Report on the
Outcomes of the pilot test

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Subject: Communications

Course Title: A touch of Communications

1. Pilot test location
   - ShanFeng Digital Opportunity Center (GuKeng Township, YunLin County, Taiwan)
   - Geographical Background of YunLin County
     - central-south part of western Taiwan
     - northern tip of Chianan (Chiayi – Tainan) Plain
     - Nantou County to the east, Taiwan Strait to the west
     - width east-west is 50 KM, longest distance south-north is 38 KM
     - total area 1290.8351 square kilometers
     - 90% plain and 10% hilly terrain
     - sub-tropical climate with annual average temperature of 22.6℃ and annual average rainfall of 1028.9 mm
     - Population about 735,000
   - Background of ShanFeng village
     - Population：200 residents
     - ethnic groups ：Taiwanese, Foreign spouse
     - School：ShanFeng Elementary school
     - Community goals
       - ✓ Agricultural products：orange, bamboo shoots
       - ✓ Coffee planting
       - ✓ Ecological education and tourism
       - ✓ Regimen village
   - Environment and Infrastructure
     - DOC (Digital Opportunity Center) provided with 12 computers connected to Internet, to provide training course for the villagers
     - Small village with very few residents, but highly equipped with IT sense
     - Almost 1 PC per family, less utilized
     - Provide group courses for village people to increase learning incentive

2. About the Pilot test

- Conducted on December 14~16, 2008
- Total number of participants: 29 (3 classes)
- Lecturer: local trainer

3. Background analysis of participants

A background survey of participants was conducted, and the results are shown as follows:
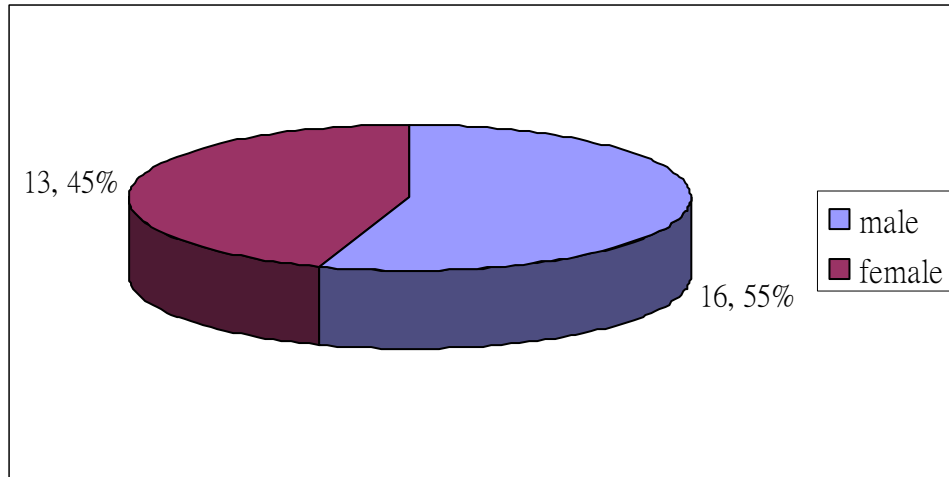

