



Adolescents' Funds of Knowledge on Pregnancy termination in Uganda

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Abstract

Pregnancy termination is a sensitive topic in Africa, despite 15% of pregnancies being terminated. Uganda has a high rate of adolescent pregnancy and parenting. Its policies and laws on sexual and reproductive health and rights are based on colonial, Euro-western religious values and moral ethics that merge with traditional beliefs. Although studies show that at least 46% of Ugandan adolescents have had sex, government programs and policies assume that girls under 18 are asexual, leading to limited access to contraceptive information and services, including pregnancy termination, which is illegal except for life-saving purposes. However, past research indicates that induced abortion occurs successfully in Uganda despite the existing restrictions (e.g. Kagaha & Manderson, 2021; Sully et al., 2018). This qualitative study analyzes the narratives of pregnant and parenting girls collected using the life history method. The paper discusses girls' funds of knowledge in navigating pregnancy termination in an illegal context and recommends policy and practice changes.

Keywords: Funds of knowledge, Adolescent pregnancy, Abortion, Agency, Reproductive Justice, Girlhood