

**INFLUENCE OF TEENAGE PREGNANCY ON ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE AS
PERCEIVED BY FEMALE SECONDARY SCHOOLS STUDENT IN GANMO,
KWARA STATE**

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Abstract

Teenage pregnancy is pregnancy in female human beings from age to 13 to 19. A girl can become pregnant from sexual intercourse after she has begun to ovulate which can be before her first menstrual period (menarche), but usually occurs after the onset of her periods. The objective of the study was to determine the knowledge about teen pregnancy among students, the prevalence of teenage pregnancy and its influence on the academic performance of students, the awareness about causes of teenage pregnancy among students and the impact of teenage pregnancy on academic performance of female students in Ganmo. The research design was adopted for the study with a population of 302 female teens in the two selected Secondary Schools in Ganmo: namely, Community Secondary School, Ganmo and ECWA Secondary School, Ganmo, Ifelodun Local Government Area, Kwara State. Simple random sampling technique was adopted to select 150 respondents. Questionnaire was used in obtaining data for the research work. The data collected were analysed using descriptive and inferential statistics. Virtually all close results were obtained in two trials. The reliability co-efficient value of 0.041 was obtained with Cronbach Alpha technique. The information and data generated were analyzed and interpreted to the research questions proposed for the study. Findings showed that there is prevalence of teenage pregnancy among students in Ganmo. The study also revealed that most of the teenage mothers drop out of school. The study therefore recommended that teenage mothers should be helped in their psychosocial development and job skills development. Government at all levels should introduce sex education to the school curriculum.

Keywords: *Teenage Pregnancy, Academic Performance, Female, Students*

Introduction

Teenage pregnancy is one major contemporary social problem confronting most countries in the world. From the developed countries such as the United States to the developing countries of which Nigeria is classified, this problem has been a source of worry

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for policy makers, social workers, health workers and other human service providers due to negative repercussions on the girl-child. The economy situation of the country has pushed most girls to indulge in immorality; this act could be responsible for inability to finish schooling.

Nigerian adolescents are being failed when it comes to providing them with the information and services they needed to delay marriage and avoid unintended pregnancies. Some of the schools do not care of sex education, they left these young girls alone without impacting knowledge that can help their social life. The situation is worse in the rural areas where traditional birth attendants are used and no statistical records are kept. More disheartening is a report from the communities that young girls are more prone to teenage pregnancy due to level of poverty. Most authors have linked poverty to teenage pregnancy and its subsequent motherhood. According to (Greenbaum, 2002), “approximately 60% of adolescent mothers live in poverty at the time of the birth of their babies, and approximately 73% go on welfare within 5 years of giving birth.

Teenage pregnancy is one of the social ills that affect the society. The existence of teenage pregnancy does not augur well for the development of the girl-child. This is attributable to the girls’ age and the absence of any consistent means of support to care for the children and themselves when they would have been in school. It is alleged that teenage pregnancy and its associated motherhood are characterized with shame, disgrace, and school dropouts and sometimes end of the individual’s dreams of achieving higher pursuits. Bonell, (2007) suggested that school drop-out is a “uniquely predictive factor” of teenage pregnancy and a precursor to, rather than a consequence of becoming pregnant. Hosie, (2007) also found out that bullying by teachers or other students that were instrumental in their dislike of school. Those students whose attendance are poor and who dislike school prior to pregnancy have a negative attitude from their schools on disclosure of their condition and are less likely to remain in school than those who had good attendance beforehand. The research implies on teenage pregnancy and its effect on education progression. There should be association between teenage pregnancies, young mothers face a life of poverty, have lower levels of education and have less opportunity in the workplace than non-parenting teens. Research on teen pregnancy prevention usually focuses on the negative aspects of being a teen parent. It is also alleged that the relationship between teenage pregnancy and education goes in both directions. Teenagers who become pregnant are more likely to drop out of school and teenagers who drop out of school are more likely to become pregnant.

Statement of the Problem

Teenage pregnancy occurs when an adolescent engaged in heterosexual activities without any thought about safety from pregnancy or from sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and subsequently become pregnant. When heterosexual activities engaged in without caution, the natural consequences which is likely to be teenage mothering. Teenage mothering refers to a child giving birth to another child without maturity or any slightest plan to be a mother.

