Development and usability testing of an educational mobile learning app for climate change and health impacts

Elif Aydoğan, Ali Derya Atik, Ergin Şafak Dikmen and Figen Erkoç

Abstract

Objectives: Mobile applications, social media platforms are changing Internet user behavior; creating a new era of education in a connected world. We have previously reported training needs of health providers in the Climate Change. Aim is to develop and test an Android® mobile app as an effective smart learning environment for climate change health impacts.

Methods: The quasi-experimental design method was used in five phases: easy-to-reach, rich content Android® mobile app design and development for Android® operating system, scale development, finalizing scales to be used, implementation, data collection, analysis. Dependent t-test of pre-test and post-test awareness scores was analyzed. Usability and satisfaction were assessed with two scales; quantitative data with descriptive statistics.

Results: The developed Mobile app was effective in enhancing students’ learning experience, and well-received in terms of adopting and using such technology for educational purposes. Pre-test and post-test scores different statistically (p<0.05); increasing participants’ awareness level and were satisfied.

Conclusions: We conclude that our Mobile app, m-learning project, is successfully incorporated into the learning context; when tested, raised awareness about climate change and health effects for the public. To our knowledge, no currently existing tool to provide new mobile application for climate change education and promote awareness exists.

Keywords: climate change; mobile application; self-paced learning; virtual learning environment.

Amaç: Mobil uygulamalar, sosyal medya platformları Internet kullanıcılara davranışlarını değiştiriyor, dünya ile bağlantılı yeni bir eğitim çığı yaratıyor. Daha önce küresel iklim değişikliği alanında sağlık hizmeti sağlayıcılarnın eğitim ihtiyaçlarını tespit etmiştir. Amaç, iklim değişikliği ve sağlık etkileri için etkili bir öğrenme ortamı olarak bir Android® Mobil uygulaması geliştirmek ve test etmektir.

Gereç ve Yöntem: Araştırma beş aşamada gerçekleştirilmiştir ve yan deneydesel desen yöntemi kullanılmıştır: Erişimi kolay, zengin içerikli Android® işletim sistemi için mobil uygulama tanıması ve geliştirilmesi, ölçük geliştirmme, kullanıcılak ölçelerin son halinin verilmesi, uygulama, veri toplama, analiz. Bağımı gruplar t-testi ön-test ve son-test farkındalık puanları analiz edilmiştir. Kullanılabilirlik ve memnuniyet iki ölçekte değerlendirilmiş, nicel verilerin analizinde tanımlayıcı istatistikler kullanılmıştır.
**Tartışma:** Geliştirilen Mobil uygulamanın kullanımı, öğrencilerin öğrenme deneyimini geliştirmeye etkili olduğunu ve teknolojinin eğitim amaçını kullanımı ve benimsenmesinin olmamakla, belirlememis. Ön-test ve son-test puanları istatistiksel olarak farklıdır (p<0.05); katılımcıların farkındalık düzeyini artırmış ve mobil uygulamanın memnuniyeti de olumsuzdu.

**Sonuçlar:** Mobil öğrenme çalısmazda, Mobil uygulamanın öğrenme durumlarına başarıyla dahil edildiği; test edildiğinde iklim değişikliği ve sağlık etkileri hakkında katkılmaların farkındalığı artırıldı sonucuna ulaşmıştır. Mevcut bilgilere göre, iklim değişikliği eğitimi ve farkındalık düzeyini artırmak için şu anda mevcut bir mobil uygulama bulunamaktadır.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** hız kontrolü öğrenme; sanal öğrenme ortamı; iklim değişikliği; mobil uygulama.

**Introduction**

Climate change is defined as “a change of climate that is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity, that alters the composition of the global atmosphere, and that is in addition to natural climate variability over comparable time periods”. Climate change is the greatest challenge of the 21st century, threatening all aspects of the society, and increases risks to human lives and health [1]. The recent and future impacts both on ecological resources and human well-being/impacts have been reviewed extensively [2]. The severity of direct and indirect impacts on human and animal health (One Health, WHO) is increasingly clear, with expected higher heat-related morbidity and mortality, necessitating environmental education. Changing weather patterns increase the risk of many infectious diseases worldwide, e.g., the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, and other newly-circulating ones (HIV/AIDS, hantavirus, hepatitis C, SARS etc). This reflects the combined impacts of rapid demographic, environmental, social, technological and other changes in our ways-of-living. Climate change will also affect infectious disease occurrence. Changes in infectious disease transmission patterns are a likely major consequence of climate change. Air pollution due to greenhouse gas emission, increases the risk of COVID-19 spreading faster and becoming deadlier.

However, due to multidisciplinary nature, complexity of environmental, societal, economic, mitigation/adaptation phenomena; Climate Change education confronts with many challenges [3] such as significant differences in the learner's level of understanding [4]. Both citizens and governments are invited to focus and participate [5], definitely a collective solution where responsible civic participation is required for mitigation, adaptation and education. Quality environmental education by lifelong learning is the key component of adaptive capacity, the knowledge and skills needed to adapt lives and livelihoods to the ecological, social, and economic realities. For education to be transformative, it must be based on active, inclusive, and participatory learning and teaching process [6].