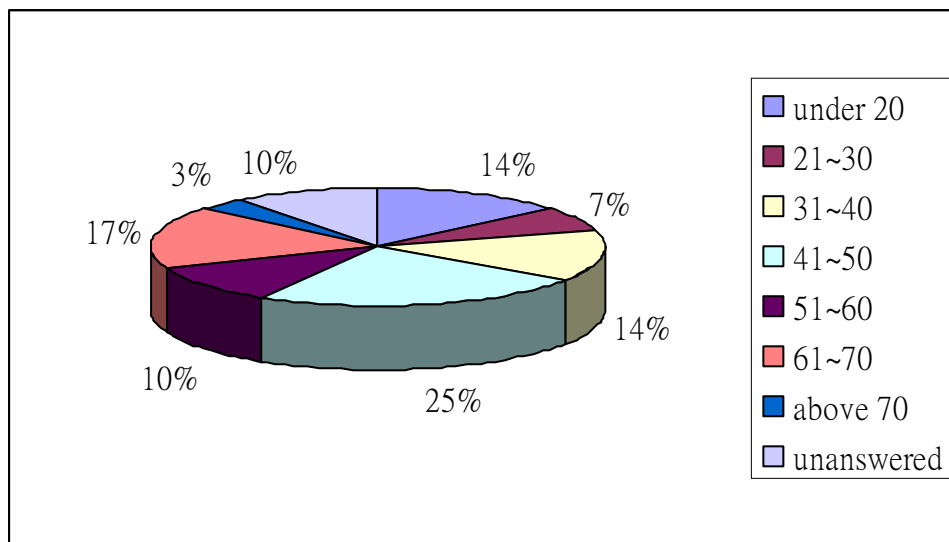Chart 3-1 Gender of participants

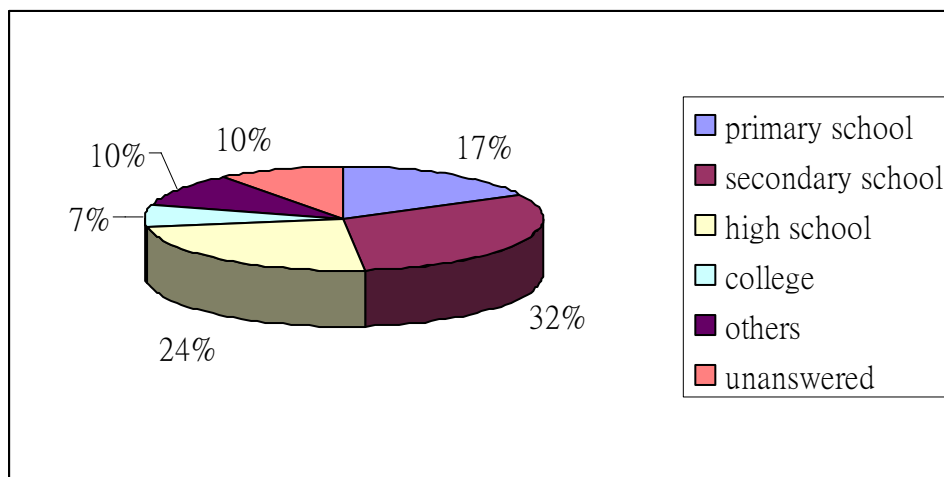Chart 3-2 Age distribution of participants
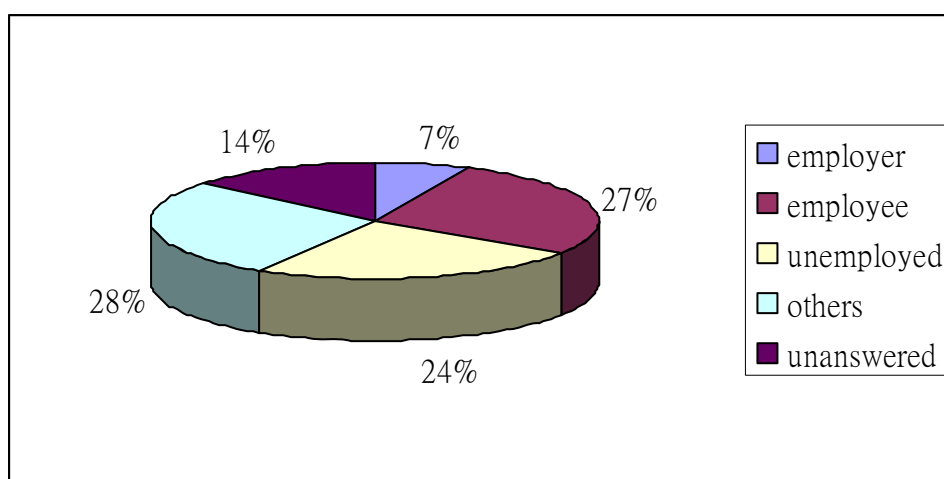
Chart 3-3 Educational background of participants

