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Teenage Pregnancy and Academic Performance of Female Undergraduate Students in the University of Nigeria, Nsukka

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Abstract
The study investigated teenage pregnancy in the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. Three specific objectives guided the study. The study adopted the survey research design. The population for the study was 22,895 female teenagers in University of Nigeria, Nsukka. Multi-stage sampling technique was adopted to select six departments from the 17 faculties in the university. The sample size for the study was three hundred (300) female students. Questionnaire was the instrument used for data collection. The data collected was analyzed using mean and standard deviation. The findings of the study showed that sexual violence and abuse (3.52 ± 0.33), lack of information about sex education, (3.42 ± 0.38), lack of proper family training, (3.12 ± 0.45), peer pressure, (3.60 ± 0.32), negligence of parents on female education (3.11 ± 0.47) are social factors that cause teenage pregnancy. Again, inability of parents to provide basic needs (3.41 ± 0.39), poor economic status of parents (3.26 ± 0.43), hawking of goods by girls from low-income families for survival (3.38 ± 0.40) are economic factors that cause teenage pregnancy. The findings further revealed that teenagers who get pregnant in school perform badly ranging from not having a result at all, pass degrees, third class and second-class lower division. The ways of curbing the menace of teenage pregnancy include sex education to girl child by parents (3.42 ± 0.43), parent should teach the girl child not to depend on men for meeting their needs (3.53 ± 0.36), and teenagers should dress properly to cover sensitive parts of the body to avoid sexual harassment (3.30 ± 0.44.). In conclusion, teenage pregnancies have influences academic performance negatively. Based on the findings, the study recommends that emphasis should be on the inculcation of family life and sex education in the University as general studies (GST) and organizing seminars and workshop by government in collaboration with NGOs for teenagers and the intervention of university administration and parental support is necessary.

Key words: Teenager Pregnancy, Academic performance, Sex Education, Girl-Child Education.

Introduction

Pregnancy is the term used to describe the period in which a fetus develops inside a woman's womb or uterus (Arnold, 2016). According to Arnold (2016), Pregnancy usually lasts about 40 weeks, as measured from the last menstrual period to delivery. Teenage pregnancy occurs among teenagers who are not prepared for pregnancy and family life and most often unmarried. Samuel (2016) stated that the best start in life a baby can have is to be born into a loving and welcoming family. Teenage pregnancy occurs between the age of 13 and 19 (Spencer, 2011) and it is a social problem in which young girls engage in extra marital sexual intercourse with partners without the legality of marriage

(Marnach, 2013) and at an early school age, (Anyakoha, 2015)

In Nigeria, more than 46,000 teenagers were pregnant in 2013 which translates into 117 girls every day (UNICEF 2019), when the statistics were compiled, there were high rate of teenage female pregnancies aged between 15 and 19. Nigeria records 20% of teenagers in the rural areas becoming mothers earlier than their counterparts in urban areas. It has been noticed that many teenagers get pregnant because parents pay less attention to their upbringing such as poor communication, not providing their basic needs, inability to pay school fees, inability to provide money for personal upkeep and accommodation which encourages cohabitation with the opposite sex resulting to pregnancy (Simnet 2013). Teenagers in this technological era are growing up in a culture in which peer influence, television and motion pictures, music, pornography and magazine (mass media) contribute to the time space of teenagers.

The consequences of teenage pregnancy may be devastating for young girls and their children. Having a child is natural and expected but this often involves risk and complication, sometimes beyond the understanding of the mother regardless of age, complications are often more pronounced in young teenage age. One of the most traumatic and devastating effects on teenage pregnancy is making it difficult for the girl to continue with formal education. Education system promotes education as a pillar of responsible sexual behavior and specific information about the consequences of sexual intercourse (including teenage pregnancy, sexual transmitted diseases and psychological effects) that are frequently not offered at home, or in the community settings (Anyakoha,2015). However, with all the educational information on the consequences of teenage pregnancy, students seem not to be doing well in imbibing sex education as many young girls get pregnant every year, (Limmer 2019). According to Billy (2019), sex education assists young people to learn about themselves, prevent dating violence, reduce unplanned pregnancy and help to develop a healthier relationship. In schools some teachers shy away from teaching sex education or talking about it to students. Inadequate or lack of sex education leads to sexual health issues, including sexually transmitted infections, unintended pregnancy, sexual violence and drop out of school (Bearman 2014). Families with low socio-economic status often have less success in providing for the needs of female teenagers. Most of the time, unplanned pregnancies occur because parents fail in their duties of not providing for the family, (Alan 2015). In some cases, failure to attend to the needs of teenagers can affect performance in schools, (Amini 2012). Often these teenagers will be absent in the school and class work will be undone. According to Jackie, (2017) low self-esteem is among the cause and consequent of teenage pregnancy.

