

# What are you thinking?: Using CBT and Storytelling to Improve Mental Health Among College Students

# 你在想什么?:运用认知行为疗法和讲故事改善大学生心理健康

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Figure 1: Core concept of CBT: understanding the link between emotions, thoughts and behaviours 图 1: 认知行为疗法的核心概念: 理解情绪、思想和行为之间的联系

# ABSTRACT

## 摘要

Depression and anxiety among college students have been on the rise globally. Cognitive Behavioural Therapy has emerged as an empirically reinforced and efective treatment. However, factors like cost, lack of resources, misguided prioritization and stigmatization of mental health issues in the Global South limit students' access to psychotherapy. While technology can bridge this gap, research shows current self-guided mHealth apps for CBT are not always evidence-based and have limited efcacy compared to therapistguided alternatives. In this paper, we explore whether interactive storytelling and other gamifcation mechanisms can increase the efcacy of a self-guided mHealth app, while drawing from empiri-cally supported CBT protocols. We designed an mHealth application with contextualised storylines to help students learn psychological concepts and better identify the negative patterns in their thoughts. We present the results of a 3-arm randomized controlled trial conducted to assess the efect of this application compared to active and inactive control conditions.

大学生的抑郁和焦虑在全球范围内呈上升趋势。认知行为疗法已经成为一种经验性强化和有效的治疗方法。然而,诸如成本、缺乏资源、误导性的优先考虑和对南半球心理健康问题的污名化等因素限制了学生接受心理治疗的机会。虽然技术可以弥补这一差距,但研究表明,目前用于认知行为疗法的自我引导的移动健康应用程序并不总是以证据为基础的,与治疗师引导的替代方案相比,效果有限。在本文中,

我们借鉴经验支持的认知行为疗法协议,探讨交互式讲故事和其他游戏化机制是否能够提高自导式移动健康应用程序的效率。我们设计了一个具有情境化故事情节的 mHealth 应用程序,以帮助学生学习心理学概念,并更好地识别他们思想中的消极模式。我们提出了一个三组随机对照试验的结果,以评估这种应用的效果,比较主动和非主动控制条件。

# CCS CONCEPTS

CCS 概念

Human centred computing → Human computer interaction(HCI); Interaction Design.
 以人为中心的计算→人机交互; 交互设计。

# **KEYWORDS**

关键词

mental health, mHealth application, CBT, storytelling 心理健康,移动健康应用,认知行为疗法,讲故事

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#### 1 INTRODUCTION

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# 引言

Mental disorders are highly prevalent among the general population and have been recognized as a major disease burden globally. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), depression is the leading cause of disability worldwide [2]. For college students in particular, the incidence of depression and anxiety is a growing concern and has been described as an epidemic [18]. They are at a vulnerable stage of life, as the age of initial onset for most psychiatric disorders is between 18 and 24 [60]. Moreover, college students are in a phase of their lives known in developmental psychology literature as "emerging adulthood" [8] where they are faced with a number of unique stressors as a result of transitioning into indepen-dent living, their frst experience with adult responsibilities, and often a significant transition into a new lifestyle and environment, as many young adults move away from home for college. Other factors such as academic stress, social and fnancial pressures and a changing sense of self or identity can contribute to a heightened level of psychological distress [3].

精神障碍在一般人群中非常普遍,已被认为是全球的一个主要疾病负担。根据世界卫生组织(WHO),抑郁症是全球残疾的主要原因[2]。尤其是对于大学生来说,抑郁症和焦虑症的发病率越来越受到关注,并被描述为流行病[18]。他们处于生命的脆弱阶段,因为大多数精神疾病的初始发病年龄在 18 至 24 岁之间[60]。此外,在发展心理学文献中,大学生正处于一个被称为"成年初期"的人生阶段,他们面临着许多独特的压力源,因为他们正在过渡到独立生活,他们第一次体验到成年人的责任,而且往往是一个重要的过渡到新的生活方式和环境,因为许多年轻人离家上大学。其他因素,如学业压力、社会和经济压力以及自我意识或身份认同的改变,都可能导致心理压力的加剧[3]。

Despite the prevalence of mental health difculties, college students still face several barriers to appropriate care and the majority of individuals in need of mental health services receive no treatment [49]. This is due to factors such as privacy concerns, high treatment costs, time constraints, misguided prioritization of men-tal wellbeing, and a dearth of available resources. Additionally, the issue of stigma around mental health is particularly pertinent in the Global South [56], which is where our research took place. Given the growing number of students facing mental health issues in college, existing cost efective solutions such as on-campus counselling services are often unable to cope with such a heavy load [1].

尽管普遍存在心理健康问题,但大学生在获得适当护理方面仍面临一些障碍,大多数需要心理健康服务的个人得不到治疗[49]。这是由

于诸如隐私问题、高昂的治疗费用、时间限制、对男性心理健康的错误优先考虑以及可用资源的匮乏等因素造成的。此外,围绕心理健康的耻辱问题在我们的研究发生的地方 Global South [56]中特别相关。鉴于越来越多的学生在大学期间面临心理健康问题,现有的成本效益高的解决方案,如校园咨询服务,往往无法应付如此沉重的负担[1]。

Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) has emerged as a viable, empirically reinforced treatment that has been shown to be ef-fective for various mental health issues including depression and anxiety [72]. CBT is a goal oriented psychotherapy that focuses on identifying automatic thoughts and changing the thought pat-terns that adversely afect people's feelings and behaviours, and subsequently improving their perceptions or feelings [44]. It posits that in any event there will be a trigger, an interpretation, and a reaction. In most cases, distorted thinking patterns, or cognitive distortions, result in a misinterpretation or disproportionate reaction to events, resulting in negative feelings and poor mental health. These cognitive distortions are biased perspectives and irrational thoughts and beliefs that people tend to unknowingly reinforce over time. The key concept of CBT, therefore, concentrates on the way information is processed and perceived. Once a person begins to see these negative thinking patterns, they can then re-evaluate and re-frame them and hence develop coping skills and think in a healthier manner.

认知行为疗法(CBT)已经成为一种可行的、经验上强化的治疗方法,已被证明对包括抑郁和焦虑在内的各种心理健康问题有效[72]。认知行为疗法是一种以目标为导向的心理治疗方法,其重点是识别无意识的想法,改变对人们的感觉和行为产生不利影响的思维模式,并随后改善他们的感知或感觉[44]。它假定在任何情况下都会有触发,解释和反应。在大多数情况下,扭曲的思维模式,或认知扭曲,导致误解或不成比例的反应事件,导致负面情绪和不良的心理健康。这些认知扭曲是有偏见的观点和非理性的想法和信念,人们往往会不知不觉地加强随着时间的推移。因此,认知行为疗法的关键概念集中在信息处理和感知的方式上。一旦一个人开始看到这些消极的思维模式,他们就可以重新评估和重新定义它们,从而发展应对技能,以一种更健康的方式思考。

CBT is typically delivered in a clinical environment by a psychotherapist over a number of sessions, where the therapist talks to patients face-to-face and helps them to identify their negative thoughts so that the patient may learn to respond to situations in a more efective way. Given the various obstacles preventing access to psychotherapy, there are many digital methods of CBT delivery being explored. Therapist-guided CBT apps have been shown to be as efective as face-to-face sessions [26], and while self-guided digital interventions are also efective, the balance of evidence favours a guided approach ofering some level of human support [16]. There is a need to investigate how to improve the efcacy of entirely self-guided interventions as this would make psychotherapy more accessible to a larger number of people while also providing the beneft of anonymity which is particularly important in the Global South context given the issue of stigmatization.

认知行为疗法通常由心理治疗师在临床环境中进行多次治疗,治疗师与患者面对面交谈,帮助他们识别他们的消极想法,以便患者可以学会以更有效的方式对情况作出反应。考虑到心理治疗的各种障碍,有许多数字化的认知行为疗法正在被探索。治疗师指导的认知行为疗法应用程序已被证明与面对面治疗同样有效[26],而自我指导的数字干预也同样有效,证据的平衡倾向于提供一定程度的人类支持的指导方法[16]。有必要研究如何提高完全自我引导的干预措施的效力,因为这将使更多的人更容易获得心理治疗,同时也提供匿名的好处,鉴于污名化问题,匿名在全球南方的背景下尤为重要。

Therapeutic alliance is a major factor that contributes signifcantly to the efcacy of therapies [43, 66], but is not adequately represented in digital interventions. The traditional conceptualisation of a therapeutic alliance includes 3 components: the bond between the client and therapist, agreement on tasks and agreement on therapeutic goals [19]. Existing research attempting to understand the efects of these components in order to reconceptualise the traditional defnition to ft within digital environments highlights that a therapeutic alliance may be associated with increased engagement and adherence [6, 23]. This fnding is in line with research showing that engagement and adherence are themselves associated with improved outcomes in digital interventions [30, 39, 40, 51]. Therefore it follows that in order to incorporate or emulate this alliance in the absence of human support, digital interventions should incorporate features and strategies such as availability, interactivity and personalisation in order to foster a bidirectional relationship between the user and the application and support a user's motivation to engage [87]. A systematic re-view of existing CBT apps showing that none of the assessed apps ofered any form of personalisation beyond usernames and appro-priate pronouns [67], and the alarmingly high attrition rates among mHealth apps [41, 42, 86] make it clear that this is a high priority research area. In fact, the James Lind Alliance Priority Setting Partnership that was established to identify key research priorities in

治疗联盟是一个主要因素,对治疗效果有显著贡献[43,66],但在数字干预中没有充分代表。治疗联盟的传统概念包括 3 个组成部分:患者和治疗师之间的联系,任务的一致性和治疗目标的一致性[19]。现有的研究试图理解这些成分的影响,以便重新概念化传统的定义 ft 在数字环境中强调,治疗联盟可能与增加参与度和依从性有关[6,23]。这一结果与研究结果一致,研究表明参与和坚持本身就与数字干预的改善结果有关[30,39,40,51]。因此,为了在没有人力支持的情况下纳入或效仿这种联盟,数字干预措施应纳入可用性、互动性和个性化等特征和战略,以促进用户和应用程序之间的双向关系,并支持用户参与的动机[87]。对现有的认知行为疗法应用程序的系统回顾显示,除了用户名和合适的代词之外,没有任何被评估的应用程序提供任何形式的个性化服务[67] ,而移动健康应用程序的流失率高得惊人[41,42,86]清楚地表明,这是一个高度优先的研究领域。事实上,詹姆斯林德联盟优先设置部分合作关系是为了确定关键的研究重点而建立的

advancing digital interventions also highlighted concerns relating to therapeutic alliance in the top ten key issues raised [52].

推进数字干预也突出了前十个关键问题中与治疗联盟有关的担忧[52]。

In this paper, we propose a new method of incorporating CBT into a self-guided mHealth application that uses gamifcation strate-gies to foster a therapeutic alliance to improve efcacy. We use gamifcation in particular because research has shown it has poten-tial to increase a user's engagement as well as intrinsic motivation which can create a relationship between the user and the applica-tion and therefore emulate a therapeutic alliance within a digital intervention.

在本文中,我们提出了一种新的方法,将认知行为疗法(CBT) 融入到一个自我引导的移动健康应用程序中,该应用程序使用游戏化策略来促进治疗联盟以提高疗效。我们之所以使用游戏化, 是因为研究表明,它有可能提高用户的参与度和内在动机,从而 在用户和应用程序之间建立关系,从而在数字干预中模仿治疗联盟。

We present the design of a gamifed mobile application that leverages the power of storytelling to enable users to identify their own unhealthy thinking patterns (cognitive distortions) and cre-ate a sense of cognitive awareness. Furthermore, we hypothesise that the interactive scenarios and contextualised storylines can not only educate users about the psychological concepts that un-derpin the process of CBT but also enable the internalisation of these learned concepts by allowing users to see how they are di-rectly related to situations occurring in their everyday lives. We conducted a 3-arm randomized controlled trial as our objective was not only to assess the efcacy of our application and understand how to better design CBT interventions, but also to investigate whether the incorporation of gamifcation elements to emulate a therapeutic alliance could increase the efcacy of self-guided CBT interventions. To understand whether these elements in particular led to the improved efcacy, the study design had to include a con-trol condition and hence a comparison of our gamifed application with a non-gamifed version of the same underlying intervention, i.e. a commercially available mHealth application delivering CBT. Therefore, our contributions also include the recommendations and insights derived from the results of this RCT.

我们提出了一个游戏化的移动应用程序的设计,利用讲故事的力量,使用户能够识别自己不健康的思维模式(认知扭曲),并创造一种认知意识的感觉。此外,我们假设互动场景和情境化的故事情节不仅可以教育用户了解支持认知行为疗法的心理学概念,而且还可以让用户看到这些学到的概念如何与他们日常生活中发生的情况直接相关,从而使这些概念内化。我们进行了一项三组随机对照试验,因为我们的目标不仅是评估我们的应用效果和了解如何更好地设计认知行为疗法干预措施,而且还要研究是否将游戏化因素纳入模拟治疗联盟可以提高自我引导的认知行为疗法干预措施的效果。为了理解这些因素是否特别导致了效果的提高,研究设计必须包括一个控制条件,因此必须将我们的游戏化应用程序与非游戏化版本的相同基础干预措施进行比较,即商业上可获得的提供 CBT 的移动健康应用程序。因此,我们的贡献也包括来自这个随机对照试验结果的建议和见解。

# 2 RELATED WORKS

相关工程

# 2.1 Cognitive Behavioural Therapy

# 2.1 认知行为疗法

Cognitive Behavioural Therapy provides a structured approach for recognising and addressing negative thinking patterns, due to which it is well suited to being adapted to digital platforms both as therapist-guided [59] and self-guided [57] interventions. Overall, digital CBT has been shown to be efective, although a range of meta analyses show that therapist-guided or supported interventions have a greater efect than self-guided interventions, and are comparable to face-to-face therapy in their efcacy [11, 16, 26, 34, 46, 89].

认知行为疗法为识别和处理消极思维模式提供了一种结构化的方法,因此它非常适合作为治疗师指导和自我指导的干预手段适应数字平台。总体而言,数字认知行为疗法已被证明是有效的,尽管一系列荟萃分析显示,治疗师指导或支持的干预措施比自我指导的干预措施有更大的效果,并且在其有效性方面与面对面治疗相当[11,16,26,34,46,89]。

Guided CBT apps difer in the level of therapist involvement. Some guided apps are used by mental health professionals simply for screening and assessment, others to assist patients with CBT homework exercises or to log their thoughts and moods between sessions, and some are used simply to aid face-to-face therapy. Sanvello, a guided CBT app for depression and anxiety, provides psychoeducational modules, mood tracking, coping tools to deal with stressful situations, peer support and remote contact with a therapist [70]. A randomized trial conducted to assess the efcacy of remote CBT for panic disorder supplemented the program with brief regular contact with a therapist over weekly telephone calls

指导性 CBT 应用程序在治疗师参与水平上有所不同。有些指导性 应用程序只是精神健康专业人员用来进行筛查和评估的,有些则用来 帮助病人进行认知行为疗法的家庭作业练习或记录他们的思想和情绪,还有一些仅仅用来辅助面对面治疗。Sanvello 是一款针对抑郁和焦虑的认知行为疗法(CBT)应用程序,提供心理教育模块、情绪追踪、处理压力情况的应对工具、同伴支持以及与治疗师的远程联系。为评估 远程 CBT 治疗恐慌症的疗效而进行的一项随机试验补充了该计划,每周通过电话与治疗师进行短暂的定期联系

[27]. PeskygNATs, a series of four custom-built game-based CBT interventions, is another solution designed to aid therapists during PeskygNATs, —系列四个定制的基于游戏的认知行为疗法干预, 是

另一个解决方案,旨在帮助治疗师

What are you thinking? 你在想什么?

face-to-face sessions and also to assist patients between sessions [88].