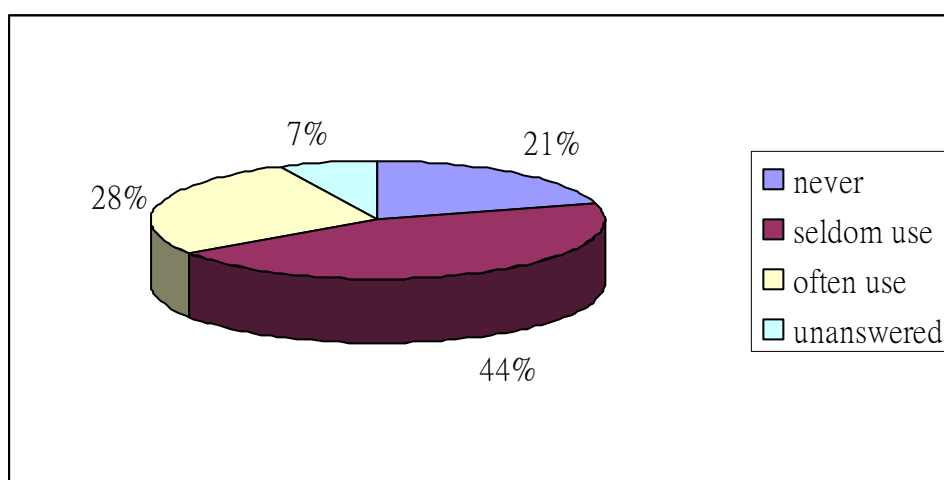
Chart 3-4 Working status of participants

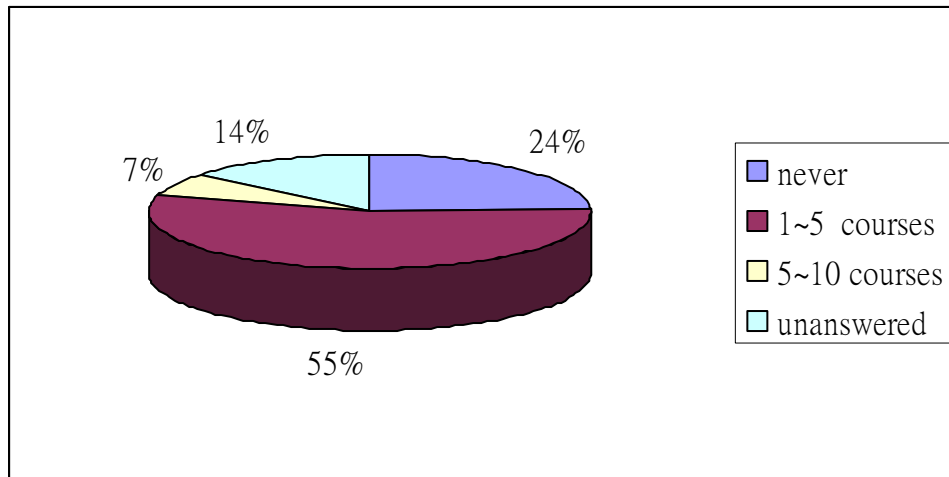Chart 3-5 ICT usage experience of participants