New opportunities offered by information and communication technologies shift learning and teaching process from traditional environments to online environments, whether optional or compulsory (as in the COVID-19 pandemic process) and distance education activities are becoming widespread. Recent coronavirus crisis (COVID-19) reemphasized the importance of open education and “opened up new doors” for several online platforms, which have changed over the past 20 years with many phases of development: “Online Open Course 2.0” debates still continue [7–9], emphasis should be placed on lifelong learning [10].

Distance education or distance learning delivers education to students who are not physically “on-site” to receive their education. Learning Management System (LMS) provides learning environment through a specific software [11]. Open-source learning management systems (e.g., A Tutor; Claroline; EBA; e-Study; EduZone; Moodle; Sakai) are continually evolving to meet the demands of learners and teachers [12]. Before the 2020 pandemic, open source learning management systems already actively supported formal education with blended learning approach in secondary and higher education and assisted distance education. It provides many opportunities and facilities to the distance education users: Developing the knowledge, skills and abilities of the learners, helping his/her personal development, choosing the learning style suitable for the learners, reducing transportation costs and other expenses, providing equality of opportunities in education to people especially with poor socio-economic status, opportunity to learn at the learner’s own learning speed, independent and lifelong learning opportunity [13–15]. Courses requiring physical on-site presence such as exams are hybrid or blended course or program [16]. Flipped learning, a blended learning approach, brings together advantages of face to face teaching and technology enriched online learning environments. In the flipped classroom, course material is presented to the students prior to class via online LMS, then during class time learning-centered activities build up on the preclass work, accommodating opportunities for individualized education [17]. Furthermore, quality of in class and out of class time is promoted by combining technology, education and science. Diverse audiovisual materials are made...
available and students are canalized to different activities. Each day, new teaching-learning approaches, models, methods, and different practices appear in the education domain and these practices are becoming more popular in different learning levels.

Mobile apps and social media facilitate access to new generation platforms; synchronously changing Internet user behavior, creating a new era of education in a connected world: digital learning, data rich environments, computer-based assessment, time and location independent, enjoyment during learning, direct access to information; learners can communicate asynchronously, interact and share multimedia contents such as texts, images, videos or animations [18–21]. Smart mobile devices have emerged as an important tool for self-paced learning. Mobile education is defined as the use of mobile devices to allow learning without time and space restrictions, either alone or in conjunction with other information and communication technologies (ICT), expand access to knowledge [22]. In addition, they encourage learner creativity, problem solving [23]. During the last decade research focused on potential use of mobile applications for education employing mobile augmented reality (MAR) application and similar tools [24–26]. Impact of mobile applications as a virtual learning platform on students’ comprehension, motivation, and learning satisfaction were reported [27–32].

Interest in the usability principles of social media technology has increased in general. Moreover, many articles are associated with the health and medical area, suggesting a more mature development of these fields [33]. Advances in smartphone technology are to help reinforce users skills in the health sector. There are various apps focusing on healthcare education: to memorize especially in pharmacology (MedCalX), to help reinforce users diagnosing and threatening skills (Prognosis), to provide a vivid and comprehensive look of the human body (Muscle and Bone Anatomy 3D), the flashcard system that questions users on topics users are weak at more than the topics users know very well (Anki) etc. [34]. Similarly, there are some mobile apps to increase awareness about climate change and effects; to control energy use (EnergySmart), current weather forecast in users location to a massive database of weather history (Voodoo Skies Normal or Not), an audiovisual journey through the stunning arctic findings (Chasing Ice), a platform to measure carbon dioxide emissions during everyday commuter activity (Commute Greener), energy map alert (AllentMe Energy Map), pollution levels in users area with an interactive map (Pollution), companies are ranked on how well users address climate change (Climate Counts), to find energy saving tips to protect oceans from climate change (PowerPup). These apps are available on all platforms (iOS, Android, Windows, and MacOSX) [35]. Sullivan et al. [36] reviewed existing smartphone apps to estimate personal carbon emissions/cost and potential health consequences of these actions. Wallace and Bodzin [37] reported a significant increase in science and technology interest with students who used the MobiLAP approach for citizen-science to familiarize them with Climate Change.

Akay et al. [38] reported that the majority of the participants (83.5%) declared training need about Climate Change; knowledge about Climate Change were 41.7%, without 5.1%, partially knowledgeable 53.8%. Participants who had training or any course/seminar concerning health impacts were 8.2%, not trained 91.8%. It is apparent that this vital topic is vastly misunderstood, and steps must be taken to educate those who may not recognize the impacts, conceive Climate Change as a social determinant of health (SDOH) [39]. A survey of literature indicated need for training by life science and one health professionals. Citizens to understand how they contribute to anthropogenic Climate Change and actions that can be taken to mitigate human induced causes. A more user-centered and holistic approach with the target group involvement in developing and testing the usability and usefulness of an app is required [40]. The aim of the study is to develop a training Mobile app on climate–health integrated into all aspects. For this reason, mobile app has been developed and tested the usability and satisfaction of the users. Our hypothesis that Mobile app increases users’ awareness level of Climate Change is tested. While developing the Mobile app, the app is entertaining and informative, suitable for self-paced learning, its visuals are remarkable, and users can evaluate themselves with tests taken during the learning process.

Materials and methods

Participants were surveyed about useability and satisfaction of the mobile app; pedagogical impact was evaluated by measuring their awareness levels in Climate Change before and after the process. Quasi-experimental design, a quantitative research method, was used in five phases: Mobile app design and development, scale development and final decision on the scales to be used, implementation, data collection, and analysis.

