
ABORTION AND PREGNANCY PREVENTION COUNSELING FOR TEEN GIRLS; IMPLICATIONS FROM RESEARCH ON TEEN MOTHERS' VIEWS : The Case of Asembo, Rural Western Kenya.

Ochiel, N

Adipo, D; Obongo, C Vandenhoudt, H
KEMRI/CDC/ITM



Background ⁽¹⁾

- Unsafe abortions and their complications are a major cause of maternal mortality especially among teen girls
- Sub-Saharan Africa has the highest death rates from induced abortion
- In Kenya, 30800 abortions are reported annually majority of which are among adolescents
- Early sexual debut coupled with low contraceptive use lead to high rates of pregnancy mostly resulting into abortion
- In 2007: We conducted a qualitative study among teenagers in Asembo

OBJECTIVE

- The general objective of the study was;
 - to explore the determinants of contraceptive uptake among never married teenagers aged 13-19 years in Asembo
- The study looked at the views on abortion among teen mothers in Asembo

Methods ⁽¹⁾

■ Mobilization

- Mainly through local youth committees who proposed initial participants
- Flyers distributed to youth in the community

■ Sampling: Purposive, nomination & snowball techniques

- Purposive sampling used to select villages
- Nomination and snowball techniques used to select participants
 - **Nomination -Generated list & most recurring names selected**
 - **Snowball -Proposed participants asked to in turn propose others**

Methods ⁽²⁾

■ Data collection:

- In-depth Interviews (IDIs)
- In local language (Dholuo)

■ Data analysis:

- Interviews transcribed verbatim, translated and manually analyzed around themes of study

Results (N=9)

- 9 IDIs
- Data collected between July & August 2007
- Demographic Description of Respondents

Characteristics	
Age in Yr. (median)	17
Education (median Class)	7
No. of Children (median)	1

Results

- Abortion was reportedly common among teen girls in Asembo
- More than half of the teen mothers reported having wanted or being advised by boyfriends, peers or parents to abort
- Lack of accurate information on pregnancy prevention was reported to be one of the main contributors to unplanned pregnancy

Results 2

- Reasons for abortion included
 - Fear of being seen pregnant by others
 - Cruelty of parents, especially fathers
 - Fear of being dumped by boyfriends or the boyfriends refusing to take responsibility
 - stigma and challenges associated with carrying the pregnancy to term
- Teens have good knowledge of effects of abortion including death and inability to bear children

Conclusions and recommendations

- Abortion is common among teen girls in Asembo
- Teen girls know the effects of abortion but still abort
- Abortion due to stigma and challenges associated with carrying the pregnancy
- Teen girls get pregnant for lack of accurate information on pregnancy prevention

Conclusions and Recommendations

- Pregnant girls should access counseling services
- Counseling teen girls should involve providing accurate information on pregnancy prevention
- Such counseling should also focus on making them aware of and preparing them to handle the challenges that come with teen pregnancy to prevent resorting to abortion

Acknowledgements

- All the study participants
- Research Assistants
- Principal Investigators
 - Daniel Adipo, Dr. Hilde Vandenhoudt, Chris Obong'o, Dr. Robert Chessa & Dr. P.K Rono
- Collaborators
 - Dr. Kayla Laserson & Dr. Pauli Amornkul
- The Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI)
- US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Institute of Tropical Medicine (ITM), Belgium
- Moi University, Department of Sociology & Psychology
- US President's Emergency Plans For AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)

Erokamano