

# **FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO ADOLESCENT MOTHERS' NON-UTILIZATION OF CONTRACEPTIVES IN THE PIET RETIEF AREA**

by

**DE MBAMBO**

submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for

the degree of

**MASTER OF ARTS IN HEALTH STUDIES**

at the

**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**SUPERVISOR: DR VJ EHLERS**

**JOINT SUPERVISOR: MRS LV MONARENG**

**FEBRUARY 2005**

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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

(DE Mbambo)

DATE .....

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am grateful to God for giving me the opportunity to complete this study, and give Him thanks and praise.

I would also like to give my thanks to the following people for their invaluable support and unending encouragement:

- Dr VJ Ehlers and Mrs LV Monareng, my supervisors, for all they taught me.
- My husband, Jeffrey, and children (Charmaine, Delight and Jeffrey junior) who stood by me and shared all my challenges all the time.
- My family, colleagues and friends, for their support and encouragement.
- Piet Retief (Mkhondo) Municipality for allowing me to conduct the research at clinics falling under their jurisdiction.
- Mrs I Cooper for editing the dissertation.

To you all, my sincere thanks and love, and I wish you all strength in your endeavours – may people be as caring and helpful to you as you've been to me.

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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.