

# Teenage Pregnancy and Home Environment Factors in Ogbomoso, Nigeria

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## Abstract

One of the basic social problems affecting the life and future development of the youths these days is the issue of teenage pregnancy. In this study, we relate the problem with factors of home environment using data from household surveys. With correlation and other relationship-depicting statistical analyses, the study observes that incidence of teenage pregnancy is related to residential density, parenthood, heterogeneity of the housing environment, peer group pressures, pornographic videos, among others. The study calls on all stakeholders to be alive to their responsibility, and ensure that a good living and social environment that discourages illicit behaviours is maintained.

## 1. Introduction

Social vices, including crimes, juvenile delinquencies, fornication and prostitution, street trading and begging, among many others, constitute serious headache to youth development, and are issues of concern to scholars of diverse disciplines in urban pathology studies. One of the results of such social vices, which itself is a social problem, is teenage pregnancy, which has become a popular phenomenon in both developed and developing countries of the world, especially in the wake of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

While studies in the past have been directed at unveiling the urbanization, land use or urban fabric correlates of crime, juvenile delinquencies, prostitution, street-trading and others (Faris and Dunham, 1939; Bagley et al 1976; and Gigs, 1973), studies on teenage pregnancy have been focused on health and child up-bringing implications of the phenomenon (Adeboyejo and Onyenuoru, 2003). What has been noticed, however, is that there is a close association between incidence of teenage pregnancy, youth development and home environment of the youth (Bagley et al, 1976; Gigs, 1973). In the same vein, density and overcrowding have been observed to be related to incidences of social problems (of course, including the subject matter here) (Faris and Dunham, 1939). This implies that aspects or factors of home environment, which are usually explained in urban studies with reference to density, are underlying variables that may influence teenage pregnancy and youth development. The relationship between the latter two lies in the fact that an impregnated teenager finds it difficult (and in some instances impossible) to continue her education or vocational training, thereby constituting a liability to the society. Most of these teenage mothers have teenage or other categories of irresponsible husbands who transfer the responsibility of taking care of their unwanted wives and children to their parents and society. The implication of this for the health and general welfare of the immature mothers and circumstantial children is to say the least negative.

In this paper, certain factors of home environment, which affect such development, are unveiled. Such factors of home environment, which also tend to vary from one density area to the other, include all the circumstances that constitute external factors likely to influence teenagers' sex experience and/ or exposure to sex issues and responses to such experience or exposure. Such factors which are basic variables underlying the nature or 'character' of a particular home environment include: (1) type of parental background and /or household head (2) household nature (3) housing nature and (4) housing environment. All these are composite variables that are simplified into a longer list of variables that affect incidence of teenage pregnancy (among other social vices) examined in this study, and that are operationalized here within the framework of residential density.

Arising from the above, the questions that come to the fore are: (1) Does the incidence of teenage pregnancy depend on residential density? (2) Is incidence of teenage pregnancy related to factors of home environment? (3) Which aspects or factors of home environment influence incidence of teenage pregnancy, and to what extent? Answers to the questions above are the pre-occupation of this study. It is therefore hypothesized that density and other factors of home environment are not related to incidence of teenage pregnancy and by implication to youth development.

## 2. Literature Review

Teenage pregnancy is that which occurs to women under the age of 20, although in the US the term usually refers to girls younger than 18 years of age. Worldwide, the rate of teenage pregnancy ranges from 143 per 1,000 girls aged 15-19 years in sub-Saharan Africa to between 71 and 119 births per 1,000 girls aged 15-19 years in South Asia (Treffer, 2003). The issue of concern, however, is the negative tendencies associated with the

phenomenon. Although the teenage mothers face about the same obstetrics issues as women in their 20s and 30s, there are additional medical concerns for younger mothers, particularly those under 15 and those living in developing countries. These include poverty and its resultant problem of how to cope with the motherhood responsibilities, especially when such teenage mothers have no husbands, as this is usually the case.

More so, the National Campaign To Prevent Teen Pregnancy (2002) in USA reports that “data supporting teen pregnancy as a social issue in developed countries include lower educational level, higher rates of poverty and other poorer “life outcomes” in children of teenage mother. Teenage pregnancy in developed countries is usually outside of marriage and carries a social stigma in many communities and cultures.

