

# AN ANALYSIS OF THE CAUSES AND EFFECTS OF TEENAGE PREGNANCY AMONG FEMALE SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

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## ABSTRACT

*Teenage pregnancy, described as the case of an underage girl becoming pregnant between the ages of thirteen and nineteen, has been a matter of great concern to parents, school administrators, and other stakeholders. The objective of this study was to explore the causes and effects of teenage pregnancy among female secondary school students in the local government area. Descriptive research design was adopted for the study. Three research questions guided the study. An instrument titled 'Causes and Effects of Teenage Pregnancy among Female Students' was designed by the researchers and used for data collection. The instrument was validated by experts and reliability was achieved through test-retest. Mean statistics were used to answer the research questions. Study findings show that lack of information, peer pressure, parental pressure on teenage girls to marry, non-use of contraceptives and economic factors are some of the reasons for teenage pregnancy. The study also revealed that dropping out of school, health risks, isolation and rejection by parents and peers are some of the effects of teenage pregnancy, and lack of adequate parental care, sex education in schools and prohibition of early marriage are some of the causes of teenage pregnancy. There are effective ways to reduce.*

**Keyword :** - Teenage pregnancy, Female, Secondary School, Students..

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Teenage pregnancy is an unwanted phenomenon among women who are educationally and economically disadvantaged. Pregnancy among teenagers is one of the most serious issues facing most countries today. Teenage pregnancy is becoming a growing concern, and it is important to understand the various causes of teenage pregnancy. Pregnancy among girls is a social problem that is faced not only in India but also in many other countries around the world. Sexual activities are also increasing among teenagers in India. Extramarital pregnancy, which can result in abortion, stillbirth, or even death, is a major consequence of increased sexual activity among adolescents. Pregnancy, regardless of age, can be a life-changing experience that transcends race, educational attainment, and socioeconomic status. Motherhood imposes demands on one's life that were unimaginable before woman were born. When a girl, who should be going to school, becomes pregnant, her whole life can be turned upside down as her hopes and dreams are dashed. Pregnancy is generally welcomed when it occurs at the appropriate age and within the context of marriage. Conversely, it is particularly undesirable when it occurs outside marriage or during adolescence, when the individual is learning skills in a formal or informal setting. Poverty, pornography, mass media, and peer influence have been identified as factors contributing to teen pregnancy. According to Gyan (2013), peer influence is also paramount during the adolescent period. Furthermore, it was discovered that teenagers in a suburb of Accra, Ghana mostly engaged in sex as a result of peer pressure, which could make them vulnerable to early pregnancy, motherhood and HIV/AIDS infection. Peer pressure has been identified as a factor that contributes to teen pregnancy. A study conducted to examine patterns and determinants of childbearing in motherhood in two Kenyan populations living in formal settlements revealed that negative peer models are associated with early childbearing among women aged 15–17 years. Similar findings have been made in the United States, where, in some cases, when a friend has a child, it increases a person's chances of becoming a parent, despite the opinion that not having male friends. Lack of peer pressure leads teenagers to unintended pregnancies. in most case. Victims of teenage pregnancy lacked knowledge or were possibly not properly trained about safe sex by their parents, schools or development agencies, which may have prepared them to deal with peers who forced them to have sex. Was attracted to sex before time. He further said that children with single parents are more likely to become pregnant in adolescence. Adolescents who are exposed to sexual content on television, sexuality in the media, porn, and sex map