面对面的会议,也协助病人之间的会议[88]。

There are also numerous mHealth apps delivering entirely self-guided CBT, and these too vary greatly in their therapeutic content. A recent systematic assessment of 98 self-guided CBT apps revealed a heterogeneous group ofering a range of evidence-based and non evidence-based techniques. Approximately only one-third of these apps ofered comprehensive, evidence-based CBT programs that could actually beneft users who don't have access to psychother-apy [67]. This fnding is in line with other work such as another study that conducted an analysis of 31 CBT apps for depression, and found that only half of all the features provided by apps refected the core competencies of CBT [83]. Among apps containing evidence-based therapeutic elements, cognitive restructuring (assessment and analysis of the user's own automatic thoughts typically using thought records) is the most common, followed by psychoeducation (text or video content explaining the diferent cognitive distortions and automatic thoughts) and behavioural activation (modules to schedule and track activities). Approximately half the assessed apps also included one or more non-CBT based features, such as journal tools for unstructured writing and self refection, gratitude and afrmations etc. The number and combination of therapeutic features available in CBT apps also varies; for example, MEMO

还有许多 mHealth 应用程序提供完全自我引导的 CBT, 这些应用程序的治疗内容也有很大差异。最近对 98 个自我引导的 CBT 应用程序进行的系统评估揭示了一个提供一系列循证和非循证技术的异质性组。这些应用程序中大约只有三分之一提供了全面的、基于证据的认知行为疗法(CBT)程序, 这些程序实际上可以帮助那些无法接受心理治疗的用户[67]。这一结果与其他研究结果一致, 比如另一项研究对 31 款用于治疗抑郁症的认知行为疗法(CBT)应用程序进行了分析, 结果发现, 应用程序提供的所有功能中, 只有一半反映了 CBT 的核心能力[83]。在包含循证治疗元素的应用程序中, 认知重构(通常使用思维记录来评估和分析用户自己的自动思维)是最常见的, 其次是心理教育(解释不同认知扭曲和自动思维的文本或视频内容)和行为激活(安排和跟踪活动的模块)。大约一半的评估应用程序还包括一个或多个非认知行为疗法的功能, 例如用于非结构化写作和自我反省的日记工具, 感恩和结构化等。认知行为疗法应用程序中可用的治疗功能的数量和组合也各不相同; 例如, 备忘录

[91] is a depression prevention intervention focusing solely on psychoeducation, MoodHacker [17] combines CBT strategies with other positive-psychology based strategies, and other apps such as MoodKit [10] and MoodTools [83] incorporate self-monitoring, moodtracking and journal features alongside psychoeducation. It can also be seen that classifying CBT apps into those catering exclusively to depression and those that improve general mental health and mental wellbeing shows that depression apps consistently ofer more evidence based techniques whereas the latter two are substantially less adherent [67].

是一种只关注心理教育的抑郁预防干预措施,MoodHacker 将认知行为疗法(CBT)策略与其他基于积极心理学的策略相结合,其他应用程序如 MoodKit 和 MoodTools 将自我监控、情绪跟踪和日记功能与心理教育相结合。我们还可以看到,将认知行为疗法(CBT)应用程序分类为专门为抑郁症服务的应用程序和那些能够改善一般心理健康和心理健康的应用程序,这表明抑郁症应用程序一贯地提供更多基于证据的技术,而后两种应用程序的依附性则大大降低[67]。

Very few apps contain engagement features such as gamifcation and almost none of them ofer personalized content beyond usernames and gender-appropriate pronouns. This finding is also corroborated by other reviews showing a lack of explicit engagement features in CBT apps [54, 83], despite the conceptualization of a therapeutic alliance in digital interventions indicating that tailoring content, personalization and other interactive features can facilitate user engagement and improve adherence [20, 87].

很少有应用程序包含 gamifca 等参与功能,几乎没有一个应用程序提供超出用户名和性别适当代词的个性化内容。这一结果也得到了其他评论的证实,这些评论表明认知行为疗法应用程序缺乏明确的参与特征[54,83],尽管数字干预中的治疗联盟的概念化表明,量身定制的内容、个性化和其他互动特征可以促进用户参与和提高依从性[20,87]。

This review of existing CBT mHealth applications shows that while there are many available solutions, there is a need to improve the efcacy of self-guided interventions to bring them up to par with guided or supported interventions, and to ensure that they are comprised of evidence-based therapeutic elements while also creating a therapeutic alliance through strategies to promote engagement and motivation.

这次对现有 CBT 移动健康应用的审查表明, 虽然有许多可用的解决办法, 但有必要提高自我引导干预措施的效力, 使其达到引导或支持干预措施的水平, 并确保这些措施包括循证治疗要素, 同时通过促进参与和动机的战略建立治疗联盟。

#### 2.2 Gamifcation

#### 2.2 游戏化

The central idea behind gamifcation is to harness the motivational potential of video games by transferring game design elements to non-game environments [37]. Even though gamifcation is a relatively new concept, its potential cost-efectiveness, accessibil-ity, and fexibility, as well as the increasing popularity of video games have led to the popularity of video

游戏化背后的核心思想是通过将游戏设计元素转移到非游戏环境中来利用电子游戏的动机潜力[37]。尽管游戏化是一个相对较新的概念,但其潜在的成本效益、可访问性和灵活性,以及电子游戏的日益流行,已经导致它被应用到各种情况下。确实如此

received considerable interest from the health research community for its potential to increase engagement with health interventions [9, 33, 55, 61, 80]. However, recent reviews fnd that gamifcation is most commonly applied to physical ftness interventions and to motivate behaviour change to manage chronic illnesses, and al-though some gamifed mental health interventions do exist they are much less common [55, 80]. This is because some of the most com-mon gamifcation elements are points, rewards and leaderboards which are often quite inappropriate for mental health interventions [4, 29]. Many applications of gamifcation for general health and well-being tend to rely on elements providing positive reinforce-ment and extrinsic motivation, an approach which is difcult to extend to mental health domains. It is therefore imperative to be able to distinguish between the diferent game design elements within the concept of gamifcation, instead of considering it as one generic construct, to make better use of elements that are more compatible with intrinsic motivation and therefore more relevant for mental health applications.

得到了健康研究界的相当大的兴趣,因为它有可能增加对健康干预的参与[9,33,55,61,80]。然而,最近的研究发现,游戏化最常用于身体健康干预和激励行为改变,以管理慢性疾病,尽管一些游戏化的心理健康干预措施确实存在,但它们不太常见[55,80]。这是因为一些最常见的游戏元素是积分、奖励和排行榜,这些往往不适合心理健康干预[4,29]。游戏化对一般健康和福祉的许多应用往往依赖于提供积极强化和外在动机的因素,这种方法很难扩展到心理健康领域。因此,必须能够区分游戏化概念中的不同游戏设计元素,而不是将其视为一种通用构造,以便更好地利用与内在动机更相容的元素,从而更适合于心理健康应用。

Game elements that are well suited to the context of mental health include personalisation and customization. These elements ofer the users increased levels of autonomy which contributes to increased internalized motivation and well-being [78]. These elements have been explored in several apps for different mental health contexts, such as in an app for alcohol use disorder [69] and another targeted towards general motivation impairment that increased engagement by allowing users to unlock options for aesthetic customization as they progressed [45].

适合心理健康环境的游戏元素包括个性化和定制化。这些元素为用户提供了更高水平的自主性,这有助于增加内化动机和福祉[78]。这些元素已经在针对不同心理健康背景的几个应用程序中进行了探索,例如针对酒精使用障碍的一个应用程序[69],以及针对一般动机障碍的另一个应用程序,这种障碍通过允许用户在进行审美定制时释放选项来增加参与度[45]。

Narrative and theme are very important game design elements, particularly in the context of this paper, as they are directly linked to the increase of intrinsic motivation [12, 14, 65] making them highly relevant to mental health contexts. Narratives or meaningful stories are elements that do not relate to the user's performance or progress in any way. The narrative context in which the application is embedded contextualizes the activities and characters in the application and therefore gives them meaning beyond point scor-ing and achievements. The narrative can relate to real, non-game settings or can be designed to be analogous to real world settings, which can enrich otherwise mundane scenarios and increase motivation in users, particularly if the story is in line with their personal

interests [71]. Narratives have been explored in apps designed for acrophobia [38], agoraphobia and panic [31], anxiety and depressive disorders [36, 68, 74], as well as in general well-being apps [58]. Moreover, narratives allow the application to be easily adapted or contextualized to the specific needs of a particular user group in order to better cater to user needs.

叙事和主题是游戏设计中非常重要的元素,特别是在本文中,因为它们与内在动机的增加直接相关[12,14,65],使它们与心理健康背景高度相关。叙述或有意义的故事是与用户的表现或进展无关的元素。应用程序嵌入的叙事语境将应用程序中的活动和特征联系起来,因此赋予它们超越评分和成就的意义。故事可以与真实的非游戏场景相关,也可以设计成与真实世界相似的场景,这可以丰富其他平凡的场景,增加用户的动机,特别是如果故事符合他们的个人兴趣[71]。针对恐高症[38]、广场恐惧症和恐慌症[31]、焦虑症和抑郁症[36,68,74],以及一般的幸福应用程序[58]的应用程序,已经探索了叙事。此外,叙述使应用程序能够容易地适应或上下文化地满足特定用户群体的特定需求,以更好地满足用户需求。

Avatars are also relevant gamifcation elements which are often used in conjunction with narratives [90]. Whether in the form of a simple pictogram or complex animations, avatars give the users an identity and set them apart from other characters in the application. They also allow the users to adopt or create an identity, which, when used in tandem with elements such as customization, can also contribute to increased autonomy [7].

阿凡达也是相关的游戏化元素,经常与叙事结合使用[90]。无论是以简单的象形图还是复杂的动画形式,阿凡达都给用户一个身份,并将他们与应用程序中的其他字符区分开来。它们还允许用户采用或创建一个标识,当与定制等元素一起使用时,这个标识也可以有助于增加自主性[7]。

A study conducted to examine how individuals use and customize mental health apps to manage their symptoms, found that gamification was perceived as one of the most helpful features

一项研究调查了个人如何使用和定制心理健康应用程序来控制他们 的症状,发现游戏化被认为是最有帮助的功能之一

[92]. A review of 50 mobile apps employing gamifcation for mental health showed that the mode count of gamifcation elements 一项对 50 个使用游戏化的手机应用程序对男性心理健康的回顾显示,游戏化元素的模式计数

was 5 [28]. While this shows that researchers are now increasingly comfortable applying a range of gamifcation elements for health and well-being, the decision regarding which game elements to incorporate is often arbitrary and care must be taken to identify which elements can have the desired psychological efect given the application context. 是 5[28]。虽然这表明,研究人员现在越来越习惯于应用一系列游戏化元素来促进健康和福祉,但关于应纳入哪些游戏元素的决定往往是武断的,必须注意鉴定哪些元素在应用背景下可以产生预期的心理效果。

Our application was designed to incorporate particular game design elements, namely narrative and theme, personalization, cus-tomization and avatars, on the basis of the psychological efects that were most relevant to our specific mental health context of fostering a therapeutic alliance via engagement and motivation within a mobile application based on CBT.

我们的应用程序旨在结合特定的游戏设计元素,即叙事和主题、 个性化、定制化和化身,其基础是与我们特定的心理健康背景最相关的心理效应,即在基于认知行为疗法的移动应用程序中通过 参与和动机促进治疗联盟。

# 2.3 Storytelling

## 2.3 讲故事

Although the previous section on gamifcation has also touched upon narratives in the context of game design elements, since storytelling is a central concept in our design we also conducted an additional literature review on the topic.

尽管前面关于游戏化的部分也涉及了游戏设计元素背景下的叙述, 但由于讲故事是我们设计中的一个核心概念,我们也对这个主题 进行了额外的文献回顾。

Storytelling is a powerful learning tool, and has been referred to as the original form of teaching [75]. It is therefore the ideal way to present information in a way that is meaningful, and has often been utilised to deliver educational, social or cultural messages and make abstract and complex concepts more accessible. Stories are vivid, engaging, entertaining and easy to relate to one's personal experience. This leads to them being more memorable, and cognitive science research tells us that memorable information is far more likely to be acted upon and has a greater likelihood of assuming significance [5, 77]. Additionally, due to the rich contextual detail that can be embedded into stories, they are ideal carriers of tacit knowledge [81].

讲故事是一种强大的学习工具,被称为教学的原始形式[75]。因此,信息技术是以有意义的方式表达信息的理想方式,并经常被用来传递教育、社会或文化信息,使抽象和复杂的概念更容易理解。故事是生动的,引人入胜的,娱乐性的,并且容易与一个人的个人经历联系起来。这使得他们更容易被记住,而认知科学研究告诉我们,记住的信息更容易被采取行动,也更容易被认为具有重要意义[5,77]。此外,由于可以嵌入故事的丰富的上下文细节,他们是隐性知识的理想载体[81]。

When a narrative is particularly immersive, it often results in the perception of being transported right into the fctional or alter-nate world that is being presented. Narrative transportation theory discusses this 'transportation' as a mechanism through which nar-

ratives can strongly afect beliefs [48]. Further work on this elucidates that narratives can efectively infuence cognition, emotion and potentially even behaviour [14]. The concept of Narrative Engagement embellishes this idea of immersion and transportation by identifying that people tend to combine information from the text they are reading with personal experiences and construct a mental model of story events which can have a strong impact on attitude and behaviour [24, 25]. Additionally, narratives that present the opportunity to explore possible selves are in a unique position to help drive one's internal motivation [14].

当一个故事特别沉浸其中时,它通常会导致一种直接进入虚构或另一个呈现的世界的感觉。叙事运输理论将这种"运输"作为叙事者可以强烈影响信仰的一种机制来讨论[48]。进一步的工作阐明了叙述可以有效地影响认知,情绪甚至潜在的行为[14]。叙事参与的概念通过确定人们倾向于将他们正在阅读的文本中的信息与个人经历结合起来,并建立一个故事事件的心理模型,这个模型可以对态度和行为产生强烈的影响,从而丰富了这种沉浸和交通的概念[24,25]。此外,提供探索可能的自我的机会的叙述处于一个独特的位置,有助于驱动人的内在动机[14]。

Digital storytelling, in particular, has even more advantages as it can engage a multitude of cognitive processes by incorporating visual elements as well as allowing audiences to not only be passive recipients but to also interact with and actively shape the stories.

特别是数位说故事更具优势,因为它可以融合视觉元素,让观众不仅是被动的接受者,还可以与故事互动和主动塑造故事。

Therefore, existing literature pertaining to the unique advantages of storytelling make it clear that it can ofer a promising medium to optimise the delivery of relevant mental health information and has immense potential to create positive change in this context.

因此,有关讲故事独特优势的现有文献表明,讲故事可以提供一个有希望的媒介,以最佳方式提供相关的精神健康信息,并具有在这方面产生积极变化的巨大潜力。

# 3 APPLICATION DESIGN PROCESS

# 3应用设计流程

Drawing on our research into psychotherapy, narrative theories, gamifcation and HCI, we developed a solution in the form of a 基于我们对心理治疗、叙事理论、游戏化和人机交互的研究,我们开发了一个解决方案

mobile application. The application, called Chronicles, progresses like a role-playing game where users play the main character and fnd themselves in common scenarios taking place in a college setting. In each scenario, the user is asked to choose from a list of options, what their character is feeling, what their character is thinking, and how their character would like to proceed (Figure 1). Based on their thought choices, they will be presented with immediate feedback in the form of a pop-up screen if their selection corresponds to a cognitive distortion. Their action choices will determine how the story progresses. The application is designed to help users identify cognitive distortions present in their thoughts, to clearly diferentiate between rational and irrational automatic thoughts, to understand the link between emotions, thoughts and behaviours, and to provide some insight on how certain situations can be perceived in diferent ways. The application is based on CBT principles, and various aspects are combined to achieve these outcomes, such as interactive storytelling, visual design, interaction design and specifc gamifcation elements. Chronicles is a fully functional, cross-platform application developed in Unity.