Experiment design

Mobile app design and development process

Initial stage: Mobile app development process started with an examination of sample mobile applications freely downloadable via the
Google Play and the App Store, accessed with keywords “iklim değişikliği” and “climate change” and scanned during 1–8 September 2019. Four most rich in content, addressing both Climate Change and health impacts, and user-friendly Mobile apps were analyzed: Üretikten Koru [Protect While Producing]; İklim Değişikliği Muğla [Climate Change Muğla]; NASA Visualization Explorer. Our Mobile app had some similarities between the scanned applications above in terms of aesthetics, hierarchy, interface, system info. However, ours addresses health impact, energy efficiency, mitigation, and personal measures to combat climate change.

Stage 2: Theoretical content was enriched using the analyzed Mobile apps and reviewed literature on Climate Change and health effects: Clean energy sources, history of Climate Change, global and country situation of Turkey, greenhouse effect, greenhouse gases (GHGs), climate change impacts and renewable energy sources and solutions for individuals to mitigate Climate Change. The texts were examined and necessary corrections were made by specialists (Professor of Biology and Instructor of Geography Education).

Learning objectives of climate change awareness Mobile app are given below:
- After using this Mobile app, participants will be able to:
  - Describe the greenhouse effect, global warming and climate change.
  - Explain the concept of climate change.
  - Identify causes of climate change based on scientific evidence.
  - Analyze impacts of climate change on health.
  - Compare adaptation and mitigation strategies.
  - Recognize and internalize ways of lowering climate change impacts at personal and societal levels.
  - Consider international collaboration and action against climate change.

Stage 3: Infographics using the canva.com/tr_tr/ [41] were prepared to release the comprehensive content of Mobile app to users.

Stage 4: Google Forms® preliminary tests were prepared and directly accessed from the Mobile app content with a link to measure awareness levels and self-valuation. Three-question “mini tests” on mobile application content were at the end of each section. A “Let’s test ourselves” section of 16 questions is accessible from the Mobile app main menu (Figure 1).

Infographics and mini tests were appraised by field specialists (a biology professor, a geology professor, a biology associate professor, and a communication associate professor) before release in Mobile app. The screenshots of the prepared infographics are shown in Figure 2.

Stage 5: Using the mobiroller.com/tr site [42], a mobile app for use on Android® operating system mobile devices (mobile phone, tablet etc.) was developed. The operating system was preferred since most operating systems are in this form, are mostly open source and enable interventions.

The size of mobile application is 18 MB and downloadable with file “74406663496.apk” sent to the users via Google Drive® (https://drive.google.com/open?id=1hEMQwchDg7QMoMhjAUdJBrZr8CCOAj8). An “application download directive” has been also sent to users, for easy download.

Data collection tools
Global climate change awareness test (GCCAT): Mobile app content is depicted above. A draft test of 34 items/questions, consisting of MA’s four sections, has been prepared. Content validity was reviewed by three field experts (two biology, one geographer, and educational expert) and the V1 was revised; the new version was applied to 107 respondents including biology teachers. The awareness test was

Figure 1: Mini tests used in the mobile application to measure awareness levels and self-valuation of respondents. Three-question “mini tests” on mobile application content were at the end of each section. The “Let’s test ourselves” section of 16 questions is accessible from the mobile app main menu, accommodating self-evaluation while answering the mobile App.
developed with participants/respondents (including biology teachers) who had prior exposure to the field. After application of the draft test, item analysis was carried out by calculating the difficulty and distinctiveness of the items, validity and reliability of the survey performed. Inappropriate items were excluded, KR-20 reliability coefficient calculated, and the final form of the test was ready.

Item analysis results of the awareness test are given below in Table 1.

Item selection based on expert opinions finalized selection by taking, subject content, item difficulty index and item distinctiveness into consideration. Eight items, with distinctiveness >0.30, (1, 2, 15, 19, 21, 24, 26 and 28) were selected for the final test. Six items, distinctiveness >0.20, (3, 7, 25, 27 and 31), and only one item (11) with distinctiveness >0.10 were revised and final version of 14 items were completed. The GCCAT is composed of 14 items, measures the extent of the basic knowledge in individual processes. It composed of 14 items,

![Figure 2: Mobile phone screenshots with the Android® operating system of the MA. The screenshots present infographics for successful learning using images.](image-url)
Table 1: Items’ difficulty and distinctiveness indexes.

