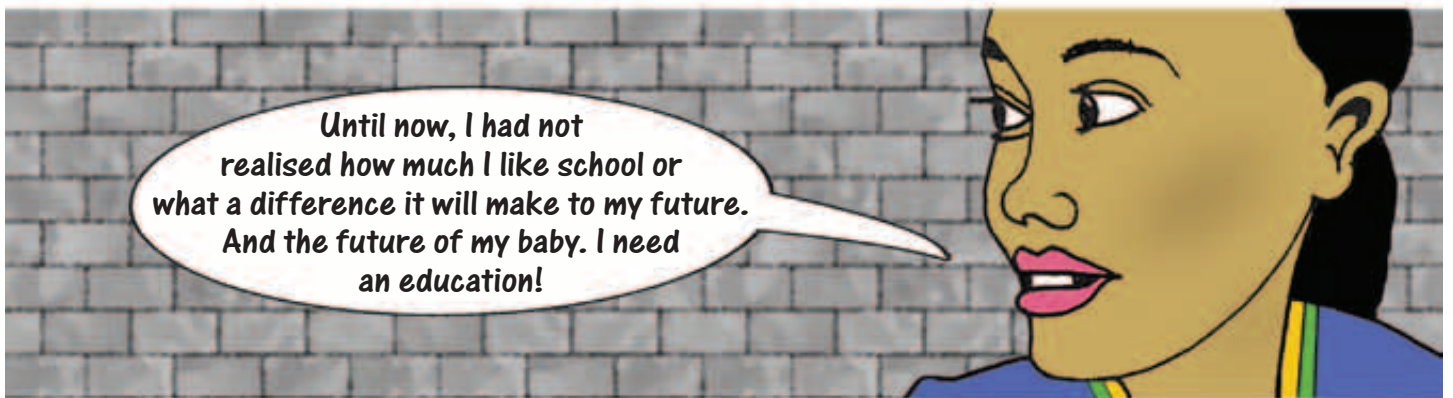
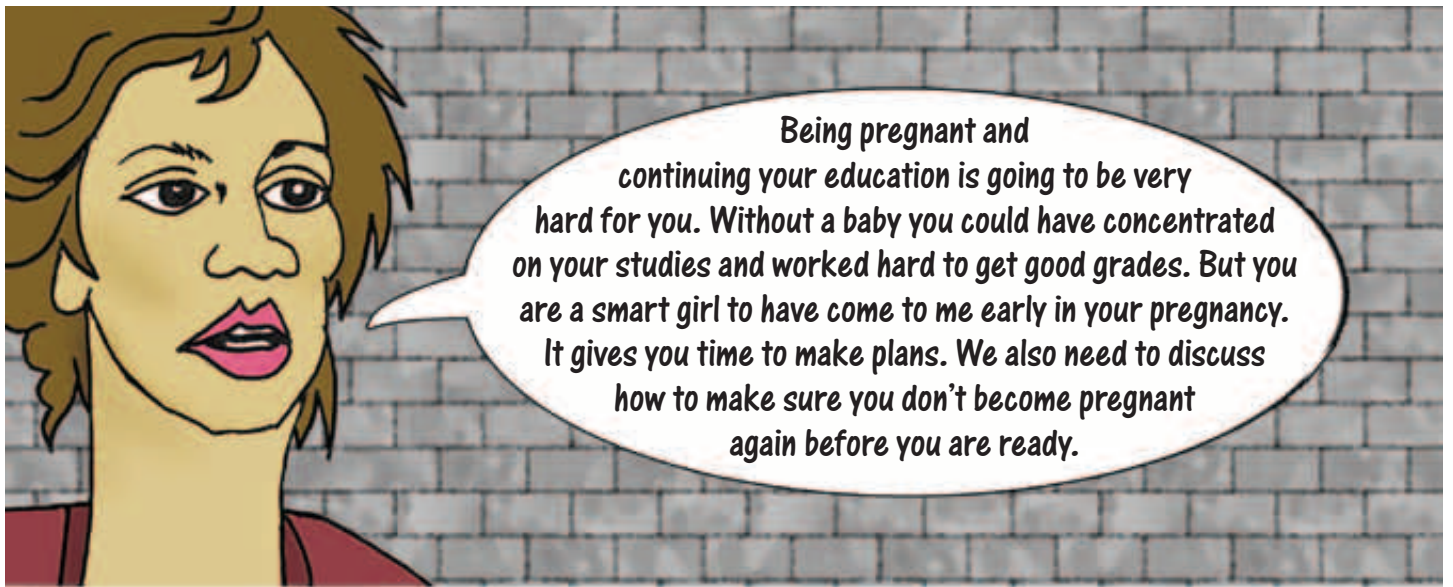


