

**THE PSYCHO-ECONOMIC CAUSES OF PREGNANCY AMONG  
UNIVERSITY STUDENTS**

**A CASE STUDY OF KAMPALA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY**

**BY**

**GWAIVU ROBERT**

**REG NO BSW/8011/51/DU**


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INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY**

**JUNE 2008**

## DECLARATION

I declare that this dissertation is my original research work and that it has never been presented to any institution as a research proposal.

Signature



.....

**GWAIVU ROBERT**

Date

<sup>th</sup>  
24/08/2008  
.....

## APPROVAL

I declare that this dissertation has been submitted for approval to me as the university supervisor.

Signature



**Ms. KHAWA NAMAJJI**

Date

2<sup>nd</sup> / 09 / 2008

## DEDICATION

I dedicate this dissertation first, to my guardian Mr. NANABYEDA STEPHEN for his tireless effort to pay for my school fees through out my education right from primary level up to my first university degree which is in social work and social administration.

Secondary, I dedicate this dissertation to my sweet mother Ms. IREEN NANTAMBI LOVISA for her special prayers God to provide for me every where I go.

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Secondly, I acknowledge my supervisor Mrs. **KHAWA NAMAJJJI** for her tireless effort she gave in to supervise my dissertation.

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

KIU	KAMPALA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
KLA	KAMPALA
UBC	UGANDA BROADCASTING
BSW	SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIAL ADMINISTRATION
UGX	UGANDA SHILLINGS
KM	KILOMETRE
SOS	SAVE OUR SOUL
TV	TELEVISION
WBS	WAVAMUNO BROADCASTING SERVICE
ETC	EXTRA
%	PERCENT
CID	CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT
PCT	PRIMARY CARE TRUST

## ABSTRACT

This research was carried out in Kampala International University, the aim was to assess the psycho-economic causes of pregnancy among university students after realizing that a big number of students fall victims of this act in universities. This was done through gathering data from different respondents using different methodologies. Data was collected from 50 respondents where, 10 were university members of staff (including, 6 university lecturers, 2 administrators and 2 doctors from the university clinic) and 40 respondents were students in the university (including, 25 females and 15 males).

Findings revealed that, poverty is the top ranking psych-economic cause of pregnancy in university students since majority of the university students in Uganda come from very poor families and yet they admire many expensive things.

Findings also revealed that, 70% of the respondents agree that there are 1-3 pregnant students in their lecture rooms/classes.

Findings also revealed that, 60% of the respondents considered abortion to be first effect manifesting in university pregnant students.

Lastly, findings revealed that, 40 of the respondents considered increased condom awareness in the university to be first strategy that can help to minimize pregnancy among university students.

The recommendations suggested included:

- . University rules and regulations should favor pregnant students.
- . Students should be patient to finish their studies before they engage in sexual activities.

- . There should be free provision of condoms to students and condom use awareness in the university should be introduced and encouraged.
- . Counseling services should be introduced in the university so that students especially the fleshers can be helped on what direction to take.
- . Religious based programs should be encouraged in the university to draw student's hearts closer to God.

## CHAPTER ONE

### 1.0 Introduction

This chapter focused on the psycho-economic causes of pregnancy among university students since many students have been conceiving in institutions and yet its solutions are painful.

### 1.1 Background of the study

The research was carried out in KIU, located in Kampala city, Makindye division along Kampala Ggaba road 3kms off the capital city to the south and it is between Lake Victoria and Kampala city from the south Kansanga. The university was established in 2001 with over 300 students in total. Now the university has over 800 students in Kampala campus alone, where the research was conducted. The university has students from different countries all over Africa and some few from some of the outside countries meaning that it is composed of various cultures, behavior and religions.

It is education which is predominantly done in KIU. A number of people carry out different businesses around the university and their customers are the thousands of students who live within the university. Boys and girls hostels, restaurants are set to absorb the biggest percentage of the student's population.

The focus of this research was on the psycho-economic causes of pregnancy among university students in KIU given the fact that a good number of university students had been caught up by this act. It was not that pregnancy among university students is done by either first, second, third or fourth years alone but it was an act among all university students of all levels. In Uganda, university students are faced with a number of challenges and these happen to be the real factors responsible for causing pregnancy among them. Among these factors includes, rape,



sexual abuse, peer pressure, poverty, causal sex, save our soul (SOS) by the Kenyan students, student-lecturer relationships among others.

