The Future of Social AR

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Fitting Social AR into a Context

In places like societies, colleges, workplaces where people are colleagues, acquaintances with each other majority of the time, people may seek to establish long-term goals like

- Network beyond their specific teams/friend groups
- Bolster their social ties

Furthermore, there are social psychological aspects that one may aspire

- Acceptance of oneself in wider community
- Getting noticed amongst peers
- Overcome aloofness

Fitting Social AR into a Context

People wish to communicate with each other. However due to host of reasons as listed below, they may not be able to do so :

- Fear of getting into awkward conversations
- Over-thinking to initiate the conversation
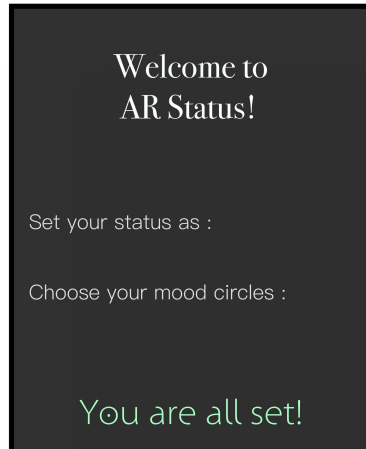- Undermining/ Self-abasing
- Introverts
- Work life - 20*7

Possible Role for Social AR

People aren't able to share their daily updates by being very busy at work, or may not know how to initiate a conversation. But they still need to feel accepted, noticed, build good social relationships etc.
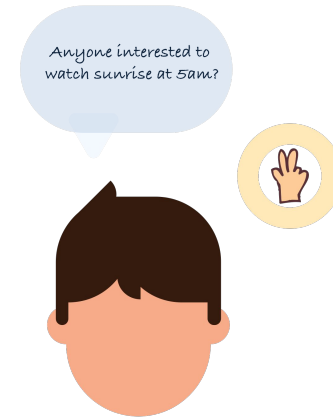
Social AR should be able to **support and encourage** this face to face interaction in the following cases

- Ice-breaking
- Start short conversations
- Help to know potential people with who you could be comfortable with
- Feel accepted in the community despite their busy schedules, low sociability

Introduction to *MyStatus* - Social AR Application

Welcome to
AR Status!

Set your status as :

Choose your mood circles :

You are all set!

AR Spectacles : To view the status

Anyone interested to watch sunrise at 5am?

A mobile app to take user input of his/her status, mood circles. People can input anything ranging from suggestions to asking out to their life updates.

The application renders the user's status in AR above his/her head. Mood Circles(Yellow) denotes his mood with help of some emojis.

MyStatus - Social AR Application

Taking inspiration from social networking apps like - Twitter, Facebook, Instagram - Status features

- MyStatus is a mobile application especially designed for users who wish to render their life updates by taking user input as per their will.
- People can wish to add other augmentations like mood circles - displaying the mood of the person in the form of emoji's, stickers can be used to convey feelings associated with the status.
- This can allow people who are busy, don't know how to share their short updates on the go with acquaintances, even friends sometimes, to have an augmented message on them, which may serve as invitation for people to communicate with him/her.

Narrative : Denoting Positive Impact

Situation 1

This is a typical college scene at IIIT Delhi. Everyone is rushing to their classes, running to the canteen during lunch hours, sitting in the garden, strolling around the hostel parks, studying in groups in library. Everyone is busy in their own chaos. Students are seen to be working in groups, pairs or even individuals.

Maggi has 2 deadlines in the night. She is engrossed in her work so much that she rarely able to find time to talk to her fellow mates. She wished to communicate to people the workload she got for the day, however no one would know until and unless she would start to have a conversation with others, which she doesn't know how to go about.

Maggi : Wishes to talk but doesn't know how to share her situation

Got 2 deadlines tonight!!

She is waiting for a sandwich at canteen when people stop by to reply

Attracts responses like

Friends, Acquaintances who are familiar with Maggi but never chatted more than just a Hi!

Response 1 : Hey, even I had them yesterday. For coffee, have a kettle to yourself. Canteen doesn't have good coffee at night!

Response 2 : Haha! All the best! Don't forget to eat your meals though!

Response 3 : Hey!! I will join you too! Do let me know where I can find you?

Maggi uses MyStatus. People with AR specs, interact with her sending their wishes, offer to help. She recognizes the people and replies by will catch up later!
Maggi feels morally boosted!

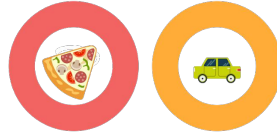# Narrative : Interaction *not* looking forward to!

Situation 2

In workplace, with a similar scene as situation 1, let's suppose not everyone is comfortable having small talks with everyone. There is a cohort of relationships that exist. A certain degree to the friendship may be tolerated. There may be restrictions on friendship with people with opposite genders. Thus, to manage status, moods display in AR may be critical to one's already existing formal relationship.

Toshi wishes to do overtime at the office. She is in lookout for company other than who she daily interacts with. Her mood denotes it would be better if she could have car arrangements with someone as it maybe beyond dinner time.

Panel 1: *Toshi : Wishes to know if there are other people doing overtime*

Anyone doing overtime tonight?

Panel 2: *She is walking down the hallway in office when people notice and reply*

Attracts responses like

Panel 3: *Acquaintances on the way*

Unwanted Response 1 : Hey, I am doing overtime! I have my car as well will drop you to your place.
Lets catch up for dinner?

Response 2 : Nah! It gets tiring at night. Keep safe.Book your transport early though!

Toshi uses MyStatus. She gets an unwanted response (someone she didn't want to interact with) however is obliged to reply. Will her overtime be fun now? Either she is able to make a new friend or she may be in uncomfortable, troubled situation.

Ethical, Social Concerns around Social AR

- *Psychological Harm :* What if an individual relying on "MyStatus" to enhance his social quotient ends up getting no response, nudges or any sort of communication?
  - Will this Social AR application help in mitigating the very purpose it was made for?
  - In case this situation persist, there may be negative implications of how one might perceive themselves. One might argue that neither was he able to gain attention with "MyStatus" nor does he get much of it without any augmentation, thus he is not worthy of any social interactioN.
- *Uncomfort* : Sometimes unwanted situations like in situation 2 with Maggi can take place. This may lead to uncomfortable outcomes of using "MyStatus".

Social, Privacy Concerns around Social AR

- Avoiding some conversations due to any reason with a person may be difficult to do so on the go.
    - Even if a feature of hiding from certain people is present in the app, it may be difficult to identify such people before there has been any encounter face to face.
    - Need of a feature that saves an individual from this trouble!
- The more information displayed on status, the more whereabouts, routine, mood becomes available to people in that community (college, workplace, society).
    - This might allow tracking of patterns of a particular person leading to unwanted situations at later times.

Opportunities with "MyStatus"

- My proposed system can have elements of gamification and attach a greater goal of "Improving Self" to it.
- One prospect that gamification can introduce to include non-AR users.
  - The challenge is for the AR users to approach the non-AR users during a group interaction or wherever the context seems to be such that non-AR users don't find intimidating or disturbing.
    - Examples of comfortable contexts could be : Joining a group of people walking towards metro from college/workplace, lunch groups etc.
  - AR users who are able to interact with people who are not using the technology can be rewarded with some benefits with respect to certain exclusive "My Status" features.
- Allowing interactions like - sending reactions(similar to Facebook, Instagram stories) from one person another, on their AR status/mood.