

**Parental Worries: Increasing Adolescent Pregnancies in
High Schools in South Africa: A Case of the Blue Crane
Route Municipality, Eastern Cape**

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ABSTRACT Adolescent pregnancy is a growing concern amongst students across South Africa. This causes high rates of school dropouts curbing the chances of success and independence for many adolescent females. Sex education forms part of the life orientation curriculum and has been put in place as a method of reducing the escalation of pregnancy by the Department of Education. This paper is based on a Master of Social Work degree dissertation whose aim was to explore the perception of the effectiveness of sex education in reducing pregnancies in the Blue Crane Route Municipality. Qualitative data through semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions were collected from students, social workers and life orientation educators. The data was analysed thematically and was supported by appropriate literature. The findings revealed that sex education is not effective in reducing pregnancies in the Blue Crane Route Municipality as figures are on the rise. Therefore, parental worries concerning adolescent pregnancies have increased and will continue to do so until there is an effective method to curb the increasing number of adolescent pregnancies in high schools.