FACTORS INFLUENCING TEENAGE PREGNANCY AMONG ADOLESCENT GIRLS IN AKOKO-EDO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF EDO STATE

BY

ADENIRAN, OMOJERE GLORIA

PGD/EDU/210039

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

FACULTY OF ARTS AND EDUCATION

BENSON IDAHOSA UNIVERSITY

BENIN CITY, EDO STATE, NIGERIA

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BEING A PROJECT WRITTEN IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, FACULTY OF ARTS AND EDUCATION AND SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF POSTGRADUATE STUDIES IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN EDUCATION OF BENSON IDAHOSA UNIVERSITY, BENIN CITY, EDO STATE, NIGERIA.

DECEMBER , 2022.

DECLARATION

I, ADENIRAN OMOJERE GLORIA, do hereby declare that this project is entirely my own work and composition. The work embodied in this project has not been submitted in candidature for any degree and is not concurrently being submitted for any other degree. All references made to works of other persons have been duly acknowledged.

_____ **_____**

ADENIRAN OMOJERE GLORIA **DATE**
PGD/EDU/210039

CERTIFICATION

We certify that this work is adequate in scope and content for the award of the Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PGDE) in the Department of Education, Faculty of Arts and Education, Benson Idahosa University, Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria.

_____ _____

Prof. W.A. Oduh **Date**
Supervisor

_____ _____

Prof. W.A. Oduh **Date**
Head of Department

DEDICATION

This research work is dedicated to God Almighty for His provision and protection throughout the period of the study.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First and foremost, praise and thanks to God Almighty for His blessings throughout this research work. The researcher expresses her deep and sincere gratitude to her project supervisor/Head of Department, Prof. W.A. Oduh, for giving her the opportunity to do this research and providing invaluable guidance and motivation throughout the period of this research. His dynamism, vision, sincerity and motivation have deeply inspired her. God bless you Sir.

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ABSTRACT

This study investigated the factors influencing teenage pregnancy among adolescent girls in Akoko-Edo Local Government Area of Edo State. To achieve this broad objective, three research questions were raised and answered while three corresponding hypotheses were formulated and tested. Correlational research design was used to carry out this study. The population of the study comprised two hundred and four (204) Small and Medium Enterprises in Akoko-Edo Local Government Area of Edo State. Stratified random sampling technique was used. Taro Yamane method for sample size calculation was used to get the sample size of one hundred and thirty-five (135) Small and Medium Enterprises. The research instrument used was a structured questionnaire. The data collected were analyzed using Pearson Product Moment Correlation statistics. The results showed that there was a significant relationship between parental financial status and teenage pregnancy among adolescent girls in Akoko-Edo Local Government Area of Edo State; there was a significant relationship between degree of interest in school and teenage pregnancy among adolescent girls in Akoko-Edo Local Government Area of Edo State; and there was a significant relationship between parental desire for early marriage and teenage pregnancy among adolescent girls in Akoko-Edo Local Government Area. It was recommended that there should be public enlightenment programme for teenagers and parents by the Ministry of Education or women Affairs in dangers of teenage pregnancy and early marriage.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Background to the Study

In recent times, it has been observed that school age girls roam the street of towns and villages of Akoko-Edo Local Government Area, when, in fact, they are expected to be in school. Some of these young girls are found either hawking on the streets, selling in the market, engaged in other menial job, or apprentices in fashion houses, beauty salons, and chemist shops or practically engaged in no trade. The consequences of this unpleasant situation are the declining population of teenage adolescent girls in public secondary schools.

Adolescence is the period between childhood and adulthood in human growth and development. Also known as teenage period, adolescence spans between 10 – 19 years when the secondary sex characteristics appear. Negi (2009) described this period as the second decade of life. The author point out that it is the most important and sensitive period of one's life when a person is in the second genital stage of psychological development.

Teenage pregnancy is an important global health problem which remains a challenge requiring urgent resolution in the world over (United Nations Fund for Population Activities, 2013). Pregnancy of motherhood at whatever stage in life can be a life changing experience and it places a lot of demands in the life of the female gender; indeed, her entire life could be completely altered as her hopes and aspirations could be dashed. Osuala (2010) opined that teenage pregnancy is also one of the major social

problems facing Nigeria and several nations of the world where each year almost a million birth are by teenage mothers.

In 2021, the World Health Organization (WHO, 2021) reported that 28% of 16-20 years, and an estimated over 16 million globally. Approximately 95% of teenage pregnancies happen in developing countries with Sub-Saharan having the highest prevalence of teenage pregnancies in the world (UNFPA, 2013). This situation considered a high risk because at the attainment of menarche 12-18% of reproductive organs in teenagers are still maturing and undergoing development and may cause long time health problems in the young mothers in addition to the social and psychological problems. According to Eloudou-Enyegue (2018), teenage pregnancy in developing countries continues to constrain girls from participating in education. It is such a global concern that the focus of the 2013 world population day on July 11, was on "adolescent pregnancy".

"Teenage" is often used interchangeably with adolescence. For instance, the WHO (2013) defined teenage or the adolescence period as:

> a period between 10 and 19 years, a critical part of development in the life cycle, a time of physical, psychological, sexual and emotional change as the body matures, a period when the secondary sex characteristics appear and are still maturing. It is a period of growth spurt, voice changes, development of breast and genital organs, attainment of menarche, the psychological and emotional changes are characterized by search for self-identity and self-independence. In this stage, friendship becomes more important to them, thus, they are easily influenced by peers (p. 21).

From the above definition, it is clear that teens tend to seek new experience and can sometimes get exposed to situation that are dangerous or harmful to their health or wellbeing: smoking cigarettes, drinking alcohol, taking drugs, truancy in their studies or being drop outs. There are also varied opinions and views among authors and researchers on specific age at which teenage begins or ends. Simigu (2012) defined teenage as ages between 13-19 years, a transitional stage of physical and mental human development while United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) (2011) defined teenage period between 10 and 19 years old. Teenage pregnancy, therefore, means conception by girls between the ages of 13 and 19 years.

Globally, education is also viewed as an instrument to fight poverty and a universal apparatus to promote economic advancement for developing countries. Education is seen as a cardinal channel to accomplish sustainable transformation and development in the life of the individuals and the nation as a whole. It is globally viewed that secondary school Education is the education children receive after primary education and before tertiary stage. The broad goals of secondary education, even for the female student, are; to prepare the child for useful living within the society and Higher education and to inspire students with a desire for self-improvement and achievement of excellence; and to provide technical knowledge and vocational skills necessary for agricultural, industrial, commercial and economic development (Federal Republic of Nigeria, 2004).

Anderson (2012) stipulates that "in today's world, a child who is not educated is disadvantaged in terms of income, health, opportunity, economic productivity and social welfare. Female education has noteworthy implications for maternal and child welfare development. Also access to education has been acknowledged as a human right in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948. Education forms the basis upon which

economic, social and political development of any nation is founded and investing in education can help to foster economic growth, productivity, and national and social development thereby reducing social inequality (World Bank, 2011). Globally, female students represent the majority of children out of school and face challenges in getting education because a child having a baby, as a teenager, is or likely to face social issues like poor or lower educational level, poverty, school dropout a-poorer-life-outcome-in-children of teenage mother. Educational attainment is difficulty for the teen mother and this leads to decreased economic opportunities and earnings throughout their lifetime.

One of the biggest concerns as a young parent is around having enough money to care for your child and for yourself. Knowing what your main expenses will be such as food, clothing, housing, transport, child care and health and where to get financial support can help you to manage these expenses and reduce stress. Parents seem to give more attention to acquiring wealth than they do to their parental duty toward moral upbringing of their children. And as a result of this, many female teenagers have been led astray by the influence of the peers at school, and the resultant effect is the pregnancy that is not important.

Degree of interest in school meant to have a balance in motherhood and education simultaneously appears to be an overwhelming experience for teenage mothers. As a result, irregular school attendance and poor school performance during and after pregnancy often lead to the girls dropping out of school. Some teenagers are said to be negatively affected by their pregnancies so much that they either leave school temporarily or permanently. Educators were of the opinion that school drop-out is in most cases caused by a child heading the family, coupled with double responsibilities of being a learner at school and a mother at home, and a low self-esteem. Some educators were of

the opinion that teen-age mothers are not likely to return to school after giving birth for them to look after the new born baby as they may not have anyone to assist them.

Early marriage, or child marriage, is defined as the marriage or union between two people in which one or both parties are younger than 18 years of age. Parents often feel that a young girl is an economic burden and, therefore, wish to marry off their young daughters before they become an economic liability. In some cases, teenage pregnancy occurs as a result of inadequate information about reproduction health and contraception within the context of early marriage. Dealing with unplanned pregnancy among teenagers is confusing and scary. A victim of unplanned pregnancy is likely to suffer or experience depression, frustration, fear and other emotional problems. Hence, the heightened risk for educational issues and injuries with children of adolescent parents is associated not with the influence of young age but the confounding influences of associated socio-demographic factors. Most teenagers become pregnant after they have hooked-up with their partners because of aggressiveness and curiosity of having sex.