Historically, pregnancy in students was a behavior that had been manifesting in all universities in Uganda. Students could throw new born babies in dust bins that are near their hostels. In Makerere University it was on record that student's sale them selves from Wandegaya to men in exchange for money, KIU students could sale them selves in Kabalagala clubs especially in capital pub and punch line pub still in exchange for money. There fore, pregnancy in students was not a new phenomenon. In many universities, the university rules and regulations were not favorable for pregnant students. This has obliged female pregnant students to abort, tighten their belts to hide pregnancy where as others could apply for dead years.

According to Spencer A. Rathus (1986), pregnancy is the process of union of a male sperm and a female egg in the ovary which forms a single cell that multiplies to form tissues, organs and structures that gradually take the un-mistakable shape of a human being. It last for 9months even though to some pregnant women it may take less or above that. The nine month of prenatal development are divided into three trimesters of three month each.

## **1.2 Statement of the problem**

Most female students in Uganda especially university students had dropped out of school, prolonged their years of study, applied for dead years and others had lost their lives during abortion due to pregnancy while at the university. Some were mature enough and ready for the repacations of pregnancy at campus while others were not in position to handle after effects. The research tackled the psycho-economic causes of pregnancy in students that had had pervasive effects on their lives

### **1.3 Objectives of the study**

#### **1.3.1 General objectives**

To assess the psycho-economic causes of pregnancy among university students

#### **1.3.2 Specific objectives**

To find out the number of pregnant students in the university

To find out the psycho-economic root cause of pregnancy among university students

To find out the effects of pregnancy among university students

To identify the possible strategies to minimize pregnancy among university students

### **1.4 Research questions**

- a) What number of pregnant students is in your class
- b) What do you think about the psych-economic conditions causing pregnancy among the university students?
- c) What are the effects of pregnancy to the university students
- d) What strategies should be used to address this phenomenon?

### **1.5 Scope of the study**

The research was conducted in two ways that's geographical and theoretical scopes:

#### **1.5.1 Geographical scope**

The research was carried out in KIU, located in Kampala city, Makindye division 3kms along Kampala Ggaba road. The university was established in 2001 with over 300 students in total. Now the university has over 800 students in Kampala campus alone, where the research is going to be conducted. The university has over 18-22percent students from different countries all over Africa and some few from some of the

outside countries meaning that it was composed of various cultures, behavior and religions.

#### **1.6 Significance of the study**

1. The study will provide information on the psycho-economic causes of pregnancy among university students which will help the ministry of education for higher learning to formulate and implement policies and programs that are student centered.
2. The university in particular may use the findings of the study to enhance their rights as the study will highlight all contemporary issues with rears to constitutional rights of students sensitizing
3. The research will help other researchers who are interested in this area of study to carry on further research on any aspect not covered by the researcher.
4. The study will help the university administration to come up with rules and regulations that are student centered.
5. Female students in particular may use the findings to identify and do away with the factors that lower them into relationships that results into pregnancy



## CHAPTER TWO

### LITERATURE REVIEW

#### 2.0 Introduction

This chapter involved reviewing already researched documents, books, journals and papers on related literature with an aim of identifying a problem of concern such that no duplication of earlier research work was done

#### 2.1 Psycho-economic causes of pregnancy in university students

##### 2.1.1 Poverty

Poverty is a psychological disease which starts from an individuals mind. Most of these university female students perceive them selves as poor since they come from poor families in remote areas where its rear to find a family with a vehicle and other areas people grow up to 30 years when they had never seen a vehicle so when such students from such families join universities and men start corning them with money, money motivates them so easily which lowers them into falling in love relationships with men and hence playing sex which results to pregnancy.

D. Stanley Eitzen et al (1997, Social Problems), poverty damages families poor couples are twice as likely to divorce as more affluent couples. Jobless persons are three to four times less likely to marry, then those with jobs. Teenagers living in areas of high unemployment, poverty, and inferior schools are six to seven times more likely to become unwed parents than are the more fortune teens (coontz, 1994)

According to the New Vision report, Thursday, February 14<sup>th</sup> 2008, A teacher in Buluba Mayuge district, Mr. Amos Mbalyowere was alleged of violating the girl (his student) and pregnant her from his house and the ministry of education calls on all professional teachers in the country to respect their professional ethics which does not allow them to fall in love relationships with the children they teach in schools.