There are many cases of teenage pregnancy among students in Ganmo metropolis especially this period of economy crises that parent can no longer provide or cater for their children. These prompted the researcher to assess the cause of this wide spread pregnancy among students. The research implies on teenage pregnancy and its effect on academic performance in Ganmo. There are association among teenage pregnancies, young mothers' life of poverty, lower levels of education and less opportunity in the workplace than non-parenting teens. Research on teen pregnancy prevention usually focuses on the negative aspects of being a teen parent. It is also alleged that the relationship between teenage pregnancy and education goes in both directions. Teenagers who become pregnant are more likely to drop out of school and teenagers who drop out of school are more likely to become pregnant.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the study was to investigate the influence of teenage pregnancy on academic performance as perceived by female secondary school students at Ganmo, Kwara State.

Research Questions

Three research questions were raised to guide the conduct of the study:

1. What is the influence of teenage pregnancy on the academic performance of secondary school students in Ganmo community?
2. Is there any difference on the influence of teenage on academic performance of secondary school student on the basis of class levels?
3. Is there any difference on the influence of teenage on academic performance of secondary school student on the basis of age?

Research Hypotheses

Two research hypotheses were formulated and tested in the study:

1. There is no significant difference on the influence of teenage on academic performance of secondary school student on the basis of class levels.
2. There is no significant difference on the influence of teenage on academic performance of secondary school student on the basis of age.

Methodology

The research design adopted for the study id the descriptive survey method. The target population for the study are female secondary school students in senior classes of two selected secondary schools in Ganmo namely: Community Secondary School, Ganmo and ECWA Secondary School, Ganmo in Ifelodun Local Government Area, Kwara State. One hundred and fifty (150) respondents took part in the study.

The research instrument used for the collection of data is a questionnaire titled "Influence of teenage pregnancy on students' academic performance questionnaire" (ITPSAPQ). It consisted of 20 items which required students to respond to on a four-point

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Likert scale. The instrument was pilot tested on 20 secondary school students in Ilorin West who shared similar characteristics with the students under study. The instrument revealed a reliability co-efficient value of 0.041 was obtained with Cronbach Alpha technique.

Research question one was answered using mean and rank order of the items. Demographic data was presented using frequency counts and percentages and the hypotheses generated were tested using t-test or analysis of variance (ANOVA) at 0.05 alpha level of significance.

Findings

Table 1: Demographic Data of Respondents

Age	Frequency	Percentage (%)
13-15 years	83	55.0
16-18 years	62	41.0
19years and above	5	4.0
Total	150	100.0
Education (Class)		
SS 1	47	31.0
SS 2	62	42.0
SS3	41	27.0
Total	150	100.0
Religion		
Christianity	113	75.0
Islam	36	24.0
Others	1	1.0
Total	100	100.0
Tribe		
Hausa	6	4.0
Igbo	6	4.0
Yoruba	138	92
Total	150	100.0

Table 1 showed that out of 150 respondents sampled in the study, 83(55%) respondents are students between the ages of 13-15 years, 62(41%) respondents are students between the ages of 16-18 years, while 5 respondents indicating 4% are in the age range of 19years and above.

The education qualification showed that out of 150 respondents sampled in the study, 47 (31%) are in SS1, 62 (42%) are in SS2 while 41 respondents indicating 27% are in SS3.

The religion of the respondents shows that out of 150 respondents sampled in the study, 113 respondents representing 75% are Christians, 36 respondents representing 24% are Islam, while 1 respondent indicating 1% are practicing other religion.

The culture of the respondents shows that out of 150 respondents sampled in the study, 6 (4%) respondents are Hausa and Igbo, while 138(92%) respondents Yoruba.

Table 2: Perception and awareness of respondents on teenage pregnancy effects on academic performance

S/ N	Item No	Mean	Std. Deviation	Rank
1	I know a student or colleagues who have gotten pregnant in school	3.38	.859	2 nd
2	Teenage pregnancy will affect academic performance	3.05	.881	5 th
3	Unprotected sexual intercourse could lead to pregnancy	3.44	.961	1 st
4	Peer pressure could cause students to be involved in sexual intercourse	3.13	.932	3 rd
5	Poverty could make students indulge in sexual intercourse	2.96	.915	6 th
6	I have had sexual intercourse before	2.03	.964	9 th
7	There is need for sex education among secondary school students	3.13	.874	3 rd
8	Broken home causes teenage pregnancy	2.92	.882	7 th
9	Social media is a major contributor to teenage pregnancy	2.77	.960	8 th
10	I have been a victim of teenage pregnancy	1.01	.935	10 th

Table 2 shows the ranking of the items contained in the questionnaire on the perception and awareness of respondents on teenage pregnancy effects on academic performance. Only items 6 and 10 i.e. “I have had sexual intercourse before” and “I have been a victim of teenage pregnancy” respectively were not agreed upon by the respondents.

