

The Socioeconomic and Demographic Situation of
Youth in Zambia: An Analysis of the 2001-2002
Zambia Demographic Health Survey

MA Report

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Abstract

Context: Since the creation of the National Youth Policy, not one major study has been conducted to profile young people's socio-economic status in Zambia. On the contrary, several nationally representative surveys and studies have been conducted that document the socio-economic status of the entire population. Within these studies, token attention has been given to profile selected indicators of young peoples' then demographic and socio-economic characteristics.

Methods: Data from the 2001-2002 ZDHS was used to conduct descriptive and logistic regression analyses of 3454 female and 821 male to profile Zambian youth.

Results: More youth are in rural areas compared to urban areas. Among Zambia's nine provinces, the majority of youth are on the Copperbelt province. More young people have completed primary school compared to secondary school. The study found that both female and male rural youth were more likely to have attended secondary school than their urban counterparts. In addition catholic youth were more likely to have secondary school than their protestant counterparts. The data suggests that both female and male youth with two or more children are more likely to be working than those without a child. Having attended secondary school increased the odds of currently working.

Conclusions: Youth development programmes in Zambia must take into account the socioeconomic and demographic profile of youth in order to develop meaningful strategies to issues around youth unemployment, education, social welfare and health.

Declaration

I do declare that the research report entitled "The Socioeconomic and Demographic Situation of Youth in Zambia: An Analysis of the 2001-2002 Zambia Demographic Health Survey" is my own work and has not been submitted previously for a degree at another University.

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List of Abbreviations

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
BESSIP	Basic Education Sector Support Investment Programme
CSA	Census Supervisory Area
CSD	Commission on Sustainable Development
CSO	Central Statistics office
DESA	Department of Economic and Social Affairs
DHS	Demographic and Health Survey
ECYD	Education, Child and Youth Development
HDR	Human Development Report
HEART	Helping Each other Act Responsibly Together
HIPC	Highly Indebted Poor Country
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
IMF	International Monetary Fund
JCE	Junior Certificate of Examination
MEASURE	Monitoring and Evaluation to Assess and Use Results
MOE	Ministry of Education
MSCI	Margaret Sanger Centre International
MSYCD	Ministry of Sport Youth and Child Development
MTYDP	Medium Term Youth Development Plan
NYCA	National Youth Constituent Assembly
PAGE	Programme for the Advancement of Girl-Child Education
PRB	Population Reference Bureau
PSLCE	Primary School leaving Certificate Examination
PSU	Primary Sampling Unit
SCE	School Certificate of Education
SEA	Standard Enumeration Area
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
STD	Sexually Transmitted Diseases
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infections
TIG	Taking It Global
UN	United Nations

UNDP	United Nations Population Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development
WPAY	World Programme Action for Youth
YDI	Youth Development Index
ZDHS	Zambia Demographic Health Survey
ZSBS	Zambia Sexual Behaviour Study

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Chapter 1: Introduction

1.1 Background

According to the United Nation's Population Fund (UNFPA), there were 1.2 billion adolescents coming of age by 2005 (UNFPA 2005). This population segment (young people) has ahead of it potential opportunities in employment, good health, social life as well as potential pitfalls in crime, drugs and disease. Several studies have been conducted that have demonstrated the urgent need to invest in young people (UNFPA 2005). The UNFPA proposes investments in the well-being and ensuring the participation of the world's largest generation of young people will better their chances in lives immediately and yield dividends for generations to come (UNFPA 2005).

Although all countries, cultures and traditions want what is best for their young generations, youth may be viewed differently from one community or culture to the next. Oliver-Miller (1996) argues that the psychosocial, emotional and biological changes that characterize this stage of life are widely shared. During this critical stage of life, personality and self-identity become more defined. Parents can have an enormous role in guiding their children. Oliver-Miller (1996) argues that adolescence is also a time for expanding relationships and friendships outside the family circle, for establishing greater autonomy, and for intensified development of interpersonal and social skills.

The Margaret Sanger Centre International (MSCI, 1998) points out that how young people develop their understanding of the biological, emotional and social changes they experience in adolescence is closely related to their sense of social identity and purpose, self-perception and self-esteem, thoughts and feelings, and capacity to

establish caring relationships and intimacy with others. It is all the more important for young people to receive the guidance and support they need considering that worldwide, most people become sexually active during this stage of life, whether within or outside of marriage.

Young people are resilient and resourceful individuals, with their own views and evolving decision-making capacities. Adolescence is a time of learning and exploring, and can be a good time to establish healthy attitudes and behaviours for life. For many, it is also a time when job skills may be developed and economic life begins, although often in underpaid, unsafe or exploitative conditions.

According to the UNFPA (2000), adolescence is also a time when risks of sexual and other forms of abuse, exploitation and violence are high; and when the drive for autonomy and self-definition often means a reduced reliance on parents or other adults as trusted sources of guidance and support. This is especially true when it comes to sensitive areas such as sexual and reproductive health and gender relations. Without guidance, young people may suffer violence and abuse, be exploited, or find themselves in otherwise unsafe circumstances, or become sexually active without the knowledge and means they need to avoid unintended consequences.

The UNFPA (2004) states that adolescents have been traditionally ignored by public sector programmes and budgets, which tend to focus on children (under 10), and then on adults. Investing in adolescents is an opportunity to ensure that the earlier investments made in childhood come to fruition for the benefit of national development. Otherwise, accomplishments in improved child educational and health status may be undermined. Since the 1990s, many international agreements and forums have brought more attention to the needs of adolescents and young people. These include the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD,

1994), World Social Summit on Development (WSSD, 1999), World Youth Forum (WYF, 1998) and Taking It Global (TIG, 2004).

1.2 Problem Statement

Investing in young people's development requires, among other things, relevant, timely and accurate data. Studies on young people in Zambia have focussed mainly on their sexual and reproductive health covering selected geographic locations or major cities only, with none, providing a systematic overview of the socioeconomic and demographic situation of the youth population. Of interest in this study are the following questions: What are the demographic characteristics of Zambia's youth today? What are the socioeconomic conditions that characterise young people? Data from the 2001-2002 Zambia Demographic Health Survey (ZDHS) will be used in profiling Zambian Youth.

1.3 Justification

Zambia's population has grown substantially from 9.5 million in 1995 though dropped to 8.7 million in 1998 and increased to 10.8 million in 2003 (UN 2003). The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) estimates that it will increase to over 14 million by 2015 (UNDP, 2000). United States Agency for International Development (USAID) estimated that Zambia's population had grown at just under 3% over the last decade, and that this high population growth is likely to continue (USAID, 2000). In 1998, youth aged 15 to 19 represented approximately 12.3% of the total population (US Census Bureau, 2000), while the 1999/2000 HEART survey estimated that approximately 15% of all Zambians are between 13-19 years. According to Population and Health Inforshare, a web-based resource on public health world-wide, by 2000 the percentage of youth ages 10 – 24 to the total population was 36%.

In Zambia, studies on young people have focussed mainly on their reproductive health situation and highlighting concerns around young peoples' sexual behaviour

attitudes. Most of these studies have been conducted for selected geographic locations or towns and cities with a few nationally representative studies, still on reproductive health, particularly around HIV/AIDS related themes. For example, Pillai and Barton (1999) examined sexual activity among Zambian female teenagers, particularly within the context of interpersonal decision making. The Zambia Central Statistical Office (CSO) conducted a series of three nationally representative surveys called the "Zambia Sexual Behaviour Survey" in 1998, 2000 and 2003. In all three studies, a brief chapter on young people's sexual behaviour and attitudes was profiled. No attempt was made to provide an in-depth situation of young people's reproductive health or for that matter an overarching analysis of young people's socioeconomic situation.