The same report observes that “although, the following describes the situation in the United States, it reflects some of the realities, faced by pregnant teenagers all over the world”. These include the fact that:

- About 40 percent of teen mothers are under 18 years of age.
- Children of teen parents suffer higher rates of abuse and neglect than children of older parents.
- Only 4 out of 10 mothers under the age of 18 finish high school
- Nearly 80 percent of fathers do not marry the teen mothers of their children.
- Only 30 percent of teen mothers who marry after their child is born remain in those marriages.
- Teen marriages are twice as likely to fail as marriage in which the woman is at least 25 years of age.
- Children of teen mothers are more likely to be born prematurely and at low birth weight, raising the probability of infant deaths, blindness, deafness, chronic respiratory problems, mental retardation, mental illness, cerebral palsy, dyslexia and hyperactivity.

While the above may be applicable to most parts of the world, certain peculiarities are observed in the Third World. Teen parents in developing countries are often wedded, and their pregnancy may be welcomed by family and society. Loch (2002) observes that “women in Africa in general, get married at much earlier ages than women elsewhere- leading to earlier pregnancies. In Niger according to the Health and Demographic Survey in 1992, 47% of women aged 20-24 were married before 15 years and 87% before 18years, 53% of those surveyed also have given birth to a child before the age of 18. In accordance with the above submission, Save the Children Campaign identifies ten countries where motherhood carried the most risks for young women and their babies. Of these, 9 were in sub-Saharan Africa, and Niger, Liberia and Mali were the nations where girls were the most at risk. In the ten highest risk nations, more than one in six teenage girls between the ages of 15 to 19 gave birth annually, and nearly one in seven babies born to these teenagers died before the age of one year.

The above facts and reports reveal to us the dimension and degree of teenage pregnancy and the implication that could have on youth development in different parts of the world, show the frequency and nature of the problem. The question now is: What factors are affecting teenage pregnancy in the society? These have been identified by different scholars to include socio-economic issues like neglect or improper care of teenagers or child abuse, family breakage, peer group pressure, pornographic videos, mass media, knowledge of preventive measures and isolation (Richard, 2006; Oloko, 1989; Slater, 2000; Watchtower, 1989; Allen, 2003; and Stephen, 2001). While the extent to which each of these factors affects the problem has not been ascertained, the concern raised about the factor of home environment and social vices (Faris and Dunham, 1939; Bagley et al, 1976; and Giggs, 1973), has not been so explored with regard to teenage pregnancy and within the framework of residential density. This is a gap which this study attempts to bridge.

### **3. Methodology**

#### *3.1 Data Types, Sources and Collection*

Both primary and secondary data were used in this study. Primary data were obtained using both structured and unstructured questionnaires as well as Focused Group Discussion (FGD). The data obtained include such socio-economic characteristics of respondents as numbers of male and female persons in the household; numbers of teenage male and female; household size, number of households in the house, occupancy ratio among other variables of home environment.

The residential densities of the study area were identified and systematic random sampling was adopted within each stratum to capture the primary data and other relevant information to the study. This was done by interviewing a teenager and a parent in every 10th house along the three major roads in the city: (1) the Ibadan-Ilorin road, (2) Ikoyi-Osoybo road and Orita-Naira-Arowomole road. To cater for the residents in landlocked portions of the high density residential area (core area) where buildings were not accessible by roads, buildings were selected at a distance of not more than 100m from the road after the systematic selection of every four houses along the road.

For adequate representation, the study employed ratio 5:4:3 for the questionnaire administration in high, medium and low residential density areas respectively. This was based on occupancy ratios identified in different density areas in Ogbomoso by Abodunrin (2004). The high density areas of the city have the highest concentration of population followed by the medium density and lastly the low density residential areas. With this scheme 42%

(254) of the total questionnaire was administered in the high residential density, 33% (199) in the medium and 25% (150) in the low residential density.

### 3.2 Data Analysis

The data collected were analyzed using both descriptive and inferential statistics. Number of teenage pregnancies recorded by a household in the last two years was used as a surrogate measure of incidence of teenage pregnancy in that household. This was subjected to analysis of variance (ANOVA) to test whether or not it varies with residential density. Also, selected factors of home environment were subjected to correlation analysis to establish the strength of relationship between them and incidence of teenage pregnancy, while the remaining variables of home environment were tested by chi-square method to see how they vary with density as an indirect way of determining their relationship with incidence of teenage pregnancy (having established a relationship between the phenomenon and density in the ANOVA test).

