

Socio-educational Challenges of Pregnant Students and Student Mothers

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ABSTRACT Both pregnant students and student mothers face many challenges. Their problems are often intensified by the fact that in many cultures women are expected to subordinate their needs and desires to those of their children and families. The objective of the research was to determine the socio-educational challenges of pregnant students and student mothers. It further had the purpose of making recommendations to provide support in this regard. Relevant literature was reviewed and an empirical study was conducted in which both interviews and observation were used to explore the experiences of a sample of six purposefully selected adult students at a Teachers' College in Zimbabwe. Results indicated that lack of support from teaching staff and college administration, inadequate resources and limited support from peers were noted as the main challenges. Recommendations were formulated to assist student mothers and pregnant students with the necessary support which is essential to create a caring learning environment for these students.