The Zambia National Youth Constituent Assembly (2004) published a study of an analysis of youth policies on education, poverty and employment, health and HIV/AIDS. The study lacked in providing demographic factors against major socio-economic characteristics such as residence, province and occupation. The CSO (1998) conducted a livelihood study in Zambia that examined factors contributing to sustainable living in the country. Youth were only mentioned during the analysis of daily nutritional requirements. The CSO has also conducted three Demographic Health Surveys (DHS) in 1992, 1996 and 2001. In all three, youth are not profiled specifically but are included in the age groups of 15 – 49 for females and 15 – 59 for males. The reports for the three DHS's provide data on young people's age distribution but these are not further analysed in terms of background characteristics (this is done for the entire population category). The national census of population and housing of 2000 also took a similar approach to that of the DHS's.

These studies have not profiled the socioeconomic and demographic situation of Zambian youth. Hence, this research report aims to examine the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of the youth population in Zambia. The profiling of the

Zambian youth in this manner will help planners, programme managers and policy makers have a clear understanding of the factors surrounding young people in Zambia in developing appropriate and holistic responses to youth development.

1.4 Research Question

1. What are the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of Zambian Youth aged 15 – 24 years and how do they relate to selected variables of interest which include education, employment, family planning knowledge and use, and sexual activity?

1.5 Objectives

General

- The objective of the study was to examine the various aspects of the lives of Zambian Youth and these aspects include education, marriage, sexual behaviour, employment, fertility and family planning/contraceptive use.

Specific

1. To examine the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of Zambian youth ages 15 – 24 years.
2. To identify the lifestyles of youth in relation to education, employment, marriage, sexual activity and contraceptive use.
3. To explore the association between socio-economic and demographic characteristics of Zambian youth, ages 15 – 24 years, and the identified lifestyles.

1.6 Definition of Concepts

Use and meaning of the terms 'young people', 'youth' and 'adolescents' vary in different societies around the world, depending on political, economic and socio-cultural context. In this study, youth, adolescents and young people will be used interchangeably.

For the purposes of this report, the following definitions are applied:

- **Zambian Youth:** male and female persons falling between the ages of 15 – 24 years inclusive.
- **Demographic Characteristics:** Age, sex, residence and fertility.
- **Socio-economic Characteristics:** defining features of a population including but not limited to demographic characteristics.

Chapter 2: Literature Review

2.1 Introduction: Youth in Transition

Policy makers, politicians, custodians of cultures and traditions, world over, are concerned today as others before them in the past were, about the transitional phase of life known as youth. Today, it has gradually become an accepted fact, however, that the world in which young people are now making their transition into adulthood is quite different from that of ten years ago (UNFPA 2004).

To illustrate; the impact of globalization, HIV/AIDS, the emergence and rapid growth of communication technologies such as the internet, satellite television, proliferation of western music and pop-culture and more recently the redefinition of political ideologies (such as was the case for the former Soviet Union and the collapse of the Berlin wall) have been enormous on the development of young people's lives on a daily basis. These and other events have led to more young people, gradually, demanding greater participation in the political and social institutions that exert influence on the socialization and governance processes. Today, it is generally observed that the demands that young people make on governance processes have led to a proliferation of youth policies (World Youth Report 2005). On the other hand, there seems to be identity crises as far as socialisation processes are concerned giving rise to a loosely defined concept of youth culture (MSCI 1998).

The brief historical perspective rendered above including the fact that youth of today are not the same as those of more than a decade ago should thus serve to remind youth policy makers of the need for increased attention and more strategic responses. It is understood, therefore, that accurate, relevant and timely data on young people becomes one for the cornerstones for such strategic responses.

2.2 Global Situation of Young People

Data on young people globally has been receiving increasing attention from policy makers. Following the 12th session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) in 2004, youth serving organisations around the world have mobilised and generated interest in the plight of young people globally. One such process of mobilisation gave birth to a movement called "Taking It Global" (TIG). Taking IT Global (TIG) is an international youth-led organization that helps young people *find inspiration, access information, get involved, and take action to improve their local and global communities*. The 'TakingITGlobal.org' community gets millions of visitors a month and connects youth in over 230 countries and territories (TakingItGlobal 2005). TIG builds the capacity of youth for development, supports youth artistic and media expression, makes education more engaging, and involves young people in decision-making.

Among several efforts aimed at bringing the spotlight on young people's plight, TIG highlights the need for accurate, relevant and timely data on youth to facilitate the development of youth interventions. Information on the TIG website uses the millennium goals to demonstrate how young people are affected, how they could be involved and what governments could do in investing in young people. According to TIG, poverty affects young people in a debilitating way. For most families in Sub-Saharan Africa, average family size ranges from 5 – 8 children per household. Thus for a young girl in Sub-Saharan Africa living in extreme poverty, attending school becomes an impossibility because families cannot simply afford to meet the US\$ 5 needed for school fees and would rather she fulfills household chores that are traditionally assigned to women (www.takingitglobal.org). Even if the family may afford the amount initially, studies have revealed that she may not go beyond basic primary education (DESA, UN 2005). According to the UN, available data on poverty from 2002 indicates that some 209 million young people or 18% of world's youth live

on less than US\$ 1 per day and just over 500 million live on US\$ 2 per day. However, the exact extent to which poverty affects young people has not been established. There's a general lack of data that is disaggregated according to age, gender and socio-economic characteristics such as residence, educations, etc (www.takingitglobal.org).

How can policy makers respond with effective strategies in the absence of such data? According to UN website on youth (www.un.org/youth), during the development of the sixth edition of the human development report of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), donors in Croatia wanted to know the issues and problems affecting young people in Croatia. Due to the lack of comprehensive data on young people, the entire Croatian Human Development Report is based on youth development (UN 2004). In the report, data on young people's situation in relation to poverty is provided by background characteristics including sex and age. However, the report states that at the time of producing the document, the Croatian National Government was still in the process of restructuring and did not have the capacity to respond to the challenges put forward such as the establishment and implementation of national youth policies. The Croatian HDR is an example of a comprehensive source of data that will guide the national government in responding to challenges facing young people that have been identified.

UNESCO, in Brazil, worked closely with youth serving organisations, government ministries engaged in youth work and other donors to develop a 'Youth Development Index' (YDI). The YDI is a tool aimed at supporting governments and civil society stakeholders in assessing and measuring the impact of youth policy interventions on the situation of young people. The index covers three demographic areas, namely 'employment', 'education' and 'health'. The index has helped provide extensive and disaggregated data by residence and other socio-economic variables for the Brazilian context (UNESCO 2004).

In 2005, in the Philippines, the National Youth Commission embarked on developing a Medium Term Youth Development Plan (MTYDP) for the period 2005 -2010. The MTYDP (a comprehensive situation analysis of Philipino youth) serves as the master plan and national framework for all youth development Efforts in the Philippines. Prior to the development of the MTYDP, youth serving organisations in the Philippines dealt with young people in four categories i.e. in-school youth, out-of-school youth, working youth and youth with special needs. During the development of the MTYDP, these categories were reorganised and identified different characteristics including employment, health, education, values, and participation based on the following age groups: 15-17, 18-24 and 25-30 to present a more comprehensive situation analysis of young people in the Philippines (Global Action Youth Network 2005).

