Socio-economic Factors as Correlates of Teenage Pregnancy among Selected Public Senior Secondary School in Ibadan North Local Government Area, Oyo State, Nigeria

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Abstract

Pregnancy is a physiological process, presenting with history of missed period, fatigue, breast enlargement and tenderness, vomiting together with light-headedness. Teenage pregnancy has no doubt because it is far-reaching consequences on the student, family and the society at large. This study investigated Socio-Economic Factors as Correlates of Teenage Pregnancy among Adolescents in Selected Senior Secondary School in Ibadan North Local Government Area, Oyo State, Nigeria. The study adopted social learning theory. Descriptive survey research design was adopted. Purposive sampling techniques was used to select 255 adolescent. Questionnaire was used as research instruments. Data were analysed using Descriptive and inferential statistics of Person Product Moment Correlation (PPMC). Result revealed that, there is a significant relationship between peer influence and teenage pregnancy among selected senior secondary school students (r = .353, n=255, p (.000) <.05). There is a significant relationship between Parent's religion and Teenage pregnancy among selected Secondary School Students (r = .419, n=255, p (.000) <.05). There is a significant relationship between Parent's income and Teenage pregnancy among selected Secondary School Students (r = .281, n=255, p (.000) <.05). Finally, there is a significant relationship between Parent's marital status and Teenage pregnancy among Secondary School Students (r = .375, n=255, p (.000) <.05). Conclusively, there was a significant relationship between the Socio-Economic factors and Teenage pregnancy. The study recommends that, ministry of education, school authorities and Leaders in our various religion organisations should deal with the problem of teenage pregnancies by inculcating moral instructions, the school curriculum, churches and mosques.

Keywords: Socio-Economic, Teenage, Pregnancy

Word Count: 250

Introduction

Pregnancy is a physiological process, presenting with history of missed period, fatigue, breast enlargement and tenderness, abdominal distension, nausea and vomiting together with light-headedness. Abdominal ultrasound, urinary or serum levels of HCG are confirmatory tests for pregnancy. When these happen at age of 19 years or below they are called adolescent or teenage pregnancies. A study by Pietras, et al. (2024) showed that adolescent pregnancy is a multifaceted problem as it involves social, political, cultural, educational and economic factors. Some of the risks that the newborn babies are exposed to are premature delivery, cerebral palsies and mental retardations due to birth injuries. Adolescent pregnancies are associated with STDs, abortions and HIV/AIDS.

According to Hako (2024), school girls pregnancy is an international crisis that affects the social economic welfare of countries, societies and families at large because it is one, if not the leading cause of school dropout for female students. A teenage or teen is a person whose age is a number ending in teen, that is to say, someone from the age of ten to the age of nineteen (Mauna, 2015). In practice the operational definition of teenage varies widely from country to country depending on cultural, institutional and political factors. Teenage pregnancy is a public concern in both developed and developing world. Globally 15 million women under the age of 20 give birth each year (De Costa, et al., 2021). In developing world, women under the age of 20 die due to pregnancy related complications.

The risk of death due to pregnancy related cause is doubled among women aged 15 to 19 compare to women in their twenties(Correa-de-Araujo & Yoon, 2021). Young women are also at risk of unwanted pregnancies, sexual transmitted diseases and unsatisfactory or coerced early relationship. Teenage pregnancy is associated with higher rates of morbidity and mortality for both the mother and infant during and after delivery. Teenage pregnancy is defined as a teenaged or under aged girl (usually within the ages of 13–19) becoming pregnant (The National Strategic Plan on HIV & AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections, 2007 – 2011). The term in everyday speech usually refers to women who have not reached legal adulthood, who become pregnant. According to the Department of Education 2009, teenage fertility rate or teenage birth rate is defined as the number of live births per 1000 teenagers aged 15 – 19 years. Teenage pregnancy rates include number of stillborns, abortions and miscarriages (Kisambira & Schmid, 2022).

