

**AN EXPLORATORY STUDY OF THE VIEWS ABOUT ADOLESCENT
PREGNANCY BY SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS: A CASE OF ST. MARY'S
HIGH SCHOOL MUKOKO KALUNGU DISTRICT**

BY

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DECLARATION

I, Nakibuye Maria, declare that this dissertation is solely a result of my hard work and creativity. No information in this dissertation has been plagiarized or copied from any previous dissertations.

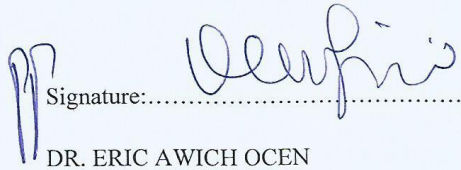
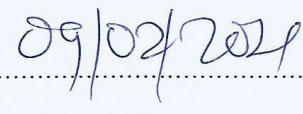
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APPROVAL

This dissertation has been submitted for examination with approval from me.

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DR. ERIC AWICH OCEN

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this dissertation to my mother for her endless support throughout my academic journey.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am grateful to the Almighty God for the gift of life and successes I have achieved in this journey.

Special thanks go to my mother, Mrs. Nakalema Rose. I am grateful to God that he gave you to me to be my guardian angel here on earth. I am forever grateful for your love, support and care for me.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AIDS: Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome

HIV: Human Immune Virus

SH: Sexual Health

SRH: Sexual Reproductive Health

St: Saint

ABSTRACT

This study aims at exploring the views of secondary school students about adolescent pregnancy at St. Mary's High school Mukoko Kalungu including the causes, consequences and interventions.

This qualitative cross-sectional study focused on the views of secondary school students about adolescent pregnancy using a purposive sampling technique for the respondents. One on one in depth interview guides were used for individual respondents with a free will from the respondents. In addition, focus group discussion interview guides were administered to various groups among the respondents until no more new data was obtained.

Data collected was presented and analysed using a thematic method of developing various themes following the data collection tools. Data was classified using themes in accordance to the objectives; the causes in the study included the economic status of the family, the belief in tradition, and the use of substances, owning a cell phone, insufficient sexuality information and influence from friends. Consequences included dropping out of school, being chased away from home, judgment from community, mistreatment from partners, complications during birth and other health problems, female poverty and stigma.

In conclusion, the findings suggested that adolescents should be educated about the causes and consequences surrounding early pregnancy. This will help them in decision making during the trial moments since they are well informed about the issues surrounding the vice. However, the government and other duty bearers should clearly engage the adolescents in order to get their views that can be used to design effective policies to reduce early pregnancy.

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

It is generally believed that adolescent pregnancy is not a new problem; it has been in existence for years among the girl child. Adolescent pregnancy refers to a girl usually in the age of 13 to 19 years of age becoming pregnant (UNICEF 2015). The age to which teenage pregnancy is termed varies from country to country and from region to region. World over every year, 16 million girls aged between 15 to 19 years and about one million girls younger than 15 years give birth (WHO 2016). Romania on a world basis takes a lead with 61 per 1000 adolescents pregnant, then the United States with 57 per 1000 adolescent pregnancies, then followed by New Zealand with 50% and England 47% (Guttmacher 2015). In every year an estimated 21 million girls aged 15 to 19 years in developing regions become pregnant and approximately 12 million of them give birth. (UNFPA 2013) shows that approximately 95% of adolescent pregnancies occur in developing countries with 36.4 million women becoming mothers before the age of 18 years, and at least 39% of the girls marry before the age of 18 years in the less developing countries (UNFPA 2015). Sub Saharan Africa also takes a lead in having a large number of adolescent pregnancies. The prevalence of adolescent pregnancy in Africa goes as follows; Niger with both the highest number of girls becoming pregnant and giving birth with 51% followed by Chad with 48% of the girls who give birth before they turn 18 years then Mozambique with 41% girls getting pregnant before the age of 20, Mali also with 55% of girls who marry before they reach their adulthood, followed by Liberia which holds 38% of women who give birth before the age of 18 year (GM Kassa 2018).

Studies show that East Africa is one of the regions with the highest rate of adolescent pregnancies in Africa (UBOS2016). The prevalence shows that adolescent pregnancy was high in East Africa (RH 2018). Kenya taking the lead then Malawi and Zambia follow and then Tanzania has also adolescents who become pregnant and lastly Uganda is also affected by the vice (BMC 2019). Uganda has the highest proportion of young women giving birth before the age of 20 years. (UBOS 2016). Studies also showed that Uganda has the highest rate of adolescent pregnancy in Africa with over 25% pregnancies among teenagers registered every year (NPC 2014). Various case studies carried out in Uganda show that parts around the central are the ones most affected by this vice. and these include Gomba, Kalangala, Kalungu, Masaka, Kampala, Masaka, Lyantonde, Lwengo, Butambala, Rakai and so many others that adolescents

in most of these areas give birth around the age of 13 to 17 years (UNICEF 2014). The prevalence is very high in these areas of the central compared to other areas in Uganda.

In addition, the Demographic Health Survey (2016) showed, Kalungu district as one of the areas in central Uganda that has a high number of adolescent pregnancies. Many of the adolescent girls in this district between the ages of thirteen to seventeen years gave children or even some aver more than one child at such a tender age. This shows that many of the girls in this district fail to complete school due to the early pregnancies.

Among the various sub counties and villages in this district Mukoko village was spotted out as the area with the high rates of this growing vice with various girls dropping out of school rapidly due to teenage pregnancies and many girls fail to complete school. (Ssejoba 2018). Mukoko village consists of over seven secondary schools, which are both day and boarding schools including both girls and boys.

Assessments show that by the time students complete their O levels, most of the girls drop out before they complete it and few of the children come back for their advanced education, most of these girls become pregnant during that period and it should be recognized that this village has a lot of school dropouts due to adolescent pregnancy. According to Plan International, adolescent pregnancy is caused by parental income, lack of information about sexual and reproductive health rights, sexual violence, and child early and forced marriage, peer pressure, poverty, inadequate enforcement of laws that protect rights of girl child, use of cell phones that exposes adolescents to pornographic videos, among other factors. These factors are also categorized into social cultural environmental, economic and individual factors (Reproductive Health, 2018).

Adolescent pregnancy is associated with a lot of health complications and these include anemia, hypertension , preeclampsia ,and eclampsia ,abortion, assisted delivery, maternal complications and postpartum depression, maternal and infant mortality and socially it comes with decreasing self-confidence , disruption of adolescent mother daughter relationship, social stigma , departure from social activities and economically adolescent pregnancy carries issues of unemployment , poverty, illiteracy among girls, imprisonment of boys and others such as gender based violence, school dropouts, increase in the rate of teenage mother hood many others and the government is called upon to intervene(MOH 2018).Adolescent pregnancy is on a high rate in Kalungu district , there is a need to acquire more knowledge and understanding

how the adolescents in this area perceive this problem and their attitude towards it so that effective strategies can be put in place.

The study aims at explaining the students' views about adolescent pregnancy in St. Mary's High School Mukoko.

1.2 Problem Statement

While duty bearers are expanding access to education globally in order to uplift the status of a girl child adolescent pregnancy remains a significant challenge with ramifications for the well-being of the girl child. It is reported that Kalungu district is one of the most affected districts with a high rate of girls dropping out of school when pregnant (Ssejoba, 2018).

The case studies that were carried out in Kalungu district showed Mukoko village as one of the areas with most high rates of young girls becoming pregnant around the age of 10 to 16 years. Adolescent pregnancy is associated with school dropouts in that if a girl is found pregnant, she must leave school to take care of the pregnancy and so they cannot continue with school any more, teenage motherhood whereby after giving birth; these girls become mothers in their teenage stage. Social stigma is always attached to them; their parents, men abandonment, always neglect them also, and some of them commit suicide in fear of handling the guiltiness.

At the community level, adolescent pregnancy raises issues such as poverty. Poverty becomes rampant among these girls because they drop out of school at an early age with less knowledge and skills and so they cannot compete in the employment world due to the less qualifications, the poverty cycle raises in that such girls cannot even afford school fees for their children since they have nothing that is generating income and most of the time men abandon them and their children.

Illiteracy levels amongst the girl child in the community increase due to adolescent pregnancy. Girls who become pregnant leave school to take care of the pregnancy. It should be noted that it is very rare for these girls to go back to school after giving birth so the rates of illiterates become high in the community.

Maternal mortality which is characterized by very many death rates of young girls during birth also becomes an issue since the physical body is weak most of them get complications during birth. The community loses a lot of lives for the young children due to adolescent pregnancy that would have been productive to the community and the country at large.

Most of the studies that have been conducted on adolescent pregnancy are about factors and consequences around the vice without looking at the views the adolescent have towards it that can be based on to design interventions that can be used to address the vice.

This study aims at bringing out the views of secondary school students about adolescent pregnancy. It will be conducted at St. Mary's high school Mukoko village Kalungu district.

Despite the different strategies that have been put in place by the government under the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development plus the nongovernmental organizations to end adolescent pregnancy such as the National strategy to end child marriage and teenage pregnancy (2014/15 – 2019/2020), the introduction of free primary and secondary education, banning of child marriage, the girls not for brides' campaign among others, the issue of adolescent pregnancy remains rampant.

Though sensitization by televisions and radios have been made by the duty bearers, about adolescent pregnancy have made, there is less information on how the victims (secondary school students) perceive this problem so there is need to bring out their knowledge and understanding so that effective strategies can be designed.

1.3 Objectives of the study

1.3.1 General objective

To examine students views about adolescent pregnancy of St. Mary's High school Mukoko.

1.3.2 Specific objectives

1. To assess the student's perceptions towards adolescent pregnancy in St. Mary's High school Mukoko.
2. To document the causes of adolescent pregnancy known to students of St. Mary's High school Mukoko.
3. To assess the consequences of adolescent pregnancy students of St. Mary's High school Mukoko are aware of.
4. To use information from the study to suggest intervention measures to address adolescent pregnancy in St. Mary's High School Mukoko.

1.4 Research questions

1. What are the perceptions of students towards adolescent pregnancy in St. Mary's High School Mukoko?
2. What are the factors leading to adolescent pregnancy amongst adolescents in St. Mary's High School Mukoko?
3. What are the consequences associated with adolescent pregnancy that students of St. Mary's High school are aware of?
4. What possible interventions can be put in place to curb the vice of adolescent pregnancy in St. Mary's High School Mukoko?

1.5 Significance of the study

This study will assist in describing the views of secondary school students on adolescent pregnancy in Mukoko Village Kalungu district. This information will be used by the government and non-government organizations to develop and design strategies to overcome adolescent pregnancy among the teenagers in Mukoko and in Uganda as a whole since the information will be based on the thoughts from the respondents to the study and so proper interventions will be put in place since secondary school are 99% all adolescents.

The study will also help policy makers especially those dealing with the protection of the rights of the children to clearly understand what adolescents think are the causes and so they will base on this information to set up appropriate policies to put in place measures that will reduce the occurrences of adolescent pregnancies in Uganda.

1.6. Justification

There is accessibility of free education in Uganda both in the primary and secondary level but despite its presence adolescent pregnancy remains on an increase on a yearly basis yet by the age of 15 to 19 these people are expected to be in school attaining education. Therefore, there is a need to understand the perceptions of students who fall in to this age of what could be the root causes of adolescent pregnancy that exposes a girl child to social and economic exploitation and deprivation of her rights. This will help the duty bearers such as the police officers who deal with the family and child protection unit to know the basis which makes this issue to be rampant hence addressing these causes resulting in to overcoming adolescent pregnancy since its addressed from its root causes. Policy makers need such information from the adolescents to clearly set up policies that bear appropriate with solving such an issue. The

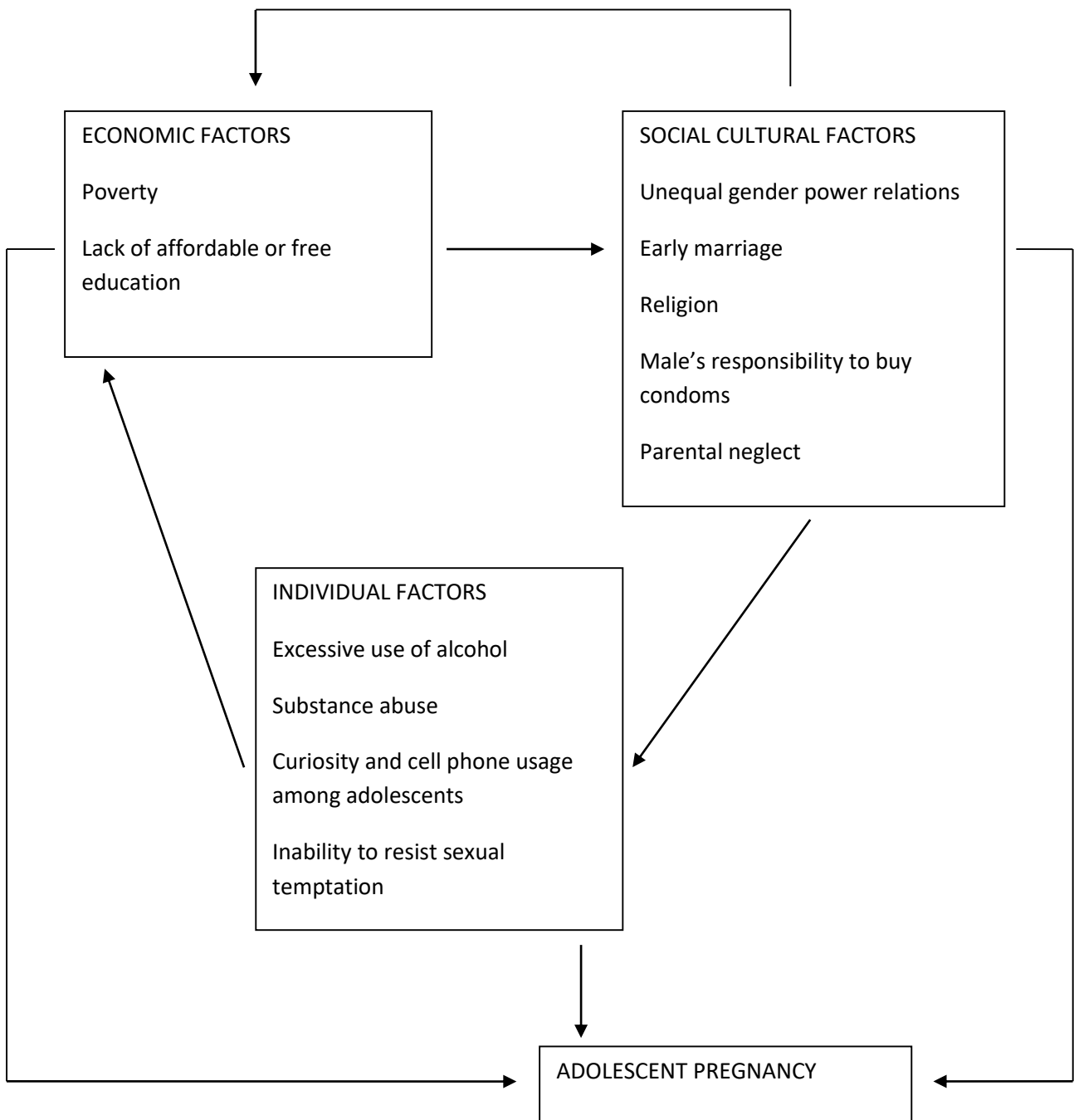
rate of maternal mortalities can only be reduced by understanding the reason why adolescents become pregnant yet they are not yet mature enough to handle the foetus and so there is need to carry out this research.

The study will therefore seek to describe the views of secondary school students on adolescent pregnancy in St. Mary's high school Mukoko Kalungu district.

1.7 Conceptual Framework

The conceptual framework above shows the different perceptions of secondary school students on adolescent pregnancy. It therefore shows how the economic factors such as poverty, lack of access to affordable or free education, also the social cultural factors such as unequal gender power relations, early marriages, religion, religion and male responsibility to buy condoms ,and also the individual factors that include excessive use of alcohol, substance abuse, curiosity and cell phone usage among adolescents, inability to resist sexual temptation bring out the reasons why adolescents become pregnant with in that age.

Figure 1: Views of Secondary School Students about the Factors Contributing to Adolescent Pregnancy



1.8 Scope of the study

The study will be limited to adolescents of St, Mary's high school Mukoko village Kalungu district and this is because this school has a very high population of 980 students who are adolescents and it is noted that some of them don't complete school, they dropout due to pregnancies

The study will be conducted between the months of December 2020.

Furthermore, the study will describe the different perceptions of secondary students on adolescent pregnancy. In addition, the study will not explain difficult analysis but it will instead describe the events that surround the study using thematic analysis.

CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

Literature review is a comprehensive summary of previous research on a topic (Lawrence A. Machi, 2008). This section introduces the different literature that has been written by scholars surrounding the topic of study. It brings out the various arguments of different scholars like definitions of an adolescent and adolescent pregnancy, the factors contributing to adolescent pregnancy, the consequences, and the different perceptions and attitudes of secondary school students on adolescent pregnancy.

2.1 Defining adolescent pregnancy.

Adolescent pregnancy can also be termed as teenage pregnancy and unmarried adolescents that have given birth (Cynthia Robbins, Howard, Kaplan and Steven, Martin 2008). It is referred to as a girl usually in the age of thirteen to nineteen years becoming pregnant (UNICEF 2015). Other scholars have a different age. WHO (2015) shows that adolescent pregnancy starts at an age of 10 to 19 years of age. It also states at 15 to 19 years of age (Elea Carey 2018). But they are all with the same range and it varies according to different countries. Adolescent pregnancy tarnishes the rights of a girl child (UNCRC) that is why much emphasis is put.

2.2 Views of secondary school students about adolescent pregnancy

Secondary school students perceive adolescent pregnancy as having premarital sex and so premarital sex is regarded as negative while as post marital pregnancy is regarded as positive (MOES 2019). It should be noted that it is socially constructed by girls in the region do some have a positive and others have a negative attitude towards it (Christina Maly, Katherine 2000). Culture contributes a lot to the students' perceptions towards adolescent pregnancy. The daily monitor (22nd August 2017) stressed that students believe that culture determined one's age of becoming pregnant that if a mother became pregnant at 16, it will not be hard for her to also advise the daughter to also conceive at such a tender age for as long as the girl develops breast, it proves that he or she is ready to become pregnant and so this has highly contributed to adolescent pregnancy since the girl child has less role models to depend on while making decisions. Various case studies carried out show that the students are well informed about the negative consequences (Almeida and Aquino, 2011; Knight and White 2015, Grant and Hallman, 2008) they carried out their study in Rakia district in Uganda. The following were the consequences social stigma or social isolation within the community and even at school, at home and from male partners, society perceives them to be social outcasts, spoiled and wastage

girls in the community. In addition to that school drop outs were also put at the front by the students ,they said that their fellows who become pregnant, they can never continue schooling once they are recognized by any of the staff members that is total expulsion so that they go home to handle the duties a pregnant mother is supposed to do and this brings girls to a lower education achievement ,hence their opportunities to participate in the economics world is shuttered down and so poverty cycle also continue amongst the adolescents (Hofferth, Reid and Mott ,2001;Molborn and Jacobs ,2011). Many birth complications among the adolescent were also manifested and maternal death. Generally, secondary school students believe that adolescent pregnancy comes along with many negativity consequences. Though some of secondary school students viewed that instead of spending time in school, they would rather get pregnant at an early age of 16 that even at the end of it all, they will have to give birth.

2.3 A review on the causes of adolescent pregnancy

2.3.1 Poverty

The household economic status has an influence on adolescent pregnancy. Acharya (2015) in a study conducted factors associated with teenage I South Asia found out that adolescents who belonged to middle or poor household ha higher chances of becoming pregnant as compared to those who originated from rich households. Because of poverty, parents may marry off their daughters at an early age and these early marriages are strongly associated with adolescent pregnancies (Okigbo and Speizer 2015). Amos, 2017, supports this: Efevbena that household economic status determined the age at first marriage especially for low-income households and this is because if a family is poor, they might choose to marry off their daughters early to get bride price and his can result in to adolescent pregnancies. The low socio-economic status or economic deprivation is likely to influence teenage behaviours and tighten their exposure to early pregnancy (UDHS 2011). I addition, the physical neglect of teenage girls could also foster relationships with older men which is seen as beneficial when daily needs e.g., food, shelter, clothing, which may not be met by h care givers (Hamer 2005). Teenage pregnancy and partnering with Adult men: Exploring the Relationship. Journal of psychosocial Nursing and mental health services 2005; 25(8) 20 to 28 do; 10.928/027969.Adolescents who become pregnant often come from families of socio-economic status is connected to low levels of family connectedness and children therefore end up growing up with no role model to look up to. In addition, in such families adolescents are predisposed to unsafe and troubling conditions ([http://knowledge.sagepub.com.ezproxy.library.ubc.ca view/fairy health /n527.xl](http://knowledge.sagepub.com.ezproxy.library.ubc.ca/view/fairy_health/n527.xl).) Because

of lack of knowledge and education about reproduction led them to engage in unprotected and unsafe sexual activity leading to adolescent pregnancy and all resulting from poverty.

2.3.2 Substance abuse

Substance abuse constitutes the deviant from conventional behaviour and regarded as problem behaviour (Chassin, Pressona, Morgan –Lopezb and Shermac 2001). Adolescents, who used substances such as alcohol, were more likely to experience teenage pregnancy compared to those who did not use. This finding is supported by a systematic review from the European Union countries as well as a study conducted in South Asia, which revealed that substance use was significantly associated with teenage pregnancy (Mamula 2007 and Madondo 2015). In addition, being under the influence of substance may influence the adolescents to unrealistically appraise the situation and impair their verbal as well as physical resistance against unprotected sexual intercourse hence a high risk of adolescent pregnancy (Mathews and Mekuria 2018). Teenage pregnancy and its associated factors among school adolescents of Arba Mich Town, Southern Ethiopia, *Ethos Health Science* 2018 May; 28(5):287-298.

2.3.3 Lack of knowledge on sexuality

The lack of community awareness on adolescent sexual and reproductive health is also associated with teenage pregnancy. The lack of knowledge can be attributed to lack of parental guidance and counselling or sexual education makes children prone to engaging in sexual activities especially when they are experiencing what they hear of see. The lack of knowledge and non-use of contraceptives cause teenage pregnancies (Mchunue-etac-2012; Okigho and Speizer 2015).

The fact that having knowledge of the exact time when to take contraceptives prevents unwanted pregnancy (Mathews and Mekuria). The study found out that the probability of experiencing pregnancy among students who knew the exact time of emergency contraceptives was about 6% compares to 10% for those who don't know, i.e., the odds of being pregnant were three times higher. WHO says that the lack of knowledge about sex and family planning and lack of skills to put that knowledge in to practice put adolescents at risk of pregnancy.

2.3.4 Culture and tradition

The Daily Monitor (22nd August 2017) stresses that culture determines one's age of becoming pregnant. Many girls become pregnant because culture expects them to be at that early age starting from 10 as long as the girls start the stage of puberty like developing breasts.

A study conducted by Girls not brides in Mayuge (2016) found out that local communities perceived girls to be ready to become pregnant for immediately after menstruating and developing breasts. In addition to that Pierre Tristan (2019) mentions that in certain cultures a girl becoming pregnant proves their normal sexual functioning and they are considered to be lucky and blessed in the family.

2.3.5 Peer pressure

Research shows that peers play an important role in teenage lives that teenagers with sexually active friends are likely to have sex amongst them (Malove ET al 2002). Peers can influence the views of their age groups hence bad influence leading to risky behaviours including alcohol and drug abuse, dropping out of school, unprotected sexual activity, which may lead to pregnancy (WHO 2015). This is supported by Ochen, chi and Lawoko (2019) in study on the predictions of teenage pregnancy among girls aged 15-19 years in Uganda which found out that adolescents who were not sexually abused were less likely to become pregnant but if they are in bad peer they easily do and once in a good peer they hardly do and so peer highly contributes adolescent pregnancy.

2.3.6 Use of cell phones

The use of telephones amongst the adolescents highly contributes to adolescent pregnancy. First of all, the cell phones give the girls and boys quick access to the internet which exposes them to different nudes for example blue movies which end up enticing or raising up their sexual appetite among the adolescents and some of them cannot exercise self-control and here many of the adolescents end up having unprotected sex hence adolescent pregnancy. Furthermore, the use of cell phones makes it easier for the adolescents to engage in romantic relationships since most of them are on face book that exposes them to con men hence making communication easier creating a space of them meeting each other and most of the times they meet in private places and girls end up becoming victims of sex hence unwanted early pregnancies all resulting from the use of cell phones (Alhassan 2015).

2.3.7 Inadequate enforcement of laws

Pierre Tristan (2019) discusses that many countries have laws against adolescent pregnancy but these laws are not enforced and this increases more cases especially among the old men who always take advantage of the young girls. The Daily Monitor (22nd August 2017) mentions that though laws that criminalize one who makes a girl before the age of eighteen are in existence they are not effectively implemented in the country or not even given attention at time and so the neglect of these laws has given men an escape route for making young girls pregnant.

2.3.8 Sexual abuse to a girl child

Sexual abuse such as defilement of girl child highly contributes to adolescent pregnancy amongst the adolescents. Research shows that many girls in rural communities specially those who attend day schools face cases of defilement while on their way to and from school and always these people can never protect themselves since most of them are herdsmen, this sex results in to unwanted pregnancies amongst the young girls.(Adams and East 2005: Wisdom and Katlin , 2008). Various case studies carried out in South Asia showed that many adolescents who become pregnant it's never out of their own consent but instead due to cases of sexual abuse.

2.3.9 Early or forced marriages

Chile Eboe–Osuyi (2012) discusses that many girls are forced n to early marriages by their parents or even guardians when they are still young and this puts them at high risk of becoming pregnant. In local communities especially where parents are not informed about the dangers of early marriages, girls are always sent to marriages before the age of eighteen years and one of the basics of marriage is to bear children and such girls are not left with any option apart from giving birth hence contributing to a high risk of adolescent pregnancy.

2.4 A review on some of the consequences of adolescent pregnancy.

2.4.1 Health difficulties to a girl child

Girls who always give birth when their body parts have not matured enough get a lot of health complication before and even after birth since their bodies are weak to handle foreign bodies. The health complications include preeclampsia that is high blood pressure that most adolescents manifest it towards giving birth. Pre-eclampsia goes ahead to harm the kidneys or even the fatal for the mother or baby (Elea Carey 2018), urinary tract infections, acute pyelone phinps (T. Combos Orme.Fam Joe 2001). Maternal mortality comes also along the way that

these adolescents most of the times go on an extra mile to carry out unsafe abortions to terminate the pregnancy and its record that most of them die during the process (WHO 2015).

Premature birth also results from adolescent pregnancy since the young girls are not mature enough to handle the baby, this exposes the neonate respiratory digestive vision, cognitive and other problems and normal 70% of the adolescents who become pregnant give birth before thirty-seven weeks and this result in to other complications (Nivin Todd 2019).

Post-partum depression is also a health-related issue that affects the girls who give birth around the age of 10 to 19 years of age. It always occurs after birth and these include mood swings, crying spell, anxiety and difficulty in sleeping, loss of appetite or eating much more than usual, intense irritability, anger, diminished ability to think clearly concentrate or even make decisions, and they may last for a month or even longer and this affects the mother and the baby (Am Fam Physician 2007).

Anemia cases also appear among girls who give birth when they are not physically ready. It also consists of lacking red blood cells, this comes in a way that the mother and the unborn baby are all competing for the red blood cells to survive, since these girls become pregnant when they are still young, they have not manufactured enough red blood cells and even in the end this may lead to death of any of the two (WHO 2006).

Adolescent pregnancy also leads o maternal mortality rate since the birth canals of the young girls are not mature enough to deliver and some of them end up losing lives in the process of trying their best (Ganchieng et ac 2015). MOH (2009) backs up the statement by recording a high rate of adolescent's deaths during the birth process compared to those in their early 20s.

2.4.2 Lower education status among girls

Adolescent pregnancy results in to lower education levels among the girls and his makes them to lose a lot of opportunities hence lowering their completion in the social economic world (Mathura, Greene and Malhotra 2005). It asserted that adolescent pregnancy leads to school dropouts hence interrupting the schooling of a girl child, and also school adjustment difficulties. Teachers and other duty bearers that a girl who is pregnant cannot handle two masters at ago and so they have to leave school and take care of the unborn baby and they are forced to leave school at such a tender age (Robert Jensen & Rebecca Thornton 2006). MOES (2008) showed that the number of girls who is the final examinations is low compared to the boys and they attributed his more girl school dropouts due to adolescent pregnancy .It should

also be noted that boys in primary and secondary schools perform better than girls and this is also attributed to girls being pregnant or even some of them that have given birth and the returned back to school have a lot of responsibilities they are supposed to do and so most of them cannot settle in class and this pushes them to perform poorly in class (Amonley Velsaco 2002). However UNFPA(2005) differed with the above mentioned that school dropouts were less likely to be a consequence of adolescent pregnancy but instead school dropout may be as a result of poverty, low status afforded to women and social norms that led parents to discount the value of investing in girls and their education but it should also be put at the front that adolescent pregnancy limits the education of girl child, pregnancy acts as a catalyst for school dropout (Muganda.Onyando.2008).

2.4.3 Violates the rights of a girl child

UNFPA (2012) advances that adolescent pregnancy violates girls' rights in such ways as bringing a girl's childhood and adolescence to premature and an unnatural end while imposing adult roles and responsibilities before she is physically, psychologically and emotionally prepared. It also denies the girls opportunity to fully develop as healthy, productive and empowered citizens. The girl's childhood is robbed entrenching them and their future families in to poverty limiting their life choices and generating high development costs for communities (UNFPA 2012). UNICEF Innocent Digest (2001) indicates that adolescent pregnancy carried psychosocial disadvantages for the victims, which include the loss of adolescence, forced relations, and denial of the freedom and personal development which all culminate in the violation of the rights of the girls who become pregnant. It also violates the girls from family and friends and exclude them from participating in their communities taking a heavy fall on their physical and psychological wellbeing (UNICEF 2015). Nyaradzayi Gumbonzuanda (YWCA) verifies that adolescent pregnancy robs the future of girls and choosing their life partner living them in pain for the rest of their lives.

2.4.4 Adolescent pregnancy also greatly affects to the life of the unborn babies

UNICEF Innocent Digest (2001) mentions that adolescent pregnancy impacts on infant and early child care including infant mortality due to lack of enough adequate care from teenage mother to the newly born child and the lack of motherly compassion as themselves are still children. Joy for children Uganda (2014) knowledge that a child to a teen mother is twice likely to die before the age of one year compared to those of a woman in her 20s. Such children tend to have low birth weight, premature birth, and infant mortality (Save the children 2005). In

addition to that, young mothers are likely to have poorer health care and inadequate nutrition because of their young mothers' poor feeding behaviour.

2.4.5 High levels of marriage instability and divorce

UNICEF (2006) shows that disagreements or instabilities in marriage eventually result, since most of the adolescent girls who become pregnant are forced in to marriage without their will and this increases divorce since one of the partners is not comfortable with the other. Joy for children Uganda (2013) verifies that wife abandonment an increased level of divorce and at times adolescents who are forced in to marriage face higher risk of being widowed by their husbands who are often considerably older. Loss of happiness and dissatisfaction with marriage life often led these young adolescents to try getting away by seeking divorce or running away to cities in search of other means of livelihood, which in return contributes, to dissolution of marriages.

2.4.6 Increase in the span of a woman's reproductive period

Given the fact that adolescents start giving birth at an early age, they stand a chance of giving birth to many children as compared to those women who give birth at later stages in life. UNICEF (2006) postulates that due to age differences, economic dependency, lack of education and other associated factors, early married women exercise lower sexual and reproductive right than those who become pregnant at the appropriate age. UNICEF (2001) states that adolescents fail to seek health advice as they face opposition from their husbands who do not allow the use contraception. Various studies show that adolescent pregnancy increases the number of children ever born by a woman due to their fertility rates.

2.4.7 Social stigma

Social stigma can be referred to as a negative regard, inferior status of relative powerlessness that society collectively accords to people who possess a particular characteristic or belong to a particular group of categories (Hevek 2009). Adolescent pregnancy comes with two categories of stigma among the pregnant adolescents that is to say self-stigma where victims feel inferior in the society and the social stigma that is socially constructed. Tahima Afrose (2015) backs up social stigma by emphasizing that in various countries a girl who becomes pregnant at a tender age is termed as someone who is careless, a failure in life, an illiterate, a stupid person that even sometime the people re humiliated by the family members and even the community at large. In addition, some of the cultures in various societies call such girls a curse, use girls who do not even deserve bride price because they have broken their virginity.

This stigma society attaches to them brings more health complications that most of them will fear to go for antenatal care since they do not want to be seen in public. In addition, that this stigma limits their participation in the social, political, and economic environment, for economically they cannot appear in public participation and this all contributes to emotional unwell being of the pregnant adolescents.

2.4.8 Poverty

Poverty can also be linked to adolescent pregnancy. Poverty in this case can be looked at in the inability to have access to the necessities of life including food, health care, and clothing among others. This has an issue of cause –effect relationship whereby it is at the same time a cause of the problem and also an effect in a way that if poverty pushed someone to become pregnant then there is no way their economic status will improve since if a girl became pregnant their education achievement is lowered down and so chances are few for the adolescents who become pregnant to compete in the economic world and so this poverty cycle is likely to continue due to adolescent pregnancy (Keller, Tuvuasi 2001). Adolescent pregnancy results in school dropouts and consequent low levels of skills and adolescent mother's inability to compete in the job market with counterparts who have completed school. Research has it that about 5%-33% of school drop outs of girls between 15-24 years are as a result of early pregnancies (World Bank, 2017). This leaves them unemployed and consequently affects the country's National Income as the contribution of these young mothers to the country's economy is missed out on because they are unemployed and lack skills (World Bank, 2017).

2.4.9 Early motherhood

After a young girl becoming pregnant, she gives birth and she becomes a mother which is so hectic at such a tender age where there no proper preparation and so the adjustment from being a child to becoming a mother is very hard itself (Bah, 2016). Teenage motherhood comes with a lot of problems like sickness of the child, taking a baby for immunization that it even involves walking long distances and so all those burden h life of e young girls who have become mothers. (Gyesaw & Ankoah , 2015).

2.5 A review on the interventions

Most of the secondary school students have engaged in sexual intercourse but with them using different protective measures to overcome un intended pregnancy (RH, 2014).

Such measures include the use of condoms, inject plans, contraception pills such as positron, implants though others have gone ahead to undergo counselling so that they can abstain from sex which is a very hard option while others opt for abortion. (Oringanjec and Mereku 2008).

Of all the mentioned measures the use of condoms is commonly used by the secondary school students because it is effective compared to others and accessible at a cheaper cost. (Germaine Tuyisenge, Celestin Hageteka, Ruben Alba Aguilera, 2009). To the extent that suggestions have come up that it should be compulsory for secondary school students to have condoms which is not yet accepted.

2.6 Emerging gaps and conclusions

Most of the students UNICEF (2006), Joy for Children (2013) and UNICEF Innocent; Digest (2001) have forced on assessing the consequences of adolescent pregnancy and more emphasis has been put on the health, economic and social consequences while neglecting the perceptions and attitudes of the adolescents who are victims and most of them are secondary school students and this indicates a gap. This study therefore seeks to assess the perceptions and attitudes of secondary school students' adolescent pregnancy.

Most of the studies conducted base on the factors causing adolescent pregnancy and arising consequences for examples save the children (2004), Robert Jensen and Rebecca Thorn Ton (2003) and UNFPA (2006). This study will focus on capturing the adolescent views, what they think of this problem and this is A GAP that proper the research to conduct this study.

Another gap identified is the geographical gap, though there a number of studies that have been conducted on adolescent pregnancy most of them have been stated out in Bangladeshi, Nigeria, Tanzania, Senegal among other countries and even the few that have been conducted from Uganda focused on districts like Mbale, Masaka and Busoga region and this indicates geographical gap since the proposed study will be conducted in Kalungu district.

CHAPTER THREE: METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

This chapter consists of the research approach that was used in the study to come up with the clear understanding of secondary school perceptions on adolescent pregnancy in the study area. This chapter also goes ahead to describe the research design or approach, the study population and the area of study, the sampling techniques such as the sampling procedure, sample size, data collection methods and tools, data quality control, data analysis. It also describes the ethical considerations and the study limitations encountered.

3.1 Research Design

A research design refers to “a framework for the research process involving the collection and analysis of data” (David and Sutton, 2006:647). This exploratory study required the intensive analysis of an individual unit, which utilized qualitative approaches to examine the views of secondary school students at St. Mary’s secondary school Mukoko. This was because the design provided space for carrying out observations at a specific point of time and for this study, students at St Mary’s high school Mukoko were studied to examine their views on the causes and effects of adolescent pregnancy. This study employed purposive sampling technique to select the students around the age of thirteen years and above. Until when data saturation was reached. Data was collected using qualitative data collection methods to have an in-depth understanding of the perceptions of the students about adolescent pregnancy and this approach is appropriate for studies exploring health behaviours (Mays and Pope 1995). In addition, the data collection methods that were used include; in depth, personal interviews and focus group discussions guides. The data was analysed through a thematic analysis and this will involve developing themes in the data collected.

3.2 Study Area

The study area was St. Mary’s High School Mukoko Kalungu district located in the central part of Uganda. It is one of the schools officially registered by the Ministry of Education and Sports to operate and it has been in existence for the past 20 years, St. Mary’s High School is located in the central of Kalungu district approximately 120 kilometres by road south Kampala the capital city of Uganda. The school constitutes of a homogenous population consisting of students from all different parts of the world regardless of the culture, colour, race, or religion.

The school also takes both female and male students who have completed their primary leaving examinations and have passed very well. It is a private school consisting of both day and

boarding operating on a termly basis starting from senior one to senior six teaching all subjects as indicated in the curriculum of Uganda. Most of these students in this school range from the age of 13 years to 19 making them adolescents being worthy to be studied.

3.3 Study Population

Population is defined as a body of persons or individuals having a characteristic or quality in common (Merriam Webster). In this study, the study population will include all adolescent students ranging from the age of 13 years in St. Mary's High School Mukoko. All students who will be willing to take part in the study must be registered students of this school. More so, the students must be between the age of thirteen years and above.

3.4 Determination of the Sample Size

The study put its focus on thirty students both girls and boys and these were considered as the sample size. They were not forced to take part in the study; they were willing until when the sample size was obtained. These were fully students of this school without any doubt.

3.5 Sampling Procedure

Sampling is a simple population chosen in such a way that all possible samples of equivalent size are equally likely to have been chosen (PBoko). For this study purposive random sampling technique was used to select the respondents of the study. This technique was used because not all the students in school were above the age of thirteen years so it helped in choosing those relevant for the study. This showed a high degree of representativeness of the general population of the school at large.

3.5.1 Inclusion Criteria

The inclusion took students who are 13 years and above and they were fully recognized students of this school right from senior one to senior six.

3.5.2 Exclusion Criteria

The study excluded the students who were thirteen years and below because they were not mature enough to participate in the study.

3.6 Data Collection Method

Data collection is the period in the researcher's project that involves engaging with a target sample on population from whom data is collected (David and Sutton 2006:361). In this study, one on one interviews were used to capture the deep perceptions of the students on adolescent pregnancy. This is also referred to as personal interviewing where the researcher formulates

either open or closed ended questions for the respondents, or questionnaires. This method was used because, it captures first hand and detailed information, gives space for quick response, it brings out the sensitive information, secures the confidentiality of the respondents and so this will favour the respondents when used.

In addition, focus group discussions guides were used as a method of data collection because it is qualitative and these involved discussions with the respondents in a group about their perceptions on adolescent pregnancy. The groups are always ranging about a number of twelve people. They help in bringing out in depth ideas, they save time also, they also provide a broader range of information and this will be helping the clear understanding of the topic of study

3.6.1 Data Collection Tools

In-depth interview guides were used during the one on one or personal interviews. The interview guides consisted of questions related to the topic aiming at capturing the student's perceptions on adolescent pregnancy. They consisted of open-ended questions which gave a respondent space to clearly define his or her views and also this tool helped in saving time, and it eases work for the respondents since questionnaires were administered to them instead of them over thinking, that some of them may end up quitting the study so by using this tool their attention is secured since it's so quick.

Focus group discussion interview guides were provided to the participants of the study. This guide had open-ended questions consisting of the topics of interest that were set up by the researcher and the participants themselves. Every focus group discussion had a moderator chosen by the group members so that they could feel free sharing their ideas and here the researcher acted as a facilitator during the sessions. The focus group discussion consisted of eight participants for easy management and were conducted in a secure environment.

3.7 Data Analysis

Data analysis is the process of systematically applying statistical and /or logical techniques to describe and illustrate, condense and recap, and evaluate data (Savenye, Robinson, 2004) Data analysis helps in informing decision making so researchers should not stop at the stage of collecting data but instead should go-ahead to do the analysis for proper understanding. The data collected in this study was analysed through the thematic analysis approach. Thematic analysis is a method of analysing qualitative data. It is usually applied to texts such as the

interview transcripts. This is done by examining the data to identify common themes such as topics, ideas and patterns of meaning that come up repeatedly. (Jack Caulfield 2019.)

3.8 Ethical Consideration

Ethics are norms for conduct that distinguish between acceptable and unacceptable behaviour (David B. Resnik 2015). Ethics if respected promote the aim of research, support the values required for collaborative work such as mutual respect and fairness. In this study, the following ethics were observed, confidentiality, informed consent and anonymity, privacy, beneficence.

Confidentiality. As a researcher one of the first ethics to be prioritized while carrying out a study is keeping the respondent's information so confidential that no one can get access to it. In addition, this was done in a way that the respondents were not demanded for any identity during the data collection be it a name or even a picture and an assurance was given to them that any data they share with the researcher was never to be exposed to anyone.

Informed consent and anonymity were observed during the study. Respondents had to participate voluntarily with the researcher first seeking permission from them and telling them the importance of the study and so no one was forced and if any said no their view was highly respected to keep their dignity or respect for all people. This enabled the respondents feel important and so they shared their information easily. In addition, the respondents had a free will to with draw from the study at any point they wanted.

Privacy was also maintained. This study aimed at understanding the perceptions of the respondents without interfering into their personal life so any question that contradicted with that were not administered and during the process if that case was recognized it was stopped immediately to respect the private life of the respondents.

3.9 Challenges faced during data collection

Some members dominated the focus group discussions, this shut down the views of others, and so some of the points or key factors were left out. However, the researcher managed this by giving all participants a chance to air out their views.

Inadequate resources, this was manifested in the finances, labour or technical personnel who had to assist the researcher in carrying out the study.

Unresponsiveness of some respondents. Some respondents totally refused to share information with the researcher. They were prompted until when they shared their views.

CHAPTER FOUR: FINDINGS, INTERPRETATION AND ANALYSIS

4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents and analyses the findings of this study. The characteristics of the participants, the students' perceptions about adolescent pregnancy with a focus on its causes and consequences as well as the interventions put in place to address adolescent pregnancy were analysed based on their narrations on the topics. The responses got from in-depth personal interviews and focus group discussions conducted with students were used to present and analyse the findings of the study.

In order to ensure anonymity, the participants in the study were given pseudonyms to hide their identity. This was meant to maintain ethical considerations because the participants were assured that throughout the study, they would remain anonymous. The pseudonyms were therefore used in presenting the study findings.

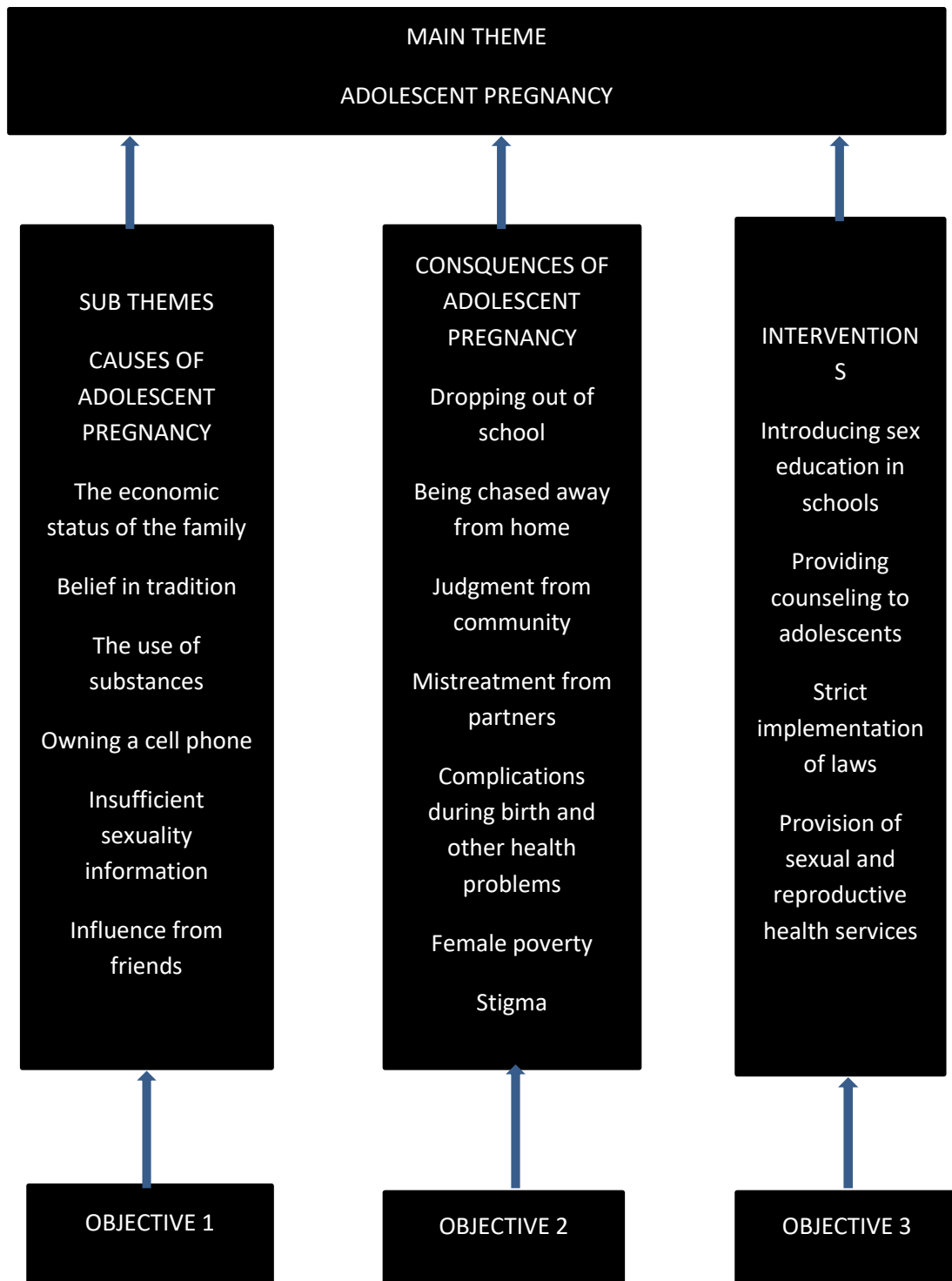
4.2 Characteristics of Participants

The study was made up of 30 participants 15 in-depth interviews and 15 from focus group discussion interviews, eight were females, seven were males, and all these were engaged in in-depth personal interviews with eight out of fifteen involved in focus group discussions. Seven participants out of fifteen were Baganda, five were Banyankole and three were Banyarwanda. Two participants were 16 years of age, six were 17 years, six were 18 years and one participant was 19 years of age. Nine out of fifteen were in s.4 and six were in s.6. Five out of the eight females had a boyfriend and four out of seven males had a girlfriend. All of the participants were studying from St. Mary's high school Mukoko and were still adolescents.

This study was homogenous because it focused only on students of St Mary's high school Mukoko and were still adolescents. The study participants were selected using simple random sampling in which a list of students was given to the researcher and through using an interval of three, the participants were obtained. Although the findings of the study are not representative of all secondary school students in Uganda, they portray some of the views of secondary school students on adolescent pregnancy considering its causes, consequences and

the various interventions to address the problem of adolescent pregnancy. This study therefore gives an insight on the views of secondary school students on adolescent pregnancy.

Figure 2: A Summary of themes and subthemes of the study



4.3 Perceptions of Secondary School Students about Adolescent Pregnancy

This section presents the views of secondary school students in consideration of their views on the causes of adolescent pregnancy, its effects and intervention strategies put in place to address the issue of adolescent pregnancy.

4.4 Causes of Adolescent Pregnancy

4.4.1 The economic status of the family.

The study revealed that the poor economic status of families where adolescents come from contributed to adolescent pregnancy (10 out of 18) participants explained if an adolescent came from a poor family, that could not meet all their needs and desires, they end up looking for ways to meet these needs and in most cases it's through engaging in intercourse with men or boys who provide them with the money to meet these needs.

“In most cases girls may want to have money to meet their desires and yet their parents are not in position to provide that money. Many usually choose to engage in sex with men in exchange for money.” 18-year-old Richard narrated.

Other cases the needs may not be for meeting the adolescents' desires but also other scholastic needs.

“Some girls lack scholastic materials such as books, pens and school bags. They then ended up exchanging their bodies for money to meet the scholastic needs. They usually hang around with boda-boda me who can provide them the money.” 17-year-old Julius a participant from focus group discussion explained

“For some girls who come from poor family background and come to school lacking some necessities. They choose to entirely depend on their boyfriends. These boyfriends usually seek for sexual intercourse as a way to meet their needs.” 16-year-old Diane narrated

For other participants, adolescent pregnancy was beyond the need to meet scholastic and other self-desires of the girls given the poor economic background of the families.

“In situations, when a boy approaches you and he shows you that he has money. Then why not go with him. You will be assured of him providing everything you need. Even if he asks for sex you give him since he is in position to provide for you.” 18-year-old Melisa a participant from focus group discussion explained.

The poor economic status of the family of the adolescents put them in position where the young girls have to look for various ways in which they can meet their needs and desires prompting them to engage in sexual intercourse in exchange for money to meet their needs.

The study findings revealed that poverty or the poor household economic status had greater contribution to adolescent pregnancy. It was found out in this study that if an adolescent came from a poor family that could not meet all their needs and desires, most of them ended up looking ways in which their needs could be met. Many chose to engage in sexual activities with men/ boys they believed were in a better position to meet their needs in exchange for intercourse. This finding related to earlier studies that found out that the household economic status had an influence on adolescent pregnancy in that poor parents married off their daughters at an early age and it was the early marriages that led to adolescent pregnancy. Also, in addition these studies found out that the physical neglect of the teenage girls by their parents due to poor economic status fostered their relationships with older men which were considered as beneficial in meeting daily needs like food, shelter, clothing which could not be met by their parents and care givers (Acharya 2015; Okigbo and Speizer 2015; UDHS 2011; Hamer 2005).

4.4.2 The belief in tradition

The belief in tradition for many of the families and societies from which the adolescents come from influenced adolescent pregnancy. The study found out that tradition had a very big contribution to them becoming pregnant at a young/ tender age.

“Me as a Muganda, a girl is expected to become pregnant at age 18 and actually my culture criticizes sex before marriage. However nowadays thing have changed and girls are now getting pregnant at any age.”

“I am a Munyankole. And in our culture a girl is expected to get pregnant at there’s a tradition called “testing girls before marriage” literally meaning engaging in intercourse with girls before they are married for those who believe in in it, the girl may end up becoming pregnant while meeting tradition” 17year old Julius narrated

“Among the Banyarwanda sex before marriage is not criticized. In our culture, there are some traditions like marrying off girls when they are still young. It is because they believe that young girls fetch more bride wealth than mature girls. This makes them become pregnant at a young age,” 17-year-old Suzan a participant from focus group discussion narrated.

With the belief in traditions and norms, adolescents may be caught in the middle, which may lead into pregnancy.

“Some culturally constructed gender roles such as collecting firewood to be for girls and women. It exposes them to various sexual risks including defilement which may result into pregnancy.” 16-year-old Harriet explained

This study also revealed that the belief in traditions especially the norms of various cultures also had a strong influence on adolescent pregnancy. Some communities where the adolescents came from believed in the practice of early marriages as a way of fetching more bride wealth and others engaged in practices such as “testing the girls before marriage” that put them at a high risk of becoming pregnant. In addition, some gender roles in those societies such as fetching firewood for girls and women exposed them to adolescent pregnancy especially when the activity was interrupted with immoral sexual activities such as rape and defilement. This finding aligns with previous studies, which found out that one’s culture and tradition determined one’s age of becoming pregnant. These studies also revealed that some communities perceived girls to be ready to become pregnant immediately after menstruating and that a girl becoming pregnant proved their sexual functioning and were considered lucky and blessed in the family (Daily Monitor 2017; Pierre Tristan 2019).

4.4.3 The use of substances

The growing trend in the use of substances among adolescents has exposed them to various risks including in engaging in unprotected sexual intercourse, which may lead to pregnancies. Adolescents and youths have engaged in the use of substances such as alcohol, marijuana, mira that make them at times lose control of their own bodies. The study found out that adolescents who use these various substances end up engaging in intercourse with their mates or peers.

“People are using different drugs. They include marijuana, cocaine, mira and alcohol. Medical personnel do not prescribe these drugs. When you take them for the first time, they end up losing self-control. It is really worse for girls. Some boys and men take this opportunity and take advantage of the girls cannot control themselves because they are drunk and intoxicated by the drugs. In process, they end up becoming pregnant,” 19-year-old Daniel, a participant from focus group discussion, narrated.

“I don’t really know what they put in those substances but truth be told there is a way they increase the sexual desires of people who take the. I think their bodies become extra sensitive and so respond to any sexual stimulus. This drives them to engage in intercourse with whoever is in their reach.” 17-year-old Teopista explained.

However, participants had varying views on the use of substances influencing adolescent pregnancy as they explained that one has to be very selective in the kind of friends they choose because their friends initiate many young people into the use of drugs.

“It is not automatic that drug use results into teenage pregnancy. I have ever taken drugs but never became pregnant. I think even if you take drugs there is no need to make yourself drunk that men can take advantage of you.” 18-year-old Melisa narrated.

The findings of this study revealed that substance and drug abuse among adolescents led to adolescent pregnancy since these drugs influenced them to engage in risky sexual behaviours with their peers due to their inability to control their sexual desires while under influence of drugs. In the study, it was revealed that adolescents used drugs like marijuana, alcohol, Mira. This finding correlates with previous studies that found out those adolescents who used substances such as alcohol were likely to experience teenage pregnancy compared to those who did not use it. Also, these studies found out that being under the influence of substance influenced adolescents to unrealistically appraise the situation and impaired their verbal as well as physical resistance against unprotected sexual intercourse hence a high risk of adolescent pregnancy (Chassin, Pressona, Morgan-Lopezb and Shermac 2001; Mamula 2007; Madondo 2015; Mathews and Mekuria 2018). However, the study found out that the use of substances did not necessarily contribute to adolescent’s pregnancy and therefore one has to be careful in selecting friends that even when under drug influence could not engage in sexual intercourse with them as a way of taking advantage of their situation.

4.4.4 Owning a cell phone

With the growing trend in modernization and technological advancement in the world today has seen many adolescents and young people owning cell phones and many now consider it a basic need. The study found out that accessibility to a cell phone among adolescents has eased communication between them and their partners as well as accessing pornographic information, which influences their engagement in sexual intercourse

“I have a phone; I do not see anything bad in owning a phone even before finishing school. Without my phone, I feel like life is not good enough, my parents do not know about it and I usually use it while hiding. I use my phone for talking to my girlfriend because she stays far and I even fear people seeing me with her they may tell my parents.” A participant from focus group discussion narrated.

“I have a phone. I usually use it to access the internet specifically for pornography. I enjoy watching those videos and I think am addicted because I cannot spend a day without watching one. Watching these videos can raise your sexual desire. In most cases they force you to want to practice what you have watched and this may result into pregnancy.” 18-year-old Sulaiman narrated.

Some participants in the study however deviated from the view that having access to a cell phone can influence adolescent pregnancy as presented in the narrative below

“Even if you have access to pornographic material through your phone it doesn’t contribute to pregnancy. It is not automatic that what you watch is what you practice. You need to have self-control and not engage in intercourse because of pornography. It is also about you knowing what you want in your life. Once you it then it will drive you into taking the right path to achieving what you want.” 17-year-old John a participant from focus group discussion explained.

This study revealed that adolescents’ owning a cell phone was one of the influences of adolescent pregnancy. Adolescents used the telephones to communicate to their boyfriends and girlfriends and increased their accessibility to pornographic material. The access to pornographic material influenced their desire to practice what they watch with their peers, which resulted into sexual intercourse. this finding relates to earlier studies which found out that cell phones gave girls and boys quick access to the internet which exposed them to different pornographic material which ended up enticing their sexual appetite and ended up in unprotected sex (Alhassan 2015).

4.4.5 Insufficient sexuality information

This study revealed that most of the participants (n=14) received information related to sexuality from their teachers while at school and normally from the sex education classes and not from their parents or relatives. This had a great contribution to adolescent pregnancy as they engage in exploration of the different changes that their bodies experience as they grow up into mature people.

“Because they have introduced sex education in our school, I am able to get some little information. The information I get includes my body changes, about menstruation, and menstrual hygiene. I have a feeling the information I receive is not enough because the teachers tell us little things.” 17-year-old Benita narrated.

“Since they started providing class on sex education here at school, I have learnt a lot of things. However, for those girls who have no access to this information especially on the available contraceptives like pills, injectables among others. These girls have become victims of adolescent pregnancy. It is because their bodies are sexually active and they end up engaging in sex without using any protective measure.” 18-year-old Arnold a participant from focus group discussion narrated.

However, some of the participants in the study (n=1) explained that for her she used to receive information on sexuality from her parents

“I receive information on sexuality from my parents especially my father since he is a doctor. However, for other adolescents they do not because many parents fear talking to their children about such topics and others are too busy in trying to make ends meet. Such children are therefore left to explore things on their own.” 16-year-old Harriet explained.

The lack of knowledge on issues concerning sexuality among adolescents makes them more prone to becoming pregnant at this stage since they are sexually active with limited information on the various protective measures, which prompts them to engage in unprotected sex exposing them to pregnancy.

The study findings revealed that insufficient knowledge and information on sexuality influenced pregnancy among adolescents. Adolescents who had no information on the available modern protective measures such as pills, injectables and the use of condoms were more vulnerable to becoming pregnant the moment they engaged in unprotected sexual activity with adolescents of the opposite sex. Some of the adolescents of that had little information on sexuality had it from their teachers while at school and with little or no information from their parents who were on busy schedules in trying to make ends meet. The insufficient information on sexuality therefore exposed most of them to adolescent pregnancy. This study finding relates to earlier studies that found out that adolescents who lacked parental guidance and counselling on sexual education were prone to engaging in sexual activities especially in trying to experience what they heard or saw. In addition, the lack of knowledge on the use of contraceptives caused teenage pregnancies (Mchunue et al 2012; Okigbo and Speizer 2015; Mathews and Mekuria 2018).

4.4.6 Influence from friends

Many adolescents engage in sexual intercourse out of pressure from their friends and circles, as this is one way of enabling them to fit within these circles. The study found out that most of the participants believed that peer influence had a contribution to the various cases of adolescent pregnancy in the area

“As you grow up as an adolescent, we make friends. I usually try as much as I can to do things the way my circle does it. Because we have rules in our group of friends. In the same way, other adolescents engage in sexual intercourse in order to identify with their friends. Some end up becoming pregnant in the process of impressing their friends.” 17-year-old Benita narrated.

“It is not bad to have friends as an adolescent it is actually right. However, for some people those friends are a bad influence to them because they influence them to engage in un realistic behaviours. They usually encourage them to get boyfriends and girlfriends and even at times influence them to take drugs and other substances. Under such influence many end up becoming pregnant.” 16-year-old Harriet from focus group discussion narrated.

Peer influence especially among adolescents in the early stages where they are battling with the image of self and identity has an impact on influencing many of them to engage in

dangerous sexual activities, which in the end lead them into pregnancy and others contracting other sexually transmitted infections.

4.5 Consequences of adolescent pregnancy

4.5.1 Dropping out of school

Most of the participants (10 out of 15) explained that adolescents who were students once they became pregnant, the schools dismissed them. This is because many of the schools do not accept pregnant women to be part of the schools.

“Some of the girls become pregnant while at home. Here at our school, they carryout pregnancy check-ups especially when school resumes. Once one is found pregnant, they are automatically expelled.” Vanessa a 17-year-old a participant from focus group discussion narrated.

Even for those who were not expelled from school due to missing of the check-ups, they end up escaping from the schools after knowing that they are pregnant.

“Many girls run away from school once they come to know that they are pregnant. Most of them fear being embarrassed before other students that they were found pregnant.” 16-year-old Diane.

Regardless of the reasons for dropping out of school, the views of the participants portrayed that pregnant adolescents ended up leaving school as an immediate response to their pregnancy.

This study revealed that adolescents who became pregnant had to drop out of school as a result of expulsion, running away from school and because of the school policies that do not accept pregnant students in schools. These findings correspond with findings from other studies that revealed that adolescent pregnancy led to school dropouts which interrupted the schooling of a girl child and also school adjustment difficulties since teachers and other duty bearers believe that a girl who is pregnant cannot handle two masters at ago and so have to leave school and take care of the unborn baby (Robert Jensen & Rebecca Thorton 2006; Mathura, Greene and Malhotra 2005; MOES 2008; Muganda, Onyando 2008).

4.5.2 Being chased away from home

Because parents become shocked on landing on the news of their daughters being pregnant, many respond with chasing them away because such parents feared facing humiliation that the pregnancy would carry for their families. Many parents therefore decided that their daughters go and stay with the owners of the pregnancy.

“Once parents find out that their daughters are pregnant. Many ask them who the owners are and so send them to stay with them. It is because parents become disappointed by the actions of their daughters and they cannot stand the embarrassment.” 17-year-old Vanessa explained.

Being chased away from home is usually initiated by fathers because mothers tend to be forgiving and can easily allow their daughters stay in the homes while pregnant to assist them in the entire process of child growth and birth.

“Fathers are very harsh when it comes to their daughters becoming pregnant. They respond first by beating them up followed by chasing them away from home. Others even imprison the boy/man responsible for the pregnancy. This leaves the girls homeless with nowhere to run to.” 17-year-old Benittah a participant from focus group discussion narrated.

Adolescent pregnancy culminates into many other reactions from families towards their pregnant daughters including disowning them.

“Parents become saddened by the news of their daughters becoming pregnant at a very tender age. They imagine the resources they have wasted on them up to that level. With all the anger piled up they end up disowning the children.” 18-year-old Arnold.

However, the study found out that were some other parents who chose to keep their pregnant daughters in their homes up to when they gave birth and even gave them a second chance to go back to school.