## 4. Findings and Discussion

### 4.1 Incidence of Teenage Pregnancy in Different Density Areas

It is observed from Table 1 that incidence of teenage pregnancy varies with density. For example, while those households with five or more cases of teenage pregnancies in the last two years constitute 14.99% in high density area, they are as low as 3.1% and 0% in medium and low density areas respectively. The category of households with just one or no case of teenage pregnancy is, however, observed to be 84%, 66.3% and 38.5% in low, medium and high density areas respectively.

Table 1: Pregnancy Rate among Teenagers

Category	High		Medium		Low		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
0-1	57	38.5	65	66.3	42	84.0	164	55.4
2-4	69	46.6	30	30.6	8	16.0	107	36.2
5 and above	22	14.9	3	3.1	0	0.0	25	8.4
Total	148	100.0	98	100.0	50	100.0	296	100.0

Source: Authors' Field Survey, 2011.

Table 2: Test of Variation of Incidence of Teenage Pregnancy among Density Areas

	Sum of square	D.f	Mean square	F ratio	Sig.
Between groups	75.135	2	37.567	22.583	0.000
Within groups	487.402	293	1.663		
Total	562.537	295			

Source: Authors' Computation (2011)

Further analysis (ANOVA on Table 2) shows that the observed variations in the incidence of teenage pregnancy among density areas are statistically significant with F-ratio value of 22.583 and probability value of approximately 0.000 (ie less than 0.05). This shows that high density areas promote teenage activities that may lead to teenage pregnancies more than low density areas. The implication of this is that there are certain factors (which are referred to as home factors or factors of home environment) which may underlie incidence of teenage pregnancy, (and perhaps other social vices), and require consideration. These are examined below.

### 4.2 Home Environment of Teenagers

By home environment, this paper refers to such variables as household and housing characteristics as well as other external factors of the housing socio-cultural environment. These include status of household head, household size and heterogeneity, housing nature, number of households or dwelling units in a house or compound, room distribution or sharing among household members, and occupancy ratio. These are perceived to be of great influence on the behaviour and stimuli to a particular situation in the teenager's day-to-day activities and living.

### 4.3 Variation in Household Head of the Teenagers

The analysis revealed that teenagers with father as their household head has the largest proportion of 54.5%. This is followed by those with mother as head of household with 20.7%, then uncle 5.0%, aunt 3.7% and others 16.0%. The percentage of the respondents having father as the household head has the following corresponding percentages across the high, medium and low density residential areas respectively as 55.5%, 52.4% and 56.0%. This is followed by mother as the household head with 24.0%, 16.5% and 20.0% respectively across the residential densities. Another significant proportion in the category of household head is the category 'others', which comprises self, brother, grandfather, grandmother and husband which have the corresponding percentages of 15.7, 17.5, and 13.0 in high, medium and low density residential areas respectively. Lastly, the analysis shows that uncle and aunt, as household heads have the corresponding proportions of 3.4 and 5.8, 8.0 and 1.4 and 7.8

and 2.0 percent in high, medium and low density residential areas respectively.

Table 3: Household Head of Teenagers by Residential Density

Household Head	High		Medium		Low		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Father	81	55.5	54	52.4	28	56.0	163	54.5
Mother	35	24.0	17	16.5	10	20.0	62	20.7
Uncle	5	3.5	6	5.8	4	8.0	15	5.0
Aunt	2	1.4	8	7.8	1	2.0	11	3.7
Others	23	15.7	18	17.5	7	13.0	48	16.0
Total	146	100	103	100	50	100	299	100

Source; Authors' Field Survey, 2011

However, further examination reveals that there is a close relationship between the tendency of having father or mother as the household head and residential density. Because as we move away from high density to low density residential area, there is a decreasing emergence of mother as the household head except for low density residential area. However, in the case of comparing aunt and uncle as household head, their emergence increases between high and low residential density areas.