Teenage mothers are at greater risk of socio-economic disadvantaging throughout their lives, the younger the mother the greater the likelihood that she and her baby will experience health complications. The risk of death among infants in the first month of life is particularly high when the mother is under 20 years old. Among adolescent mothers, the rate of death among infants during the first month of life – the neonatal mortality rate - is 41 per 1000 live births, compared with 22 per 1000 when the mother is older (Tamir, 2024).

Pregnancy of a still growing girl means an increase in nutritional requirement, not only for the growth of foetus but also for the mother herself which inevitably leads the teenage mother to malnutrition and she has to suffer from various pregnancy complications like obstructed labour, retardation of foetal growth and premature birth. Slowing the rate of teenage pregnancy will help to reduce the risks. In Sub-Saharan Africa the average rate of births per 1,000 females 15–19 years of age is 143, and in other countries one in five teenage females gives birth each year. This is very high compared to the world average of 65 (Tamir, 2024).

In many societies the age of first sexual intercourse is generally very early for both girls' and boys. It is estimated that 23 percent of teenage women have already begun their reproductive life, 20 percent had at least a child and 3 percent are pregnant with their first child at 17 years and nearly 14 percent of the teenage have already begun their child bearing (Stevens., et al., 2022).
Although prevention of teenage pregnancy is one of the national strategies, many teenage continued to become pregnant and this continued has been complex and challenging issue for families, health workers, educators, societies, governments as well as teenagers themselves (Stevens., et al., 2022).

In the industrialized world, teenage childbearing is now believed to jeopardize the trajectory to adulthood by interrupting education, thereby curbing success in the labor market and ultimately leading to the persistent poverty associated with welfare assistance or low-skill jobs (WHO, 2019).Globally, about 16 million of teenage girls become mothers every year; teenage mothers account for more than 30 births per minute (WHO, 2019). This is despite the significant drop in teenage pregnancies in most countries in the past 20 to 30 years. The regional average rate of births per 1 000 women aged 15–19 years, is 115 in Africa, 75 in Latin America and the Caribbean, and 39 in Asia, compared to the world average adolescent fertility rate of 54 births per 1 000 women aged 15–19 years (WHO, 2019).

Girls under the age of 15 years account for 2 million of the 7.3 million births to all girls under the age of 18 years every year in developing countries. According to Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS), 3 per cent of young women in developing countries say they give birth before age 15 (UNFPA, 2013). Incidence of very early childbearing (i.e. giving birth by the age of 15), while not as common, is substantial in several countries. WHO (2017) reported that 8 to 15% of adolescent girls have had a child by the age of 15 in Bangladesh, Cameroon, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Niger and Nigeria.

According to WHO (2019), teenage pregnancy has hit hard developed and developing communities, generating asset of problems such as frequent absenteeism and form repetition in schools, dropping out of schools and poor academic performance. Teenage pregnancy is prevalent in societies characterized by poverty, low education, fewer job opportunities and families headed by mothers who give birth to their first children during their teenage years (Okoli, et al., 2022). Teenage pregnancy is also associated with other problematic behaviour such as alcohol, drug use, and early initiation of sexual activity, which have been identified as predictors of pregnancy.

Teenage pregnancy occurs in all societies, with considerable variation in magnitude and consequences among different countries and regions. In each case, a variety of complex socioeconomic factors are involved including poverty, communities and families acceptance of child marriage, culture behaviors, gender inequality, sexual violence, lack of education and information among others. This study therefore investigated socio-economic factors as correlates of teenage pregnancy among selected senior secondary school in Ibadan North Local Government Area, Oyo State, Nigeria.

