

To What Extent Does Age At First Marriage Influence The Vulnerability Of Young Women In Regards To Reproductive Health Issues

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Usually, age at first marriage influences the quality of reproductive health services accessed by the young women. Worth noting is that, usually early age at first marriage, goes hand in hand with illiteracy, low wealth quintile, and poor health seeking habits among others, hence leading to poor reproductive health. Using 2006 UDHS, results from the analysis revealed that women with low age at first marriage are less likely to observe reproductive health aspects for example, women less than 20yrs' attendance of Antenatal care (ANC) was lower compared to their other counterparts (33% compared to 60%), and less likely to observe child birth care compared to their older counterparts (that is 46% versus 53%), though it is quite a slight difference. The results therefore portray that the lower age at first birth, the higher the vulnerability of women and the higher the age at first marriage the lower the vulnerability of women.

TO WHAT EXTENT DOES AGE AT FIRST MARRIAGE INFLUENCE THE VULNERABILITY OF YOUNG WOMEN IN REGARDS TO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH ISSUES

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Introduction

Usually, age at first marriage influences the quality of reproductive health services accessed by the women. It is imperative to note that usually with early age at first marriage, especially among the girls usually comes with illiteracy, low wealth quintile, and poor health seeking habits among others, hence leading to poor reproductive health.

Objectives

To examine the extent to which age at first marriage influences the vulnerability of women as regards to reproductive health issues.

Methodology

The data collected was mainly based on secondary data from secondary data sources, compiled data bases, reports, journals and publication. Using data from the 2006 Uganda demographic and health survey (UDHS), at bivariate stage, cross tabulation was done to

examine the relationship between the dependent and independent variable. Pearson's chi-square was used to establish the degree of association between the variables under study.

Using research equipments such as news papers, journals, reports and the 2006 Uganda Demographic Health Surveys (UDHS) as the main data set for analysis. Analysis was done using Statistical Package of Social Scientists (SPSS).The first was a run of univariate analysis to show the distribution of women respondents and children by their demographich and socio-economic characteristics. At bivariate level, cross tabulation between the dependent variable and independent variable was done.

Pearson Chi-square statistics were also used to establish the significance of the relationship between the different demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the respondents and nutritional status of the children.

Results

Women with low age at first marriage are less likely to observe reproductive health aspects for example, women less than 20yrs' attendance of Antenatal care (ANC) was lower compared to their other counterparts (33% compared to 60%), and less likely to observe child birth care compared to their older counterparts (that is 46% versus 53%), though it is quite a slight difference.

Conclusion

The results therefore portray that the lower age at first birth, the higher the vulnerability of women and the higher the age at first marriage the lower the vulnerability of women. The results therefore emphasize the need to address the issue of low age at first marriage in order to ensure proper reproductive health, like access to ANC, better health seeking habits, and proper child care among others, for the women who are the Global mothers

Biography

Vivienne is currently pursuing a Masters in Project planning and management, she also has qualification in Information systems Technology. She is currently working with the SAGE project as the Management Information Systems Officer. She has competence in designing projects, designing Monitoring and Evaluation Tools and frameworks.