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Table 3: Mean and rank order analysis on how teenage pregnancy could influence academic performance

S/N	Item No	Mean	Std. Deviation	Rank
1	Dropping out of school	3.71	0.536	1 st
2	Missing examinations and other assessments	3.25	0.501	3 rd
3	Not concentrating on studies any longer	3.43	0.622	2 nd
4	Stigmatization from colleagues causing distraction from studies	3.09	0.706	7 th
5	Family neglecting the teen thereby not able to continue education	3.22	0.694	4 th
6	Falling sick during school hours	3.13	0.652	6 th
7	Developing low self-esteem	3.16	0.762	5 th
8	Forced into early marriage and saddled with family responsibilities	3.00	0.780	10 th
9	Spending longer years and losing interest in studying	3.09	0.837	7 th
10	Emotional crises could lead poor performance in studies	3.02	0.780	9 th

Table 3 showed the ranking of the items contained in the questionnaire on the influence of teenage pregnancy on academic performance among students in Ganmo in Ifelodun LGA in Kwara State. All of the items were agreed upon by the respondents as factors that could affect students' academic performance. Items 1 "Dropping out of school", 3 "Not concentrating on studies any longer", and 2 "Missing examinations and other assessments", ranking 1st, 2nd, and 3rd respectively with means scores 3.71, 3.43 and 3.25.

Table 4: Analysis of variance (ANOVA) showing the influence of teenage on academic performance of secondary school student on the basis of class levels as perceived by respondents

Class	N	Mean ± SD	Comparison	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
SS 1	47	60.29±4.310	Between Groups	226.337	2	75.446	3.288	0.022
SS 2	62	62.69±6.155	Within Groups	4497.458	147	22.946		
SS 3	41	63.78±4.310	Total	4723.795	149			

A one-way ANOVA was conducted to compare how respondents perceived the influence of teenage pregnancy on academic performance based on class level i.e. SS 1,

SS 2 and SS 3. There was a significant difference in the perception of respondents on the influence of teenage pregnancy on academic performance based on class level at the $p < 0.05$ level for the three class levels [$F(2, 149) = 3.288, p = 0.002$]. Duncan post hoc test, however revealed that the mean score for the SS 1 (60.29 ± 4.310) was significantly different from SS 3 (63.78 ± 4.310). Class level SS 2 (62.69 ± 6.155) do not differ from SS 1 and SS 3.

Table 5: Analysis of variance (ANOVA) showing the influence of teenage on academic performance of secondary school student on the basis of age as perceived by respondents

Class	N	Mean $\pm$ SD	Comparison	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
13-15 years	83	61.25 ± 4.073	Between Groups	68.988	2	22.996	3.092	0.041
16-18 years	62	63.37 ± 4.738	Within Groups	4654.807	147	23.749		
19 years and above	5	63.87 ± 5.415	Total	4723.795	149			

There was a significant difference in the perception of respondents on the influence of teenage pregnancy on academic performance based on age at the $p < 0.05$ level for the three age categories [$F(2, 149) = 3.092, p = 0.041$]. Duncan post hoc test, however revealed that the mean score for age category 13-15 years (61.25 ± 4.073) significantly differ from 16-18 years (63.78 ± 4.310) and 19 years above (63.87 ± 5.415). The last two age group do not differ.

Discussion of Results

The purpose of the study was to investigate the influence of teenage pregnancy on academic performance as perceived by female secondary school students at Ganmo, Kwara State. Three research questions were raised and two research hypotheses postulated in order to meet the objective of the study. Results from the findings revealed that students are well aware of teenage pregnancy though none admitting to be a victim of teenage pregnancy. They also agreed that unprotected sex could lead to teenage pregnancy and that poverty and peer pressure are also contributing factors to teenage pregnancy. Although majority denied ever having sexual intercourse or being a victim of teenage pregnancy, they were of the opinion that sex education is necessary to avoid teenage pregnancy. Other causes respondents attributed to teenage pregnancy are broken homes and social media.