2.3 Situation of Young People in Zambia

Since independence to the early nineties, Zambia lacked a youth policy to effectively guide the planning and coordination of youth development programmes in the country's approach to youth development with the successful formulation of the national policies concerning sport, youth and child development. Promulgated in 1994, by an act of parliament, these policies are designed to promote sport and make it more accessible to a larger part of the population; to combat youth unemployment through the promotion of small-scale enterprises; and to improve the welfare and safeguard the rights of the child in accordance with the United Nations Conventions (MSYCD, 1994).

The situation of youth in Zambia has changed drastically, albeit probably more on the negative side, since the approval of the youth policy for implementation a decade ago. There have been some positive programmes implemented such as the establishment of 16 government youth resource centres in 16 districts as stipulated in

the National Programme of Action for Youth (MSCYD, 1997). A number of youth organizations have also been established and are running youth programmes and projects. Among these are HIV/AIDS, peer education and vocational skills training, agricultural and social welfare projects. According to the national youth policy, these have helped in supplementing government programmes, although they do not have adequate capacity to fully cover the youth needs.¹

Notwithstanding these positive efforts, many youth programmes in Zambia are affected by a number of factors. According to the Ministry of Youth Sport and Child Development (1997), these include: poor information flow from the Government and other stakeholders to the young people at district level; inadequate staffing levels in the Ministry of Sport, Youth and Child Development which has administrative offices only at the provincial level. The Ministry of Sport Youth and Child Development (1997) in its National Programme of Action for Youth, reports that its Offices are ill equipped both logistically, technically and financially to effectively reach all district youth in their Provinces². The National Youth Constitutional Assembly (2004) states that "as a result, there has been poor coordination and networking of youth programmes in the districts as well as provinces, leading to fragmentation". Poor road network and communication facilities have also contributed to poor information flow to young people³. Perhaps, the biggest single challenge facing stakeholders in dealing with youth issues is the lack of a single comprehensive data base on young people in the country.

Youth unemployment is at its highest both in the formal and informal sectors. According to the CSO, the overall unemployment rate for youth in the age group 15-19 was 22.6% (CSO, 2000). In comparison, the unemployment rate for the country

¹ National Youth Policy, Ministry of Sport, Youth & Child Development 2004

² The MSYCD does not have district offices

³ Youth, young people and adolescents are used interchangeably.

during the same years was 50%. Young people ages 15 – 24 years accounted for close to half the number of people unemployed in the country. The unemployment rate for 15-19 year old females was 20.9% and 24.5% for 15-19 year old males. The overall unemployment rate for ages 20 - 24 years is 20.8%. While the unemployment rate for females aged between 20 - 24 years was 18.1%, that of males was 22.9% (CSO, 2000). The closure of industries in the various provinces due to the economic decline has reduced formal employment opportunities for young people. The limited number of skills centres, which are about only two per province, has limited young people's access to formal employment as well. This has been worsened by inadequate youth friendly credit facilities, which are critical for small-scale entrepreneurship. Youth need dedicated and comprehensive development of skills training as well as support for mitigating the impact of HIV/AIDS.

2.4 Studies on Young People in Zambia

Since the creation of the National Youth Policy, not one major study has been conducted to profile young people's socio-economic status in the country. On the contrary, several nationally representative surveys and studies such as the National Census and the Demographic Health Surveys have been conducted that document the socio-economic status of the entire population. Within these studies, token attention has been given to profile selected indicators of young peoples, demographic and socio-economic characteristics. Other studies have been conducted in response to the challenges posed by the ravages of HIV/AIDS on the country's youthful population. Even these, where they exist, offer perspectives on selected aspects of young people's lives.

The Zambia Central Statistics Office (CSO) has conducted a study called the Zambia Sexual Behaviour Survey with the objectives of obtaining national estimates of key indicators of the population, aged 15 – 49 for women and 15 – 59 for men, related to

HIV/STI prevention and AIDS care and support for the national programme monitoring process and assessing changes in these indicators over time. The indicators cover knowledge, attitudes and sexual and health-seeking behaviour. This survey has been conducted three times, in 1998, 2000 and 2003 respectively. In all three ZSB surveys, young people's knowledge, attitudes and behaviours on sex and related issues are profiled.

The 1998 ZSB survey was the first nationally representative study on women of reproductive age (15 – 49 years) and men ages 15 – 59 years. The study was designed to provide information on background characteristics; knowledge of HIV/AIDS; condom knowledge, use and access; marriage and cohabitation. The survey also gathered information on sexual behaviour and attitudes toward gender, sex, STDs and AIDS. Information on childbearing and antenatal care was also collected to support information for the sentinel surveillance. Young people ages 15 – 24 are profiled as far as their knowledge, attitudes and behaviours are concerned.

The 2000 ZBS survey was a follow-up to the 1998 survey but it further included a component on information on the type of assistance provided to persons and households affected by HIV/AIDS as well as information on community's response to HIV/AIDS. This survey helped track progress or the lack thereof made on the key national estimates and indicators established in 1998. A similar treatment on young people ages 15 – 24 years is given as that of the 1998 ZSB survey.

The 2003 survey is the latest of the three studies and is almost the same as the 2000 survey save for differences in actual sample size. Young people ages 15 – 24 are treated in the same manner as in the previous two reports.

The CSO has also conducted three Demographic Health Surveys in 1992, 1996 and 2001. The survey was designed to provide information on levels and trends of fertility, infant and child mortality, family planning knowledge and use, and maternal

and child health for women of reproductive ages (15 – 49 years) and men who are economically active ages 15 – 59 years. In all three surveys lack a specific treatment of youth ages 15 – 24 years but instead deal with the age groups outlined above.

An unpublished analytical report produced by the National Youth Constitutional Assembly of Zambia for the World Programme Action for Youth (WPAY) offers a “national” evaluative perspective on the situation of youth in Zambia focussing on poverty and unemployment, health and education. The report draws from various position papers produced by governmental and non-governmental agencies to provide a perspective of the situation of young people in Zambia. The report states that youth constitute 21% of the total population, with unemployment rates in the region of 40% for youth ages 15 – 24 years. The report also states that the Zambian government has established 16 youth resource centres in 16 districts as part of its strategic response to youth development.

2.5 Findings of the studies

Three sexual behaviour surveys have been conducted since 1998 in Zambia to measure knowledge, attitudes and sexual behaviour among Zambian males and females ages 15 – 59 and 15 – 49 respectively. All three surveys include an analysis of adolescent sexual behaviour focussing on knowledge, attitudes and practices for males and females ages 15 – 19 years. The surveys do not provide background information for young people including lifestyle measures. The latest survey, conducted in 2003 shows that median age at first sex was 17.0 for females and 17.5 for males.

Similar to the ZSBS, three Demographic Health Surveys have been conducted in Zambia since 1992, with the latest one having been conducted in 2002/3. In all three surveys, there were no systematic and deliberate efforts to provide information for

young people ages 15 – 24 years. However, the latest ZDHS (2001/2) shows that there were 10.7% and 8.7% young people ages 15 – 19 years and 20 – 24 years respectively in the population. Other selected data for the same age groups are provided for literacy levels, employment and fertility. Data from the ZDHS show that literacy levels were 59% and 71% for women and men ages 15 – 19 years respectively and 59% and 83% for women and men ages 20 -24 years respectively. Employment data at the time of the survey shows that just over a quarter (26.3%) of men and 32.7% of women ages 15 - 19 years were currently employed 12 months preceding the survey. The survey's section on teenage fertility shows that 26% of teenagers in Zambia had either already had a child and 6% were pregnant with their first child at the time of the survey.

