EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Software Practitioner

Project ID: 30545
Project title: Emotional Intelligence of Software Practitioners When Handing Requirements Changes

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You are invited to take part in this online interview/chat-based study. This study is conducted as a part of Ms. Kashumi Madampe's PhD research. Please read this Explanatory Statement in full before deciding whether or not to participate in this research. If you would like further information regarding any aspect of this project, you are encouraged to contact the researchers via the email addresses listed above.

What does the research involve?

Background: The team at Monash has been investigating the emotions of software practitioners involved in handling requirements changes during software engineering. Through this work, we have identified key facets of requirements changes in agile - types, forms, reasons, sources, events, and carriers. Following this, we performed a large scale survey to understand how practitioners emotionally respond to requirements changes. Key findings of this work include emotion dynamics, emotional responses, stimuli triggering emotions, distinct events of project and requirements changes handling life cycles where emotions are triggered, and time-related concerns that regulate emotion dynamics. It also resulted in some promising preliminary findings around the key aspects of emotional intelligence that software teams use when handling requirements changes. In addition, Emotional wellbeing has never been as important since software practitioners have been working from home during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Objective: The objective of this study is to get an in-depth understanding of the role of emotional intelligence in responding to requirements changes in software development team contexts, and how software teams regulate emotions to handle requirements changes.

Procedure: This project follows a mixed-methods approach where both qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis will take place. The step-by-step process is given below.

Data collection:

1. If you are willing to participate in this study, you may contact the researchers via the method mentioned in the advertisement.

2. The researchers will check the suitability for participation at this point. That is, whether you are from the software industry and working in a team or not.

3. The researchers will share the pre-interview questionnaire if you are suitable to participate, and you will be asked the mode of participation (online interview - verbal communication: Zoom or Skype/message - textual communication. i.e., chatting: LinkedIn or Skype), and the convenient time for them to participate.

   The shared pre-interview questionnaire (around 30 minutes to fill) consists of a link to the explanatory statement, consent form, questions on demographics, project, and team information, and the Emotional Intelligence test (a well-established test that is used in multiple disciplines).

4. Upon the confirmation of filling the pre-interview questionnaire (either you may inform the researchers or researchers may check the completion on the platform where the questionnaire is hosted), the 30-minute interview/messaging session will take place at the time agreed. If the session is an interview, the interview will be audio recorded.

Data analysis: The researchers will analyse the collected data using statistical analysis (quantitative data) and Grounded Theory (qualitative data). Analysis of the data will involve comparing data from one interview/chat to another in order to identify patterns of common concepts. Further abstraction of data at different levels will lead towards a grounded theory that will help explain the emotional intelligence.

Invitation

As a software practitioner working in a team in the software industry, we invite you to participate in this study and your participation is voluntary.

Consenting to participate in the project and withdrawing from the research

Consenting: As a general practice, you are required to digitally sign the consent form given in the pre-interview questionnaire.

Withdrawing: You can exit without completing the pre-interview questionnaire, you can ask to stop the interview at any time, and you can decide to leave the chat without giving a reason. You have the right to withdraw from participation at any time up to 30 days after the interview without giving a reason. There are no consequences to withdrawal. And you are offered the opportunity to edit the transcript for 30 days from the receipt of the transcript.

Possible benefits

Knowledge and insights about the emotional intelligence of software teams when handling requirements changes, and practical guidelines to regulate negative emotions.

Confidentiality

Your personal data shall only be accessible by the researchers. The researchers will keep your identity confidential and will de-identify your responses (your responses will be given an ID). Interviews will be audio recorded and transcribed by either the researchers or another transcriber (or both). In case of a third-party transcriber, the person will have signed an appropriate confidentiality agreement. The audio recordings will be stripped off any personal information before being sent to the transcriber. Any research publication published as a result of the study will not identify you, your company or any non-participant in your company.

Storage of data

Data (hard copies and electronic) will be securely stored at the researcher's office at HumaniSE lab, Monash University under lock and key (hard copies) and in a Google Drive (electronic) with restricted access (only investigators have access) for a period of 5 years and destroyed thereafter.

Electronic copies of consent forms will be stored at the Chief Investigator's office under password protection for the same period as that of data and destroyed thereafter.

Use of data for other purposes

In accordance with data sharing guidelines, de-identified data may be made available for use by the other researchers. This data will be held on GitHub repository of the student researcher and in IEEE data port and may be a requirement of some journals prior to publication. Any shared data will not include your identifying details.

Results

The findings of this study will be published in academic and practitioner-based journals, conferences, magazines, and will be included in Kashumi Madampe's thesis. Further, free access to the publications in the form of preprints will be available on student investigator's personal website (https://kashumim.com), and you may also request a summary of the results by indicating it in the pre-interview questionnaire.

Complaints

Should you have any concerns or complaints about the conduct of the project, you are welcome to contact the Executive Officer, Monash University Human Research Ethics Committee (MUHREC):

Executive Officer
Monash University Human Research Ethics Committee (MUHREC)
Room 111, Chancellery Building D,
26 Sports Walk, Clayton Campus
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Thank You.

Rashina Hoda