



**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE FORM MUST BE COMPLETED IN TYPED SCRIPT
HANDWRITTEN APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED**

SECTION 1

1. Applicant's Personal Details

1.1 Surname : Zwane
1.2 First names : Happiness Thulubheke
1.3 Title (Ms/ Mr/ Mrs/ Dr etc.) : MS
1.4 Gender : Female
1.5 Race : African
(African/Coloured/Indian/White/Other)
1.6 Student number : reg 120 43 43
1.7 Existing qualification : Postgraduate Diploma
1.8 Qualification requiring research : Master of Public Management

2. Contact Details

Tel. No. : N/A
Cell. No. : 0826117026
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Postal address : PO BOX 3303
Mtubatuba 3935

3. Supervisor/s' Details

| NAME | TEL. NO. | EMAIL ADDRESS | INSTITUTION | HIGHEST QUALIFICATION |
|--------------------|------------|-----------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| Dr Sipho Ncongwane | 0721524464 | Ncongwanes7@gmail.com | UNISA | D Lit et Phil |
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SECTION 2: PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Please do *not* provide your full research proposal here: what is required is a short project description that gives, under the following headings, a brief overview spelling out the *background to the study*, the *key questions to be addressed*, the *participants* (or subjects) and *research site*, including a *full description of the sample*, and the *research approach* or methods.

2.1 Project title

Evaluating perceptions and implications of teenage pregnancies in rural school within uMkhanyakude District, KZN, SA

2.2 Location of the study

Where the study will be conducted.

The study will be conducted in a rural school in the KwaZulu Natal Province's uMkhanyakude District. The reason this district is selected is that it is the most rural District in KwaZulu Natal

2.3 Objectives of- and need for- the study.

Describe the major objectives and the theoretical approach of the research, indicating briefly, why you believe the study is needed.

The objectives of the study will be as follows:

- To assess the perceptions of community member towards teenage pregnancy in a rural uMkhanyakude District school.
 - To assess how teenage pregnancies affect the socioeconomic situation in a rural uMkhanyakude District school.
 - To evaluate the impact of teenage pregnancies on education in a rural uMkhanyakude District school.
 - To investigate the child mothers' existing support networks in a rural uMkhanyakude District school.
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2.4 Questions to be answered in the research.

The critical questions which you intend to answer by undertaking this research.

The questions of the study will be as follows:

- What are the perceptions of community members towards teenage pregnancy in uMkhanyakude District school?
 - How do teenage pregnancies affect the socioeconomic situation in a rural uMkhanyakude District school?
 - What are the effects of teenage pregnancies on education in a rural uMkhanyakude District school?
 - How successful are the current support systems for teenage mothers in a rural uMkhanyakude District school?
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2.5 Research approach/methods

Qualitative Research Methodology

The study is employing a qualitative research methodology for its exploratory strengths, which will allow the researcher to probe the 'how' and 'why' behind the lived experiences of participants.

Participant Selection and Sampling Strategy

For participant selection, the study will be utilising purposive sampling technique and choose 12 participants. These participants are expected to offer valuable, in-depth knowledge and insight perspectives on the complexities of balancing socioeconomic demands and education demands with the demands of early motherhood.

Data Collection Method

The data will be collected through semi-structured interviews using interview schedule which is developed by the researcher (see appendix c). This format is intentionally flexible, allowing for a dynamic and responsive conversational flow, which is vital for capturing comprehensive personal narratives. The interview consists of three sections names introducing the researcher, demographics, and content questions. Section two will have closed ended questions and section three will have open-ended questions. The data will be collected over 14 days.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

The study will employ Thematic Analysis (TA) to sift through the primary data and identify recurring patterns, themes, and subthemes. This analytical method is instrumental in highlighting the prevalent impacts of adolescent pregnancy on the girls' educational paths and their broader socioeconomic circumstances. MS excel will be used to derive graphs, charts, tables and figures for presentation, interpretations, analysis, and discussions.

