

Teenage Pregnancy and Perceived Associated Factors among Female Students of Emmanuel Alayande College of Education, (EACOED), Oyo

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Abstract

This study examined teenage pregnancy and perceived associated factors among female students of Emmanuel Alayande College of Education, (EACOED), Oyo. Premarital sex exposes teenage to the risks of sexually transmitted infection (STIs) and teenage pregnancies. Descriptive research design was adopted and stratified random sampling technique was used to select 280 participants from five schools in the target population. Self-structured questionnaire was used as research instrument. Data was analyzed using Descriptive and inferential statistics of Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) at 0.05 significance level. The study revealed that parental upbringing was tested significant on teenage pregnancy among female students of Emmanuel Alayande College of Education. (EACOED) Oyo. ($r=0.000$, $p<0.05$). Also, peer pressure was tested significant on teenage pregnancy among female students of Emmanuel Alayande College of Education. (EACOED), Oyo. ($r=0.000$, $p<0.05$). Furthermore, poverty was tested significant on teenage pregnancy among female students of (EACOED) Oyo. ($r=0.000$, $p<0.05$). Finally, environment was also tested significant on teenage pregnancy among female students of Emmanuel Alayande College of Education. (EACOED) Oyo. ($r=0.000$, $p<0.05$). The study established that the four variables tested would positively influence teenage pregnancy among female students of Emmanuel Alayande College of Education, (EACOED), Oyo as they all had positive correlation with teenage pregnancy ($r=0.00$, $p<0.05$). The correlation coefficient magnitude was weak for parental upbringing, poverty and environment while it was moderate for peer pressure. Therefore, the study recommends that parent, teachers, educational policy makers and government should provide supportive systems and measures with regards to prevention of teenage pregnancy.

Keywords: Teenage Pregnancy, Parental upbringing, Peer pressure, Poverty, Environment

Word count: 248

Introduction

Sexuality is the feelings and activities connected with a person's sexual desires be it male or Female. It encompasses our whole psychosocial development and entire self-concept and it begins from birth and ends at death. Its understanding should start as soon as the child is ready for It. One of the salient responsibilities of women is procreation as ordained by God. However there are conditions to be met before a woman could start procreating (Action Health Incorporated,2004). In African context, the act of procreation is a responsibility of grown up young adults who have been found to be physically, economically, emotionally, spiritually and

at large psychologically matured; that is why marriage act is highly contracted and celebrated in our present societies (Briggs,2001)

Teenage stage is a period of reactivation of the sexual drives that has been inactive during the latency period. Teenagers are on the boundary between childhood and adulthood and they are faced with the choice of a whole way of life in terms of their job, and ethics, to find this in the face of many alternative roles, individual must decide what they want to do and whether they are able to do it, they must take responsibility for decisions that may shape the rest of their life or destroy it. And to take this independent step, persons need a real sense of identity of their own worth as individuals and their esteem (Daroch, 2005)

Teenage pregnancy is a delinquent behavior resulting from stress, dislike, malice, boredom and unhappiness experienced by a teenage girl within her home environment (Tomkins, 2004) . Victims of teenage pregnancy lacked information or probably were not adequately educated on safe-sex either by their parents, schools or development agencies that could have enabled them deal with friends who lure them into sex prematurely (Tomkins, 2004) .Approximately 60% of adolescent mothers live in poverty at the time of the birth of their babies and “approximately 73% go on welfare within 5 years of giving birth”, its associated motherhood are characterized with shame, disgrace, and school dropout sometimes end up the individual’s dreams of achieving higher pursuits (Muralidharan, Karthik, and Nishith Prakash,2013). There are advantages and disadvantages of teenage pregnancy or having a baby at ones teenage stage’ when younger, the benefits are usually associated with greater fertility, a more healthy pregnancy and a quicker recovery after birth. But the down side is that the social life, education and training can be severely disrupted just when it might be taking off into an interesting direction (Gaby, 2012).

Teenage pregnancy is therefore a major concern to world communities with the United State being at the top with almost 1,000,000 teenage pregnancies each year. In Nigeria, the adolescent birth rate in 2018 was 106 births per 1,000 women. Bauchi state had the highest number of adolescent births (198), while Imo state had the least. Generally, adolescent births seem to be higher in the North, specifically in the North-Western Zone where the median age of first marriage and first intercourse is approximately 16 years (Tomkins, 2004) Teenage pregnancy has attracted a great deal of concern and attention from religious leaders, the general public, policymakers, and social scientists, particularly in the less developed countries especially in Nigeria (Muralidharan, Karthik, and Nishith Prakash, 2013).

