

**The Perception of the Effectiveness of School Sex Education
as a Means of Reducing Pregnancies in South Africa:
The Case of the Blue Crane Route Municipality, South Africa**

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KEYWORDS Adolescent. Teenage Pregnancy. Sex Education. Socio-economic. Life Orientation

ABSTRACT Adolescent pregnancy is a growing concern amongst students across South Africa. This causes high rates of school drop-outs curbing the chances of success and independence for many adolescent females. Sex education forms part of the life orientation curriculum and has been put in place as a method of reducing the escalation of pregnancy by the Department of Education. This paper is based on a Master of Social Work degree dissertation whose aim was to explore the perception of the effectiveness of sex education in reducing pregnancies in the Blue Crane Route Municipality. Qualitative data through semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions were collected from students, social workers and life orientation educators. Data were analysed thematically and was supported by appropriate literature. The findings revealed that sex education is not effective in reducing pregnancies in the Blue Crane Route Municipality. The rate of adolescent pregnancy in schools has increased since 2007 when the curriculum of sex education was introduced.