

Factors Contributing to Teenage Pregnancies in Tanzania
The Case Study of Hai District
By
Happyness Johansen Kyekaka
Master of Arts in Co-operative and Community Development
Moshi Co-operative University (MoCU), 2019

Teenager pregnancy (TP) remains a socio-cultural and economic public problem worldwide. About 16 million girls become pregnant annually, of which 2.5 million are in developing countries including Tanzania. Scientific evidence from different stakeholders is missing or are scarce to address the problem. This study examined socio-cultural, economic and environmental factors influencing teenage pregnancy. A mixed quantitative and qualitative cross-sectional research design was conducted in five wards in Hai district. A semi-structured questionnaire was used to collect data from 30 pregnant and 150 non-pregnant teenagers. An in-depth-interview was administered to 30 key informants using a checklist containing open ended questions. Descriptive statistics and Pearson chi-square were used to analyse data. A binary logistic regression model was used to investigate the influence of socio-cultural, economic and environmental factors on teenage pregnancy. Final analyses were performed using SPSS software. The study found that, mean age of teenagers was 15.3 years. Of 180 teenagers, 35.6% had form two education level and were similar between pregnant and non-pregnant teenagers ($p = 0.531$). The odds ratio for gender discrimination, traditional values and norms, poverty for contributing teenage pregnancy were 2.7, 2.8 and 4.6 ($p = 0.020$, 0.044 & 0.008) respectively. In conclusion, gender discrimination, traditional values, norms and poverty were found to be the main factors for teenage pregnancy. Thus, effective community engagement is required to address issues related to weak or bad cultural norms and values and gender discrimination. Sexual education and income generating activities should be provided to teenagers in order to prevent them from teenage pregnancy.