties have been found in obtaining instruments that specifically analyze educational practices in the metaverse. The educational metaverse is a field of study in an exploratory phase that requires new contributions to lay the foundations for a field of research that is still expanding.

Some instruments propose a dimensional structuring similar to the one proposed in this work (Peña, 2014; Tarouco et al., 2013), especially

in the motivational dimension developed in the MSLO (Segura-Robles et al., 2021). The interaction with technology dimension has been addressed as a fundamental aspect by authors such as Erturk and Reynolds (2020) and Estudante and Dietrich (2020), stating that digital resources are not well designed and adapted to the metaverse and consequently, their use must be optimally analyzed. Authors such as González-Crespo et al. (2013), Kanematsu et al. (2010), and Lucas et al. (2013) addressed the importance of analyzing the dimension related to intrinsic possibilities in their research. These authors have verified that, despite the adaptation in time, design, and practice of the metaverse, its intrinsic possibilities are enormous, achieving a higher quality in learning and allowing endless possibilities in educational contexts. In a similar line, addressing the learning dimension, authors such as Barry et al. (2015) and Kanematsu et al. (2010) considered that the use of the metaverse achieved a better quality of learning based on its enormous potentialities derived from the multitude of utilities that virtual learning spaces present and the sensation of face-to-face assistance with a high degree of immersion.

Starting from the proposal to analyze the interest and motivation dimension as the backbone of the instrument addressed in this study, this improvement in learning in the metaverse leads to increased student motivation and engagement and enriches traditional learning by providing experiences that would otherwise be impossible. This fact is also supported by the findings of previous studies carried out by Barry et al. (2015) and Erturk and Reynolds (2020). The dimension related to interaction is also especially important as authors such as Estudante and Dietrich (2020) and Erturk and Reynolds (2020) highlighted the significance of new mobile devices in the daily lives of students. Additionally, they pointed out that despite encouraging a greater degree of personalization and facilitating virtual interaction it can inevitably generate a reduction in students' team skills and communication.

On the other hand, in the line supported by the dimensional proposal of the instrument of this research, authors such as Belei et al. (2011) and Tlili et al. (2022) highlighted the importance of the accessibility and management dimension as a fundamental element for a suitable implementation of the educational metaverse, by verifying that at a general level, students do not have enough knowledge of technology to apply what is addressed in the classroom.

5. Conclusions

Based on this review, content validity, expert judgment validity, construct validation and reliability analyses were carried out, with the instrument obtaining positive results in all cases. In accordance with the systematization established for the validation of the instrument, the dimensions that make up the instrument were delimited from the filtering and analysis of the documents reported in the scientific literature according to the results obtained from the search equation and the PRISMA protocol. The application of the Delphi method made it possible to adjust the concordance index of each item in relation to the criteria of clarity, coherence and relevance, optimizing the instrument based on the assessments of researchers with experience in the subject, in the educational field and in the validation of instruments in this field. In terms of construct validity, positive values were obtained which supported the relevance of the exploratory factor analysis. The community analysis and the principal component analysis with Quartimax rotation with Kaiser showed positive values, and the factor structure was adequately explained. The correlations between the dimensions were positive in all cases and the factor weights of each of the dimensions showed the adequacy of each item with respect to the dimension of which it is part. Finally, the reliability analysis of the instrument based on Cronbach's alpha and McDonald's Omega coefficient yielded acceptable results for

overall reliability as well as for each of the dimensions that make up the instrument.

This work presents a set of practical implications related to its added value and its prospective, having generated a validated and reliable instrument for the evaluation of educational experiences carried out in the metaverse. On a theoretical level, this study represents an increase in the scientific literature on educational metaverse, a field of research that has vet to be explored and exploited. In this way, it will make it possible to adapt teaching and learning processes to the new times and to the rapid pace at which technology is evolving, taking advantage of all its technopedagogical potentials. On a practical level, this work culminates in the creation of an instrument that has a double intrinsic purpose. On the one hand, it will encourage the development of educational practices in the metaverse. The dissemination of the metaverse as a learning space will allow students with attendance problems related to events that prevent them from attending the face-to-face class to be adapted. The metaverse will also allow the exploitation of digital resources that facilitate attention to diversity: instant translation, generation of subtitles, individualized use of curricular content or accessibility for students with specific difficulties. On the other hand, such instructional actions deployed in this virtual environment can be effectively assessed due to the design of this questionnaire. A tool has been designed that provides a holistic perspective by covering a broad dimensional spectrum in which the dimensions most in demand and used by the teaching community in their usual educational evaluation practices are integrated. Consequently, this study has led to the development of a comprehensive assessment tool at the service of educators or any institution interested in this field of study.