rooms are more likely to engage in sexual behavior. Accepting gifts for sex, as well as some adults taking advantage of poor teenagers and encouraging them to have sex, have been identified as factors contributing to teen pregnancy. Teen parents are those whose children are between the ages of 13 and 19. Maynard (2011) believes that teenage parenting is a delinquent behavior that arises from stress, dislike, hostility, boredom, and unhappiness in an adolescent girl's home environment. Alcoholism, abuse, and sexual promiscuity are both predisposing factors. Sometimes the terms adolescence and puberty are used interchangeably. According to the World Health Organization WHO (2011), secondary sexual characteristics occur between the ages of ten and nineteen. This time was known as the "second decade of life". They found that when a person is in the second genital stage of psychological development, it is the most sensitive time in their life. According to Onuziuke (2010), female adolescent girls face a variety of issues related to their social, mental and socio-cultural problems on a daily basis. According to Turner and Helms (2012), adolescence is described as the period between the ages of thirteen and nineteen. Adolescence serves as a transitional period between childhood and adulthood, allowing the individual to shed childhood habits and develop adult behavior. Authors and scholars have different views on the exact age at which it begins or ends. According to Boongart and Cohen (2012), age thirteen is a time of transition from childhood to adulthood, marked by increasing social maturity and rapid physical development. He said that this time cycle marks the beginning of puberty and biological maturity. It is an important time in a person's life as many social, economic and demographic events occur that set the stage for adulthood, which has led it to be described as the most important period in human life, which if not treated properly. If done, it could be most devastating. Consequences later in life, especially in women. According to Koli (2010), adolescence is the period when a person's sexual development begins. This is the time of year when they will express interest in the opposite sex and be curious about a variety of sex-related issues. Due to the irresponsible and careless attitude of the media, the tendency towards sex is also increasing among teenagers.

Some factors associated with teenage pregnancy have been identified. These factors include; Lack of knowledge, dating violence, family factors, influence of mass media, religious beliefs, peer pressure, teenage drinking, sexual abuse or rape, child environment and general factors. Adolescent girls who are uneducated about sex are more likely to have unintended pregnancies. Not only do some teens understand the biological and emotional component involved in having sex, but these teens can get accurate facts from peers, videos, sitcoms, and more. Many times, teenagers do not have the knowledge needed to make informed and responsible decisions about whether or not to engage in sexual activity that can impact their lives. He identified ignorance of sexual intelligence as one of the factors responsible for teenage pregnancy. He further stated that high school teenagers had a limited understanding of sex and sexuality. Adolescents face many risks, including unintended birth, HIV/AIDS, other STIs and sexual assault, but are given little knowledge to help them cope with this difficult transition into adulthood, it noted It was stated that the educational system will not provide adequate knowledge and education to the youth. About sex and sexuality. As a result, many of them experience doubts and misunderstandings when it comes to sexual issues. Townsend and Worobey (2011) believe that adolescents from broken homes are more sexually permissive than adolescents from stable homes. He believed that daughters of divorced mothers and girls from broken homes become pregnant in adolescence. When two parents are present, they were found to have more power than when only one parent was present. According to Audu (2012), teenage involuntary pregnancy is caused by lack of fear of God and being non-religious. They claim that the more religious a teenager is, the more likely she is to attend church and the less likely she is to participate in premarital sex. Brown (2011) also observed that the more interested a girl was in church programs, the less likely she was to dream of having a relationship with someone of the same sex. According to Moilborn (2015) and Audu (2012), premarital sexual behavior is common among adolescents, especially in secondary schools. According to them, many of them are allegedly lured for sex by men who give them money or other gifts in exchange for sexual favors.

According to Moilborn, girls choose to sell sex to meet their basic needs, which their parents are unable to do. Teens also feel pressure to make friends and fit in with their peers during adolescence. Many times, these teens allow their peers to manipulate their decision to have sex, even if they are unaware of the consequences. Teens resort to sex to look attractive and sophisticated, but in some cases it can lead to unplanned teen pregnancy. According to Kekeis (2010), more than 29% of pregnant teens indicated feeling forced to have sex, and 33% of pregnant teens said they were not ready to have sex, but still had sex because They were afraid of criticism or rejection. Lovin (2013) explained that psychological changes that occur during adolescence cause an increase in sexual appetite, and this increase in sexual desire is due to the hormonal, psychological, and social changes that adolescents go through. All of these factors may be related to the high rates of early pregnancy in today's culture. Gordon (2010) theorized that an intense need for love and approval motivates the desire to initiate sexual activity quickly. He also compared it to a display of sophistication that teenagers believe they have achieved. He said that this perception makes teenagers vulnerable to unwanted pregnancy at an early age and the problems that come with it. All these characteristics

expose adolescents to premarital sexual activities. Teenage girls may become pregnant as a result of sexual abuse or rape. Unplanned teenage births have high medical, social and economic costs for mothers and their children. Teen mothers are more likely to have medical problems during pregnancy and prolonged labor. Their babies are more likely to be born prematurely and have low birth weight. These are exacerbated by lack of maternal care and inadequate diet, which is common among teenage mothers living in poverty.