| Question number | Item variance | p   | q   | Expression, p | r   | Expression, r | Decision |
|-----------------|--------------|-----|-----|--------------|-----|--------------|----------|
| 1               | 0.14         | 0.83 | 0.17 | Moderate     | 0.40 | Good         | Used     |
| 2               | 0.08         | 0.92 | 0.08 | Easy         | 0.41 | Good         | Used     |
| 3               | 0.06         | 0.93 | 0.07 | Easy         | 0.21 | Fair         | Used     |
| 4               | 0.25         | 0.51 | 0.49 | Moderate     | 0.14 | Fair         | Not used |
| 5               | 0.01         | 0.93 | 0.07 | Easy         | −0.03| Poor         | Not used |
| 6               | 0.13         | 0.85 | 0.15 | Easy         | −0.01| Poor         | Not used |
| 7               | 0.25         | 0.48 | 0.52 | Moderate     | 0.22 | Fair         | Used     |
| 8               | 0.24         | 0.58 | 0.42 | Moderate     | 0.18 | Fair         | Not used |
| 9               | 0.15         | 0.82 | 0.18 | Moderate     | 0.05 | Poor         | Not used |
| 10              | 0.15         | 0.19 | 0.81 | Hard         | −0.05| Poor         | Not used |
| 11              | 0.14         | 0.17 | 0.83 | Hard         | 0.18 | Fair         | Used     |
| 12              | 0.17         | 0.79 | 0.21 | Moderate     | 0.04 | Poor         | Not used |
| 13              | 0.25         | 0.49 | 0.51 | Hard         | 0.15 | Fair         | Not used |
| 14              | 0.25         | 0.53 | 0.47 | Moderate     | −0.03| Poor         | Not used |
| 15              | 0.04         | 0.96 | 0.04 | Easy         | 0.32 | Good         | Used     |
| 16              | 0.23         | 0.36 | 0.64 | Hard         | 0.19 | Fair         | Not used |
| 17              | 0.12         | 0.86 | 0.14 | Easy         | 0.25 | Fair         | Not used |
| 18              | 0.15         | 0.81 | 0.19 | Moderate     | 0.24 | Fair         | Not used |
| 19              | 0.06         | 0.93 | 0.07 | Easy         | 0.43 | Good         | Used     |
| 20              | 0.17         | 0.78 | 0.22 | Moderate     | 0.15 | Fair         | Not used |
| 21              | 0.04         | 0.96 | 0.04 | Easy         | 0.48 | Good         | Used     |
| 22              | 0.05         | 0.94 | 0.06 | Easy         | 0.35 | Good         | Not used |
| 23              | 0.16         | 0.80 | 0.20 | Moderate     | 0.15 | Fair         | Not used |
| 24              | 0.03         | 0.97 | 0.03 | Easy         | 0.48 | Good         | Used     |
| 25              | 0.11         | 0.88 | 0.12 | Easy         | 0.29 | Fair         | Used     |
| 26              | 0.04         | 0.96 | 0.03 | Easy         | 0.57 | Good         | Used     |
| 27              | 0.13         | 0.84 | 0.16 | Moderate     | 0.22 | Fair         | Used     |
| 28              | 0.02         | 0.98 | 0.02 | Easy         | 0.46 | Good         | Used     |
| 29              | 0.18         | 0.77 | 0.23 | Moderate     | 0.45 | Good         | Not used |
| 30              | 0.15         | 0.19 | 0.81 | Hard         | 0.07 | Poor         | Not used |
| 31              | 0.15         | 0.81 | 0.19 | Moderate     | 0.23 | Fair         | Used     |

p: difficulty index, q=1−p, r: distinctiveness index.

Measures the extent of the basic knowledge an individual possesses. One point is given to a correct answer item, and the highest score is 14 points. Average item difficulty was 0.83, concluding the test as moderately difficult. Average item distinctiveness strength of test was good = 0.35. KR-20 reliability coefficient was acceptable: 0.71 [43].

**Mobile app usability and satisfaction scales:** Two mobile application usability scales were used: Mobile Application Usability Scale (MAUS), developed by Hoehle, Aljafari, Venkatesh [44], tested within a structural measuring model and adapted to Turkish culture, by Guler [45]. Five sub-scales of the total 10 were used: esthetic, color, control, font, and hierarchy. The first scale consisted of total of 20 items and the 7-point Likert type scale was used for data collection. The second scale was Mobile Application Satisfaction Scale (MASS), developed by Namli [46], a 7-point Likert scale of 15 items. It measures consumer usability directly and in user-satisfaction evaluation, usability values in human-computer interaction.

**Data collection**

**Experimental group:** A convenience sample (n=44 participants) was selected from Gazi University, Gazi Faculty of Education, Biology Education Department. Genders: %70.5 (n=31) female, and %29.5 (n=13) male. Second year students were 19, third year students were 21 and fourth year were four. The participant group represents target audience.

**Process:** Required ethical permissions were obtained for the study (Ethics Committee Permit No: 14.11.2019-E0.143489) (Table 2).

After brief demographic information (gender, grade etc.) participants completed pre- and post-tests. Data were collected on-line with Google documents®. In pre-test vs. post-test design, participants’ awareness level of Climate Change was measured once before the treatment; Mobile app implemented and once after implementation. After completion, opinion about the Climate Change Mobile app satisfaction and usability scales were taken.

**Data analyses**

Quantitative data of the experimental group’s pre- and post-test awareness scores were analyzed as dependent t-test. Descriptive statistics were used for MAUS and MASS scales. One of the Authors was teaching all classes and she obtained online views of selected participants.
Table 2: The study’s process.

| Pre-test | Process | Post-tests |
|----------|---------|-----------|
| GCCAT – global climate change awareness test was performed before the process to assess their awareness. | GCCMA – global climate change mobile application was examined by the participants. | GCCAT – global climate change awareness test was performed after the process to assess their awareness again. |
| | | MAUS – mobile application usability scale was performed to assess their opinions about the usability of GCCMA. |
| | | MASS – mobile application satisfaction scale was performed to assess their opinions about the satisfaction of GCCMA. |

Results

Overall, the use of Mobile app in health effects of Climate Change has been shown to be effective in enhancing students’ learning experience and well-received in terms of adopting and using such technology for educational purposes. Findings of our study show a positive outcome of the adopting and using such technology for educational purposes.