Statement of the Problem
Teenage pregnancy has no doubt because it is far-reaching consequences on the student, family and the society at large. These problems that go along with teenage pregnancy extend to not only the individual but to the society as a whole. Cases of teenage pregnancy are on the increase in

Nigeria (WHO, 2019). Teenage pregnancy poses social, economic, and health problems and hinders access to education for school girls, because most of them drop out of school. Teenage pregnancy continues to be a social, economic and cultural problem due to its continuing rise that has an adverse impact to both teenage and the community as a whole. Teenage mothers are likely to suffer from several complications during delivery that result in higher morbidity and mortality for both mother and child. The psychological, physical and social health consequences of early sexual exposure especially for girls are usually grave. Many pregnant teenage school-girls perform illegal/unsafe abortion complications like haemorrhage, sapticemia, anaemia, cervical and vaginal lacerations, pelvic abscess, perforation of the uterus or bowels, secondary sterility, and in some cases it leads to untimely death.

Studies have been done on reproductive health of teenage pregnancy among students while few studies have been done on socio-economic factors among female students in secondary school(De Costa., et al., 2021). This study, therefore will investigate socio-economic factors influencing teenage pregnancy among selected public senior secondary school in Ibadan North Local Government Area, Oyo State, Nigeria.

Aim and Objectives of the Study

This study investigated socio-economic factors as correlates of teenage pregnancy among selected public senior secondary school in Ibadan North Local Government Area, Oyo State, Nigeria. The objectives are to;

- **i.** determined the relationship between Peer influence and Teenage pregnancy among selected Public Senior Secondary School Students in Ibadan North Local Government Area, Oyo State, Nigeria
- **ii.** ascertained the relationship between parent's religion and teenage pregnancy among selected Public Senior Secondary School Students in Ibadan North Local Government Area, Oyo State, Nigeria
- **iii.** determined the relationship between Parent's income and Teenage pregnancy among selected Public senior secondary school students in Ibadan North Local Government Area, Oyo State, Nigeria
- **iv.** established the relationship between Parent's marital status and Teenage pregnancy among Public Senior Secondary School Students in Ibadan North Local Government Area, Oyo State, Nigeria.

Hypotheses

H_o1: There will be no significant relationship between Peer influence and Teenage pregnancy among selected Public Senior Secondary School Students in Ibadan North Local Government Area, Oyo State, Nigeria

$H_0$2: There will be no significant relationship between parent's religion and teenage pregnancy among selected Public Senior Secondary School Students in Ibadan North Local Government Area, Oyo State, Nigeria

H_o3: There will be no significant relationship between Parent's income and Teenage pregnancy among selected Public senior secondary school students in Ibadan North Local Government Area, Oyo State, Nigeria

H_o4: There will be no significant relationship between Parent's marital status and Teenage pregnancy among Public Senior Secondary School Students in Ibadan North Local Government Area, Oyo State, Nigeria.

Methodology
This section was discussed under the following sub-headings:

Research Design
Descriptive survey research design was adopted for the study. This design is considered more appropriate as it helps to explain and interpret current issues and existing conditions as well as identifying problems and prevailing practices in gathering data, which is economical for independent research (Oladuni, 2005).

Population of the Study
The population for the study comprises of adolescent in selected Public Senior secondary schools in Ibadan North Local Government Area, Oyo State, Nigeria.

Sample and Sampling Techniques
The sample size for this study was two hundred and fifty five (255) teenagers of selected public senior secondary schools in Ibadan (Oladuni, 2005). Multi-stage sampling procedure of Simple random and Purposive sampling techniques were used to select the respondents (Oladuni, 2005).

Stage One: Purposive sampling techniques was used to select Public senior Secondary Schools in Ibadan North Local Government Area, Oyo State, Nigeria.
Stage Two: Simple random sampling technique was used to select 51 respondents from 5 Public senior Secondary Schools selected in Ibadan North Local Government Area, Oyo State, Nigeria.

Research Instrument
Questionnaire was used as research instruments for the study and it comprise of sections A and B. The first section consist of the demographic data while section B a self-structured questionnaire on 4 point modified likert –type summated rating labelled strongly agree (SA) rated 4 Agree (A) rated 3, Disagree (D) rated 2, strongly disagree (SD) rated 1.