Young mothers face a variety of financial and social disadvantages as a result of becoming parents while still in high school. They are less likely to graduate from middle school and less likely to enroll in post-secondary college. Due to lack of educational attainment they will have difficulty finding suitable jobs. They live on lower incomes and are more likely to rely on government assistance. Their relationships are more likely to be dysfunctional, and they often have more children than previously planned (Firstenberg & Brooks, 2012). Similarly, children born to teenage mothers face challenges. They have lower cognitive functioning, as well as more behavioral and mental problems. On the other hand, children suffer more than women. Daughters of teen mothers perform worse in school and are more likely to become pregnant themselves. Teen mothers may also have less experience with child-rearing than older mothers, resulting in them being less likely to be enthusiastic about their children.

According to Kosha (2012), teenage pregnancy can lead to incomplete education, unemployment and many other traumas. Becoming a mother at an early age has an adverse effect on the psychological development of the child. Apart from psychological, physical risks can also be ignored. The body of adolescent girls is not as developed for childbearing as that of adult women. Thus, they often face some complications during pregnancy. Lack of sex education causes teenagers to miscarry because they realize that they are not ready to take the responsibility of becoming parents at such a young age and that they still have a lot to do in life. The possibility of maternal death influencing teenage pregnancy by child cannot be ruled out. According to Marnachetal, (2013) Medically, teen pregnancy maternal and perinatal health is of particular concern among teens who are pregnant or parenting. The incidence of preterm birth and low birth weight is higher among teenage mothers worldwide. Teenage mothers between 15 and 19 years of age. Day (2015) stated that the effects apply to infants; According to them, teenage mothers face difficulties leading up to previous births and are at greater risk of developing academic, linguistic and social-emotional delays, resulting in a lag in their children's needs in terms of school-wide development and school readiness. fails to complete. , Compared to children with older mothers, Terry-Hoffman (2013) found that children of teenage mothers have difficulty with comprehension, language expression, and interpersonal skills. Hoffman's (2013) study shows that less than 2% of young teen mothers under the age of 18 attain a college degree before attaining the age of 30 and nearly 50% if low performance on standardized tests. Repeat grades with.

## **2. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

Teenage pregnancy is no longer a new problem in any culture, whether existing, emerging or less developed. Teenage pregnancy is on the rise worldwide, especially among girls aged 13–19 years. As a result of these problems, teenage pregnancy has become an important policy issue. Many reasons have been given for its presence, but the main issue is that it continues to grow and expand despite all efforts made by the government, schools, religious bodies and non-governmental organizations to address some of the established factors. To this cancerous or decadent condition in our society. Teenage pregnancy rates are increasing at an alarming rate in low-lying areas. It is believed that lack of adequate information about sex education among teenage girls leads them to become sexually active, which leads to pregnancy. It has been observed that teenage pregnancy has negative and socially long-term effects on a teenager's life. In light of this, the study is conducted to investigate the causes and effects of teenage pregnancy among secondary school students in the local government areas.

## **3. PURPOSE OF THE STUDY**

The objective of the study is to investigate the causes and effects of teenage pregnancy among secondary school students in the local government area.

## **4. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

Identify the causes of teenage pregnancy among secondary school students in the local government area. To identify the effects of teenage pregnancy among secondary school students in the local government area.

To identify strategies to prevent the causes and effects of teenage pregnancy among secondary school students in the local government area.

## **5. RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

The research question of the study was the following:

What are the causes of teenage pregnancy among secondary school students in the local government area? What are the impacts of teenage pregnancy among secondary school students in the local government area?

What are the strategies to prevent the causes and effects of teenage pregnancy among secondary school students in the local government area?

## **6. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

A descriptive survey research was used with the aim of determining the causes and effects of teenage pregnancy among secondary school students in the local government area. The population of the study comprises all female students of all public secondary schools in the local government school area. In total, there were 5174 female students for the 2019/2020 academic session. The study sample comprised 20 percent of the population, consisting of a total of 1035 students from the secondary schools under study. However only 965 completed correctly and returned their questionnaires for the study. Simple random sampling technique was used to select the sample size. An instrument titled 'Causes and Effects of Teenage Pregnancy among Female Students' was designed by the researchers and used for data collection. The instrument was validated by experts and reliability was achieved through test-retest. Mean statistics were used to answer the research questions.

