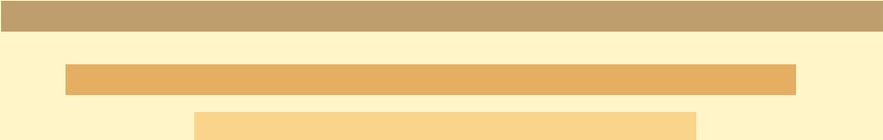


KIE Gender Club Study

*Adolescents' point of view on
unwanted pregnancies as a cause
of the high drop out rate of girls in
secondary schools*

Kigali, Rwanda

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Researchers

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Research Topic

- Unwanted pregnancies as a cause of the high drop out rate of girls in secondary schools

Context and Background Information

- Adolescents 15-19 years of age represent approximately 9.4% of the population of Rwanda. (*Ministry of Health, 2009; National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda*)

Primary school statistics

- 22.2% of girl adolescents and 17.5% of boy adolescents are without primary education
- Although enrollment rates are almost equitable, the percentage of girls who complete primary school is significantly lower than the percentage of boys: 41% vs. 59%. (*Interim Demographic and Health Survey 2007/2008*)

Context and Background Information

Secondary school statistics

- Only 13% of men and 11% of women reach secondary school level, with only 1% of the general population reaching higher education levels.

(Ministry of Education, 2009)

Higher education

- Only a very small number of girls are admitted in higher learning institutions and very few complete their studies as most of them are obliged to drop out since they are married or have become pregnant.

Context and Background Information

Unwanted pregnancies and school drop-out

- Although poverty and low levels of achievement are the main reasons of primary school drop outs, girls who, as a result of traditional gender roles, are given household responsibilities, consistently underperform at school.
- Many girls are victims of rape, defilement, become pregnant and are forced to get married before they complete their studies.
- Although abortions are illegal in Rwanda, the number of girls in secondary school and university seeking an abortion is on the rise.
- The few girls who reach higher education face gender based violence, discouragements, unwanted pregnancies, HIV/AIDS and STDs leading them to drop out of school.

Research Method: Photovoice

What is Photovoice?

- Photovoice is a participatory research methodology where the participants themselves take photos in order to further explore the topic of research.
- Based on the belief that photos can help to better explore complex or sensitive topics, photovoice enables the research participants to reflect on their daily lives, to identify problems as they perceive them and to facilitate the formulation of their own solutions to these problems.

(Gervais & Rivard, 2010)

Photovoice Activity with Adolescents

- Where: FAWE (urban school) and ESTH (rural school)
- When: May 2010
- Participants: 2 school classes – 1 mixed and 1 girls only; consent was obtained with the use of consent forms developed specifically for this study
- Questions: What are the causes of unwanted pregnancies? What are the solutions?

Photovoice Activity with Adolescents

Step 1: Learning how to use the camera



Photovoice Activity with Adolescents

Step 2: Discussion of ideas and taking pictures



Photovoice Activity with Adolescents

Step 3: Sharing the results



Results

Cause

- “Sugardaddies”



Solution

- Saying “NO”



Results

Cause

- Parents not wanting to discuss sexual health with their daughters



Solution

- Parents teaching sexual health



Results

Cause

- Not having any friends



Solution

- Having friends that will support and protect you



Results

Cause

- Teachers exchanging sex for a good grade



Solution

- Government exams determine the final grade



Research Findings and Conclusions

Findings:

- The students confirm that the issue of unwanted pregnancies is a problem of concern to them.
- The students are aware of this problem and understand it well enough to identify causes and to suggest solutions.
- The students are capable of communicating their suggestions of solutions.

Conclusions:

- It is important to bring forward students' own perspective of this problem in order to help elaborate a government level action plan with MIGEPROF.
- This study must be repeated with a larger population of students in order to gather more information about this issue.

Contributions

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