Statement of the Problem

Teenage pregnancy is a menace that has led teenagers to frustration, depression, suicide and even death of the teenager (Osayemi,2017). In University of Nigeria, it has been noticed that many of the female teenage students attend classes and other gathering on campus with pregnancies which generally affect their academic performance and even some have dropped out of school. Teenage pregnancy constitutes a major health and social problem and continues to receive increasing attention because of early age

at which female students in University of Nigeria, engage in sexual activities. From the data obtained on the statistics of early teenage pregnancy, in 2018 – 2019 teenage pregnancy was twenty (20), 2019 – 2020 the number raised to seventy-five (75) pregnant teenage girls and 2020 – 2021, the population has risen to one hundred and forty-seven (147) teenage pregnancy, (Health dept. Nsukka LGA,2021). Teenage pregnancy may increase in the coming years if caution is not observed. It was on this note, that the researchers sought to investigate the causes, academic performance and ways of curbing teenage pregnancy among the female Undergraduate students in University of Nigeria.

Objectives of the study

The main objective of this study is to investigate teenage pregnancy and academic performance among female undergraduate students in University of Nigeria, Nsukka. Specifically, the study sought to:

1. Identify the social and economic factors causing teenage pregnancy among female Undergraduate students in University of Nigeria, Nsukka.
2. determine the Academic performance of selected teenage pregnant female Undergraduate students in University of Nigeria.
3. Establish perceived ways of curbing with teenage pregnancy by the female Undergraduate students in University of Nigeria, Nsukka.

Methodology

Research Design: The study adopted survey research in which a group of people or items is studied by collecting and analyzing data from only a few people or items considered to be representative of the entire group, (Nworgu, 2015). It can be generalizable and is considered appropriate for this study.

Area of the Study: The study was carried out in University of Nigeria, Nsukka Enugu state. This area is more populated with female teenage undergraduate students.

Population for the Study: The population for the study was twenty-two thousand, eight hundred and ninety-five (22,895) female undergraduate students in 2018-2019 session. (ICT Department University of Nigeria Nsukka).

Sample and Sampling Technique: The sample size was three hundred (300) teenage girls. The study used multi-stage sampling. Firstly, a purposive sampling technique was used to select 6 departments. Secondly, simple random sampling technique was adopted to select teenage female undergraduate students from six departments. In the third stage, proportionate sampling technique was used to select 50 female teenage undergraduate students in each of the department. Balloting technique was used to select the six departments. Simple random sampling technique was used in the second stage to randomly select 50 female teenage undergraduates from each of the six departments; this gave a total sample size of 300 female undergraduate students. Purposively 50 pregnant teenagers were identified through oral interview.

Instrument for Data Collection: Teenage pregnancy and Academic performance (TPAP) questionnaire was developed by the researchers. Also, a secondary data from the academics' records was used. The instrument was structured on a four-point scale of preference with the response options of strongly agree (SA-4), agree (A-3), disagree (D-2), and strongly disagree (SD-1). The questionnaire was face validated

by three experts in the department of Home Economics and Hospitality Management Education.

Method of Data Analysis: Mean and standard deviation was used in analyzing the data from questionnaire. Any item which has a mean response of 2.5 and above is accepted (Agree), while any item which has a mean response below 2.5 is unaccepted (Disagree). Also mean of three sessions final cumulative grade point (CGP) of the pregnant teenage students was analyzed from the Academic record.

Findings of the study

Data on table 1 revealed that item numbers 1-9 have mean scores of 3.52, 3.42, 3. 12, 3.6, 3.11, 3.53, 3.7, 3.6 and 3.7 with corresponding standard deviation of 0.33, 0.38, 0.45, 0.32, 0.47, 0.34, 0.33, 0.38 and 0.36 respectively. The total mean score of these items is 3.56. This was evident from their grand mean ($\bar{X}$) of 3.56 which is higher than the criterion means of 2.5. Accordingly, the table shows that the students had the highest mean () score of 3.52 for "sexual violence and abuse", and the lowest mean () score of 3.11 for "Peer pressure".