Many social risk factors have been shown to increase the likelihood that adolescents will engage in risk behaviors as well as to disrupt parenting and family processes. Thus, parenting and family processes are the most common targets of interventions for families experiencing adversity, such as teenage pregnancies, economic hardship; parental divorce, death, or mental illness; or parental criminal activity (Bernstein Robert, 2009).Research has shown that these core processes work the same way across many racial and ethnic groups; where cultural differences are evident, they reveal differences in the magnitude of the effect. Core family values, expectations, and goals, however, do vary across ethnic groups, and these differences must be taken into account when implementing family interventions (Bernstein Robert, 2009). Parenting is the process of raising children and providing them with protection and care in order to ensure their healthy development into adulthood (Johri Ashish, 2014). Parenting or child rearing promotes and supports the physical, emotional, social, and

intellectual development of a child from infancy to adulthood. Parenting refers to the intricacies of raising a child and not exclusively for a biological relationship a father and mother hold their child (Bernstein Robert, 2009).

Peer pressure is the direct or indirect influence on people of peers, members of social groups with similar interests, experiences, or social status. Members of a peer group are more likely to influence a person's beliefs and behavior (Olalekan ,2016) .Teenager peer pressure is real. Many teens engage in unhealthy activities just so that their peers will notice them or so that they may fit in. Peer pressure to engage in sexual activity is so common, a variety of terms refer to the behavior, such as "hooking up," "booty calls" or referring to someone as "a friend with benefits (Owoyele& Toyobo,2008) .

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is taking a science-based approach to help prevent teen pregnancies caused by peer pressure (Kusumakar, 2000). This approach identifies the populations most at-risk for teen pregnancies. The at-risk groups learn about health education and healthy behavior. The CDC identifies the most at-risks groups to be African-Americans, Latinos, Native Hawaiians and youth in foster care (Kusumakar, 2000): The environment that poverty creates, lack of resources and support, the resulting perceptions of limited educational and financial opportunities may increase the occurrence of teen pregnancy and motherhood for adolescent females. Having a child may be perceived as the only way to bring meaning into the adolescent's life .Poverty has been associated with increased total fertility rates, unintended or teenage pregnancy and being a single mother (Parker, Williams, Baker & Nurss, 1996). In nearly all developed countries, youth living in poverty have a significant increase in risk for teenage pregnancy (Hobcraft, K.E. Kiernan, 2007): People living in relative poverty share much in common. They are less educated, less able to cope with stressful life events, and have access to fewer resources when required.

Among pregnant women added to this are greater proportions of teenage or single-mother pregnancies, unemployment, higher levels of stress, and exposure to more crowded and polluted physical environments (Kramer, Seguin, Lydon & Goulet,2000). A mother who becomes single has a 50% chance of becoming poor within 12 months and has less than a 30% chance of her or her children escaping from it (Finnie, 2007).From a descriptive standpoint, what is known about women living in poverty and pregnancy has been associated with increased total fertility rates, unintended or teenage pregnancy and being a single mother (Kiernan, 1997). In nearly all developed countries, youth living in poverty have a significant increase in risk for teenage pregnancy (Kiernan, 1997): In a recent Alberta survey, female teenagers living in poverty were found to have a five times greater risk for pregnancy when compared with higher income women³⁴, those living in poverty were more likely to smoke, to have poorer dietary habits, lower levels of education, and engage in higher risk and health-demoting practices (INCLLEN Multicentre Collaborative Group,1994): Lower socioeconomic status is associated with decreased prenatal care attendance (Kramer, Seguin, Lydon & Goulet, 2000).

Statement of the Problem

Research shows that the teen years are the most stressful and confusing times of life (Cannonier, Colin, and Naci Mocan,2012): During this period, teenagers are expected to acquire education and skills needed for the future. It has been observed that many teenage girls

engage in premarital sex, which expose them to the risks of sexually transmitted infection (STIs) and teenage pregnancies (Barrera, Albino,1990). All teenagers who engage in premarital sex are vulnerable to pregnancy. The issue of teenage pregnancy is no longer a new thing in any society be it developed, developing or under developed nations. Various reasons has been adduced for its existence but the basic problem is the persistency and the geometric progression of its expansion despite all the efforts that has been made by both government, schools, religious bodies and nongovernmental agencies at resolving some identified factors leading to this decadence in our societies(Barrera, Albino,1990).

