

## **ABSTRACT**

This study examined the need for curriculum-based sex education on the sexuality of secondary school students in Bushenyi-Ishaka municipality, Bushenyi District in Western Uganda. The study objectives were to determine the level of knowledge of sex education among secondary school students in Bushenyi-Ishaka municipality, to establish the prevalence of sexually related problems among the chosen secondary schools and to find out the views of stake holders on the need for curriculum-based sex education as a means of alleviating the burden of sexuality-related problems in Bushenyi-Ishaka Municipality and in Uganda as a whole. The research design employed cross sectional survey with qualitative and quantitative approaches to collect and analyze the data collected from the students. Questionnaires and interview guides were used as the instruments to collect data from the respondents which in this study included the students and stakeholders (teachers, parents and religious leaders). Data were coded, analyzed and presented with Excel; the findings were analyzed by use of frequency tables, pie-chart, bar graph and percentages of the study variables. The findings of the study indicated that 60.4% of the students in secondary schools in Bushenyi-Ishaka municipality lack proper knowledge of sex education. This included aspects such as knowledge about sex education, puberty and condom use as a means of contraception. Significant number of students suffered from sexually-related problems such as 17.9% 17.9% unwanted pregnancies, 8.3% 8.3% abortions and 87.5% had 87.5% had 87.5% had complications and 21.6% had use 21.6% had use 21.6% had use 21.6% had use drug abuse. The teachers, parents and religious leaders interviewed also supported the view that there are many dropouts especially among the girls from secondary schools as a result of unplanned pregnancies, complicated abortions and early marriage and among the boys, drug abuse. The findings also revealed that 84% of the students wanted curriculum-based education and believed that their teachers can teach them better than other sources of informal sex education. The teachers, parents and religious leaders interviewed made it clear that there was a need for sex education curriculum in schools; expressing the desire to be made a part of the content of the curriculum the students will be taught.