On the other hand, in determining how teenage pregnancy can affect academic performance, respondents were of the opinion that teenage pregnancy could cause students to drop out of school, miss examinations, spend longer years in school or be falling ill during school hours. Also, psychological effects include lack of concentration to studies, emotional

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imbalances and development of low self-esteem which could all lead to poor academic performances. Others factors that could cause poor academic performance resulting from teenage pregnancy include stigmatization, forced marriage and lack of family support. However, analysis of variance with Duncan post hoc test showed that the above assertions differ with age and class levels. Respondents of 16 years and above, and those in higher classes i.e. SS 3 have greater perception on the implications of teenage pregnancy on academic performance than those below 15 years or in SS 1.

Findings revealed that there is prevalence of teenage pregnancy among students in Ganmo. This was corroborated by Theresa, (2000) who noted that the highest rate of teenage pregnancy in the world is 143 per 1,000 girls aged 15–19 years in sub-Saharan Africa. Women in Africa, in general, get married at much earlier ages than women elsewhere leading to earlier pregnancies. She also said in Nigeria, according to the Health and Demographic Survey in 2002, 47% of women aged 20–24 were married before 15 and 87% before 18. 53% of those surveyed also had given birth to a child before the age of 18.

According to Aikoye (2013), the National Population Commission (NPC) has disclosed that the occurrence of teenage pregnancy in the country might be on the increase among the ages between 15 and 19. Aikoye explained that going by the Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS), adolescent fertility in Nigeria in 2008 topped other African countries with 121 live births per 1,000 births, stressing that this is relatively high when compared with other African countries that have considerably reduced adolescent fertility rates.

Findings also revealed that teenage pregnancy was a fall out from poverty among students in Ganmo. Due to economic crises in the country, people look for other means to survive, and female children often engaged in unprotected sex. UNICEF (2001) identified that teens that become pregnant often come from families of low socio-economic status. Growing up, these children often come from families who are suffering from poverty and do not have all the necessary resources to raise their children. These children grow up to have low educational goals and successes because of the lack of involvement from their own parents. “These young kids then predisposed to a negative environment end up with less ambition to succeed in school and begin making friendships with other teens that are going through similar situations as them. It is these groups of teens who begin to experiment with drugs and alcohol and do not do very well in school” UNICEF, (2001).

Another finding in the study reveals that peer pressure is also one of the causes of teenage pregnancy among female students in Ganmo. Some students move with bad peer group this causes them to have pregnancy when they are in school. David (2016) supported that Peer pressure is another major cause of sexual abuse, often females may be pressured or forced by an older male partner to engage in sexual activity. These young females out of fear may feel forced to engage in unprotected sex without a choice. Peer pressure may also be prevalent in a different form while in relationships adolescents may be pressured by their partner to have unsafe and unprotected sex in order to express their "love" and "true feelings" for their partner.

Social stigma was also one of the resultant effects of teenage pregnancy among female student in Ganmo. This finding was supported by Bruce (2001) who noted that teenage pregnancy is one of modern society's evil and is a rather alarming situation. Most countries, developed and underdeveloped, consider teenage pregnancy a social stigma. And, it can have devastating effects on the teen's social life. "The negativity, the social alienation, and the financial distress can wreak havoc in anyone's life, let alone that of a teen, which is not yet mature or strong enough to face the world. A teenage mother has to face several social obligations like not getting a good job, not getting respect from friends and family members. The entire social life of the teen mother gets ruined due to her early and unexpected pregnancy, and she has to spend her life in emotional trauma," (Bruce, 2001).

One of the findings also revealed that emotional crises are the effect of teenage pregnancy on academic performance among female students in Ganmo. Some students are drop out due to pregnancy and this affects their emotion. Bratati (2009) identified that after being pregnant at an early age, the teen mother may suffer from huge emotional crisis due to lack of social support from family. Severe emotional and mental breakdown triggers the onset of evil behavior like suicide attempts or attempting to self-abort the baby. The teen mother experiences severe depression while facing the negative feedback about the pregnancy from the society.

