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ABSTRACT

This study aimed at finding out the causes, effects and possible solutions of school adolescent pregnancy in basic education schools of Muhanga District. To achieve our objectives, a sample of 108 educational stakeholders in six administrative sectors of Muhanga District was selected. They included parents, students, teachers and owners of schools. Local authorities and some victims of school adolescent pregnancy. Data were collected by use of questionnaires, interviews and document analysis methods. After data collection, they were subjected to both quantitative and qualitative analysis but most importantly to qualitative analysis. The research findings pointed that the lack of sexual education in schools and in families, poverty and juvenile delinquency are the main drivers of student adolescent pregnancies in Muhanga District. The findings also highlighted that student adolescent pregnancy impacts negatively on the adolescent mother, impact starting with drop out, poverty and health risks including HIV/AIDS. The newborn is at high risk of death, psychosocial problems, lack of parental love, and poverty. Suggestions drawn from the social background to prevent from student adolescent pregnancy include the comprehensive sexual and reproductive health education, strengthening all strategies taken to reduce and fight against poverty especially in rural areas. In addition, the role of adult men to impregnate teenagers has been demonstrated and local population suggest special measures to educate adult men towards their responsibilities as adults and teenage rights but most importantly taking serous punishments against those “sugar daddies” has been stressed. Recommendations towards different stakeholders to prevent from student adolescent pregnancies have been formulated. They include but not limited to the increase of personal responsibility of adolescent students to promote healthy behavior for successful achievement in schools and attainment of life-long goals provided that they are the first one to suffer great consequences of teenage pregnancy. In addition, there is a great need of implementing comprehensive sex education that teaches about abstinence as the best method for avoiding HIV/AIDS, STDs and unintended pregnancy, but also teaches about condoms and contraception, education that teaches interpersonal and communication skills and helps young people explore their own values, goals and options, to make responsible decisions about their sexuality and reproductive health. The reinforcement of Anti-AIDS clubs and integration in curricula of sexual education and reproductive health issues on the national education curricula of sexual education and reproductive health issues on the national education curricula and monitor on the regular basis the implementation of those curricula.