2.6 Limitations of Previous Studies

While these studies are nationally representative and cover the population 15 years and above, they do not bring out a clear picture of young people's socio-economic and demographic situation. Data is generally presented for an entire population category against selected background characteristics such as residence, sex, province, etc in five year age groups. Young people ages 15 – 24 are "lumped" together under the population age and sex distribution. The same studies do not offer an analysis of young people's status against the major background characteristics as mentioned earlier except for selected topics. For instance, in both the sexual behaviour surveys and demographic and health surveys, a chapter exists on young people's knowledge, attitudes and behaviour of sexual and related issues, and teenage fertility respectively. This denies the scientific community, the opportunity of knowing the socioeconomic characteristics of youth being addressed.

A profile of young people that addresses their socio-economic and demographic situation would help provide a clearer understanding of the type of development efforts to be undertaken by planners, policy makers and programme managers. The limitations outlined above could possibly explain some of the challenges experienced in addressing problems and concerns facing young people.

This study therefore attempts to address this deficiency by analyzing data from the 2001 demographic and health survey to provide a profile of young people in Zambia.

Chapter 3: Methodology

3.1 Introduction

This study will be a secondary analysis of the 2001-2002 Zambia Demographic Health Survey (ZDHS) using data sets for women (15 – 49 years) and men (15 – 59 years).

3.2 Sources of Data

The 2001-2002 Zambia Demographic and Health Survey (ZDHS) was a nationally representative population and health sample survey to provide information on fertility, family planning, child survival and health of children. The population covered by the 2001-2002 survey was defined as all women of reproductive age 15 – 49 years and all men 15 – 59 years.

The Sample: The sample for this survey was designed to provide estimates of key population and health variables from Zambia's nine provinces. Each province is subdivided into districts, each district in constituents and constituents into wards. Using the 2000 national census of population and housing, each ward was divided into administrative units called census supervisory areas (CSAs) and in turn, each CSA was divided into standard enumeration areas (SEAs). In total Zambia has 72 districts, 150 constituents, 1,289 wards, about 4,400 CSAs, and 16,400 SEAs. The sample frame for this survey was developed from the SEAs of the 2000 population census of Zambia.

The primary sampling unit (PSU) used in this survey was the SEAs from the census frame. A minimum requirement of 85 households was imposed in the design. In cases where SEAs did not have 85 households, they were combined with the adjacent SEA. Thus the survey had one or two SEAs in each cluster. The number of clusters in each district was not necessarily proportional to the population in the district due to

the need to present estimates for each of the nine provinces as well as the fact that in Zambia, the rural population (approximately 60%) is more than the urban population (approximately 40%). Further details on stratification and sample calculations are described elsewhere in the 2001-2002 report (ZDHS 2001-2002).

Approximately 8,200 households were selected and all women aged 15 – 49 years were interviewed. Additionally, a sample of men aged 15 -59 years, was selected from one third of all households on the condition that they were either permanent residents or visitors present in the house on the night before the survey. Finally, all women and men, about 2,500 of each, living in the households were selected were requested to voluntarily give blood for the syphilis and HIV testing.

Questionnaires: The 2001-2002 ZDHS questionnaires were adapted from the models developed by the MEASURE DHS+ programme for countries with low contraceptive use. Three questionnaires were used; the women's questionnaire, the household questionnaire and men's questionnaire. The questionnaires were translated in Zambia's seven major languages.

The household questionnaire collected background information of members of the household but its primary function was to establish members of the household who would be eligible for the individual interview. The questionnaires also collected information on the dwelling unit.

The women's questionnaire collected information from women aged 15 – 49 years on topics ranging from family planning to HIV/AIDS. In the 2001-2002 survey, the women's questionnaire also collected information on women's experience of domestic violence.

The men's questionnaire was similar to the women's questionnaire except that it did not contain information on infant mortality, reproductive history, nutrition and maternal mortality.

Field Work: The first pre-test was conducted May 14 – 25 2001, second one July 18 – 24 2001 and the final one July 26 through August 1 2001. A total of 88 interviewers and nurse/nurse counsellors and laboratory technicians were trained and participated in all three pre-test events. The actual survey took seven months to complete from November 2001 to May 2002. Details of the training are described in the report. Data collection was conducted using twelve interviewing teams with considerations for gender balance, technical requirements as well as supervision.

Data Processing: Data was processed periodically throughout the survey. This had the added benefit of addressing problems and alerting field workers of potential problems were data collections was still being conducted.

Quality of data: The ZDHS report contains a full description of response rates for the survey. However, a total of 8,050 households were selected in the sample of which 7,260 were found at the time of the fieldwork. Of the 7,260 households found, 7,126 were successfully covered yielding a response rate of 96%. A total of 7,944 women were found to be eligible with interviews completed for 7,658, yielding a response rate of 96%. A total of 2,418 men were eligible from the sub-sample of households selected with 2,145 being successfully interviewed, yielding a response rate of 89%. Response rates were found to be lower in urban areas than in rural areas. Major reasons for this include vacant structures.

Study Population: The ZDHS interviewed a nationally representative sample of 7,658 women age 15 – 49 and 2,145 men ages 15 – 59. Of these samples, females 15 – 24 were 3454 (accounting for 45% of the female sample) and males ages 15 – 24 were 821 (accounting for 38% of the male sample). While the ZDHS does not

provide an indication of how representative these percentages are for Zambian youth, they are however, adequate to allow an analysis to be performed on the data sets for the 2001 – 2002 ZDHS.

3.3 Method of Analysis

The data used in this study was weighted using weights that are already provided in the ZDHS data files. Statistical analysis was performed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) software programme. Descriptive analysis was used to examine and establish the background characteristics of the respondents. Frequencies were used to describe age, residence, province, religion, education, marital status, sexual activity and employment of young people in Zambia. Bivariate analyses provided preliminary information about the associations between background characteristics and lifestyle measure of marriage and employment. Significance differences were determined using t-tests at $p < 0.5$. In Multivariate analyses, stepwise logistic regression was conducted to examine the net effect of independent variables on the likelihood of being employed, married, having attended secondary school or higher, having ever had sex and currently using contraception. The researcher considered contribution of the entire set of variables by adding one variable at a time to the regression model.

3.4 Measures

Table 1: List of variables used in this study by characteristic, definition and measure.		
Characteristic	Description	Measure
Background Characteristics		
Age	Age of respondent in single of both male and female youth ages 15 – 24.	Age groups: 15-16 17-19 20-24
Residence	Rural or Urban	Urban = 1, Rural=2
Province	All the nine provinces of Zambia i.e. Central, Copperbelt, Eastern, Luapula, Lusaka, Northern, North-West, Southern and Western provinces.	Copperbelt=1, Central=2, Eastern=3, Luapula=4, Lusaka=5, Northern=, North-West=7, Southern=8 and Western=9.
Religion	Protestant, Catholics and other (representing Muslims, Hindu and traditional)	Protestants=1 Catholics=2 Other=3
Children Ever born	Respondents were asked if they have ever had a child and if so, how many.	None=1 One=2 Two or more=3
Lifestyle and Living Conditions		
Mass Media	Households were examined for ownership of television and radio. (Youth in these households are asked how often they read newspapers/magazines, watch TV and listen to the radio.)	Not at all=1 Less than once a week=2 At least once a week=3 Almost everyday=4
Smoking and Alcohol Consumption	Respondents were asked they smoked cigarettes or drank alcohol.	Yes=1 No=2
Dependent Variables		
Education	This is the level of education completed.	None=1 Primary=2 Secondary+=3
Marital Status	Respondents are asked to state their current marital status.	Single=1 Married=2 Other=3
Employment Status	Respondents are asked if they are currently working.	Yes=1 No=2
Sexual Experience	Respondents are asked if they have ever had sex.	Yes=1 No=2
Contraceptive Use	Respondents are asked if they are currently using any contraception	Yes=1 No=2

3.5 Scope and Limitations

This is a cross-sectional study looking at the socio-economic and demographic situation of Zambian youth aged 15 – 24 years using secondary data from the 2001-2002 ZDHS. It is not hypothesis driven.

