Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 0 Date: 06 Jan 2019

Reviewer: Victoria H. Jennings

Reviewer’s report:

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This is a well-designed study in an area of critical interest. If conducted as stated in the protocol, it will contribute significantly to knowledge in the fields of PPFP and the use of mobile phone interventions to address key health behaviors. I do think that the authors are missing an opportunity for data collection via mobile phone. They state that one of the weaknesses of the study is the fact that in the study arm in which women will receive voice and text message there is no way to know whether they are actually listening to/reading them and understanding them. I recommend they reconsider this approach. It would be a relatively easy matter to incorporate micro-quizzes into the text messaging, asking the recipient questions like "Was this information helpful to you?" (yes/no); a simple true/false or multiple choice question related to the information she just received; etc. Perhaps the technology is not designed to be interactive? If that is the case, the authors are correct -- it is a weakness in the study. But I recommend they consider the option of incorporating simple interaction into their program and build a data base accordingly. Even if all study participants do not answer all questions, they will still have valuable information about whether people actually get the intended information.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
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Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
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Yes

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