The contextual restriction derived from the generalization of the results and the exploratory phase of the research field can be mentioned as the main limitations of this study. Specifically, the research is limited by its contextual restriction, since this questionnaire has been initially validated in a Spanish context and adolescent population. Therefore, for the tool to maintain its relevant psychometric properties of validity and reliability, its application is limited to this group. This contextual limitation creates an opportunity as a line of future research, through which we intend to carry out the process of translation and adaptation to other contexts to internationalize the tool and contribute to the study of educational experiences carried out in the metaverse in different regions and cultures. Regarding the existing extrinsic limitations in the potential use of this instrument as an evaluation tool, it is necessary to highlight the complexity of the metaverse and the exploratory phase in which we find ourselves within this field of study. These limitations overlap with the need for broader holistic and interdisciplinary perspectives that approach the analysis of the metaverse and its particularities from a global and integrative perspective. The metaverse is a field of study with multiple uses in various fields, which requires the integration of various study disciplines so that research can be carried out in a unified way that complements its results from different perspectives. This complexity also requires a detailed analysis of the feasibility, effectiveness, and suitability of the various methodological strategies required to address such a complex issue, as well as the creation and design of new metaversespecific methodologies arising from the principles of the new paradigms of learning spaces.

Declarations

Author contribution statement

Jesús López-Belmonte: Conceived and designed the experiments; Contributed reagents, materials, analysis tools or data; Wrote the paper. Santiago Pozo-Sánchez: Performed the experiments; Contributed reagents, materials, analysis tools or data; Wrote the paper.

Georgios Lampropoulos: Contributed reagents, materials, analysis tools or data; Wrote the paper.

Antonio-José Moreno Guerrero: Analyzed and interpreted the data; Contributed reagents, materials, analysis tools or data; Wrote the paper.

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Data availability statement

Data included in article/supp. material/referenced in article.

Competing interest statement

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

Additional information

No additional information is available for this paper.

Appendix 1. METAEDU questionnaire in its original language for the Spanish context.

Ítems	Es	cala	a de	valo	ració	ı	
	0		1	2	3	4	5
Interacción con la tecnología							
1 Juego a juegos de rol en red en mi día a día							
2 Interactúo en mundos virtuales cotidianamente							
3 Uso redes sociales a diario							
4 Realizo videoconferencias con otras personas							
5 Recibo una enseñanza virtual mediante plataformas							
6 Trabajo de forma colaborativa mediante plataformas de gestión de contenidos o nube.							
Posibilidades intrínsecas							
7 Me teletransporto a otros lugares del metaverso							
8 Modifico mi apariencia personal en el metaverso							
9 Suelo cambiar mi forma de vestir en el metaverso.							
10 Manejo distintos objetos que dispongo en mi inventario personal							
11 Abro cajas que me encuentro para ampliar mi inventario de objetos							
12 Me comunico con otras personas del metaverso en distintos formatos (voz, texto)							
13 Hago fotos y las guardo de lugares que me gustan del metaverso							
14 Monto en vehículos u otros medios de transporte para desplazarme por el metaverso.							
15 Disfruto interactuando con otras personas en el metaverso							
16 Interactúo diariamente en el metaverso							
Accesibilidad y manejo							
17 Superé las dificultades de acceso y uso gracias a mis tutores							
18 Superé las dificultades de acceso y uso gracias a mis colegas							
19 Superé las dificultades de acceso y uso gracias a la ayuda de tutoriales							
20 Superé las dificultades de acceso y uso gracias a través de la investigación personal							
21 Superé las dificultades de acceso y uso gracias a las sugerencias y servicios de ayuda del sistema							
22 Los tutores utilizaron metodologías adecuadas para fomentar la actividad creativa del metaverso							
23 Las tutorías fueron de utilidad para solventar las dudas							
24 Las tutorías fueron de utilidad para mejorar el control del sistema como usuario							
Interacción							
25 La interacción en el metaverso ha modificado mis hábitos de organización de tiempo libre							
26 La interacción en el metaverso ha modificado mis hábitos de sueño							
27 Me gustaría realizar actividades académicas en el metaverso							
28 Interactuar por medio de mi avatar me ha permitido relacionarme con facilidad con otras personas							
29 Interactuar con otras personas en el metaverso me ha permitido relacionarme mejor en la vida real							
30 Interactuar con otras personas en el metaverso me ha permitido sentirme más libre para expresar mis ideas en la vida real							
31 Interactuar desde mi avatar virtual me ha motivado a aprender en el metaverso							
32 Interactuar con otros avatares me ha resultado familiar a las experiencias de la realidad							
33 Interactuar en nuestro metaverso ha aumentado tu sensación de pertenencia a la comunidad formativa							
Interés							
34 Asistir a clase en el metaverso me ha resultado de interés							
35 Resolver problemas en el metaverso me ha resultado de interés							
36 Intercambiar ideas entre colegas en el metaverso me ha ayudado a fortalecer mi competencia digital							

