

Factors That Contribute To Teenage Pregnancy among Girls in Nsit Ibom L.G.A Akwa Ibom State

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Abstract

The purpose of this study was to determine the factor that contributes to teenage pregnancy among young girls in Nsit Ibom Local Government Area. Four research questions and four hypotheses were formulated to guide the study. Descriptive survey design was used to study a population of 1,300 adolescent girls in the study area. The instrument used for the data collection was factors that contribute to teenage pregnancy among young girls questionnaire (FTCTPAYGQ). Pearson product moment correlation was used to test to hypotheses at .05 level of significance. Analysis of the data showed that the r.value in all the four hypotheses were greater than the critical value (.02) at df 108 and .05 level of significance. Hence, the four null hypotheses were rejected. From the result of the study, it was concluded that parental factor contributes immensely to teenage pregnancy, also educational factor, social factor as well as medical factors contribute to teenage pregnancy. Based on the findings of the study, it was recommended that sex education should be made compulsory in primary and secondary schools; parents should establish cordial relationship with their children; seminars and workshops should be organized; seminars workshops should be organized for adolescents on premarital sex issues as well as creating awareness through mass media on the implications of teenage pregnancy.

Introduction

The word teenage refers to both male and female between ages thirteen and nineteen (13-19 years). Under American social norm, age eighteen is mature, but under the family life norm, such teenagers are not regarded as mature and so tend to behave like adults but they are not. They engage in acts of sexual intercourse with members of the opposite sex. This behavior poses a great challenges to health services, since sex at this tender age exposes them to a lot of risks, such as teenage pregnancy.

Despite the extensive attention given to adolescent sexuality and teenage pregnancy in the past 30 years, many teenagers are still falling pregnant test (Van Eijk, 2007). Teenage pregnancy has become a national epidemic, partly because more and more teenagers who give birth decide to keep cost to individuals, families and society when more children have children of their own. Mwaba (2000) indicated that Teenage pregnancy is more common amongst young people who have been disadvantage and have poor expectation, either in their education or the job market. The alarming figures released by Morake (2011) for the South African Provincial Education Department show that the school girl pregnancies have doubled in the past year, despite a decade of spending on sex education and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and AIDS awareness. Premature sexual intercourse results in high rates of sexually transmitted diseases, HIV transmission, adolescent pregnancy and abortions.

Research Hypotheses

1. There is not significant relationship between parental factors and teenage pregnancy.
2. There is not significant relationship between educational factors and teenage pregnancy.
3. There is not significant relationship between social implication and teenage pregnancy
4. There is not significant relationship medical implication and teenage pregnancy
5. There is not significant relationship between solutions and teenage pregnancy.

Research Design

The research design adopted for this study was descriptive survey designed. This designed was adopted by Awodeyi (2002) in his study of opinions of undergraduates on the implementation of continuous assessment

in the university. This type of design typically employs questionnaires or interviews in order to determine the opinions and attitudes of people of interest to the researcher.

Population for the study

The population of the study comprise of adolescent girls in Nsit Ibom Local Government Area which 1,300 in number according to census data.

Sample and Sampling Techniques

To achieve the objectives of this study, simple random sampling method was used for the selection of the study sample. A sample of 110 respondent were drawn to participate in the study.

Table 1: Pearson Product Moment Correlation Parental Factor and Teenage Pregnancy (M = (110)

Variable	$\sum x \sum y$	$\sum xy$	r.val	r.crit.	Df	Decision
Parental factor (x)	1093					
		15031	.51	.20	108	Significant
Teenage pregnancy (y)	1320					

In table 1, the computed r. value (.51) was greater than the critical value (.20) at .05 level of significance with the degree of freedom 108. Thus, the hypotheses is rejected, meaning that there is significant relationship between parental factor and teenage pregnancy.

Table 2: Pearson Product Moment Correlation Educational Factor and Teenage Pregnancy M= (110).

Variable	$\sum x \sum y$	$\sum xy$	r.val	r.crit.	Df	Decision
Educational factor (x)	120					
		16310	.51	.20	108	Significant
Teenage pregnancy	1320					

In table 2, the calculated r, value (.73) was greater than the critical value (.20) at .05 level of significant with the degree of freedom meaning that there is significant relationship between educational factors and teenage pregnancy.

Table 3: Pearson Product Moment Correlation Social Factor and Teenage Pregnancy M= (110).

Variable	$\sum x \sum y$	$\sum xy$	r.val	r.crit.	Df	Decision
Social factor (x)	1107					
		15313	.51	.20	108	Significant
Teenage pregnancy (y)	1320					

In table 3, the computed r.value was greater than the critical value (.02) at .05 level of significant with the degree of freedom 108. Thus, the hypothesis is rejected, meaning that there is significant relationship between social implication and teenage pregnancy.