### **2.1.2 Socialization**

It is normal for all female students to socialize with others but such groups of people they socialize with influence much their behaviors. They start smoking drugs, boozing, modern dressing, etc which increases their need for money so as to provide them selves with such needs and this forces them to go in love relationships with men who seduce them so that they can get money to maintain them selves and the results of such relationships is pregnancy

Joseph Heffernan et al (1997, Social Work and Social Welfare), Today, teens are faced with a great deal of pressure from many sources-peers, the media, advertising to see their primary self-worth in terms of their sexuality. With limited opportunities to be successful in the arenas, such as the family, schools, and the work places, many male and female teens feel that their sexuality and producing a baby are the only ways they can feel good about them selves and have some one to love them.

According to WBSTV Presentation on child abuse by Drake Ssekeba on Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> June 2008, it was revealed to the public that a police officer of Kawempe Police Station known as Mr. Lwanga Willy impregnated a primary seven child aged 15 a daughter to his wife's sister, known as Nagawa Topista who used to study from Lwanga's house

### **2.1.3 Personality**

People have their own unique characters in life. According to the hierarchy of needs theory, Professor Abraham Maslow explains that human needs are in form of a hierarchy ascending from lowest to highest. He further say that human beings work to provide them selves with these needs and that the psychological needs people can not do with out them like food, water, shelter, etc but when one set of needs is satisfied, then it seizes to be a motivator (a need). There fore, female students tend to go in for men who can provide them with money so that they can be able to satisfy them selves with all the sets of needs.

According to Sigmund Freud, We are being pushed and pulled by internal forces that we do not fully understand. The unconscious and the conscious but in most cases the unconscious part influences much our behavior there fore, humans react basing on what is in their minds.

Daniel J. Curran et al (1996, Social Problems), report that teens who become pregnant and give birth often report that having a baby made them feel good about themselves and gave them a sense of accomplishment. There fore, teens get pregnant so that they can give birth and accomplish their own wills.

### **2.1.4 Perception**

Majority of the female students have a perception that playing sex is enjoyable and good. They also have a wrong perception that falling in love affairs with a man can benefit them in many areas in life like exchange of gifts, sexual satisfaction, need provision, where as others expect cash money from their lovers. These encourages female students to fall in love relationships with men at university which finally lowers them into sex and hence pregnancy results.



John. J. Macionis (2002, Social Problems), another recent trend is that the pregnancy rate for young girls-those in their early teens has been rising because the girls and boys are becoming sexually active at a younger age. Some are even having sex before their bodies mature and before they understand how their productive systems work

UBCTV research on the causes of pregnancy among university students, it was revealed that too much parents protection of their children and over restriction of children by their parents when they are still in primary and secondary schools, increases their risks to unprepared relationships which exposes them to pregnancy when they get to universities. This is because the moment these young girls join universities, their parents lose too much control over them which gives them too much freedom to do any they think of in their minds

John J. Macionis et al (2002, Society), Being sexually active-especially having intercourse-clearly demands a high level of responsibility because pregnancy can result. Teenage may be biologically mature, but many are not socially mature and may not appreciate all the consequences of their actions. Canadian women between the age of 15 to 19 become pregnant in 1997 (apportion gave birth; others had an abortion; and others experienced fetal loss via miscarriage or still birth). Teenage pregnancies are at a decade low in Canada; the teenage pregnancy rate was 42.7 pregnancies for every 1000 women ages 15 to 19 in 1997, the lowest in 10 years (Statistics Canada, 2000).

Mary Ann Suppes et al (2000, The Social Work Experience), A growing body of research, including a recent study by the Alan Guttmacher Institute, indicates that childhood sexual abuse is a potent factor in teenage child bearing (reported in NASW news, 1995).

Up to two-thirds of teen mothers say that they had sex forced on them by older men; an earlier study of almost 200,000 births by teenage mothers revealed that 70% were fathered by adults.

Robert A. Baron et al (1997, Social Psychology), Compared with those not having had such experiences, adults who were sexually abused as children report a higher rate of teenage pregnancies, impaired interpersonal functioning, sexual dysfunctions, sexual dissatisfaction, substance abuse, suicidal behavior and other evidences of maladjustment (Polasry and Follete, 1995)

Young Talk Publication, April 2008, Girls breasts are sensitive parts of the body and if touched by any man can lead to a young girl accepting to have sex with any man who can result in teenage pregnancy. There fore, young girls who allow men to touch them especially around their sensitive parts of their bodies are exposed to higher chances of pregnancy compared to those who don't.

