

Module 4: Adolescent pregnancy - Adolescent health and development with a particular focus on sexual and reproductive health - Assignment

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It is estimated that about 16 million girls aged 15-19 years give birth annually, 90% of which occur in developing nations, while more than 1/5 of women in the poorest regions of the world are married before the age of 18.

Problems/hazards of adolescent pregnancy

Biological complications

1. Unsafe abortions.
2. Obstructed labor.
3. Hypertension in pregnancy.
4. Injuries and anemia in pregnancy.
5. Obstetric fistulae.
6. Post partum hemorrhage.

Psychosocial complications

1. Rejections and denial by the society.
2. Suicide and mental trauma.
3. Depression.

Economic effects

1. Poverty and loss of income.
2. Loss of employment and school dropout.

Effects on the child

1. High infant and childhood mortality.

What needs to be done?

1. Provide information and knowledge on reproductive health services.
2. Provide education especially to the girl child.
3. Empower the adolescent and youth economically and socially.
4. Re orient the society culturally and religiously to appreciate the complexities of adolescence and childhood.

5. Provide accessible and equitable reproductive health services.
6. Promote individual responsibility and protective norm.
7. Legislation against all forms of sexual harassment and coercion.
8. Protect the reproductive health rights of adolescents and youths.

Conclusion

Since adolescent pregnancy contributes to maternal morbidity and mortality, perinatal, infant and childhood mortality, as well as increasing the global poverty cycle, it is imperative that all hands must be on deck to fight it.

Assignment document

1. [Camacho AV, Chandra-Mouli V. Adolescent pregnancy: a global perspective. Paper presented at: Training Course in Sexual and Reproductive Health Research; 2010 Sep 18; Geneva.](#)