Being an analysis of secondary data, the limitations of the ZDHS cannot be controlled for in this study and, as such, are inclusive. These include errors of sampling and reporting biases. Further the ZDHS did not attempt to get a representative sample of young people in Zambia. 20% of the data are males and female ages 15 – 24yrs and this is not an accurate sample covering the youth population of Zambia. Thus while the data permit an analysis of young people ages 15 – 24yrs, the findings cannot be entirely accurately representative of the youth population of Zambia.

The 2001-2002 ZDHS data is also limited in its scope for certain variables that will be used in this study. Education data is available for enrolment rates, retention rates as well as drop out rates. It does not offer reasons for drop out rates that could provide a backdrop against drop out rates. Data on employment includes unemployment rates for males but not for females. This could be a reflection of gender-based economic biases towards men in Zambia. This limits an analysis of employment trends among females and would thus not offer any comparative analyses by sex. Data on current contraceptive use exists for females but not for males. This is largely because the burden of contraception often falls on women. However, this does not permit a comparative analysis of current contraceptive use for male youth. The ZDHS covers issues around STIs including HIV/AIDS, this study will not address these since other studies such as the Zambia Sexual Behaviour Surveys have conducted research concerning young people and STIs and HIV/AIDS.

Chapter 4: Findings

4.1 Introduction

This chapter examines the socioeconomic and demographic profile of Zambian youth based on data from the ZDHS 2001-2002.

4.2 Characteristics of Respondents

Background Characteristics: Table 2 presents the distribution of young people in Zambia for both male and female, by their place of residence, religion, educational, marriage and employment status. Table 2 facilitates a presentation of the background characteristics of Zambian youth from ZDHS 2001-2002 data that will later, be used to develop a portrait of lifestyle measures and socio-economic characteristics of Zambian youth.

According to the 2001-2002 ZDHS report, youth constituted a high proportion of respondents interviewed among women ages 15 – 49 and men of ages 15 – 59. The data presented in Table 2 shows that there are more youth aged 20 – 24. While Zambia has one of the highest urbanisation rates in Africa, the data from table 2 show there are more youth living in rural areas than in urban areas for both males and females. This could be explained by the fact that approximately 60% of the population in Zambia live in rural areas.

Of the nine provinces of Zambia, it is shown that the highest proportion of male and female youth respondents reside on the Copperbelt (21.5 and 20.4, respectively) with the lowest residing in North-Western Province (5.3 and 4.3, respectively). The Copperbelt and Lusaka provinces are widely known as the industrial hubs of Zambia. The Copperbelt and Lusaka provinces have been known to have more economic

opportunities than other provinces. This could possibly be one of the reasons accounting for this high number of youth in the two provinces.

Table 2: Percent distribution of females and males ages 15 – 24 by background characteristics, ZDHS 2001-2002.				
Background Characteristics	Male		Female	
	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent
Age				
15-16	156	19.4	695	20.0
17-19	303	37.6	1116	32.1
20-24	346	43.0	1664	47.9
Residence				
Urban	330	41.0	1457	41.9
Rural	475	59.0	2019	58.1
Province				
Central	70	8.7	262	7.5
Copperbelt	173	21.5	710	20.4
Eastern	90	11.2	428	12.3
Luapula	50	6.3	270	7.8
Lusaka	110	13.7	528	15.2
Northern	109	13.5	463	13.3
North-Western	43	5.3	150	4.3
Southern	82	10.1	376	10.8
Western	77	9.6	289	8.3
Religion				
Catholic	187	23.3	795	22.9
Protestant	597	74.2	2623	75.5
Muslim	4	0.5	8	0.2
No religion	15	1.9	19	0.5
Other	1	0.1	22	0.6
Educational level attended				
No education	32	4.0	337	9.7
Primary	443	55.0	1941	55.9
Secondary	321	39.9	1144	32.9
Higher	9	1.1	53	1.5
Percentage currently working	332	41.2	1423	40.9
Current marital status				
Never married	688	85.5	1732	49.8
Married	96	11.9	1505	43.3
Living together	2	0.2	18	0.5
Widowed	1	0.1	18	0.5
Divorced	7	0.9	148	4.3
Not living together	11	1.3	54	1.6
Total	804	100	3454	100
Percentages are weighted.				

Amongst Christians there are more protestant male and female youth (74.2 and 75.5, respectively) compared to Catholics (23.3 and 22.9, respectively).

The data show that fewer male youth (4%) have no education compared to almost a tenth of female youth (9.7%) who have no education. The data also shows that more than half of both male and female youth (55% and 55.9% respectively) have attended primary school. Approximately 40% of male youth have attended secondary school compared to a third of female youth.

Less than half the number of youth, (41.2% males and 40.9% females) are in employment. This is most probably because at ages 15 – 19, most youth are in secondary school.

The data show that more male youth (85.5%) have never been married compared to just under half (49.8%) of female youth who have never been married. Conversely, more female youth were married (43.3%) compared to male youth (11.9%). In Zambia, men marry later than females. According to the ZDHS 2001-2002, the median age at first marriage for those aged 25 – 29 was 18 for females and for males, 23.

Lifestyle Measures: The 2001-2002 ZDHS collected information on respondent's exposure to selected types of lifestyle measure. Information on exposure to mass media is useful in determining channels for marketing information as well as for health promotion programmes. Further, mass media has been documented to have a significant influence on young people's life style habits such as dressing, eating and socialising.

Data from Table 3 show that the proportion of both male and female youth who read newspapers and magazines almost every day is relatively low (4.6% and 2.6%

respectively). This proportion increases to just over a quarter (16.8%) for males and just under a tenth (8.3%) for females. Three quarters of female youth (75.5%) and 62.1% of males do not read newspapers or magazines. Over a third (34.4%) of male youth and 28.9% of females listen to the radio everyday compared to 21% males and 40.8% of females who don't listen at all to the radio. Approximately a quarter (15.8%) of females and 29% males listen to the radio at least once a week. Under a quarter of both male and female youth (24.1% and 20.9% respectively) watch TV every day compared to more than half (51.3% and 66.6% respectively) who don't watch at all.

Table 3: Percent distribution of females and males ages 15 – 24 by lifestyle measures and Media exposure (Newspaper, TV, Radio), Zambia 2001-2002.

	Male		Female	
	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent
Frequency of reading newspaper or magazine				
Not at all	500	62.1	2625	75.5
Less than once a week	132	16.4	464	13.4
At least once a week	135	16.8	290	8.3
Almost every day	37	4.6	92	2.6
Frequency of listening to radio				
Not at all	169	21.0	1418	40.8
Less than once a week	125	15.5	504	14.5
At least once a week	233	29.0	548	15.8
Almost every day	277	34.4	100	28.9
Frequency of watching television				
Not at all	413	51.3	2315	66.6
Less than once a week	97	12.0	217	6.2
At least once a week	101	12.6	214	6.1
Almost every day	194	24.1	728	20.9
Percentage smokes cigarettes	57	7	11	0.3
Percentage smokes other tobacco	15	1.8	1	0.4
Percentage Sexually Active	245	29.8	1265	36.6
Percentage ever had a child	111	13.5	1791	51.9
Percentage knows modern contraception	147	18.8	61	18.6
Percentage ever used modern contraception	na	na	49	4.5
Percentage currently using contraception	na	na	17	4.0
Total	804	100.0	3473	100.0
* Data is based on youth sexually active in the last 4 weeks from the date of interviews. Percentages are weighted. na – Not available				

Other lifestyle measures used in the ZDHS 2001-2002 were the use of tobacco by the respondents. Tobacco use, particularly through smoking affects the health of the smoker and even more for other non-smoking household members, through the phenomenon known as “passive smoking.” The ZDHS 2001-2002 asked respondents how frequently they smoked, whether they had smoked in the past 24

hours and how many cigarettes respondents smoked in a day. Respondents were also asked what type of smoking they engaged in including cigarette and pipe smoking, and other tobacco. Table 3 shows that the number of female smokers is almost negligible (0.3%) while that of males is comparatively still few at 7%. Table 3 also shows that no young people in Zambia smoke pipe tobacco. The data also shows that other forms of tobacco smoked by young people are negligible.