Change has been shown to be effective in enhancing students’ awareness.

After Mobile app was examined by the participants, they were asked to evaluate the Mobile app according to different criteria such as esthetic, color, control etc. The results of Mobile app usability scores are given below (Table 4).

The MAUS results showed that, in general the participants’ views on Mobile app are "usable (X̄=5.87)" (1.00–1.86=strongly unusable, 1.87–2.72= unusable, 2.73–3.58= somewhat unusable, 3.59–4.44= neutral, 4.45–5.30= somewhat usable, 5.31–6.16= usable, 6.17–7.00= strongly usable). The views of the participants about Mobile app’s esthetic (X̄=5.51), color (5.57), control (X̄=6.16), font (X̄=6.05), and hierarchy (X̄=6.05) are usable too. The highest score is the control feature of the Mobile app and the lowest score is the esthetic feature of the Mobile app (Table 5).

Table 5: MASS descriptive analysis results.

| MASS items | Mean | Std. De. | S.E.M. |
|------------|------|----------|-------|
| 1. I am happy to use the application. | 6.09 | 1.29 | 0.19 |
| 2. I have difficulty using the application. | 6.20 | 1.41 | 0.21 |
| 3. I need to concentrate to use the app. | 4.25 | 2.13 | 0.32 |
| 4. I think the application is user friendly. | 5.98 | 1.32 | 0.20 |
| 5. I think the app is suitable for its purpose. | 6.30 | 1.13 | 0.17 |
| 6. I find the application confusing. | 6.45 | 1.11 | 0.16 |
| 7. In practice, I can easily complete my work. | 5.91 | 1.54 | 0.23 |
| 8. I think the application is very complicated. | 6.50 | 1.05 | 0.16 |
| 9. While using the application, I cannot control the application, I am lost. | 6.41 | 1.15 | 0.17 |
| 10. I think the app meets my needs. | 5.66 | 1.63 | 0.25 |
| 11. I think the application is very easy to use. | 5.89 | 1.62 | 0.24 |
| 12. I think the application needs to be further developed. | 3.84 | 1.99 | 0.30 |
| 13. The use of the application matches my habit of using the phone. | 6.07 | 1.28 | 0.19 |
| 14. I think the app is safe. | 5.82 | 1.59 | 0.24 |
| 15. I can use the application easily anywhere. | 6.05 | 1.46 | 0.22 |
| The mean score of all items | 5.83 | 0.84 | 0.13 |

*Inverse items, Items scores are minimum: 1 and maximum: 7.*
Participants’ views about their satisfaction with the Mobile app, MASS results, showed satisfaction “satisfied ($\bar{X}=5.83$)” (1.00–1.86= strongly not satisfied, 1.87–2.72= not satisfied, 2.73–3.58= somewhat not satisfied, 3.59–4.44= neutral, 4.45–5.30= somewhat satisfied, 5.31–6.16= satisfied, 6.17–7.00= strongly satisfied). In general participants strongly satisfied items results are “the Mobile app is suitable for its purpose ($\bar{X}=6.30$)”, “the Mobile app is not confusing ($\bar{X}=6.45$)”, the Mobile app is not very complicated ($\bar{X}=6.50$), and “the controlling Mobile app is easy ($\bar{X}=6.41$)”. The participants view about the Mobile app needs to be further developed is “neutral ($\bar{X}=3.84$)”. Likewise, the participants view about to concentration/focus to use the Mobile app is “neutral ($\bar{X}=4.25$)”. In conclusion, the Mobile app is user friendly.

The reliability values of GCCA pre-test and post-test and MAUS and MASS are given below (Table 6).

A reliability coefficient of 0.70 or higher is considered “minimally acceptable” in social sciences [47]. GCCA pre-test ($\alpha=0.72$) and post-test ($\alpha=0.78$) reliability scores were higher than 0.70, showing respectable mean scores. The MAUS reliability scores were calculated 0.97 and subscales of esthetic, color, control, font, and hierarchy reliability scores were calculated 0.97, 0.82, 0.95, 0.97, and 0.99, respectively. Usability of reliability scale and subscales are excellent/appropriate, the only exception is the very good reliability of color. The MASS reliability score was calculated 0.85 and mean satisfaction of the scales is very good. Infographics enable more understandable presentation of the data/information, simplifying complex and intensive information by visualization.

**Table 6: Reliability values of tests and scales.**

| Tests and scales | No. of items | Reliability test | Value | Expression |
|------------------|--------------|------------------|-------|------------|
| GCCAT Pre-test   | 14           | KR-20            | 0.72  | Respectable |
| GCCAT Post-test  | 14           | KR-20            | 0.78  | Respectable |
| MAUS             | 20           | Cronbach’s Alpha | 0.97  | Excellent  |
| MAUS Esthetic    | 4            | Cronbach’s Alpha | 0.97  | Excellent  |
| MAUS Color       | 4            | Cronbach’s Alpha | 0.97  | Excellent  |
| MAUS Control     | 4            | Cronbach’s Alpha | 0.95  | Excellent  |
| MAUS Font        | 4            | Cronbach’s Alpha | 0.97  | Excellent  |
| MAUS Hierarchy   | 4            | Cronbach’s Alpha | 0.99  | Excellent  |
| MASS             | 15           | Cronbach’s Alpha | 0.85  | Very good  |

**Discussion**

One of the primary focus of modern citizen science is examining how Climate Change affects life on our planet. Global weather- and Climate Change related disasters of devastating fires (devastating wildfires continue to burn in Australia), floods, and landslides have led to loss of life and property and irreversible ecosystem changes; emphasizing serious physical and mental health consequences. Changing climate impacts contend longer and hotter summers, more frequent and intense storms, sea-level rise, more severe droughts, and poorer air quality, are inextricably linked to poorer health. Similar to mental health problems, child health impacts are numerous and include worsening asthma and allergies; physical trauma from disasters; mental health symptoms, including posttraumatic stress disorder after disasters and anxiety about the future; increased exposure to infectious diseases; and lack of access to adequate food and clean water [39].

