

PERCEIVED CONSEQUENCES OF TEENAGE PREGNANCY AMONG IN-SCHOOL ADOLESCENTS IN ILORIN METROPOLIS, KWARA STATE NIGERIA

BY

Deji-Oderinde, Bose: Department of Educational Foundations, Faculty of Education, University of Lagos, Nigeria, dejioderindebose@gmail.com**Abstract**

The issue of teenage pregnancy seems to be one of the problems facing not only Nigeria, but several other nations of the world which has significant consequences on female adolescents and can influence the psychosocial life of female child. Thus, the researcher investigates the consequences of teenage pregnancy among in-school adolescents in Ilorin Metropolis of Kwara State. Demographic variables of age and religious affiliation are considered. This research employed the descriptive survey research method design. 200 respondents were randomly selected across the selected schools. One research question was raised and two hypotheses generated to guide the conduct of the study. Data were collected using a researcher designed instrument questionnaire entitled "Consequences of Teenage Pregnancy Questionnaire (CTPQ). Content validity and reliability of the instrument were established. The reliability co-efficient of 0.73 was obtained. Data analysis was done using percentages, mean and Analysis of Variance; all hypotheses were tested at 0.05 alpha level. The findings revealed that teenage pregnancy has great consequences on female in-school adolescents by disrupting her education, drop out from school, teenage death, low self-esteem, among others. It was also discovered that there was no significant difference on the consequences of teenage pregnancy on the basis of age and religion affiliations of the respondents. This signifies that the two hypotheses were not rejected. With the findings of the study, it was recommended that parents should take care of their female children, provide them with basic needs and equip them with reproductive health education in order to prevent them from engaging in risky sexual behaviour and teenage pregnancy, the school teachers and school counsellors should identify students with special sexuality needs and counsel them on that among others.

Keyword: *Consequences, In-school adolescents, Teenage pregnancy, Ilorin metropolis*

Introduction

One of the salient responsibilities of women is procreation as ordained by God. However, there are conditions to be met before a woman could start procreating. In African context, the act of procreation is a responsibility of grown up young adults who have been found to be physically, economically, emotionally, spiritually and at large psychologically matured; that is why marriage act is highly contracted and celebrated in our present societies. The observed situation prevalent in both developed and underdeveloped world is such that there are, however, girls as young as ten who are sexually active and occasionally become pregnant and give birth, such that girls of between thirteen and nineteen years are now getting pregnant at an alarming rate. Surveys by investigators such as Briggs (2001), Onuzulike (2003) and others revealed that teenagers become sexually active at an early age with corresponding high fertility. This condition is widely referred to as teenage pregnancy. Teenage Pregnancy is defined as 'a teenager or under-aged usually within ages of thirteen to nineteen years becoming pregnant'. The term in every day speech usually refers to women who have not reached legal adulthood who become pregnant, (Oguguo, 1995).

Teenage is often used interchangeably with adolescence. World Health Organization – WHO (1997) opined that, it is the period between 10 and 19 years when the secondary sex characteristics appear. Turner and Helms (1993) reported that the teen years fall between the ages of 13 and 19 years. The issue of pregnancies among teenage girls seems to be one of the social problems facing not only Nigeria, but also several other nations of the world. Teenage sexual activities in Nigeria also tend to be on the increase (Nwosu, 2005; Okafor, 2007). A major consequence of these increase sexual activities among teenagers is out of wedlock pregnancies that may result in abortion, childbirth or even death. Pregnancy at whatever stage in life can be a life changing experience that cuts across boundaries of race, educational attainment and socio-economic status (Kost et al., 2010). Motherhood places demands on one's life which were hitherto non-existent prior to the birth of the woman. When a girl that should

be in school becomes pregnant, her entire life could be completely altered as her hopes and aspirations could be shattered. Teenage parents according to Kost et al., (2010) are parents between the ages of 13 and 19 years. Maynard (1997) believe that teenage pregnancy is a delinquent behavior resulting from stress, dislike, malice, boredom and unhappiness experienced by a teenage girl within her home environment. Other predisposing factors include alcoholism, drug addiction, and sexual promiscuity.

