

## SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF TEENAGE PREGNANCY OF VICTIMS IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS OF OYO STATE

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### **Abstract**

*This study investigated the socio-economic problems of teenage pregnancy among victims in selected secondary schools of Oyo State. The Population for the study was 1307. Samples of 379 were randomly selected from the selected secondary schools in the three (3) Senatorial zones of Oyo State. Questionnaire and interview were used to illicit responses from the respondents, the data collected were analyzed using frequency and simple percentages for Bio-Data of respondents, while ANOVA and descriptive statistics were used to test the null hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. The result reveals that, causes of teenage pregnancy in Oyo state is due to lack of sufficient sex education, poverty and family type. Therefore, it is recommended that teenagers should be exposed or given comprehensive sex education to avert teenage pregnancies in the society. Health educators should carry out comprehensive sex education lectures/seminars in schools to effectively reduce the prevailing rate of teenage pregnancies and sexual activities among teenagers in the society.*

### **Introduction**

A teenager is a person whose age is a number ending “teen” in the English language. In common usage around, adolescent, teenager, youth, and young person may be considered synonyms. Teenage pregnancy is defined as a period in which the girls are not ready or mature psychologically, socially often financially and physically. Sylvester (2007) stated that teenage pregnancies are those that occur during puberty. In other words, it is an unintended conception in the unmarried adolescent of age nineteen (19) years and below.

The growing causes of teenage pregnancies according to Onaolapo (2000) are as a result of societal permissiveness in some parts of the world together with urbanization and life-styles associated with it. All these he opined are responsible for the increased teenage pregnancies. Chilmon, (2003) noted that the growing number of teenage pregnancy among school girls and those out of school revealed that many young people were indeed sexually active. Kathryn (2003) reported that pregnancy rate among young aged students in Nigeria was 65%.

Government and Non-Governmental Agencies have characterized teenage

pregnancy as a major social problem in the country, and this has caused teenagers a lot of negative outcomes; such as brain infections during labor and children born out of wed lock often become delinquent. Teenage pregnancies constitute a lot of problems and physical complications both on the teenage girl and her baby. Cohen (2002).

It was observed by the researcher that many young girls today in Oyo State are becoming too sexually active. The socio-economic hardships are on the increase and that young people are particularly vulnerable. The adolescent face sexually transmitted disease due to unplanned and unprotected sex. Most teenagers who become pregnant usually pass through horrible situations, thereby rendering them hopeless of any form of alleviation. The educational, socio, and economic effects of early/teenage pregnancy are particularly severe for young women. The society seem to be adapting a condescending attitude, pretending to be unaware of the realities on ground and the great effects the phenomenon is having on the young mother, the child and the society. In most cases, this type of situation is preventable and remediable. In view of the above, the researcher intends to find out among other

things the socio-economic problems of teenage pregnancy of victims and its effects on the young/mother, baby and the society.

The major objective of the study was to investigate the socio-economic problems of teenage pregnancy among victims in selected secondary schools of Oyo State Nigeria. The specific objectives are:

1. Determine the causes of teenage pregnancies among victims in Oyo State.
2. Identify the effects of teenage pregnancy on victims in the society.

The following research questions were postulated:

1. What are the causes of teenage pregnancy among victims in Oyo State?
2. How does teenage pregnancy affect victims, child, and family members in the society?

### Hypotheses

The null hypotheses formulated to be tested at 0.05 alpha levels of significance are:

- 1) There is no significant difference in the opinions of parents and counselors on causes of teenage pregnancies in Oyo state.
- 2) There is no significant difference in the opinions of parents and counselors on how teenage pregnancy affect the family members, the child and the society at large.

### Methodology

Survey research design was used for this study. This is in line with Afolabi (2003), who opined that, it is a useful means of obtaining baseline data on prevailing traits and perceptions among segment of the populations, and generalizing the findings obtained to the larger population.

The population for the study comprised three groups

- a) Teenagers who were victims of teenage pregnancy in selected schools both in urban and rural areas (381).

- b) Parents to victims of teenage pregnancy (252)

- c) Counselors in schools (41) Total population of 674.

The sample selected for the study was 379 respondents (Teenagers (victims=191), parents of teenage mothers=152 and school counselors=36). This was drawn by using purposive and stratified random sampling. This is in line with Krejcie and Morgan (1970) that, if the total population is in tens of thousands a sample of 5% or less of the population is adequate.

A well-structured questionnaire and interview were used for data collection. The questionnaire consist of three (3) sections A, B, and C. Section A questionnaire was on persona data where respondents were required to tick the best answer, while section B and C were designed in a four (4) point likert scale format rating of Strongly Agree (SA) Agree (A), Strongly Disagree (SD) and Disagree (D) with points allotted as 4, 3, 2, 1 for the expressed opinion of the respondents. The instrument was validated by experts. For the reliability of the instrument Cronbach's Alpha was used to give reliability coefficient of 0.78, this showed the reliability of the instrument.