SECTION 3: ETHICAL ISSUES**QUESTION 3.1**

| Does your study cover research involve? | YES | NO |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|----|
| Children | | X |
| Persons who are intellectually or mentally impaired | | X |
| Persons who have experienced traumatic or stressful life circumstances | | X |
| Persons who are HIV positive | | X |
| Persons highly dependent on medical care | | X |
| Persons in dependent or unequal relationships | | X |
| Persons in captivity | | X |
| Persons living in particularly vulnerable life circumstances | | X |

If 'Yes' to any of the above, indicate what measures you will take (i) to protect the autonomy of respondents and (where indicated) (ii) to prevent social stigmatisation and/or secondary victimisation of respondents. If you are unsure about any of these concepts, please consult your supervisor.

N/A

QUESTION 3.2

| Will data collection involve any of the following: | YES | NO |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|----|
| Access to confidential information without prior consent of participants | | X |
| Participants being required to commit an act which might diminish self-respect or cause them to experience shame, embarrassment, or regret | | X |
| Participants being exposed to questions which may be experienced as stressful or upsetting, or to procedures which may have unpleasant or harmful side effects | | X |
| The use of stimuli, tasks or procedures which may be experienced as stressful, noxious, or unpleasant | | X |
| Any form of deception | | X |

If 'Yes' to any of the above, explain and justify. If appropriate, indicate what steps will be taken to minimize any potential stress/harm.

N/A

QUESTION 3.3

| Will any of the following instruments be used for purposes of data collection: | YES | NO |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|----|
| Questionnaire | | X |
| Survey schedule | | X |
| Interview schedule | X | |
| Psychometric test | | X |
| Other/ equivalent assessment instrument | | X |

3.3.1 If 'Yes' to any of the above, attach a copy of the research instrument.

Research instrument attached – **YES X** or **NO** (indicate whichever is applicable)

3.3.2 If data collection involves the use of a psychometric test or equivalent assessment instrument, you are required to provide evidence here that the measure is likely to provide a valid, reliable, and unbiased estimate of the construct being measured.

N/A

3.3.3 If data collection involves interviews and/or focus groups, please provide a list of the topics to be covered or the kind of questions to be asked.

1. Socioeconomic Challenges

- Immediate economic impacts.
- Support systems and their effectiveness.
- Employment challenges post-pregnancy.

2. Educational Trajectory

- Impact of pregnancy on current and future education.
- School support and re-entry options for teenage mothers.
- Perceived value of education post-pregnancy.

3. Community and Cultural Dynamics

- Community responses to teenage pregnancy.
- Influence of cultural and traditional beliefs.
- Experience of social support or ostracization.

QUESTION 3.4

| Will the autonomy of participants be protected using an informed consent form, which specifies (in language that respondents will understand)? | YES | NO |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|----|
| The nature and purpose/s of the research | X | |
| The identity and institutional association of the researcher and supervisor/project leader and their contact details | X | |
| The fact that participation is voluntary. | X | |
| That responses will be treated in a confidential manner. | X | |
| Any limits on confidentiality which may apply. | X | |
| That anonymity will be ensured where appropriate (e.g. coded/ disguised names of participants/ respondents/ institutions) | X | |
| The fact that participants are free to withdraw from the research at any time without any negative or undesirable consequences to themselves. | X | |
| The nature and limits of any benefits participants may receive because of their participation in the research. | X | |
| Is a copy of the informed consent form attached? | X | |

If 'No' to any of the above: (a) please justify/explain, and (b) indicate what measures will be adopted to ensure that the respondents fully understand the nature of the research and the consent that they are giving.

N/A

QUESTION 3.5

Specify what efforts have been made or will be made to obtain informed permission for the research from appropriate authorities and gatekeepers.

In order to adhere to ethical standards, a multi-faceted approach to obtain informed permission is crucial.

- An application detailing the research objectives, methods, and participant engagement will be submitted for approval. (Ethical clearance application form)
- Write the letter to local educational authorities, community leaders, and school administration to seek their consent and support, ensuring alignment with local governance and cultural practices. (see Appendix A)



Appendix A.docx

- Received letter granting the permission to conduct the research from education Authorities.