Daniel J. Curran et al (1996, Social Problems), Research indicates that U.S teens are not more sexually active than their European peers. One significant difference between young people in the U.S and in Europe, however is that the letter have earlier access to contraceptive and better education programs and counseling services available (Jones, 1989). One consequence of this difference is a high rate of teenage pregnancy in the United States

### **2.1.5 Attitude**

Attitude can be positive or negative. There fore, some of the university female students tend to have positive attitudes over some males for instance, because they are clever in class, they come from rich families, handsome, etc which forces them to seduce such men so that they can



access such biological genes of those men and as a result of such proximity to each other and the outcome becomes playing sex which results to pregnancy.

James W. Kalat (2002, Introduction to Psychology), an attitude is a like or a dislike that influences our behavior towards a person. It includes a person's evaluation/emotional component, cognitive component and behavior component. If our impression of someone is unfavorable, we may not spend enough time with that person to form an alternative view.

Daniel J. Curran et al (1996, Social Problems), report that teens who become pregnant and give birth often report that having a baby made them feel good about themselves and gave them a sense of accomplishment. Therefore, teens get pregnant so that they can give birth and accomplish their own wills.

## **2.2 Effects of pregnancy in university students**

Pregnancy has had pervasive effects on the lives of students more particularly to students who come from poor remote areas in that, since they do not have enough money to take care of themselves and their babies, they in most cases go for abortion and at the end, majority lose their lives. Others drop out of school and to the unlucky ones HIV/AIDS does not leave them behind. However, the most affecting factor which no pregnant student can escape is academic failure since they get less time to spend on books.

According to the Daily Monitor publication, Tuesday, September 18<sup>th</sup> 2007, the Northern Region CID Officer, Mr. Vincent Ouma noted that defilement is not only a crime but also ruins the future of the girls. "The girls are often impregnated or infected with HIV/Aids," He further said that he is very disappointed in teachers, the ones whom we are supposed

to entrust our daughters with but they turn around to defile these young girls and he called on the community and local authorities to be vigilant and report defilement cases to police.

Frank .R. Scapitti (1997, Social Problems), Young people are having sex earlier than before and the proportion of young people initiating sex early has risen. This has many implications for social problems such as teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases which in turn have pervasive effects not only on themselves alone but also on the communities where they live.

Robert A. Baron et al (1999, Social Psychology), the combination of casual sex and casual contraception in the 1970s resulted in more than one million teenage pregnancies each year in the United States. This teenage epidemic became an acute source of stress for the individuals directly involved and for society at large.

### **2.3 Strategies to minimize pregnancy in university students**

Minimizing pregnancy among students in universities would not be hard if students can sacrifice them selves to abstain but since abstinence is hard to majority of the students, condom use awareness, formation of strict policies that can limit old men from sleeping with these young people and introduction of strict rules and regulations against pregnancy in universities can help to change students behaviors.

According to the Teenage Conception Report 26<sup>th</sup> April 2007 by Dudley Primary Care Trust Board (DUDLEY PCT BOARD), If we are to reduce pregnancy in institutions, society should provide young people with the means to avoid pregnancy and should tackle the underlying circumstances that motivate young people to want or lead them to passively to become pregnant including reducing on child poverty

## **2.8 Conclusion**

In conclusion, this chapter reviewed some of the related literature on the psycho-economic causes of pregnancy among university students, its effects on the lives of students and the strategies to minimize it.



## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.0 Introduction**

This chapter described methods of data collection and analysis. It included design, geographical area and population, sampling design, data collection methods and instruments, data analysis and processing and limitation of the study

#### **3.1 Research design**

A research design is a frame work used to collect and process data. The researcher used descriptive analytical design. These were related because they were effective ways of research presentation. It was a survey based on both quantitative and qualitative data.

#### **3.2 Area and population of study**

The study of population comprised of all students admitted in KIU and it included doctors from the university clinic, KIU administrators and other members of staff, females and male students regardless of age, level of education, religious affiliation, political ideology, economic status or cultural background in KIU.

##### **3.3.1 Sample size**

The study was set out to target 50 respondents of both female and male students, KIU administrators on the university disciplinary committee, doctors from the university clinic and other members of staff.

##### **3.3.2 Sampling techniques**

Random sampling was used, any student or member of staff of KIU who was ready and interested in being part of the study was considered.

### **3.3.3 Sampling procedure**

A preliminary sample of 8 people was taken from both the university administrators and other members of staff. 6 were from university lectures, 2 from the university disciplinary committee, and 2 were university doctors of the area of case-study to participate in the trial run of the instruments to perform item analysis. Then a second sample of about 40 that comprised of first, second, third and fourth year students of both sexes were sampled purposively to prove the construct validity of the instruments. 15 were male and 25 were female students of KIU.