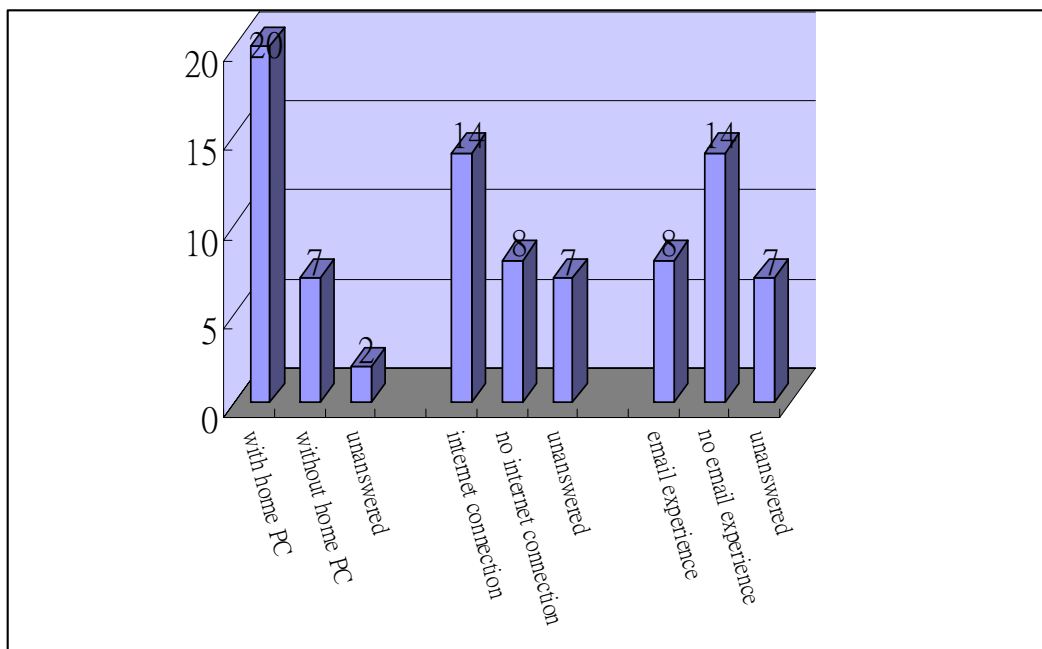Chart 3-6 ICT course attending experience of participants

Chart 3-7 ICT environment status of participants

4. Activities and challenges in the content design faced during the pilot test
   - Some terminologies are still unfamiliar to the participants, e.g. the meaning of "file", "internet", "phishing", etc. A more detailed interpretation has to be added for better understanding. This could be improved by including these words into the "SIGNIFICANT WORDS" part of the content. But it also reminds us to be more carefully when taking it for granted that most people already catch the meaning of those supposed to be familiar words.
   - Computers will be needed to do the exercise in class, it has to be sure

that the network connection is steady, for during the lecture it is necessary to use internet to apply for an email account and practice sending emails to each other.

▪ When talking about something to be aware of about using emails, a practical case or snapshot of news report can be added to bring alert of the participants and be closer to their real life activities.

▪ The "expression note" (e.g. Orz, :), XD) can be introduced to make it more interesting when writing an email.

