

The Scholastic Performance of Adolescent Pregnant Learners

H.N. Mutshaeni*, T.P. Mafhara, T.S. Mashau and L.R. Manwadu

*Centre for Higher Education Teaching and Learning, Department of Education Management,
School of Education, University of Venda, South Africa*

**E-mail: nancy.mutshaeni@univen.ac.za*

KEYWORDS Teenage Pregnancy. Adolescent. Child Bearing. Academic Performance. Teenage Mothers

ABSTRACT Teenage pregnancy is a common public health problem worldwide. This is a problem that affects nearly every society, developed and developing alike. The primary aim of this study is to investigate the scholastic performance of adolescent pregnant learners. This study utilised a mixed methods approach. Surveys as well as interviews were used to collect data from the respondents. The target population for this study was senior phase (Grades 7-9) pregnant and non-pregnant girls and their educators. From the target population of all senior phase learners in Limpopo, 87 grade 7-9 learners (pregnant learners, non-pregnant learners, boys with/without pregnant girlfriends, between the ages of 10-15 years and older and 6 educators were selected from 1 primary and 2 secondary schools in the Vhumbedzi Circuit of Vhembe District in Limpopo province of South Africa. Stratified random sampling and purposive sampling were utilized. Data collecting procedures comprise of both quantitative and qualitative research instruments such as self-designed questionnaires and focus group schedule. The results showed that pregnant learners do not perform well scholastically. The study recommended that Learners should be made aware of the consequences of early pregnancy on their educational achievement through health and sexual education.