Data on recent sexual activity for youth shows that more female youth are sexually active than male youth. Data from table 3 shows that there are more female youth (43%) that are married compared to male youth (12%). This would explain why female youth more sexually active than male youth.

According to the 2001/2 ZDHS reports that child bearing begins early in Zambia. The data show that the proportion of female youth who have ever had a child is greater compared to males. This is probably due to their being more female youth married than male youth.

Knowledge of modern contraception is relatively low for both sexes (approximately 19% respectively). Use of contraceptive rates is equally low at 5% for those who have ever used contraception and 5% for those currently using.

4.3 Bivariate Analyses

Table 4: Cross tabulation of education, employment, marital status, contraception and sexual activity by background characteristics of Zambian youth ages 15-24, Zambia 2001-2002

Background Characteristics	% completed secondary +	% currently working	% currently married	% Current contraceptive use	% sexually active
MALE					
Age					
15-16	17	11.7	0	na	17.5
17-19	34.9	33.9	1.6	na	25
20-24	49.4	63	28.3	na	40.2
Residence					
Urban	61.3	33.9	7.7	na	23.6
Rural	25.5	45.3	14.9	na	32.9
FEMALE					
Age					
15-16	29.2	29.8	11.9	3.9	14.7
17-19	35.2	42.3	40.7	12.1	36.3
20-24	32.6	51.9	65.6	17.8	50.4
Residence					
Urban	55.6	28.2	33.8	16.8	30.8
Rural	19.5	51.4	49.6	10.0	39.8
na -Data Not Available Percentages are weighted. Data significant at p<.05					

Data in Table 4 follows an expected trend in increases of the percentages across the ages and residence for both sexes. The data show that the proportion of female youth who completed secondary and higher education is greater than that of males for the age groups 15-16 (29.2% and 17% respectively) and 17-19 (35.2% and 34.9% respectively). These trends could possibly be due to pay-offs from the governments "Programme for the Advancement of Girl-Child Education" (PAGE. MOE 2000). PAGE has been government's response, since the late eighties, in addressing the lower percentages of female learners completing secondary school. At the 20-24 age group, the trend changes, males surpass females (49.4% and 32.6% respectively). For urban rural differentials, there are more males who have completed secondary school at both levels. In urban areas, 61.3% of males completed secondary school compared to 55.6% of females.

In general, men marry later than women. At the age of 15, there are virtually no males married compared to 11.9% of females married. By age 20, 28% of males are married compared to 65.6% of females.

Contraceptive use is relatively low amongst female youth. The data presented show that at ages 15-16, only 3.9% are currently using a modern contraceptive method. These low percentages are probably due to high expectations of child birth within marriage. The percentage increases to 17.8% at the age group 20-24 and yet at this same age group, there are 65.6% who are married. This gap in the proportionate increase signals a number of potential opportunities, which include increasing demand for contraceptive use.

Data on recent sexual activity follow an expected trend with the proportions of youth engaging in sex, in the last 4 months to the survey, increasing with age.

4.4 Multivariate Analyses

Factors affecting Zambian Youth Lifestyles: Developing programmes and policies for youth, in part, requires an understanding of the probable effects of key demographic and socio-economic characteristics on young people's lifestyles. In Table 5, an analysis of the effects of education, employment, marital status, sexual experience and contraceptive use on Zambian youth lifestyles is presented. Using the forward method of logistic regression, only variables that were present at the last step of the forward method of logistic regression analysis were presented in Table 5.

Table 5: Odds ratios (and 95% confidence intervals) from stepwise multiple regression analysis assessing the effects of selected characteristics on the odds of working, being married, having completed secondary school and approval for family planning for Zambian youth ages 15 – 24yrs.

	Enrolled in Secondary +	Currently Working	Currently Married	Sexual Experience	Contraceptive Use +
MALE					
Age	1.46 (1.43-1.58)	1.57 (1.44-1.71)	1.62 (1.37-1.91)	1.43 (1.29-1.58)	
Residence					
Urban (ref)	1.00			1.00	
Rural	2.73 (1.80-4.13)			1.71 (1.03-2.86)*	
Province					
Copperbelt (ref)	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	
Central	3.39 (1.46-7.85)	0.69 (0.30-1.59)**	1.34 (0.30-6.02)	0.47 (0.18-1.23)**	
Eastern	1.26 (0.57-2.79)	0.86 (0.42-1.80)*	0.62 (0.16-2.43)	0.66 (0.28-1.53)**	
Luapula	2.03 (0.88-4.67)	1.26 (0.58-2.74)*	1.73 (0.47-6.33)	0.41 (0.16-1.03)**	
Lusaka	1.59 (0.64-3.97)	2.52 (1.06-5.99)*	0.32 (0.05-2.13)	0.39 (0.14-1.03)**	
Northern	2.55 (1.09-5.79)	0.96 (0.41-2.24)*	0.27 (0.05-1.39)	0.36 (0.13-0.97)**	
North/West	1.64 (0.74-3.61)	1.42 (0.69-2.94)*	0.94 (0.26-3.43)	0.21 (0.09-0.50)*	
Southern	1.97 (0.90-4.30)	0.28 (0.13-0.63)	1.07 (0.26-4.35)	0.69 (0.29-1.63)**	
Western	1.10 (0.46-2.64)	0.30 (0.13-0.71)	1.08 (0.24-4.87)	0.38 (0.15-0.97)*	
Religion					
Protestant (ref)		1.00			
Catholic		0.46 (0.15-1.39)			
Other		0.32 (0.10-1.00)			
Education					
None	na	1.00	1.00		
Primary (ref)	na	0.35 (0.14-0.86)	1.65 (0.30-9.19)*		
Secondary+	na	0.07 (0.03-0.18)	0.58 (0.10-3.49)		
Marital Status					
Never (ref)	1.00	1.00	na		
Married	5.62 (1.59-19.82)	1.24 (0.38-4.07)*	na		
Other	2.41 (0.67-8.64)*	4.66 (1.17-18.53)*	na		
CEB					
None (ref)	1.00	1.00	1.00		
One	0.92 (0.34-2.48)	2.19 (0.66-7.23)*	0.01 (0.00-0.04)		
Two or more	1.12 (0.44-2.82)	6.39 (1.89-21.62)	0.19 (0.04-0.86)**		
Employment Status					
Not Working (ref)	1.00	na	1.00		
Currently Working	5.18 (3.35-8.01)	na	0.33 (0.15-0.73)		
-2 Log likelihood	856.7	788.4	287.8	717.02	

