

Abstract

Introduction

We explored the barriers and facilitators towards the implementation of policies and programmes aimed at reducing adolescent pregnancy in Ghana.

Methods

We employed a cross-sectional, qualitative study design involving interviews with health and education professionals, grassroots workers, and female adolescents. Thematic analysis was conducted deductively using the ecological framework for effective implementation.

Results

The barriers were gender inequality, community support for early childbearing and cohabitation, inadequate data systems, lack of collaboration between stakeholders and lack of political will. Effective implementation of community by-laws, youth involvement, and collaboration and effective coordination between stakeholders were the facilitators.

Conclusion

Findings from the study call for the need to engage political leaders actively in the implementation of adolescent sexual and reproductive health policies and programmes. Existing legal frameworks on adolescent sexual and reproductive health in low-and middle income countries need to be strengthened to address existing adolescent sexual and reproductive health issues such as child marriages and gender-based violence that put adolescent girls at risk of pregnancy. Gender empowerment programmes such as education and training of adolescent girls should be implemented and strengthened at both the community and national levels. Community members should be sensitized on the negative effects of norms that support child marriage, gender-based violence and early childbearing.