

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

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Is adolescent pregnancy a public health priority in Yemen?

According to the family health survey 2003, there is 365 death \100,000 live birth in which 51% occur among less than 20 years old females. In another meaning 7 mothers die every day due to many reasons, mainly early pregnancy, unattended birth, poverty among girls, and lack of awareness in the communities on the dangers that mothers face during pregnancy and labour. So efforts are made to reduce teenage pregnancy through:

- Raise awareness on the consequences of early marriage.
- Review of existing legislations and policies related to early marriage.
- Reduce the gender gap in school attendance rates and in health indicators.

Assignment story - Teenage pregnancies cause many health, social problems

What are the three main factors that contributed to this?

- Teenage pregnancy has many reasons, mostly lack of education, lack of women empowerment, and poverty.

What can be done by families and communities to prevent this happening to other girls?

- Family and community has great role in this issue. The support that every adolescent can get from his family and community can put her in the right way. It is well known that if the girl becomes pregnant, school will be history for her, but this will not happen if the family offers support and help. Girl empowerment is the key issue, this can be achieved by providing free education to all girls, and decrease the gender gap in schools.

What can the Ministry of Health do to reorient the health care system to meet the needs of girls?

- Provide comprehensive health care, encourage adolescent to conduct delivery under supervision of trained midwife, expand emergency obstetric care services to include all hospitals in all districts. Training of health providers to accept adolescents and provide proper services. Offer adolescents different options; one important option is dual protection.
- The involvement of media (TV, radio, and papers) to deliver health messages has great influence on girls to seek medical advice. This will be easy if it is supported by the knowledge of the facts that adolescent pregnancy contributes to maternal mortality.

Adolescent pregnancy contributes to perinatal and infant mortality and adolescent pregnancy contributes to the vicious cycle of poverty.

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.](#)