

A Solution to Teenage Pregnancies

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Teenage pregnancies are becoming an increasingly serious problem here in the Philippines. Although the teenage pregnancy rate has been slowly declining throughout the years, it is still incredibly high and in fact, according to the UNFPA, the Philippines has one of the largest teenage pregnancy rates in Southeast Asia. In 2018 alone, there were an estimated 183,000 cases of live births by Filipino women aged 10 to 19 and it was estimated that about 500 adolescent Filipino women gave birth every day. These cases of teenage pregnancies are usually caused by either the general lack of knowledge and naivety of a teen or the degeneracy of certain individuals or, like in most cases in this country, a mixture of both. Apart from being morally incorrect, teenage pregnancies are also a threat to the country's overall economy. In most cases, an adolescent Filipino woman is less likely to finish her education if she begins childbearing which, in turn, could lead to fewer employment opportunities for the adolescent in the future; Thus, the higher the pregnancy rate is, the more adolescents that are affected by this which, in turn, could increase the unemployment rates too. All this to say, teenage pregnancies are a problem that we, the people, should address. Although the government is already executing its own plans to reduce teenage pregnancies, I would still like to make my ideas and proposals known to the public. I propose that we place our children under constant surveillance until they are at the right age of 18. Every family here in the country, with the help of the government, should put in place security systems that constantly monitor their children. This would allow the family to identify if a child is in any potential danger of being impregnated and to figure out how to intervene and prevent it from happening. It could also potentially benefit the economy by creating demand for experts in the field of security systems and it could also have other beneficial effects on the country as a whole.

First, let me explain the kinds of surveillance that we should place on children. I suggest that every family in the country should install a simple and affordable full set of CCTV cameras in their homes. The cameras should be installed in a way that leaves no blind spots or, in other words, spaces that aren't monitored by a camera. We should do this because even a single square inch that's not covered by any CCTV camera can pose a serious security problem. To ensure that there are no blind spots in their security systems, families should simply install at least 2 cameras in each room of the house including the kitchen, the bathrooms, the bedrooms, and the backyard if the house has one. Of course, this process

would be hard for most of the general public who are inexperienced at the creation and installation of security systems which is why I am making the prediction that a lot of the general public would resort to hiring an expert on the field of security systems to properly install and set up their CCTV cameras. This would probably greatly benefit a lot of businesses in the field of security systems which would also benefit the economy as a whole. Now, I do have to admit that the installation of a full set of CCTV cameras would be unrealistic for the majority of families here in the country since the majority of the country is in poverty; So, a good alternative would be to have the teens of the family record all of their trips outside of the house and what they did on those trips or, better yet, just follow the teens and monitor their activities manually. Furthermore, I would also like to propose that the government and owners of popular gathering places like restaurants and shopping malls invest in the heightening of security in public places for reasons that I will discuss later on.

After the installation of these security systems, families should then use these security systems to constantly record what their children are. The actions that a child does from the moment the child wakes up to the moment the child goes to sleep should be recorded along with the details of those actions; Every single detail of an action that can be possibly acquired should be included in the reports because you never know when the most minuscule of details can be crucial For example, parents should record that their child took a shower from 10:56 AM to 11:11 AM and went out of the house for a supposed trip to Robinsons' mall at 11:23 AM and rode a tricycle whose license plate was captured by camera number 7 outside. Furthermore, if a child does go outside of the house to do some errands, the responsibility of monitoring the child should then be passed down to the government or to the owners of the public places that the child goes to. The government or the owners of the public places should continue to monitor the child's actions. If they find that the child is in a potentially dangerous situation or if they find that the child is exhibiting suspicious behavior, then whoever has the responsibility of monitoring the child should inform the parents of the child as soon as possible. In addition to this, the family of a child should also have the right to ask for any pieces of information that the government or the owners of public places collected while their child was outside of the house.

Then, by using and analyzing these records, families can then figure out whether or not their children are in a situation that could possibly lead to their impregnation. Families should look for patterns and behaviors in their children's daily routines. These patterns and behaviors can be things like a child talking to someone on messenger more often or a child going to the same place at the same time on

specific days. Furthermore, if a child follows a pattern or behaves in a way that implies that the child is in a potentially dangerous situation, then the family must take an appropriate course of action in order to prevent the potentially dangerous situation from happening. I suggest that the family first interrogate their child about his or her suspicious patterns and habits. During the interrogation, the child must answer every question truthfully and if they're showing signs of not doing so, the family should threaten them with some punishment; Whether they threaten the child with relatively trivial punishments or punishments that could affect the child for years to come and whether or not they will follow through on the punishments would be fully up to the family. After the interrogation, if it turns out that the child is in an actual situation that could lead to impregnation, then the family should then inform higher authorities like the police no matter how serious the danger is. From there, it's up to the higher authorities to decide what to do. If the problem is relatively minor, like if 2 teenagers talked about doing sexual activities with one another online, then the best course of action would be to take the people who were involved in the situation away for disciplinary action; On the other hand, if the problem is major, like if an adult actively tried to impregnate a minor, then the best course of action would be to have the adult imprisoned or, more preferably, publicly executed.

Now, I'm not going to lie, there are a few arguments that people can make that can oppose my proposal and there is a supposedly better solution that the government is currently favoring however, most arguments that oppose my proposal can be easily countered and the alternative solution that the government is favoring has a few serious flaws. First of all, people can make the argument that no security system is perfect and that there will always be a few or maybe even a handful of cases in which our security systems won't be able to protect a teen. I do have to admit that yes, that is true however, there is a simple solution to these exceptional cases. If a teen does become pregnant, they could always have an abortion. This would obviously prevent the teen and her family from suffering the physical, financial, and social effects that teenage pregnancies can bring. Furthermore, people can also make the argument that it would strip teens of any sort of privacy but then again, it is for the greater good. Yes, by doing this, we would be stripping any sort of privacy from our teens but we are doing this in order to combat the terrible plague that is teenage pregnancy and the recent increase in its cases which more than enough justifies the means. Besides, teenagers don't actually have the official right to have privacy and they probably never will. Then, there's the alternate solution that the government is currently favoring. To put it simply, the solution involves teaching our children about the dangers of teenage pregnancies, why it's wrong, and how to prevent it; Although this does somewhat prevent teens from naively getting into relationships with adults and other teens, this solution is still flawed for 2 reasons. First, almost everyone can acknowledge

that teens are inherently rebellious and their rebellious nature might bring them to participate in sexual activities with other teens anyway. Secondly, this solution still can't prevent the cases of teenage pregnancies that are caused by rape.

All this to say, we live in very trying times with many problems that not only affect us but also our children. In these trying times, we must remember the words of Martin Luther King: "Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that."; Thus, we mustn't combat this bad situation with bad ideas but instead, we must come up with new and more effective ideas like my proposal and the proposals of other people like me who have yet to be heard. When it comes to teenage pregnancies, we must do whatever it takes to prevent our children from experiencing it. We must constantly monitor their actions; We must constantly use our critical-thinking skills and figure out if they are in danger of being impregnated; We must choose the best courses of action; And we must always stay vigilant. And when our children, especially our teens, inevitably complain and claim that our actions are too strict then just be assured that even though they don't appreciate it, you are doing what's best for your children and that a parent must always serve and protect their children even if they aren't appreciated; Just be assured that almost everything that we do to our children is done because we love them. In other words, we must combat this bad situation with the love that we have for our children.

References:

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