Teenage pregnancies have become a public health issue due to the observed negative impacts on prenatal outcomes and long term morbidity. Also, the unfriendly and uncaring dispositions of nurses and those in the medical institutions and facilities who are supposed to provide care create additional horror and hurdles to the teenage mothers. However, there are several other socio-economic factors that could determine the rate of teenage pregnancies in different countries of the world. In Nigeria and other developing countries, poverty, illiteracy and lack of sex or sexuality education appear to be glaring indicators that determine the rate of teenage pregnancies. In this study therefore, effort is made to show that there are social and ethical variables that could help provide solution to the problem of teenage pregnancy.

Statement of the Problem

A preliminary investigation shows that teenage pregnancy has remained persistent in our local communities due to various contributing factors and has had negative impacts on the life of the teenagers involved. Teenage mothers are unlikely to complete high school education (secondary school education). The non-completion of a secondary school education limit the life earning potentials among the teenage population, which could perpetuate the cycle of impoverishment among them. Research shows that the teen years are the most stressful and confusing times of life. During this period, teenagers are expected to acquire education and skills needed for the future. On the contrary, it is most unwelcome when it occurs outside of wedlock or during the teen years, when the individual should be acquiring skills in formal or non-formal environments. Numerous studies have indicated poverty, pornography, mass media and peer influence as some of the factors responsible for teenage pregnancy. All teenagers who engage in pre-marital sex appear to be vulnerable to pregnancy. The issue of teenage pregnancy is no longer a new thing in any society be it developed, developing or under developed. Various reasons have been deduced for its existence but the basic problem is the persistency and the geometric progression of its expansion despite all the efforts that have been made by government, schools, religious bodies and non-governmental agencies at resolving some identified factors leading to this cancerous or decadence in our societies. The question, at this juncture, is: could there be any factors influencing teenage pregnancy among adolescent girls in Akoko-Edo Local Government Area of Edo State?

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the study is to examine the factors influencing teenage pregnancy among adolescent girls in Akoko-Edo Local Government Area. Specifically, the study sort to examine:

1. the influence of parental financial status and teenage pregnancy of adolescent girls in Akoko-Edo Local Government Area;
2. the influence of degree of interest in school and teenage pregnancy of adolescent girls in Akoko-Edo Local Government Area;
3. the influence of parental desire for early marriage and teenage pregnancy of adolescent girls in Akoko-Edo Local Government Area;

Research Questions

The following research questions were raised to guide the study.

1. What is the relationship between parental financial status and teenage pregnancy of adolescent girls in Akoko-Edo Local Government Area?
2. What is the relationship between degree of interest in school and teenage pregnancy of adolescent girls in Akoko-Edo Local Government Area?
3. What is the relationship between parental desire for early marriage and teenage pregnancy of adolescent girls in Akoko-Edo Local Government Area?

Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses were formulated and will be tested at 0.05 level of significance.

1. There is no significant relationship between parental financial status and teenage pregnancy among adolescent girls in Akoko-Edo Local Government Area.

2. There is no significant relationship between degree of interest in school and teenage pregnancy among adolescent girls in Akoko-Edo Local Government Area.
3. There is no significant relationship between parental desire for early marriage and teenage pregnancy among adolescent girls in Akoko-Edo Local Government Area.

Significance of the Study

The findings of the study when published will be beneficial to parents, policy makers, teachers and the general society. This study will provide useful information to parents on how to educate their children and solve their sexual health and reproductive problems. The finding will also help parents to checkmate the movement of teenage children and the association they keep.

The finding of this study will be of immense benefit to policy makers as it will help in the formulation and strengthening of policies that guard teenage pregnancies in schools and the possible re-admission of the affected female students back to school. The finding of this study will be beneficial to teachers as it will help them acquire sufficient factual information's in establishing meaningful information with teenage clients and the community in order to reduce teenage pregnancies in secondary schools. It will also motivate teachers to design curriculum on sex education.

Finally, the finding of this study will serve as an additional contribution to knowledge and could as well be a reference material to other similar research work.

Scope of the Study

The study will focus on teenage pregnancy among adolescent girls in Akoko-Edo Local Government Area of Edo State. Variables to be investigated include teenage pregnancy, parental financial status, degree of interest in school, and parental desire for

early marriage influence teenage pregnancy among adolescent girls. It is delimited to Akoko-Edo Local Government Area of Edo State.

Definition of Terms

Below are some operational terminologies used in this study.

Teenage Pregnancy: Teenage pregnancy is employed to refer to girl child below the age of 18years performing physical and psychological functions of an adult related to motherhood.

Teenager: A child between the ages of 13 and 19.

Sex: (Chiefly with reference to people) sexual activity, including specifically sexual intercourse.

Parental Financial Status: This is defined as a combination of social and economic factors that are used as an indicator of household income and opportunity.

Degree of Interest in School: Lack of interest in school activities result to irregular school attendance and poor school performance during and after pregnancy often lead to the girls dropping out of school.

Desire for Early Marriage: This is defined as the marriage or union between two people in which one or both parties are younger than 18 years of age. Parents often feel that a young girl is an economic burden and, therefore, wish to marry off their young daughters before they become an economic liability.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

The review of relevant and related literature was organized under the following sub-headings: conceptual framework, theoretical framework, empirical review and summary of literature review.

Conceptual Framework

As shown in the figure below, the independent variables of this study include the factors leading to teenage pregnancy amongst which are parental financial status, degree of interest in school and parental desire for early marriage.

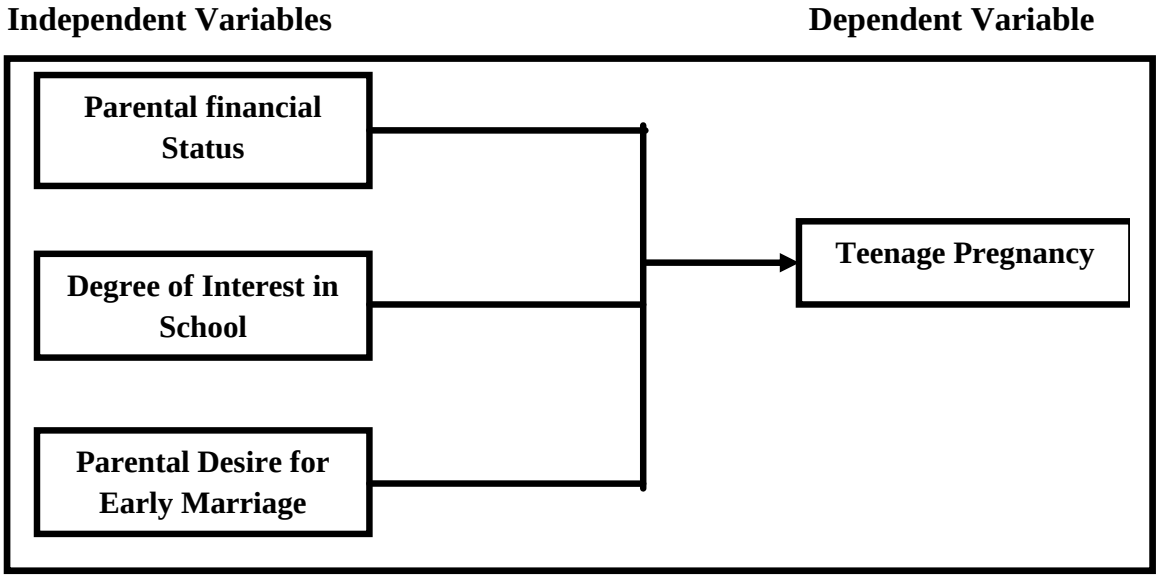


Fig 2.1: The Conceptual Framework for the Study

Source: Developed by the researcher

Concept of Teenage Pregnancy

According to Spencer (2011), teenage pregnancy is when a girl who is between age of 13 and 19 becomes pregnant. While Macleod (2011) described pregnancy in teenagers to mean when a young female, though not matured, a child, but no longer a baby becomes pregnant owning to her age and developmental status. Teenage pregnancy is also described as pregnancy in females under the ages of 20 (WHO, 2014). Teenage pregnancies do not only happen in adolescents who are within the ages of 13 and 19, as it can occur to those in lesser years. These groups are mostly found in primary and junior secondary schools.

World Health Organization (2021) reported that females ages 14-19 years that became pregnant were about 16million and females below the age of 13 were about 2 million that give birth every year. According to Guttmacher Institute (2009) and Onuzulike (2012) teenage pregnancy is an undesirable phenomenon because it interferes with expectation regarding the teenager's self-realization of her academic performance, goals and dreams of reaching her full educational achievement, economic prosperity and enjoying optimal work and health opportunities. Even in a planned pregnancy, a lot of stress arises, much more an unplanned and unintended pregnancy in a teenager that is not physically, mentally, academically and socially prepared for the stress of pregnancy.

