

Cultural influence on visual product semantics and symbolism associated with manual wheelchair (Assistive Technology Products)

Adult Participant Information Sheet

Investigators Details:

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We would like to invite you to take part in our study. Before you decide we would like you to understand why the research is being done and what it would involve for you. One of our team will go through the information sheet with you and answer any questions you have. Talk to others about the study before making a decision if you wish.

What is the purpose of the study?

The study is intended to collect the data about an individual's (in society) perception of Assistive Technology (AT) products such as wheelchair through visual interaction. The aim of the study is to understand people's observations toward manual wheelchair and to identify patterns of similarities and differences to evaluate the same object in contrasting geographical locations (such as UK and Pakistan).

Who is doing this research and why?

This questionnaire is part of the pilot test for ongoing PhD research project of Salman Asghar, based at Loughborough Design School, UK. As part of assisting team Nicholas Johnson (PhD researcher from design school) in UK and faculty members from Product and Industrial Design Department, University of Engineering and Technology, Lahore, Pakistan will be helping me to conduct this pilot study. Dr. George Torrens as supervisor of this research project ensures professional academic approach throughout the pilot study.

This study is funded by the faculty development program scholarship provided by Higher Education Commission, Government of Pakistan.

Are there any exclusion criteria?

The research study is aimed to analyse the response from individuals with the region of UK and Pakistan. Therefore, any participant (in this case 1st year student) from any other nationality will be excluded from the study.

What will I be asked to do?

Firstly, participant will be informed about adult participant information details and will be asked to sign the consent forms accordingly. The questionnaire consists of three sections including: 1) personal information and general questions, 2) semantics differential scale and 3) Personal Evaluation questions. Participants will be allocated appropriate time to fill questions in each sections and will be asked to move on to next section. At the end of the study assistance team will collect questionnaire from each participant.

Once I take part, can I change my mind?

Yes. After you have read this information and asked any questions you may have if you are happy to participate we will ask you to complete an Informed Consent Form, however if at any time, before, during or after the sessions you wish to withdraw from the study please just contact the main investigator. You can withdraw at any time, for any reason and you will not be asked to explain your reasons for withdrawing.

However, once the results of the study are aggregated/published/dissertation has been submitted (expected to be by (<March 2021>), it will not be possible to withdraw your individual data from the research.

Will I be required to attend any sessions and where will these be?

No.

How long will it take?

The whole study is aimed to be completed within 20 minutes including introductory instructions, questionnaire distribution, filling and collections. The expected time calculated to fill the questionnaire is 12 minutes, where average time to fill questions in each section is 4 minutes.

What personal information will be required from me?

You are only required to provide your basic personal information such as gender, age, education, nationality, but we will not ask you for your name or any other form of identification. There will also be an option for you to provide an email address if you would like more information about the outcome of the study or take part in future studies.

Are there any disadvantages or risks in participating?

Presently, there is no disadvantage or risk involved in participating in this study.

Will my taking part in this study be kept confidential?

Your responses will be anonymous and will never be shared with anyone personally. The information collected from this study will be kept only with the principal investigator during the time of his PhD (03 years) and will be discarded after his dissertation.

I have some more questions; who should I contact?

Information about the principal investigator is provided at the start of this information sheet and will be contacted by any participant involved in this study to ask related question.

What will happen to the results of the study?

As a part of pilot study the results will help investigator to further develop/evolve/execute the study on national level. Furthermore, result will help the researcher to inform other academic members/designers/practitioners about the expected gap in existing literature.

What if I am not happy with how the research was conducted?

If you are not happy with how the research was conducted, please contact the Secretary of the Ethics Approvals (Human Participants) Sub-Committee, Research Office, Hazlerigg Building, Loughborough University, Epinal Way, Loughborough, LE11 3TU. Tel: 01509 222423. Email: researchpolicy@lboro.ac.uk

The University also has policies relating to Research Misconduct and Whistle Blowing which are available online at <http://www.lboro.ac.uk/committees/ethics-approvals-human-participants/additionalinformation/codesofpractice/> .

Section B:

Is there anything I need to do before the sessions?

No.

Is there anything I need to bring with me?

No.

What type of clothing should I wear?

No.

Who should I send the questionnaire back to?

Will be collected by the team assistance.

What are the possible benefits of participating?

Being the part of this study, as a whole class, your name will not be included anywhere the results would be published/disclosed or revealed. The results will provide some insights into how different groups view the same imagery or artefact online.