5. Evaluation of the outcomes

In general, most participants were quite satisfactory and enjoyable in learning the content of the course. A course evaluation was taken among the participants, and the results are shown as follows:
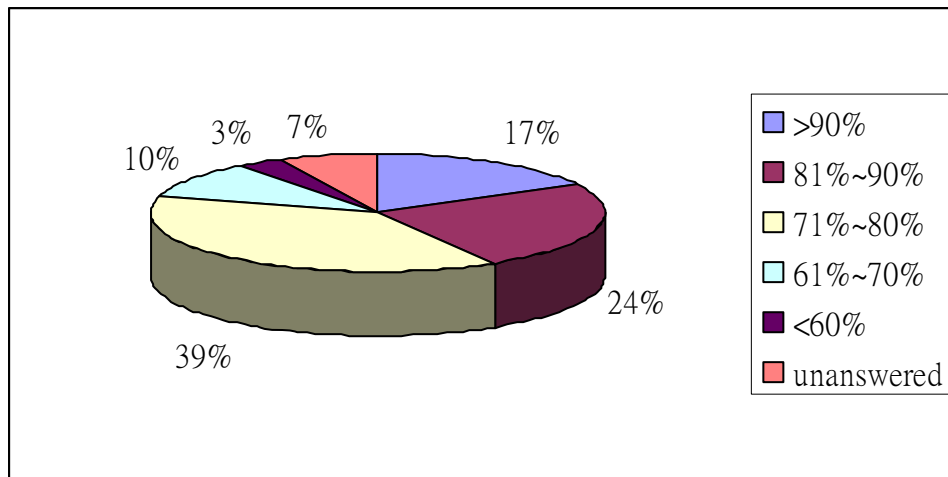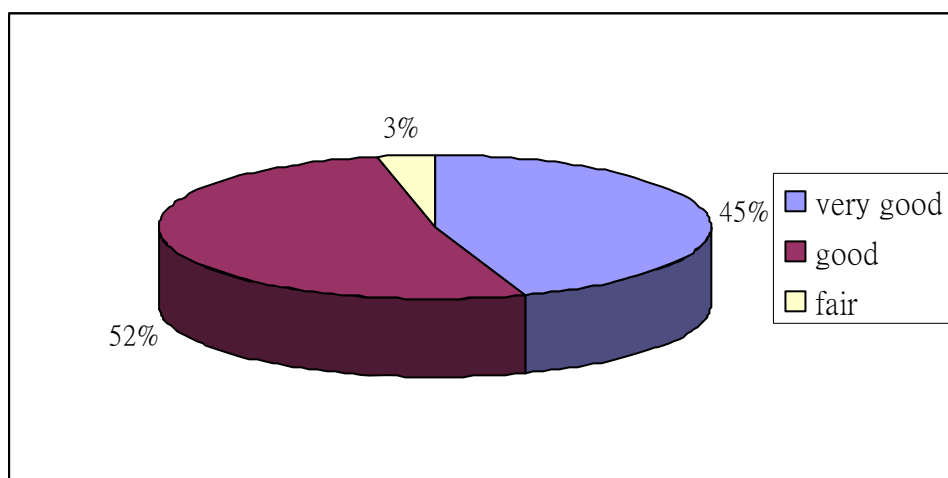

Chart 5-1 Comprehension of the course

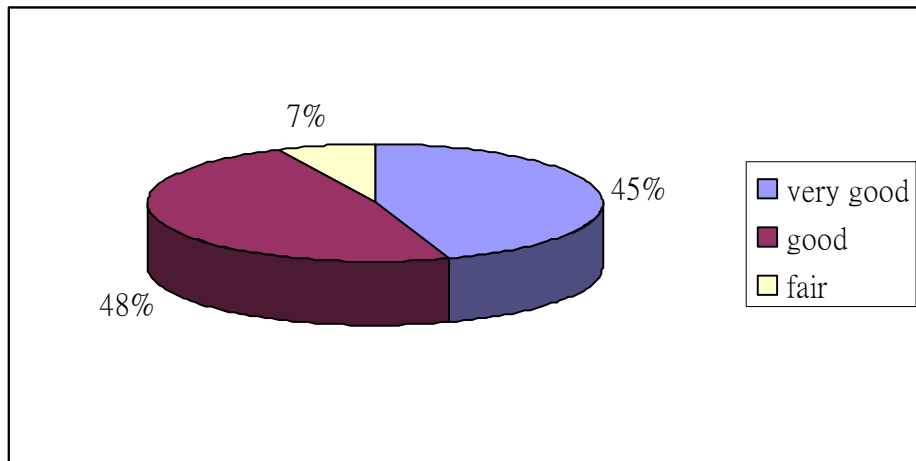Chart 5-2 Appropriateness of course content
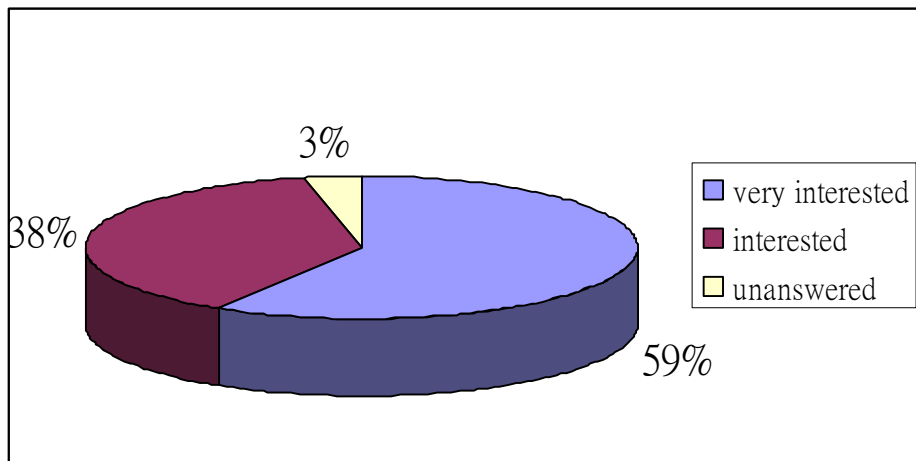
Chart 5-3 Performance of lecturer

