

Policy Poster 2: OVERVIEW



Ministry of Education
2013

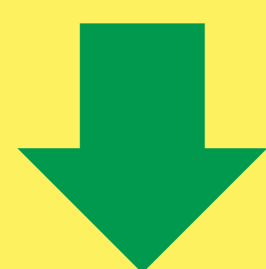


Poster produced by the Legal Assistance Centre for the Ministry of Education, with support from the Ministry's HIV and AIDS Management Unit. Windhoek, Namibia, May 2013

Education Sector Policy on the Prevention and Management of Learner Pregnancy

Goal of the Policy

To improve the prevention and management of learner pregnancy



Decrease the number of learner pregnancies

Increase the number of learner-parents who complete their education



Key Guiding Principles

Right to education

Prevention

Information

Respect for the dignity of individuals

Support

Respect for cultural and family values

Namibian Constitution

“All persons shall have the right to education.”
– Article 20(1)

“All persons shall be equal before the law.”
– Article 10

“No persons may be discriminated against on the grounds of sex, race, colour, ethnic origin, religion, creed or social or economic status.”
– Article 10

International Commitments

UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women: This Convention requires governments to take all appropriate measures for “the reduction of female learner drop-out rates and the organisation of programmes for girls and women who have left school prematurely”.

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child: The Committee monitoring this Convention emphasises the need to provide support for adolescent parents to enable them to care for their children, and urges governments “to develop policies that will allow adolescent mothers to continue their education”.

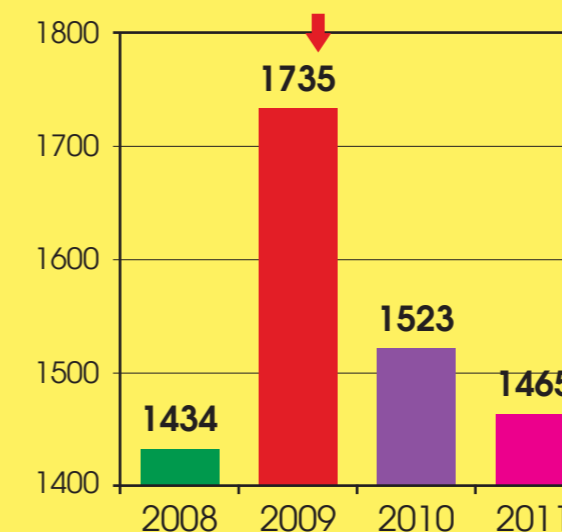
African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child: This Charter requires governments to “take measures to encourage regular attendance at schools and the reduction of drop-out rates”, and to ensure that “children who become pregnant before completing their education shall have an opportunity to continue with their education on the basis of their individual ability”.

Protocol to the African Charter on the Rights of Women in Africa: This Protocol commits states to removing barriers to girls’ education, and requires states to “promote the enrolment and retention of girls in schools and other training institutions and the organisation of programmes for women who leave school prematurely”.

“Education for All”: This refers to an international commitment adopted in 1990, which includes the goal of “eliminating gender disparities in primary and secondary education”. One of Namibia’s strategic objectives to advance this goal is to decrease the rate of dropouts due to pregnancy and motherhood among schoolgirls.

Pregnancy-related dropouts from school 2008-2011

Education Sector Policy for the Prevention and Management of Learner Pregnancy approved by Cabinet in October 2009.



Education Management Information System, Education Statistics 2008-2011, Ministry of Education, Windhoek.

Why learners become pregnant