### **3.4 Data collection methods and instruments**

This was sourced by reviewing the documented resources such as news paper, journals, reports, text books, among others.

### **3.5 Methods of data collection**

This was an assessment study on the psycho-economic causes of pregnancy among university students that had caused pervasive effects among students in KIU.

#### **3.5.1 Questionnaires**

Structured questionnaires were written and directly taken to the respondents. These enabled the researcher to get in touch with persons affected with the problem of pregnancy. This enabled the respondents to reply at their own will. However, they will be only given to the respondents who were members of KIU

#### **3.5.2 Personal Interviewing**

Personal Interviewing was used as a major method of data collection. This was employed because it enabled the researcher to ensure that the actual respondent answer the questions. This method enabled the researcher to probe for more specific answered. It had a better response rate since respondents answered independently and privately according to what they had seen and passed through.

This method was also significant because the researcher presented to observe non-verbal behaviors and assessed the validity of the respondent's answers. The respondents' free time was chosen as suitable environments for interviewing. The researcher had first to explain precisely and clearly why or for whom the study was carried out, what expected to emerge out of it and to who the results were of interest.

### **3.5.3 Observation**

Another method that was employed during data collection was personal observation. This was very important in helping the researcher to ascertain whether the respondent was telling the truth or withholding some facts.

## **3.6 Instruments of data collection**

The researcher used different instruments to obtain the data from the respondents. These instruments included the ones below;

### **3.6.1 Sources of data**

The researcher used two sources to obtain the data on the psycho-economic causes of pregnancy.

#### **3.6.1.1 Primary sources**

This was obtained by studies especially designed on the survey on the psycho-economic causes of pregnancy on the local population of KIU.

Direct personal interviews, this involved face to face contact with the person from whom the information was obtained (known as informants). The interviewer asked those questions pertaining to the survey and collected the desired information. The researcher also gave out questionnaires that were answered to give the primary data.



#### **3.6.1.2 Secondary sources**

Secondary data analysis referred to the analysis of literatures that was collected earlier by other researchers for purpose related to the topic of the current study.

Therefore, Personal Magazines were reviewed, literature books, newspapers to obtain information, Journals were consulted, official reports, records were read to obtain information, Most of them from the university libraries of KIU, internet and others for data on the psycho-economic causes of pregnancy among university students.

### **3.7 Data processing and Analysis**

All data analyzed was done manually by the researcher himself. This was done after completing the process of data collection. All collected data was processed and analyzed so that it would be presented into a meaningful and communicable form.

#### **3.7.1 Editing**

After the data had been collected, each questionnaire was checked to eliminate errors. Such aspects as completeness, accuracy and uniformity of the questionnaire were looked into and gaps filled where necessary and possible, all of which were done to improve the quality of data collected.

#### **3.7.2 Data analysis**

The final process was data analysis and interpretation. This involved mainly the use of simple tables and in some cases comparisons of values, to different variables using cross-tabulations. Pie charts were also used in analysis.

### **3.8 Ethical procedure of data collection**

The researcher got a permission letter from the faculty of social science of KIU that authorized him to carry out research around the university

premises and it introduced him to all the respondents the questionnaires were directed to

### **3.9 Limitations**

- 1) The researcher encountered the problem of proving whether the information given in answering the questionnaires by the respondents were true or false since there was no way of identifying what the respondents were having at heart.
- 2) The researcher also faced the problem of funds since the research involved typing and printing of data that was done through money.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF RESEARCH FINDINGS

#### 4.0 Introduction

This chapter contains presentation, analysis and discussion of the research findings that were obtained from the field qualitatively and quantitatively through primary and secondary data procedures depending on the objectives of the research study. The characteristics of respondents, the psycho-economic causes of pregnancy among female students in university, the effects of such pregnancies, the number of pregnant students in lecture rooms, and the strategies to be considered to tame the stigma have been presented comprehensively.