流动应用程式。这个名为 Chronicles 的应用程序进展得就像一个角色扮演游戏,用户扮演主角,发现自己身处大学环境中的常见场景中。在每个场景中,用户被要求从选项列表中选择,他们的角色感觉如何,他们的角色在想什么,以及他们的角色希望如何继续(图 1)。基于他们的思想选择,如果他们的选择与认知扭曲相对应,他们将以弹出式屏幕的形式得到即时反馈。他们的行为选择将决定故事的进展。该应用程序旨在帮助用户识别他们思维中存在的认知扭曲,明确区分理性和非理性的自动思维,理解情绪、思维和行为之间的联系,并提供一些洞察力,说明如何以不同的方式看待某些情况。该应用程序基于认知行为疗法(CBT)原则,并结合各个方面来实现这些结果,如交互式故事讲述、视觉设计、交互式设计和特定的游戏化元素。Chronicles是 Unity 开发的一个功能齐全的跨平台应用程序。

## 3.1 Storylines

## 3.1 Storylines 3.1 故事线

3.1.1 User Research. In order to contextualise the storylines and present scenarios that are relevant to the users, we conducted extensive user research to collect stories and gather in depth insights into the diferent situations students encounter that could induce stress, anxiety or have any adverse efects on their mental health.
3.1.1 用户研究。为了将故事情节和与使用者相关的场景联系起来,我们进行了广泛的用户研究,收集故事,深入了解学生可能遇到的可能引起压力、焦虑或对他们的心理健康有任何不利影响的不同情况。

We worked in close consultation with members of the Psychology department (n=2) as well as on-campus counsellors (n=4) to design a questionnaire asking students to refect on their experiences at college. The questionnaire was divided into fve sections 1) Social Anxiety 2) Academic Stress 3) Identity 4) Future Plans 5) Professional Help. Each section consisted of 5-6 open-ended questions. Due to the sensitive nature of the topic, we took the extra step of circulating the questionnaire via the Ofce of Student Afairs, prov-ing the credibility of our study to the students as well as assuring them of data security. At the end of the questionnaire, students were asked if they are willing to be interviewed. The purpose of the interviews was to allow participants that had difculty narrating their experience through a written medium to better convey their thoughts

and experiences. The semi-structured interviews followed a similar structure to the questionnaire, but allowed for students to provide a more detailed recollection of events. On average, each interview lasted between 45-60 minutes.

我们与心理学系的成员(n = 2)以及校园辅导员(n = 4)密切协商,设计了一份问卷,要求学生反思他们在大学的经历。问卷分为五个部分: 1)社交焦虑 2)学术压力 3)身份 4)未来计划 5)专业帮助。每个部分包括 5-6 个开放式问题。由于问题的敏感性,我们采取了额外的步骤,通过学生事务办公室传阅问卷,向学生证明我们的研究是可信的,并保证他们的数据安全。在问卷结束时,学生被问及是否愿意接受采访。访谈的目的是让那些有困难的参与者通过书面媒介来叙述他们的经历,以便更好地传达他们的想法和经历。半结构化的采访遵循与问卷相似的结构,但允许学生提供更详细的事件回忆。平均每次面试持续 45-60 分钟。

We received 229 responses to the questionnaire out of which 24 students were then further interviewed. All responses ft our eligi-bility criteria which entailed that the students must be currently enrolled at Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) and be between the ages of 18-25. The demographic data of the participants who responded to the questionnaire was collected. The sample included representation across gender (57.5% Female, 41% Male, 1.5% Gender-queer/Nonconforming), sexuality (81.3% Heterosexual, 6.7% LGBTQ+, 2.2% Asexual, 3% Questioning, 6.7% Declined to state) socioeconomic status (47.7% average family in-come of less than 150k (PKR), 52.3% above 150k), geographic region (81.3% Punjab, 11.9% Sindh, 3.7% Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 3.1% Islam-abad Capital Territory) and living situation (17.9% Hostelite, 82.1%

我们收到了 229 份调查问卷,其中 24 名学生接受了进一步的访谈。所有的答复都符合我们的资格标准,即学生必须是目前在拉合尔管理科学大学(LUMS)注册,年龄在 18-25 岁之间。收集了回答问卷的参与者的人口统计数据。样本包括不同性别的代表性(57.5% 女性, 41% 男性, 1.5%性别酷儿/不符合标准),性别(81.3% 异性恋, 6.7% LGBTQ +, 2.2% 无性恋, 3% 质疑, 6.7% 拒绝国家),社会经济地位(47.7% 平均家庭收入低于 150k (PKR),52.3% 高于 150k),地理区域(旁遮普省 81.3%,信德省 11.9%,开伯尔-普赫图赫瓦省 3.7%,伊斯兰堡首都地区 3.1%)和生活状况(17.9% Hostelite, 82.1%)

What are you thinking? 你在想什么?

Day Scholar). This heterogeneity among sample characteristics was important for us to ensure a diverse and inclusive range of perspec-tives and experiences when developing the narratives. The data was then organized, and all audio recordings of interviews were transcribed. We familiarised ourselves with the data by annotating transcripts and then conducted a qualitative thematic analysis [22]. The data was coded and labelled and then further reviewed to gen-erate themes. We arrived at a set of themes such as 'making friends', 'class participation' and 'work-life balance'. This was particularly complex as each story contained a number of diferent but equally relevant codes. For example, one story involved a participant feeling overburdened by academic work and consequently feeling guilty about not spending enough time with friends and his friendships sufering as a result. This took a mental toll on him leading to even poorer academic performance. Some of the codes here were 'aca-demic pressure', 'social pressure', 'guilt', 'fear of missing out', but the story was categorised under the 'work-life balance' theme. 戴学者)。样本特征之间的这种异质性对于我们在开发叙述时确保多样化

戴学者)。样本特征之间的这种异质性对于我们在开发叙述时确保多样化和包容性的视角和经验很重要。然后组织数据,并转录所有访谈的录音。我们通过注释成绩单来熟悉数据,然后进行定性主题分析[22]。数据被编码和标记,然后进一步审查以生成主题。我们达成了一系列主题,如"交朋友","课堂参与"和"工作-生活平衡"。这是特别复杂的,因为每个故事都包含了许多不同但同样相关的代码。例如,一个故事涉及一个参与者感到学术工作负担过重,因而对没有花足够的时间与朋友在一起而感到内疚,结果他的友谊受到了损害。这给他带来了精神上的负担,导致他的学习成绩更差。这里的一些代码是"aca-academic pressure"、"social pressure"、"guilt"、"fear of missing out",但这个故事被归类为"work-life balance"这个主题。

These themes and insights derived from the questionnaire and interviews formed the basis of our narratives. The stories were adapted and generalized enough to not point to a specific reported story.

这些来自调查问卷和访谈的主题和见解构成了我们叙述的 基础。这些故事经过了足够的改编和概括,以至于没有指向 特定的报道故事。

3.1.2 Narrative Construction. The application consists of 4 levels representing a typical undergraduate program with each level corresponding to an academic year (Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior). Each level has 5 'chapters' with individual subplots, linked together by the same central character played by the user. The narratives are told in frst person in order to develop a connection between the user and character, increase immersion, personal relevance and absorption power. The user advances through the narrative by making various choices that determine how the story progresses and the kind of feedback that is provided. In order to maintain logical consistency and increase realism, as these factors are linked to a reader's enjoyment of a narrative, the information provided in earlier chapters remains relevant in the subsequent chapters. The individual plots of the chapters themselves are based on the key themes that were identifed through user research.

3.1.2 叙事结构。该应用程序包括 4 个级别,代表一个典型的本科项目,每个级别对应于一个学年(新生,二年级,大三,大四)。每个级别有 5 个"章节",每个子情节由用户扮演的同一个中心角色连接在一起。故事以第一人称讲述,以发展用户和角色之间的联系,增加沉浸

感,个人相关性和吸收力。用户通过做出各种选择来决定故事的进展 和提供的反馈。为了保持逻辑上的一致性和增加现实性,因为这些因 素与读者对叙述的享受有关,前几章提供的信息在后几章仍然是相关 的。章节本身的个别情节是基于通过用户研究确定的关键主题。

The subplots within each chapter follow a similar structure using the Cognitive Appraisal Model (Figure 2) as a framework. This model is based on the principles of CBT, and posits that emotional distress such as stress and anxiety and behavioural reactions that are accompanied by unintended consequences are typically the result of inaccurate or unhelpful appraisals. More simply, the way someone interprets any situation or event has an impact on how they feel and what they do. These interpretations or appraisals are then also unknowingly reinforced by these emotional and behavioural reactions. Therefore it is important to understand the appraisals, and this is what we aim to shed light on through our narratives. The appraisal model (Situation-Appraisal-Emotion/Behaviour) provides a helpful format to explore the contribution of meaning to a person's individual experience of an event.

每个章节的子情节遵循一个类似的结构使用认知评估模型(图 2)作为一个框架。这个模型以认知行为疗法的原则为基础,并假定压力、焦虑和伴随意外后果的行为反应等情绪困扰通常是不准确或无益评估的结果。更简单地说,人们解释任何情况或事件的方式都会影响他们的感受和行为。这些解释或评价也在不知不觉中被这些情绪和行为反应所加强。因此,理解这些评价是很重要的,这也是我们希望通过我们的叙述来阐明的。评价模型(情境-评价-情绪/行为)提供了一个有用的形式来探索意义对一个人对一个事件的个人经验的贡献。

Each narrative therefore places the protagonist, played by the user, into a situation or event they are likely to encounter at university. They are then presented with a trigger, which can be some change in the external situation or environment or something the character notices. Following the trigger, the user is asked to choose which emotion the character is feeling (Figure 1). The list of options

因此,每个故事都将主人公(由用户扮演)置于他们在大学可能遇到的情境或事件中。然后他们会被呈现出一个触发点,这个触发点可能是外部环境或者角色注意到的某些变化。在触发之后,用户被要求选择角色感受到的情绪(图 1)。选项列表

# Situation Who, what, when, where? Scenario and setting You are in your room and your roommate invites them to hangout at a popular hangout spot on campus. Both of you leave. What happens right before a problem occurs? On arriving at hangout spot, roommate spots their friends and leaves you by yourself Interpretation (Appraisal) How is this event perceived? This includes automatic thoughts, beliefs, interpretations, predictions, assumptions, You think your roommate does not want to spend time with you because their other friends are more fun. **Emotions** Behaviour Feelings (Happy, sad, fearful, What was the response? What was the coping mechanism? anxious, etc.) Go back to your room alone angry, sad

Event

Figure 2: Cognitive Appraisal Model 图 2: 认知评估模型

presented here comprises the fve basic categories of emotions; joy, fear, anger, disgust and sadness. Within each category, we present 2-3 diferent variations of emotional experiences such as 'Happy' and 'Excited' within the core emotion category of 'Joy'. Immedi-ately after this they are asked what the character is thinking; how is this event perceived or appraised? The list of 7 options provided at this stage include rational and neutral thoughts as well as irra-tional thoughts, of which the irrational thoughts are mapped onto corresponding cognitive distortions. If the user's choice refects any cognitive distortion they are presented with a pop-up screen containing the name of the distortion and a short explanation. Following this, the user is asked how they wish the character to proceed. Depending on the context of the story, they could choose from a list of 2-3 dialogues or actions. By repeatedly going through this process for several chapters, the user can begin to see a pattern of cognitive distortions in their thoughts and better understand the link between feelings, thoughts and behaviours.

这里展示的情绪包括五个基本类别:喜悦,恐惧,愤怒,厌恶和悲伤。在每个类别中,我们呈现 2-3 种不同的情感体验,例如"快乐"和"兴奋"在"快乐"的核心情感类别中。紧接着,他们被问到这个角色在想什么;这个事件是如何被感知或评价的?这个阶段提供的 7 种选择包括理性和中性思维以及非理性思维,其中非理性思维被映射到相应的认知扭曲上。如果用户的选择反映了任何认知扭曲,他们会看到一个弹出屏幕,其中包含扭曲的名称和一个简短的解释。接下来,用户会被问到他们希望角色如何继续。根据故事的上下文,他们可以从 2-3 个对话或动作列表中进行选择。通过在几章中反复地经历这个过程,用户可以开始看到他们思想中的认知扭曲模式,并且更好地理解感觉、思想和行为之间的联系。

Figure 2 shows a sample narrative from our application that has been mapped on to the Cognitive Appraisal Model to better illustrate our framework and process. This narrative revolves around the theme of social anxiety. Through the data gathered during our user research, we saw that most social gatherings took place at a popular student hangout spot on campus commonly referred to as the khoka which would literally translate to 'local neighbourhood kiosk' in English. The khoka was therefore our chosen setting for this narrative. The initial situation presented in this narrative is that the protagonist, played by the user is at the khoka with a friend. The trigger occurs when the friend notices a group of people they know and goes of to chat with them, leaving the main character standing by themselves. At this point, we need to see how the user

图 2 显示了我们的应用程序的一个示例说明,该示例说明已经映射到认知评估模型,以便更好地描述我们的框架和过程。这个故事围绕着社交焦虑这个主题展开。通过我们在用户研究中收集的数据,我们发现大多数社交聚会都是在校园里一个很受欢迎的学生聚会地点举行的,这个地方通常被称为 khoka,在英语中它的字面意思就是"本地邻居小亭"。因此我们选择 khoka 作为这个故事的背景。这个故事最初呈现的情景是主人公,由用户扮演,和一个朋友在 khoka。当朋友注意到一群他们认识的人,然后去和他们聊天,让主角独自站着时,触发点就出现了。在这一点上,我们需要看看用户是如何

has interpreted this event and this is done by asking them what the character is feeling and thinking. After the appraisal, the user then decides what action to take which infuences how the story progresses and how the chapter concludes.

通过询问他们角色的感受和想法来解释这个事件。在评估之后, 用户决定采取什么样的行动来影响故事的进展和章节的结尾。

# 3.2 Visual Design

## 3.2 可视化设计

The visual design of the application was also an important factor in increasing engagement with the storylines and delivering infor-mation in a more impactful way. Contextualising the visual design was also a means to creating a connection between the user and the application and increasing personal relevance and immersion. We took an iterative approach to the visual design, relying on research to inform our initial decisions and user testing to improve further versions of our design.

应用程序的视觉设计也是增加与故事情节的接触和以更有影响力的方式传递信息的一个重要因素。视觉设计的背景化也是在用户和应用程序之间建立联系,增加个人相关性和沉浸感的一种手段。我们对视觉设计采取了一种迭代的方法,依靠研究来告知我们最初的决定和用户测试来改进我们设计的进一步版本。



Figure 3: Left: Actual 'Khoka' Center: 'Khoka' from First It图 3: 左: 实际' Khoka'中心: ' Khoka'来自 First It eration Right: 'Khoka' from Final Iteration Operation Right: ' Khoka'来自 Final Iteration

To complement the contextualised narratives, the landscapes were set in the college campus. Initially, we took the main landmarks of our campus and portrayed them through a fantastical visual language using an exaggeration of natural elements such as trees and mountains. The rationale for this was based on literature that suggests fantasy has been a factor in facilitating active engagement

为了补充情境化的叙述,景观设置在大学校园。最初,我们选取了我们校园的主要地标,并通过一种奇妙的视觉语言,使用树木和山脉等自然元素的夸张来描绘它们。这样做的基本原理是建立在文学基础上的,文学认为幻想是促进积极参与的一个因素

[73] and is a source of intrinsic motivation [13, 62]. We wanted to achieve a balance between realism and fantasy, catering to our need for contextualisation as well as engagement and immersion. 并且是内在动机的来源[13,62]。我们希望在现实主义和幻想之间实现平衡,满足我们对情境化以及参与和沉浸的需求。

Moreover, we ensured consistency in the UI elements for the three main decision making interactions; where users are asked to choose an emotion, a thought and an action. This was done to create a visual link that could also help users understand the connection between feelings, thoughts and behaviours (Figure 1). The colour palette for the UI elements was also chosen to



Figure 4: Top Left: Actual 'SSE' Top Right: 'SSE' in app Bot-图 4: 左上角: 实际的' SSE'右上角: app Bot 中的' SSE' tom Left: Actual 'Library' Bottom Right: 'Library' in app Tom Left: Actual' Library'Bottom Right: 应用程序中的' Library'

complement the realistic colours of the landscape, keeping in mind literature that shows certain colours have efects on thoughts and emotions as it was imperative to ensure our visual design did not evoke any emotion that could infuence the user's interpretation of events presented in the narratives.