The World Health Organization (2014), defined the teenager as a person in the adolescence period. This period is a critical part of development in the life cycle; a time of physical, psychological, sexual and emotional changes that occur as the body matures; a period where the secondary sex characteristics appear and are still maturing. It is a period of growth spurt, voice changes, and development of breast and genital organs,

attainment of menarche amongst other physical changes. The psychological and emotional changes are characterized by search for self-Identity, self-independence and also one of confusion. In this stage, friendship becomes more important to them and they can be easily influenced by peers. They tend to seek new experiences and can sometimes get exposed to situation that are dangerous or harmful to their health or wellbeing like smoking cigarettes, drinking alcohol, taking drugs, and indecent sexual behaviour.

According to Nwosu (2015), 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 13 and 19 years. According to Allan Guttmacher Institute (2018), teenage pregnancy is an undesirable phenomenon. Onuzulike (2013) supported this when she observed that teenage pregnancy interferes with expectation regarding education, self-realization and economic prosperity among the affected teenagers. Ukekwe (2011) stated that stress arises even when pregnancies are planned, not to think of unplanned pregnancy, it implies that the girl has to restructure her roles because she is inadequately prepared for parenthood. To support the above, Fadeyi (2018) 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.

Nwosu (2015) opined that there is a global increase in teenage pregnancies. She 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) further 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, malnutrition, vesico vaginal fistula, recto vaginal fistula and death. He 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.

Gorgen, Maier and Diesfield (2013) observed that students who become pregnant rarely go back to school. Stevens-Simon and McAnarmey (2013) noted that teenage pregnancy is a marker for socio -demographic factors such as poverty and poor education. Brown (2011) coroborated this when he posited that many of the teenagers end up as school dropouts. Action Health Incorporated (2014) 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.

Parental Financial Status Factor

One of the biggest concerns as a young parent is around having enough money to care for your child and for yourself. Knowing what your main expenses will be such as food, clothing, housing, transport, child care and health and where to get financial support can help you to manage these expenses and reduce stress.

According to Igba (2015), the financial strain and psychological trauma to which some single parents are subjected could impede their capabilities to cater for their children's well-being adequately. Furthermore, both parents and business people seem to

give more attention to acquiring wealth than they do to their parental duty toward moral upbringing of their children. And as a result of this, many female teenagers have been led astray by the influence of the peers at school, and the resultant effect is the pregnancy that is not important. Although media, peer and family have tremendous influence as risk factors to teen pregnancy, parents can play a significant role in preventing teenage pregnancy by guiding teenagers to make healthy, responsible and value-based decisions about sex (Honig, 2012; Silk & Romero, 2013).

Degree of Interest in School Factor

Educators perceived interest in school has largely influenced by teenage pregnancy. Educators stated that school attendance is also disturbed by babysitting arrangements and the health of the child (Odimegwu & Mkwananzi, 2019). This is because in most cases the teenagers have no one to look after their babies, so they have to juggle being at school and also having to take care of the child at the same time, which is overwhelming for them.

Having to balance motherhood and education simultaneously appears to be an overwhelming experience for teenage mothers. As a result, irregular school attendance and poor school performance during and after pregnancy often lead to the girls dropping out of school. Some teenagers are said to be negatively affected by their pregnancies so much that they either leave school temporarily or permanently. Educators were of the opinion that school drop-out is in most cases caused by a child heading the family, coupled with double responsibilities of being a learner at school and a mother at home, and a low self-esteem. Some educators were of the opinion that teen-age mothers are not

likely to return to school after giving birth for them to look after the new born baby as they may not have anyone to assist them (Ayuba and Gani, 2020).

Parental Desire for Early Marriage Factor

Early marriage, or child marriage, is defined as the marriage or union between two people in which one or both parties are younger than 18 years of age. Parents often feel that a young girl is an economic burden and, therefore, wish to marry off their young daughters before they become an economic liability. In some cases, teenage pregnancy occurs as a result of inadequate information about reproduction health and contraception within the context of early marriage (Beguy, Ndugwa &Kabiru, 2018). Dealing with unplanned pregnancy among teenagers is confusing and scary. A victim of unplanned pregnancy is likely to suffer or experience depression, frustration, fear and other emotional problems. Hence, the heightened risk for educational issues and injuries with children of adolescent parents is associated not with the influence of young age but the confounding influences of associated socio-demographic factors. Most teenagers become pregnant after they have hooked-up with their partners because of aggressiveness and curiosity of having sex.

Other Factors leading to Teenage Pregnancy

Certain factors have been identified to be associated with teenage pregnancies. These factors include; family/parental factors, influence of mass media, peer pressure, religious belief, ignorance/lack of sex education, sexual abuse or rape and poverty among others (Oni & Alabi, 2017).

Family/Parental Factors: Family structural characteristics and its influence according to Pena, Sánchez and Solano (2009) play a vital role in understanding and determining

teenage sexual behaviour including pregnancies. Oni and Alabi (2017) opined that teenagers from broken homes are more sexually permissive than those from stable homes. They equally opined that daughters of divorced parents and teenagers from broken homes end up with teenage pregnancies due to the incompleteness of the family. An incomplete family refers to the absence of the father or mother (Pandey, Banerjee, Dutt, Sengupta, Mondal & Deb, 2013). They observed that the presence of two parents provide more control than when it is only one parent. They believed that the disruption of marriages create circumstances characterized by emotional turmoil. Parental divorce during the early teenage years has also been associated with early onset and increased frequency of sexuality in females. These effects are often due to less monitoring and supervision that typically occur in single parent households. Teenagers who have other siblings (more especially sisters) who are sexually active or have had a baby are more likely to begin having sex at a younger age (Singh, 2010).

The family plays a vital role in the sexual socialization of an individual. The family determines the context, content and evaluative tone of one's initial learning about sex and that if the family or home is devoid of parental love and affection the teenager feels insecured and may look for a permanent image for affection. This image may be found in the hands of men with resultant risk of teenage pregnancy. Thus, Melgosa (2010) noted that the more consistent the parent-teenager value, the less likely the girl becoming sexually active. Also parent-adolescent communication on issues of sexual behaviour and child bearing is very important (Pandey, Banerjee, Dutt, Sengupta, Mondal & Deb 2013). When the communication between mother and daughter is poor or absent, or parents have busy lives the girl is placed at a greater risk for premature sexual activity in party because she looks to others, especially her male peers for nurturing and intimacy leading to risky

behaviour such as promiscuity and neglect of contraception. Also teenagers who are raised in larger families are at increased risk of earlier sex than those who are not. This results from teenagers replicating their siblings' sexual behavior or because parental monitoring is spread to this when more children live in home.

Ignorance/Lack of Sex Education and Information: Teenagers who are uneducated about sex are more likely to have an unintended pregnancy. Some teens do not fully understand the biological and emotional aspects associated with having sex, and may get incorrect information from friends and mass media. Many times, teens do not have the knowledge needed to make informed and responsible decisions about whether or not to engage in sexual activity that can alter their life. For example, Briggs (2009) observed that in most traditional societies including Nigeria, many teenagers do not freely discuss their sexual lives with their mothers or relatives because sex talk is forbidding around the home while other parents do not discuss sexual matters with their children because of shyness and ignorance of sexual matters as well as social norms, which do not encourage such discussions. He maintained that such teenagers end up in uncertainty and misconception on sexual matters.

Adekanle, Adeyemi and Odu (2014) added that adolescents in secondary schools have low knowledge regarding sex and sexuality. Nwosu (2010) further added that adolescents face many risks ranging from unwanted pregnancies, HIV and AIDS other STIs, sexual exploitation, yet they receive inadequate information to help them negotiate this difficult passage to adulthood. Nwosu added that teens need access to specific information about how their bodies work and how to keep their bodies safe as well as information about sexual behaviour and its consequences. Information about sexuality should be imparted to teenagers in order to help avoid unwanted pregnancies, because the

less knowledge teenagers have, the more likely they may have unprotected sex and engage in sexual experimentation prematurely.

Influence of the Media: This is another factor influencing or responsible factor for increase in teenage pregnancy. Pandey *et al.* (2013) opined that media may function as a super-peer in terms of pressuring teenagers into having sex earlier than expected. According to Singh (2008) televisions, films, videos, magazines, advertisements and novels are full of sex and love. The media portrays the glamorous side of sex in such a way that teenagers perceive sex as something in fashion, ignoring the consequences of sex such as unplanned pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. L'Engle, Brown and Keanneavy (2009) stated that the media portrays sex as something exciting without risk, conveying the concept that abstinence is outdated and sex is trending, thus teenagers may engage in sexual behaviours to gain immediate feeling of acceptance and self-worth. The movie industry and the media glamorize pregnancy in movies sometimes depicting teen pregnancy as something to be desired, and this encourages teens to engage in reckless sexual acts.

