# Article information:

Tangible User Interface for Social Interactions for the Elderly: A Review of Literature  
<https://www.hindawi.com/journals/ahci/2018/7249378/>

# Article summary:

1. The global population is ageing rapidly, and elderly people face the challenge of social isolation and loneliness.

2. Tangible user interface (TUI) can be a more natural and intuitive interface for older adults, bridging the gap between the digital world and the physical world.

3. Very little research has been published on TUI for enhancing the social interactions of elderly people, and future research should involve elderly people in the design process and investigate the effect of TUI on their social interactions and health.

# Article rating:

Appears strongly imbalanced: The article is written in a biased or one-sided way, and the information it provides is not trustworthy enough to be considered a reliable source. You should consult other sources to find reliable information on the presented issues.

# Article analysis:

The article "Tangible User Interface for Social Interactions for the Elderly: A Review of Literature" provides an overview of the potential benefits of tangible user interfaces (TUI) in enhancing social interactions among elderly people. The authors argue that TUI can be a more natural and intuitive interface for older adults, who often struggle with mainstream technology designs. However, the article suffers from several limitations that undermine its credibility.

Firstly, the article relies heavily on secondary sources and does not present any original research findings. While systematic literature reviews are valuable in synthesizing existing knowledge, they cannot replace primary research studies that provide empirical evidence to support claims. Therefore, the article's conclusions about the potential benefits of TUI for elderly people's social interactions remain speculative and unsupported by data.

Secondly, the article overlooks some critical factors that may affect elderly people's ability to use TUI effectively. For instance, it does not consider how physical impairments such as arthritis or visual impairment may limit their ability to manipulate physical objects or perceive digital information. Moreover, it does not address how cultural differences or individual preferences may influence their acceptance of TUI.

Thirdly, the article presents a one-sided view of TUI as a panacea for elderly people's social isolation without acknowledging its potential risks or limitations. For example, it does not discuss how TUI may exacerbate feelings of loneliness if it fails to provide meaningful social connections or how it may lead to further exclusion if older adults lack access to technology or training.

Finally, the article appears to have a promotional tone towards TUI without critically evaluating its effectiveness compared to other interventions aimed at improving social interactions among elderly people. It also fails to explore counterarguments against TUI and alternative approaches such as community-based programs or intergenerational activities.

In conclusion, while the article highlights an important issue concerning elderly people's social isolation and offers some insights into how TUI can potentially address this problem, its limitations undermine its credibility and call for further research that addresses these gaps in knowledge.

# Topics for further research:

* Effects of physical impairments on elderly people's use of tangible user interfaces
* Cultural factors influencing acceptance of technology among elderly populations
* Risks and limitations of using tangible user interfaces for social interactions among older adults
* Comparative effectiveness of community-based programs versus tangible user interfaces for combating social isolation in elderly populations
* Intergenerational activities for improving social interactions among elderly people
* Barriers to access and training for elderly people using tangible user interfaces

# Report location:

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