



FAMILY ECONOMIC BACKGROUND AS A DETERMINANT OF TEENAGE PREGNANCY AMONG SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN KABBA/ BUNU LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF KOGI STATE

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ABSTRACT

The study was conducted to ascertain family economic background as a determinant of teenage pregnancy among secondary school students in Kabba/Bunu L.G.A of Kogi State. The descriptive survey design was used for the study. The population for the study comprised of 2,206 female students who were enrolled in the thirteen (13) secondary schools in the LGA. A multistage random sampling technique method was used to select sample of the study. Random sampling technique was used to select three (3) schools out of thirteen (13) schools. The sample for the study consisted of 222 female secondary school students in the LGA. A researcher designed questionnaire titled family economic background as a determinant of teenage pregnancy among secondary school students (FEBDTPSQ) was the instrument used for data collection. Spearman brown was utilized to establish the interval consistency of the instrument. It is therefore concluded that family economic background as a determinant of teenage pregnancy among secondary school students in Kabba/Bunu L.G.A of Kogi State. It is recommended that parents of teen girls should have a sustainable source(s) of income in order to attend to the basic needs of their children.

Keywords: Economic background, Family, Female, Secondary, Teenage pregnancy

Introduction

Teenage pregnancy emerged first as a social problem in the United State only around 1970's. In 1989, 37% of birth to white teenagers and 92% of the birth to black teenagers were unmarried, young women (Anda, Felittl& Chamman, 2001). Equally, World Health Organization (WHO) 2023 said that about 16 million adolescent girls aged between 15 and 19 years in which and about 1 million girls between 15 years give birth every year in which Kabba/Bunu Local Government Area of Kogi State is not exempted from the social problem.

Teenage pregnancy, which leads to child birth and its numerous consequences, has become a social issue and public concern. A survey by Spong (2013), revealed that a teenager become sexually active at an early age with corresponding high fertility as a result, teenage sexual activities also lead to be in the increase (Stoll, 2010). Teenage is often used interchangeably with adolescence. World Health Organization WHO (2023) opined that, it is the period between 10 and 19 years when the secondary sex characteristics appear. In the same vein, teenage is the span of an individual within the age range of 13 to 19 years. Teenage are of the opinion that they have gain freedom, which both exciting and frightening. They are no longer children, yet they are not adults (Emuveyan, 2002). Teenage is a stage of generation gap between childhood and adulthood or a stage where children want to assume the role of an adult thereby resulting into conflict. In the light of the above generation gap, teenagers are expected to grow up normally, gradually observing the norms of the society and

grow into adulthood. On the contrary, some of these teenagers engaged themselves in premarital sexual activity, which exposes them to the risk of pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and abortion. In the contrary, some of these teenagers engage in premarital sexual activity, which exposes them to the risk of pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and abortion. Equally, the body changes that accompany sexual maturity are sources of both pride and embarrassment in the teenager (Ukekeue, 2001).

Pregnancy is essential for procreation and continuity of the species. Allen, Bonell, strange, Copas, Stephenson, Johnson, and Oakely (2007), asserted that pregnancy is usually a welcome experience when it occurs at an appropriate time, such as in wedlock and at a mature age. However, it endangers the life of teenagers who fall within the age range of thirteen to nineteen years which constitute social problems pregnancy is the state in which a fetus develops in the uterus of a woman of child bearing age, during the period from conception to birth.

The study undertaken by Ekwueme (2000) revealed that about 400,000 unplanned births occur annually in Nigeria. Half of these births, she observed were to single girls between the ages of 15 to 19 years. The World Health Organization 2014 asserted that in thirty-one countries the fertility rate among women aged fifteen and nineteen were high with an average of one thousand six hundred and forty-one births annually.

In line with Patrick (2010), the transition from childhood to teenage may cause unstable emotions to some teenagers, and this may cause complex teenage psychology break on them. According to Adikwu and Okafor (2020), teenage pregnancy could lead to dropping out of school unemployment and other numerous emotional traumas. It is as a major cause of school dropout among teen girls. The pattern of pregnancies among young unmarried adolescents have assumed an alarming proportion, which if unchecked could result in undesirable consequences. Early parenthood has been linked to effects the psychological development of the child adverse. Apart from psychological, the physical risks cannot be ignored. The worldwide indices of pre-mature birth and low birth weight are higher among adolescent mothers. The worldwide indices of pre-mature birth and low birth weight are higher among teenage mothers. Teen mothers between 15-19 years old were more likely to have anemia, preterm delivery and low birth than mothers between 20-24 years old physiologically for the child as well as the mother. Therefore, teen mothers can easily get frustrated and result to violence as a means of overcoming problem.

Finally, the study carried out by Palermo and Peterman (2009) found that teenage pregnancy is associated with low socio-economic status, consequently it is not only the status of an individual that poses a risk in getting pregnant but level of poverty and an increased risk of teenage pregnancy may be hinged to such areas being rural or urban location. Those residential areas may be affected by greater adherence to culture and traditional beliefs which may exacerbate levels of child marriage.

However, community poverty was positively and significantly associated with teenage pregnancy in East Africa. In particular study carried out by Were (2007) investigated determinants of teenage pregnancy in Kenya and concluded that overall wide spread poverty predisposed young females to teenage pregnancy. Based on the above assertion in which Kabba/ Bunu is no left out of dynamics of this social problem.