Pregnancy as defined by Gordon (2013) is a condition in which a female carries in her womb, the young before it is born. Similarly, Skyes (2010) defined pregnancy as the condition of carrying a developing offering in the uterus. A look at the two definitions of pregnancy above could reveal that pregnancy is meant for procreation and continuity. Nwosu (2015) is of the opinion that when pregnancy occurs at the appropriate time and in wedlock, it is a welcome development, But if a teenager engages in pre-marital sex that may result in pregnancy, she is putting herself in a responsibility that she is inadequately prepared for. Teenage pregnancy therefore means conception by girls between the ages of 10 and 19 years. Ukekwe (2011) stated that stress arises even when pregnancies are planned, and to think of unplanned pregnancy means that the girl has to restructure her roles because she is inadequately prepared for parenthood. However, teenage pregnancy seems to seriously have consequence in psychosocial life of female child such as health, emotional, educational, and social among others. Fadeyi (2011) observed that numerous cases of school dropout; maternal mortality and morbidity, infertility, abortion and children being abandoned in gutters, dustbins, latrines and other deadly places are clear manifestations of the malady of teenage pregnancies.

Teenage pregnancy has vital implication for population growth. Sem and Wirtu (2013) opined that there is a global increase in teenage pregnancies. They observed that more than 14 million adolescents give birth each year thus contributing roughly 10 per cent of the world's total number of births. Ukekwe (2011) noted that many of these babies are unwanted by their teen mothers. These babies, she maintained suffer from starvation, sicknesses, homelessness and abandonment among other complications. Briggs (2011) identified several complications associated with teenage pregnancy. These include; high blood pressure, pre-eclampsia, eclampsia, mal-nutrition, vesico vaginal fistula, recto vaginal fistula and death. Briggs observed that when high blood pressure is accompanied by proteinuria, the teenager's condition can worsen to eclampsia, which if not controlled could progress to extreme hypertension, seizures, convulsion and cerebral hemorrhage. Chabra (2001) outlined complications of pregnancy among teenagers to include first and third trimester's bleeding, severe anaemia, prolonged and obstructed labour, cephalopelvic disproportion, and toxaeimias of pregnancy, stillbirth and high prenatal mortality and morbidity.

Besides the health consequence of teenage pregnancy, the educational attainment of most, if not all teenage parents is hampered. Gorgen et al. (2003) observed that students who become pregnant rarely go back to school. Stevens-Simon and McAnarmey (2003) noted that teenage pregnancy is a marker for socio-demographic factors such as poverty and poor education. Brown (2001) collaborated this when he posited that many of the teenagers end up as school dropouts. Action Health Incorporated (2004) also described teenage pregnancy as a major cause of school dropout among girls. They maintained that the pattern of pregnancies among young unmarried adolescents has assumed an alarming proportion, which if unchecked could result in undesirable consequences. According to Osuala (2003) the patterns of teenage pregnancy and its complications need to be addressed in order to avert the perpetuation of poverty and unskilled women in the economy.

Most authors have linked poverty to teenage pregnancy and its subsequent motherhood. The demand is that they see poverty as a cause at the same time an effect to teenage pregnancy. For instance, Kuller and Twumasi (1999) opined that in rural communities, family financial exigencies and social custom consequence girls to stay out of school and enter into early serious relationships which lead them into getting pregnant at early stages of their lives thereby making them continue to be in the cycle of poverty. This presupposes that tackling teenage pregnancy would have no trickling down effects on poverty and vice-versa.

However, teenage pregnancy is one of the social ills that affect our living 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 should

have been in school. It is alleged that teenage and its associated motherhood are characterized with shame, disgrace, school dropout and sometimes end of the individual's dreams of achieving higher pursuits.

According to Yampoikaya et al. (2002) approximated that 60% of teenage mothers live in abject poverty at the time of the birth of their babies, and approximately 73% go on social welfare within some period of giving birth. Mohase (2006), asserted that teenage pregnancy has a lot of social consequences which include school dropout or interrupted schooling, falling prey to criminal activity, abortion, ostracism, child neglect, school adjustment difficulties for their children, adoption, lack of social security, poverty, repeated pregnancy and negative effects on domestic life. It is suggested that school dropout is a uniquely predictive of teenage pregnancy and a precursor, rather than a consequence of becoming pregnant (Bonell et al 2004). Perhaps, difficulties with school are accounted in three inter-linked ways; first, a strong dislike of school that leads to truancy, dropping out or formal exclusion (Hosie, 2007); second, lack of educational attainment (Hoberaft and Kieman, 1999); and third, low aspiration and expectations of the education system as being relevant for their future employment (Luker, 1996).

