

A STUDY OF THE EFFECTS OF SOCIAL INTERVENTIONS ON PREGNANCY RELATED PLANS IN VOLTA REGION OF GHANA 2023-2024

Summary in 2025

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AIM: To reduce the teenage pregnancy rate in a deprived area, Akatsi North district in Volta region of Ghana, by testing a new set of health-awareness and teenager-occupational interventions.

KEY STAKEHOLDER GN GHANA:

Good Neighbors Ghana initiated the “Adolescent Pregnancy Reduction Program through Child Club and Community Based Mentorship Approach in Akatsi North” in 2022. It aimed to address the high teenage pregnancy issue in Akatsi North District and increase awareness of the early pregnancy issue among teenagers. Through the intervention, Good Neighbors Ghana aimed to prove that social engagements like Child Club can effectively improve SRHR (Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights) and contribute to reducing the teenage pregnancy rate in the area.

FINDINGS OF BASELINE STUDY:

Peer pressure and pro-equality gender norms were key drivers in 2023 of lower expected ages of marriage and pregnancy. The focus group discussions found that parental (ir)responsibility and neglect, economic status/poverty levels of households, peer pressure, (lack of) knowledge about and (cultural/religious) attitude towards SRHR and family planning can be causes of the high incidence of teenage pregnancy (Kim et al., 2023).

In the follow-up study, we measure the impact of the intervention programs through quantitative and qualitative studies, by implementing the same survey and focus groups conducted before the program began. This project is supported by ISFP funding 2023/24, University of Manchester.

FOLLOW-UP RESEARCH: Gauges the impact of social engagement in tackling teenage pregnancy. After implementing Children’s Club as a platform for educating girls and boys on SRHR and menstrual hygiene practices, occupational training workshop (1 per child, 4 types) and health

awareness training took place in the intervention group. For all girls, a Dignity Kit was distributed as a neutral intervention across the whole of N=655 Phase 1 participants. This research also discussed with community members and diverse stakeholders about girls and women. In this follow-up study, the target sample was 300 students who attended the baseline survey in 2023. These are JHS Grade 2 students who remained from the previous study. The peer pressure sensitivity fell more among the TREATED group than in the UNTREATED group. We call these the INTERVENTION and NON-INTERVENTION group.