此外,我们确保了三个主要决策交互的用户界面元素的一致性;在这三个主要决策交互中,用户被要求选择一种情绪、一个想法和一个行动。这样做是为了创建一个视觉链接,也可以帮助用户理解感觉,思想和行为之间的联系(图 1)。用户界面元素的色彩调色板也被选择来补充景观的现实主义色彩,记住文学显示某些颜色对思想和情感有影响,因为它必须确保我们的视觉设计不会引起任何情感,可能会影响使用者对叙述中呈现的事件的解释。

3.2.1 User Feedback. We tested this frst iteration with a group of ten students who had also participated in our narrative user research. We found that the fantastical setting seemed to contribute to a feeling of disconnect with the narratives, as the relatability was diminished (Figure 3: Center). Hence, acting on these insights we modifed our visual language and took care to use very subtle fantastical elements such as dense forests in the distance or lone trees growing in indoor spaces while maintaining the realism in the built environment (Figure 3: Right). Overall, the whole process of designing and testing the visual landscapes took around eight months, with each landscape taking an average of two to three days to complete. 3.2.1 用户反馈。我们对第一个迭代进行了测试,有 10 名学生参 与了我们的叙事用户研究。我们发现, 幻想的设置似乎有助于与 叙事脱节的感觉, 因为相关性减少(图 3: 中心)。因此, 基于这些 见解, 我们修改了我们的视觉语言, 并注意使用非常微妙的幻想 元素、如远处茂密的森林或在室内空间生长的孤独的树木、同时 在建筑环境中保持现实主义(图 3: 右)。总的来说,设计和测试视 觉景观的整个过程大约需要八个月,每个景观平均需要两到三天 才能完成。

# 3.3 Avatars

# 3.3 个阿凡达

Avatars are important gamifcation elements that can complement narratives and foster a connection between users and the application by allowing them to create or adopt an identity. Combining this with another gamifcation element of customization can greatly contribute to a sense of increased autonomy [7]. Similar to the visual design process, we developed initial iterations based on research and then developed further iterations based on user feedback.

阿凡达是重要的游戏元素,可以补充叙事,并通过允许用户创建或采用一个身份,促进用户和应用程序之间的联系。将这与另一个定制的游戏化元素相结合,可以大大有助于增加自主性[7]。与视觉设计过程类似,我们基于研究开发了初始迭代,然后基于用户反馈开发了进一步的迭代。

For the design of the avatar that would represent the playable main character, we wanted to create a basic 'shell' which the user could project themselves onto without assigning too many complex elements. The visual language we adopted led us to design avatars with exaggerated body shapes. This was, again, an attempt to insert a fantastical element into the design. The user was given several customization options for hairstyles, skin tone, clothes and shoes. We took care to have an inclusive range of options for clothing, incorporating western as well as eastern styles of dress, and not creating any distinction within customization options based on gender. All the options were designed within our colour palette range, so that they would not clash with the visual design of any of the landscapes they would be placed in.

为了设计代表可玩主角的化身,我们希望创建一个基本的" shell",用户可以投射到上面,而不需要分配太多复杂的元素。我们采用的视觉语言引导我们设计具有夸张身体形状的虚拟形象。这再一次尝试在设计中插入一个奇妙的元素。用户可以选择几种自定义的发型、肤色、衣服和鞋子。我们小心翼翼地为服装提供了一系列包容性的选择,融合了西方和东方的服装风格,并且没有在基于性别的定制选项中进行任何区分。所有的选项都是在我们的调色板范围内设计的,以便他们不会冲突的视觉设计的任何景观,他们将被置于。



Figure 5: Character Customization 图 5: 角色定制

3.3.1 User Feedback. From the user feedback obtained from the same ten students, we gained insights into the shape of the avatars. The exaggerated body shape was not perceived well, as it appeared to be an idealistic body type with its elongated legs and shortened torso. In further iterations, therefore, we decided on an amorphous form for the bodies of the avatars in order to avoid any negative impacts from unrealistic body shapes or lack of body diversity representation.

3.3.1 用户反馈。从这 10 个学生的用户反馈中,我们得到了阿凡 达形状的深刻见解。夸张的身体形状没有被很好的理解,因为它 看起来是一个理想化的身体类型,有着细长的腿和短小的躯干。 因此,在进一步的迭代中,我们为阿凡达的身体决定了一种无定 形的形式,以避免不切实际的身体形状或缺乏身体多样性表示的 任何负面影响。 What are you thinking? 你在想什么?

# 3.4 Interaction Mechanics

# 3.4 相互作用力学

The interaction mechanics within Chronicles were designed with the objective of facilitating interaction between the user and the application, increasing engagement and motivation and hence emulating a therapeutic alliance within the digital intervention. To make the narrative interactive, we made use of decision making at three stages within each chapter; feelings, thoughts and actions. This mechanism of decision making not only serves to make the narratives more interactive and engaging, but also shows the user that there are several alternative ways of thinking about a single scenario. While selecting the option that would match their own thoughts, they would also be making the connection between their own feelings, thoughts and behaviours. Decision-making is also suitable in the context of learning, and can therefore also facilitate the psychoeducational component of the application.

Chronicles 中的交互机制旨在促进用户和应用程序之间的交互,增加参与度和动机,从而在数字干预中实现治疗联盟。为了使叙述具有交互性,我们在每一章中使用了三个阶段的决策: 感觉,思想和行动。这种决策机制不仅有助于使叙述更具互动性和吸引力,而且还向用户表明,对于单个场景,有多种不同的思考方式。在选择符合他们自己想法的选项时,他们也会将自己的感受、想法和行为联系起来。决策也适用于学习的背景,因此也可以促进心理教育的组成部分的应用。

As mentioned previously, the application is divided into four levels, corresponding to the four years of a typical undergraduate degree; Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior. Each level has fve chapters each comprised of a diferent scenario, and at the end of each level the user is presented with a short summary of their 'year' based on the choices they made. This also serves to enhance engagement by increasing the user's sense of agency and personal relevance of the content. A progress bar was also added at the top of the screen for better user experience and so that it may also motivate users to complete the level they are on.

如前所述,申请分为四个等级,对应于一个典型的本科学位的四年:大一,大二,大三,大四。每个级别有五个章节,每个章节由一个不同的场景组成,在每个级别的最后,用户会根据他们所做的选择得到一个简短的"年"摘要。这也有助于提高用户的参与度,增强用户的代理意识和内容的个人相关性。屏幕顶部还添加了一个进度条,以提供更好的用户体验,这样也可以激励用户完成他们所处的级别。

In order to enhance the connection between the user and the virtual environment and increase immersion, we also incorporated dynamic elements within our landscapes. This was done through animating certain objects such as the trees and natural elements in the background, so that they would gently sway from side to side. The movement was kept minimal, so as to not create a jarring impact that could have the counter-productive efect of snapping the users back to reality. Additionally, the landscapes were designed in a layered manner, to give rise to a depth efect if the user pans to the right or left of the landscape. At this time, there was no aural element within the application, although we do intend to incorporate that in future iterations as audio can play a significant role in immersion and engagement.

为了加强用户和虚拟环境之间的联系,增加沉浸感,我们还在景观中加入了动态元素。这是通过动画特定的对象来实现的,比如背景中的树木和自然元素,这样它们就可以轻轻地从一边摇摆到另一边。

移动被保持在最小,以免产生不和谐的影响,可能会产生反效果,让用户回到现实。此外,景观设计在一个分层的方式,以产生深度效应,如果使用者平移到右侧或左侧的景观。此时,应用程序中没有听觉元素,尽管我们确实打算在未来的迭代中加入这些元素,因为音频可以在沉浸和参与中发挥重要作用。

# 3.5 Usability Testing

## 3.5 可用性测试

Once we had developed a high fdelity prototype of our application, we conducted initial usability testing to determine the extent to which our application met the needs of our target population and to get feedback on the overall design. We recruited 50 students via the Ofce of Student Afairs who met the eligibility criteria that they must be currently enrolled at LUMS and be between the ages of 18-25. Each participant was allotted a one hour time slot in which they were frst given the prototype of our application and were asked to complete the frst level of the game. After completion, participants flled out the System Usability Scale (SUS) and took part in a semi-structured interview in which they talked about their experience using the application, particularly focusing on which elements of the application contributed to higher engagement and motivation.

一旦我们开发了应用程序的高精度原型,我们就进行了初始的可用性测试,以确定我们的应用程序在多大程度上满足了目标人群的需求,并获得关于总体设计的反馈。我们通过学生事务办公室招募了 50 名符合资格标准的学生,他们目前必须在 LUMS 注册,年龄在 18-25 岁之间。每个参与者都被分配了一个小时的时间段,在这个时间段里,他们首先被给予我们应用程序的原型,然后被要求完成游戏的第一关。完成后,参与者填写了系统可用性量表(SUS),并参加了一个半结构化的访谈,在访谈中,他们谈论了他们使用该应用程序的经验,特别是应用程序的哪些元素有助于提高参与度和动机。

Overall, participants were satisfed with the usability of the application with the average SUS score being 83.8%. The main finding 总的来说,参与者对应用程序的可用性表示满意,SUS 平均得分为 83.8%

from this round of testing was that 100% of the participants found the narratives highly relatable. Furthermore, 100% of the partici-pants also commented on how the familiar landscapes helped keep them engaged in the stories. Both points highlight how users felt that the contextualization of content contributed to the engagement with the application. 在这一轮测试中,100% 的参与者认为这些叙述是高度相关的。此外,100% 的参与者还评论了熟悉的风景如何帮助他们参与故事。这两点都强调了用户是如何感受到内容的上下文化背景有助于与应用程序的互动。

# 4 RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED TRIAL

# 随机对照试验

The purpose of this study was to examine the efect of combining interactive storytelling and CBT in a gamifed mHealth application. Furthermore, we aimed to explore this efect in comparison to existing self-guided CBT apps to assess whether our approach could improve the efcacy of these interventions. In order to do this, we designed and conducted a 3-arm randomized controlled trial in which participants used our application, an existing mHealth CBT app, or were assigned to a waitlist group. The LUMS Institutional Review Board approved all procedures.

本研究的目的在于探讨在游戏化的移动健康应用程序中结合交互式讲故事和认知行为疗法的效果。此外,我们旨在探索这种效应与现有的自我引导 CBT 应用程序相比较,以评估我们的方法是否可以提高这些干预措施的效果。为了做到这一点,我们设计并进行了一个三臂随机对照试验,其中参与者使用我们的应用程序,一个现有的移动健康认知行为疗法应用程序,或被分配到等待名单组。LUMS 机构审查委员会批准了所有程序。

# 4.1 Study Design

# 4.1 研究设计

A mixed factorial 3(condition) x 2(time) repeated measures design was applied. Participants were randomly assigned to one of three groups: test, control or waitlist. The trial duration was 2 weeks and the measures were conducted at the beginning (t1) and again at the end (t2).

采用混合因子 3(条件) x2(时间)重复测度设计。参与者被随机分配到三组中的一组:测试,对照或等待名单。试验持续时间为 2 周,在开始时(t1)和结束时(t2)进行测量。

#### 4.2 Measures

## 4.2 措施

#### 4.2.1 Primary Measures.

# 4.2.1 基本措施。

 Depression: The degree and severity of each participant's depression was assessed before and after the intervention. This was done using the PHQ-9 questionnaire, which is a self-reporting tool that is used for screening, monitoring, diagnosing and measuring the severity of an individual's depression [64]. It objectively determines severity of initial symptoms, and also monitors symptom changes and treat-ment efects over time.

- 抑郁: 在干预前后评估每个参与者抑郁的程度和严重程度。这是使用 phq-9 问卷,这是一个自我报告的工具,用于筛查,监测,诊断和衡量个人的抑郁症的严重程度[64]。它客观地确定了初始症状的严重程度,并随着时间的推移监测症状变化和治疗效果。
- Anxiety: The degree and severity of each participant's anx-iety was assessed before and after the intervention.
   This was done using the GAD-7 questionnaire, which is a self-reporting tool that is used for screening the most common anxiety disorders [82].

焦虑: 在干预前后评估每个参与者的焦虑程度和严重程度。这是使用 gad-7 问卷,这是一个自我报告工具,用于筛选最常见的焦虑障碍[82]。

#### 4.2.2 Secondary Measures.

#### 4.2.2 次要措施。

- Negative Automatic Thoughts: According to the Cognitive Behavioural Model, negative automatic thoughts directly correlate to the pathogenesis and severity of depression and anxiety. The frequency of occurrence of automatic negative thoughts and the degree of belief held in each was mea-sured for each participant, before and after the intervention. This was done using the ATQ-30 questionnaire [53]. This self-reporting tool presents 30 negative statements and par-ticipants indicate how often they experienced the negative thought during the course of the week on a Likert scale of 1–5 (1=Low-High=5).
- 消极自动思维: 根据认知行为模型,消极自动思维与抑郁和焦虑的发病机制和严重程度直接相关。在干预之前和之后,测量每个参与者自动消极思想的发生频率和每个参与者的信念程度。这是使用 atq-30 问卷[53]完成的。这个自我报告工具提供了 30 个消极的陈述,参与者以 1-5(1 = 低-高 = 5)的 Likert 量表显示他们在一周中经历消极想法的频率。
- Perception and Learning: One of the objectives of our game was to educate users about different cognitive distor-tions and equip them with the skills to identify when an

感知和学习:我们游戏的目标之一是教育用户不同的认知扭曲, 并让他们掌握识别

automatic thought is rational or irrational and allow them to understand how their perception of a situation can difer from the reality of the situation itself. This was done through the interactive storylines and choices presented to the users throughout the application, as described in the application design section. In order to assess whether the participants were able to retain and internalize the concepts they learned, we designed a test consisting of six diferent scenarios similar to the ones in the application, where a protagonist is presented with some kind of trigger and has some thought as a reaction. Of the six scenarios, fve represented some kind of cognitive distortion in the protagonist's thought and one represented a neutral thought and a rational appraisal of the situation. The participants were then asked to identify

无意识的思考是理性的或非理性的,并且允许他们理解他们对一种情况的感知是如何与现实情况本身不同的。这是通过交互式的故事情节和整个应用程序中呈现给用户的选择来实现的,如应用程序设计部分所描述的。为了评估参与者是否能够记住和内化他们所学到的概念,我们设计了一个测试,由六种不同的情景组成,类似于应用程序中的情景,在这些情景中,主角被呈现出某种触发因素,并有一些想法作为一种反应。在这六个场景中,五个场景代表了主人公思想中的某种认知扭曲,一个场景代表了一种中立的思想和对场景的理性评价。然后参与者被要求辨认

1) whether the thought was rational or irrational, 2) if it was irrational, which cognitive distortion did it display and 3) an explanation for the preceding two answers. For (2) they were given a complete list of cognitive distortions to choose from. No such cognitive distortions were represented that were not present in the application itself. If the participant answered both questions correctly they were given 2 points, if they correctly identifed whether a thought was rational or irrational but failed to correctly identify the specifc cog-nitive distortion they were given 1 point, and if they failed to do either they were given 0 points. Two versions of this test were created so that the participant's perception and learning were tested both at the start and the end of the trial. The results from this test contributed to our quantitative and qualitative fndings.

1)这个想法是理性的还是非理性的; 2)这个想法是否非理性的; 这个想法显示了什么样的认知扭曲; 3)对前两个答案的解释。因为(2)他们得到了一个完整的认知扭曲列表,可以从中选择。这样的认知扭曲在应用程序本身中并不存在。如果参与者正确地回答了这两个问题,他们将得到 2 分,如果他们正确地识别了一个想法是理性的还是非理性的,但没有正确地识别出特定的认知扭曲,他们将得到 1 分,如果他们没有做到任何一个,他们将得到 0 分。这个测试的两个版本被创建,以便参与者的知觉和学习在试验的开始和结束都被测试。这个测试的结果有助于我们的定量和定性结果。

 Daily Diary: All participants were also asked to maintain a daily diary throughout the trial duration, highlighting the most significant event that happened each day and their overall thoughts and feelings. The data collected from this was not used to contribute to our quantitative or qualitative measures, but rather just to ensure the participants were not dealing with any extenuating circumstances that could impact their scores. In the case of a particularly adverse event being reported, the participant would be referred to the on-campus counsellors who we collaborated with for this research.