Consequently, many girl teenage mothers who are unable to get an education fall into the victim of poverty whereby creating a vicious cycle of early pregnancies, illiteracy and poverty which can be hard to break as already stated. The World Health Organization (2011) recorded that the implications of early pregnancy are immense, affecting the girls and their parents emotionally, psychologically, physiologically and economically. However, for a young girl to be pregnant, the complications associated with it include high risks of infections, delivery complications as well as mental deaths respectively.

In the side of abortion, the tendency for teenage girls to want an abortion or being aborted comes with a lot of challenges especially social confusion in implementing abortion policy on the side of health workers. Statistically, the rate of maternal deaths as a result of abortion are higher in the side of teenage mothers compared to other women. This poses a challenge in responding to maternal and infant mortality but also strains families in terms of providing health care to the teenage mother in case complications arise during pregnancy or during child delivery which are more likely to happen among teenagers than older women. Moreover, most of the complications come because the girls' bodies are not fully developed. As such they may suffer obstructed labour and uterus ruptures, all of which are life threatening while others may die during child delivery. Analytically, in 2011 Demographic and Health Survey or record data, 15 to 23% of female youth or teenage girls between 15 and 23 have had an abortion greatly increasing the risk of disability and death for pregnant adolescents. Preventing this tragedy requires to protect the basic rights and the right to education and health care or support programme.

Statement of the Problem

Teenage pregnancy among in-school adolescents in Ilorin metropolis poses a significant public health and educational concern. The prevalence of teenage pregnancy in this region has been increasing steadily, with recent statistics indicating that teenage pregnancy rates have increased by 15% in the past 5 years. Despite the importance of education for future opportunities and well-being, teenage pregnancy can have severe consequences for these young people, including: poor health outcomes for both the adolescent and the baby, such as increased risk of maternal mortality, low birth weight, and infant mortality. Disruption of education, leading to school dropout, reduced academic achievement, and decreased likelihood of pursuing higher education, social and emotional challenges, including stigma, social isolation, depression, and anxiety, long-term socioeconomic implications, such as reduced employability, increased reliance on government support, and perpetuation of poverty.

However, there is a lack of research specifically focused on the consequences of teenage pregnancy among in-school adolescents in Ilorin metropolis, which hinders the development of effective interventions and support systems tailored to the unique needs of this population. This knowledge gap necessitates a comprehensive investigation into the consequences of teenage pregnancy among in-school adolescents in Ilorin metropolis, in order to inform evidence-based policies, programs, and services that can mitigate these consequences and promote the health, well-being, and educational success of these young people.

Purpose of the Study

This study examined the perceived consequences of teenage pregnancy among in-school adolescents in Ilorin metropolis, Kwara State. The researcher also examined whether or not the independent variables of age and religion affiliation will consequence the respondents' perception.

Research Question

The following research questions were raised to guide the conduct of the study.

1. What are the consequences of teenage pregnancy among in-school adolescents in Ilorin metropolis of Kwara State?

Research Hypotheses

The following hypotheses were generated to guide the conduct of this study.

1. There is no significant difference in the consequences of teenage pregnancy among in-school adolescents in Ilorin metropolis on the basis of age.
2. There is no significant difference in the consequences of teenage pregnancy among in-school adolescents in Ilorin metropolis on the basis of religion.

Methodology

This research adopted descriptive survey research method because it employs the use of questionnaires in order to determine the opinions, preferences and perception of persons of interest to the research. The sample consists of two hundred female adolescents randomly selected from schools, in the three Local Governments Areas of Ilorin metropolis, Kwara State. The sampling technique is simple random sampling; this is due to the fact that not all the female in-school adolescents can participate in the study.

In drawing up the items on the questionnaire, the researcher searched for relevant literature on consequences of students' involvement in teenage pregnancy and the items were used to structure the questionnaire which consist of two sections; section A and B. Section 'A' deal with the personal data of the respondents. Section 'B' contains 20 items tagged "consequences of Teenage Pregnancy Questionnaire" (CTPPQ). A test – retest method was employed to ascertain the reliability of the instrument. Twenty copies of the questionnaires were administered on twenty female in-school adolescents who were not among the sample twice at three weeks interval. The two sets of scores were analyzed using Pearson Product Moment Correlation formula. The instrument possessed reliability co-efficient of 0.73. The data were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. The hypotheses generated were tested using Analysis of Variance statistical method.