Researches also reveals that unmitigated teenage pregnancy school dropout has enormous cost implications for the society at large in terms of the lost benefits that accrue from school completion (Bernstein Robert, 2008). They include lower fertility, lower child and infant mortality that means improved family health, improved food security, and decreased HIV/AIDS infection rates and women economic empowerment. Sustained access to basic education is critical in terms of long term productivity, reduction in intergenerational poverty transfer and women empowerment. Increases in female' secondary school enrolment increase their participation in the labour force and their contributions to household and national income(Bernstein Robert,2008). Therefore, this study will look into the perceived factors associated with teenage pregnancy, among female students of Emmanuel Alayande College of Education, (EACOED) Oyo, with the view to proffer solutions to the problem and reduce its effects.

Research Question

- i. What is the perceived level of teenage pregnancy occurrence among female students of Emmanuel Alayande College of Education, (EACOED) Oyo?

Hypotheses

The following hypotheses will be tested

- Ho1.** There will be no significant perceived relationship between parental upbringing and teenage pregnancy among female students of Emmanuel Alayande College of Education, (EACOED) Oyo
- Ho2.** There will be no significant perceived relationship between peer pressure and teenage pregnancy among female students of Emmanuel Alayande College of Education, (EACOED) Oyo.
- Ho3.** There will be no significant perceived relationship between poverty and teenage pregnancy among female students of Emmanuel Alayande College of Education, (EACOED) Oyo.
- Ho4.** There will be no significant perceived relationship between the child's environment and Teenage pregnancy among female students of Emmanuel Alayande College of Education, (EACOED)

Methodology

Data was collected using a questionnaire that was self-administered with the help of research assistance. The research assistants were trained in research ethics and how to administer the questionnaire to the respondents. Together with the researcher, the research assistants clearly explain to the respondents the purpose of the analysis and clarify any concerns or

misunderstanding arising from the results. The descriptive research design was adopted for this study. This is considered appropriate in view of its proving advantages and scientific method involving observation and description of a subject behavior without any influence on it ¹. In addition, a descriptive research model was used as it allows the study to gather in-depth information on the population to be studied. The population of the study comprises of all teenage female student of Emmanuel Alayande College of Education (EACOED), Oyo, Oyo State. The sample size for this study was 280 respondents from all teenage female student of Emmanuel Alayande College of Education (EACOED). Participant were selected using proportionate stratified and simple random sampling techniques.

The sampling techniques are explained as follows:

Stage one: Purposive sampling technique was used to consider female students of EACOED. Stage two: Proportionate stratified sampling technique was used to consider 10% respondents that were chosen from each school at every level (100 level, 200 level, and 300 level) in EACOED.

Stage three: Simple random sampling techniques was used to choose 10% respondent randomly from each of the five schools at every level (100 – 300) in EACOED.

The collected data were analyzed using statistical package for social science (SSPS) Version 22. The sets of questionnaire were properly collected, coded, and analyzed using both descriptive and inferential statistics. The descriptive statistics of frequency counts, percentage and mean were used to analyze section A (Socio – demographic characteristics), of the respondent and the research question. The Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) was used to test hypothesis 1 – 4 at 0.05 significance level.

Results

The results and discussion of findings are presented based on demographic characteristics of the respondents and Hypotheses as follow:

Socio-Demographic Characteristics

Table 1 Distribution of the respondents by Age

Age	Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
13-15years	4	1.4	1.4	1.4
16-18years	137	48.9	48.9	50.4
19years and above	139	49.6	49.9	100.0
Total	280	100.0	100.0	

As shown in table 1(1.4%) respondents are in the age range of 13-15years, 137 (48.9%) are 16-18years, while 138(49.3%) are 19years and above. This implied that most of the respondents are in the age range of 19years and above.

Table 2 Distribution of the respondents by Religion

Religion	Frequency	Percent
Christianity	100	35.7
Islam	178	63.6

Traditional	2	0.7
Total	280	100.0

As shown in table 2, 100 (35.7%) respondents are Christian, 178(63.63%) are Muslim, while 2 (0.7%) are Traditional worshiper. This implied that most of the respondents are Muslim.

Table 3: Distribution of the respondents by School

School	Frequency	Percent
Science	84	30.0
Arts and Social Science	83	29.6
Languages	42	15.0
Early Childhood and Primary Education	25	8.9
Education	46	16.4
Total	280	100.0

Table 3 revealed that 84(30.0%) of respondent's are in Science, 83 (29.6%) are in Arts and Social Science, also, 42 (15.0%) are in Languages, furthermore, 25 (8.9%) are in Early Childhood and Primary Education, while 46 (16.4%) are in Education .This implied that most of the respondents are in School of Science

Table 4: Distribution of the respondents by Level

Level	Frequency	Percent
100Level	62	22.1
200Level	97	34.6
300Level	121	43.2
Total	280	100.0

Table 4 revealed that 62 (22.1%) of respondent's are in 100Level, 97(34.6%) respondents are in 200Level, however 121 (43.2%) respondents are in 300Level. This implied that most of the respondents are in 300Level.