Reliability of the Instrument
The questionnaire was administered on 30 respondents from Akinyele Local government who were not part of the study. This enabled the researcher to discover some of the problems that arose during the administration of the questionnaire in was used to correct ambiguity in the instrument and this also provided opportunity to familiarise the research assistants to the method and procedure for data collection. Cronbach alpha was used to determine the internal consistency, and it yielded 0.74.

Method of Data Collection
The researcher, with the help of 4 research assistants administered the questionnaire to the respondents and collected same back on the spot to avoid loss.

Method of Data Analysis
The completed questionnaire were collated, coded and analyzed using descriptive statistics of frequency counts, (F) percentages (%), means, Standard-deviation for demographic data of the respondents while Person Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) was used to test the hypothesis at 0.05 level of significance.

Results and Discussion

This section presents the demographic characteristics of the respondents and Socio-economic status.

Demographic Characteristics

Table 1: Frequency distribution of respondents by Age

Age	Frequency	Percentage
11-14 years	99	38.8
15-18 years	94	36.9
19-21 years	42	16.5
22 years and above	40	7.8
Total	**255**	**100.0**

Table 1 shows that 99(38.8%) students were between 11-14 years of age, 94(36.9%) were between 15-18 years of age, 42(16.5%) were between 19-21 years of age, and 40(7.8%) were above 21 years of age.

Table 2: Frequency distribution of the respondents by religion

Religion	Frequency	Percentage
Christian	120	47.1
Muslim	114	44.7
Traditional	21	8.2
Total	**255**	**100.0**

Table 2 shows that 120(47.1%) Students were Christian, 114(44.7%) were Muslim, and 21(8.2%) were Traditional Worshiper.

Table 3: Frequency distribution of the respondents by Social Economic Status

Social Economic Status	Frequency	Percentage
High	70	27.5
Average	125	49.0
Low	60	23.5
Total	**255**	**100.0**

Table 3 shows that 70(27.5%) Students had high Social Economic Status, 125(49.0%) had Average Social Economic Status, and 60(23.5%) had low Social Economic Status.

Testing of Hypotheses

Hypothesis One

This hypothesis states that there will be no significant relationship between Peer influence and Teenage pregnancy among selected Secondary School Students in Ibadan North Local Government Area, Oyo State, Nigeria.

Table 4: Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) showing the relationship between Peer influence and Teenage pregnancy among Secondary School Students in Ibadan North Local Government Area, Oyo State, Nigeria

Variables	Mean	Std. Dev.	N	r	p-value	Remarks
Peer influence	16.5804	3.52164	255	.353*	<.0001	Sig.
Teenage pregnancy	21.1216	3.25868				

*** Sig. at 0.05 level**

Table 4 shows that there was a significant relationship between peer influence and teenage pregnancy among selected senior secondary school students in Ibadan North Local Government Area, Oyo State, Nigeria (r = .353, n=255, p (.000) <.05). Hence, peer influence positively enhanced teenage pregnancy among Secondary School Students in the study. Therefore, the hypothesis was rejected.

Hypothesis Two

There will be no significant relationship between parent's religion and teenage pregnancy among selected Secondary School Students in Ibadan North Local Government Area, Oyo State, Nigeria.

Table 5: Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) showing the relationship between Parent's religion and Teenage pregnancy among selected Secondary School Students in Ibadan North Local Government Area, Oyo State, Nigeria

Variables	Mean	Std. Dev.	N	r	p-value	Remarks
Parent's religion	17.4235	3.02760	255	.419*	.000	Sig.
Teenage pregnancy	21.1216	3.25868				

*** Sig. at 0.05 level**

Table 4.6 shows that there was a significant relationship between Parent's religion and Teenage pregnancy among selected Secondary School Students in Ibadan North Local Government Area, Oyo State, Nigeria (r = .419, n=255, p(.000)<.05). Hence, parent's religion positively enhanced teenage pregnancy among Secondary School Students in the study. Therefore, the hypothesis was rejected.