Peer Pressure: During adolescence, teenagers often feel pressured to make friends and fit in with their peers. Many at times, these teens let their friends influence their decision to have sex even when they do not fully understand the consequences associated with the act. Pandey *et al.*, (2013) further argued that because parents spend more time at work and their concern is about shelter and food, they neglect their children's emotional needs and development. This often leads to children spending more time with their peers copying them and the older gang members or negative role models in the communities. Stevens and McAnarney (2017) agree that these days there is a shift in adolescents as compared to the past years. Peers today have become more important in forming

teenager's belief and regulating their behaviour. Peer pressure is often cited as one of the most influential factors affecting adolescents' sexual decisions. Presumably, peer influence can operate in a number of ways. Teenagers can obtain information about sex from their friends, which may serve to guide decision-making about sex. This information is not always accurate, as reflected in long-standing teenage myths such that a person cannot get pregnant the first time she has sex. Secondly, adolescents can accept peer attitudes about sexuality. These can be implicitly reflected in peer behaviour, which the teenage may use as a model for his or her own behaviour, or they can actively proselytized through discussion, questioning, teasing, dare and shaming. The stronger desire of many young people to be like their admired age mates and part of the group can lead them to engage in sexual behaviours, and express the sexual attitudes that they perceive as characteristic of a particular "hero" or group.

Adolescent Sexual Behaviour: One way that adolescents try to negotiate the change from childhood to adulthood is through sexual activity. By the time most teenagers graduate, half of them would begin having sex. Maynard (2009), believes that teenage pregnancy is a delinquent behaviour 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. Dilworth (2014) observed a relationship between adolescent risk behaviours (drinking, smoking drugs and promiscuity) and the likelihood of becoming pregnant among teenagers.

Melgosa (2010) observed that the physiological changes, which occur during the teen years, seem to contribute to increased sexual urge and that this increase in sexual desire is a response to biological, psychological as well as social changes, which adolescents experience. The inclination towards early initiation of sexual activity is due to a vehement

desire for affection and acceptance. They also attributed it to a demonstration of the maturity, which teenagers believe they have attained. This belief, they noted make the teenagers vulnerable to teenage unwanted pregnancies. All these characteristics tend to expose teenagers to pre-marital sexual activities.

Poverty: Due to economic factors, Gordon (2013) and Audu (2009) believe that adolescents, particularly those in secondary schools, are involved in pre-marital sexual activities. They opined that many of them are lured into sex by men who offer them money or presents in exchange for sexual favours. Arkutu (2018) noted that these girls prefer to engage in sex to meet up with demands of daily living, which their parents cannot offer them. In a bid to make money from this, some of them end up with Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) and teenage unwanted pregnancies. Some are usually victims of rape as they engage in street trading or hawking: all these are as a result of poverty. Onuzulike (2013) noted that teenagers from family with low socio-economic status tend to initiate sexual activities at an earlier age, and are more likely to give birth out of wedlock than those from high-income families. She opined that 83 percent of teenagers who get pregnant and gave birth out of wedlock were from low income families.

Also, according to a field work carried out by Odianosen (2012) in Benin City, to determine the causes of teenage pregnancy the following were listed as the major causes of teenage pregnancy in the metropolis: poor socio-economic status, early marriage, peer influence, poor parenting, unprotected sex, among others. Also, Stanley and Smerzeski (2011) argued that teenage pregnancy is as a result of poverty while Gutmacher Institute (2009) posited that economics may also be responsible for teenagers' child bearing which is heavily concentrated among the poor.

Lack of Use of Contraceptives: In a research survey carried out by Terwase, Mandeun, Audu and Agba (2015) in Bayelsa, Nigeria, they observed that 83% of the total teenagers tends not to take advantage of any available contraceptive. This is attributed to the cultural perspective that premarital sex is considered deviant culturally, and, therefore, the use of any contraceptive like condoms or pills is a taboo. Also Okereke (2015) in a quantitative study of the reproductive health needs of 896 adolescents in Owerri, Nigeria, found that lack of use of contraceptive methods among teenagers is related to the religious beliefs and values that contraceptive use is morally unacceptable and because adolescents do not use them, they engage in risky sexual behaviour which results not only into teenage pregnancy but risk of high rates of reproductive tract infection and sexually transmitted diseases.

Religious Belief: Briggs (2009) attributed lack of fear of God and being non-religious among teenagers to unwanted pregnancy. According to him, the more important religion is to the teenager, the greater the frequency of church attendance and the less likely she is to engage in premarital intercourse because the less likely she may think of relationships with the opposite sex. But he also maintained that such girl might have been brought up in the family to have respect for God and see her body as belonging to God.

Teenage Pregnancy and Female Adolescents

Teenage pregnancy influences the female teenager physically, psychologically, medically, educationally and socially. Education plays a pivotal role in the social and economic development of any country in enhancing the quality of lives of her citizenry (UNESCO, 2010). Education is central to developing a girl's capabilities, empowering her, promoting awareness and critical thinking, enabling her to claim all other human

rights and make an informed decision. When a girl gets the opportunity to learn by accessing and remaining in a good school, it has transformative effect not only on her own life chances and the realization of her human right, but also on the wider social and economic environment. One extra year of secondary school boosts a girls eventual wages by 10-30% (Psacharaopoulos & Patrinos, 2012) and the impact of this increased earning potential is multiplied because women and girls make use of the money they earn, reinvesting 90% into their families compared to just 30-40% for men (Fortson, 2013).

In many developing countries, teenage pregnancy is one of the major impediments to the educational success of girls in sub-Saharan Africa (Eloudou-Enyegue, 2004). He further stated that teenage pregnancy and motherhood allows teenagers to experience difficulties at school performance due to absenteeism from school because of pregnancy – related health issue like nausea and vomiting, feeling of fatigue and general un-wellness. There is less motivation to stay in school due to the discernful look and stigma from their peers and teachers alike. There is a psychological effect with inability to concentrate in their studies resulting in poor grades. According to Chilisa (2012), a pregnant school girl may meet with expulsion from school. The expulsion policy violates the human right of the girl and robs the country of a possible resource.

Pandey *et al* (2013) mentioned skipping school on a daily basis, low grade and repeating of grades are some of the impacts of teenage pregnancy on academic performance. He also added that their future prospects decline in a number of ways and they become likely to complete high school and less likely to attend college. Teenage mother may not attain any educational qualification even at the age of 33 due to interference in education as a result of unintended pregnancy. Macleod (2011) reported

negative outcome of teenage pregnancy which includes the failure to complete formal education, long term dependency on public assistance, and poverty.

Theoretical Framework

In discussing the reality of teenage pregnancy, this work will be anchored on the Labelling Theory.

Labelling Theory

Labelling theory was developed by Howard Becker in 1963. Labelling theory is most associated with the sociology of deviance. It is applied to education in relation to teachers applying labels on their pupils in terms of their ability, potential or behaviour. These labels can be positive or negative and can result in a self-fulfilling prophecy. Labelling is seen as an internal factor that could explain differential achievement in schools by class, ethnicity or gender.

Labelling theory argues that no act is intrinsically criminal, meaning that no action is always criminal in nature. Therefore, this theory is often used to understand criminal behaviour or those that are considered deviants. The idea is that deviance is a consequence of external judgments, or labels, that modify the individual's self-concept and change the way others respond to the labeled person. Labelling theory stems from the school of symbolic interactionism, which believes that an individual's sense of self is formed by their interactions with and the labels ascribed to them by other people.

This theory proposes that labeling as a basis for its approach to teenage pregnancy as a menace. The critical issue in this theory looks at why certain behaviour is labeled as deviant; it examines how people react to what is done. Not all who engage in certain kinds of behaviour are labeled deviant, but some are. This theory posits that the interests

of dominant groups of social marginal individuals, whose individual problem becomes the power concern of the helping professionals (Dilworth, 2014). This perspective, supported by some empirical work using officially reported cases of teenage pregnancy, argues that even though teenage pregnancy occurs in all the societies, it affects only a few minority, no matter the class or ethnic group.

The labelling theory argues that teenagers that get pregnant are seen as deviants in the society, not knowing fully the cause. Pregnant teenagers are seen as irresponsible and are mostly labelled ‘useless’ by the society. However, parent should ensure they bring up their children in proper way. Train the child in the right way and educate the child on the danger of being pregnant at an early age and the disease that they (the children) may contact if they engage in indiscriminate sex.

This theory is relevant to this study as it help explain why teenage pregnancies may occur and how labelling teens may affect their academic studies. This theory suggests that teens in a school environment may be labelled due to their social background, association with a group of people or because of their behaviour and ability. This could therefore explain why adolescent girls have high levels of unemployment and more teenage pregnancies. Through schooling teens can become acceptant of the labels given to them and begin to conform to their given label. It is also likely that if one teenager becomes pregnant, her friends may be associated with her and be expected to have a similar path in life.

Empirical Review

Various factors have been shown to influence or cause teenage pregnancy around the world. These factors include family/ parental factors, peer pressure, influence of mass media, ignorance or lack of sex education, poverty, sexual abuse or rape, early marriage, lack of use of contraceptive (Oni & Alabi, 2017).

