

A Research Report on the causes and effects of Teenage Pregnan- cies.

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RESEARCH METHODOLOGY
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1 INTRODUCTION

Teenage pregnancy is a serious issue that may seriously impact the future of a young woman. Any teen pregnancy will be a challenge as teens typically lack skills needed to handle a pregnancy and motherhood. Patience, maturity and ability to handle stress are required by pregnant mothers of all ages. A teen pregnancy may also impact the baby. The purpose of this report is to survey why most teenagers become pregnant in Uganda and what the possible effects of the pregnancies are. According to the oral interviews conducted with the various teenagers, inadequate knowledge about sex education and poverty were the major causes leading to unwanted teenage pregnancies, among other causes. The effects spotted were diseases, medical complications, emotional crisis, school dropouts.

2 ANALYSIS

2.1 Causes

According to the research and knowledge acquired, most girls become pregnant because of the following major reasons: Lack of sex education; this due to the parents being afraid of conducting discussions about sex with their children since most of them look at it as a taboo. This has made many of the teenage girls to have to discover on their own hence becoming victims of circumstance. Poverty: Due to lack of the major basic needs some girls are forced to look for a way of getting them by either involving themselves in prostitution or getting "sugar daddies" Besides lack of sex education, poverty as the main causes, there are other causes such as; Glamorization of pregnancy: Teenage pregnancy has been made appear desirable by the media industry. Movies that depict teen pregnancy as something to be desired encourage teens to engage in reckless sexual activity Rape: There has been a rampant increase in the levels of girls who are raped by their guardians or caretakers. Most of the teenagers are either threatened by the rapists and therefore do not even report to the police. Peer pressure: This is due to the influence from friends. During adolescence, teenagers often feel pressure to make friends and fit in with their peers. Many 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. Teenagers have sex as a way to appear cool and sophisticated, but in some cases the end result is an unplanned teen pregnancy. Teenage drinking: Teen drinking can cause an unexpected pregnancy. Many teens experiment with drugs and alcohol. Drinking lowers a teens ability to control her impulses, contributing to pregnancies that occur between the ages 14 and 21.

2.2 Effects

The effects of teenage pregnancies include; Diseases: Teenage mothers are at a high rate of suffering from fistula after days of pushing a baby that does not fit

through the birth canal. They are also at a high risk of suffering from Urinary Tract Infections and Sexually Transmitted Diseases like AIDS because of unprotected sex. Medical complications: These often occur in pregnant teenagers. Too often, teens do not seek adequate medical care during the pregnancy. Complications that may occur during a teen pregnancy include anemia, toxemia, high blood pressure, placenta previa and premature birth of the baby. Emotional crisis: A teenager may suffer an emotional crisis if she becomes pregnant and does not want the baby. This crisis may lead to rash behavior such as attempting to self-abort the baby or a suicide attempt hence leading to loss of life. School dropout: Education may be put on hold when a teen becomes pregnant. Some pregnant teens may decide to leave high school. Others who were planning to attend college in the future may put off that experience after becoming pregnant. They may decide to focus on the baby or getting married rather than pursuing further education. Financial instability: Financial difficulty may arise during a teen pregnancy or after the baby is born. It is expensive to raise a baby. Teens who do not have full-time employment may struggle to cover the basic expenses of life upon having a baby. Social embarrassment: Most teenagers who get pregnant in Uganda are in most instances humiliated in front of their peers or even family members which tortures them psychologically, and this may last for the rest of their entire life.

3 CONCLUSION

Lack of sex education and poverty has been spotted as the major causes leading to teenage pregnancies among other causes such as rape, glamorization of pregnancy, peer pressure and teenage drinking. Effects such as contraction of diseases, medical complications, emotional crisis, school dropouts, social embarrassment and financial instability have resulted in early child birth. Therefore, there is need for teenagers to be sensitized about the causes of teenage pregnancies and what the likely outcomes would be. This will help reduce the number of unwanted pregnancies as well as overcoming diseases associated with early child bearing and the worries.