Author’s response to reviews

Title: A study protocol for an mHealth, multi-centre randomized control trial to promote use of postpartum contraception amongst rural women in Punjab, Pakistan

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Author’s response to reviews:

1) Please ensure that your manuscript title indicates that this is a study protocol.

Response

The title has been changed to

“A study protocol for an mHealth, multi-centre randomized control trial to promote use of postpartum contraception amongst rural women in Punjab, Pakistan”

2) Where possible, please avoid repetition in the title page and use only one superscript character to denote authors with the same affiliation. Email addresses and initials of associated authors may be supplied as a list.

Response

Changed as suggested.

3) Please add three to ten keywords representing the main content of the article after your manuscript abstract, according to our guidelines: https://bmcpregnancychildbirth.biomedcentral.com/submission-guidelines/preparing-your-manuscript/study-protocol

Response

Added. See Key Words in Abstract on Page 2.
4) Please convert the inclusion/exclusion section of the Methods to text form rather than bullet lists.

Response

Changed as suggested. See Methods, Line 21, Page 6.

5) Please include the participant timeline as a figure and refer to it in the text.

Response

Changed as suggested. See Methods, Line 21, Page 9.

6) Please clarify whether the questionnaires were developed as part of the study protocol or had been developed previously. Please include copies of the questionnaires in English and in Urdu as additional files. Please see the guidelines for additional files here: https://bmcpregnancychildbirth.biomedcentral.com/submission-guidelines/preparing-your-manuscript#preparing+additional+files

Response

Clarification is added in Methods, Line 12, Page 13.

Four additional files have been added i.e. English baseline questionnaire, English follow-up questionnaire, Urdu baseline questionnaire, Urdu follow-up questionnaire

7) Please combine the Ethics approval and Consent to participate statements, as per our guidelines (at the bottom of this email). In the Consent to participate statement, please provide a 1-3 sentence summary of the informed consent procedure, including for underage participants (please see next point). All other information should be moved to the Methods section.

Response

Changed as suggested in Declarations Line 2, Page 19.

8) Please provide details of how the submitted consent form will be employed to obtain consent from participants that are under the age of 18. In your response please address why a section is present for the case of an illiterate participant, but there does not appear to be one reserved for the details of an underage participant and their associated guardian.

Response

Details are provided in Methods, Line 28, Page 11. The details are integrated into the consent procedure. Since we will only be recruiting married participants within that age bracket and also
seek consent from their associated guardian (mother-in-law or husband), we have not reserved a separate section for them.

9) Please state the role of the funding body in the design of the study and collection, analysis, and interpretation of data and in writing the manuscript, in the Funding section of the Declarations.

Response

Since the implementing body is a peripheral unit of the funding body, it is a little difficult to elaborate on them separately. However, we have done it on Declarations, Line 14, Page 19.

10) Please format the Authors' contributions statement according to our guidelines and include a statement that all authors read and approved the final manuscript: https://bmcpregnancychildbirth.biomedcentral.com/submission-guidelines/preparing-your-manuscript/study-protocol

Response

Changed as suggested on Line 20, Page 19.


Response

Removed.

12) Please remove the ‘Access to data’, ‘Confidentiality’, ‘Ancillary / Post-trial care’, and ‘Dissemination policy’ sections that precede the Appendices and integrate these into the methods section of your manuscript.

Response

Integrated into Methods on Line 16, Page 16.