Table 1: Social and economic factors causing teenage pregnancy among the female students in University of Nigeria, Nsukka. (n=300)

S/N	Item statement	$\bar{X}$	Standard Deviation	Remark
1	Sexual violence and abuse	3.52	0.33	Accepted
2	Lack of information about sex education	3.42	0.38	Accepted
3	Lack of family training	3.12	0.45	Accepted
4	Peer pressure	3.11	0.32	Accepted
5	Negligence from parents on female youth education	3.60	0.47	Accepted
6	Lack of parental provision of the basic needs	3.51	0.34	Accepted
7	Poor Economic status of the parents	3.49	0.33	Accepted
8	Hawking by girls from lower socio-economic background for survival and little time to spent with the family	3.50	0.38	Accepted
	Grand Mean	3.56	0.40	

Data on table 2 revealed academic performance of some selected teenagers who got pregnant while on study from different departments in University of Nigeria, Nsukka, 2018/2019 session with Grade point (GP) ranges from1.23 to 3.04 across the six selected department. Also, in the academic session of 2019/2020 the Grade point (GP) ranges from 0.20 to 2.44. and 2020/2021 GPA ranges from 0.20 to2.62, However, the cumulative Grade Point Average shows the highest to be 2.66 which is second class lower division. The result also shows that 12 students have no results, while 10 students have Pass degrees. Six students have third class degree.

Table2: Academic performance of selected teenage pregnant female of Undergraduate students in University of Nigeria, Nsukka from 2018 -2021 academic session. n=20

S/NO	Teenage Pregnant student (ages)	Department	GP 2018/2019	GP 2019/2020	GP 2020/2021	CGP	$\bar{X}$	Remark
1	17 – 18	Home Science and Management	1.32	1.02	0.20	2.54	0.85	No result
2	17 – 18	Psychology	2.02	1.30	1.09	4.41	1.47	Pass degree
3	17 – 18	Home Economics and Hospitality Management Education	1.32	1.40	1.22	3.94	1.31	Pass degree
4	17 – 18	Sociology	2.21	1.42	1.50	5.13	1.71	Pass degree
5	18 – 19	Home Science and management	2.41	2.22	2.62	7.25	2.42	**third class**
6	17 – 18	Fine and Applied Art	1.23	2.31	2.00	5.54	1.85	Pass degree
7	17 – 18	Mass Communication	1.60	2.24	2.05	5.89	1.96	Pass degree
8	**18 – 19**	Mass Communication	**2.01**	**1.39**	**2.00**	**5.04**	**1.08**	Pass degree
9	**18 – 19**	Psychology	**3.00**	**0.94**	**1.08**	**5.02**	**1.67**	Pass degree
10	**18 – 19**	Home Economics and Hospitality Management Education	**2.50**	**2.00**	**2.01**	**6.51**	**2.17**	**Third class**
11	**18 – 19**	Sociology	**1.34**	**1.50**	**1.08**	**3.92**	**1.31**	Pass degree
12	**18 – 19**	Home Science and management	**1.50**	**0.20**	**1.05**	**2.75**	**0.92**	**No result**
13	**18 – 19**	Fine and Applied Art	**2.52**	**2.45**	**3.00**	**7.97**	**2.66**	**2ndclassLower**
14	**18 – 19**	Mass Communication	**2.35**	**2.02**	**1.71**	**6.08**	**2,03**	**3rd class**
15	17 – 18	Mass Communication	**3.02**	**1.08**	**1.99**	**6.09**	**2.03**	**3rd class**
16	17 – 18	Fine and Applied Art	**2.58**	**1.46**	**1.09**	**5.13**	**1.71**	Pass degree
17	17 – 18	Mass Communication	**3.02**	**2.02**	**1.05**	**6.09**	**2.03**	**3rd class**
18	17 – 18	Mass Communication	**2.70**	**2.44**	**2.00**	**7.14**	**2.38**	**3rd class**
19	**18 – 19**	Psychology	**1.56**	**2.03**	**1.84**	**5.43**	**1.81**	Pass degree
20	**18 – 19**	Home Economics and Hospitality Management Education	**3.04**	**1.02**	**2.05**	**6.11**	**2.04**	**3rd class**

Data on table 3 revealed that item numbers 1-5 have mean scores of 3.42, 3.53, 3.3, 3.24, 3.1 and 3.32 with corresponding standard deviation of 0.43, 0.36, 0.44, 0.46, 0.48 and 0.49 respectively. The total mean score of these items is 3.31. which is higher than the criterion means ($\bar{X}$) of 2.5.

