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An Investigation of Teenage Pregnancies as a Possible Barrier to Girls’ Education: A Case of Four Wards In Tsholotsho District in Matabeleland North

BY

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ABSTRACT
The study sought to investigate Teenage Pregnancy as a possible barrier to girls’ education. In conducting the research the researcher used questionnaires to solicit information from the girls. Interviews were also used to obtain information from teachers, traditional leaders’, headmasters and the district education officer. Interviews conducted showed that girls falling pregnant in schools was the greatest education obstacle hence this is causing a high dropout rate in the District. Although a schoolgirl is allowed to return to school after the birth of her baby, she is faced with many challenges in trying to cope with the demands of motherhood and schooling simultaneously. Research has established that pregnancy and motherhood have a profound impact on the mother and child by placing limits on her educational achievements. Data was summarized quantitatively and qualitatively using evaluative descriptions and SPSS (Statistical Product Service Solution). This study revealed that most of the girl child dropouts were a result of early marriages, abject poverty, long distance travelled to school, peer pressure and economic hardships as well as religious and traditional beliefs that work against educating the girl child. This paper recommends that civil education and the conscientisation of rural parents, teachers and the girl child on the importance of girl child education be made as a matter of urgency if the current situation is to be remedied.