Teenage Pregnancy and Adolescent Girls

Samuel and Leesi (2018) conducted a study on the prevalence of adolescent pregnancy among public secondary school students in Ogbia Local Government Area of Bayelsa State, Nigeria. Three (3) hypotheses were tested at .05 level of significance. The study adopted the descriptive survey design. A sample of 300 female adolescents was drawn using multistage sampling procedure. The instrument for data collection was the questionnaire made of sections A which concentrated on the socio-demographic characteristics of respondents while B deals with questions on adolescent pregnancy. Data were analyzed using t-test, Chi-square and ANOVA. Some of the findings of the study were that: there was no significant relationship between place of residence and prevalence of adolescent pregnancy (2, 33.846, P = 0.688), Parents' level of education significantly influenced the prevalence of adolescent pregnancy, (F, 3.390, cal. 0.021) and there was no significant relationship between having a friend of the opposite sex and teenage pregnancy (Z, 9.93, 1.19). Based on the findings of the study, it was recommended that parents should be knowledgeable of the kind of friends kept by their wards; government should employ health educators/guidance counsellors saddled with the responsibility of counselling in schools, and making contraceptives readily available and accessible to all adolescents.

In Chorkor, Ghana, a research study was conducted by Gyan (2013) on the effect of Teenage pregnancy on educational attainment of girls in a public secondary school at Chorkor, Suburb of Accra. Also poverty, influence of media, peer pressure and school dropout were also identified causal factors. According to his findings, 54% of his respondents strongly agreed to the fact that poor parenting can lead to teenage pregnancy. Another revelation in his finding also showed that school dropout is also a cause of teenage pregnancy. Thus, school dropout has been identified to be a cause and effect of teenage pregnancy. In the same research study by Gyan (2013) the effect of teenage pregnancy on their academic performance included reduced study period, absenteeism and school dropout.

Parental Financial Status and Adolescent Girls

In a research study carried out by Odianonsen (2013), the researcher investigated the causes of teenage pregnancy and its consequences in Benin City, Nigeria. Data were collected from 300 respondents, below the ages of 14-21 years from three communities in Benin City, namely, Ogbe Quarters, New Benin Quarters and Uselu Quarters. A cluster sampling technique was used to stratify the study area, then a simple random sampling method was used in getting the respondents in the stratified study area. The findings revealed that poor parenting 75(25%) was a major causal factor of teenage pregnancy. Other causes were peer influence 63 (21%), poverty 57(19%), lack of sex education 49(16%), early marriage 36(12%), and religion 20(6.6%).

In the same vein, Achema and Emmanuel (2015) carried out a research on factors responsible for teenage pregnancy in selected schools in Abejukolo Local Government Area of Kogi State, Nigeria. The study employed descriptive survey design. The

population comprises of 1,958 senior secondary school students in Abejukolo Local Government Area of Kogi State. 300 teenage girls were randomly drawn from the selected secondary schools. A well structured questionnaire was used to collected data for the study. Data collected were analysed using Mean and Standard Deviation. The study findings revealed that the respondents perceived parental neglects or lack of parental financial background 140(46.7%) to be a major cause of teenage pregnancy followed by lack of sex education 40(13.3%) and poverty 10(3.3%).

Amadi (2019) examined the influence of teenage pregnancy on secondary school education in Nigeria using a case study of Obio-Akpor L.G.A, Rivers State. The instrument for data collation was a semi-structured questionnaire and the data obtained were analyzed using simple regression. A total of 802 respondents responded to the interview making the rate of response 96.2 %. Majority of the respondents were teenagers and 151 (18.1%) being parents. Findings from the study revealed that teenage pregnancy significantly impacted school enrollment, that a significant percentage of teenagers were pregnant before 15, lack of education of parents and teenagers increased the probability of teenage pregnancy, poverty and drug abuse increased the likelihood of teenage pregnancy while teenage mothers (61.2%) were likely to withdraw from school because of the financial obligations of being a mother. In addition, the study recommended that sensitization programs be initiated by relevant bodies to educate the populace on the impact of teenage pregnancies, Policies that facilitate better health care services for teenagers should be deployed by government and non-government organizations, government and non-governmental organizations should make contraceptive services easily accessible and affordable, school-based daycare facilities should be provided for

soon to be/already teenage parents and psychological help should be provided to students in secondary to help them deal with pressures of peers and societal stigmatization.

Loto and Isuku (2018) conducted a study on the influence of parental factors like parents' educational background, income level and parenting style on teenage pregnancies among the secondary school students in Ibadan Metropolis. The study adopted the descriptive research design. Eight hundred and twenty-five respondents were selected through a multi-stage sampling procedure. A questionnaire with a reliability coefficient of 0.75 was used for data collection. The findings of this study showed that parents' income status had a significant influence on teenage pregnancy in secondary schools in Ibadan Metropolis (R^2 = 0.026). This study also showed that parents' educational background had a significant influence on teenage pregnancy in secondary schools in Ibadan Metropolis (R^2 = 0.012). It was also found that parenting style significantly influenced teenage Pregnancy in secondary schools in Ibadan Metropolis (R^2 = 0.175). From the foregoing, it can be deduced that the parental factors like parents' financial background, income level and parenting style influence teenage pregnancies among the secondary school students in Ibadan Metropolis in different measures. While it is significantly low for parents' educational background and income level, the influence is much more significant for parenting style as this dictated the perception of sexuality by the teenager and his/her sexual behaviour. A parenting style which does not give room for openness on the part of the adolescent makes him/her prone to sexual experimentation which, in the long run, has grave consequences like teenage pregnancy. From the findings of this study, it was recommended that parents should adopt parenting styles which offered family integration, warmth or support to their children especially the teenagers; this is necessary so as to ensure that teenagers feel the sense of connectedness to their

parents. It was also recommended that parents clearly communicate their values and expectations to their children, express their concerns and love for them early and often, and exercise supervision including their child's selection of friends and role models to - raise children.

Degree of Interest in School and Adolescent Girls

Madume and Dibia (2021) conducted a study on the causes and effects of teenage pregnancy among female secondary school students in Abua/Odual Local Government Area of Rivers State. The descriptive research design was adopted for the study. Three Research Questions guided the study. An instrument titled 'Causes and Effects of Teenage Pregnancy among Female Students' was designed by the Researchers and used for data collection. The instrument was validated by experts and reliability obtained through test re-test. Mean statistics was used to answer the Research Questions. Findings from the study show that lack of information, peer pressure, pressure from parents on teenage girls to get married, non-use of contraceptives and economic factors are some causes of teenage pregnancy. The study also revealed that drop out from school was based on lack of interest in school, health risks, isolation and rejection by parents and peers are some effects of teenage pregnancy, and that sufficient parental care, sex education in schools and prohibition of underage marriage are effective ways to reduce teenage pregnancy among secondary school students.

Eugene, Nkengbeza and Chokomosi (2018) carried out a study on the impact of teenage pregnancy on academic performance of Grade 7 students in Zambezi Region of Namibia. A qualitative research method was used in this article and two teachers and 4 pregnant learners were interviewed. The findings for this study revealed that lack of

parental care and control, lack of material needs, poor peer guidance, lack of sex education, lack of self interest in educational activities and the influence of alcohol and drug abuse. The impact of teenage pregnancy on academic performance included poor academic performance after the pregnancy, increase dropout because of pregnancy related issues and negative feeling on schooling.

Similarly, in Yalensi, Ghana, Alhassan (2015) conducted a research on 300 teenage students selected from secondary schools in Ghana. The analysis was derived from the data collected from secondary schoolgirls, education officials and teachers on factors that predispose girls to pregnancy, the extent to which teenage pregnancy contributes to school dropout and the eventual levels of re-admission. The data analysis shows that girls in secondary schools are actually already sexually active though they lack the relevant information to help them make the right choices as far as their sexuality is concerned. The little information that they have is not conclusive and it is evident that they yearn for information which would be useful for them. The finding revealed that among the socio economic factors responsible for teenage pregnancies, peer group influence was the major cause of teenage pregnancy while poverty and lack of sex education were 17% and family neglects 8.3%. On the academic effect of teenage pregnancy on the same respondents, the effects include lack of interest in school leads to school dropout 105(35%), temporary withdrawal from school 102(34%) and absenteeism 93(31%).

Parental Desire for Early Marriage and Adolescent Girls

Ichita, Enwereji and Odina (2021) carried out a study on the factors and conditions that influence teenage pregnancy among in-school adolescents in Umuahia North LGA of Abia State. The study used a cross sectional descriptive study. A randomly selected

sample of 416 adolescents between the ages of 13-19 years was studied. Structured self-administered questionnaire was used for data collection. Descriptive statistics, using frequency, percentage and mean were utilized for data analysis. The study found that 198 (47.6%) of the respondents were sexually active and that 89 (45%) of them had been pregnant. More than half 103 (52%) of the study group indicated that parents desire for early marriage influenced their sexual activities. About 46(51.7%) of the adolescents said they were pregnant so as to keep the new born baby with motherless babies homes. It was concluded that there is need for increased sex education for in-school adolescents so as to highlight the effects of teenage pregnancy on adolescents.