#### 4.4 Variation in Teenage Room Ownership

Table 4 shows that there are substantial differences in room ownership by teenagers among density areas. 79.7% of the teenagers do not have a room to themselves while 20.3% have a room to themselves. The proportions of joint room 'ownership' are 83.2, 76.7 and 75.0 percent in high, medium and low density residential areas respectively, while personal room ownership has this corresponding percentages of 16.8, 23.3 and 25.0 in high, medium and low density residential area. This could be attributed to the general observable characteristic of greater population and its attendant housing shortage in high density residential areas compared to medium and low density areas. Also the income level of the occupants/inhabitants of high density area often restricts them in affording a considerable and sizeable number of rooms.

Table 4: Room Ownership of Teenagers by Residential Density

Room Ownership	High		Medium		Low		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Yes	25	16.8	24	23.3	12	25.0	61	20.3
No	124	83.2	79	76.7	36	75.0	240	79.7
Total	149	100	103	100	48	100	301	100

Source; Authors' Computation 2011.

#### 4.5 Occurrence of Room Sharing with Opposite Sex

A great proportion of the respondents (66.4%) indicate that they do not share room with opposite sex while 33.6% of them share room with opposite sex. As observed in Table 5, in the case of room ownership, the occurrence of not sharing room with opposite sex also increases from high to low density residential area, with 25.0%, 25.5% and 41.9% for the three respective areas.

Table 5: Room Sharing with Opposite Sex by Residential Density

Response	High		Medium		Low		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Yes	62	41.9	26	25.5	12	25.0	100	33.6
No	86	58.1	76	74.5	36	75.0	198	66.4
Total	148	100	102	100	48	100	298	100

Source: Authors' Field Survey, 2011.

Analysis and deduction from the above reflects the typical characteristics of what operate in different residential densities whereby the income level determines mostly room ownership and possibly the rate of sharing room with opposite sex, we can observe that as we move away from high density residential area to low density, the proportion of teenagers sharing room with opposite sex decreases while the proportion of those who do not share room with opposite sex increases. This implies that high density tends to expose teenagers to sexual behaviours that may lead to teenage pregnancy. This is also characteristic of most traditional cities in Nigeria.

#### 4.6 Relationship between Teenagers and Room Partner

Within the three density residential areas, the proportions of teenagers that indicate that they are sharing room with their sister are 40.0, 40.0 and 53.8 percent in high, medium and low density areas respectively. This is followed by those sharing room with their brothers having 38.5, 20.0 and 38.5 percent, then cousin with 7.7, 30.0

and 7.6 percent respectively in high, medium and low density residential areas.

Table 6: Teenagers' Relationship with Room Partner by Residential Density

Room Partner	High		Medium		Low		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Cousin	5	7.7	9	30.0	1	2.6	15	13.9
Sister	26	40.0	12	40.0	7	53.8	45	41.7
Brother	25	38.5	6	20.0	5	38.5	36	33.3
Others	9	13.8	3	10.0	0	0.0	12	11.1
Total	65	100	30	100	13	100	108	100

Source; Authors' Field Survey, 2011

#### 4.7 Variation in Sexual Experience of Teenagers

From Table 7, it is observed that 53.0% of the unmarried teenagers have not had sexual experience while 47.0% have experienced sexual intercourse. Furthermore, in the high density residential area 53.8% have experienced sex, while 46.2% have not. In the contrary in medium density, only 40.8% have experienced sex while 59.2% have not but 40% have experienced sex before at one time or the other. Another fact revealed here is that only the high density residential area has the highest incidence of sexual experience, which may be accountable for the high incidence of teenage pregnancy in the area.

Table 7: Sexual Experience of Teenagers by Residential Density

Response	High		Medium		Low		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Yes	78	53.8	42	40.8	20	40.0	140	47.0
No	67	46.2	61	59.3	30	60.0	158	53.0
Total	145	100	103	100	50	100	298	100

Source; Authors' Field Survey, 2011

#### 4.8 Teenagers' Sex Motivators

More than two-third (68.6%) of the respondents indicate they are influenced into sex by friends. This is followed by those motivated by roommates with 13.6%, then category 'others' (which embraces house-help, brother, self and sister) with 11.4%, next by mother with 5.0% and finally, those influenced by father constituting 1.4%. An interesting observation is that the proportion of respondents influenced into sex by friend is greatest across the three density areas with 68.8, 69.8 and 65.0 percent in high, medium and low density residential areas respectively. Another fact revealed by the analysis is that influences by friend and roommate have their respective percentages of 69.8% and 20.9% in the medium density residential area. Those introduced to sex by father are just 2.0%. This signifies the effect and roles played by peer group in influencing their reasoning and behaviour. The difference between the proportions of friend and roommate as sex motivators is so great that the peer group pressure must be given adequate recognition and concern.

