Author’s response to reviews

Title: The effectiveness of using a WeChat account to improve exclusive breastfeeding in Huzhu County Qinghai Province, China: protocol for a randomized control trial

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Author’s response to reviews:

Sep 2nd, 2019

Dear BMC Public Health Editor,

Thank you for your review and valuable suggestions. We have carefully revised our paper according to the comments and suggestions given by the reviewers.

In this letter, we would like to provide a point-by-point response to all the comments. Reviewers’ comments are shown in bold, followed by our responses. In the manuscript, all the additions and changes are shown in track changes.

Comments in the review document
Reviewer reports:

Jane Scott (Reviewer 1):

1. Page 8-9 I still have concerns about providing advice on infant growth on the basis of cross-sectional data. The purpose of growth charts is to 'track' and monitor growth over a period of time. I am unsure of what the authors mean by normal range. Is this between the 3rd and 97th percentiles of weight for length? I think at the very least that normal range needs to be defined.

Response: We would like to thank the reviewer for the thoughtful comments. In our research, the purpose of growth charts is to provide a tool for parents to self-assess their child. Parents can use the tool every time they measure their child. Yes, the normal range is between the 3rd and 97th percentiles of weight and length. We replaced “in the normal range” with “between the 3rd and 97th percentiles” in Page 9.

Minor grammatical corrections

2. Page 4 lines 18-19. This sentence is ambiguous. I am not sure if the authors mean that WeChat has been shown to have potential positive impacts or that it is the health behaviours that have been shown to have potential positive impacts. I presume the authors mean to say that "WeChat has been used as a communication tool and been shown to positively impact on selected health behaviours.”

Response: Thank you. Yes, here we mean “WeChat has been used as a communication tool and been shown to positively impact on selected health behaviours.” We replaced “to change health behaviors that has shown potential positive impacts” with “been shown to positively impacts on changing selected health behaviours.” in Page 4.

3. Page 7 line 9 suggest rewording "which avoids between group contamination through the direct sharing of messages sent via WeChat"

Response: We changed “which avoids contamination through direct sharing messages we sent in the WeChat” to “which avoids between group contamination through the direct sharing of messages sent via WeChat” in Page 7 line 9.

4. Page 8 line 2 should read "..can log into the feeding…”

Response: We changed “login” to “log into” in Page 8 line2.

5. Page 8 line 6 should read ".. the first month postpartum and 4 months postpartum..” OR "the first month after delivery and 4 months after delivery". The word 'after' is unnecessary when used in conjunction with ‘post’ as in postpartum, in this sentence and later in the paragraph.

Response: We would like to thank the reviewer for the thoughtful comments. We deleted “after” before the “postpartum” in the manuscript.
6. Page 9 line 42 should read 'semi-structured'  
Response: We changed “Semi-structure” to “Semi-structured” in Page 9 line 42.

7. Page 9 lines 43 suggest rewording "… to learn from their experiences in using the platform.”  
Response: We changed “to learn their use experience of the platform” to “to learn from their experiences in using the platform” in Page 9 line43.

Reviewer2  
REQUESTED REVISIONS:  
1. I would like authors to verify these two sentences' data:  
* "Since first launched in January 2011, there are more than one billion registered WeChat users throughout the world."  
* "Currently, there are more than 20 million public or official accounts registered in the WeChat platform.”
Response: We would like to thank the reviewer for the thoughtful comments. We reviewed the original data, and changed “Since first launched in January 2011, there are more than one billion registered WeChat users throughout the world.” to “Since first launched in January 2011, there are more than one billion registered WeChat users throughout the world by the end of 2018”[1].  
We also changed “Currently, there are more than 20 million public or official accounts registered in the WeChat platform.” to “By September 2017, the number of registered WeChat Official Account has reached 20 million”[2].

2. Another issues is that random selection and randomisation are different. Authors have described well how they do randomisation but not explained how they first select random sample of pregnant women.  
Response: We did not use a random sample to this RCT, rather we used the namelist to recruit our participants. We replaced the subtitle “Sample size and sampling” with “Sample size calculation” in Page 6, and deleted “The sampling unit is individual pregnant woman.” in Page 6 paragraph 2, as we did not randomly select these participants but to randomized them into two groups.

Looking forward to hearing from you soon.

With kindest regards,

Yanfeng Zhang

On behalf of all authors
References:
