

Abstract of Master's Dissertation

No.1

Course	Master of Public Health	Name	Sakiho Yamazaki
Thesis Title	Perception of Teenage Pregnancy and Family Planning Among Adolescents in Zambia		
<p>Abstract of Master's Dissertation</p> <p>Objective : The overall objective was to assess the gap between the actual situation regarding teenage pregnancies and the type of support currently provided for adolescents.</p> <p>Method : A series of individual interviews were conducted with 19 pregnant women aged between 17-23 years, their family member, and the service providers, including 2 health staffs, 2 NGO staffs and 2 schoolteachers, in Kitwe Copperbelt province, Zambia.</p> <p>Result : (1) All the cases were unintended pregnancies. Most of the participants perceived their pregnancy negatively, except those who were already thinking about getting married or who had already graduated from secondary school. The negative perceptions usually derived from feelings of guilt about being pregnant, apprehension regarding future education prospects and astonishment of being pregnant at teens. The perceptions derived from fear of health risks such as maternal complications or neonatal conditions were not stated even by the health staff. (2) Low intention of using contraceptive was observed. Especially condoms, one of the most common contraceptives, were not popular among them. Condoms were not selected even after delivering their first child, the participants relatively selected long-acting contraceptives to make sure that they can complete their education. Despite this situation, NGOs still prioritized the distribution of condoms as their major activity, as a result, for instance, some of the adolescents misused them as a screen cleaner. (3) The impacts of teenage pregnancy on their further education or careers were not always huge due to the school re-entry policy and supportive family members in terms of childbearing. Besides, the teenage pregnant women themselves didn't pay much attention on childcare but rather their educations, which mitigated the impacts on their future plans.</p>			

* The abstract, containing the objective, method, result and conclusion should not exceed 300-500 words and printed double sided on A4 paper)

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<p>Conclusion : Most of the pregnant teenage women interviewed perceived their pregnancy negatively, but were less concerns about health risks and contraceptive use. NGOs were conducting the free condom distributions, but the provision of condoms didn't mean they used them. Besides, despite the maternal condition is the leading cause of death among adolescents, there was no sensitizations and it was less prioritized even among health staffs. Since there is a mismatch between the problems which should be addressed and the provided intervention, the further improvements in intervention projects is necessary, such as the promotion of contraceptive methods apart from condoms and awareness-raising campaign of health risks of teenage pregnancy. (380 words)</p>			

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