Achema and Emmanuel (2015) examined the factors responsible for teenage pregnancy and its implication on adolescent health and education. According to these authors, teenage pregnancy has implications on adolescents' growth and development. A descriptive survey design was adopted, and 300 private school students were randomly selected from two private secondary schools to complete a self-administered questionnaire. Findings revealed that most (46.7%) students admitted that lack of parental care and interest in early marriage was responsible for teenage pregnancy. Furthermore, lack of self-control (36.7%) and lack of sex education (13.3%) were identified as factors responsible for teenage pregnancy among female adolescent. Majority of the students (60%) admitted that polygamous family system acted as contributory parenting factor for teenage pregnancy. On their health and educational implication, a greater percentage (60%) among the respondents stated that teenage pregnancy could lead to school dropout, and some (20%) among the respondents admitted that it could lead to abortion, while 16.7% believe that it could lead to sexually transmitted infections. On the aftermath implication during pregnancy and delivery, most of the respondents (60.7%)

acknowledged that it could lead to malnutrition, anemia and bleeding. The study concluded that lack of parenting, self-control and sex education were responsible factors for teenage pregnancy among the adolescents. The educational and health implications borders on school dropouts, abortion, sexually transmitted infections among others. Parents, teachers and government agencies would provide supportive systems with regards to prevention of teenage pregnancy.

Mauna (2015) examined the factors contributing to high prevalence of teenage pregnancy in public schools. The methodology involved a descriptive cross-sectional study, where a simple random sampling was used to select a study population and sample size. The methods used for data collection were interview, questionnaire and Focus Group Discussion (FGD). A total of 207 teenagers were interviewed out of which 101(49%) were males and 106 (51%) were females from four (4) government owned secondary schools in Taraba. The study found that majority, 108 (52%) respondents, had poor knowledge on methods of contraceptives. On the other hand, the study noted that early attending to initiation rites had an impact on early sexual practice where majority 95 (86%) of respondents who attended initiation rites practiced sexual intercourse early compared to 16 (14%) of respondents who had not attend. This difference is statistically significant (2 = 4.38154; P < 0.05; df = 1; CI = 95%). It was observed that the situation of sexual intercourse at the first contact was a coerced act. It was recommended that there was need to strengthen reproductive health education programs in school and out of school that promote communication skills among males and females. Establishment of approach which is more holistic, equipping teenagers with appropriate knowledge on sexuality, access to contraceptives rather than traditional coaching approaches that focus upon improving sexual ability were also recommended.

Summary of Literature Review

This chapter reviewed influence the rate teenage pregnancy on out-of-school adolescent girls. Teenage pregnancy is an unwelcomed occurrence among females who are both educationally and economically disadvantaged. Pregnancy among teenagers is one of the most pressing issues confronting most countries today. Teenage pregnancy is becoming a growing concern, and understanding the various causes of teenage pregnancy is critical. Concept of teenage pregnancy, parental financial background, interest in school, parental desire for early marriage, factors leading to teenage pregnancy, learning process of secondary school students, and influence of teenage pregnancy on female adolescents were discussed in the conceptual framework.

The theoretical framework focused on Labelling Theory as applied to education in relation to teachers applying labels on their pupils in terms of their ability, potential or behaviour. These labels can be positive or negative and can result in a self-fulfilling prophecy. Labelling is seen as an internal factor that could explain differential achievement in schools by class, ethnicity or gender.

From the empirical review, it was observed that researchers like Achema and Emmanuel (2015); Gyan (2013); Madume and Dibia (2021); Ichita, Enwereji and Odina (2021); Amadi (2019); Eugene, Nkengbeza and Chokomosi (2018), Loto and Isuku (2018); Alhassan (2015); Samuel and Leesi (2018); Achema and Emmanuel (2015) and Mauna (2015) had carried out some studies relevant this study but there had been none who investigated the factors influencing teenage pregnancy and out-of-school adolescent girls in Akoko-Edo Local Government Area. This is the gap this study intends to fill.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

This chapter was designed to give a description of the procedures that will be used in carrying out this research. This was arranged under the research design, population of the study, sample and sampling technique, research instrument, validity of the instrument, reliability of the instrument, method for data collection and method of data analysis.

Research Design

The design that will be used for this study is correlational survey. A correlational research design is a design patterned after the statistical tools most suitable for eliciting the form and nature of relationship that exists among the variables under investigation (Kpolovie, 2010). The design is chosen because it helps to establish the relationship between two or more variables and there will be no need to manipulate any variables under study.

Population of the Study

The population of this study comprises of 204 Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Akoko-Edo Local Government Area (State Ministry of Commerce and Industry, 2022).

Sample and Sampling Technique

The sample size for the study was one hundred and thirty-five (135) Small and Medium Enterprises in Akoko-Edo Local Government Area. This number was derived from the population of the study with Taro Yamane (1967). These Small and Medium Enterprises were selected through the equal size stratified sampling technique from

Akoko-Edo Local Government Area. In line with this, 30 Small and Medium Enterprises were randomly selected from the local government area in order to identify 135 Small and Medium Enterprises for the study. The formula and calculation is shown below:

N = Population of study
K = Constant (1)
e = degree of error expected
n=sample size

$$n = \frac{N}{K + N(e)^2}$$

$$\frac{204}{1 + 204(0.05)^2}$$

$$\frac{204}{1 + 204(0.0025000000000000005)}$$

$$\frac{204}{1 + 0.5100000000000001)}$$

$$\frac{204}{1.5100000000000002}$$

n = 135

Research Instrument

The instrument that was used for data collection in this study was questionnaire, constructed by the researcher. The questionnaire is divided into two sections; the first section contains personal data of the respondents while the second section consists of twenty-five (25) items grouped into five categories. The instrument is titled “Factors Influencing Teenage Pregnancy and Among Adolescent Girls” (FITPAAGQ). The

questionnaire is scaled as: SA = Strongly Agree, A = Agree, U = Undecided, D = Disagree and SD = Strongly Disagree. Students' responses were categorized with numerical values 5, 4, 3, 2 and 1 for statistical coding and analysis.

Validity of the Instrument

To determine the validity of the instrument, the draft of the questionnaire developed by the researcher was presented to the project supervisor who made some inputs. The corrected instrument was presented to two experts, one each from measurement and evaluation in the Department of Education, Benson Idahosa University in order to ensure face and content validity. Their suggestions and corrections were collected and incorporated into the final draft of the instrument that was approved by the supervisor.

Reliability of the Instrument

The internal consistency method of reliability estimate was adopted. In doing this, copies of the instrument were administered on thirty (30) respondents outside the proposed sample for the study. Data collected were analyzed using Cronbach Alpha statistics. The coefficient yielded .87 which shows that the instrument was good for the study.

Method of Data Collection

Each respondent was given a copy of the questionnaire to complete. The questionnaire was delivered by the researcher and research assistance to the respondents' and all these were retrieved on the spot on completion to prevent misplacement of instrument and any form of extraneous influences.

Method of Data Analysis

In analyzing the data collected, all research questions and the research hypotheses were tested using Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient Statistics at 0.05 level of significance.

CHAPTER FOUR

ANALYSIS OF DATA AND PRESENTATION OF RESULTS

In this chapter, the results of the analysis of collected data are presented. The presentation of results is followed by the discussion of findings.

Data Analysis

Table 1: Personal Data of Respondents

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Gender		
Male	76	56.3
Female	59	43.7
Total	**135**	**100**
Age		
15 – 20 years	68	50.4
21 years and above	67	49.6
Total	**135**	**100**

From Table 1, it was shown that 56.3% of the respondents were males while 43.7% of the respondents were females. As regards age, 50.4% of the respondents were 15 - 20 years while 49.6% of the respondents were 21 years and above.

Research Question 1: What is the relationship between parental financial status and teenage pregnancy of adolescent girls in Akoko-Edo Local Government Area?

The analysis of research question one was presented in Table 2.

Table 2: Descriptive Statistics showing the Pearson Product Moment Correlation between Parental Financial Status and Teenage Pregnancy of Adolescent Girls

Variables	$\bar{x}$	SD	r	r^2	%	Remarks
Parental Financial Status	3.27	1.09				
			0.14	0.01	2%	Agree
Teenage Pregnancy	2.89	1.25				

r^2= coefficient of determination

It was observed from the results in Table 2 that the mean score of parental financial status was 3.27 with a standard deviation of 1.09 while that of teenage pregnancy was 2.89 with a standard deviation of 1.25. The table also showed that there was a low positive relationship (0.14) between parental financial status and teenage pregnancy. The coefficient of determination (r^2) associated with the correlation coefficient of 0.14 was 0.01. The coefficient of determination (r^2) indicated that, parental financial status had 2% influence on teenage pregnancy of adolescent girls in Akoko-Edo Local Government Area. This finding indicates that there was a relationship between parental financial status and teenage pregnancy of adolescent girls in Akoko-Edo Local Government Area.

Research Question 2: What is the relationship between degree of interest in school and teenage pregnancy of adolescent girls in Akoko-Edo Local Government Area?

The analysis of research question two was presented in Table 3.

