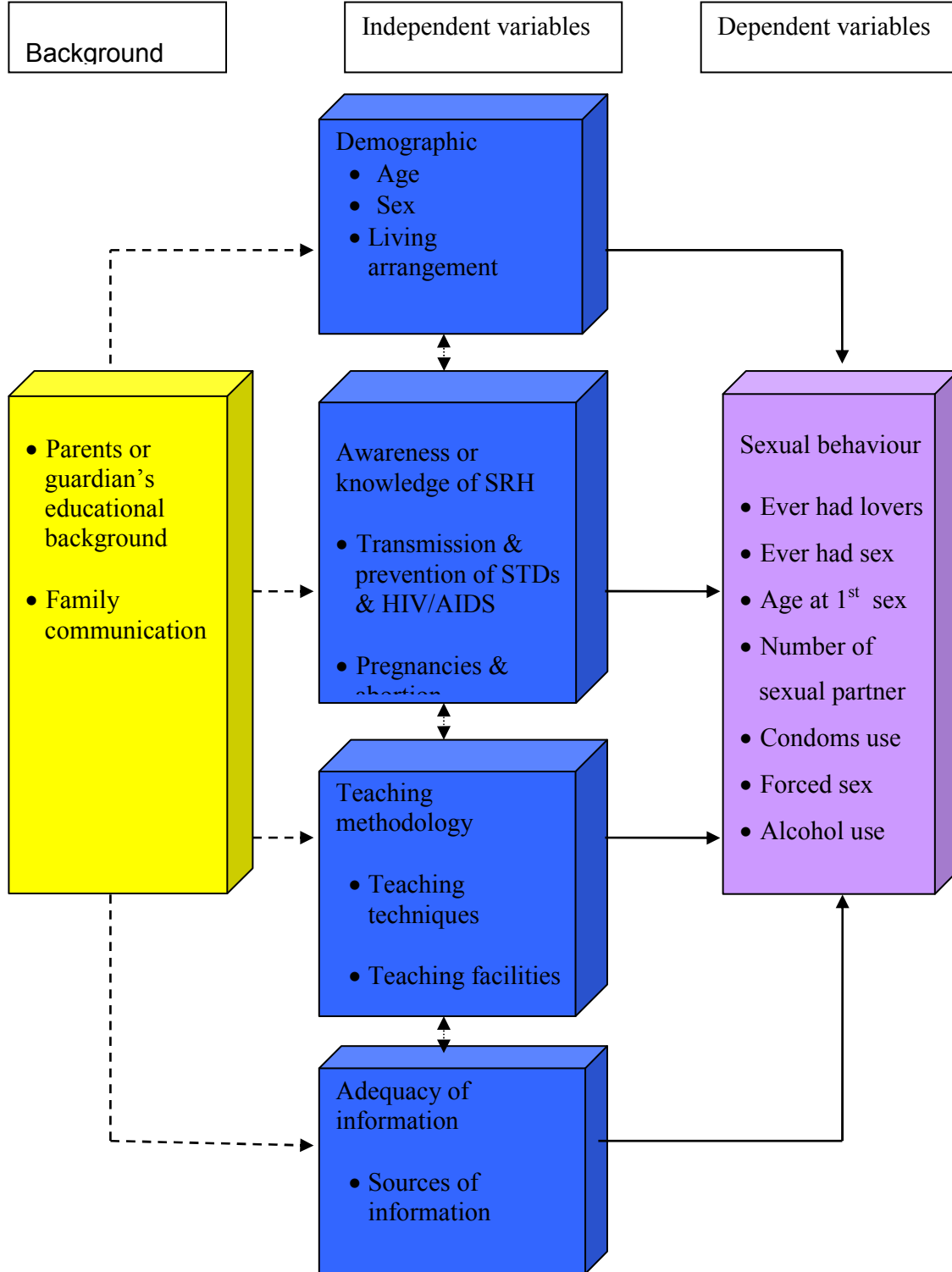


**SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH EDUCATION AND ADOLESCENTS SEXUAL
BEHAVIOURS IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN MOROGORO MUNICIPALITY,
TANZANIA**

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Context: HIV/AIDS, STD and unwanted pregnancies & abortion are indicators for the existence of adolescents' sexual behaviours. Worldwide among adults 15 years and older, young people accounted for 40 per cent of new HIV infections in 2006 ,about 6 millions of girls aged 15 to 19 years give birth each year worldwide, 13 millions in Sub Saharan Africa and 14 millions in Tanzania. One of the strategies of rescuing adolescents from this situation is the recognition of education programmes as an effective means of addressing the sexual and reproductive health needs of adolescents. Hence sexual and reproductive health education in secondary school is a key strategy for promoting safe sexual behaviours among teenagers. The assumption was based on the fact that sexual behaviours of adolescents is highly influenced by demographic variables ,awareness of sexual and reproductive health matters, teaching methodologies used by the teachers in teaching sexual and reproductive health matters and adequacy of information on sexual and reproductive health as presented in the figure



Objectives The study examined of the role of Sexual and reproductive health education on adolescent's sexual behaviour by identifying level of awareness of the sexual and reproductive

health matters, level of adolescent's involvement in sexual behaviour, teaching methodologies used by subject teachers and adequacy of sexual and reproductive health education provided

Methodology: The study adopted a cross sectional design by using open and closed ended questionnaires self administered to 120 adolescents from five secondary schools in the Municipality. Interviews with 10 subjects' teachers and 5 discipline teachers and focus group discussion (FGD) were also used during the study. Analysis of data collected was done by using Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) software which employed descriptive analysis, multiple analyses, and scaling techniques

Results: The major findings of the study were: adolescents in secondary schools in Morogoro Municipality are sexually active and most of already sexually active students, do not involve in risky sexual behaviours. However there is relationship between risky sexual behaviours and age and sex of the respondents. Involvement in risky sexual behaviour is common to the young male adolescents compared to their counterparts. Students' awareness of sexual reproductive health matters is fair with some misconceptions; more than half of the students believe that use of condoms contributes to HIV/AIDS infections. A few students believe that HIV/AIDS is infected through superstition and having many sexual partners is not risky of HIV/AIDS infection. However awareness level showed some relationship with parents /guardian to adolescents' communication, extent of liking biology topics and levels of involvement in risky sexual behaviours. All students recognize the important of sexual reproductive health education in secondary schools. The best common teaching techniques used by the subjects teachers includes; Questions and answers, group discussion and use of photographs. Use of vivid examples, video /films and study visit is inadequate. The best common used teaching

facilities include; data, video tapes charts and invitation to guest speaker while the poorest used are models and demonstrations. Basing on source of information the knowledge on sexual and reproductive health matters is adequate.

Recommendations: The study recommends that, there is a need for to improve sexual and reproductive health education by reviewing the syllabus through conducting needs assessment. Also to improve teaching methodologies those are used to deliver subject matter and to invest on communication /sensitizing campaign on sexual reproductive health targeting all people in the community. The teachers should know that there is a need to address the issue of sexual behaviour among students. Generally it should be noted that the role of addressing sexual behaviour of students should not be left for the teachers only.