



Impact of Co-creation Footwear Workshops on Older Women in Elderly Centers in Hong Kong

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1. Introduction



- Falling and gait unsteadiness are common problems of elderly
- Appropriate footwear is intended to offer the first line of protection
- However, many older people are reluctant to accept geriatric footwear (Wilkinson & De Angeli, 2014)



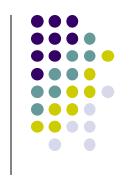




- Older women are very concerned about the product design (Au, Lam, & Ho, 2016)
- Enhancing the design of conventional footwear can improve the practical use and perception of geriatric footwear







• Co-design refers to the creative product that designers and users create together during the development process (Sanders & Stappers, 2008)

However, the possible impacts of co-design on footwear development have not been fully reported



1. Introduction



Aims:

- To investigate the psychological value of codesign workshops for older women
- To discuss the impacts of co-design on the perception of geriatric footwear

1. Introduction

Findings of this study will:

- enhance current understanding of psychological changes in older women after taking part in a co-design process
- provide insights that enhance the use of footwear worn at home for foot protection

2. Experimental



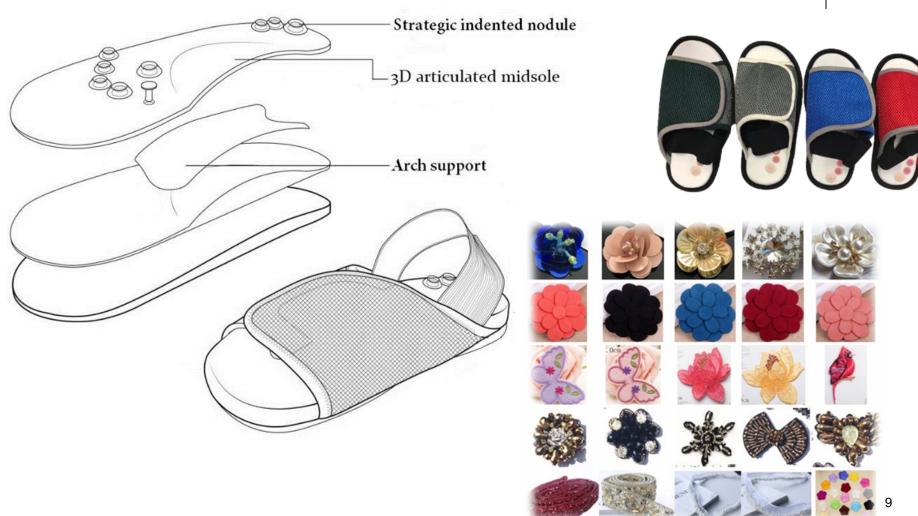
Carried out co-creation footwear workshops in 2 Hong Kong elderly centers

21 healthy females aged between 64 - 80 were recruited

Groups of 3 were formed to encourage discussion

Questionnaire about the perceptions of subjects on geriatric footwear and related design features was completed

2. Experimental





2. Experimental



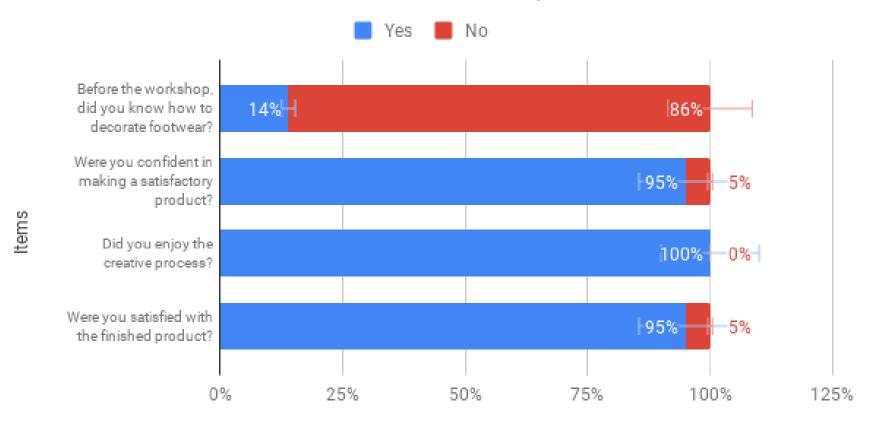








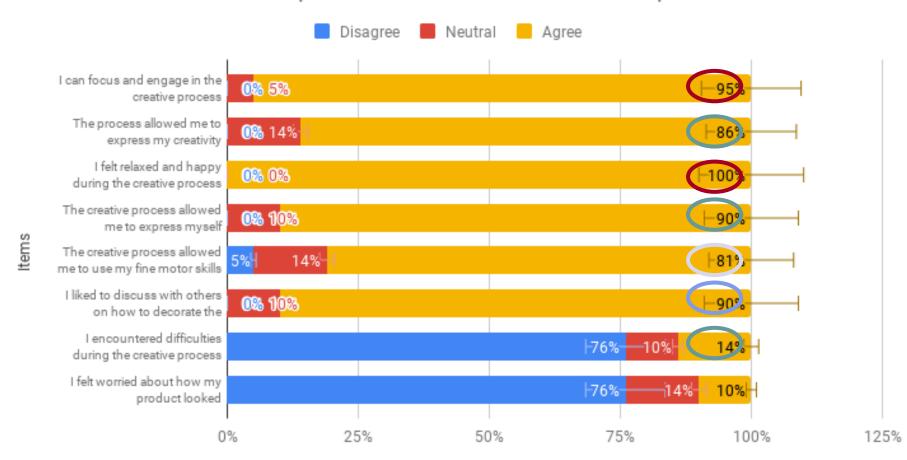
Evaluation Results of Footwear Workshops



Percentage distribution (%)



Feedback on Personal Experiences at Footwear Workshops



Percentage distribution (%)

3. Results and Discussion



- Subjects experienced a process of internal self-discovery, acceptance and expression
- The workshops allow group creativity and increase user satisfaction and loyalty to the product (Steen et al., 2011)
- Pleasure and satisfaction experienced greatly increased product acceptance







- It is expected that older people will rely more on products that are psychologically meaningful (Lee & Sontag, 2010)
- Use of appropriate footwear by the elderly could be therefore increased by incorporating a co-design process in footwear production



4. Conclusion

- Footwear workshops for older women are carried out to examine their personal experiences and perceptions of geriatric footwear design
- Survey results indicated that the workshops have positive effects
- Co-design approach has positive psychological impacts on the elderly and their acceptance of the final product





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