Results

Table 1

Distribution of respondents by level, age, gender and marital status

S/N	Variable	Frequency	Percentage %
1	Age:		
	Below 13 years	38	19.0
	13 – 15 years	98	49.0
	16 years and above	64	32.0
	Total	200	100.0
2	Religion:		
	Islam	134	67.0
	Christian	63	31.5
	Traditional	03	1.5
	Total	200	100.0

Table 1 shows that out of 200 respondents who participated in the study, 38 respondents representing 19% were below 13 years of age, 98 (49%) were of 13 – 15 years of age while 64 (32%) were of 16 years and above. On religion affiliation of the respondents 134 represents 67% were Muslims, 63 (31.5%) were Christians while 3 (1.5%) were African Traditional Religion believers.

Research Question 1: What are the perceived consequences of teenage pregnancy among in-school adolescents in Ilorin metropolis of Kwara State?

Table 2

Mean score and rank order of respondents on the consequences of teenage pregnancy among in-school adolescents

S/N	ITEMS	MEAN	RANK
3	education disruption	3.17	1 st
4	drop out of school	3.11	2 nd
10	lack of educational attainment	3.10	3 rd
8	Death	3.02	4 th
15	low self esteem	3.01	5 th
5	Delinquency	2.98	6 th
9	Truancy	2.93	7 th
19	high risks of infections	2.92	8 th
1	early marriage	2.85	9 th
14	likelihood of early divorce	2.82	10 th
18	Abortion	2.80	11 th
11	low aspirations and expectations	2.77	12 th
7	Shame	2.71	13 th
13	reproductive health problems	2.69	14 th
12	less opportunity in the workplace	2.69	15 th
2	Poverty	2.59	16 th
20	child neglect	2.53	17 th
6	adult crimes	2.48	18 th
16	role identity and intimacy problem	2.19	19 th
17	falling prey to criminal activity	2.18	20 th

Table 2 presents the perception of female in-school adolescents on the consequences of teenage pregnancy in Ilorin metropolis, Kwara State. The table shows that all the twenty items have means scores with not less than 2.50 which is the cut-off point. However, items 3, 4 and 10 had the highest means of 3.17, 3.11 and 3.10 respectively. The items indicated education disruption, drop out of school and lack of educational attainment as the major consequence of teenage pregnancy on psychosocial life female child.

Hypotheses Testing

Hypothesis 1: There is no significant difference in the perceived consequences of teenage pregnancy among in-school adolescents in Ilorin metropolis of Kwara State on the basis of age.

Table 3

Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) on the perceived consequences of teenage pregnancy among in-school adolescents in Ilorin metropolis of Kwara State based on age.

Source	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Squares	Cal. F-val.	Crit. F-val.	Remark
Between Group	458.908	2	152.969			Not Rejected
Within Group	84699.087	197	108.728	1.41	3.04	
Total	85157.995	199				

Table 3 shows that the calculated F-value of 1.41 is less than the critical F-value of 3.04 at 0.05 alpha level. This indicates no significant difference; hence, the hypothesis is not rejected. Therefore, there is no significant difference in the perceived consequences of teenage pregnancy among in-school adolescents in Ilorin metropolis on the basis of age.

Hypothesis II: There is no significant difference in the perceived consequences of teenage pregnancy among in-school adolescents in Ilorin metropolis based on religious affiliation.

Table 4

Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) on the perceived consequences of teenage pregnancy among in-school adolescents based on religious affiliation

Source	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Squares	Cal. F-val.	Crit. F-val.	Remark
Between Group	14794171	2	73.64			Not Rejected
Within Group	663.906	197	71.42	1.97	3.04	
Total	154158.078	199				

Table 4 shows that the calculated F-value of 1.97 is less than the critical F-value of 3.04 at 0.05 alpha level. This indicates no significant difference; hence, the hypothesis is not rejected. Therefore, there is no significant difference in the perceived consequences of teenage pregnancy among in-school adolescents in Ilorin metropolis based on religious affiliation.

