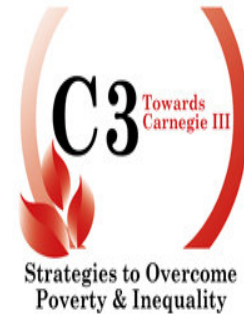




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## 29 August 2012

This paper will be presented at the *Strategies to Overcome Poverty and Inequality Conference* to be held at the University of Cape Town from 3 until 7 September 2012. The 2012 conference will focus on understanding the experiences and causes of inequality, and particularly on considering practical strategies – policies and actions – that are aimed at significantly reducing inequality and poverty in both the short- and long-term.

There will be a host of experts in the social, economic, labour and health fields and will include contributions from Trevor Manuel (Minister in the Presidency, National Planning Commission) and Dr Mamphela Ramphele.

## Factors Associated with Teenage Pregnancy in South Africa

Neloufar Khan: Department of Social Development, South Africa  
([neloufark@dsd.gov.za](mailto:neloufark@dsd.gov.za))

The problems of teenage pregnancy arise from individual, familial and societal factors, including, but not limited to, culture, religion, moral values and beliefs, education and economic circumstances, and a lack of support structures. Life circumstances that place girls at higher risk of teenage pregnancy include poverty, poor school performance, a family history of teenage pregnancy, and partner age, coupled with trade-offs between health and economic security often negotiated by young women. Other contributory risk factors include early sexual debut, ignorance, curiosity, peer pressure, gender-based violence, power imbalances in sexual relationships and family conflict.

Survey studies often exclude details on perceptions and attitudes of the teenagers experiencing pregnancy. This study acknowledges this limitation and employs multiple research paradigms to take into account varying localities as well as

perceptions and attitudes of various social groupings. Research findings for samples in five provinces (Limpopo, Eastern Cape, Mpumalanga, Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal) are presented in this paper. Through use of survey questionnaires with teenage mothers and health care service providers, focus group discussions with school-going boys and girls, as well as family and community members, the research aims at finding answers to the 'why' questions on the factors associated with teenage pregnancy and its implications for the individual, family and society.

### **Note to journalists**

**For full programme visit**

**For accreditation please RSVP**

[www.carnegie3.org.za](http://www.carnegie3.org.za)

[kemantha.govender@uct.ac.za](mailto:kemantha.govender@uct.ac.za) or 021 652 5627

Accredited media will have access to all sessions of the conference.

**Parking**

Plenty of free parking will be available near the venue (on the south side: P5, P4 and P17)

**Updates**

Key sessions will be recorded and webcasts can be accessed via the conference website or UCT's youtube site. Daily blogs and links to media reports will also be placed on the conference website.

**Conference venues**

The main conference will be held in the Leslie Social Science Building on UCT's upper campus. All evening events will be in the Baxter Theatre on Rondebosch Main Road. (Please note that media wishing to attend the Impumelelo Social Innovation awards ceremony should contact Impumelelo directly at (021) 424 6360 or [info@impumelelo.org.za](mailto:info@impumelelo.org.za))

***ENDS***

***Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department***

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