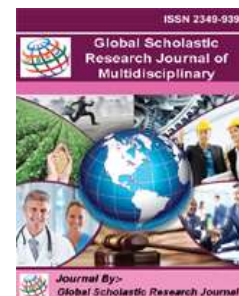




A PEER REVIEWED INTERNATIONAL  
JOURNAL OF GLOBAL SCHOLASTIC  
RESEARCH JOURNAL

**GSRJ**

GLOBAL SCHOLASTIC RESEARCH  
JOURNAL OF MULTIDISCIPLINARY



## EFFECT OF AGE AT PREGNANCY ON PREGNANCY OUTCOMES AMONG CHILD BEARING WOMEN IN KAKAMEGA COUNTY, KENYA

AMBETSA M. WECHÉ<sup>1</sup>; WAKHUNGU W. JACOB<sup>2</sup>; MUTAI CHARLES<sup>3</sup>;  
OMON GRACE<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Masinde Muliro University, Kakamega, Kenya

<sup>2</sup>Masinde Muliro University, Kakamega, Kenya

<sup>3</sup>Masinde Muliro University, Kakamega, Kenya

<sup>4</sup>University of Nairobi, Nairobi, Kenya

---

### Abstract

Maternal age at conception seem to have a significant correlation with pregnancy and childbirth outcomes. The objective of this study was to determine the effect of age at pregnancy on pregnancy outcomes among childbearing women. A cross sectional survey of childbearing women in the age brackets: 18-27, 28-34, 35- 40 years and hospital personnel in 3 selected hospitals and tertiary institutions in Kakamega County, Kenya were carried out. Purposive and stratified sampling strategies were employed. The findings revealed that complications among elderly primigravidas occurred mainly from age 27 years and above which attracted high levels of complications such as: miscarriages, ante partum hemorrhage (APH) & premature rapture of membranes (PROM) on the mothers; and, mental retardation, asphyxia and low birth weight in the new borns. Elderly primigravidae are more prone to complications during pregnancy and at birth raising high mortality and morbidity.

**Keywords:** Pregnancy, complications, childbirth, childbearing, late, age, primigravidae

---

## References

1. Astolfi, P. De Pasquale, L.A. & Zonta, L. (2005). Late childbearing and its impact on adverse pregnancy outcome, Stillbirth, preterm delivery & low birth weight. *Rev Epidemiology Sante Publique*, 53 (Spec No 2):2S97–10
2. Miller, D.A. (2005). Is advanced maternal age an independent risk factor for uteroplacental insufficiency. *Am J Obstetric Gynecol.*; 192:1974–1980.
3. Marzein Nojomi, Ladan Haghighi, Bitaija Bijari, Layia Rezvani & Seyede Khadije (2010) Delayed childbearing: Pregnancy and maternal outcomes. *Iranian Journal of reproductive medicine* vol 18, NO2, pp80-85, Spring
4. World Bank report, (2011). Maternal Mortality Rates ([Www.unicef.org/MDG/maternalhealth](http://www.unicef.org/MDG/maternalhealth))
5. Newburn-Cook, C.V., & Onyskiw, J.E. (2005). Is older maternal age a risk factor for preterm birth and fetal growth restriction? A systematic review. *Health Care Women Int.*; 26:852–875.
6. Bailey, B.A & Byrom, A.R, (2007). Factors predicting birth weight in a low-risk sample: The role of modifiable pregnancy health behaviors. *Maternal Child Health J*; 11:173–179.
7. Best Start, (2007). Reflecting On the Trend: Pregnancy after Age 35. Maternal, Newborn and Early child development Resource Center and the Halton Region Health Department. Ontario, Canada.
8. Cleary & Goldman, J. Malone, F.D. & Vidaver, J. (2006). Impact of maternal age on obstetric outcome. *Obstetric/ Gynecol*; 105:983–990.
9. O'Connor, M.J. & Whaley, S.E. (2006). Health Care provider advice and risk factors associated
10. Bada, H.S., Das, A. & Bauer, C.R, (2005). Low birth weight and preterm births: Etiologic fraction attributable to prenatal drug exposure. *J Perinatal*. 25:631–637.
11. Al Delpishen, Loretta B., Eman, A. & Bernard J. (2008). Pregnancy late in life. A hospital based study of birth outcomes. *Journal on Women's health (Larchmt)* 2008 July, 17(6): 965-970
12. Lawlor, D.A., Smith, G.D. & O'Callaghan, M. (2007). Epidemiologic evidence for the fetal over nutrition hypothesis: Findings from the mater-university study of pregnancy and its outcomes. *Am J Epidemiology*. 165:418–24.
13. Kakamega County development profile. (2013). Available at <http://asdp.co.ke/index.php/kakamega.county> as at 20<sup>th</sup> Jan 2016.
14. Kothari.C.R. (2004). Research methodology: Methods and techniques. 2<sup>nd</sup> revised edition, Delhi: New age International Publishers, India
15. Kenny, L.C., Lavender, T., McNamee, R., O'Neill Mills, T. (2013). Advanced Maternal Age and Adverse Pregnancy Outcome: Evidence from a Large Contemporary Cohort. *PLOS ONE* 8(2).
16. Khoshnood, B. W., & S. Lee, K.S. (2005). Risk of low birth weight associated with advanced maternal age among four ethnic groups in the United States. *Maternal Child Health Journal*, 9:3–9.
17. Fretts C R, Wilkins L. Hang & Kristen E., (2016). Effect of advanced age on fertility and pregnancy. *UpToDate Marketing Professional*
18. Connie, M., Davis, (2011). Age and Fertility: Getting Pregnant in your 30s. Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Center for Health Services Research in Primary Care, University of California, 95817.
19. S.Robinson, N. Sebire & J.Harris. (2009). The risks associated with pregnancy in women aged 35 years or older