Reviewer’s report

Title: Collecting verbal autopsies: improving and streamlining data collection processes using electronic tablets

Version: 0 Date: 01 Oct 2017

Reviewer: Ying Lu

Reviewer's report:

This paper describes a data collection process using electronic tablets in VA studies. Various aspects in data collection are compared between the tablet method and the paper questionnaire method. A very simple cost analysis is conducted. The general conclusion is that the electronic tablet method is more cost effective in terms of both time and money than the traditional paper method.

Efficient and reliable data collection is an important issue in VA studies. The authors elaborate this need very well in the paper. However, I have major concern in recommending this paper for publication in an academic journal like POHM. The paper is a descriptive article on the process of VA data collection using electronic tablet. Collecting field data/survey data using tablets is not novel by today's standards. This contribution of this paper to VA research is rather limited. In order for a paper on new survey instrument I expect to see more detailed analysis on how the quality of data collection is improved as compared to traditional method (such as reliability analysis, measurement errors, etc..) Currently this paper would serve well as a publicly available implementation manual or a working paper for fields researchers in VA.

There are a few obvious typos in the paper, for examples, in the abstract (Background), pp1-line 55, pp3-line 7, pp8-line 7….

Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of limited interest

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited
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