4						
İtems	Esca	la de	valora	ación		
	0	1	2	3	4	5
37 Interactuar en el metaverso ha mejorado mi capacidad de comunicación en entornos digitales						
38 Interactuar con los colegas en el metaverso ha fomentado mi sociabilización						
39 La comunicación visual utilizada durante el curso fue motivadora						
40 El efecto visual tridimensional (3D) del ambiente y de los personajes del metaverso ha favorecido tu motivación por interactuar						
41 Comunicarte a través del chat en el metaverso te resultó de interés						
42 Comunicarte con voz en el metaverso te resultó de interés						
Motivación						
43 Prefiero material de clase que realmente sea un reto para poder aprender cosas nuevas						
44 Prefiero material de clase que despierte mi curiosidad, aunque sea difícil de aprender						
45 Lo más satisfactorio para mí es entender los contenidos de la mejor forma posible						
46 Cuando tengo oportunidad de elegir, elijo hacer tareas en las que puedo aprender aunque no garanticen una buena nota						
47 Obtener una buena nota en clase es lo más satisfactorio para mí en este memento						
48 Lo más importante para mí en este memento es mejorar la media de mis notas, así que mi principal preocupación es conseguir una buena nota						
49 Si puedo, quiero obtener mejores notas que la mayoría de los otros estudiantes						
50 Quiero hacerlo bien en clase porque es importante mostrar mi habilidad a mi entorno (familia, amigos, profesores u otras personas)						
Aprendizaje						
51 La inmersión en el metaverso ha favorecido mi capacidad para aprender contenidos conceptuales (hechos, datos y conceptos)						
52 La inmersión en el metaverso ha favorecido mi capacidad para aprender contenidos procedimentales (saber hacer)						
53 La inmersión en el metaverso ha favorecido mi capacidad para aprender contenidos actitudinales (valores, actitudes y normas)						
54 La inmersión en el metaverso ha mejorado mi nivel de competencia comunicativa						
55 La inmersión en el metaverso ha mejorado mi capacidad de tratamiento de la información y de competencia digital						
56 La inmersión en el metaverso ha mejorado mi nivel de competencia social y ciudadana						
57 La inmersión en el metaverso ha mejorado mi nivel de competencia en autonomía e iniciativa personal						
58 La inmersión en el metaverso ha mejorado mi nivel de competencia para aprender a aprender						
59 La inmersión en el metaverso me ha permitido conocer y poner en práctica el buen uso de las herramientas de comunicación multimedia dentro del proceso de enseñanza y aprendizaje						
60 La inmersión en el metaverso ha favorecido mi rendimiento académico						
Netiqueta						
61 Conozco y utilizo alguna convención o regla de comunicación escrita e icónica entre usuarios de internet						
62 Procuro escribir mis mensajes de forma respetuosa y sin ofensas hacia los demás						
63 Soy consciente de que existen peligros derivados del uso de internet						
64 Defino y caracterizo los distintos usos inadecuados de internet y sus efectos negativos						
65 Soy capaz de identificar y actuar ante algún caso que se presente de ciberacoso						
66 Siento malestar y rechazo hacia cualquier tipo de discriminación, acoso o uso inadecuado de la tecnología						
67 Conozco las reglas básicas de educación cuando me comunico con mis iguales						
07.º Conozco las regias dasteas de educación cuando nie contunico con mis iguales						

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