Increased interest in Climate Change education and effective education strategies/approaches have been reviewed [48]. Skavanis et al. [49] described mobile app “Climapp” to promote climate change communication to the general public. However, assessment of the application in terms of effectiveness in efficient communication of climate change to the general public was not measured. Effectiveness of the developed Mobile app on climate change and health effects in improving the learning experience of the participants and the positive effects of adopting and using this technology for educational purposes in the Results section. In addition, the data of the study show that the mobile application increases the awareness and learning of the participants. Research has accentuated challenges associated with the complex nature of Climate Change and some educators allude to lack of necessary skills and knowledge to adequately deliver instruction. Here mobile learning can be an alternative since it enables individuals to adjust the education to their needs, expertise, and skills. Similar to our findings, Teri et al. [20] developed and applied a Mobile app (NutriBiochem) in a second year Biochemistry and Metabolism course for biochemistry and nutrition education. Majority of students agreed the Mobile app to be a useful learning tool; others felt it helped them perform better in the course. The study tool was especially effective for students who were comfortable with technology, and access it regularly. Peart et al. [50] introduced Bioscience and Biochemistry students to Mobile app which measured resting heart rate in a research skills module. They concluded that progress from passive classroom learning to more active inquiry-based learning and finally an example of independent
problem-based learning, with the aim to encourage critical analysis in bioscience students was achieved. Cell biology teaching is often considered difficult, both by students and by teachers due to difficulty in creating mental models and the scarce resources used by teachers in the didactic transposition makes the process of teaching and learning hard. Cell biology apps were reviewed as potential support for classroom lectures. Realistic models and animations were found useful for exploring the dynamics of the cell functioning [51]. Study of Etcuban and Pantinople [52] determined the effects of using a Mobile app in teaching mathematics among grade 8 students in high school, in the Philippines. The researchers used the quasi-experimental method of research using the pre- and post-test design with two participant groups with 40 students per group and reported an increase in the post-test scores of the control and experimental groups. Use of the Mobile app helped enhance students’ achievement and learning in teaching mathematics.

The Mobile app as a tool for blended learning may first present to the students via mail, WhatsApp etc. Class time is then may use for learning activities that built on preclass work. So, the transfer of knowledge is shifted outside the classroom, social and active learning activities are carried out in the classroom. Educators can increase the quality of in class and out of class time by combining technology. Our results showed participant satisfaction with the Mobile app use, and they like to access information anytime and anywhere. Similarly, student achievements, motivations and attitudes towards learning changed with the support of instructional design with technology [53] and technological tools used by teachers in their lessons positively affected teaching [54]. Results of previous studies agree and support our research results. Traditional online courses are replaced by different income models, as communication between students and lecturers increase and lead to further development of these free and open education models. Besides, mobile communication tools specific to personal use have become an important technological tool in accessing such new generation of open education platforms. In this sense, the development of educational Mobile app and their free access has an important role on the creation of new generation of Open Course materials and eventually induce the rapid and widespread awareness of critical issues such as Climate Change. Another interesting approach to Climate Change and adaptation was collecting and analyzing mobile phone data for the analysis of urban population activities and mobility patterns at high spatial and temporal resolutions. Technologies such as mobile phone data are a main asset for addressing climate-related risk within cities, better addressing the vulnerability of urban communities and managing climate risks in a continuous manner, thereby overcoming the limitations of static planning approaches based on population estimations from census data [55].

The Mobile app can be effectively used for teaching/training mental health providers and their colleagues on Climate Change, disaster preparedness, and how to best help the patients cope with these highly stressful situations [56]. Increasingly need arises for inclusion of Climate Change health impacts in development of curricula in allied life and health disciplines as lifelong learning, in close collaboration with the multidisciplinary specialty experts. The medical and One Heath community needs to collaborate with climate scientists, clean energy leaders, community-based organizations, and behavioral health specialists with expertise in environmental-related health issues. Way further is to resolve potential of smartphone apps to evoke behavior change resulting in Climate Change and health co-benefits [36].

Mobile apps as essential element of blended learning environments are subject of usability testing considering different factors: learnability, efficiency, memorability, errors, satisfaction effectiveness, cognitive workload, interruptibility and simplicity [57]. Along this line, future research can focus on describing pedagogical impact of mobile applications in biochemistry and/or biochemistry laboratory education.

