Reviewer’s report

Title: The development of an Android platform to undertake a discrete choice experiment in a low resource setting

Version: 0 Date: 12 Jan 2019

Reviewer: Finaba Berete

Reviewer's report:

This study reports the steps of the development of an Android-based platform to conduct a discrete choice experiment among community health workers in rural India. It is a relevant study. However, I have the following remarks and suggestions for this manuscript.

Comments to Authors:

Methods:

1. For the paper based questionnaire, 20 ASHAs responded in 2 days. How many ASHAs tested the Android-based platform? Is it the same ASHAs who tested the paper-based form? This is not clear to me.

2. In your results, you stated that "The Android-based answers were in line with the paper-based tool answers". How did you assess this? Nothing are said in the method section about how you will compare the answers of paper based form and Android based platform? In think is will be useful to assess the reliability or accuracy of your new tool using some statistics.

3. You described how the test for the paper based questionnaire was conducted, but not for the Android-platform one.

Results:

4. The second paragraph of the results section (p.8 line 43 to 58 and p.9 line 1 to 7) should be moved in the method section.

5. Have observers noticed gender difference in the use of the tablet?

6. "Data collection time was notably shorter using the computer tablets, (10 to 15 minutes) compared to (20 to 25 minutes) for completing the paper based DCE". Again, no statistical testing are done. Were the two subsample of ASHAs (paper respondents versus Android respondents)
comparable?

Discussion

7. In my opinion the definition of the two approaches 'think aloud approach' and 'verbal probing' comes a bit late here. Please move them in the introduction or in the method part.

8. Is there any limitation of your study?

Conclusion:

9. "In conclusion, it is feasible to use digital technology to develop and implement a DCE for CHWs with low literacy levels in a low-income setting".

I think this conclusion is too general based on this study. It deserves to be a little nuanced. Indeed, if it is possible to use the DCEs on Android platform in your study population (because they had already familiarized with new technologies such as a smart mobile phone), what about others CHWs in LMICs who are not familiar with these new technologies?

Level of interest

Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English

Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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