Reviewer’s report

Title: Gender differentials in readiness and use of mHealth services in a rural area of Bangladesh

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Reviewer: Balthasar L. Hug

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Review BHSR-D-17-00232

"Gender differentials in readiness and use of mHealth services in a rural area of Bangladesh" by Khatun et al

General: The authors describe a well written study of 4915 randomly selected individuals in rural Bangladesh regarding their mobile phone health care resources use with a special focus on gender disparities. The study is timely, interesting to read and provides an important piece of knowledge to the accessability of health care resources in Bangladesh.

However, there are some points that still need addressing, above all the patient selection process and the socioeconomic data. These points are outlined below.

Methods:

- Patient selection:

- P. 5, lines 10-11: Patient selection should be described in a few sentences according to ref 42. It is not enough to reference that paper not explaining how patients were selected for this study. The authors write that "A total of 4915 randomly selected respondents.." were analyzed. Randomly selected of which kohort? What was the return rate of their questionnaire? How did the randomisation take place?

- A sample questionnaire with its translation from Bangla into English should be provided as supplementum.

- Informed consent (last line p. 5, first line p. 6): The authors write "Written informed consent was obtained from each of the study! participants ." and in table 2 we learn that
883 men and 1452 women have had no education at all. How can these illiterate participants give written consent?

- What do the authors call a "rural area"? Is there a definition for the international reader? How do the authors differentiate rural from e.g. a suburban area? Are there some kind of administrative area zones in Bangladesh?

- Socioeconomic status/asset index: How was this entity defined? The reader just learns about the stratification into the five strata, but how an individual is stratified is outlined nowhere in the paper.

Results:

- There are nine tables in the paper. I suggest to move four of them into a supplementum section e.g. tables 8 and 9 addressing the intention to use mHealth in the future.

- Table 6 extends over two pages; a table should match into one page only.

References:


Are the methods appropriate and well described? If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls? If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown? If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes
Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?

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I am able to assess the statistics

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