Inspiration from the Chinese culture in gerontechnology

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2012.06.28

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2012.06.28

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“Filial piety” is the most prominent feature of Chinese culture.

- Regardless of how the family structure is changing, today’s Taiwanese society is still deeply affected by it.
Currently, the research on the problems of aging societies and the development of technological products for the welfare of senior citizens emphasises the senior citizens themselves, but the interactive relationships between senior citizens and their family members are hardly ever regarded as a major issue worthy of exploration.
In this study, we hope to explore the heritage of “filial piety” that is such an integral part of Chinese culture. We believe that the interaction between children and parents can be improved with technological assistance that is intuitive and practical, creating an interactive and communicative environment more naturally adaptable to aging.
In this study, it is hoped to propose a communicative pattern based on “filial piety” that is more intuitive and interactive and to propose the criteria for innovative technology to benefit senior citizens and their family members.
The inspiration for the design projects comes from well-known poems and classical Chinese literature regarding filial piety:

- A loving mother sews every stitch herself when she makes her wandering son's garments.
- Make the hearts of parents glad, without violating their wishes; make sound and sights pleasant to their ears and eyes, and make their living places comfortable.
Sensory stimulation is utilized to make sight, sound, touch etc. the design elements. By taking five classical music notes of Chinese culture as a basis, they are combined into the leisure activities of local culture, which are floral plantation and Tai Chi.
Design Project 1
Interactive flowerpot design
Design Project 1: Interactive flowerpot design

It utilizes Kinect technology to convert the elderly’s hand gestures while they are planting into different melodies. The melodies reflect mood, the weather, or plant conditions, giving to the listener a pleasant experience.
Concurrently, the melodies can be relayed to their children's phone or email via the Internet. Children can also monitor their parents' mood or health condition.

Design Project 1: Interactive flowerpot design
Design Project 2
Interactive wall design
Both the parents and their children need to install the interactive wall devices. It utilizes Kinect technology to capture the body movements of the users as they face the wall and practice Tai Chi exercises. These input data convert to different melodies. At the same time, their relatives and friends can interact and mirror the Tai Chi movements via a corresponding wall.
Design Project 2: Interactive wall design

filial piety

HOME

COURTYARD

social
In this research, two design projects that will enable senior citizens to better interact and share with their family members will be presented. It is hoped that concepts regarding filial piety in the Chinese culture can be directed to designing products for senior citizens to this end.