

**EDUCATION AND TEENAGE PREGNANCIES: AN INVESTIGATION
OF THE CAUSES OF TEENAGE PREGNANCIES IN PRIMARY
SCHOOLS IN MUMIAS DIVISION**

BY

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CHAPTER ONE

1.0 Introduction

Teenage pregnancy is a continuing major problem in Mumias division. This study identified that many teenage girls are dropping out of school and there is a lack of awareness by teenagers about matters of sexuality. The study also focused specifically on exploring the knowledge and awareness of class 6 to 8 learners in the primary schools about teenage pregnancy.

There are many teenagers today who are having premarital sex and not taking any precautions needed to protect themselves against pregnancy. When they do get pregnant there are many consequences, big decisions, and great responsibilities. Growing up in this day and age I have seen many girls who become pregnant and are acting as if pregnancy is a big joke and forget that they are carrying a human being and that it is going to change their life forever. Whenever they realize the reality of the situation it is already too late for them. Teenage pregnancies especially for girls has a socioeconomic impact on the society whereby it causes a never-ending cycle of ignorance and poverty, as well as perpetuating the lack of family and societal support structures that are necessary to build a productive life.

Finally, this chapter will discuss the statement of the problem, the rationale for the research, the purpose of the study, the research questions, as well as the limitations and delimitation and both the conceptual and theoretical framework of the study will be highlighted.

1.1 Background of the Study

Teenage pregnancy is formally defined as a pregnancy in a woman who has not reached the age of twenty years before the expected birth, regardless of whether she is married or not. Teenage pregnancy has become a major issue of concern in education sector.