Table 4: Pearson Product Moment Correlation Medical Factor and Teenage Pregnancy M= (110).

Variable	$\sum x \sum y$	$\sum xy$	r.val	r.crit.	Df	Decision
Medical factor (x)	1007					
		12109	.41	.20	108	Significant
Teenage pregnancy (y)	1320					

In table 4, the computed r.value (.41) was greater than the critical value (.02) at .05 level of significant with the degree of freedom 108. Thus, the hypothesis is rejected, meaning that there is significant relationship between medical implication and teenage pregnancy.

Discussion of findings

The findings of the study show that there is correlation between parental factor and teenage pregnancy. These findings were in consonance with the words of Kanfman, Gitelson, Pappilo and Russel, (2000) that parents' victimization of their children also contributes to early pregnancy. This is because most parents abandon their children at teenage stage to roam the street without helping them to seek for job.

Mkhwanazi (2006) in his research findings expressed that father as compared with mothers were perceived to be less responsive, less demanding, demonstrate less concern, but found to be harsher, and these lead to less communication with fathers than with mothers. Of course, more adolescents strongly agreed that one of the reasons for teenage pregnancy prevalence is as a result of careless attitude of their parents that makes adolescent girls involve in unhealthy relationship with opposite sex.

Educational factor and teenage pregnancy

The findings in Table 2 indicate that there is significant correlation between educational factor and teenage pregnancy. This was statically affirmed in table 2 as the calculated r-value (.73) was greater than the critical value (.20) at .05 level of significance. These findings were in agreement with the assertion of Arai (2003) that low level of education of adolescents or complete illiteracy can led to early pregnancy. Most

adolescent in this category do not have knowledge of utilization of health care services in their community. Even when they are told about it, will develop negative attitude towards such a program. Most of them are ignorant of preventive measures against early pregnancy because they lack exposure and information from people who are aware of these measures.

Social Implication and Teenage pregnancy:

The findings in table 3 signifies that there is significant relationship between social implication and teenage pregnancy. And this was statistically conformed in table 3 as the test statistics was very high than the critical value of .02. More so, the adolescent's girls agreed that their interaction with peers contributes positively to their pregnancy.

These results agree with the claims of Morake (2001) that Peer group is one of the social groups that lure teenagers into sexual activities. It is always said that "bad company always corrupts good manner". Majority of adolescents who experienced early pregnancy were exposed to bad peer groups that enticed them to engage in sexual acts, which lead to unwanted pregnancy.

Medical Implication and Teenage pregnancy:

The findings in table 4 indicates that there is significant correlation between medical implication and teenage pregnancy, as the computed value (.41) was greater than the critical value (.20) at .50 level of significance.

These findings were in agreement with the views of Ritcher Malmbo (2005) that teenage mothers have worse maternal and child health indications than older ones. They added that medical implication of teenage pregnancy entail much risk compared with the social implications.

This is so because there could be remedy for social problems if solutions are well tailored towards the adjustments needed but medical implications affect the body system. More so, more of the respondents strongly agreed that medical implications have strong relationship with teenage pregnancy when they could not find the available health service for good treatment.

Summary, Conclusion and Recommendation

Summary:

The purpose of this study was to determine the factor that contributes to teenage pregnancy among young girls in Nsit Ibom Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State. The study specifically focused on parental factor, educational factor, social implications and medical implications of teenage pregnancy. Literature was reviewed under the following subheadings: conceptual frame work, theoretical framework, factors that contribute to teenage pregnancy, problems associated with teenage pregnancy and empirical studies.

Four research questions and four hypothesis were postulated to guide the study. The total population used for the study was adolescent girls in Nsit Ibom Local Government Area, which is 1,300 in numbers and a sample size of 110 adolescent girls was selected for the study. The instrument used for data collection was factors that contribute to Teenage pregnancy among young girl questionnaire (FTCTPAYGQ). The research hypothesis were tested using Pearson Product moment correlation with .50 levels of significance.

The result from data analysis revealed that four null hypothesis were rejected hence parental factors educational factors as well as social and medical implications contribute to teenage pregnancy.

Conclusions

Based on the findings of this study, it was concluded that parental factor has significant relationship with teenage pregnancy. Educational factor contributes to teenage pregnancy. Teenagers who are not acquainted with the knowledge of sex education tend to engage more in sexual activities than others with knowledge on the dangers of premarital sexual relationship.

Social factors as well as medical factors has significant correlation with teenage pregnancy.

Recommendation

Based on the findings, the following recommendations were made:

1. Sex education should be made compulsory in primary and secondary schools.
2. Parents should establish cordial relationship with their children and also educate their children on the dangers and the end result of pre-marital sex.
3. Seminars, workshops should be organized for students, adolescents on premarital sex issues.
4. The mass media should help in disseminating the information and creating awareness on the implication and dangers of teenage pregnancy.

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