Society usually considers teenage pregnancy a social dilemma and young parents have to face huge humiliation and negative remarks from people. Teenage pregnancy is viewed as social stigma and teen parents have to bear bad reputation as the society treats them as outcasts and strangers. Teenage mothers are more prone to committing suicides, as the humiliations and embarrassment, and the lack of social support can trigger depression. Emotional stress, financial crisis, and societal alienation are some of the main contributing factors that trigger suicide among teen mothers.

Conclusion

The study shows that teenage pregnancy affects the educational attainment of teenage girls. It is evident that there is no magic bullet for teenage pregnancy. Given the multiple levels of predisposing factors of teenage pregnancy, single intervention strategies by single sector will not solve teenage pregnancy. What is required is a comprehensive approach that incorporates the home, the school, the community, the healthcare setting as well as change at the structural level. The menace of teenage pregnancy is ravaging both the present and future wellbeing of the society. The cruelty of the experiences of teenage mothers and fathers can psychologically cause depression which could lead to early death and low value of life; it reduces the projection of the quality standard of living in the society.

The timely intervention of the government in collaboration with parents, teachers and community leaders will go a long way to also checkmate the prevalence of teenage pregnancy. The religious organization should have a platform to address the situation in their various gatherings. Information about the menace of teenage pregnancy through the social media can effectively influence the teenagers positively to avoid activities that could easily lead to sexual intercourse and eventually teenage pregnancy.

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It is majorly the task of the government to establish programmes that alleviate poverty in the society; such will serve as mediums to upgrade the standard of living and thus becoming preventive measures to prevent teenage pregnancy. Sex education should be thoroughly emphasized in the Education Sectors as part of Curriculum in all spheres and levels of Institutions.

Implications for Counselling Education

The findings of this study have implications for counselling practice. Sexual experimentation and ignorance baffle many teenagers and sometimes lead them to things which they do not expect and find difficult to handle. Counselling is about changing/restructuring people's behaviour for better functioning in the society.

Challenges that could lead to maladaptive behaviour should be modified by counsellors using different counselling techniques. Counsellors at different levels of education should design programmes that will allow students have interactive forum on sensitive issues like teenage pregnancy and how it affects their academic performance. They should deliberate on how to enjoy the positive aspects of peers rather peer pressure that militate them to engage in evil acts.

Women, nursing mothers and would-be-mothers should be adequately trained by counsellors on the effect of their training on their children from childhood to adulthood. Mothers should be exposed to know that the success and failure of their wards depend solely on them.

Girl-child most especially needs to gain special attention from their mothers and they should be made to gain special attention from their mothers and be best friend to their female children. With this closeness, mothers would be able to inculcate in their girl-child what are the societal and moral expectations of them and how to adequately cope and manage themselves with various tasks ahead of them either psychosexually and even academically.

Professionally trained Counsellors should assist by proffering useful and usable information for students, parents, teachers and all stakeholders in education sector the importance of sex education/school curriculum.

Guidance programmes should be organized by counsellors in schools on the effect of teenage pregnancy and its consequences on academic performance and on the general well being of the teenagers.

Recommendations

Based on the evidences obtained from the study, the following recommendations have been suggested to guide policy decisions that would help reduce the incidence of teenage pregnancy.

Individual

- Female teens should be careful of peer pressure.
- Female teens should be careful of the kind of film they watch.

- Female teens should avoid staying with males in solitary places.

Parents

- Parents should provide female teens with the needed supports to help them complete their education and skills development programmes.
- Parent should monitor the kind of friends female teenagers associate themselves with.

Schools

- Teachers, school counsellors, social workers and peer support groups should provide teenagers with the needed supports to help them complete their education and skills development programmes.
- There should also be sex education and the provision of school-based day care and parenting centers for those teenagers who are already (or soon will be) parents.
- Special schools for pregnant or parent teens, programs to help pregnant teens finish school and non-formal education.

Government

- Government should give the educational, social, economic, and employment histories common among teenage parents, career development is a priority for helping this group make the transition from adolescence to economic independence.
- Poverty was one major problem revealed by the study as a cause of teenage pregnancy. Government should strengthen families to be able to provide for the needs of their family members including adolescent girls.
- To help teen parents overcome the ramifications of their disadvantaged backgrounds, attention should be given to the building of their self-concept and support systems; learning how to meet the challenge of combining work and family roles; learning how to give and receive emotional support and enhancing interpersonal communication and relationships

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