

Identifying the Most Feasible Technologies for mHealth Maternal Mortality Interventions in Sub-Saharan Africa

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Abstract

mHealth is considered as an acceptable solution toward health-related challenges especially within maternal and neonatal health. This paper is a review of acceptable mHealth technologies and the impact on maternal and neonatal health. A focus is directed toward Sub-Saharan Africa where a review of mHealth technologies that work in the area is conducted. A randomized control trial utilizing text messages is reviewed to check on the reliability, and viability of the solution within the Kenyan context. Additional tools that are reviewed include open data kit, a data collection tool as well as Google Aggregate server, a data storage tool which are used to evaluate the viability of the ICT intervention. Key findings show that not only text messages are cost effective but also can be scaled for larger projects. A combination of text messages, open data kit, and Google aggregate provides for a feasible and reliable combination when running feasible control trials interventions. In conclusion, it is recommended that a customized developed system to be used instead of a commercial system especially when running large-size control trials which may require a more cost-effective solution.

Keywords

mHealth RCT ODK Bulk SMS Google aggregate Kenya