Hypotheses

The following hypotheses were tested in the study.

- 1). There will be no significant perceived relationship between parental upbringing and teenage pregnancy among female students of Emmanuel Alayande College of Education, (EACOED) Oyo
- 1). **Ho1: There is significant perceived relationship between parental upbringing and teenage pregnancy among female students of Emmanuel Alayande College of Education, (EACOED) Oyo**

Table 5: Summary of Result on Correlation between Parental Upbringing and Teenage Pregnancy

Variables	Mean	Std. Dev.	Teenage Pregnancy	Parental Upbringing	N	Sig. (p value)	Remark
Teenage Pregnancy	9.73	2.81	1	.360**			
Parental Upbringing	10.46	2.93	.360**	1	280	.000	Significant

Correlation is significant at 0.05 alpha level ($p < 0.05$)

Table 5 showed that parental upbringing was tested significant on teenage pregnancy among female students of Emmanuel Alayande College of Education. (EACOED) Oyo. ($r=0.000$, $p < 0.05$). It was further established that Parental Upbringing had positive correlation with teenage pregnancy; while correlation coefficient's magnitude was weak. The null hypothesis was therefore rejected. The positive relationship of parental upbringing and teenage pregnancy implied that, parental upbringing would positively influence teenage pregnancy among female Students of Emmanuel Alayande College of Education. (EACOED), Oyo.

2). There will be no significant perceived relationship between peer pressure and teenage pregnancy among female students of Emmanuel Alayande College of Education, (EACOED) Oyo.

2). **H₀₂: There is significant perceived relationship between peer pressure and teenage pregnancy among female students of Emmanuel Alayande College of Education, (EACOED) Oyo.**

Table 6: Summary of Result on Correlation between Peer Pressure and Teenage Pregnancy***Correlation is significant at 0.05 alpha level ($p < 0.05$)***

Variables	Mean	Std. Dev.	Teenage Pregnancy	Peer Pressure	N	Sig. (p value)	Remark
Teenage Pregnancy	9.73	2.81	1	.447**			
Peer Pressure	9.81	2.93	.447**	1	280	.000	Significant

Table 6 showed that peer pressure was tested significant on teenage pregnancy among female students of Emmanuel Alayande College of Education. (EACOED), Oyo. ($r=0.000$, $p < 0.05$). It was further established that peer pressure had positive correlation with teenage pregnancy; while correlation coefficient's magnitude was moderate. The null hypothesis was therefore rejected. The positive relationship of peer pressure and teenage pregnancy implied that, peer pressure would positively influence teenage pregnancy among female students of Emmanuel Alayande College of Education. (EACOED) Oyo.

3). There will be no significant perceived relationship between poverty and teenage pregnancy among female students of Emmanuel Alayande College of Education, (EACOED) Oyo.

3) Ho3: There is significant perceived relationship between poverty and teenage pregnancy among female students of Emmanuel Alayande College of Education, (EACOED) Oyo.

Table 7: Summary of Result on Correlation between poverty and teenage pregnancy

Variables	Mean	Std. Dev.	Teenage Pregnancy	Environment	N	Sig. (p value)	Remark
Teenage Pregnancy	9.73	2.81	1	.356**			
Environment	9.82	2.86	.356**	1	280	.000	Significant

Correlation is significant at 0.05 alpha level (p<0.05)

Table 7 showed that poverty was tested significant on teenage pregnancy among female students of Emmanuel Alayande College of Education. (EACOED) Oyo. ($r=0.000$, $p<0.05$). It was further established that poverty had positive correlation with teenage pregnancy; while correlation coefficient's magnitude was weak. The null hypothesis was therefore rejected. The positive relationship of poverty and teenage pregnancy implied that, Economic Standard would positively influence teenage pregnancy among female students of Emmanuel Alayande College of Education. (EACOED), Oyo.

4). There will be no significant perceived relationship between the environment and teenage pregnancy among female students of Emmanuel Alayande College of Education, (EACOED), Oyo.

