

Adolescent mothers' experiences and pregnancy outcomes

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Abstract

A cross-sectional analytic study was conducted at Pyin Oo Lwin, Naung Cho and Singkaing townships. The objectives of the study were to determine the factors associated with the outcomes of adolescent pregnancy and to explore their experiences regarding pregnancy and childbirth. A total of 200 adolescent mothers aged 15-19 years who delivered a singleton baby (either alive or dead) within past one year were interviewed using structured questionnaire. IDIs were conducted with thirty adolescent mothers, which covered the issues related to social, economic and health-seeking practices during their pregnancy and childbirth. The results suggested that socio-demographic factors had no significant effects on adolescent pregnancy outcomes. Under-attending antenatal care and delivery assisted by unskilled birth attendants increased the risks of adverse pregnancy outcomes. Qualitative findings reported that adolescent mothers frequently encountered social and financial problems during their pregnancy and childbirth. Their experiences were influenced by social, financial and emotional support from partners and relatives, family income and attitudes of health care providers.