Table 8: Teenagers' Sex Motivator in Different Residential Densities

Response	High		Medium		Low		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Friend	53	68.8	30	69.8	13	65.0	96	68.6
Roommate	8	10.4	9	20.9	2	10.0	19	13.6
Mother	4	5.2	1	2.3	2	10.0	7	5.0
Father	2	2.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	1.4
Others	10	13.0	3	6.9	3	15.0	16	11.4
Total	77	100.0	43	100.0	20	100.0	140	100.0

Source; Authors' Field Survey, 2011

#### 4.9 Relationship Between Factors Of Home Environment And Incidence Of Teenage Pregnancy

A number of factors of home environment have been identified and analyzed. These factors were perceived differently by the respondents (parents) from different density areas. Other factors likely to influence the incidence of teenage pregnancy are however examined under this section to establish the correlation that exists between each of them and incidence of teenage pregnancy. As it is reasonably expected that the number of households in the house might influence the incidence of teenage pregnancy, that is, as the number of households in a building increases, the population size and heterogeneity in the building increases as well, which in turn might increase the risk of sexual activity within the house and lastly (if unprotected) lead to teenage pregnancy. The result of the analysis however negates this notion with correlation coefficient of -0.011 which implies that

there is a negative relationship between the incidence of teenage pregnancy and the number of households in the building. The analysis further indicates that r-value is neither significant at 0.01 nor 0.05 level of significance.

Table 9: Chi-Square Test of Differences on Parents' Perception Of Factors Affecting Incidence Of Teenage Pregnancy.

Variables	P-value	Remarks
Civilization	0.000	Significant
Child Abuse/labour	0.000	Significant
Pornographic video	0.000	Significant
Peer group pressure	0.410	Not Significant
Preventive measure	0.000	Significant
Western Education	0.063	Not Significant
Lack of parental care	0.011	Significant

\*Significant at 0.05 level. Source: Authors' computation, 2011

On the other hand however, household size which generally suggests that the larger the household size, the more the possibility of deviant behaviour among the household members, due to the possibility of inability to monitor the activities and behaviours of so many teenagers in the household reasonably. The positive r-value (0.116) is found to be significant at 0.05 level of significance. This reiterates the general submission that the larger the household size, the higher the risk of incidence of teenage pregnancy through cohabitation. It indicates a positive and significant relationship between the incidence of teenage pregnancy and household size.

Another point to note is the relationship between incidence of teenage pregnancy and number of habitable rooms in the house and number of habitable rooms occupied by a household and the number of persons in the whole house. These three factors could be a surrogate measure of the population size and density of a building. In most cases, they determine the occupancy ratio, which tends to influence the incidence of teenage pregnancy because of the fact that there is possible influence on individual's behaviour and reasoning. Table 10 reveals a positive correlation coefficient (0.054), between incidence of teenage pregnancy and number of habitable rooms in the house. The relationship indicates that as the number of habitable rooms in the house increases, the risk or occurrence of teenage pregnancy increases, although the analysis does not reflect any significance both at 0.01 and 0.05. In the case of number of persons in the house, the analysis shows a positive relationship between incidence of teenage pregnancy and number of persons in the house with r-value of 0.206, which implies that as the number of persons in the house increases, the possibility of incidence of teenage pregnancy tends to increase. This is significant at both 0.01 and 0.05 levels of significance. On the other hand, the relationship between habitable rooms occupied by a household and teenage pregnancy is observed to be negative with r-value of -0.010. It shows that there is a negative relationship between the two. That is, availability of habitable rooms reduces the incidence of cohabitation of both sexes (especially teenager) in a room that exposes individual's sensitive parts, which might stir up sexual urges and desire within the teenagers. However, the relationship is neither significant at 0.01 nor at 0.05 level of significance.