每日日记: 所有参与者还被要求在整个试验期间保持每日日记, 强调每天发生的最重要事件以及他们的整体思想和感受。从中收集的数据不是用来帮助我们进行定量或定性的测量, 而只是为了确保参与者没有处理任何可能影响他们分数的情有可原的情况。在报告特别不利事件的情况下, 参与者将被转介给我们合作进行这项研究的校园辅导员。

## 4.3 Interventions

## 4.3 干预措施

4.3.1 Test Group Intervention. The test group was asked to download our free app, Chronicles, from Google Playstore. The app was intended to be used over a 2-week period. The group was instructed to spend around 5-10 minutes on the application per day. 4.3.1 测试小组干预。测试组被要求从 Google Playstore 下载我们的免费应用程序 Chronicles。这款应用程序的使用时间为两周。该小组被要求每天花 5-10 分钟使用这款应用程序。

4.3.2 Control Group Intervention. One of the aims of our study was to compare the efcacy of our application with the majority of existing mHealth apps delivering CBT, in terms of evidence based therapeutic elements that are refective of the core competencies of CBT theory. For this reason, we chose CBT Thought Diary as our control group intervention. This application also provided us the beneft of using the same vocabulary and terminology as Chronicles, making the comparison more viable. CBT Thought Diary has been developed by MoodTools and is available for download on all major app platforms. It comprises a psychoeducation module as well as 4.3.2 对照组干预。我们研究的目的之一是比较我们的应用程序与大 多数现有的提供认知行为疗法的移动健康应用程序在基于证据的治疗 要素方面的效果,这些要素反映了认知行为疗法理论的核心能力。出 于这个原因,我们选择 CBT 思想日记作为我们的对照组干预。这个 应用程序还为我们提供了使用与 Chronicles 相同的词汇和术语的优 势,使得比较更加可行。CBT Thought Diary 是由 MoodTools 开发 的,可以在所有主流应用平台上下载。它包括一个心理教育模块以及

an interactive thought record for cognitive restructuring. It was therefore an ideal control intervention, as it too educates users about the various cognitive distortions and allows them to identify their own negative thinking patterns. In order to reduce variables, this group was also instructed to spend around 5-10 minutes on the application per day. 用于认知重建的交互式思维记录。因此,它是一个理想的控制干预,因为它也教育使用者认识各种认知扭曲,并允许他们确定自己的消极思维模式。为了减少变量,这个小组还被指示每天花 5-10 分钟在应用程序上。

4.3.3 Waitlist Group. The waitlist group received no intervention, but completed all the questionnaires and measures at the same times as the test and control groups. Along with the test and control group, the waitlist group was also made to fll out a daily diary. At the end of the trial, the participants in this group also received the Chronicles app. 4.3.3 Waitlist Group.候补组没有接受干预,但与测试组和对照组同时完成了所有的问卷和测量。除了测试组和对照组,候补组也被要求每天写日记。在试验结束时,该组的参与者还收到了 Chronicles 应用程序。

# 4.4 Participants and Procedures

# 4.4 参加者及程序

In order to recruit participants a questionnaire was sent out asking for basic demographic information and further contact information for those willing to participate in the longitudinal research study. As before, the questionnaire was sent out via the Ofce of Student Afairs so that students would be reassured of the credibility of our study as well as the security of their data. We received 177 responses out of which 60 students (53.3% male, 46.6% female) were selected to participate in a longitudinal study as they ft the eligibility criteria of being willing to participate, between the ages of 18 and 25, currently enrolled in the college, and not currently in therapy or on any medication for depression or anxiety. These 60 students were then randomly assigned to one of the three intervention groups, resulting in 20 participants in each group.

为了招募参与者,发出了一份问卷,要求为那些愿意参加纵向研究的人提供基本的人口统计信息和进一步的联系信息。和以前一样,问卷是通过学生事务办公室发出的,这样学生就可以放心,我们的研究的可信度以及他们的数据的安全性。我们收到了 177 份回复,其中 60 名学生(男性占 53.3% ,女性占 46.6%)被选择参加追踪研究,因为他们符合参加追踪研究的资格标准,年龄在 18 到 25 岁之间,目前在大学就读,目前没有接受治疗或任何治疗抑郁或焦虑的药物治疗。然后,这 60 名学生被随机分配到三个干预组中的一个,每组有 20 名参与者。

At the beginning of the study, the participants were sent links to the questionnaires as well as download instructions for the apps for the test and control groups. During the trial period, participants in the test and control groups were sent reminders every other day via email to spend approximately 5-10 minutes on the Chronicles app and CBT Thought Diary app respectively. At the end of the two-week period, participants in all three groups were sent the fnal round of questionnaires as well as an additional exit survey with open-ended questions for them to refect on their experience with their respective interventions. Due to the large sample size and the

limitations incurred by the current pandemic (Covid-19), we decided to use this survey to collect detailed qualitative insights from each participant rather than conducting interviews for a fraction of the participants.

在研究开始时,参与者被发送到调查问卷的链接,以及测试组和对照组应用程序的下载说明。在试验期间,测试组和对照组的参与者每隔一天通过电子邮件发送提醒信息,分别在 Chronicles 应用程序和 CBT Thought Diary 应用程序上花费大约 5-10 分钟。在两周期限结束时,向所有三个小组的参与者发送了最后一轮调查问卷以及附有开放式问题的额外离职调查,供他们反思各自干预措施的经验。由于大样本量和当前流行病(2019 冠状病毒疾病)带来的局限性,我们决定利用这次调查从每个参与者那里收集详细的定性见解,而不是对一小部分参与者进行访谈。

# 4.5 Data Analysis

# 4.5 数据分析

To evaluate whether each intervention had a significant efect on each of the four measures (depression, anxiety, automatic thoughts, perception and learning), paired sample t-tests were conducted for measures at t1 and t2, and efect sizes (Cohen's d) were calculated for significant t-values. These results are summarised in Table 2. To compare the changes in each measure between the three dif-ferent groups, a One-Way ANOVA test was used. This established whether there was a significant diference between the impacts of the three diferent intervention conditions. If the results of the ANOVA showed a significant diference, a post hoc Tukey's HSD test was performed for pairwise comparisons to determine which intervention was the main driver of this diference. These results

为了评价各种干预措施是否对抑郁、焦虑、自动思维、知觉和学习四项指标均有显著影响,在 t1 和 t2 进行配对样本 t 检验,计算显著 t 值的效应大小(Cohen's d)。这些结果总结在表 2 中。为了比较三个不同组之间每个测量值的变化,使用单因素方差分析检验。这确定了三种不同干预条件的影响是否存在显着差异。如果方差分析结果显示有显著性差异,则进行事后 Tukey's HSD 检验进行配对比较,以确定哪种干预是造成这种差异的主要驱动因素。这些结果

What are you thinking? 你在想什么?

Table 1: Results of t-tests between participants' scores for all measures at t1

表 1: t1 时所有措施参与者得分之间的 t 检验结果

Measure 措施	Test:Control (t1) 测试: 控制 (t1)		t (t1) 测试:		Control:Waitli st (t1) Control: Waitlist (t1)	
		p- value P 值		p- value P 值	t-value T值	p- value P 值
Depressi on 抑郁症						
加那症 Anxiety	1.316	0.098102	1.376	0.088364	0.058	0.477194
焦虑	0.934	0.178182	1.482	0.073343	0.556	0.290756
NAT NAT						
Perceptio	1.058	0.148403	1.242	0.110861	0.184	0.427532
n / >>/						
知觉	0.455	0.325936	1.975	0.027794	1.619	0.056912

are summarised in Table 3. Across all tests, a p-value of less than 0.05 was considered statistically significant. 在所有测试中,p 值小于 0.05 被认为具有统计学意义。

#### 5 RESULTS

#### 5 结果

In this section, we present both the quantitative and qualitative results of our study.

在本节中, 我们介绍了我们研究的定量和定性结果。

# 5.1 Initial Scores

### 5.1 初始分数

Though all participants were randomly assigned to one of the three groups (test, control, waitlist) paired sample t-tests for independent means were conducted to ensure there was no significant difference between the participants' scores for all measures at the start of the experiment (t1).

虽然所有的参与者被随机分配到三个组中的一个(测试,控制,候补名单),配对样本 t 检验的独立方法进行,以确保参与者之间没有显着差异的所有措施的分数在实验开始时(t1)。

The results (Table 1) showed that there was no significant difference in scores for all four measures between the test group and the control group, nor between the control group and the waitlist group. Between the test group and the waitlist group, there was no significant difference in scores for Depression, Anxiety or Negative Automatic Thoughts, although there was a significant difference in scores for Perception and Learning. This was factored in during the analysis of the results.

结果(表 1): 试验组与对照组之间、对照组与候补组之间四项指标的得分均无显著性差异。实验组和候补组在抑郁、焦虑和消极

自动思维方面的得分没有显著差异,但在知觉和学习方面的得分 有显著差异。在分析结果时考虑到了这一点。

### 5.2 Within Interventions

### 5.2 在干预内

To evaluate the efect of each of the three interventions (Chronicles app, CBT Thought Diary, No Intervention) on each of the four measures (depression, anxiety, automatic thoughts, perception and learning), paired sample t-tests (one-tailed) were conducted for each measure at t1 and t2. The results are summarised in Table 2. 为评价三种干预措施(Chronicles app、CBT 思维日记、No 干预)对 抑郁、焦虑、自动思维、知觉和学习四项指标的影响,分别在 t1 和 t2 进行配对样本 t 检验。结果总结在表 2 中。

#### 5.2.1 Test Group (n=20).

#### 5.2.1 测试组(n = 20)。

Depression: There was a significant difference in the PHQ-9 scores of the test group between t1 (M= 13.45 SD= 5.095) and t2(M= 8.25 SD= 4.166); t(19)= -3.71 , p= 0.00075). The magnitude of this efect was calculated as Cohen's d= 1.118. These results suggest that the use of the Chronicles app really did have an efect on the severity of depression as reported through the questionnaire. Specifcally, by using this intervention the level of depression decreased in our test group.

抑郁: 治疗组 phq-9 评分在 t1(m = 13.45 SD = 5.095)和 t2(m = 8.25 SD = 4.166)之间有显著性差异, t (19) = -3.71, p = 0.00075。这种效应的大小计算为 Cohen's d = 1.118。 这些结果表明,使用 Chronicles 应用程序确实对通过调查 问卷报告的抑郁症的严重程度有影响。具体而言,通过使用这种干预措施,我们测试组的抑郁水平下降。

Anxiety: There was a significant diference in the GAD-7 scores of the test group between t1 (M= 10.55 SD= 5.624) and t2(M= 7.7 SD= 5.048); t(19)= -2.09 , p= 0.025). The magnitude of this efect was calculated as Cohen's d= 0.533. These re-sults suggest that the use of the Chronicles app really did have an efect on the severity of anxiety as reported through the questionnaire. Specifcally, by using this intervention the level of anxiety decreased in our test group.

焦虑: 治疗组 gad-7 评分在 t1(m = 10.55 SD = 5.624)和 t2(m = 7.7 SD = 5.048)之间有显著性差异, t (19) = -2.09, p = 0.025。这种效应的大小计算为 Cohen's d = 0.533。这些结果表明, 使用 Chronicles 应用程序确实对调查问卷报告的焦虑程度有影响。具体而言,通过使用这种干预措施,我们测试组的焦虑水平下降。

• Negative Automatic Thoughts: There was a significant diference in the ATQ-30 scores of the test group between t1 (M= 97.15 SD= 22.8) and t2(M= 81.65 SD= 24.17); t(19)= -2.96, p= 0.004). The magnitude of this efect was calculated as Cohen's d= 0.66. These results suggest that the use of the Chronicles app really did have an efect on the frequency of occurrence and degree of belief in negative automatic thoughts as reported through the questionnaire. Specifically, by using this intervention the frequency of occurrence and degree of belief in negative automatic thoughts decreased in our test group.

负性自动思维: 实验组 atq-30 分在 t1(m = 97.15 SD = 22.8) 和 t2(m = 81.65 SD = 24.17)之间有显著性差异, t (19) = -2.96, p = 0.004。这种效应的大小计算为 Cohen's d = 0.66。这些结果表明,使用 Chronicles 应用程序确实对负面自动想法的出现频率和信念程度有影响,正如通过问卷调查所报告的那样。具体而言,通过使用这种干预,在我们的测试组中,消极自动思维的发生频率和信念程度下降。

• Perception and Learning: There was a signifcant difer-ence in the scores of the test group between t1(M= 6.55 SD= 1.395) and t2(M= 7.8 SD= 1.936); t(19)= 4.075, p= 0.00032). The magnitude of this efect was calculated as Cohen's d= 0.741. These results suggest that the use of the Chronicles app really did have an efect on how participants perceived thoughts, whether they saw them as rational or irrational, how well they had been able to internalise the concepts and how much information relating to cognitive distortions they had retained. Specifcally, by using this intervention there seemed to be an increase in their knowledge and their understanding of irrational thoughts.

感知与学习:治疗组与对照组比较,t1(m = 6.55 SD = 1.395)与t2(m = 7.8 SD = 1.936)有显著性差异,t (19) = 4.075,p = 0.00032。这种效应的大小计算为 Cohen's d = 0.741。这些结果表明,使用 Chronicles 应用程序确实对参与者如何感知思想产生了影响,无论他们认为这些思想是理性的还是非理性的,他们对这些概念的内化程度如何,以及他们保留了多少与认知扭曲有关的信息。具体来说,通过使用这种干预,他们的知识和对非理性思维的理解似乎有所增加。

#### 5.2.2 Control Group (n=20).

### 5.2.2 对照组(n = 20)。

Depression: There was no significant difference in the PHQ-9 scores of the control group between t1 (M= 11.15 SD= 5.932) and t2(M= 9.8 SD= 5.653); t(19)= -1.6 , p= 0.06306). These results suggest that the use of the CBT Thought Diary app did not have a statistically significant efect on the severity of depression as reported through the questionnaire.

抑郁: 对照组 phq-9 评分 t1(m = 11.15 SD = 5.932)与 t2(m = 9.8 SD = 5.653)无显著性差异,t(19) = -1.6,p = 0.06306。这些结果表明,使用 CBT Thought Diary 应用程序对通过问卷报告的抑郁症严重程度没有统计学显着影响。

 Anxiety: There was no significant difference in the GAD-7 scores of the control group between t1 (M= 8.95 SD= 5.206) and t2(M= 9.65 SD= 6.393); t(19)= 0.742, p= 0.23358). These results suggest that the use of the CBT Thought Diary app did not have a statistically significant efect on the severity of anxiety as reported through the questionnaire.

- 焦虑: 对照组 gad-7 评分 t1(m = 8.95 SD = 5.206)与 t2(m = 9.65 SD = 6.393)无显著性差异,t (19) = 0.742,p = 0.23358。这 些结果表明,使用 CBT 思想日记应用程序对通过问卷报告的 焦虑程度没有统计学显着影响。
- Negative Automatic Thoughts: There was no significant diference in the ATQ-30 scores of the control group between t1 (M= 88 SD= 31.24) and t2(M= 82.5 SD= 35.06); t(19)= -1.51 , p= 0.07383). These results suggest that the use of the CBT Thought Diary app did not have a statistically significant efect on the frequency of occurrence and degree of belief in negative automatic thoughts as reported through the ques-tionnaire.
- 消极自动思维: 对照组 atq-30 分在 t1(m = 88sd = 31.24)和 t2(m = 82.5 SD = 35.06)之间无显著性差异, t (19) =-1.51, p = 0.07383。这些结果表明, 使用 CBT 思维日记应用程序对负面自动思维的出现频率和信念程度没有统计学意义上的显著影响。
- Perception and Learning: There was no signifcant dif-ference in the scores of the control group between t1(M= 6.35 SD= 1.387) and t2(M= 6.25 SD= 1.773); t(19)= -0.357095 , p= 0.36248). These results suggest that the use of the CBT Thought Diary app did not have a statistically signifcant efect on how participants perceived thoughts, whether they saw them as rational or irrational, how well they had been able to internalise the concepts and how much information relating to cognitive distortions they had retained.

