

A phenomenological study of the causes and consequences of teenage pregnancy in schools around Malamulele, Thulamela Municipality in Limpopo Province

by

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ABSTRACT

Introduction and background: Although considerable attention has been paid to the prevalence of teenage girl pregnancies in the less developed world, a few studies have focused on the causes and consequences of school girl pregnancies, particularly in the rural areas.

The aim of the study: The aim of this study was to explore the causes and consequences of teenage pregnancy.

Methodology: The study adopted a qualitative approach. Phenomenological and exploratory designs were also adopted. Purposive and snowball sampling were used to select the eight teenage mothers who were still attending school. Data were collected using semi-structured interviews. Data were analysed using the interpretive phenomenological analysis method.

Results: It was found that family background, peer pressure, the media, lack of sex education and inconsistent use of contraceptives all contribute to teenage pregnancies in Malamulele, Limpopo Province. Teenage mothers experience different consequences.

Conclusion: The study concluded that teenage pregnancies are caused by several factors that should not be ignored because they do not only affect teenagers socially, but also academically.

Recommendations: The study recommended that the sexuality education programme should be part of the curriculum as it will provide learners with the necessary information pertaining to their sexuality. It is hoped that this programme will reduce the negative influence that peers and the media have on teenagers. It is also believed that teenagers will avoid risky sexual behaviours that lead to them engaging in unprotected sexual activities, which ultimately lead to teenage pregnancies.