The positive relationship (with r-value of 0.096 and 0.263 respectively) observed between incidence of teenage pregnancy and number of both male and female persons in the house is an indication of the fact that the phenomenon is only sensitive to household size in totality. The research further examines the relationship between the total number of teenagers, the number of male and female teenagers and teenage pregnancy. In the case of total teenagers, the correlation coefficient (r) by the analysis shows a positive relationship with a correlation coefficient of 0.098. The resolution from the relationship is that teenagers living in the same house tend to have a close rapport which definitely might affect their thoughts and behaviour. That notwithstanding the relationship is not significant both at 0.01 and 0.05 levels of significance. There is also a positive relationship between the number of male teenagers in the house and teenage pregnancy with r-value of 0.024, that is, the more the number of male teenagers in the house the more the incidence of teenage pregnancy. A number of reasons can be identified to have been responsible for this. It includes the pressure among them to prove superiority, boldness and how confident they are among others. These usually propel them to attempt to explore any available opportunity to confirm their ego. That notwithstanding the above submission could only occur by chance and not necessarily have to be as revealed by further analysis that shows that the positive relationship is neither significant at 0.01 nor 0.05 level of significance. Cross examination of the possible effect the number of female teenagers in a house might have on teenage pregnancy shows a positive relationship with correlation coefficient (r) value of 0.163. It signifies that increase in the number of female teenagers in the house may increase the possibility of teenage pregnancy. Similarly, a reflection in the case of total number of female (both teenagers and adults) in the house, which is more significant than the total number of male (both teenagers and adults) with teenage pregnancy, and the case of female teenagers is also found to exhibit a positive significant relationship with teenage pregnancy at 0.01. The above submission indicates that the possibility of teenage

pregnancy is higher when the number of female teenager increases compared with their male counterparts. Conclusively, from the correlation analysis it is observed that incidence of teenage pregnancy has a positive significant relationship with factors of home environment which are household size, number of persons in the house, number of female persons in the house. However, such other factors as number of habitable rooms in the house, total teenagers in the house and number of male teenagers in the house are however not to be statistically significant, though they depict a pattern that suggest their bearing with the phenomenon in a way. While other factors like number of households in the house and number of habitable rooms occupied by a household have a negative relationship with incidence of teenage pregnancy but also not statistically significant.

#### 4.10 Parents' Perception of Factors Affecting Incidence of Teenage Pregnancy

In order to have an unbiased assessment of the impacts of various factors affecting incidence of teenage pregnancy sampled parents were asked to weigh the factors using Likhert scale as: highly disagree – 1, disagree- 2, indifferent- 3, agree- 4, and highly agree- 5. Thereafter the impact of each factor is taken as the average weight (i.e. summation of all assigned weights divided by the number of respondents).

Table 10: Summary of Correlation Coefficients between Factors of Home Environment and Incidence of Teenage Pregnancy (ITP)

<i>Assumed Factors</i>	Correlations Coefficient with ITP.	Remarks
No of households	-0.11	Not significant and negative relationship
Household size	0.116 *	Positive significant relationship
Habitable rooms in the house	0.054	Not Significant and positive relationship
Number of persons in the house	0.206 **	Positive significant relationship
No of habitable rooms occupied by the household	-0.010	Not Significant
No of female occupants	0.263**	Positive significant relationship
No of teenagers	0.098	Not significant relationship
No of male teenagers	0.024	Not significant positive relationship
No of female teenagers	0.163 **	Positive significant relationship

\*\* Correlation significant at 0.01 level, \* correlation significant at 0.05 level

From Table 11 and Table 12, it is observed that with the average weight of 3.71, the factor of peer group pressure is considered to be of highest influence on teenage pregnancy in the area. This is followed by the factor of child abuse and lack of parental care with 3.49 and 3.45 respectively. Other factors in the same order of importance are civilization and pornographic videos having average weights of 2.83 and 2.82 respectively. The factor of teenagers' knowledge of preventive measures comes last with an average weight of 2.72. Without prejudice to the order, however, it should be mentioned that all the factors subjected to assessment are considered to be significant. This is deduced from their assigned weights in which the least (2.72) is above the expected overall average of 2.50.

