Human-Computer Interaction Pluriversal Framework for Ancestral Medicine App in Bogota: Asset-Based Design Case Study

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Abstract : COVID-19 accelerated digital healthcare technology usage in many countries, such as Colombia, whose digital healthcare vision and projects are proof of this. However, with a significant cultural indigenous and Afro-Colombian heritage, only some parts of the country are willing to follow the proposed digital Western approach to health. Our paper presents the national healthcare system's digital narrative, which we contrast with the micro-narrative of an Afro-Colombian ethnomedicine unit in Bogota called Kilombo Yumma. This ethnomedical unit is building its mobile app to safeguard and represent its ancestral medicine practices in local and national healthcare information systems. Kilombo Yumma is keen on promoting their beliefs and practices, which have been passed on through oral traditions and currently exist in the hands of a few older women. We unraveled their ambition, core beliefs, and practices through asset-based design. These assets outlined pluriversal and decolonizing forms of digital healthcare to increase social justice and connect Western and ancestral medicine digital opportunities through HCI.

Keywords : asset-based design, mobile app, decolonizing HCI, Afro-Colombian ancestral medicine
Conference Title : ICHCI 2024 : International Conference on Human-Computer Interaction
Conference Location : Amsterdam, Netherlands
Conference Dates : May 02-03, 2024