A NEW APPROACH TO THE PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT OF LEARNER PREGNANCY IN SCHOOLS

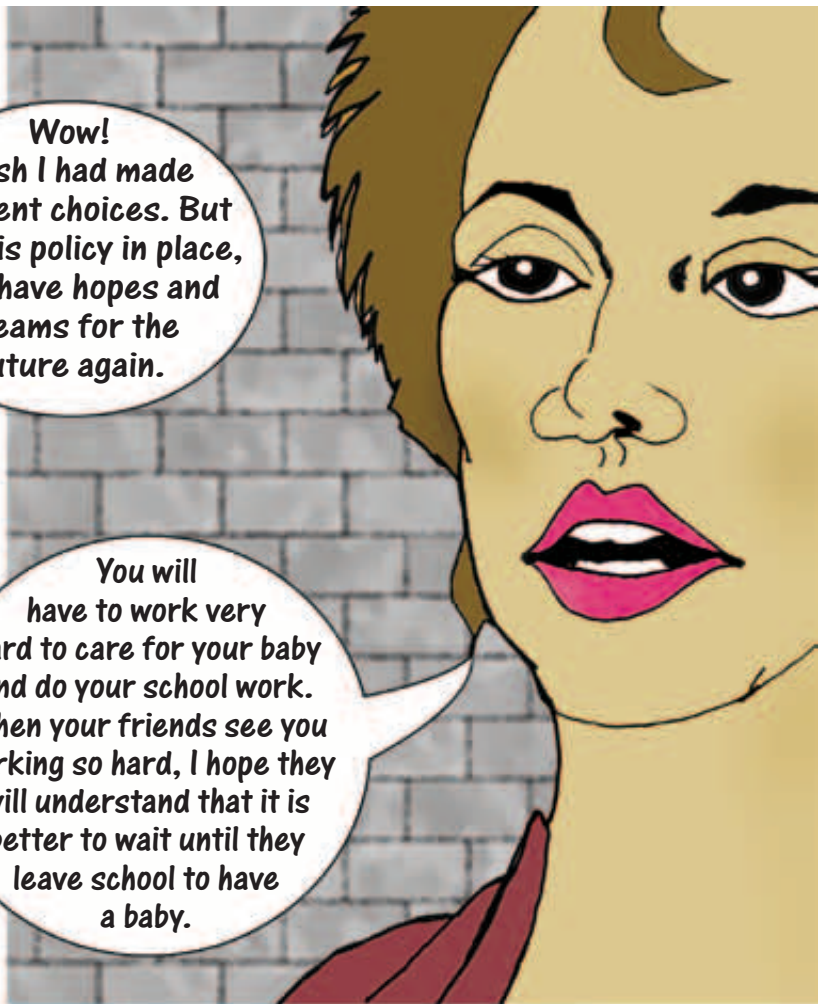






Wow!
I wish I had made
different choices. But
with this policy in place,
I can have hopes and
dreams for the
future again.

You will
have to work very
hard to care for your baby
and do your school work.
When your friends see you
working so hard, I hope they
will understand that it is
better to wait until they
leave school to have
a baby.