Table 11: Perceived Factors Affecting Incidence of Teenage Pregnancy

*Assessed Factors	High		Medium		Low		Total	
	Sum	Mean	Sum	Mean	Sum	Mean	Sum	Mean
CA	569	3.77	340	3.33	151	2.96	1060	3.49
PVM	403	2.67	301	2.95	154	3.02	857	2.82
CVZ	474	3.14	270	2.65	101	1.98	861	2.83
PGP	573	3.80	369	3.65	183	3.59	1125	3.71
LPC	496	3.31	352	3.45	197	3.86	1045	3.45
KPM	535	3.54	222	2.18	124	2.43	826	2.72

Source: Authors' Computation (2011) \*CA-Child Abuse; PVM-Pornographic Videos; CVZ- Civilization; PGP- Peer Group Pressure; LPC- Lack of Parental Care; KPM- Knowledge of Preventive Measures

Table 12: Inter-density-Area Order of Importance of Factors Affecting Teenage Pregnancy

Density Area	Order of Importance of Factors					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
High Density	PGP	CA	KPM	LPC	CVZ	PVM
Medium Density	PGP	LPC	CA	PVM	CVZ	KPM
Low Density	LPC	PGP	PVM	CA	KPM	CVZ
Overall	PGP	CA	LPC	CVZ	PVM	KPM

Source: Authors' Scheme (2011)

The implications of this result are that: (1) when addressing the issue of teenage pregnancy as a serious stumbling block to youth development in Ogbomoso, Nigeria, and of course, in similar cities of developing countries, particularly in Sub-sahara Africa, such highlighted factors should be well focused; (2) The level of attention to be directed at each of the factors should vary according to their importance as revealed in the assigned weights above; and (3) The issue of peer group pressure, which tops the list of factors affecting incidence of teenage pregnancy, should be prioritized and well addressed, as exposure of teenagers to the companies of bad friends either within or outside the neighbourhood has a lot of negative implications not only on their propensity to become pregnant or impregnate young ladies, but also on their general development.

It should be noted that the patterns of the assessment show little variations among density areas to expose the more some other implied factors of home environment. For example, while the factor of peer group pressure remains the chief factor in both high and medium density areas, that of lack of parental care is considered to be of the highest significance in low density area (with assigned weight of 3.86), though it is followed closely by the latter ( with assigned average weight of 3.59). This is an indication of the fact that, when teenagers are under proper care (as usually the case in low density areas), they are less likely to be influenced by peer group pressure, which may expose them early to bad sexual habits and other related vices.

For a more detailed comparison of the importance of the factors as they vary among density areas, Table 12 below presents such factors in their order of importance for each of the density areas.

## 5. Conclusion and Recommendations

This paper has attempted to assess the incidence of teenage pregnancy and its housing environment correlates. It observes that incidence of teenage pregnancy varies with density area, with high density area recording the highest incidence and vice-versa. The impacts of such factors of home environment as multiple dwelling units, household size, room sharing, and other socio-economic characteristics of the house where the teenager lives have been discussed to be of much importance in addressing the menace. The paper takes a step further to examining and assessing such factors of our social life as pornographic video viewing, child abuse, parental care, civilization, and knowledge of preventive measures of the teenagers themselves as important motivators of teenagers to practices that may lead to teenage pregnancy.

As the way out, the paper recommends that:

- As much as practicable multiple dwelling units within a compound should be discouraged, if the proper monitoring of the activities and movements of teenagers and other categories of young people cannot be guaranteed.
- It should be totally forbidden that a male teenager (even a child of lower age) be allowed to share a single room with the female. This is not only unreligious, but also not socially acceptable, as that kind of interaction may trigger illegal and immoral activities that may have negative effect on the teenagers' propensity to be involved in premature or pre-marital sexual acts.
- There should be regular orientation and re-orientation of the public on the evils attached to pre-marital sex especially among the teenagers. The high and medium density areas, in particular are to be focused. High density areas, in particular, are areas where 'anything' goes, where people care less about their lives and health, particularly due to the ignorance of the negative implications their bad practices may have on them, and in particular on their teenagers who are in the most active stage of socialization processes.
- Except it is unavoidable, spouses should try as much as possible to live together under the same roof, as single parent-hood or single mother always has negative implications for teenagers' up-bringing and their propensity to cultivate bad habits.
- Parent and guardians should take proper care of their children and wards. They should not be involved in child abuse or child labour. They should be mindful of the videos/films they expose their children or wards to. Most importantly, parents and guardians should be watchful of the kind of companies their children or wards keep.



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