According to Mkhwanazi (2010), recommended that there is need to study the family economic background that leads to teenage pregnancy due to income level, occupation and education level of parents based on cultural views, the dynamics of families and communities as well as existing rural

differences. In another vein, study conducted by Mkhwanazi (2011) in line with Chohan and Langa (2011) further asserts that preliminary studies of teenage pregnancy shows that income level, occupation and level of education are prime factors that determine persistent occurrence to teenage pregnancy. Therefore, it is imperative to examine whether family economic background as a determinant of teenage pregnancy among secondary school students in Kabba/Bunu Local Government of Kogi State. The purpose of the study is to find out whether family economic background as a determinant of teenage pregnancy among secondary school students in Kabba /Bunu LGA of Kogi State.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the study is to find out whether family economic background as a determinant of teenage pregnancy among secondary school students in Kabba /Bunu LGA of Kogi State.

Research Question

1. Is family economic background such as income level, education level and occupation as a determinant of teenage pregnancy among secondary school students in Kabba /Bunu LGA of Kogi State?

Materials and Methods

The research design adopted for the study is a descriptive survey research design. The population for this study comprised of all female students (2206) in all the 13 secondary schools in Kabba/Bunu LGA of Kogi State.

The sample for the study consists of 222 (10%) female students from JS 1 to 3 and SS 1 to 3. Ten percent is considered adequate as it conforms to the rule of the thumb stated by Nwana (2006). Three secondary schools were purposively selected from the urban and four from the rural areas including the two single sex schools.

The second stage was the selection of the classes JS1, JS2 and JS3 and SS1, SS2 and SS3, using the simple random sampling technique of balloting without replacement. A researcher designed questionnaire was the instrument used for data collection. The instrument yielded a reliability index of .60. Alpha Statistic was utilized to establish the internal consistency of the instrument. Two hundred and eighteen (98.2%) of the questionnaire was administered.

The data was analyzed using mean and standard deviations (SD) to answer the research question.

Results

Table 1: Family Economic Background as a Determinant of Teenage Pregnancy among Secondary School Students in Kabba/Bunu LGA of Kogi State

S/N	ITEMS	N	(\bar{X})	SD
1	Do your parents have any means of income?	218	2.00	.00
2	What is your father's income level?	218	2.03	.85
3	What is your mother's income level?	218	2.04	.81
4	What is the level of your father's education?	218	3.24	.95
5	What is the level of your mother's education?	218	2.81	.08
	Weighted Average		2.42	.
6	What is your Father's occupation?			
	Unemployed	16	3.75	.78
	Labourer (Handcraft)	24	4.00	.00
	Farmer	28	3.75	.44
	Civil servant	95	3.46	.81
	Trader (shop keeper)	29	2.41	.73
	Others	26	1.5	.65
	Weighted Average		3.15	
7	What is your Mother's occupation?			
	Unemployed	24	4.00	.00
	Labourer (Handcraft)	29	2.41	.73
	Farmer	28	1.50	.65
	Civil servant	95	3.46	.81
	Trader (shop keeper)	29	3.75	.44
	Others	26	3.75	.78
	Weighted Average		3.15	

Table 1 shows the responses on family economic background as a determinant of teenage pregnancy among secondary school students in Kabba/Bunu LGA of Kogi State. Income level of parents as a determinant of teenage pregnancy indicates that do your parents have any means of income' had a mean score of 2.00; SD .000 while what is your father income level had a mean score of 2.03; SD .847, what is your mother income level had a mean score of 2.04; SD .808. Equally, in table 1 indicate what is the level of your father's education had a mean score of 3.23; SD .952 followed by what is the level of your mother's education with a mean of 2.811; SD .082. The result in table 1 of item 6 pertaining to father's occupation indicates that labourers (Handcraft) had a mean score of 4.00; SD .000 followed by unemployed with a mean of 3.75; SD .775. Also, item 6 indicates that famer had a mean of 3.75; SD .441 followed by civil servant with a mean score of 3.46; SD .810. In addition, item 6 regarding father's occupation indicate that trading (shop keeper) had a mean score of .41; SD .733 followed by others with a mean score of 1.50; SD .647. Equally, item 6 regarding mother's occupation shows that unemployed had a mean score of 4.00; SD .000 followed by trading (shop keeper) with a mean score of 3.75 SD .441. Subsequently item 6 revealed that others had a mean score of 3.75; SD .775 followed by civil servant with a mean score of 3.46; SD .810. Item 6 regarding mother's occupation show that labourers (hand craft) had a mean score of 2.41; SD .733 followed by famers with a mean score of 1.50; SD .647. The items in table 1 had a grand mean of 3.15 which is also above the criterion mean. The result in table 1 is positive which shows that family

income level, occupation and education level are determinant of teenage pregnancy among secondary school students in Kabba/ Bunu LGA of Kogi State.

Discussion

The result in table 1 had mean score above the criterion mean of 2.50 and a grand mean of 3.15 which is also above the criterion mean. The result in table 1 is positive which in consonance with were (2007) investigation into the determinants of teenage pregnancy in Kenya and concluded that overall wide spread poverty predisposed young females to get pregnant. Equally the result supported Palermo and Peterman (2009) who opined that teenage pregnancy is associated with low socio-economic background as a determinant.

Conclusion

It is concluded that family economic background is a determinant of teenage pregnancy among Secondary school students in Kabba/Bunu LGA of Kogi State. From the study, it is observed that family income determines secondary teenage pregnancy in Kabba/Bunu.

Recommendation

It is recommended that parents should have a sustainable source of income in order to attend to the basic needs of the children and should engage in some meaningful ventures that will improve their wellbeing.

Conflict of Interest

The authors have no conflicting interests.

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