Hypothesis Three

This hypothesis states that there will be no significant relationship between Parent's income and Teenage pregnancy among selected senior secondary school students in Ibadan North Local Government Area, Oyo State, Nigeria.

Table 6: Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) showing the relationship between parent's income and teenage pregnancy among Secondary School Students in Ibadan North Local Government Area, Oyo State, Nigeria

Variables	Mean	Std. Dev.	n	R	p-value	Remarks
Parent's income	16.7059	3.42693	255	.281*	.000	Sig.
Teenage pregnancy	21.1216	3.25868				

*** Sig. at 0.05 level**

Table 6 shows that there was a significant relationship between Parent's income and Teenage pregnancy among selected Secondary School Students in Ibadan North Local Government Area, Oyo State, Nigeria ($r = .281$, $n=255$, $p(.000)<.05$). Hence, parent's income positively enhanced teenage pregnancy among Secondary School Students in the study. Therefore, the hypothesis is rejected.

Hypothesis four:

There will be no significant relationship between Parent's marital status and Teenage pregnancy among Secondary School Students in Ibadan North Local Government Area, Oyo State, Nigeria.

Table 7: Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) showing the relationship between Parent's marital status and Teenage pregnancy among Secondary School Students in Ibadan North Local Government Area, Oyo State, Nigeria

Variables	Mean	Std. Dev.	n	R	p-value	Remarks
Parent's marital status	17.3490	3.00651	255	.375*	.000	Sig.
Teenage pregnancy	21.1216	3.25868				

* Sig. at 0.05 level

Table 7 shows that there is a significant relationship between Parent's marital status and Teenage pregnancy among Secondary School Students in Ibadan North Local Government Area, Oyo State, Nigeria ($r = .375$, $n=255$, $p(.000)<.05$). Hence, parent's marital status positively enhanced teenage pregnancy among Secondary School Students in the study. Therefore, the hypothesis is rejected.

Discussion of Findings

The results in respect of each of the research hypotheses are discussed in this section. This research explored the Socio-Economic Factors (Peer influence, Parent's religion, Parent's income, and Parent's marital status) towards Teenage pregnancy among Secondary School Students in Ibadan North Local Government Area, Oyo State, Nigeria.

The first hypothesis stated that there is no significant relationship between Peer influence and Teenage pregnancy among selected Secondary School Students in Ibadan North Local Government Area, Oyo State, Nigeria. Finding from this study indicated that there was a significant relationship between peer influence and teenage pregnancy which is in line with a study which stated that teenage pregnancies in schools are rising every year, with the latest statistics showing that pregnancy, as a result of sexual abuse, is more and more prevalent (Iorga., et al., 2021). Furthermore, some of the factors that influenced teenage pregnancy include peer pressure, poverty, and media influence. The study also commented that peer pressure is a key factor that influences teenagers into getting pregnant.

Also the study affirmed that youth are forced into having sexual intercourse by peer pressure (Frank, 2021). The study asserts that peer pressure plays a role in initiating sexual activity, which frequently ends in adolescent pregnancies. Poverty for girls (especially with poor parents) is another factor. Initiation rituals for girls encourage sexual activity, as some of the girls immediately practice what they have been taught, and no appropriate information is given of how to prevent disease and unwanted pregnancy. Having frequent sex; forced sex initiation; not owning a television set; a larger household and poor house; not living with their biological father; not talking openly about sex with a boyfriend, and also perceiving most friends to be pregnant are other risks for adolescents' pregnancy (Bosire, et al., 2021).

