FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO ADOLESCENT MOTHERS’ NON-UTILIZATION OF CONTRACEPTIVES IN THE PIET RETIEF AREA

by

DE MBAMBO

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MASTER OF ARTS IN HEALTH STUDIES

at the

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AFRICA

SUPERVISOR: DR VJ EHLERS

JOINT SUPERVISOR: MRS LV MONARENG

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DECLARATION

I declare that “Factors contributing to adolescent mothers’ non-utilization of contraceptives in the Piet Retief area” is my own work and that all the sources that I have used or quoted have been indicated and acknowledged by means of complete references and that this work has not been submitted before for any other degree at any other institution.

SIGNATURE

DATE .................................

(DE Mbambo)
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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ABSTRACT
This study investigated factors contributing to adolescent mothers' non-utilisation of contraceptives in the Piet Retief (Mkhondo) area. Contraceptives, emergency contraceptives and termination of pregnancy services are available free of charge. Nevertheless the number of adolescent mothers continues to increase in this area. Structured questionnaires were completed by 107 adolescent mothers. Most respondents (70.0%) received no sex education prior to their pregnancies, and were not knowledgeable about contraceptives. Subsequent to the birth of their babies, only 59.81% used contraceptives, risking further pregnancies.

Adolescents, from the age of 12, should receive sex education. Availability of contraceptives during weekends could help adolescents to postpone their pregnancies. Health education should be given to the mothers in the Piet Retief (Mkhondo) area so that they can provide more effective sex education (including contraception) to their daughters.

KEY CONCEPTS
Abortions, accessibility of contraceptives, adolescent pregnancies contraceptive challenges, contraceptive use, contraceptive counseling, emergency contraceptives, non-utilisation of contraceptives, sexuality education.
DEDICATION

This dissertation is dedicated to all adolescents.
We hope that these research results will help to empower you to make informed decisions about your own lives as well as about the lives of your children.