感知与学习: 对照组 t1(m = 6.35 SD = 1.387)与 t2(m = 6.25 SD = 1.773)得分无显著性差异, t (19) = -0.357095, p = 0.36248。 这些结果表明,使用认知行为疗法思维日记应用程序对参与者如何看待思维,他们是否认为思维是理性的或非理性的,他们如何能够内化这些概念,以及他们保留了多少与认知扭曲有关的信息,在统计学上没有显著影响。

5.2.3 Waitlist Group (n=20).

5.2.3 Waitlist 组(n = 20)。

知觉

0.513

Table 2: The results of paired sample t-tests examining the efect of the interventions on each measure

表 2: 配对样本 t 检验的结果,检验干预措施对每项措施的影响

		t 1 T 1		t 2 T 2		t- valu e T 值	e	Cohen' s d 科恩的 d
		mea n 刻 薄	标 准	mea n 刻 薄	SD 标准差			
Test	Depress 抑郁症		5.095	8.25	4.166	-3:71	0.00075	1.118
Group 测试小 组 (n=20) (n = 20)	Anxiety 焦虑	10.55	5.624	7.7	5.048	-2.09 -2.09	0.025	0.533
	NAT NAT Percept	97.15	22.8	81.65	24.17	-2.96 -2.96	0.004	0.66
	ion 知觉 Depress	6.55	1.395	7.8	1.936	4.075	0.00032	0.741
Control 控制室	扣都症 Anxiety 焦虑	7	5.932	9.8	5.653	-1:8	0.06306	N/A N/a N/A N/a
Group (n=20)		8.95	5.206	9.65	6.393	0.742	0.23358	
组(n = 20)	NAT NAT	88	31.24	82.5	35.06	-1.51 -1.51 -	0.07383	N/A N/a
	Percept ion 知觉	6.35	1.387	6.25		0.357 - 0.357	0.36248	N/A N/a
Waitlist	Depress 抑郁症	S	5.014	9.4		4.7̄96 4.7̄96		0.366
候补名 单 Group (n=20)	Anxiety 焦虑	8.05	5.031	8.4	5.744	0.526	0.30265	N/A N/a
组(n = 20)	NAT NAT Percept	86.15	32.37	82.4	34.75	-0.89 -0.89 -	0.19225	N/A N/a N/A
	ion	5.45	2.064	5.3	2.055	0.513	0.3071	N/a

- Depression: There was a significant difference in the PHQ-9 scores of the waitlist group between t1 (M= 11.25 SD= 5.014) and t2(M= 9.4 SD= 5.093); t(19)= -4.796 , p= 0.00006). The magnitude of this efect was calculated as Cohen's d= 0.366. These results suggest that the severity of depression decreased over time as reported through the questionnaire.
- 抑郁症: 候补组的 phq-9 分在 t1(m = 11.25 SD = 5.014)和 t2(m = 9.4 SD = 5.093)之间有显著性差异, t (19) = -4.796, p = 0.00006。这种效应的大小计算为 Cohen's d = 0.366。这些结果表明, 抑郁症的严重程度随着时间的推移而下降, 如通过问卷报告的那样。
- Anxiety: There was no significant difference in the GAD-7 scores of the waitlist group between t1 (M= 8.05 SD= 5.031) and t2(M= 8.4 SD= 5.744); t(19)= 0.526, p=0.30265). These results suggest that there was no statistically significant change in anxiety levels over time, as reported through the questionnaire.
- 焦虑: 候补组 gad-7 评分在 t1(m = 8.05 SD = 5.031)和 t2(m = 8.4 SD = 5.744)之间无显著性差异, t (19) = 0.526, p = 0.30265。这些结果表明, 如通过问卷报告的, 随着时间的推移, 焦虑水平没有统计学显着变化。
- Negative Automatic Thoughts: There was no significant diference in the ATQ-30 scores of the waitlist group between t1 (M= 86.15 SD= 32.37) and t2(M= 82.4 SD= 34.75); t(19)= -0.89 , p= 0.19225). These results suggest that there was no statistically significant change in the frequency of occurrence and degree of belief in negative automatic thoughts over time, as reported through the questionnaire.
- 负性自动思维: 等待名单组的 atq-30 分在 t1(m = 86.15 SD = 32.37)和 t2(m = 82.4 SD = 34.75)之间无显著性差异; t (19) =-0.89, p = 0.19225)。这些结果表明,随着时间的推移,消极自动想法的出现频率和信念程度在统计学上没有显著变化,正如通过问卷所报告的那样。
- Perception and Learning: There was no significant difer-ence in the scores of the waitlist group between t1 (M= 5.45 SD= 2.064) and t2(M= 5.3 SD= 2.055); t(19)= -0.513, p= 0.3071). These results suggest that there was no statistically significant change in how participants perceived thoughts, whether they saw them as rational or irrational, how well they had been able to internalise the concepts and how much information relating to cognitive distortions they had retained.
- 知觉与学习: 等待名单组 t1(m = 5.45 SD = 2.064)与 t2(m = 5.3 SD = 2.055)得分无显著性差异, t (19) = -0.513, p = 0.3071。这些结果表明,参与者对思想的感知方式,他们认为思想是理性的还是非理性的,他们内化概念的能力有多好,以及他们保留了多少与认知扭曲有关的信息,在统计学上没有显著的变化。

#### 5.3 Between Interventions

## 5.3 介入之间

 Depression: There was a significant efect of intervention on the change in PHQ-9 scores (F2,57= 4.651, p= 0.013462).
 Further post hoc Tukey's HSD pairwise comparisons indicated significant differences in scores between the test group and the control group (p= 0.01859) as well as between the test group and the waitlist group (p= 0.04618), but no significant difference between the control group and the waitlist group (p= 0.92959).

- 抑郁: 干预对 phq-9 评分变化有显著影响(F2,57 = 4.651, p = 0.013462)。进一步的 Tukey's HSD 两两比较显示,试验组与对照组之间、试验组与候补组之间的得分有显著性差异(p = 0.01859),而对照组与候补组之间的得分无显著性差异(p = 0.92959)。
- Anxiety: There was a significant efect of intervention on the change in GAD-7 scores (F2,57= 3.602, p= 0.033638). Further post hoc Tukey's HSD pairwise comparisons indicated a significant difference in scores between the test group and

焦虑: 干预对 gad-7 评分变化有显著影响(F2,57 = 3.602, p = 0.033638)。进一步的事后 Tukey 的 HSD 成对比较表明测试组和

Table 3: The results of a One-Way ANOVA examining the difference in efect between the interventions on each measure 表 3: 单因素方差分析的结果,检查了每个措施的干预措施之间的效果差异

		Control:V				
		Test:Cont Test:Wait tlist				
	p-	rol	list	Control:		
	value	测试: 控	测试: 候	Waitlist 控		
F	P值	制	补名单	件: Waitlist		
4.651	0.013462	0.01859	0.04618	0.92959		
3.602	0.033638	0.04672	0.08062	0.96874		
3.196	0.048346	0.22839	0.04191	0.69333		
7.330	0.001468	0.00536	0.00376	0.99202		
	4.651 3.602 3.196	p- value P 值  4.651 0.013462  3.602 0.033638  3.196 0.048346	p-value 测试: 控 P值 制  4.651 0.013462 0.01859  3.602 0.033638 0.04672  3.196 0.048346 0.22839	p- rol list 测试: 按 测试: 候 P 值 制 补名单  4.651 0.013462 0.01859 0.04618  3.602 0.033638 0.04672 0.08062  3.196 0.048346 0.22839 0.04191		

the control group (p= 0.04672) but no significant difference between the test group and the waitlist group (p= 0.08062) nor between the control group and the waitlist group (p= 0.96874).

对照组(p = 0.04672) , 实验组与候补组(p = 0.08062)、对照组与候补组(p = 0.96874)无显著性差异。

- Negative Automatic Thoughts: There was a signifcant ef-fect
  of intervention on the change in ATQ-30 scores (F2,57=
  3.196, p= 0.048346). Further post hoc Tukey's HSD pairwise
  comparisons indicated a signifcant diference in scores between the test group and the waitlist group (p= 0.04191) but
  no signifcant diference between the test group and the control group (p= 0.22839) nor between the control group and
  the waitlist group (p= 0.69333).
- 负性自动思维:干预对 atq-30 评分变化有显著影响(F2,57 = 3.196, p = 0.048346)。进一步的事后 Tukey 的 HSD 成对比较显示,试验组与候补组之间的得分有显著性差异(p = 0.04191),但试验组与对照组之间无显著性差异(p = 0.69333)。
- Perception and Learning: There was a significant efect of intervention on the change in test scores (F2,57= 7.330, p= 0.001468). Further post hoc Tukey's HSD pairwise comparisons indicated significant differences in scores between the test group and the control group (p= 0.00536) as well as between the test group and the waitlist group (p= 0.00376), but no significant difference between the control group and the waitlist group (p= 0.99202).

知觉与学习: 干预对考试成绩变化有显著影响(F2,57 = 7.330, p = 0.001468)。进一步的事后 Tukey 的 HSD 成对比较显示,试验组与对照组(p = 0.00536)、试验组与候补组(p = 0.00376)

之间的得分有显著性差异,而对照组与候补组之间的得分无显著性差异(p = 0.99202)。

# 5.4 Qualitative Findings

# 5.4 定性研究结果

The exit survey at the end of the trial included a questionnaire with open-ended questions where participants were asked to refect on their overall experience with the interventions. This data was thematically analyzed using two diferent methods. The data from the test group was analyzed using a deductive approach [32] whereby the extracted data was clustered into a set of predetermined themes. These themes corresponded to the gamification elements we incorporated in the Chronicles app, namely narrative and theme, personalization, and avatars and customization, along with the different components of our intervention, i.e. cognitive awareness and psychoeducation. The data from the control and waitlist groups was analyzed using an inductive approach [21] in which the data, after we familiarized ourselves with it, was coded and labeled. The coded data was then further reviewed to generate themes. Some important insights are mentioned here.

试验结束时的退出调查包括一份问卷,其中附有开放式问题,要求参与者反思他们在干预措施方面的总体经验。这些数据是使用两种不同的方法进行数学分析的。使用演绎方法[32]分析测试组的数据,将提取的数据聚集成一组预定的主题。这些主题对应于我们在 Chronicles 应用程序中整合的游戏化元素,即叙事和主题、个性化、化身和定制,以及我们干预的不同组成部分,即认知意识和心理教育。对照组和候补名单组的数据进行归纳分析[21] ,其中的数据,在我们熟悉它之后,被编码和标记。然后进一步审查编码数据以生成主题。这里提到了一些重要的见解。

5.4.1 Test Group (Chronicles App). Narrative and Theme: The relatability of the contexualized storylines was something most participants commented on favourably, highlighting how they have gone through similar if not the exact same situations during their time at college. For example, a participant wrote, "It felt like I was reliving my own memories". For many, this factor facilitated their ability to position themselves within the narrative and better refect on the choices they made within the application. A participant wrote, "All the scenarios were mostly something that I could personally

5.4.1 测试组(Chronicles App)。叙事和主题: 大多数参与者对这些情境化的故事情节的相关性给予了肯定的评价,强调他们在大学期间是如何经历相似甚至完全相同的情况的。例如,一位参与者写道: "感觉就像我在重温自己的记忆。"。对于许多人来说,这个因素促进了他们将自己置身于叙事中的能力,并且更好地反思他们在应用程序中做出的选择。一位参与者写道: "所有的场景都是我个人能够做到的

relate to or have been through during my time at LUMS so it really 关于或已经通过在我的时间在 LUMS,所以它真的

What are you thinking? 你在想什么?

made me think about the choices and what I would do or had actually done when I was in that scenario". Others appreciated the ability to be presented with realistic and relatable scenarios where they could behave in a way they perceived as uncharacteristic of themselves. Describing this, a participant wrote, "The app really captured how life 让我思考我的选择以及在那种情况下我会做什么或者实际上已经做了什么。"。另一些人则欣赏这种能力,他们能够面对现实和相关的情景,在这些情景中,他们能够以一种他们认为不符合自己特点的方式行事。一位参与者在描述这一点时写道: "这款应用真的捕捉到了生活是怎样的

inside LUMS goes. The different scenarios presented were interesting and I was able to make some choices which I wasn't able to do in college".

内心的生活。展示的不同场景都很有趣,我可以做出一些在 大学里做不到的选择。"。

Participants also remarked on the contextualization of the visual design and how the aesthetics contributed to the level of engagement they felt with the scenarios. One participant wrote, "The

与会者还谈到视觉设计的语境化,以及美学如何促进他们对场景的参与程度。一位参与者写道:

visuals made the stories come to life, without them I wouldn't have had as much interest in the game" and another specifically commented on the attention to detail in the visual design, writing "The 视觉效果让故事栩栩如生,如果没有它们,我就不会对游戏产生那么大的兴趣。"另一个人特别评论了视觉设计中对细节的关注,他写道: visuals were a real highlight for me, especially the relatable little 视觉效果对我来说是一个真正的亮点,尤其是那些

things like the shopping cart icon during course selection and the way the emails looked". Participants also attributed their honesty while selecting choices to the visual design; "Without the story and the 比如选课时的购物车图标和邮件的样子。"。参与者还将他们在选择选项时的诚实归因于视觉设计; "没有故事和

graphics being so realistic I might have given a diferent answer, but 图像是如此真实,我可能会给出不同的答案,但

this made me very honest with my choices because it was easy for me to actually see myself in that situation". Both the narratives and the visual design resulted in some participants feeling nostalgic and sentimental, which fostered a sense of personal connection with the application. A participant wrote, "The whole thing made

这让我对自己的选择非常坦诚,因为我很容易在那种情况下看到自己。"。无论是叙事还是视觉设计都让一些参与者感到怀旧和感伤,这培养了一种与应用程序的个人联系。一位参与者写道: "整件事情

me nostalgic and brought back so many memories so I automatically felt connected to the narrative".

我怀旧,带回了如此多的回忆,所以我自然而然地感到与故事联系在一起。"。

Personalization: A number of participants also referred to the immediate nature of the feedback when talking about how the application had helped them. One participant described the popup screens as "small reality checks" and another wrote, "I think I

个性化: 许多参与者在谈到这个应用程序是如何帮助他们的时候,也提到了反馈的即时性。一个参与者将弹出的屏幕描述为"小的现实检查",另一个参与者写道,"我认为我

learnt to question my own thoughts during real life scenarios. Seeing situations that I have found myself in being replayed in front of me with actual feedback gave me a chance to evaluate my own behaviour and

understand how I tend to overblow certain situations". Another participant remarked, "I liked being able to have my character refect 在现实生活中学会了质疑自己的想法。看到我发现自己在面对实际反馈时被重放的情景,让我有机会评估自己的行为,并理解我如何倾向于夸大某些情况。"。另一位参与者说:"我喜欢自己的性格得到反映

my real thoughts and get immediate feedback from the app about any bad tendencies I may have".

我的真实想法,并从应用程序中得到关于我可能有的任何不良倾向的即时反馈。"。

When talking about the diferent options presented for emotions and thoughts, most participants felt the list provided was extensive enough to always have a feeling or thought that ft. A participant wrote, "The options were very diverse and they really covered all the

当谈到情绪和想法的不同选择时,大多数参与者认为所提供的清单足够广泛,以至于总是有一种感觉或想法。一位参与者写道:"选择非常多样,它们真的涵盖了所有的

diferent choices/decisions that someone could've taken in real life. 人们在现实生活中可能做出的不同选择/决定。

There were positive reactions as well as negative ones and some neutral ones as well. They were very well thought out". Similarly, another participant commented, "Each time I was presented with options, my actual thought was right there". However, a couple of participants also indicated that they often wanted to be able to pick more than one option as they felt they could be thinking and feeling multiple things at the same time. One participant wrote, "The options showed

有积极的反应,也有消极的反应和一些中立的反应。他们都是经过深思熟虑的。"。同样,另一位参与者评论说,"每次我面对选项时,我的真实想法都是正确的。"。然而,一些参与者也表示,他们经常希望能够选择一个以上的选项,因为他们觉得他们可以同时思考和感受多种事物。一位参与者写道:"选项表明

clearly diferent feelings but at times I wanted to choose more than one 明显不同的感受,但有时我想选择不止一种

option showing my mixed or indecisive feeling at that point in time" and another wrote, "When something like this happens I don't just have one thought running through my head". Conversely, others felt that being forced to choose one actually helped deeper refection as they had to identify the dominant thought which would have a greater efect on their mental state. For example, a participant

另一个人写道:"当这样的事情发生时,我的脑子里不只有一个念头。"。相反,另一些人认为,被迫选择一个实际上有助于更深刻的反省,因为他们必须确定主导思想,这将对他们的精神状态产生更大的影响。例如,一个参与者

wrote, "It was great in a way that I could only pick one option because 他写道: "我只能选择一种方式,这种方式很棒,因为

it made me take more time to think about my actual thoughts". Avatars & Customization: Majority of the participants found 这让我花更多的时间来思考我的实际想法。"大多数参与者发现 the avatars and customization options to be adequate, suggesting these elements neither particularly facilitated nor hindered engagement. One participant did mention how she deliberately customized her avatar to look like a boy, so she could "enjoy feeling more free 阿凡达和定制选项是充分的,表明这些因素既不特别促进也不妨碍参与。一位参与者提到她如何故意将自己的化身定制成男孩的样子,这样她就可以"享受更自由的感觉

while walking through campus which I wouldn't feel otherwise". This ability to determine one's identity refects the increased autonomy that can be achieved through the use of avatars. 在校园里散步的时候,这种感觉是我不会有的。"。这种确定一个人身份的能力反映了通过使用化身可以获得更多的自主权。

Cognitive Awareness: Overall, the majority of the participants felt they had learnt something from their experience with the application and that it had helped them in some way. For some, the helpful aspect was simply being able to see how many possible reactions there can be to a single scenario. This helped to put the actual situations into perspective. For example, a participant wrote,