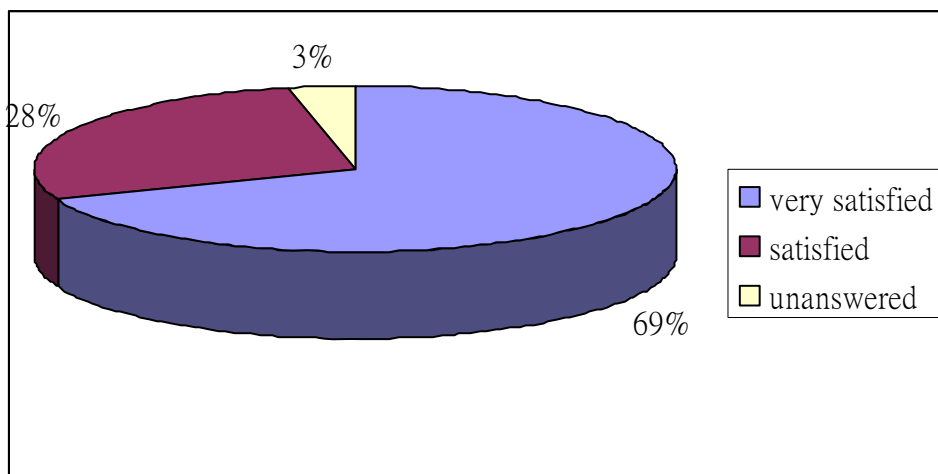Chart 5-4 Interest of attending related courses afterwards

Chart 5-5 General satisfaction of course

6. Recommendations
   - The pilot test is also conducted at different locations other than designated place per trainer's request, implying that the content is quite suitable and desirable for poor and rural area people. Therefore a complete content of ICT training course is recommended to provide learners with more help.
   - Sometimes the trainer can add some timely topics into the material to make the content more interesting. For example, the names in the sample of practicing writing emails can be substituted with the popular movie character in the film "Cape # 7": "Aga" & "Maubo", thus the participants will feel more involved in the activity.
   - Some participants expressed the opinion that time of the class is too short. For the session hour was originally set for 1 hour, participants felt that the pace is a little bit too rush. The content of the course should be more condensed or the time of class session should be extended.

7. Suggestions on how to train stake-holders and further the implementation of this project
   - The entire content may compile to an integrated material and translate into different languages for usage.
   - To generate a concise presentation file (e.g. PowerPoint file) from the content to save the preparation time of the trainer and to help trainer deliver the content more clearly.
   - To develop digital learning content of the course and establish a website for all related materials, in order to meet the self-learning needs in the future.