#### 4.1 Characteristics of respondents

The research included a total number of 50 respondents both male and female students of all academic levels in the university and some university members of staff

#### 4.2 Representation of respondents by sex

The table below represents the number of respondents of KIU to the study by sex

**Figure1. Representation of respondents by sex**

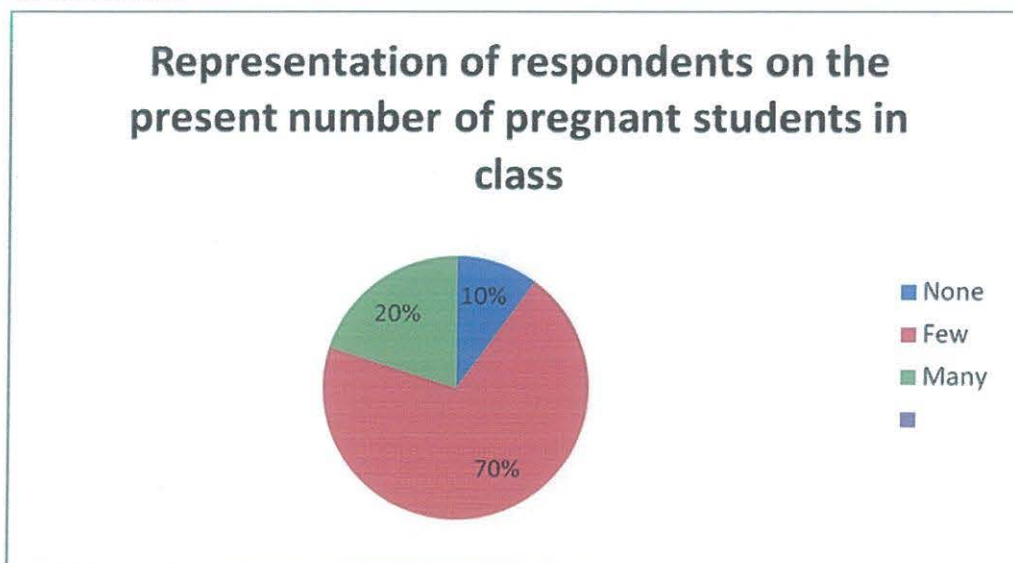
<b>Sex</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Students</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Members of staff</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>50</b>

The results show that there were 28 female respondents to the research study, 25 of whom were students and 3 were lecturers. There were 22 male respondents 15 of whom were students and 7 members of university staff.

#### 4.3 Representation of respondents on the present number of pregnant students in class

The pie chat below shows the number of pregnant students in each respondent's class in KIU

**Figure2. Representation of respondents on the number of pregnant students in each class**



The results show that 10% of the respondents ticked none, 70% of the respondents ticked few, 20% of the respondents ticked many, and no class was represented to have above 5 pregnant female students (very many)

#### 4.4 Representation of respondents on the psycho-economic causes

The table below represents the psycho-economic causes of pregnancy among students of KIU



**Figure3. Representation of respondents on the psycho-economic causes of pregnancy in KIU students**

<b>Psycho-economic cause</b>	<b>Number of respondents</b>
<b>Poverty</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Socialization</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Motivation</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Psychological torture</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Drug abuse</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Attitude</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Perception</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Personality</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>

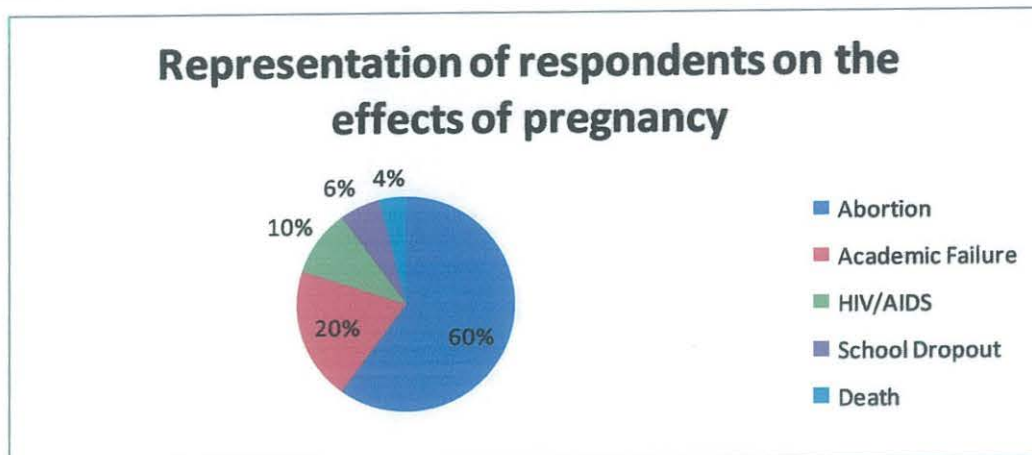
From the results, majority of the respondents (25) considered poverty being the first psycho-economic cause of pregnancy among university students, socialization (8) ranking second, motivation and psychological torture ranking third with 5 respondents each, drug abuse, attitude, and perception ranked forth where as personality was considered to be the last psych-economic causes of pregnancy among university students with only 1 respondent.