A total of number of 390 questionnaire were distributed to the respondents by the researcher and two trained research assistants. Three hundred and seventy-nine (379) were successfully completed and returned. Data collected were analyzed using frequencies, percentages and means scores for personal Data Section A and for Section B, Standard Deviation and Analysis of Variance. (ANOVA) at 0.05 level of significance in which if the calculated value of F is greater than the critical value, the hypothesis will be rejected, and when F calculated is less than or equal to the critical value, the hypothesis is retained, showing no significance among the three groups.

### Results

**Research Question 1:** What are the causes of teenage pregnancy in Oyo State.



**Table 1:** Mean scores of respondents on the causes of Teenage pregnancy in Oyo State.

S/N	Causes	Teenagers N	Mean score	Parents N	Mean Score	Counselors N	Mean score
1.	Lack of sufficient sex	191	3.14	152	2.60	36	2.91
2.	education	191	2.92	152	2.63	36	2.91
3.	Low income of parents	191	1.54	152	2.32	36	2.63
4.	Family type Poverty	191	2.72	152	2.38	36	2.61

Opinion accepted if mean score is equal to or less than 2.6 source: Akuezuido (2004)

Based on the data presented in Table 1, the table revealed that all the items except item (3) with mean score (1.54) had their mean values ranged from 2.60-3.14, which are greater than

2.5. This shows that Teenagers, parents, and counselors agreed that all the items except item (3) are causes of teenage pregnancy.

**Table 1b:** ANOVA Statistics to test differences between victims, parents and counselors on their opinions on causes of teenage pregnancy

Variables	Sum of square	df	Mean square	Freq.	Significance
Between groups	40.963	2,376	20.468	1.247	0.288
Within groups	6169.323	-----	16.408		
<b>Total</b>	<b>379</b>				

F-critical value of 2.60 at 0.05

df=Degree of freedom

The data of ANOVA table 1b, showed that since the value of the calculated value of F which is 1.247 at df 2.376 which is less than the value of F critical of 2.60 at df, 2.376 at

0.05 level of significant there is no significant difference among victims of teenage pregnancy, parents, and counselors in their opinions on causes of teenage pregnancy.

### Research Question 2:

What are the effects of teenage pregnancy on victims, family members, and the society.

S/N	Effect	Teenagers Mean score	Parents Mean score	Counselors Mean score
1.	Teenage pregnancy initiates failure to remain in school.	2.27	2.17	2.36
2.	Teenage pregnancy affects attitude of other female members negatively	2.06	2.21	2.05

3.	Babies born become nuisance in the society	2.57 2.50	2.49 2.43	2.50 2.11
4.	Mothers who became pregnant become dependent creating economic hardship			

Opinion accepted if mean score is equal to or less than 2.6 Source Akuziello (2004)

Based on the data presented in Table 2a, the table revealed that all the effect items had their mean score values ranged from 2.27 to 2.57. This shows that teenagers, parents and

counselors agreed that all the items are the effects of teenage pregnancy on victims, their family members and the society.

**Table 2b.** ANOVA Statistics showing differences Among victims of teenage pregnancy, counselors and parents on how teenage pregnancy affects victims, family members and the society.

Variables	Sum of squares	Df	Mean square	F	Significance
Between groups	12.884	2	6.442	0.815	0444
Within groups	2972.962	377	7.907		
Total=	2985.847	379			

$F$ =critical value=3.00

$df$ =Degree of freedom

In the table 2b above the  $F$  critical calculated is 0.82 at 0.05 level of significance and degree of freedom at 2.376, while  $F$  critical is 2.60,  $F$  critical is therefore greater than  $F$  calculated. As a decision rule, the null hypothesis is accepted, thus there is no significance difference in their opinions.

### Discussion

Discussion on the findings are organised and presented to correspond with research questions. Finding from the data in the study Table 1a and b revealed that lack of sex-education on their fertile period and poverty were the major causes of teenage pregnancy. This finding is in agreement with Westoff (2011), who affirmed that the level of education was associated with inadequate knowledge on fertile period, sex education by both parents and school counselors. About 1.54 mean scores of teenagers agreed that their family type (Extended family causes teenage pregnancy).

Findings from the data in the study table 2a and b revealed that teenagers that are identified to be pregnant are expelled from school according to school regulation. This disrupt their life career and may end up in doing menial jobs. It also revealed that babies born by victims become delinquency and nuisance in the society which leads many to joining bad gangs. This a proof of what Akin (2011) said that, unwanted babies opt to

undesirable remedies of survival such as prostitutes, hire killers, Arm robbers etc.

### Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study, the following conclusions were drawn. In Oyo State sexual information/education both at school and homes are ineffective. Most

victims of teenage pregnancy looked up to parents, counselors in schools for sound sex education which is often delayed which results to increased sexual activities among youth. Unless definite efforts are made by both parents and care givers to inform and advocate abstinence approaches to reduce to the minimal, the menace of teenage pregnancy, most teenagers would be wasting away.

### Recommendations

In view of the finding from this study, the following recommendations were made:

- 1) Teenagers should be given comprehensive sex education to avert teenage pregnancy in the society.
- 2) Authorities in schools especially girls' schools should derive intervention approaches, increase probability of success for disadvantage teenagers such as alternative school for drop out.
- 3) Some percentage of about 40% of federal welfare funds should be invested directly in programs designed to reduce teenage child bearing.

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