

MDC compared to Paper-based data collection

Advantages and disadvantages



VS

MDC Advantages

MDC Disadvantages

Improved data quality and analytical capacities with integrated calculation, data validation constraints, skip logic, no handwriting issues, ...

Integrated tool to collect different types of multimedia: GPS points, pictures, signatures, audio recordings, barcodes, ...

Time saving: easier and faster analysis

Better day-to-day monitoring of the data collection process and possibility of remote access to data

Cost saving in the long run: less human resources (no need for data entry clerks)

Centralized online archiving: reduced risk of data loss if well managed

Interviewers go lighter in the field

Longer preparation phase for designing, coding and testing the survey

Can be intimidating and create distance with the person interviewed. Not appropriate in some contexts

Can be a safety issue for staff in some contexts (targeting, theft, ...)

Requires more technical skills in the project system implementation (longer training, adapted skills)

Significant initial investment (purchase of mobile phones)

Fragile devices and risk of technical issues

Dependence on electricity for use and internet connexion for data synchronization

Not adapted for qualitative surveys