#### **4.5 Representation of respondents on the effects of pregnancy**

The pie chat below represents the effects of pregnancy among university students



**Figure4. Representation of respondents on the effects of pregnancy among KIU students**



From the results, 60% of the respondents considered abortion to be the first effect of pregnancy among university students, 20% of the respondents choose academic failure, 10% considered HIV/AIDs, 6% considered school drop out and lastly, 4% claimed death as an effect of pregnancy in university students.

#### **4.5 Representation of respondents on the strategies to be taken to minimize the problem**

The table below represents the strategies to be taken to cube down pregnancy in university students

**Figure5. Representation of respondents on the strategies to be taken to minimize pregnancy in KIU students**

Strategy	Number of respondents
Increased condom awareness	40
Abstinence	5
Strict university rules and regulations	4
Adjustment on defilement law	1
Total	50

The results show that 40 respondents considered increasing condom awareness, 5 respondents considered advocating for abstinence, 4 respondents considered introduction of strict university rules and regulations by the university administration where as 1 respondent talked about adjustment of the defilement age from 18 years to 24 years so that the law can also include the university students.

#### **4.6 DISCUSSION**

In this study 50 respondents were targeted for the study. The first objective of the study was to find out the number of pregnant students in all levels.

The results revealed that majority of the respondents (70%) have at least 1-3 pregnant students in class. According to Frank R Scapitti (1997), young people are having sex earlier than before and the proportion of young people initiating sex early has risen.

The second objective was to find out the psycho-economic causes of pregnancy among university students. The study revealed that majority of the respondents (30) focused at poverty being the first psycho-economic cause of pregnancy among university students. According to D. Stanley Eitzen et al (1997, Social Problems), poverty damages families poor couples are twice as likely to divorce as more affluent couples. Jobless persons are three to four times less likely to marry, then those with jobs. Teenagers living in areas of high unemployment, poverty, and inferior schools are six to seven times more likely to become unwed parents than are the more fortune teens (coontz, 1994)

Professor Abraham Maslow explains that human needs are in form of a hierarchy ascending from lowest to highest. He further say that human beings work to provide them selves with these needs and that the psychological needs people can not do with out them like food, water, shelter, etc but when one set of needs is satisfied, then it ceases to be a motivator (a need). There fore, female students tend to go in for men who



can provide them with money so that they can be able to satisfy themselves with all the sets of needs.

They also emphasized socialization (15 respondents) as a psych-economic cause of pregnancy among university students. These are in line with Joseph Hefferman (1997) where he explained that today students are faced with a great deal of pressure from many sources peers, media, advertizing to see their primary self worth in terms of their sexuality.

The results also revealed that drug abuse is a psycho-economic factor causing pregnancy among university students just like Robert A Baron (1997) compares students who use drugs and those who do not having high risks of pregnancy and sexual dissatisfaction.

The third objective was to find out the effects of pregnancy to university students and the results revealed that abortion and academic failure followed by HIV/AIDs are the most alarming effects considered by the respondents. These results are in keeping with the Tuesday September 2007 daily monitor publication where the regional criminal investigation department officer (CID) Mr. Ouma Vincent noted that girls often pregnant are infected with HIV/AIDs. He further adds that this does not only lead to academic failure but also ruins the future of the girl.

John J Macionis (2002) says that Canadian women who became pregnant a portion of them give birth yet others have abortion. This is not in any way different from the respondent's views that abortion is a most likely out come in pregnant students.

The forth objective was to find out the strategies that can be taken to minimize pregnancy among university students and the results revealed that increased condom awareness, abstinence, introduction of strict university rules and regulations, and adjustment of the defilement law from 18 years to 24 years to include university students are the most considerable measures that can minimize pregnancy in university students according to the respondents. These results are in line with the

teenage conception report 26 April 2007 by the Dudley Primary Care Trust where it was noted that community should provide young people with the means to avoid pregnancy and it should tackle the underlying circumstances that lead or motivate them to passively to become pregnant.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### RECOMMENDATION AND CONCLUSION

#### 5.1 Recommendation

- . University rules and regulations should favor pregnant students.
- . Students should be patient to finish their studies before they engage in sexual activities.
- . There should be free provision of condoms to students and condom use awareness in the university should be introduced and encouraged.
- . Counseling services should be introduced in the university so that students especially the fleshers can be helped on what direction to take.
- . Religious based programs should be encouraged in the university to draw student's hearts closer to God.