## 7. RESULT

### Research Question 1

What are the causes of teenage pregnancy among secondary school students in the local government area?

Table I: Causes of teenage pregnancy among secondary school females

S/N	ITEMS	SA	A	U	D	SDA	Mean	Decision
1.	Lack of information	600	365	0	0	0	4.62	Accepted
2.	Peer pressure	515	425	0	10	5	4.50	Accepted
3.	Pressure from parent/family on the Young girl child to getmarried and	700	260	0	3	2	4.71	Accepted
4.	Non use of contraceptive Financial/economic factors	800	155	2	6	2	4.80	Accepted
	<b>Grand Mean</b>						<b>4.66</b>	<b>Accepted</b>

Table 1 above revealed that all the listed items are the causes of teenage pregnancy among secondary school students, with financial/economic factors having the highest average score of 4.80, while peer pressure has the lowest average score of 4.5. A mean score of 4.66 was obtained, implying that all the listed items are causes of teenage pregnancy among secondary school students in the local government area.

## 8. DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

Table 1 results for the research questions All listed variables were accepted; Lack of information, peer pressure, family pressure and economic. All these factors are the causes of teenage pregnancy. This is in line with studies that have listed the causes of teenage pregnancy; Lack of knowledge, dating violence, family factors, influence of mass media, religious beliefs, peer pressure, teenage drinking, sexual abuse or rape, childhood environment and general factors. Furthermore, according to Kinby (2010), in teenage pregnancy, victims lacked knowledge or were possibly not properly trained on safe sex by their parents, schools or development agencies, which left them vulnerable to dealing with those peers. Who might have lured them into premature sexual intercourse. The findings of the study also agree that lack of information, financial/economic factors, peer pressure etc. are some of the causes of teenage pregnancy among female secondary school students.

The result in table two shows that all the respondents acknowledged the items listed for the impact of teenage pregnancy among secondary school students which include retarded education, teenage abortion, isolation and rejection etc. This finding is in line with Kosha (2012) who stated that teenage pregnancy can lead to incomplete education, unemployment and many other traumas. Lack of sex education causes teenagers to miscarry because they realize that they are not ready to take the responsibility of becoming parents at such a young age and that they still have a lot to do in life. Furthermore, according to Mamach et al. (2013) Medically, teenage pregnancy Maternal and perinatal health is of particular concern among adolescents who are pregnant or parenting. The incidence of preterm birth and low birth weight is high among teenage mothers worldwide. Fadei et al (2012) opined that teenage pregnancy has some effects on the teenage girl, which include lack of educational skills, teenage abortion/lack of experience to support a child, health risks during and after childbirth, and family Is achieved by isolation and rejection.

The results of the third research question discussed about the strategies to prevent teenage pregnancy among female students in secondary school which stated that adequate information and knowledge for teenage girls, providing love and support, providing safety And avoiding bad friends, abolition of early marriage, attending female secondary school are some of the strategies to prevent teenage pregnancy.

## 9. CONCLUSION

Teenage pregnancy has a detrimental effect on teenagers' education and future plans, this is because teenage mothers attend school irregularly and sometimes drop out of school, which becomes an antisocial and economic issue because it Low education and unemployment reflect high rates. Poverty and psychosocial stigma, especially when it occurs outside of extramarital affairs. The association between early childbearing and failure to complete secondary school reduces career opportunities for many young mothers.

#### **10. EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE FINDINGS**

Teachers have an important role in enhancing the knowledge of their students in understanding self-realization and self-discipline. Adequate information from teachers to students has been a source of knowledge for students in understanding the causes and consequences of teenage pregnancy. Moreover, teachers have a unique way of detecting student behavior. Teachers have a better understanding of students than teachers. As a result, it is very important to provide students with quality information to ensure their educational achievement and potential.

#### **11. RECOMMENDATIONS**

Upon analysis of the data obtained from the research and the resulting evidence, the following recommendations were provided;

Sensitization initiatives should be initiated by appropriate institutions to train the population about the effects of teenage pregnancy.

Secondary students should be given psychological support to deal with peer pressure and social stigma. Contraceptive training should be adopted in high schools.

Government and non-governmental organizations should implement policies to promote quality health care services for adolescents.

Government and NGOs should make contraceptive services affordable and easily available. Policies that allow teen mothers to remain in high-school education should be developed.

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