“You know there are some parents who have a golden heart. These parents can keep their daughters at home and even help them go through the pregnancy situation well. After birth, they even take them back to school. Though they are very few.” 18-year-old Melisa a participant from focus group discussion narrated.

Parents experienced different reactions in line with their daughters found pregnant ranging from chasing them away from home imprisoning the suspects, disowning children but others took it the calm way and gave the daughters a second chance to life by taking them back to school after giving birth.

4.5.3 Judgment from community

The participants in the study reported that pregnant adolescents were gossiped about by people in their communities including their relatives due to them being pregnant. Communities labelled these girls with various names like “Malaya” a Luganda word meaning a prostitute, “Musege” which literally means a spoilt person.

“In most cases when a girl becomes pregnant when she is still young. People in society isolate her. Parents even deter their children from associating with such a girl. People in community look at her as a shame and can easily teach their children bad habits.” 16-year-old Harriet.

“Society always portrays pregnant girls as a shame as people who do not know what they want for their future. Others ask why those girls wasted their parents’ money in school yet they knew they wanted to get married. They even call them names. All these are aimed at teaching the other girls a lesson.” 18-year-old Sulaiman a participant from focus group discussion narrated.

Society regardless of modernization has believed in some important aspects, which include keeping issues on sexuality a secret, and only provided to those ready for it. However, once an adolescent becomes pregnant, she has to be punished and this was to serve as an example for all the other young girls not to follow the same route.

4.5.4 Mistreatment from partners

For most of the participants in the study(n=9) they explained that most of the adolescents who were chased away from their parents’ homes ended up leaving with their boyfriends who also ended up mistreating them.

“In most cases those girls after being chased away from their parents’ homes. They end up moving in with their partners. While in these homes, the partners may even fail to provide them with the basics. They also abuse them for having been “ignorant” enough to become pregnant.” 17-year-old Suzan.

“Adolescents who become pregnant suffer way too much the men who make them pregnant usually deny the pregnancies and for those who accept them and move in with them, they end up beating them up. Others even deny them necessities while in the homes.” 19-year-old Daniel a participant from focus group discussion narrated.

To various participants the view was that many adolescents who move in with their partners ended up being mistreated by the partners.

4.5.5 Complications during birth and other health problems

The participants in the study explained that adolescent pregnancy was associated with various health difficulties especially following both. It should be noted that the body of the adolescent at this age is not mature enough to shoulder the burden of carrying a child and childbirth.

“Due to them becoming pregnant at a young age. They usually consider abortion. Moreover, they do it the unsafe way since they are hiding from their parents. In the process, they end up damaging the uterus and this can make them barren in the future. For others they lose a lot of blood which at times lead them into death.” 16-year-old Harriet.

“Since the girls’ bodies are still young. They usually have trouble in giving birth and many even end up getting obstetric fistula. Others even die in the process of giving birth.” 18-year-old Amina from a focus group discussion narrated.

Giving birth as an adolescent as well as carrying a pregnancy at this age paves way for various health complications or both the mother and the unborn baby since the mother’s body is considered not to be mature enough to carry on the burden of the pregnancy and giving birth.

The findings of the study revealed that adolescent pregnancy was associated with various health difficulties and complications for both the adolescent mother and the unborn baby. Due to the fact that their bodies are still young, they are prone to obstetric fistula, premature births, stillborn as well as unsafe abortions that can take their lives. It also exposed them to contracting sexually transmitted diseases at a very tender age. These findings correspond with previous studies that revealed that girls who always gave birth when their body parts have not matured enough get a lot of health complications before and even after birth since their bodies are weak to handle foreign bodies. Also, Maternal Mortality Result from Adolescent Pregnancy Since the Birth Canals of The Girls Are Not Mature to Deliver and So Some End Up Losing Their Lives in The Process (Elea Carey 2018; T. Combos, Orme, Fam Joe 2001; WHO 2015; Nivin Todd 2019; Ganchieng Et Al 2015; MOH 2009).

4.5.6 Female poverty

Some participants in the study (n=10) explained that adolescent pregnancy was greatly associated with female poverty. Given the current trends in poverty levels in the world, women and girls were greatly affected by it and the participants to the study presented their narratives in line with female poverty respectively.

“Adolescent pregnancy leads to poverty once a girl remains in school and completes, she is well placed to be in position to get a good paying job. However, when a girl dropout due to pregnancy she ends up in very low paying jobs such as vending fruits, handkerchiefs among others. With such kinds of businesses, they cannot even meet their day-to-day life needs. They also lack the qualifications to compete in the job market. They are then trapped in the poverty cycle.” 17-year-old Julius

“The fact is adolescence comes when most of the girls are still in school. This makes them vulnerable to poverty. Once they become pregnant, they drop out of school without a single source of income. Others may move in with their boyfriends who are usually in the same age bracket. Worst in all their boyfriends do not allow them to work. This makes them to entirely depend on their boyfriends who also may

have very low paying jobs.” 18-year-old Arnold a participant from focus group discussion narrated explained.

4.5.7 Stigma

Stigma in adolescent pregnancy raises significant challenges in coping with the pregnancy demands as well as the society’s expectations. Societies especially African societies have continuously stigmatized and discriminated against girls who become pregnant before marriage and even as adolescents. They have always responded with punishing the victims as well as the perpetrators as a way to deter other adolescents from doing the same mistake. The narratives from the participants to the study on stigma towards pregnant adolescents are presented respectively

“For me I wouldn’t discriminate against a girl who has become pregnant as an adolescent. I believe that these girls need to be comforted realizing that they carry a life within them. Though in our community once she is pregnant people start calling them abusive names such as “akaana akaseegu” meaning a spoilt child. Others even ask them why they engaged in sex.” 17-year-old Teopista

“In my community once, a girl becomes pregnant. They send her away from her parents’ house and make her stay alone. They are not even allowed to eat on the same food with their parents.” 16-year-old Diane a participant from focus group discussion narrated.

The study revealed that adolescents after becoming pregnant they are faced with stigma arising from the communities where they reside as well as their peers. These girls are usually isolated in society and even called names that are meant to stigmatize them. These findings relate to previous studies that revealed that in various countries a girl who becomes pregnant at a tender age is termed as someone who is careless, a failure in life, an illiterate, a stupid person and a humiliation to their family and community (Hevek 2009; Tahima Afrose 2015).

4.6 Interventions

4.6.1 Introducing sex education in schools

This will involve including sex education as part of the syllabus in secondary schools considering both lower and upper secondary. This will enable students to get first-hand information concerning sexuality so that they have basic information on how to respond to the different body changes and desires as well as making them aware of the various contraceptives available and be in position to practice good sex.

4.6.2 Providing counselling to adolescents

This will focus on provision of counselling and guidance especially to girls with great emphasis on ensuring that they focus on their dreams that is completion of their education rather than being taken away by incentives given to them by men as a way of engaging them in to sexual intercourse.

4.6.3 Strict implementation of laws

The government with other actors should ensure that strict laws are implemented especially on people who impregnate girls who are minors through imprisoning them. This will serve as an example for men who engage in sexual intercourse with minors.

4.6.4 Provision of Sexual and Reproductive Health Services

This involves ensuring availability of sexual and reproductive health services for young people. This will ensure that adolescents especially in secondary schools are in position to practice safer sex given the fact that abstinence may be hard for most of them.

CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION

5.1 Summary of findings

This research study mainly aimed at exploring the views of secondary schools' students about adolescent pregnancy. The study aimed at achieving a number of objectives, which included the perceptions of secondary school students towards adolescent pregnancy, the causes of adolescent pregnancy, the consequences associated with adolescent pregnancy and the possible interventions that can be put in place to curb this vice amongst the students of St. Mary's high school Mukoko.

The researcher found out that secondary school students had a negative perception towards adolescent pregnancy. They revealed it as a bad action of becoming pregnant when still in school and most of them showed that their parents and elders in the community plus teachers emphasized them to be patient until when they are done with school.

During the study, the researcher found out that poverty or poor household economic status had greater contribution to adolescent pregnancy. It was found out in this study that if an adolescent came from a poor family that could not meet all their needs such as; food, shelter, clothing, enough pocket money, scholastic materials, they would resort to engaging into sexual intercourse so as to meet these needs, hence becoming pregnant, especially amongst the girls.

The study findings showed that adolescents owning a cell phone was one of the influences of adolescent pregnancy. Adolescents use telephones to communicate to their boyfriends and girlfriends and increased accessibility to pornographic materials. The access to pornographic materials influenced their desire to practice what they watch with their peers, which resulted into unprotected sexual intercourse hence becoming pregnant.

The researcher found out that substance and drug abuse among the adolescents led to adolescent pregnancy since these drugs influenced some of them to engage in risks of sexual behaviours with their peers due to their inability to control their sexual desires while under the influence of drugs. Adolescents used drugs such as marijuana, alcohol, mira, and so many others. The researcher also found out that these drugs exposed students to unrealistic appraise which makes them fail to resist unprotected sex, hence becoming pregnant.

During the study, the researcher found out that the belief in tradition especially the norms of various cultures had a strong influence on adolescent pregnancy. Some communities where the

adolescents were coming from believed in cultural practices such as testing the girls before marriage that put them at a high risk of becoming pregnant. Some gender roles in the society such as fetching firewood for the girls and women, exposed them to early pregnancies especially when the activity was interrupted within immoral sexual activities such as rape and defilement.

The study findings revealed that insufficient knowledge and information on sexuality influenced girls to become pregnant. Adolescents who had no information on the available modern protective measures such as; injectables, pills, and the use of condoms, were more vulnerable to becoming pregnant the moment they engaged in unprotected sexual activity. Some of the adolescents that had little information on sexuality heard it from their teachers while at school and with little information from their parents who were on busy schedules in trying to make ends meet. The insufficient information therefore exposed most of the girls to adolescent pregnancy.

The researcher found out that peer pressure amongst the adolescents influenced them to become pregnant. Adolescents who associated with the already exposed friends on issues regarding sexual intercourse were always influenced to engage in them so that they fit in the circle of their friends. This made most of the boys and girls to engage into unprotected sexual intercourse hence becoming pregnant.

The study findings showed that adolescents who became pregnant were exposed to gender-based violence. This mostly happens to the girls who get married to the elder men. They are physically beaten by their partners because they are considered weak; they are denied a chance of taking part in decision making which violets their right to participation. Also, these girls are left to do all the domestic work at home without considering them to be pregnant, yet during this process, they need a lot of support.

