

The study investigated the factors influencing prevalence of premarital sex among adolescents of 14-19 years of age in secondary schools in Mukono district. The specific objectives include;

- i. To determine the prevalence rate of premarital sex among adolescents of 14-19 year in secondary schools, Mukono municipality.
- ii. To establish community factors contributing to premarital sex among adolescents of 14-19 years in secondary schools, Mukono municipality.
- iii. To determine individual factors associated with premarital sex among adolescents of 14-19 years in secondary schools, Mukono municipality.
- iv. To establish the influence of attitude and practices on premarital sex among adolescents aged 14-19 years in secondary schools, Mukono municipality.

Methodology

A cross sectional study design was carried out in schools in Mukono municipality on physically and mentally sound students, those who were below 18 years, consent was sought from the head teachers and the class teachers inclusive both day and boarding students. Using both self-administered and research administered questionnaire, a total of 308 respondents were then sampled using random sampling method with non response rate of 10% observed.

For uni-variant analysis, data was run using percentages and frequencies and the results presented in form of graphs, pie charts and tables. At bi-variant level, chi-square using phisher's model tests were used to show the levels of association between the dependent and independent variable through cross tabulation and results presented in the table.

Results

Out of 291 respondents, 84 (28.9%) had ever had sex and only 207 (71.1%) had never had sex. The individual factors day or boarding (p-value = 0.055) and class (p-value = 0.034) were found to be associated with prevalence of premarital sex among young people of 14-19 years of age. Community factors; sources of sex information (p-value = 0.054) was associated to prevalence of premarital sex. Socio economic factors; parents being alive (p-value = 0.016) and parents occupation

(p-value= 0.054) were found to be associated with the prevalence of premarital sex among adolescents of 14-19 years.

Conclusion

The prevalence of premarital sex among adolescents of 14-19 years in Mukono district according to this study is at 28.9%, individual factors influencing; Day or boarding, class, source of information and the socio economic factors; parents being alive and occupation of the parents influence the prevalence of premarital sex among adolescents of 14-19 years of age in Mukono district.

The researcher recommends the Ministry of Education and sports should role out sex education programs and include them in to the curriculum so that all young people equally access the information and develop skills.

Training programs on life skills should be introduced to secondary school curriculum to help occupy students as well as keep them productive to avoid dependency on parents for all resources.