

**ADOLESCENTS' PERCEPTION TOWARDS  
TEENAGE PREGNANCY  
IN SOUTH DAGON TOWNSHIP, 2012**

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## Abstract

Adolescent birth rate in Myanmar was 17% in 2007 (Health in Myanmar, 2012). Most teenage pregnancy could lead to health consequences, education disturbances, social problem, economic burden, psychological consequences.

A cross-sectional study was conducted by applying quantitative and qualitative assessment in South Dagon Township, Yangon Region, during September to October 2012. The study aimed at exploring their understanding of puberty changes and its characteristics, adolescent pregnancy and other ARH components; contraception, STIs and HIV/AIDS, perception towards teenage pregnancy, analyzing the association between personal, family, and relationship with closed friends, determinants of teenage pregnancy and perceptions towards adolescent pregnancy. Semi-structured questionnaire was used and four-scale-questions were applied on perception. Equal to or more than the mean score was regarded as a positive perception, less than mean score indicated a negative perception.

Among 152 male and female adolescents with 15-19 years of age, more than half of the adolescents were in the category of high knowledge on teenage pregnancy (55.3%). And about half of the respondents had positive perception towards adolescent pregnancy (50.7%). Factors significantly associated with perception towards adolescent pregnancy were gender, education and respondents', mothers' occupation, having peers who had experience of adolescent pregnancy, knowledge on STIs and HIV. According to logistic regression analysis, determinants on perception with teenage pregnancy were gender, mothers' occupation, peers who were married, knowledge on STIs and HIV/AIDS. In qualitative assessment, among 32 adolescents, most of the participants considered teenage pregnancy as an important issue and take account of important issues and pointed out to take account of adverse consequences such as health, financial, social, educational and psychological.