**Statistical Design Consulting**

**SEMESTER REPORT**

**Spring 2025**

**Client:** Jiawen Zhang  **File Number:** 25-002

**Department:** Computer Graphics Technology **Major Prof:** Dr. Nandhini Giri

**Consultant:** Sumeeth Guda **Initial Meeting Date:** 01/28/25

**Meeting Attendees:** Jiawen Zhang, Sumeeth Guda, Dr. Nandhini Giri, Dr. Chong Gu

**Statement of Problem:** To determine if integrating Mandala practices into a guided meditation app improves the overall love kindness meditation experience.

**Goal of This Project:** Master’s Thesis

**Background:** The client is a master’s student in CGT doing a master’s thesis project on how combining mandala creation with loving-kindness meditation (LKM) affects user engagement. LKM is a practice that involves sending goodwill and kindness to oneself and others. Mandala creation is based on Buddhist practices based on creating designs with colored sand. The aim of the client is to integrate the fundamentals of Mandala cultural practices into an LKM app to compare if it improves the meditation experience. They will conduct a pre and post survey experiment process to evaluate the effectiveness of cultural integration in digital meditation.

The client came to the SCS since they needed validation that the survey design was appropriate for their study, as well as to see if having 20-30 participants is sufficient for analysis, and to learn what methods are most appropriate for the analysis.

**Progress During Current Semester:**

There wasn’t a lot of progress with this project during this semester. Most of the clients’ queries were answered in the IM meeting where the SCS gave their input with potential changes to the ordering of their treatments and deployment of their LKM mechanism. Their sampling strategy, as well as the minimum number of participants they need to report to the IRB. There was a lot of doubt regarding the impact of this survey since the niche nature of Mandala would make it so that not many people would believe in its effectiveness, hence the data could be confounded. Nevertheless, the client didn’t contact the consultant and since this is the last semester for the client, ultimately it is implied that this project will be put on hold until either the client or advisor contacts the SCS again.

**Current Status: Hold**