The finding from this study indicated that there was a significant relationship between parents' religion and teenage pregnancy. This is in line with the findings of a study which asserted that the attributed lack of fear of God and being non-religious among teenagers amounted to teenage unwanted pregnancy (Obiako, 2021). The researcher went further that the more important religion is to the teenager, the greater the frequency of church attendance and the less likely she is to engage in premarital intercourse. The findings also concur with the results of a study which stated that the more involved a girl is with church activities, the less likely she may think of relationships with the opposite sex (Andresen, et al., 2025). The researcher went further to argue that for a girl to have interest in church activities, she might have been brought up in the family to have respect for God and see her body as belonging to God. A study opines that populations that express strong religious beliefs also have high teenage birth rates (Salim & Tambunan, 2022). That's the conclusion drawn by Dr. Joseph M. Strayhorn, a child and adolescent psychiatrist with faculty appointments at Drexel University College of Medicine and the University of Pittsburgh. He found that states with a higher religious index score had a lower abortion rate, so religiosity predicted more teen births and fewer abortions, Strayhorn found. The correlation remained high even when the researchers controlled for income. He further explained that reason for this relationship is that teens in more religious communities may be less likely to use contraception.

The third hypothesis which stated that there is no significant relationship between parent's income and teenage pregnancy among selected Secondary School Students in Ibadan North Local Government Area, Oyo State, Nigeria. Finding from this study indicated that there was a

significant relationship between parents' income and teenage pregnancy. This finding corroborates with the findings of a study which claimed that poverty contributes towards educational failure, simply because poor children are all "culturally disadvantaged" (Chidhumo et al., 2024). The likelihood that the poor children would end up being at risk in terms of deficient development is a reality that could begin even before birth. In that regard, same study emphasized that society should concern itself more with the full range of factors contributing to the educational failure, among which the health of the child is a variable of potential primary importance. Adolescents' from lower income families were more likely to be reported having sexual intercourse, regardless of family stricture or race ethnicity (Moore, et al., 2021). Black adolescents' from single family homes were more likely to report having sexual intercourse, regardless of income. These patterns were stronger in middle school girls were less likely to report having intercourse than middle school boys, but there were no gender differences among high school students. Another study noted that being economically disadvantaged increases inclination for a teenage birth by narrowing the set of known economic and educational opportunities (Morgan., et al., 2022). In addition it makes early childbearing an attractive distraction from the repeated burdens of economic deficiency

The fourth hypothesis which stated that there is no significant relationship between parent's marital status and teenage pregnancy among selected Secondary School Students in Ibadan North Local Government Area, Oyo State, Nigeria. Finding from this study indicated that there was a significant relationship between parents' marital status and teenage pregnancy. This finding corroborates with the findings of Otegbayo, et al. (2025) which examined the effects of parental marital status and peer influence on the occurrence of teenage pregnancy among 324 female teens in south-south, Nigeria, findings suggest teenage female teenagers from single-headed households and with higher numbers of male relatives are at elevated risk for teenage pregnancy. Similarly, female teenagers from families with parental divorce were at higher risk for pregnancy as were those from communities with lower coherence.

Conclusion

The results of the study revealed that the prevalence of Teenage pregnancy among Secondary School Student is high, and some of its causative factors include peer influence, parents' religion, parent's income, and parent's marital status. Findings from this study indicate that there was a significant relationship between the Socio-Economic factors and Teenage pregnancy.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are made based on the findings of this study:

i. Stakeholders should educate teenagers on sex education, good values and moral
ii. The Ministry of Education in conjunction with the School Authority should organized workshop, conferences on how to prevent teenage pregnancy among the Students in the state
iii. The curriculum developer and school authority should introduced sexuality and sex education into the school curriculum and employed counselors to the schools to take care of this aspect of the curricula.
iv. Leaders in our various religion organizations should deal with the problem of teenage pregnancies by inculcating moral instructions in churches and mosques.
v. Seminars should be well organised for parents to be well well-informed on the significance of sexuality and the dangers of premarital sex with their children especially the females.

vi. Sexuality education should be made necessary in all our schools to assist adolescents to recognize their physiological make up of their body.

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