	Enrolled in Secondary +	Currently Working	Currently Married	Sexual Experience	Contraceptive Use †
FEMALE					
Age	1.31 (1.26-1.37)	1.16 (1.12-1.21)	1.32 (1.26-1.38)	1.33 (1.25-1.41)	
Residence					
Urban (ref)	1.00	1.00	1.00		1.00
Rural	4.19 (3.40-5.17)	0.41 (0.33-0.51)	0.75 (0.57-0.98)*		1.30 (1.00-1.70)
Province					
Copperbelt (ref)	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Central	1.19 (0.79-1.78)**	0.32 (0.22-0.47)	3.40 (2.06-5.60)	0.22 (0.12-0.4)	1.00 (0.60-1.61)
Eastern	1.26 (0.85-1.88)**	0.54 (0.38-0.77)	3.38 (2.11-5.39)	0.26 (0.20-0.45)	1.01 (0.40-1.01)
Luapula	1.08 (0.72-1.64)**	0.04 (0.02-0.06)	5.76 (3.54-9.37)	0.248 (0.14-0.50)	1.01 (0.60-1.41)
Lusaka	0.39 (0.23-0.65)	2.45 (1.58-3.80)	2.59 (1.56-4.30)	0.13 (0.10-0.24)	1.01 (0.60-1.61)
Northern	0.79 (0.52-1.18)**	0.33 (0.23-0.49)	3.58 (2.17-5.91)	0.30 (0.20-0.53)	1.33 (0.83-2.14)
North/West	1.32 (0.90-1.93)**	0.76 (0.54-1.07)**	3.57 (2.27-5.62)	0.13 (0.10-0.22)	0.80 (0.51-1.20)
Southern	1.28 (0.86-1.91)**	0.23 (0.16-0.33)	2.15 (1.34-3.47)	0.46 (0.30-0.81)	0.91 (0.61-1.44)
Western	1.04 (0.69-1.58)**	0.15 (0.10-0.21)	3.70 (2.25-6.08)	0.35 (0.20-0.61)	0.91 (0.54-1.41)
Religion					
Protestant (ref)	1.00	1.00			
Catholic	2.10 (0.93-4.75)**	0.36 (0.19-0.67)			
Other	2.60 (1.14-5.95)*	0.34 (0.18-0.66)			
Education					
None(ref)	na	1.00	1.00		1.00
Primary	na	2.04 (1.50-2.80)	5.24 (3.54-7.60)		0.41 (0.30-0.54)
Secondary +	na	1.83 (1.51-2.23)	2.60 (2.03-3.31)		0.50 (0.40-0.64)
Marital Status					
Never (ref)	1.00	1.00	na		1.00
Married	2.36 (1.62-3.34)	0.54 (0.38-0.77)	na		1.21 (0.72-2.10)**
Other	0.83 (0.58-1.17)**	0.86 (0.62-1.19)**	na		3.01 (2.10-5.00)
CEB					
None (ref)	1.00	1.00	1.00		1.00
One	3.83 (2.80-5.25)	0.92 (0.68-1.23)**	0.02 (0.02-0.04)		0.20 (0.10-0.22)
Two or more	2.60 (2.00-3.38)	1.30 (1.02-1.65)*	0.19 (0.13-0.28)		0.70 (0.54-0.91)
Employment Status					
Not Working (ref)	1.00	na	1.00	1.00	
Currently Working	1.87 (1.55-2.27)	na	0.65 (0.52-0.81)	1.27 (1.00-1.71)	
-2 Log likelihood	3446.7	3609.6	2535.4	1682.7	2618.1

† Data not available for male youth.

* p < .01 ** p < .05.

In Table 5, the odds of having completed secondary or higher education amongst male youth, are positively associated with age, residence marital status and employment status. Rural youth are three times (odds ratio 3.7) more likely to have

completed secondary or higher education than their urban counterparts. Married youth were five times more than unmarried youth to have completed secondary school (odds ratio 5.2). Being currently employed was positively associated with Age (1.5), education (primary-16.7 and secondary-5.5), being married (1.3) and having one or more children (2.1). Of the factors associated with marriage, only age (1.5), those with secondary or higher education (2.8) were positively associated. The odds of having had sexual experience were significant for factors including age, residence, province and marital status. Male youth in rural areas (odds ratio 1.7) were more likely to be sexually experienced than their urban counterparts. However, youth from the other provinces had lower odds of being sexually experienced than those from the Copperbelt.

Amongst female youth, it is shown that youth in rural areas are 4 times (odds ratio 4.1) more likely to have completed secondary school than their urban counterparts. Catholics (2.1) and other (2.5) religious groups are twice as likely to have completed secondary or higher education compared to protestants. Female youth with one child (3.8) and those who are married (2.3) are more likely to have completed secondary school. Of the factors associated with being currently employed, female youth in Lusaka province (2.4) were more likely to be working than those on the Copperbelt. Female youth who are married are twice more likely to be working than those who are single. The data show that having an education is positively associated with being married. Female youth with primary education were 5 times more likely to be married than those without education. Female youth with one or two children had lower odds of being married (0.02 and 0.19 respectively). Contraceptive use was found to be associated with having a child, level of education and marital status. However, female youth with one child had lower odds of having ever used contraceptives (0.14) compared to those who had no child. Married youth and those

who were either divorced or separated had increased odds of ever having used contraceptives (1.13 and 2.92 respectively).

Chapter 5: Discussions and Conclusion

5.1 Introduction

This chapter presents a discussion of the main findings presented in chapter five. It highlights the major findings and discusses these in contrast to selected studies and reports on the demographic and socioeconomic profile of youth in Zambia. The discussion centres on the four key variables of interest: Education, Employment, Marital Status and Sexual Activity and Fertility including Contraception.

5.2 Summary of Major finding and Discussions

Education: Zambia's education system consists of academic training at the primary, secondary, and tertiary levels. Formal primary schooling in Zambia includes seven years of primary school, typically referred to as grades 1-7. The official age range for primary schooling is age 7-13. At the end of primary school, a national examination, the Primary School Leaving Certificate Examination (PSLCE) is administered. Secondary schooling consists of two levels, junior secondary (grades 8-9) and senior secondary (grades 10-12), with the official secondary school age range being age 14-18. Successful completion of junior secondary leads to the award of the Junior Certificate of Examination (JCE), and completion of senior secondary leads to the award of the School Certificate of Education (SCE). The Ministry of Education (MOE) is currently reorganizing the pre-university education system into two levels: basic education will include grades 1-9, and high school will include grades 10-12. Tertiary education includes schooling at universities, colleges of commerce, technical colleges, and teacher training colleges. Both universities and colleges require the SCE for admission. Technical and vocational colleges train craftsmen, technicians, and other skilled workers for industry. These colleges include an intermediate level for students who have completed primary school and an advanced level for students

who have completed secondary school. Students studying to become primary school or secondary school teachers enrol in teacher training colleges after completing the SCE.

Results from the findings indicate that the differences between female and male youth educational attainment are negligible. This could be explained by the fact that the “Basic Education Sector Support Investment Programme” (BESSIP), a key programme in the Ministry of Education aimed at improving access to and quality of education in the country, focuses on the primary schooling years, i.e. from 7 – 13 and Junior secondary schooling years, i.e. 14 – 15. No other government programme has been initiated to address the remaining segment of school going young people, i.e. ages 16 – 18. According to the Ministry of Education (Education, Children and Youth Development [ECYD] Thematic Group, 2005) secondary school education has remained almost static over the years, with the last government secondary school having been built in 1976. The current exercise of upgrading some basic schools to high schools in an effort to improve access for high school pupils has not succeeded well. There are 176 secondary schools in urban areas and 137 in rural areas making a total of 319 high schools in the whole country, government and private included. The factors combined may account for the low figures of completion rates for both males and females.