Today’s learners expect an education just in time, just enough and just for them and m-learning is a learning model that corresponds with these demands. With these features, m-learning emerges as a powerful dynamic of lifelong learning and allows the learning process to be realized at every moment of life without interruption [58]. Another advantage of m-learning is the ability to install apps according to the individual’s learning requirements and correspond with the learning requirements [59]. There are millions of free applications on mobile platforms that can support the need for learning or can be used as an auxiliary tool. The ability to download and use the applications needed according to the learning needs on mobile devices allows the mobile devices to be employed as a personalized learning environment that allows learning to continue without interruption. The Mobile app developed in the present study can be revised and modified according to blended learning needs and therefore very flexible tool to support self-training, especially during extraordinary significant threats such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

Acknowledgments: We would like to thank our field experts Dr. Abdullah Türker and doctoral candidate Elif Façal, both from Gazi University, for their expert opinions in revision of the item pool and the Mobile app. Our thanks
are also for all professionals from diverse fields and our biology teacher candidates for their contribution to the item pool.

**Research funding:** None declared.

**Author contributions:** All authors have accepted responsibility for the entire content of this manuscript and approved its submission.

**Competing interests:** Authors state no conflict of interest.

**Informed consent:** Informed consent was obtained from all individuals included in this study.

**Ethical approval:** The study was approved by Gazi Ethics Committee (Date and ref. No 0.14.11.2019-E0.143489).

**References**

1. United Nations. Framework convention on climate change (UNFCCC). Available from: https://unfccc.int/ [Accessed July 2020].
2. Ayanlade A, Sergi CM, Di Carlo P, Ayanlade OS, Agbalajobi DT. When climate turns nasty, what are recent and future implications? Ecological and human health review of climate change impacts. Curr Clim Change Rep 2020;6:55–65.
3. World Health Organization (WHO). COP24 special report: health and climate change. 978-92-4-151497-22018. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2018. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO.
4. Tolppanen S, Aksela M. Identifying and addressing students’ questions on climate change. J Environ Educ 2018;49:375–89.
5. Wi A. Citizen participation as a key enabler for successful public education policies in climate change mitigation in Singapore. Int Res Geogr Environ Educ 2019;28:53–69.
6. UNICEF. Climate change and environmental education. Available from: https://www.unicef.org/publications/files/CFS_Climate_E_web.pdf [Accessed November 2020].
7. Sharma Y. Global: move over Moocs–collaborative Mooc 2.0 is coming. In: Understanding global higher education. Rotterdam: SensePublishers; 2017:167–9 pp.
8. Soylev A. MOOCs 2.0: the social era of education. Turk Online J Dist Educ 2017;18:56–67.
9. Naidu S. The MOOC is dead—long live MOOC 2.0! Dist Educ 2020;408–67.
10. Knox J. How goes the revolution? Three themes in the shifting MOOC landscape. Educ. Technol. 2017;1:386–408.
11. Nichols M. A theory of eLearning. Educ Technol Soc 2003;6:1–10.
12. Koohang A, Harman K. Open source: a metaphor for e-Learning. Inf Sci J 2005;8:75–86.
13. Gillies D. Student perspectives on video-conferencing in teacher education at a distance. Dist Educ 2008;29:107–18.
14. Lenar S, Artur F, Ullubi S, Naiiya B. Problems and decision in the field of distance education. Procedia Soc Behav Sci 2014;131:111–117.
15. Moore M. Theory of transactional distance. In: Keegan D, editor. Theoretical principles of distance education. New York: Routledge; 1997:22–38 pp.
16. Holmberg B. Theory and practice of distance education. England, UK: Routledge: E-book; 2005.
17. Bergmann J, Sams A. In flip your classroom; reach every student, in every class, every day. Washington: ISTE; 2012.
18. Vestol J.M. Digital tools and educational designs in Norwegian textbooks of religious and moral education. Nordic J Dig Lit 2011; 6:75–88.
19. Strashko I. Philosophical and educational orientation of iTUNES university as a possibility of satisfying individual needs for education. Hum Bull Zaporizhia State Eng Acad 2016;25:76–83.
20. Teri S, Acai A, Griffith D, Mahmoud Q, Ma DWL, Newton G. Student use and pedagogical impact of a mobile learning application. Biochem Mol Biol Educ 2014;42:121–35.
21. Uther M. Mobile learning-trends and practices. Educ Sci 2019;9:1–3.
22. UNESCO. Policy guidelines for mobile learning. In: West M, Vosloo S, editors. France: The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); 2013. Available from: http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0021/002196/219641e.pdf [Accessed July 2020].
23. Blessy T, Raja WD. Mobile learning: a mode to transform the world of learning. RJPSS 2018;44:120–7.
24. Yang S, Mei B, Yue X. Mobile augmented reality assisted chemical education: insights from elements 4D. J Chem Educ 2018;95:1060–2.
25. Turan Z, Meral E, Sahin IF. The impact of mobile augmented reality in geography education: achievements, cognitive loads and views of university students. J Geogr High Educ 2018;42:427–41.
26. Garrett BM, Anthony J, Jackson C. Using mobile augmented reality to enhance health professional practice education. Cur Iss Emer eLearning 2018;4:224–47.
27. Wang YH. Integrating self-paced mobile learning into language instruction: impact on reading comprehension and learner satisfaction. Interact Learn Environ 2017;25:397–411.
28. Li KC, Lee LYK, Wong SL, Yau ISY, Wong BTM. Effects of mobile apps for nursing students: learning motivation, social interaction and study performance. Open Learning 2018;33:99–114.
29. Nair D. The effect of using mobile app mediated self learning on the academic achievement of 11th grade science students. Pramana Res J 2019;9:377–84.
30. Bauman EB. Games, virtual environments, mobile applications and a futurist’s crystal ball. Clin Simul Nurs 2016;12:109–14.
31. Pererva V, Lavrentieva O, Lakomova O, Zavaliukk O, Tolmachev S. The technique of the use of Virtual Learning Environment in the process of organizing the future teachers’ terminological work by specialty; 2020. Available from: http://ceur-ws.org/Vol-2643/paper19.pdf [Accessed November 2020].
32. Nganjir IT. Towards learner-constructed e-learning environments for effective personal learning experiences. Behav Inf Technol 2018;37:647–57.
33. Ramos RF, Paula Rita P, Moro S. From institutional websites to social media and mobile applications: a usability perspective. Eur Res Manag Bus Econ 2019;25:138–43.
34. The MDJOURNEY. Want to study better in med school. Available from: https://themdjourney.com/16-best-apps-for-medical-students-you-cant-miss/ [Accessed November 2020].
35. Climate Home News. Ten top climate changes apps for your smartphone. Available from: https://www.climatechangenes.com/2013/09/24/top-10-climate-change-apps/ [Accessed November 2020].
36. Sullivan RK, Marsh S, Halvarsson J, Holdsworth M, Waterlander W, Poelman MP, et al. Smartphone apps for measuring human
health and climate change co-benefits: a comparison and quality rating of available apps. JMIR Mhealth Uhealth 2016;4:e135.