Discussion of Results

This study sought the perceived consequences of teenage pregnancy among in-school adolescents in Ilorin metropolis. The result of the study revealed that out of 200 respondents who participated in the study, 38 respondents representing 19% were below 13 years of age, 98 (49%) were of 13 – 15 years of age while 64 (32%) were of 16 years and above. On religion affiliation of the respondents 134 represents 67% were Muslims, 63 (31.5%) were Christians while 3 (1.5%) were African Traditional Religion believers. The study revealed that female in-school adolescents perceived the consequences of teenage pregnancy to be education disruption, drop out of school and lack of educational attainment among others. This implies that female in-school adolescents in Ilorin metropolis of Kwara state perceived that teenage pregnancy can affect psychosocial life of female child by disrupting her education, drop out from school and disturb her educational attainment in life. This finding is in line with the study of Charles (2013) who revealed that most of the teenagers dropped out of school; Ayuba, Ibrahim & Owoeye (2012) found that girl child education can be interrupted with unwanted pregnancy. This finding is also in support of Aminullahi & Adigun (2017) that teenage pregnancy can consequence students' school enrolment by delaying their school entry, dropout of school and temporary withdrawal from school.

The first research hypothesis found no significant difference in the perceived consequences of teenage pregnancy among in-school adolescents in Ilorin metropolis on the basis of age. This implies that age did not consequence the perception of female in-school adolescents on the consequences of teenage pregnancy. This is in line with the finding of Owusu & Agyei-Mensah, (2010) that literate adults in two selected cities in Ghana have similar perception towards the effects of teenage pregnancy irrespective of their age distribution.

The second research hypothesis stated that there is no significant difference in the perceived consequences of teenage pregnancy among in-school adolescents in Ilorin metropolis on the basis of religion affiliation. The hypothesis was accepted since no significant difference was found. This means that all religious affiliated in-school adolescents were of the opinion that teenage pregnancy has consequence on the psychosocial life of female child. The implication of this is that whether Christianity, Islam or any other religion has no influence on the respondents' perception on the consequences of teenage pregnancy. However, the finding is in contrast with the study of Ruedinger, & Cox, (2012) who revealed that religion and ethnicity influenced respondents' perception on the consequences of teenage pregnancy.

Summary of the Findings

The data gathered for the study was analyzed and presented with brief explanations. Information presented includes percentage, frequency and Analysis of Variance (ANOVA). Also, the analysis revealed the major consequences among in-school adolescents in Ilorin metropolis of Kwara state. All the hypotheses formulated were tested and all the three hypotheses tested were accepted.

The following are the summary of the findings:

1. The result indicated disruption of education, drop out of school and lack of educational attainment as the major consequence of teenage pregnancy among in-school adolescents
2. There is no significant difference in the perceived consequences of teenage pregnancy among in-school adolescents in Ilorin metropolis of Kwara state on the basis of age.
3. There is no significant difference in the perceived consequences of teenage pregnancy among in-school adolescents in Ilorin metropolis of Kwara state on the basis of religion.

Conclusion

The study addressed the perception of in-school adolescents in Ilorin metropolis on the consequences of teenage pregnancy and examined the influence of variables such as age and religion affiliation on their perception. In this regard, the following conclusions were drawn from the findings of the study. Teenage pregnancy can affect psychosocial life of female in-school adolescents by disrupting her education, drop out from school and disturb her educational attainment in life. Also, the research hypotheses revealed that there is no significant difference in the perceived consequences of teenage pregnancy among in-school adolescents in Ilorin metropolis of Kwara state on the basis of age, religion and educational level.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations were made:

1. Parents should take care of their female adolescents, provide them with basic needs and equip them with reproductive health education in order to prevent them from engaging in risky sexual behaviour and teenage pregnancy.
2. Counsellor with the help of other school staff should organize programmes to interact with students and build an enabling environment for them to be able to seek for counselling services. Such involvement by counsellors in sexuality education programmes will help in preventing teenage pregnancy.
3. Counsellors as experts in life skill development should help female students learn and practice communication, assertiveness and negotiation skills. This will empower them to express their feelings, wishes and be able to negotiate or adjust effectively on romantic heterosexual relationship, thereby preventing teenage pregnancy.
4. The school teachers should identify students with special sexuality needs. They should encourage parents and support staff to keep a supportive eye on the students and take opportunities to build connections with them in order to prevent them from teenage pregnancy.

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