

**Assessment of the effect of education on age at first childbirth in  
Tanzania : a Case of Msalato Ward in Dodoma Municipality**

**Dismas Mtutu Chilala  
Master of Arts (Demography)  
University of Dar es Salaam, College of Social Science, 2016**

The purpose of this study was to appraise the effect of education on age at first birth. Specifically, it intended to establish the age of a woman when she delivers her first child and examines her level of formal education during the event of first child birth. To accomplish this study, the sample size involved 181 females of child bearing age, 15 — 49 years in the study area. The study adopted a cross section design by using both primary source of data as well as secondary source of data. Both sources were in the study area which was the Msalato ward in Dodoma Municipality. Primary data were collected using a structured questionnaire with both open and close ended questions. Secondary data were collected from St. Gema Miyuji health facility in which the researcher reviewed monthly labour services report and also from secondary schools in the ward where the researcher reviewed teaching syllabus for Biology and Civics for ordinary studies. Data were analyzed using SPSS version 16.0 through which both univariate and bivariate analysis were obtained. Univariate outputs were tabulated by frequencies and percentages while Bivariate outputs were cross tabulations showing associations. The degrees of associations were then tested using Chi square tests. Findings from the field show that, 11 percent of respondents had never attained formal education while 89 percent had formally attained at least a primary education. Of the formally educated, 51.9% had primary education, 28.2% had secondary education and 8.9% were tertially (College and University) educated. Further, results revealed that, there is a delay of at least 30 months of age at first birth for those who joined secondary school whose age was 20.8 years from primary school education whose mean age at first birth was found to be 18.3 years. Also there was a delay of 9 months of age at first birth if a woman went further to college and university level whose first birth age was 21.6 years as per this study as compared to those with secondary education whose mean age at first birth was 20.8 years. Besides, results show that there is a significant statistical relation at 1% level between education level of a

woman and her age at first child birth and age at first marriage. The other variables; say residence street, religious affiliation and occupation were statically not significant in this study as tested Pearson chi square test.