认知意识: 总的来说, 大多数参与者认为他们从应用程序的经验中学到了一些东西, 并且在某种程度上帮助了他们。对于一些人来说, 有用的方面仅仅是能够看到对于一个场景有多少种可能的反应。这有助于客观地看待实际情况。例如, 一位参与者写道,

"I learnt that there can be so many diferent reactions to scenarios. 我了解到对于各种场景可以有很多不同的反应。

Sometimes we just need a second opinion or another 'eye' to see things through to get better results". For others, the beneft was that they were able to clearly view their own reactions and tendencies and as a result were able to be more conscious of their thoughts in real life. For example, a participant wrote, "I learnt about diferent 有时候我们只是需要第二个意见或另一个'眼睛'来看清事情的真相,以获得更好的结果。"。对于其他人来说,这样做的好处是他们能够清楚地看到自己的反应和倾向,因此能够在现实生活中更加意识到自己的想法。例如,一位参与者写道: "我学到了不同的东西 tendencies I have, and was able to identify them in my own life when

I started thinking/feeling that way. I also was able to refect on past behaviours/feelings in the same light". Another commented, "I think 我开始那样想/那样感觉。我也能以同样的方式反思过去的行为和感受。"。另一个评论说: "我认为

的倾向,并且能够在自己的生活中识别出这些倾向

I am now better at identifying debilitating tendencies I have and can sometimes actively stop myself from thinking a certain way now. I 我现在更善于识别自己的衰弱倾向,有时还能主动地阻止自己以某种方式思考。我

feel with added use of the app or reinforcing these concepts, I could improve even more". Participants also noted specifc patterns they were able to identify in themselves. For example, participants wrote 我觉得,如果增加使用这个应用程序或者强化这些概念,我可以改进得更好。"。参与者还注意到他们能够在自己身上识别的特定模式。例如,参与者写道

"I learned the diferent types of reactions I show to diferent situations and that I tend to overgeneralize a lot" and "It made me realise "我学到了我在不同情况下所表现出的不同类型的反应——我倾向于过度概括很多东西","这让我意识到

that I need to not jump to hasty conclusions and judgements right away". Another wrote of a specifc incident where they actively applied what they had learnt in the application, "I had an exam 我不需要立即仓促下结论和做出判断。"。另一个人写了一个特殊的事件,他们积极地应用他们在申请中学到的东西,"我有一个考试 yesterday. And some of the choices I made in the game made me realise more about how I do the should/must statement thing when it comes to academic performance. So I tried to improve my behaviour consciously". 昨天。我在游戏中做出的一些选择让我更多地意识到,当涉及到学业表现时,我应该怎么做/必须怎么做。所以我努力有意识地改善自己的行为。"。

Psychoeducation: Some participants felt the main beneft had been learning about new psychological concepts and gaining knowledge about cognitive distortions and also mentioned how this had motivated them to learn more and take a more proactive approach to mental health. For example, a participant wrote, "It taught me many psychological concepts that I had not heard of before but readily applied to my interactions with other people. This led me to do some more research on my own and reinterpret instances from my life where I might have catastrophized something or used certain statements when I shouldn't have. As a result, I see that I have much more control over my thoughts now and I act more rationally than before."

心理教育:一些参与者认为主要的好处是学习了新的心理学概念,获得了关于认知扭曲的知识,并提到这如何激励他们学习更多,并采取更积极的方法对待心理健康。例如,一位参与者写道:"它教会了我许多以前从未听说过的心理学概念,但很容易应用到我与其他人的互动中。这促使我自己做了更多的研究,并重新解释了我生活中的一些例子,在那些例子中,我可能会把某些事情搞得一团糟,或者在我不应该这样做的时候使用某些陈述。结果,我发现我现在对自己的想法有了更多的控制,我的行为也比以前更加理性了。"

5.4.2 Control Group (CBT Thought Diary App). Self-Monitoring: Several participants in the control group felt that the highlight of their experience with the app had been the act of documenting or recording their thoughts on a regular basis. While some felt the regularity provided a kind of structure to their day ("The necessary timeout sets a routine for the day"), others also felt the designated 5.4.2 控制组(CBT 思维日记应用)。自我监控: 对照组的一些参与者认为,他们使用这款应用程序的最大体验是定期记录或记录他们的想法。虽然有些人认为这种规律性为他们的一天提供了一种结构("必要的超时设置了一天的例行公事"),其他人也认为这是指定的

time helped them to refect on their thoughts as well. A participant wrote, "I really enjoyed the consistency" and another wrote, "It was 时间也帮助他们反思自己的想法。一位参与者写道,"我真的很享受这种一致性",另一位参与者写道,"是的

good to record my thoughts and mood. Allows me to slow down and think about my day. Understand myself and my day". A participant also commented on how this regular monitoring allowed them to see patterns in their emotions over time. Some of the feedback indicated that a few participants perceived the value of the app just in terms of a journal. For example a participant wrote, "I had

可以记录我的想法和心情。让我慢下来,想想我的一天。了解我自己和我的一天。"。一位参与者还评论了这种定期监控是如何让他们随着时间的推移看到自己情绪中的模式的。一些反馈表明,一些参与者仅仅从日记的角度来看待应用程序的价值。例如,一位参与者写道:"我有

initially thought that I would be able to gain new insights into my life but just building a gratitude list and analyzing my thought process to see alternative ways of looking at the situation wasn't really helpful. 起初我以为我能够对我的生活有新的认识,但是仅仅建立一个感恩清单,分析我的思维过程,看看其他看待这种情况的方式,并没有真正的帮助。

Maybe it did serve as a journal and a reminder of things that had occurred" and another participant remarked, "It was helpful, though 也许它确实起到了日记的作用,提醒人们已经发生的事情。"另一位参与者评论说,"不过,它很有帮助

I wish it had a voice recording option where I could leave rants every now and then". Interestingly, one participant compared the app to the daily diary we had asked all participants to fll to monitor any extenuating circumstances that could impact their scores, and wrote, "It was quite similar to the daily diary form, so I wasn't drawn to it much" which also suggests that this participant perceived the app as primarily a place to record rather than to refect and analyse. 我希望它有一个录音选项,这样我就可以时不时地发泄一下。"。有趣的是,一位参与者将这款应用程序与我们要求所有参与者填写的日记进行了比较,以监测任何可能影响他们分数的情有可原的情况,并写道:"它与日记表格非常相似,所以我不太喜欢它"。这也表明,这位参与者认为这款应用程序主要是一个记录的地方,而不是反思和分析的地方。

Barriers to Engagement: While most people seemed to appreciate having to write down thoughts on a regular basis, when it came to analysing these thoughts by trying to identify the cognitive distortions and presenting alternative rational thoughts as part of the cognitive restructuring element of the app, several participants felt this required too much efort. A participant described it as "exhausting" and another wrote, "Initially I felt hopeful using the

参与障碍: 虽然大多数人似乎喜欢定期写下自己的想法,但在分析这些想法时,他们试图识别认知扭曲,并将其他理性思维作为应用程序认知重组元素的一部分,但一些参与者认为这需要付出太多努力。一位参与者形容它"令人筋疲力尽",另一位参与者写道,"最初我觉得使用

application, but as the time progressed the tools felt pedantic, and I felt as if I was being repeatedly told to analyze situations and think about them in a diferent manner when I had already exhaustively

但随着时间的推移,这些工具变得迂腐起来,我觉得好像有人反复告诉我要分析各种情况,并以不同的方式思考它们,而我已经用尽了所有的方法

thought about alternate manners in which to think of them." One participant described a particularly negative experience with the thought record, saying, "It really annoys me. Maybe because I don't

想想其他的方式来考虑他们。"一位参与者描述了一段特别消极的思维记录,他说:"这真的让我很恼火。也许是因为我没有

want to think about my negative thoughts. Like the questions are so direct and I get frustrated by that." A participant also noted that they had expected more guidance when analysing thoughts, saying "For

不想去想我的消极想法。就好像这些问题是如此直接,让我感到沮丧。"一位参与者还指出,他们期望在分析思想时得到更多的指导,他说:

analyzing thoughts I thought that it would provide more info about your thoughts but it didn't."

分析思想我以为它会提供更多关于你思想的信息,但它没有。"

Data Privacy: A small number of participants also commented on their concerns regarding data security and privacy, since the app requires so much personal information to be entered. For example, a participant wrote, "I have concerns about privacy. They know about

数据隐私:由于应用程序需要输入如此多的个人信息,少数与会者也对他们关于数据安全和隐私的担忧发表了评论。例如,一位参与者写道:"我担心隐私问题。他们知道

a person's moods, thoughts, activities, everything". 一个人的情绪、思想、活动,以及一切"。

5.4.3 Waitlist Group. Although the waitlist group was not given any intervention, they too were asked to keep a daily diary so that we could ensure that there were no extenuating circumstances that could skew the data we collected. Therefore, the feedback collected from this group at the exit survey was in reference to this daily diary.

5.4.3 Waitlist Group 5.4.3 候选名单小组。虽然候补小组没有得到任何干预,但是他们也被要求每天写日记,这样我们就可以确保没有任何情有可原的情况可以歪曲我们收集的数据。因此,在离职调查中从这个小组收集的反馈是参考这个日记。

Self-Monitoring: All participants described this experience in itself as positive and refected on the value of maintaining a regular record of events, thoughts or feelings. For example, a participant wrote, "I think I will continue the practice of reviewing my day before going to sleep - this helps me cleanse my mind". Several of them described the activity as relaxing and calming, and wrote, "It was

自我监控: 所有参与者都认为这种经历本身是积极的,并认为保持对事件、想法或感觉的定期记录是有价值的。例如,一位参与者写道: "我想我会继续在睡觉前回顾我的一天,这有助于我净化我的思想。"。一些参与者描述这种活动是放松和平静的,并写道: "确实如此.

really relaxing taking all the frustration out and felt better every time 释放所有的挫折感,每次都感觉更好

Aleesha Hamid, Rabiah Arshad, and Suleman Shahid Aleesha Hamid Rabiah Arshad 和 Suleman Shahid

I recorded my thoughts" and "I felt relaxed somehow after writing down my feelings".

我记录下我的想法"和"写下我的感受后, 我感到很放松"。

Interestingly, these participants were also able to identify patterns in their behaviour through this daily record, and were also motivated to be more proactive regarding their mental health. A participant highlighted this by writing, "When I wrote my thoughts

有趣的是,这些参与者也能够通过这些日常记录确定他们的行为模式,并且也被激励对他们的心理健康更加积极主动。一位参与者强调了这一点,他写道:"当我写下我的想法时

and read them again after that I realized how stupid my thoughts are just because of the rise of the emotions and those thoughts disturb everything in me, so I started to work on my personal growth". Simi-larly, another participant wrote, "I saw that there are some negative

然后又读了一遍,我意识到我的想法是多么愚蠢,因为情绪的上升,这些想法扰乱了我内心的一切,所以我开始努力我的个人成长。"。另一位参与者写道:"我看到了一些消极的东西

behaviours that I continuously repeat again and again that I need to work on in order to improve myself". One participant also succinctly wrote, "I learnt to value my thoughts" which indicated that this exercise had shed light on the link between thoughts and mental health.

我不断重复的行为,为了提高自己,我需要不断努力。"。一位参与者还简洁地写道,"我学会了珍惜我的思想",这表明这项练习阐明了思想与心理健康之间的联系。

Data Privacy: In this group too, there were concerns about data privacy and security. A participant wrote, "It was a great experience

数据隐私:在这个小组中,也有关于数据隐私和安全的担忧。一位参与者写道:"这是一次很棒的经历

and I felt better to take out my anxiety onto something but the thought that someone would read my dark thoughts and this digital diary is not in my personal safe place, I may not have shared everything".

我觉得把焦虑发泄到其他事情上会更好,但一想到有人会读到我的黑暗想法,这本电子日记不在我个人安全的地方,我可能没有分享一切。"。

### 6 DISCUSSION

# 讨论

Through this work, we explored the potential of using a combi-nation of interactive storytelling and CBT to address the growing concerns about depression and anxiety among college students. We designed a self-guided mHealth application with interactive storytelling and gamifcation mechanisms to foster a therapeutic alliance that could help users better learn certain psychological concepts and understand their real world impact, and identify cog-nitive distortions in their thoughts that could be contributing to negative feelings and behaviours. The randomized controlled trial was designed to investigate the impact of this application on levels of depression, anxiety, negative automatic thoughts as well as on the perception of rational and irrational thoughts and the internal-ization of psychological concepts.

通过这项工作,我们探索了使用交互式讲故事和认知行为疗法相结合来解决大学生对抑郁和焦虑日益增长的担忧的潜力。我们设计了一个具有交互式讲故事和游戏化机制的自我引导的 mHealth 应用程序,以促进一个治疗联盟,该联盟可以帮助用户更好地学习某些心理概念,

理解他们对现实世界的影响,并识别他们思想中可能导致负面情绪和行为的认知扭曲。本研究采用随机对照试验的方法,探讨该方法对抑郁、焦虑、消极自动思维水平、理性思维和非理性思维的感知以及心理概念内化的影响。

Although one of the eligibility criteria for participants in this study was that they must not be in therapy or currently taking any medication for depression and anxiety, the initial results for all participants (t1) showed that their PHQ-9 and GAD-7 scores ranged from mild to severe. This result in itself was important as it indicated the need for mental health solutions among college students and corroborated research showing that majority of individuals with mental health issues do not receive treatment [49].

虽然本研究参与者的资格标准之一是他们不得接受治疗或目前正在服用任何治疗抑郁和焦虑的药物,但所有参与者的初步结果(t1)显示,他们的 phq-9 和 gad-7 评分从轻度到重度不等。这一结果本身就很重要,因为它表明需要在大学生中采取心理健康解决方案,并且经证实的研究表明,大多数有心理健康问题的个人没有得到治疗[49]。

Consistent with the initial hypothesis behind the design of the application, the results of the study indicated a significant efect of the Chronicles app on all measures. Participants in the test group reported significantly lower scores on depression, anxiety and negative automatic thoughts and significantly higher scores on the perception and learning measure. These results show that a combination of CBT and interactive storytelling in a gamifed mobile application can be an efective self-guided intervention for depression and anxiety specifically among college students.

与应用程序设计背后的初始假设一致,研究结果表明 Chronicles 应用程序对所有测量都有显著影响。测试组的参与者在抑郁、焦虑和消极的自动思维方面得分明显较低,在感知和学习方面得分明显较高。这些结果表明,在游戏化的手机应用中结合认知行为疗法和交互式讲故事可以有效地自我引导干预抑郁和焦虑,特别是在大学生中。

Comparison with the control conditions indicated that the test group participants who used the Chronicles app showed a more significant decrease in depression scores as compared to both the control and the waitlist group. For anxiety, the participants who used

与对照组相比,使用 Chronicles 应用程序的实验组受试者抑郁得分显著低于对照组和候补组。对于焦虑,使用

the Chronicles app showed a more significant decrease compared to the control group, but not compared to the waitlist group. Con-versely, for negative automatic thoughts, Chronicles users showed a more significant decrease compared to the waitlist group, but not compared to the control group. Finally, in terms of perception and learning, the Chronicles users showed a more significant increase compared to both the control and the waitlist groups. However, in terms of the comparison between the Chronicles users and the waitlist group specifcally, it must be noted that this data point is not as reliable due to the fact that the test group's initial scores for the perception and learning measure were higher than those of the waitlist group, despite the random assignment of subjects. Such a discrepancy was not present for any other initial measure across all groups. There was no significant diference in the change in scores between the control group and the waitlist group across all measures.