Table 3: Descriptive Statistics showing the Pearson Product Moment Correlation between Degree of Interest in School and Teenage Pregnancy of Adolescent Girls

Variables	$\bar{x}$	SD	r	r^2	%	Remarks
Degree of Interest in School	3.39	1.06				
			0.40	0.03	2	Agree
Teenage Pregnancy	2.89	1.25				

r^2 = coefficient of determination

It was observed from the results in Table 3 that the mean score of degree of interest in school was 3.39 with a standard deviation of 1.06 while teenage pregnancy of adolescent girls was 2.89 with a standard deviation of 1.25. The table also showed that there was a low positive relationship (0.40) between degree of interest in school and teenage pregnancy of adolescent girls. The coefficient of determination (r^2) associated with the correlation coefficient of 0.40 was 0.03. The coefficient of determination (r^2) indicated that, degree of interest in school had 2% influence on teenage pregnancy of adolescent girls in Akoko-Edo Local Government Area. This implies that there was a positive relationship between degree of interest in school and teenage pregnancy of adolescent girls in Akoko-Edo Local Government Area

Research Question 3: What is the relationship between parental desire for early marriage and teenage pregnancy of adolescent girls in Akoko-Edo Local Government Area?

The analysis of research question three was presented in Table 4.

Table 4: Descriptive Statistics showing the Pearson Product Moment Correlation between Parental Desire for Early Marriage and Teenage Pregnancy of Adolescent Girls

Variables	$\bar{x}$	SD	r	r^2	%	Remarks
Parental Desire for Early Marriage	3.27	1.09				
			0.26	0.04	4	Agree
Teenage Pregnancy	2.89	1.25				

r^2 = coefficient of determination

It was observed from the results in Table 6 that the mean score of parental desire for early marriage was 3.27 with a standard deviation of 1.09 while teenage pregnancy of adolescent girls was 2.89 with a standard deviation of 1.25. The table also showed that there was a low positive relationship (0.26) between parental desire for early marriage. The coefficient of determination (r^2) associated with the correlation coefficient of 0.04 was 0.01. The coefficient of determination (r^2) indicated that, parental desire for early marriage had 4% influence on teenage pregnancy of adolescent girls in Akoko-Edo Local Government Area. This shows that there was a positive relationship between parental desire for early marriage and teenage pregnancy of adolescent girls in Akoko-Edo Local Government Area.

Testing of Hypotheses

The following three hypotheses were tested at 0.05 alpha level of significance as shown in Tables 5 – 7.

Hypothesis 1: There will be no significant relationship between parental financial status and teenage pregnancy among adolescent girls in Akoko-Edo Local Government Area.

The summary of the test of hypothesis one was presented in Table 5.

Table 5: Showing the significant level of the Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient of Relationship between Parental Financial Status and Teenage Pregnancy among Adolescent Girls

Variables	$\bar{x}$	SD	r	r^2	p-value	Decision
Parental Financial Status	3.27	1.09				
			0.14	0.01	0.02	Reject H_0
Teenage Pregnancy	2.89	1.25				

r^2= coefficient of determination

Table 5 showed that the mean score of parental financial status was 3.27 with a standard deviation of 1.09 while teenage pregnancy had a mean score of 2.89 with a standard deviation of 1.25. The table also showed that there was a low positive relationship (0.14) between parental financial status and teenage pregnancy. The coefficient of determination (r^2) associated with the correlation coefficient of 0.14 was 0.01. The coefficient of determination (r) indicated that parental financial status had no influence on teenage pregnancy and the relationship was statistically significant at 0.02. Since this significant

value was lower than 0.05 the alpha level of significance, the hypothesis which stated, therefore, that there were no significant relationship between parental financial status and teenage pregnancy among adolescent girls was rejected. It was concluded, therefore, that there was a significant relationship between parental financial status and teenage pregnancy among adolescent girls in Akoko-Edo Local Government Area of Edo State.

Hypothesis 2: There will be no significant relationship between degree of interest in school and teenage pregnancy among adolescent girls in Akoko-Edo Local Government Area.

The summary of the test of hypothesis two was presented in Table 6.

Table 6: Showing the Significant Level of the Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient of Relationship between Degree of Interest in School and Teenage Pregnancy among Adolescent Girls

Variables	$\bar{x}$	SD	r	r^2	p-value	Decision
Degree of Interest in School	3.39	1.06				
			0.40	0.03	0.00	Reject H_0
Teenage Pregnancy	2.89	1.25				

r^2 = coefficient of determination

From Table 6, it indicated that the mean score of degree of interest in school was 3.39 with a standard deviation of 1.06 while that of teenage pregnancy was 2.89 with a standard deviation of 1.25. The table also showed that there was a low positive relationship (0.059) between degree of interest in school and teenage pregnancy. The coefficient of determination (r^2) associated with the correlation coefficient of 0.40 was 0.03. The coefficient of determination (r) indicated that level of interest in school had

40% influence on teenage pregnancy and the relationship is statistically significant at 0.00. Since the p-value is lower than 0.05 the alpha level of significance, the hypothesis which stated, therefore, that there would no significant relationship between degree of interest in school and teenage pregnancy among adolescent girls is rejected. It was therefore, concluded that there was a significant relationship between degree of interest in school and teenage pregnancy among adolescent girls in Akoko-Edo Local Government Area of Edo State.

Hypothesis 3: There will be no significant relationship between parental desire for early marriage and teenage pregnancy among adolescent girls in Akoko-Edo Local Government Area.

The summary of the test of hypothesis three was presented in Table 7.

Table 7: Showing the Significant Level of the Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient of Relationship between Parental Desire for Early Marriage and Teenage Pregnancy

Variables	$\bar{x}$	SD	r	r^2	p-value	Decision
Parental Desire for Early Marriage	3.27	1.09				
			0.26	0.04	0.01	Reject H_0
Teenage Pregnancy	2.89	1.25				

r^2 = coefficient of determination

Table 7 showed that the mean score of parental desire for early marriage was 3.27 with a standard deviation of 1.09 while that of teenage pregnancy was 2.89 with a standard deviation of 1.25. The table also showed that there was a low positive relationship (0.006) between parental desire for early marriage and teenage pregnancy. The coefficient of

determination (r^2) associated with the correlation coefficient of 0.26 was 0.04. The coefficient of determination (r) indicated that parental desire for early marriage had 4% influence on teenage pregnancy and the relationship is statistically significant at 0.01. Since the significant value was lower than 0.05 the alpha level of significance, the hypothesis which stated, therefore, that there would no significant relationship between parental desire for early marriage and teenage pregnancy among adolescent girls was rejected. It was, therefore, concluded that there was a significant relationship between parental desire for early marriage and teenage pregnancy among adolescent girls in Akoko-Edo Local Government Area.

Summary of Findings

Based on the data collected and analyzed, three findings were made.

1. There was a significant relationship between parental financial status and teenage pregnancy among adolescent girls in Akoko-Edo Local Government Area of Edo State.
2. There was a significant relationship between degree of interest in school and teenage pregnancy among adolescent girls in Akoko-Edo Local Government Area of Edo State.
3. There was a significant relationship between parental desire for early marriage and teenage pregnancy among adolescent girls in Akoko-Edo Local Government Area.

Discussion of Findings

The first finding of this study revealed that there was a significant relationship between parental financial status and teenage pregnancy among adolescent girls in Akoko-Edo Local Government Area of Edo State. The finding of this study was in agreement with that of Achema and Emmanuel (2015) who found that the respondents perceived parental neglects or lack of parental financial background 140(46.7%) to be a major cause of teenage pregnancy followed by lack of sex education 40(13.3%) and poverty 10(3.3%). In the same vein, the finding was also in line with Amadi (2019) who found that teenage pregnancy significantly impacted school enrollment, that a significant percentage of teenagers were pregnant before 15, lack of education of parents and teenagers increased the probability of teenage pregnancy, poverty and drug abuse increased the likelihood of teenage pregnancy while teenage mothers (61.2%) were likely to withdraw from school because of the financial obligations of being a mother.

In this study, it was also found that there was a significant relationship between degree of interest in school and teenage pregnancy among adolescent girls in Akoko-Edo Local Government Area of Edo State. The finding of this study was in line with the finding of Madume and Dibia (2021) who found that lack of information, peer pressure, pressure from parents on teenage girls to get married, non-use of contraceptives and economic factors are some causes of teenage pregnancy. The study also revealed that drop out from school was based on lack of interest in school, health risks, isolation and rejection by parents and peers are some effects of teenage pregnancy, and that sufficient parental care, sex education in schools and prohibition of underage marriage are effective ways to reduce teenage pregnancy among secondary school students. In the same vein, the finding of this study was also in agreement with the finding of Eugene, Nkengbeza

and Chokomosi (2018) who found that lack of parental care and control, lack of material needs, poor peer guidance, lack of sex education, lack of self interest in educational activities and the influence of alcohol and drug abuse.