37. Wallace DE, Bodzin AM. Developing scientific citizenship identity using mobile learning and authentic practice. Electronic J Sci Educ 2017;21:46–71.

38. Akay DS, Akca G, Aşık AD, Erkoç F. Do life science professionals need training for the effects of climate change on health? J Int Lingual Soc Educ Sci 2020;6:141–51.

39. Ragavan MI, Marcil LE, Garg A. Climate change as a social determinant of health. Pediatrics 2020;145:e20193169.

40. Petersen M, Hømpler NF. Development and testing of a mobile application to support diabetes self-management for people with newly diagnosed type 2 diabetes: a design thinking case study. BMC Med Inf Decis Making 2017;17:1–10.

41. Canva. canva.com/tr_tr/ [Accessed November 2020].

42. MobiRoller. Yap.mobil Uygulamani. Kendi Available from: mobiroller.com/tr [Accessed November 2020].

43. Nunnally JC. Psychometric theory. New York: McGraw-Hill; 1967: 172–235 pp.

44. Hoehle H, Aljafari R, Venkatesh V. Leveraging Microsoft’s mobile usability guidelines: conceptualizing and developing scales for mobile application usability. Int J Hum Comput Stud 2016;89: 35–53.

45. Güler Ç. A structural equation model to examine mobile application usability and use. Int J Law Inf Tech 2019;12:169–81.

46. Namli Ş. Mobil Uygulama Kullanılabilirliğinin Değerlendirilmesi. Yüksek Lisans Tezi, 122 sayfa. Fen Bilimleri Enstitüsü, İstanbul Teknik Üniversitesi; 2010.

47. UCLA, Institute for Digital Research & Education. Available from: https://stats.idre.ucla.edu/spss/faq/what-does-cronbachs-alpha-mean [Accessed November 2020].

48. Monroe MC, Plate RR, Oxarant A, Bowers A, Chaves WA. Identifying effective climate change education strategies: a systematic review of the research. Environ Educ Res 2019;25: 791–812.

49. Skanavis C, Kounani A, Koukoulis A, Maripas-Polymeris G, Tsamopoulos K, Valkanas S. Climate change communication: a friendly for users app. In: Leal Filho W, editor, et al. Addressing the challenges in communicating climate change across various audiences, climate change management. Switzerland: Springer Nature; 2019:263–79 pp.

50. Peart DJ, Fairhead OJ, Stamp KA. A case study of using mobile applications and peripherals to encourage “Real-Life” critical analysis in human physiology. J Prob Based Lear Higher Educ 2018;6:128–35.

51. de Oliveira ML, Eduardo Galembeck E. Mobile applications in cell biology present new approaches for cell modelling. J Biol Educ 2016;50:290–303.

52. Etcuban OJ, Pantinople DL. The effects of mobile application in teaching high school mathematics. Int Electron J Math Educ 2018;13:249–59.

53. Bilgi M, Şahin M. The effect of computer assisted instruction on students’ achievement in the teaching of the subject of activity. J Turkish Sci Educ 2012;9:146–66.

54. Liao YC. Effects of computer-assisted instruction on students’achievement in Taiwan: a meta-analysis. Comput Educ 2007;48:216–33.

55. Dujardin S, Jacques D, Steele J, Linard C. Mobile phone data for urban climate change adaptation: reviewing applications, opportunities and key challenges. Sustainability 2020;12:1501.

56. Seritan AL, Seritan I. The time is now: climate change and mental health. Acad Psychiatr 2020;44:373–4.

57. Kuhnel M, Seiler L, Honal A, Ifenthaler D. Mobile learning analytics in higher education: usability testing and evaluation of an app prototype. Interact Technol Smart Educ 2018;15:332–47.

58. Rosenberg MJ. E-learning: strategies for delivering knowledge in the digital age. New York: MacGraw-Hill; 2001.

59. Johnson L, Adams S, Cummins M. The NMC horizon report: 2012 higher education edition. Austin, TX: The New Media Consortium; 2012.