The rural urban differentials show that more young people in urban areas have completed all levels of schooling than their rural counterparts. A number of factors could account for this. These include access in terms of the number of schools in rural areas and the distance to schools and the cost of education. As pointed out earlier above, there are 176 secondary schools in urban areas and 137 in rural areas.

It seems probable that government's policy to allow girls who have fallen pregnant and given birth to return to the classroom has yielded positive results. Results from the multivariate analyses show that a female youth with a child is likely to have secondary education. Still on education, youth in rural areas, both male and female, are more likely to have completed secondary school. This phenomenon requires further examination since statistics from the ministry of education show that there are more secondary schools in urban areas than rural areas.

Employment: For the last 10 years Zambia has been pursuing economic reform policies under the IMF and World Bank supported structural adjustment programmes. As with most structural adjustment programmes, the Zambian model is premised on a simple neo-classical model that views free markets as the key to economic growth. The assumption behind this model is that liberalization allows markets to set the right price, hence promoting efficiency and increasing income, in turn leading to economic growth. The government, through its economic reform measures, has managed to attain a tolerable level of stability in some major macroeconomic indicators. However, this has been attained at a very high social cost and at the expense of stagnation in the economy, and as can be expected, unemployment rates have reached unprecedented levels.

The findings point to the fact that young people in Zambia begin employment early. On average, more than 40% of male and female youth ages 15 – 24 were currently employed at the time of the survey. On the other hand, approximately 60% of youth were unemployed. According to the Central Statistics Office in Zambia, it is estimated that youth unemployment among youth aged 15-24 rose to about 44% in 2000 (CSO-2000 census). The findings from this study show that youth unemployment has risen even further, exacerbating the plight of youth in Zambia.

It is shown that more youth in rural areas are employed than in urban areas. Approximately 51.4% of females and 48.4% of males aged 15 – 24 respectively, were employed in rural areas compared to 28.2% females and 37.9% males in urban areas. This is probably due to the fact that a large proportion of employment activities centres on agriculture and related activities. An evaluation study by the National Youth Constitutional Assembly found that "rural youths have access to a number of natural resources such as timber, honey and fish, which have been sources of their livelihood (NYCA, 2005)." Agriculture and related activities have been found to be the major type of employment among rural youth whereas in urban areas, the major sources of livelihood among young people in the cities and other urban set ups are street vending, employment in public transport sector (drivers and conductors) with a large proportion of young people still in school.

Female youth with two or more children are more likely to be working than those without a child. This could probably be due to the responsibilities and expectations around child upbringing. Youth in Lusaka, both male and female were more likely to be working than youth on the Copperbelt. This could be explained by the fact that since the mid-nineties when the government's privatization programme was initiated, most industries on the Copperbelt were sold off leading to massive layoffs and reduced employment opportunities, whereas, Lusaka did not experience a similar scenario most probably because it is the capital city of the country.

Marital Status: When girls are married at a young age, it is often due to poverty, dowry pressures, parental concerns about premarital sex and pregnancy, or other economic or cultural reasons. For many, marriage marks the beginning of their sexual debut. According to the 1996 ZDHS, Six in ten Zambian women of reproductive age were in a marital union. The same report states that marriage, for half the women, occurs before the age of 18. While young people are getting married early, there are trends that suggest the age at marriage is increasing with time. In

1992, age at first marriage was under 17 years, while in 1996, median age at first marriage among women age 20-49 increased from 17.7 in 1992 to 18.0 in 1996.

There is an indication that the age at first marriage has been increasing steadily. This could be due to the effects of education mainly. According to the 2002 ZDHS, almost half of the women are married before the age of 18 and 70 percent are married by age 20. The same report states that the median age at marriage has increased from 17 among women aged 45 – 49 to almost 19 among women aged 25 – 29. Men, in general marry later than women. The median age at marriage at first for the age group 20 – 24 was 18 for women and 23 for men. While these figures demonstrate an increase in the age at first marriage, differentials by residence and education paint another picture all together. As expected, rural youth marry even earlier than their urban counterparts.

Findings from this study show that female youth in all the provinces are more likely to be married than on the Copperbelt. The lack of employment on the Copperbelt compared to other provinces could have led to fewer men opting to marry and this could in turn have led to reduced chances of females getting married. On the contrary, males in other provinces save for Central and Luapula exhibit an opposite trend. This trend could be explained by the fact that apart from Lusaka province, all other provinces have more people in rural areas engaged in subsistence farming and related activities. This in itself is classified as gainful self-employment by the government. Combined with Lusaka province, therefore, there are more male youth employed who are in a position to sustain a family should they decide to get married. As expected, age increases, the chances of a young person being married also increase.

Contraception: The findings in this study show that the percentage of young people ages 15 – 24 who have ever used a method of contraception are higher in urban areas than in rural areas. This could be largely due to availability of services and commodities as well as prevailing norms around contraceptive use. Young people currently using contraceptives are even fewer in comparison to those who know any method as well as those who have ever used a method. This could be largely attributed to the fact that those in the age group 15 – 19 are mostly in school but also probably due to societal expectation around child bearing. Married young people are only beginning to raise families; hence the need may not be that much as for those who have had more than two or three children.

With that high percentage of knowledge, the findings point out to a high approval level of family planning for both male and female youth. Approval of family planning is associated with the level of education. Young people with secondary or higher education are most approving of family planning than those with lower levels of education.

5.3 Recommendations

A major limitation throughout this study has to do with the fact that the data used were extracted from a population aged 15 – 49 for women and 15 – 59 for males of the 2001-2002 ZDHS. There remains the need for exclusive studies on young people that should allow policy makers and youth stakeholders to develop a clearer picture of issues affecting young people ages 15 – 24 in Zambia. Given the diverse issues affecting young people as established in this profile of young people in Zambia, the following recommendations are provided:

Education: The CSO recently published a special report on educational data in Zambia based on the ZDHS 2001-2002. The report provides a detailed discussion of the major educational variables covering primary, secondary and tertiary levels of education that goes beyond the scope of this study. The report presents recommendations that are more encompassing than what this study would endeavour to highlight. The researcher suggests policy makers review and implement the findings of that report.

Employment: Zambia has reached the Highly Indebted Poor Country (HIPC) completion point as stipulated by the World Bank and other Bi-lateral institutions. It has recently experienced debt cancellation that should see it begin making substantial investments in areas that include youth economic empowerment. The research found that youth in rural areas are endowed with natural resources that require further investment in processing technologies, to mention but just one example. In urban areas, the services industry is dominating alongside basic trading in essential commodities. Funds that were earmarked for debt servicing would ideally serve to invest in both urban and rural areas as a job creation initiative. There is also the need to commission special evaluatory studies to establish the extent of the challenges facing youth in creating employment opportunities.

Marital Status and Sexual Activity: A number of studies have been conducted around sexual behaviour of youth in relation to HIV/AIDS and hence this study did not include an analysis on HIV/AIDS. However, the ever increasing threat of HIV infection and the relatively low age at first intercourse calls for further studies to be conducted to establish factors that could help increase age at first intercourse among Zambian youth.

Contraception: There's need to understand further the dynamics around contraceptive use amongst never-married youth who are sexually active. The ZDHS explores contraceptive use mainly for married respondents. There's growing evidence that the proportion of youth who are not yet married but are sexually active is increasing. Contraceptive use for this group of people will largely focus on prevention of pregnancy and contraction of STIs. Studies should be conducted to help policy makers and programme planners understand the issues and challenges facing unmarried youth who are sexually active who seek to use contraception for the purposes alluded to above.

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