与对照组相比,Chronicles 应用程序显示出更显著的下降,但是与候补组相比并没有下降。相反,对于消极的自动思维,Chronicles 用户显示出比等待名单组更显著的下降,但是与对照组相比并没有下降。最后,在感知和学习方面,与对照组和候补组相比,Chronicles 的用户显示出更显著的增长。然而,就Chronicles 使用者与候补名单组之间的比较而言,必须指出的是,这一数据点并不可靠,因为测试组的知觉和学习测量的初始分数高于候补名单组,尽管受试者是随机分配的。所有组中的任何其他初始测量都没有这种差异。在所有措施中,对照组和等待名单组之间的分数变化没有显着差异。

Given that Chronicles users scored signifcantly better than the control group in terms of both depression and anxiety, the primary measures of the trial, this suggests that the use of interactive storytelling and gamifcation elements in this application contributed to its greater efcacy. Moreover, the Chronicles users also scored significantly higher than the control group in one of the secondary measures that assessed how participants perceive rational and irrational thoughts and how well they internalized and retained knowledge about psychological concepts they had learnt in the apps. This also provides evidence of the fact that the interactive storytelling and gamifcation approach can improve the efcacy of psychoeducational modules within mHealth apps. While the participants who used the Chronicles app also showed a significant decrease in negative automatic thoughts at the end of the trial, this change was not significant in comparison to the control group so we cannot rule out the possibility that this particular decrease was not only a result of the interactive storytelling and gamifcation elements but also the exposure to the underlying CBT interven-tion. Although, since negative automatic thoughts directly correlate to the pathogenesis and severity of depression and anxiety, this discrepancy does not alter the overall insights derived from the experimental results.

考虑到 Chronicles 的使用者在抑郁和焦虑方面的得分明显高于对照组,这是试验的主要指标,这表明在这个应用程序中使用交互式的故事讲述和游戏化元素有助于提高其效果。此外,Chronicles 用户在一项次要测试中的得分也明显高于对照组,这项测试评估了参与者如何感知理性和非理性思维,以及他们如何内化和保留在应用程序中学到的关于心理学概念的知识。这也提供了这样一个事实的证据,即互动式的故事叙述和游戏化方法可以提高移动健康应用程序中心理教育模块的效果。尽管使用 Chronicles 应用程序的参与者在试验结束时也

显示出负面自动思维的显著减少,但与对照组相比,这种变化并不显著,因此我们不能排除这种特殊减少的可能性,即这种减少不仅是交互式讲故事和游戏化元素的结果,而且也是潜在的认知行为干预的结果。虽然,由于消极的自动思维与抑郁和焦虑的发病机制和严重程度直接相关。这种差异并没有改变从实验结果得出的总体见解。

The use of storytelling was central to our design because of its unique ability to combine several gamifcation elements and strategies that could improve the efcacy of a self-guided CBT intervention in various ways. The qualitative data obtained from our initial usability study as well as from the participant feedback gathered at the end of the randomized controlled trial showed that majority of the users felt that the contextualization of the narratives and the visual design (narrative and theme) were the most important factors in increasing their engagement and motivation to use the application, followed by personalization and then customization and avatars.

使用讲故事是我们设计的核心,因为它独特的能力结合了几个游戏化元素和策略,可以提高自我引导的认知行为疗法干预的效果在各种方式。从我们最初的可用性研究以及在随机对照试验结束时收集的参与者反馈中获得的定性数据表明,大多数用户认为叙述的语境化和视觉设计(叙述和主题)是增加他们使用该应用程序的参与度和动机的最重要因素,其次是个性化,然后是个性化和化身。

By contextualising the narratives presented in the application, we intended to cater to the user's need for relatedness and personal relevance, both of which are linked to increased intrinsic motiva-tion and consequently engagement and, therefore, a therapeutic alliance [35, 87]. Our qualitative fndings were in line with this as all participants who used the Chronicles app commented favourably on the relatability of the scenarios presented, and attributed this to

通过将应用程序中的叙述置于上下文环境中, 我们旨在满足用户对相关性和个人相关性的需求, 这两者都与增加的内在动机相关联, 从而增加参与度, 从而形成治疗联盟[35,87]。我们的定性结果与此相符, 因为所有使用 Chronicles 应用程序的参与者都对所呈现的场景的相关性给予了积极的评价, 并将其归因于

their engagement and sustained interest in the application. Participants also mentioned that the relatability enabled them to picture themselves in the scenarios and make honest choices. This is also in line with literature that suggests a particularly immersive narrative can result in the perception of being transported into the fctional or alternate world being presented, and that this 'transportation' can infuence cognition [48]. The feedback also highlighted the importance of the visual design; the contextualised landscapes helped to complement the narratives and increase the relatability and therefore engagement. It is important to note that a trade-of exists between relatability and scale. However, given the positive impact of contextualization on engagement and efcacy as seen in our re-sults, as well as findings from literature, which suggest that context has a marked impact on the experience of mental health [63], the benefts of this approach may outweigh the potential cost.

他们对申请的参与和持续的兴趣。Partici-pants 还提到,这种相关性使他们能够在场景中想象自己,并做出诚实的选择。这也符合文学的说法,即一个特别沉浸式的叙事可以导致感知被运送到虚构的或另一个世界被呈现,这种"运送"可以影响认知[48]。反馈也强调了视觉设计的重要性;情景化的景观有助于补充叙事,增加相关性,从而增加参与度。值得注意的是,在相关性和规模之间存在一种交易。然而,鉴于我们的研究结果以及文献的研究结果表明,情境化对心理健康的体验有显著的影响,这种方法的好处可能超过潜在的成本。

Having the landscapes depict the familiar college campus also facilitated a sense of belonging and attachment to the application en-vironment, thereby also enhancing intrinsic motivation by catering to the need for social relatedness [79]. Feedback from participants showed that the landscapes evoked a sense of nostalgia and there-fore an increased connection to the narrative. This insight also has implications particularly for the psychoeducational aspect of applications, as emotion has been linked to memory and retention of messages [84].

景观描绘了熟悉的大学校园,也促进了归属感和对应用环境的依恋,从而也增强了内在动机,迎合社会关系的需要[79]。参与者的反馈显示,景观引起了怀旧感,因此增加了与叙事的联系。这种见解也特别涉及应用的心理教育方面,因为情绪与记忆和信息保留有关[84]。

Personalization was another important factor in the design of our application. Beyond the storylines being personalized through contextual relevance, the application provided feedback to the user in the form of pop-up screens containing information about any cognitive distortion refected in their choices. Our qualitative fndings showed participants from the test group particularly appreciating the relevance as well as the immediacy of this feedback. Conversely, participants in the control group who used the CBT Thought Diary app commented on how they disliked having to input multiple entries before getting any feedback. This was in line with previous research that indicates that matching the content of an intervention to a user's psychosocial or behavioural characteristics is perceived as personally relevant which enhances engagement [15]. Other literature such as the Elaboration Likelihood Model also suggests personal relevance can infuence an individual's motivation [76]. Personalization is therefore able to foster a therapeutic alliance in two ways; by infuencing motivation, and through its direct link with the broader characteristic of interactivity which has been high-lighted as a potential means of creating a bidirectional relationship between the user and the digital intervention [87].

个性化是我们应用程序设计中的另一个重要因素。除了通过上下文相关性使故事情节个性化之外,应用程序还以弹出屏幕的形式向用户提供反馈,其中包含关于用户选择中反映的任何认知扭曲的信息。我们的定性结果显示,来自测试组的参与者特别欣赏这种反馈的相关性和即时性。相反,使用 CBT Thought Diary 应用程序的对照组参与者评论说,他们不喜欢在得到任何反馈之前必须输入多个条目。这与先前的研究一致,研究表明,将干预措施的内容与使用者的心理社会或行为特征相匹配,被认为是与个人有关的,可以增强参与[15]。其他文献,如思考可能性模式,也表明个人相关性可以影响个人的动机[76]。因此,个性化能够以两种方式促进治疗联盟:通过影响动机,以及通过其与更广泛的互动特性的直接联系,这种联系已被强调为在用户和数字干预之间建立双向关系的潜在手段[87]。

This characteristic of interactivity can include not only personalization strategies but also the degree to which a user feels in control when using a digital intervention [50]. The medium of storytelling also enabled us to seamlessly incorporate gamifcation strategies such as customization and avatars, which fulfil this need for user autonomy and control, therefore enhancing the users' intrinsic motivation and contributing to the therapeutic alliance.

这种互动的特性不仅包括个性化策略,还包括用户在使用数字干预时感觉到的控制程度[50]。讲故事的媒介也使我们能够无缝地结合游戏化策略,如定制和化身,这满足了用户自主和控制的需要,从而增强了用户的内在动机,并有助于治疗联盟。

The results from the control group in our study also corrobo-rated existing research into why self-guided CBT applications have not been as efective as guided alternatives in the past. Research has shown that the importance of support within digital interven-tions is mainly linked to the user's need for motivation to engage and discipline to carry out the tasks [47, 85]. Participant feedback

在我们的研究中,来自对照组的结果也证实了现有的研究,即为什么自我引导的认知行为疗法在过去不如引导的替代疗法有效。研究表明,数字干预中支持的重要性主要与用户需要激励和约束来执行任务有关[47,85]。参与者反馈

echoed this, with several of them commenting that it was difcult to carry out the thought analysis activities on a regular basis. Furthermore, the feedback also indicated that the participants expected some more information or guidance when it came to analysing their thoughts, which also sheds light on an interplay between prior expectations and the perceived difculty of a task. Since the quantitative data also showed that the test group had significantly better scores than the control group for primary measures, this suggests that there is certainly a beneft to incorporating cognitive restructuring in a more implicit manner that can then also provide motivation for continuous engagement and adherence.

他们对此表示赞同,其中一些人评论说,很难定期开展思想分析活动。此外,反馈还表明,参与者期望在分析他们的想法时获得更多的信息或指导,这也说明了先前的期望与感知到的任务难度之间的相互作用。由于定量数据还显示,测试组在主要测量方面的得分明显优于对照组,这表明,以更隐含的方式纳入认知重组肯定是有益的,这种方式也可以为持续参与和坚持提供动机。

Interestingly, some feedback from the control group indicated disappointment in the CBT Thought Diary application because participants were not satisfed with the perceived efcacy of the thought analysis module and concluded that the app's value was more in terms of a journal, a place to record rather than to refect and analyse. The tone of this feedback was in contrast to the feedback from the waitlist group, in which several participants reported a positive experience with our daily diary form, commenting that the mere act of writing everyday had led to refection and a positive impact on mood. This was refected in the quantitative data as well, as there was no significant difference between the waitlist group and the control group across any of the measures. This could be indicative of the fact that the efcacy of the CBT Thought Diary app could have more to do with the act of regular journaling and writing rather than with the cognitive restructuring module of the application. This is important to consider, as it highlights the need to improve current digital interventions in a way that takes advantage of the unique characteristics of technology. The limited efcacy of existing CBT applications could therefore have to do with attempting to directly translate traditional therapeutic techniques onto a digital medium, rather than leveraging the features of a mobile application.

有趣的是,来自对照组的一些反馈显示,CBT 思维日记应用程序令人失望,因为参与者对思维分析模块的感知效果不满意,并得出结论认为,该应用程序的价值更多地体现在日记上,一个记录而不是反思和分析的地方。这种反馈的语气与候补小组的反馈形成了鲜明的对比。在候补小组中,一些参与者报告了我们每天写日记的积极体验,他们评论说,仅仅是每天写日记的行为就会导致反思,并对情绪产生积极的影响。这也反映在定量数据中,因为在任何措施中,等待名单组和对照组之间没有显着差异。这可能表明,CBT 思维日记应用程序的功效可能更多地与日记和写作行为有关,而不是与应用程序的认知重组模块有关。这是需要考虑的重要因素,因为它强调了以利用技术独特特性的方式改进当前数字干预的必要性。因此,现有认知行为疗法应用的有限功效可能与试图将传统治疗技术直接转化为数字媒介有关,而不是利用移动应用的特点有关。

The above insights were derived from an analysis of the quanti-tative data alongside the qualitative fndings. On the basis

of these insights we recommend the use of various strategies to cultivate a therapeutic alliance through increased motivation and engage-ment, such as interactivity, contextualisation through narrative and theme, personalization and customization. Since all these factors are interlinked, we also recommend the medium of storytelling as a viable method that can seamlessly incorporate all these elements to provide efective results.

上述见解来自对定量数据和定性结果的分析。在这些见解的基础上,我们建议使用各种策略,通过增加动机和参与来培养治疗联盟,如互动,通过叙述和主题的情境化,个性化和个性化。由于所有这些因素是相互关联的,我们也推荐讲故事的媒介作为一种可行的方法,可以无缝地结合所有这些元素,以提供有效的结果。

## 6.1 Limitations

### 6.1 限制

Finally, it is important to acknowledge the limitations of this study. Since we recruited our participants through opportunity sampling, there is always the possibility of a self-selection bias in the sample i.e. those students who agreed to take part in the study may have more of a prior interest in issues of mental health and therefore a greater understanding of issues compared to the general population. Thus future work in this area could undertake a study with a greater sample size to ensure the external validity of the data. Additionally, since our study was testing self-guided applications, it is important to note that there is a level of human support and motivation to engage that occurs simply as a result of being part of a research study. Future work may also beneft from a greater time 最后,必须承认本研究的局限性。由于我们是通过机会抽样招募参与 者的,样本中总是存在自我选择偏误的可能性,即那些同意参加研究 的学生可能对精神健康问题更感兴趣,因此与一般人群相比,他们对 问题的理解更深。因此,未来在这个领域的工作可以进行一项样本量 更大的研究,以确保数据的外部效度。此外,由于我们的研究是测试 自我引导的应用程序,重要的是要注意到,有一定程度的人类支持和 参与的动机,这仅仅是作为研究的一部分发生的结果。未来的工作也 可能会受益于更长的时间

duration between test points to better understand real-world applications. Quantitative data on app-usage time can also be collected to substantiate results with more extensive data on engagement, to corroborate our current qualitative fndings. This will also provide insights on how long each participant actually engaged with the app and whether they followed the recommendation of 5-10 min-utes a day as instructed at the start of the trial. Moreover, while we did instruct the participants of the control group to only use the thought analysis module of the CBT Thought Diary app, we know from the feedback that some participants also explored other features of the app such as the Gratitude journal, which could have infuenced the results. Finally, our study was conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic, which may have had an efect on the stu-dents' initial levels of depression and anxiety compared to ordinary baseline levels, or a greater susceptibility to mental health issues.

测试点之间的持续时间,以更好地理解实际应用程序。还可以收集关于应用程序使用时间的定量数据,以用更广泛的参与数据来证实结果,以证实我们目前的定性结果。这也将提供关于每个参与者实际使用该应用程序多长时间的见解,以及他们是否遵循了试验开始时指示的每天 5-10 分钟的建议。此外,虽然我们指示控制组的参与者只使用认知行为疗法思维日记应用程序的思维分析模块,但我们从反馈中得知,一些参与者还探索了该应用程序的其他功能,如感恩日记,这可能会影响结果。最后,我们的研究是在 2019 冠状病毒疾病大流行期间进行的,与普通的基线水平相比,这可能对学生的初始抑郁和焦虑水平产生了影响,或者对精神健康问题的易感性更高。

#### 7 CONCLUSION

## 结论

In this paper we presented the design of a self-guided mHealth application that uses CBT, interactive storytelling and gamifcation to help college students with depression and anxiety, and the results from a randomized controlled trial conducted to investigate the efect of this application and whether this approach can improve the efcacy of existing self-guided CBT applications. We found that our application had a significant efect on both the primary mea-sures, depression and anxiety, as well as the secondary measures of negative automatic thoughts and perception and learning. We also found that our application had a greater efect on the measures as compared to the control intervention which was chosen specifically as it was representative of majority of the existing self-guided CBT applications. These fndings suggest that combining CBT with interactive storytelling and other gamifcation mechanisms can increase the efcacy of self-guided mHealth applications for depression and anxiety, by incorporating strategies that contribute to greater engagement and motivation and foster a therapeutic alliance between the users and the digital intervention. We are hopeful that future researchers will beneft from these insights while designing digital solutions for mental health, particularly for college students.

本文介绍了一个利用认知行为疗法(CBT)、交互式讲故事和游戏化技术帮助抑郁和焦虑大学生的自我导向移动健康应用程序的设计,以及随机对照试验的结果,以探讨该应用程序的效果,以及该方法能否提高现有自我导向 CBT 应用程序的效果。我们发现我们的应用对抑郁和焦虑的主要测量指标以及负性自动思维和知觉与学习的次要测量指标都有显著的影响。我们还发现,我们的应用有更大的影响措施相比,控制于预是选择具体的,因为它是代表大多数现有的自我引导认知行

为疗法的应用。这些结果表明,将认知行为疗法与互动式讲故事和其他游戏化机制相结合,可以通过纳入有助于提高参与度和动机的策略,并促进用户与数字干预之间的治疗联盟,从而提高自我引导的移动健康应用程序治疗抑郁和焦虑的效果。我们希望未来的研究人员将从这些见解中受益,同时设计心理健康的数字解决方案,特别是为大学生设计。

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