4). Ho1: There is significant perceived relationship between the environment and teenage pregnancy among female students of Emmanuel Alayande College of Education (EACOED), Oyo

Table 8: Summary of Result on Correlation between environment and teenage pregnancy

Correlation is significant at 0.05 alpha level (p<0.05)

Variables	Mean	Std. Dev.	Teenage Pregnancy	poverty	N	Sig. (p value)	Remark
Teenage Pregnancy	9.73	2.81	1	.386**			
Poverty	9.57	2.54	.386**	1	280	.000	Significant

Table 4.9 showed that environment was tested significant on teenage pregnancy among female students of Emmanuel Alayande College of Education. (EACOED) Oyo. ($r=0.000$, $p<0.05$). It was further established that environment had positive correlation with teenage pregnancy; while correlation coefficient's magnitude was weak. The null hypothesis was therefore

rejected. The positive relationship of environment and teenage pregnancy implied that, environment would positively influence teenage pregnancy among female students of Emmanuel Alayande College of Education. (EACOED) Oyo.

Discussion of Findings

The finding of this study established that parental upbringing had positive correlation with teenage pregnancy; while correlation coefficient's magnitude was weak. The positive relationship of parental upbringing and teenage pregnancy implied that, parental upbringing would positively influence teenage pregnancy among female students of Emmanuel Alayande College of Education.

The outcome of this present study on parental upbringing was in correspondence with the finding which revealed that parental divorce, having an elder sister who had a history of teenage pregnancy, and not knowing fertile period during the menstrual cycles were the factors associated with teenage pregnancy. Therefore, parental supervision and guidance are essential aspects to consider in order to reduce teenage pregnancy rates (Heliyon, 2014).

Additionally, the results showed that peer pressure and teenage pregnancy significantly correlate, and the correlation coefficient was moderate. The positive correlation of peer pressure and teenage pregnancy implied that, peer pressure would positively influence teenage pregnancy. This means that peer pressure has positive influence on teenage pregnancy among female students of Emmanuel Alayande College of Education.

The results of this study also showed that poverty was tested significant on teenage pregnancy among female students of Emmanuel Alayande College of Education. The positive link between poverty and teenage pregnancy suggested that poverty had influence on teenage pregnancy among female students of Emmanuel Alayande College of Education. The result of this study on poverty was in line with a study conducted in Rwanda. The study concluded that financial care are essential aspects to consider in order to reduce teenage pregnancy rates. Thus, female students of Emmanuel Alayande College of Education, consistently show a significant correlation between poverty and teenage pregnancy (Heliyon, 2014).

Finally, the results showed that environment was tested significant on teenage pregnancy among female students of Emmanuel Alayande College of Education. (EACOED) Oyo. It was further established that environment had positive correlation with teenage pregnancy; while correlation coefficient's magnitude was weak. The null hypothesis was therefore rejected. The outcome of this present study on environment was in line with a study in Ethiopia, which concluded that, there is high prevalence of teenage pregnancy in the area. Age, residence, contraceptive nonuse, and parental divorce were found to have a statistically significant association. It was recommended that, strengthening contraceptive use by giving special attention to rural dwellers and showing the consequences of divorce to the community (Yohannes AyanawHabitu,AntenehYalew, & TelakeAzaleBisetegn.2017). The positive relationship of environment and teenage pregnancy implied that, environment would positively influence teenage pregnancy among female students of Emmanuel Alayande College of Education. (EACOED), Oyo.

Conclusion

It was concluded that there is significant perceived relationship between parental upbringing, Peer- pressure, poverty, environment and teenage pregnancy among female students of Emmanuel Alayande College of Education. (EACOED), Oyo.

Recommendations

Based on the discovery, the study recommends that:

- i. Students should be educated so as to improve their attitudes towards premarital sex and adolescent pregnancy. This can be done through the training of health experts, who will enlighten the students through sex education.
- ii. Sex education should be included in the school curriculum right from the primary school to university level.
- iii. Parents should be ready to give adequate supervision and guidance to their children who had attained the age of puberty on sexual behavior, sex education, and consequences of pre-marital sex.
- iv. Parents/guardian should make adequate provisions for their wards especially females to prevent them from running after men for livelihood.
- v. Media house should provide useful information on the issue of teenage pregnancy, abortions and evil related to pre-marital sexual practice.
- vi. Teenagers especially females should be well cultured to be contented with whatever their parents can afford and avoid bad company as much as they can.
- vii. Government and non-government organizations should make assistance in form of grants, free education or scholarship for children of the poor.
- viii. Finally, Both government and non-government organization should aggressively embark on promotion of sex education and counseling to adolescent so as to reduce the prevalence of teenage pregnancy among adolescent.

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