

PROJECT TITLE: WELFARE OF TEENAGE MOTHERS

Goal:

To determine the level of support and services available to teenage mothers in the district of Perseverance

Background and Rationale:

Parenting can be defined as the state of being a parent. Once a child is born, the process of parenting begins. However, parenting is not an easy process as it involves several factors, such as developing and using the knowledge and skills appropriate for planning, creating, giving birth to and providing for a child. Therefore, parenting starts when the baby is being planned and is more than just raising a child as it also involves providing them care.

The quality of parenting can depend on multiple factors. Firstly, the maturity of the parents can be seen as a factor of good parenting. Secondly, the stability of the parents' relationship is also a factor of good quality parenting. Thirdly, whether the pregnancy was planned or not is important as it determines the level of readiness of the parents to welcome a child.

Given the already challenging and at times complex process of parenting, teenage pregnancy can contribute to bringing about negative social and health consequences. There is a need to better understand teenage mothers and the wellbeing of their children. . Teenage mothers face major challenges in raising their children alone, by not receiving enough support to bring up their child, and having to rely on other family members or the state for basic provisions.

To date, no known survey assessing the scope of care of the children of teenage parents has been carried out. Therefore, this pilot survey will be a tool to assess the real situation, at least in one district where there have been radical demographic changes. Also, through this study, teenage parents will be more aware of the available services. The results of this survey can be used to generate policy discussion on the needs and wellbeing of teenage mothers.

Description:

The Social Services Division will oversee the implementation of the survey, which will target all teenage mothers ranging from the age of 13 to 20 years with children aging from 0 to 4 years old as of 2020. The survey will be a pilot study conducted within the District of Perseverance. The aim of the survey will be to evaluate the support available to teenage mothers. Moreover, this survey will help determine whether teenage mothers can access these services and if they are aware of such services. The Social Affairs Department will closely collaborate with the related ministries and Organisations for primary data:

- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of employment
- Agency for Social Protection

- Civil Status
- Statistical Bureau

The main instrument of the pilot survey will be a questionnaire that will be administered to selected participants through one to one interview. The questionnaire will focus on aspects of health, nutrition, hygiene, financial and social care. A consultant will be assisting our team in designing the questionnaire and conducting the survey. Collection of data will be facilitated by professionals having a background in child care.

Budget Narrative:

The estimated cost of the project is SCR 200, 000. This will include:

- Payment for a consultant to work on the project
- Training/workshop for data collectors
- Payment for data collectors
- Input and analysis
- Report writing
- Stationery and printing

Expected Outcomes:

- The welfare needs of teenage mothers are established
- Recommendations for policy dialogue are proposed

Performance Indicators:

- Percentage of parents and level of welfare needs
- Proportion and characteristics of participants most at risk
- Policy forum to review intervention strategies