

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

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Adolescent pregnancy in Macedonia

An unwanted adolescent pregnancy is a significant problem worldwide. A girl getting pregnant in her teen years is likely to suffer from lots of physical and psychological problems.

Adolescent pregnancy is one of public health priorities in Macedonia because:

- According to data performing by UNICEF, Macedonia has a high rate of teenage pregnancy (41 of 1000 girls aged 15-19 years).
- Half of girls on the age of 16-17 years have sexual activities. Many of them started with their sexual life more early.
- Surveys by nongovernmental organizations carry out information about low level of contraceptive use and lack of sexual education.
- Early marriage in some traditional rural communities, low educational level and high rate of poverty are important factors in the rate of adolescent pregnancy.
- It is associated with increase of alcohol and substance use.
- Most of pregnant schoolgirls don't finish secondary school.
- Often, adolescents don't receive timely prenatal care which results in complications during pregnancy and high risk for morbidity and mortality both for mother and child.

Assignment story

What are the three main factors that contributed to this?

Mostly, adolescent pregnancy is unplanned and unwanted. Three main factors that contribute to this kind of pregnancy are:

1. Low level of sexual education.
2. Low level of contraceptive use and increased use of drugs.
3. Alcohol between adolescents.

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

- Other girls could avoid it if they feel free to talk about their sexuality with members of their families. They must be educated about implication of having sex and importance of condom use both for protection of pregnancy and sexual transmitted infections. Communities should organize centers as part of secondary schools for advancing and support of pregnant adolescent.

What can Ministry of Health do to orient the health care system to meet the needs of girls such as the one who story you have heard?

- Ministry of Health should organize a campaign for contraception and consequence of early pregnancy. It must offer a free health for pregnant teen girls and their newborns.

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.](#)