RADIO PRODUCTION GUIDE

Gender, stereotypes and teenage pregnancy
Gender: Gender refers to socially created roles, personality traits, attitudes, behaviours and values that are considered acceptable for men and women. Gender is learnt, and changes over time. (Tool for Talking about Taboos)

Sex: The biological characteristics that define humans as female, male or intersex. (Tool for Talking about Taboos)

Stereotype: An oversimplified idea or belief about individuals or groups of people or ways of doing things. Many stereotypes are racist, sexist and homophobic. (Adapted from Wikipedia)

Pregnancy: The state of being pregnant, growing a child in the uterus

Teenage pregnancy: When a teenager, usually within the ages of 13-19 years old, becomes pregnant. (UNICEF)

Contraceptives: Methods to prevent pregnancy that include condoms (male and female), birth control pills, IUDs (Intra-uterine device), patches, injections, abstinence (choosing not to have sex), outercourse (sexual activity without penetration). (Marie Stopes)

The South African Constitution protects young people as follows:

- People 12 years and older can legally access contraceptives and abortions
- People 12 years and older do not need the consent of a parent or guardian for sexual and reproductive health services

That means…

- We have a right to protect ourselves from unwanted pregnancies
- We have a right to accurate information about contraceptives
- We have a right to access safe, effective and affordable methods of contraception
- We have a right to choose the contraceptive method that works for our needs

(Marie Stopes)

Did you know that…?

- The media often portrays stereotypes about boys and girls.
- People assume certain things about complete strangers based on their age, sex, skin colour and the way they dress. These things are often not true.
- Gender stereotypes can create harmful power dynamics between genders. This can lead to oppression and discrimination.

Resources

- Teenage Pregnancy & Gender Equality
- Perspectives on Teen Parenting
- Shocking Confessions Of Teen Mothers
- How Do Gender Stereotype Affect Boys and Girls?
- HatchKids Discuss Male Gender Stereotypes
Preparing for the show

Find out for yourself what attitudes exist from young women, young men, family and communities and school policies

- Research articles and YouTube videos about gender and stereotypes.
- Find media articles about teenage pregnancy. How does the article portray a teenage mother? And how does it portray a teenage father?
- Discuss your findings with your production group.
- Choose a specific show angle about gender and pregnancy.

Ways to talk about gender, stereotypes and teenage pregnancy

- Unpacking gender and pregnancy in South Africa
- Negative consequences of gender stereotypes in the lives of young parents and families
- How expectations of teenagers change when they become young parents

Choose an angle

Different ways to talk about: Unpacking gender and pregnancy in South Africa

- Main stereotypes about mothers and fathers
- The consequences of these stereotypes on teenage parents
- Local school & religious policies around pregnancy
- Challenging gender stereotypes
- Knowing your reproductive rights as a teenager

“Although some teenage pregnancies are intentional, the majority of them are unintentional and lead to many negative outcomes for the teenage mother, the child, as well as other family members and peers.”

UBCWiki
Vox Pop
Vox Pop aim: To get many opinions on one topic
Who do you talk to: Anybody from the community

Question: When you think girl’s and boy’s roles, personality traits, attitudes or behaviour what are the three words that come your mind?

- Girls are… (stereotypically pure, domestic, vulnerable, emotional)
- Boys are… (stereotypically flirts, lazy and messy, physically strong)
- Teenage mothers are… (stereotypically responsible for raising children, caregivers, strong, hardworking)
- Teenage fathers are… (stereotypically the provider’s, negligent, irresponsible)

Audio commentary
Audio commentary aim: To get people’s opinion about a topic that they care deeply about
Who do you talk to: A highschool teacher, an adult parent, a young parent, a teenager who chose alternative options such as abortion or adoption.

Audio profile
Audio profile aim: To get a first person account of someone’s experience, passion and journey. Audio profiles often aim to inspire.

Who do you talk to: For example, a teenage parent about their journey, the stereotypes they faced and how they overcame challenges such as finishing schooling.

Trigger questions to ask to get the person thinking before they record their profile:

⭐ At what age did you become a parent?
⭐ How did you feel when you discovered you would be a parent?
⭐ Did you face judgements or stereotypes?
⭐ What challenges have you experienced as a young mother/father?
⭐ Have you overcome any of those challenges? If yes, please describe how.
⭐ What kind of support is helpful for you?

PSA
The aim of a PSA: To create a public awareness message

Voice 1: Oooo, girl! Things are really heating up between Dylan and me - I think it’s about time I check out some birth control pills and grab some condoms. You never know how hot things might get! Wanna swing by the clinic with me?
Voice 2: Shame, Talia! What will people think of girls asking about contraceptives and getting condoms?
Voice 1: Hah! People will think what they think. What I do with my body is my choice and none of their business.

Character: Don’t let stereotypes control your life. We’ve all got the right to access sexual and reproductive health information and services.
Use your produced radio features, your research, and the suggested script and questions to write your own script.

[Intro:]
Host 1: It’s just gone [TIME] and you’re just in time for the [NAME OF SHOW] on [RADIO STATION]. My name is [NAME]...
Host 2: And my name is [NAME], and today’s show is all about gender, stereotypes and teenage pregnancy!
Host 1: We’ll be talking about gender and pregnancy in South Africa. Why gender and pregnancy you may ask? ‘Cause gender stereotypes can significantly affect young parents!
Host 2: Yebo! Stereotyping happens when we make assumptions about a certain group of people. We’ll be focusing on the gender stereotypes of teenage mothers and fathers. Often these assumptions are not true and have negative consequences. We’ll be unpacking those stereotypes, challenging them, and asking how we can support young parents.
Host 1: Let’s hear more about what people assume about young mothers and fathers.

[Suggested questions for your interview with someone who knows about teenage pregnancy (gender activist, social worker) and the different challenges young parents face.]

- Can you explain what a stereotype is?
- What are gender stereotypes?
- Can you give examples of stereotypes of young mothers?
- What are stereotypes about young fathers?
- What are the consequences of stereotyping young mothers and young fathers?
- What role does stereotyping play in young parents finishing their education?
- Describe some of the challenges teenagers face when they become mothers and fathers.
- How can teachers and students be supportive of young parents?

[Outro:]
Host 1: Today, we’ve learnt so much about gender, stereotypes and teenage pregnancy.
Host 2: Yes, it’s been an eye-opener to learn that we’re all too complex to fit into stereotypes. So when we stereotype people, we’re not actually seeing the whole person! Deep!
Host 1: Next week on [DAY] at [TIME] we’ll be talking all about [NEXT WEEK’S SHOW TOPIC]. Until then, it’s bye from us!

Once you’ve finalised your script, produced your radio features, finalised your “show clock” it’s time to go live on air!
Show outline

| General intro         |
| Intro vox pop        |
| Vox pop              |
| Outro vox pop        |
| Music transition     |
| Intro audio Commentary |
| Audio commentary     |
| Outro commentary     |
| Music transition & jingle |
| PSA                  |
| General outro        |
| Music end            |

You must always introduce your show and radio features. Then once you’ve played your features, have a concluding statement for each one. Don’t forget a final conclusion for the very end of the show.

Use links (facts, tips, did you know, music) to glue it all together.

Now write your radio script

Ethics and consent

This is a sensitive topic, so make sure you inform your interviewees properly and get their full consent.