Table 3: Perceived ways teenage pregnant Female students can curb teenage pregnancy in University of Nigeria, Nsukka (n=300)

S/N	Ways of curbing with teenage pregnancy	Mean $\bar{X}$	Standard Deviation	Remark
1	Early teaching of sex education to girl children by parents	3.42	0.43	Accepted
2	Parent should teach their girl child not to depend on men for needs	3.53	0.36	Accepted
3	Teenage female should dress to cover sensitive parts to avoid sexual harassment	3.30	0.44	Accepted
4	Adolescent boys should also be caution about early sexual intercourse with their teenage female	3.24	0.46	Accepted
5	Advertising the use of protective measures like condom if necessary	3.10	0.48	Accepted
6	Encouraging more focus on self-study before and after lecture to take away idle times.	3.32	0.49	Accepted
	Grand Mean	**3.31**	**0.425**	

Discussion

The finding on table 1 revealed that, sexual violence and abuse, lack of information about sexual education, lack of family training, peer pressure and negligence from parents on female youth education, poor economic status of the parents, lack of parental provision of the basic needs are social and economic factors causing teenage pregnancy. This finding agrees with the findings of Billy (2019) who observed that peer pressure, lack of information about sex education are social factors causing teenage pregnancy. Bearman (2012) also noted that lack of family training, negligence from parents on female youth education; sexual violence and abuse are social factors causing teenage pregnancy. The possible reason for the finding could be the loss of societal values and norms. Alan (2015) observed that poor economic status of the parents, lack of parental provision of the basic needs of their teenager among others are economic factors causing teenage pregnancy. Amini (2012) also noted that quest for material gifts and engagement in sexual intercourse for the purpose of making money to help the family are economic factors causing teenage pregnancy. These finding could possibly be because of low economic standard of our society

The finding on table 2 revealed that, teenagers who got pregnant during their study in the University of Nigeria Nsukka, had their C.G.P.A of second-class lower division, third class, pass degrees and not having a result at all. This finding disagrees with the findings of Charles (2013) who reported that pregnant teenagers, drop out of school and feel shy to return to school after birth. The disparity here is that in the formal the teen dropout of school while, in the current study, they respondents have low grade point.

The finding on table 3 provide ways in which the menace of teenage pregnancy can be curtailed, the result showed that teaching sex educational at an early age to girls will provide life skills and knowledge. Parents should also teach their girls not to depend on men for their needs, teenage girls should dress to cover the sensitive parts of their body to avoid sexual harassment, adolescent boys should also be cautioned about early sexual intercourse, the use of protective measures like condom if necessary and finally the role of society to encourage

teens to be more focused on self-study before and after lecture to take away idle times. The finding agrees with Perry (1996), who revealed the ways to provide sexuality education at all levels, including sessions for parents, peer group activities and programs for young children. Prevention programs that are age-appropriate, including knowledge of contraception as well as abstinence.

Conclusion and Recommendations

In conclusion, the social and economic factors attributed to the causes of the menace teenage pregnancies which affect the academic performance negatively among undergraduate female students are high in university of Nigeria. Nevertheless, with sex education in the school, parental care and advertising the use of protective measures like condom, if necessary, will assist to curb the menace of teenage pregnancy in school among the female undergraduate students. This also will improve their academic performance. Based on the findings of this research the following recommendations are made:

1. Curriculum planners at all levels should introduce family life and sex education to students in the University as general studies
2. Organizing seminars and workshop by government in collaboration with NGOs for teenagers about how to prevent unwanted pregnancies
3. Parents should find an alternative means of improving their economic status, this will give parental care to female teens and meet basic social and educational needs.
4. Pregnant teenage students should be supported by university administration to continue schooling.

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