#### 5.2 Conclusion

The study targeted 50 respondents, 28 were female and 22 were males. Secondly, the findings show that 70% of the respondents revealed that there are few pregnant students in majority of the classes in the university. Thirdly, the results show poverty is the high ranking psycho-economic cause of pregnancy among students with 25 respondents, socialization ranking second with 8 respondents, motivation and psychological torture ranking third with 5 respondents each, and drug abuse, attitude, perception and personality coming last with less than 3 respondents each. Fourthly, abortion was considered to be the first effect from students pregnancies with 60% of the respondents, academic failure was considered second with 20%, HIV/AIDs with 10% was third, school drop out was the fourth with 6%, and death came last with 4% respondents. Increased condom awareness was considered to be the most possible strategy that can minimize pregnancy in students with 40 respondents recommending it, abstinence ranked second with 5 respondents, strict university rules and regulations was third with 4

respondents and adjustment of the defilement law was last with 1 respondent.

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## APPENDICES

### QUESTIONNAIRE

I **Gwaivu Robert**, a student of kiu pursuing Bachelors Degree in social work and social administration kindly request you to answer these questions in a sincere good heart that would help me to successfully finish my course as 5a partial fulfillment of the award of a bachelors degree in social work and social administration (BSW). I therefore affirm that this information is purely for academic purposes.

### APPENDIX 1

**Instructions:** Tick where possible

1) Sex

a) Male ☐      b) Female ☐

2) Age

a) 15-20 ☐      b) 20-25 ☐

c) 25-30 ☐      d) Above 30 ☐

3) Marital status

a) Married ☐      b) Single ☐

4) Religion

a) Islam ☐      b) Catholic ☐

c) Protestant ☐      Others ☐

6) Responsibility at the university

a) Administrator ☐      b) Lecturer ☐

c) Doctor ☐      d) student ☐

APPENDIX 11, A  
STUDENTS ONLY

7. In the table below, tick the most provable number of pregnant students in your class

Number of pregnant students in class	Level of influence	Respondents response
0	None	
1-3	Few	
3-5	Many	
5 above	Very many	

8. Tick the most influential psycho-economic cause of pregnancy in university students today.

- a) Poverty ☐
- b) Personality ☐
- c) Drug abuse ☐
- d) Motivation ☐
- e) Socialization ☐
- f) Attitude ☐
- g) Perception ☐

9. Choose the most observable effect of pregnancy in university students today.

- a) Academic failure ☐
- b) Abortion ☐
- c) School drop out ☐
- d) Death ☐
- e) HIV/AIDS ☐

10. In your own view, what strategies can be taken to reduce pregnancy in university students?

- a).....
- b).....
- c).....
- d).....

APPENDIX 11, B

MEMBERS OF STAFF ONLY

8. Tick the most influential psycho-economic cause of pregnancy in university students today.

- a) Poverty ☐
- b) Personality ☐
- c) Drug abuse ☐
- d) Motivation ☐
- e) Socialization ☐
- f) Attitude ☐
- g) Perception ☐

9. Choose the most observable effect of pregnancy in university students today.

- a) Academic failure ☐
- b) Abortion ☐
- c) School drop out ☐
- d) Death ☐
- e) HIV/AIDS ☐

10. In your own view, what strategies can be taken to reduce pregnancy in university students?

- a).....
- b).....
- c).....
- d).....

**-END-**

**THANK YOU**



KAMPALA  
INTERNATIONAL  
UNIVERSITY

Ggaba Road, Kansanga \* PO BOX 20000 Kampala, Uganda  
Tel: +256 (0) 41 - 266 813 \* Fax: +256 (0) 41 - 501 974  
E-mail: admin@kiu.ac.ug \* Website: <http://www.kiu.ac.ug>

*FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES*

May 19, 2008

To.....

.....

.....

This is to introduce to you .... *Gwaivu Robert* .....  
who is a bonafide student of Kampala International University? He/she is  
working on a research project for a dissertation, which is a partial requirement  
for the award of a degree. I here by request you, in the name of the University,  
to accord him/her all the necessary assistance he/she may require for this  
work..

I have the pleasure of thanking you in advance for your cooperation!

Yours sincerely,

*Bongwa*  
Ms. Sidonia Angom  
Associate Dean