Appendix B.docx



Appendix B.pdf

QUESTION 3.6

Ethical Clearance Application Form Version 2

STORAGE AND DISPOSAL OF RESEARCH DATA

Please note that the research data should be kept for a minimum period of at least five years in a secure location by arrangement with your supervisor.

3.6.1 How will the research data be secured and stored?

Research data collected from interviews will be digitized and stored securely using encrypted digital storage solutions. All electronic records will be kept on password-protected computers with access limited to the researcher. Physical copies of consent forms, interview transcripts, and survey responses will be stored in a locked cabinet in the researcher's office, accessible only by the researcher.

3.6.2 When and how (if at all) will data be disposed of?

Upon the completion of the five-year retention period, all electronic data will be permanently deleted from all storage devices, including any backups, in a manner that ensures data cannot be reconstructed or retrieved. This process will involve the use of digital shredding software that overwrites the data multiple times. Physical data, including any printouts or written materials, will be disposed of.

QUESTION 3.7

3.7.1 In the subsequent dissemination of your research findings – in the form of the finished mini-dissertation, oral presentations, publication etc. – how will anonymity and confidentiality be ensured?

In the dissemination of research findings, careful measures will be taken to ensure that all data presented is devoid of personally identifiable information. Participants' names will be replaced with pseudonyms, and any demographic information that could indirectly reveal their identity will be generalized or omitted. In the finished mini-dissertation, presentations, and potential publications, the focus will be on aggregated data and thematic findings rather than individual responses. Care will be taken to review all disseminated materials to maintain the confidentiality agreements made with the participants at the outset of the research.

3.7.2 How will you give feedback to your research participants?

Feedback to participants will be provided in a summary format that presents the general findings of the study without disclosing individual responses. Participants will be given the option to receive this feedback either electronically or through a printed document, which will be delivered in a manner that maintains confidentiality. Additionally, a community meeting or workshop may be organized to discuss the results of the research and potential implications for policy and practice in the community, ensuring that the information is accessible to those without academic affiliations. All feedback will be prepared in a way that respects the privacy of the participants and the sensitive nature of the research topic.

QUESTION 3.8

| | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-----------------|
| Is this research supported by funding that is likely to inform or impact in any way on the design, outcome and dissemination of the research? | YES | NO X |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-----------------|

If 'Yes', please justify and explain here:

N/A

If 'Yes', please indicate what the conditions are:

N/A

QUESTION 3.9

| | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-----------------|
| Has any organization or company participating in the research or funding the project, imposed any conditions to the research? | YES | NO X |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-----------------|

If 'Yes', please indicate what the conditions are:

N/A

QUESTION 3.10

| | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-----------------|
| Do you, or any individual associated with- or responsible for- the design of the research, have any personal, economic, or financial interests (or any other potential conflict of interests) that could reasonably be regarded as relevant to this research project? | YES | NO X |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-----------------|

If 'Yes', please provide full details:

N/A

SECTION 4: FORMALISATION OF THE APPLICATION

APPLICANT

I have familiarized myself with Regenesys' Code of Conduct for Research and undertake to comply with it. The information supplied above is correct to the best of my knowledge.

NB: PLEASE ENSURE THAT THE FORM IS COMPLETED IN FULL

DATE: 09 /03/2024

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT:



SUPERVISOR

NB: PLEASE ENSURE THAT THE APPLICANT HAS COMPLETED THE FORM IN FULL, AND THAT IT IS FORWARDED TO REGENESYS' RESEARCH COMMITTEE FOR FURTHER ATTENTION

DATE: 10 March 2024 SIGNATURE OF SUPERVISOR



RECOMMENDATION OF REGENESYS' RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE

The application is (please tick):

Approved

Not Approved, referred for revision and resubmission

Other (please specify):

**NAME
CHAIRPERSON:**

OF

SIGNATURE:

**DATE
:**