The study findings revealed that adolescent pregnancy was associated with various health difficulties and complications for both the adolescent mother and the unborn baby. Due to the fact that their bodies are still young, they are prone to obstetric fistula, premature birth, still birth as well as unsafe abortions that can take their lives. It also exposed them to contracting sexually transmitted diseases such as; HIV/AIDS, Gonorrhoea, candida and so many others at a very tender age and some of them are chronic. They are also exposed to maternal mortality because most of them die during the process of giving birth.

During the study, the researcher found out that adolescents after becoming pregnant, are faced with stigma arising from the communities where they reside as well as fellow peers. They are seen as a very bad example to others in the communities where they live. These girls are usually isolated in society and even called names that are meant to stigmatize them.

The study findings showed that adolescents who became pregnant had to drop out of school as a result of expulsion, running away from school and it is because of the school policies that do not accept pregnant students in schools. This is one of the reasons why there are high rates of school dropouts among the girls.

The researcher found out that girls who became pregnant were always chased away from home by their parents. Parents, especially those who had a dominant name in the society would not allow to stay with their girls at home while they are pregnant because the society looked at their children as an example to others. In the end, they always neglected them for ashaming them before the community and family members and so chased them away from home to go and start their new life with the partners who made them pregnant, yet they were also not willing to handle the responsibilities.

The study findings revealed that there should be creation of schools that allow pregnant mothers to continue with their education while pregnant and even after giving birth. However, an argument may arise that the creation of these schools will normalize adolescent pregnancy and promote immorality among girls. Therefore, however much this may sound true, denying pregnant adolescents a chance to education will result into other difficult situations such as female poverty and increased illiteracy among women. It should therefore be considered important to establish policies and schools that can allow pregnant adolescents continue with their education alongside other measures that can help in addressing the problem of adolescent pregnancy.

Parents should continue providing support to their pregnant daughters even when it embarrasses them and tarnishes their family name. At the situation of being pregnant, the adolescent becomes confused with few options to take up. Either to get married to their partner or go back to their parents. Some parents choose to chase and disown these girls. This does not mean you did not give birth to the girl. She remains your daughter and the unborn angel you grandchild. Then why punish the innocent soul. Consider taking care of your child in this situation, give them hope and courage. If possible, give them a second chance to go back to school.

5.2 Recommendations

Recognizing that various attempts have been put in place to eliminate and prevent adolescent pregnancy over years, they still exist. I therefore recommend the following actions.

Re-enrolment of pregnant adolescents in schools. In this therefore, specific recommendations include;

Government should invest in the construction of schools that can take in pregnant adolescents.

Government also should put in place policies that ensure that pregnant adolescents continue with school rather than expelling them from school.

Parents should provide hope and courage to their daughters during pregnancy and even after birth give them a second chance to study again

Government in partnership with NGOs and the private sector should ensure creation of an environment that is free of stigma and discrimination towards pregnant adolescents.

Government should also carry out community sensitizations aimed at reducing society stigma towards adolescents who are pregnant.

Schools and other actors in this field should empower young girls with knowledge on their sexuality

Government working with ministry of health should put special attention to adolescent reproductive health and avail these services to the adolescents and young people in the country.

Government, NGOs, traditional and religious leaders should work in collaboration in the fight against early marriages.

5.3 Conclusion

Special attention should be put on re-enrolling pregnant adolescents in school. Parents should give their daughters a second chance to continue with their education even after birth with consideration of giving them support throughout the period of pregnancy and childbirth.

Further studies can be conducted on how adolescent pregnancy is associated with the gendered nature of poverty. This body of knowledge can contribute in guiding efforts aimed at exploring secondary school students' views on adolescent pregnancy.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: In-Depth Interview Guide

I am Nakibuye Maria, a Third-year student of Makerere University pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work and Social Administration. I am carrying out a research study entitled “**An exploratory study about the views of adolescent pregnancy by secondary school students: A case study of St. Mary's High School Mukoko**”. This study aims at finding out the views of Secondary school students considering the causes, consequences and the interventions known to students. This study will assist in generating information strategies to overcome this problem among the young girls. The information will be confidential and will be only used for purposes of this academic study.

SECTION A: DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION OF PARTICIPANTS

1. Tell me about yourself (age and sex, tribe?)
2. In which class are you?
3. Do you have a boyfriend or girlfriend?
4. Do you think it is right to have a boyfriend or girlfriend before completing school?
Why?

SECTION B: CAUSES OF ADOLESCENT PREGNANCY

Poverty

5. In your own view, what do you consider poverty?
6. Could you take me through how the lack of necessities can lead to adolescent pregnancy?
7. How does the poor economic status of the family influence adolescents to become pregnant?
8. In what ways does poverty influence girls to become pregnant?

Substance abuse

9. What are the commonly used drugs by the adolescents?
10. How do they access them?
11. In what ways are adolescents initiated in to drug abuse?
12. How does the use of these drugs influence adolescent pregnancy?

Information on sexuality

13. . In which ways do you access information related to sexuality?
14. What kind of information do you receive?
15. How does lack of access to information on sexuality lead to adolescent pregnancy?

Culture and tradition

16. At what age does your culture expect a girl to become pregnant?
17. Does your culture criticise sex before marriage?
18. How do your cultural norms or practises influence adolescents to become pregnant?

Peer Pressure

19. What kind of people do you associate with?
20. What activities do you engage in with your friends?
21. How many times do you link up with your friends?

22. Could you take me through the ways in which peer pressure influence adolescent pregnancy?

Inadequate enforcement of law

23. Are there laws in Uganda concerning adolescent pregnancy?

24. Could you take me through some of those laws?

25. In what ways does inadequate enforcement of laws lead to adolescent pregnancy?

Access to cell phones

26. Do you have a cell phone?

27. What do you use the phone for?

28. In what ways does owning a cell phone among adolescents lead to pregnancy?

29. Could you take me through how access to internet influence adolescent pregnancy?

SECTION C: CONSEQUENCES

Gender based violence

30. What is gender based violence?

31. Have you ever experienced or heard of any gender-based violence case before?

32. What are some of the violent actions aligned with a certain gender?

33. How is gender based violence a result of adolescent pregnancy?

Health difficulties

34. What are some of the health problems that come with adolescent pregnancy?

35. Could you take me through some of the sexually transmitted diseases that may come due to adolescent sexual encounter?

36. In what ways does adolescent pregnancy lead to maternal mortality?

37. If a pregnant adolescent gets a sexually transmitted infection, how do they cope up?

Social stigma

38. Could you take me through what you understand by social stigma?

39. Would you stigmatise an adolescent who is pregnant?

40. What are some of the stereotypes subjected to pregnant adolescents in your society?

41. In what ways are pregnant adolescent discriminated against in society?

Early marriages

42. What do you understand by the term early marriage?

43. In your view, what are some of the causes of early marriages among adolescents?

44. How does adolescent pregnancy lead to early marriage?

Lower education status

45. Could you take me through the ways in which adolescent pregnancy leads to low education status among adolescents?

46. According to you, how do pregnant adolescents with low education status live in the community?

47. In your view, would going back to school for pregnant adolescents be a good option?

SECTION D: INTERVENTIONS

48. Can you take me through the different interventions that have been put in to place by the duty bearers to reduce adolescent pregnancy?
49. What do you think are the different measures that can be put in to place to stop this vice?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME. GOD BLESS YOU.

Appendix 2: Focus Group Discussion Guide

I am Nakibuye Maria a Third-year student of Makerere University pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work and Social Administration. I am carrying out a research study entitled **“An exploratory study of the views of adolescent pregnancy by secondary school students: A case study of St. Mary's High School Mukoko”**. This study aims at finding out the views of Secondary school students considering the causes, consequences and the interventions students are aware of. This study will assist in generating information strategies to overcome this problem among the young girls. The information will be confidential and will be only used for purposes of this academic study.

1. Please let us start by introducing ourselves.
2. May I please get to know that each one of us here is 13 years and above?
3. Are you all students of St. Marys High school Mukoko Kalungu district?
4. What is your view about students having either a boyfriend or girlfriend before they complete school?
5. What is your view on early sex?
6. What are the commonly used contraceptives within this environment?
7. Where do you get these contraceptives?
8. In the absence of these contraceptives, what options do you use?
9. In what ways does poverty lead to adolescent pregnancy?
10. How does culture and tradition influence adolescents to become pregnant?
11. What type of substance abuse is evident amongst secondary school students?

12. Could you take me through how drug and substance abuse influence adolescents to become pregnant?
13. In what ways do you access information related to sexuality?
14. How does lack of knowledge on sexuality lead to adolescent pregnancy?
15. In what ways does the use of cell phones influence adolescents to become pregnant?
16. How does peer pressure influence adolescents to become pregnant?
17. In what ways does sexual abuse lead to adolescent pregnancy?
18. How does inadequate enforcement of laws lead to adolescent pregnancy?
19. What are some of the health difficulties associated with adolescent pregnancy?
20. How does adolescent pregnancy lead to early marriages?
21. Could you take me through the ways in which the young girls who become pregnant are mistreated?
22. In what ways do secondary school students discriminate girls who become pregnant?
23. Could you take me through the ways in which adolescent pregnancy leads to poverty?
24. In what ways does adolescent pregnancy lead to school dropouts?
25. How does adolescent pregnancy increase the life span reproductive period for the adolescents?
26. What are the different interventions that have been put in to curb the vice of adolescent pregnancy?

27. What do you think are the different possible course of actions that need to be put in place to reduce adolescent pregnancy?

28. Is there anything you would want to talk about adolescent pregnancy among secondary school students?

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR COOPERATION. GOD BLESS YOU.

Appendix 3: Data Collection Approval Letter

MAKERERE

P.O. Box 7062,
Kampala, Uganda
Cables: MAKUNIKA



UNIVERSITY

Tel: 256-41-534114
E-mail: swsa@ss.mak.ac.ug

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIAL ADMINISTRATION

26/6/2020

To whom it may Concern

RE: DATA COLLECTION PROCESS FOR B.SWSA PROGRAM

This is to introduce you to Ms/Mr... NAKIBUYE MARIA.....

Registration No... 1712/1763..... who is a student of

Makerere University pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Social Work and Social Administration. He/she is required to complete a research project (dissertation) as partial requirement for the award of the B.SWSA Degree. He/She is carrying out a research entitled:

An explanatory study about the views of adolescent pregnancy by secondary school students. A case study of St. Mary's High School Makoko.

He/she has now been authorized to proceed for field data collection. Please accord him/her all the necessary assistance to enable him/her complete the data collection process seamlessly.

Yours faithfully,

**ERIC AWICH OCHEN, PhD
SENIOR LECTURER & RESEARCH COORDINATOR**



In future correspondence please quote the reference number above

I acknowledge that Nakibuye Maria from the above mentioned institution has carried out her research and completed it effectively

Maria
Jjunju Stephen
H/M
0702435333