I hope
my friends will
see that becoming
a mother while still
at school is not easy.
The policy is good -
but it would be better
for me if I had
never become
pregnant.



I agree with
you about that! Now,
your next conversation
should be with your family
because it will help if you can
make the decisions about
your future together
with them.



You are such a disappointment to me.

We used a condom at first, like they told us at school. But you were so angry with me when you found condoms in my bag. That was when I stopped using protection. It's very difficult when parents go against lessons from school.



I didn't mean for you to stop using protection, I meant for you to stop having sex with your boyfriend!

I tried abstinence like they tell us in school, but sometimes we had sex. Now look what has happened. I am worried about diseases too. I feel like my life is a big mess.



And now you are going to have to leave school.

No I don't! I visited the counsellor at my school. I found out that there is a new policy for learners who become pregnant. The new policy is designed to help me finish my education - and I am going to have discussions with the counsellor about how to prevent this from happening again.



I remember hearing about a new policy on the radio.

The new policy says that families should plan together how to care for the new baby. I will not be able to go back to school until there is a good plan for the baby's care. That is my biggest worry because I know I need to finish school, but soon I will have a baby to care for.

We are lucky to have this new policy. I can care for the baby when you are at school. But you will have to take over as soon as you get home. Life will not be easy.

Mom, I can't thank you enough. And if Joseph can find work on the weekend he can help support the baby too. He can help care for the baby after school as well of course.

2 MONTHS AFTER THE BABY IS BORN ...

Today we are going to talk about young people having sex. Do you think that young people having sex is a good idea?

No, because you can get pregnant.

It is very risky.

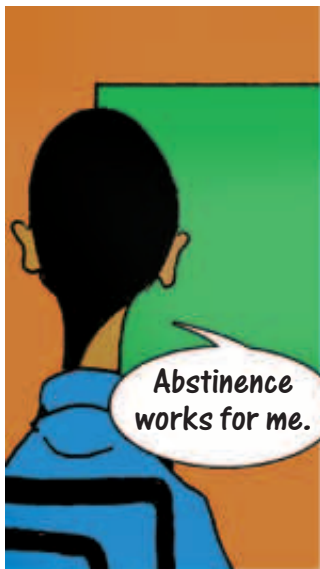


No, because you can get diseases like HIV or other sexually transmitted diseases.

Sometimes you do it just because everyone seems to be doing it.

My parents think that abstinence is the best policy!





Abstinence works for me.



Sometimes sex is forced on you.

If you feel that you are being forced to have sex, you should tell someone who can help you. You should never be forced to have sex.

Sometimes emotions run away with you.

Don't rush into having sex, it can cause a lot of problems like pregnancy or diseases. If you are unsure about how to handle sexual situations, talk to an adult or trusted friend for advice.



Sometimes your boyfriend or girlfriend pushes you to have sex before you are ready, to show your love.

People in relationships should trust and respect each other. They should not be pressuring each other to take such an important step before they are ready. You can show your affection by kissing or cuddling without sex.



The school advises learners NOT to have sex. But if you are going to have sex, remember to always use a condom. Condoms protect against BOTH pregnancy and disease.



I think everyone here knows that I have had a baby. I want to tell everyone that life is not easy for me now. I want to tell everyone not to have a baby until after they finish school.



I am the father. The reason you don't see me playing soccer on Saturdays is because I have a part-time job. I give the money to Patience's mom to help pay for the baby, and I visit the baby whenever I can. I wish I had waited before taking on so many responsibilities.

I didn't realise until now how much work babies are. I love my baby but I wish that I had waited until after school before I had him. I can tell you one thing, I will not have a second child until I have finished my education!

At least with the new policy you are allowed to finish your education. I just pray both you and Joseph can finish school - for your sake as well as for my grandchild's future!



For more information about the Ministry of Education Policy for the Prevention and Management of Learner Pregnancy, **PLEASE CONTACT** the Ministry of Education at 061-2933278 or the Legal Assistance Centre at 061-223356.

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