The final finding of this study showed that there was a significant relationship between parental desire for early marriage and teenage pregnancy among adolescent girls in Akoko-Edo Local Government Area. The finding of this study agreed with the finding of Odianonsen (2013) who found that poor parenting 75(25%) was a major causal factor of teenage pregnancy. Other causes were peer influence 63 (21%), poverty 57(19%), lack of sex education 49(16%), early marriage 36(12%), and religion 20(6.6%). On the other hand, the finding disagreed with the finding of Ichita, Enwereji and Odina (2021) who found that 198 (47.6%) of the respondents were sexually active and that 89 (45%) of them had been pregnant, 103 (52%) of the study group indicated that parents desire for early marriage influenced their sexual activities, and 46(51.7%) of the adolescents said they were pregnant so as to keep the new born baby with motherless babies homes.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary

The purpose of the study was to examine the factors influencing teenage pregnancy among adolescent girls in Akoko-Edo Local Government Area of Edo State. Specifically the study examined the influence of parental financial status, degree of interest in school, parental desire for early marriage and teenage pregnancy among adolescent girls. Three research questions and three corresponding hypotheses were raised to guide the study as shown below.

1. What is the relationship between parental financial status and teenage pregnancy of adolescent girls in Akoko-Edo Local Government Area?
2. What is the relationship between degree of interest in school and teenage pregnancy of adolescent girls in Akoko-Edo Local Government Area?
3. What is the relationship between parental desire for early marriage and teenage pregnancy of adolescent girls in Akoko-Edo Local Government Area?

The hypotheses formulated and tested were:

1. There is no significant relationship between parental financial status and teenage pregnancy among adolescent girls in Akoko-Edo Local Government Area.
2. There is no significant relationship between degree of interest in school and teenage pregnancy among adolescent girls in Akoko-Edo Local Government Area.

3. There is no significant relationship between parental desire for early marriage and teenage pregnancy among adolescent girls in Akoko-Edo Local Government Area.

The design for the study was a correlational survey. The population of the study comprised two hundred and four (204) Small and Medium Enterprises in Akoko-Edo Local Government Area of Edo State. Stratified random sampling technique was used while Taro Yamane was used to get the sample size of one hundred and thirty-five (135) Small and Medium Enterprises. The research instrument used was a structured questionnaire. The data collected were analyzed using Pearson Product Moment Correlation statistics. The analysis of data obtained showed that there was a significant relationship between parental financial status and teenage pregnancy among adolescent girls in Akoko-Edo Local Government Area of Edo State; there was a significant relationship between degree of interest in school and teenage pregnancy among adolescent girls in Akoko-Edo Local Government Area of Edo State; and there was a significant relationship between parental desire for early marriage and teenage pregnancy among adolescent girls in Akoko-Edo Local Government Area.

Educational Implications

The atmosphere and relationship at home can force teens to look for love from outside thereby making them engage in early sexual intercourse leading to pregnancy. The educators should consider giving emotional support to pregnant teenagers by showing them love and empathy. Negative remarks about pregnant learners in the classroom situation should be avoided at all costs. Advices or corrections pertaining to the state of affairs of pregnant teenagers should be done in camera or privately by the teacher,

not in the presence of other learners who are not pregnant. This will promote good relationships between educators and pregnant teenagers.

Teachers have a vital role in increasing their student's knowledge in understanding self-actualization and self-discipline. Adequate information from the teacher to the students has been a source of knowledge to students in understanding the causes and consequences of teenage pregnancy. Furthermore, teachers have a unique approach in detecting student's behaviour. Teachers have a better understanding of the students more than the students themselves. As a result, providing quality information to students is very important to ensuring student's educational attainment and prospect.

Contribution to Knowledge and Practice

This study has contributed to knowledge as it has strengthen the dominant concerns of teenage pregnancy in secondary schools are financial issues, family obligations, or lack of interest in school, a pregnancy may serve as an unacknowledged catalyzing force for timing of school dropout. Teenager dropping out of school due to pregnancy is a prevalent issue as reported in most schools in Nigeria and this makes the issue of pregnancy as a reason for school dropout a subject worth investigating. Pregnancy as a factor in some of the dropouts may be downplayed, likewise the girls who mention pregnancy as their reason for leaving school may be influenced by their family's financial situation or by potential care giving arrangements that will be available after the child is born. These factors may be significant in determining how a schoolgirl reacts to pregnancy and whether she will resume her education after her child is born.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study, the researcher concluded that teenage pregnancy has a detrimental effect on the education and future plans of teenagers. This is because the teenage mother attends school irregularly and sometimes drops out of school, thereby, becoming a social as well as economic challenge. This result in issue low education and unemployment, high level of poverty and the psychosocial stigma it carries, especially when it is out of wedlock. The study concluded that there was a significant relationship between parental financial status, degree of interest in school, parental desire for early marriage and teenage pregnancy among adolescent girls in Akoko-Edo Local Government Area of Edo State.

Recommendations

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

1. The study recommended that there should be public enlightenment programme for teenagers and parents by the Ministry of Education or Women Affairs in dangers of teenage pregnancy and early marriage.
2. Parents should show more interest in their children's educational welfare by improving their financial obligations towards their education. This will strengthen the students' academic performance in universities across the country.
3. The education of the girl child should be made free and compulsory at the basic education level. Free basic education for the girls will increase school enrolment of teenagers who hitherto were out of school as a result of exorbitant fees.

Suggestions for Further Studies

Some researchers have researched on factors influencing teenage pregnancy among adolescent girls. The study was limited to senior secondary schools in Akoko-Edo Local Government Area of Edo State. It is therefore necessary for further research to be carried out in other local government in Edo State.

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APPENDIX A

QUESTIONNAIRE

Department of Education,
Faculty of Arts and Education,
Benson Idahosa University,
Benin City.

Dear Respondent,

INTRODUCTORY LETTER

I am a Postgraduate diploma student in the above named department and institution. As part of the requirements for graduation, I am conducting a research on "**Factors Influencing Teenage Pregnancy among Adolescent Girls in Akoko-Edo Local Government Area of Edo State**". In this regard, you have been duly selected as a member of the sample for the study. I also wish to assure you that your answers will be treated in strict confidence and used for the stated academic purpose only.

GLORIA OMOJERE ADENIRAN

Researcher

Instruction: please tick [√] against your chosen response and record your view where necessary in the provided spaces.

SECTION A: Respondents Demographic

1. **Sex**: Male [ ] Female [ ]
2. **Age**: 15 – 20 years [ ] 20 years and above [ ]

SECTION B:

Instruction: Please tick [√] in the column items that best express your opinion using the following keys: Strongly Agree = SA, Agree = A, Undecided = U, Strongly Disagree = SD, Disagree = D

S/N	STATEMENT ITEMS	SA	A	U	D	SD
	Parental Financial Status and Teenage Pregnancy					
1	Children whose parents are on high-income status have higher career aspiration than children whose parents are on low-income status.					
2	Poor standard of living leads to out-of-school					
3	Parents on high-income can afford to provide the basic necessities required for their children's education.					
4	Only parents who are on high-income status can train their children beyond secondary school level.					
5	Parental support to girl-child education					
	Degree of Interest in School and Teenage Pregnancy	**SA**	**A**	**U**	**D**	**SD**
6	Co-educational school system leads to lack of interest in school					
7	Irregular school attendance after pregnancy often					

	leads to the girls dropping out o f school.					
8	Irregular poor school performance during and after pregnancy often lead to the girls dropping out of school.					
9	Poor study habit influence out-of-school adolescent girls					
10	Lack of certain courses needed					
	Parental Desire for Early Marriage and Teenage Pregnancy	**SA**	**A**	**U**	**D**	**SD**
11	Early marriages contribute to the neglect of girl-child education					
12	Past experience of drop-out and early marriage of girls in the family					
13	Pregnant teens often drop out of school					
14	Early marriage of girl-child contributes negatively to family and societal problems					
15	Parental social beliefs around daughters' marriage					
	Teenage Pregnancy and Out-of-School	**SA**	**A**	**U**	**D**	**SD**
16	Inadequate knowledge of sex education					
17	Lack of parental up-bring					
18	Inadequate moral instructions in school					
19	Adolescent who lack moral virtues engaged into premarital sex become victim of teenage pregnancy					
20	Student's disobedient to parents					
	Out-of-School Adolescent	**SA 5**	**A 4**	**U 3**	**D 2**	**SD 1**
21	Conflict with family commitments					
22	Increasingly failing courses in school					
23	Pregnant teens often drop out of school					
24	Lack of quality time with teachers and counselors					
25	Leads to lower quality life					

APPENDIX B

RELIABILITY TEST

```
RELIABILITY
  /VARIABLES=SA A U SD D
  /SCALE('ALL VARIABLES') ALL
  /MODEL=ALPHA
  /STATISTICS=DESCRIPTIVE SCALE CORR
  /SUMMARY=TOTAL MEANS.
```

Reliability
Scale: ALL VARIABLES

Case Processing Summary

		N	%
Cases	Valid	30	100.0
	Excluded[a]	0	.0
	Total	30	100.0

a. Listwise deletion based on all variables in the procedure.

Reliability Statistics

Cronbach's Alpha	Cronbach's Alpha Based on Standardized Items	N of Items
.870	.876	25

Scale Statistics

Mean	Variance	Std. Deviation	N of Items
94.0286	132.323	11.50316	25