



IMPACT OF TEENAGE PREGNANCY ON THE ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF FEMALE SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN THE AWKA SOUTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF ANAMBRA STATE

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Abstract

Teenage pregnancy is one major contemporary social problem confronting most countries in the world, including Nigeria. This despicable situation has created several problems, most especially for teenage females in their health and academic endeavours. Thus, this study investigated the impact of teenage pregnancy on the academic performance of female secondary school students in the Awka South Local Government Area of Anambra State. The study adopted functionalist theory as its theoretical foundation, and it employed a cross-sectional survey design and multi-stage sampling technique, where a total of 171 Senior Secondary Students aged 15–17 were randomly sampled using a structured questionnaire and in-depth interviews. The collected data were presented and analysed using descriptive statistics such as percentages, frequency distribution tables, and charts. Interviews were transcribed and analysed with the thematic method of data analysis. Findings revealed that there is a higher prevalence of teenage pregnancy in rural secondary schools than in urban secondary schools as a result of a lack of access to sex education in rural families, a lack of sex awareness in rural secondary schools, the influence of bad friends, and poor parenting among others. A number of implications for female secondary school students include stigmatisation, suspension or expulsion from school, missing classes, and repeating classes. In conclusion, it was recommended that there is a need to develop effective measures to enhance the transition of teenage mothers from one class to another in all secondary schools.

Key Words: Academic Performance, Education, Impact, Teenage Pregnancy



Introduction

Pregnancy is a wonderful gift in the life of a woman, as she enjoys every moment of holding her own child. In addition, it brings joy and a positive atmosphere among her close relatives (Okumu, 2020). However, early pregnancy is considered a pandemic and a burden to the underage child, her family, and the world. Arthur Campbell once stated that "The girl who has an illegitimate child at the age of 16 suddenly has 90 percent of her life's script written for her (Hoffman & Maynard, 2008).

Teenage pregnancy can be described as the pregnancy of an adolescent or underage female between the ages of thirteen and nineteen (Alabi & Oni, 2017). According to Brown (2013), teenage pregnancy is a societal problem that sees adult functions such as sexual intercourse, nursing, and reproduction performed by an individual deemed by society to be a child.

Worldwide, teenage pregnancies are a challenging phenomenon that normally takes place in high-, middle-, and low-income nations. It is from this view that nearly 11% of world births are from girls ranging in age from 15 to 19 years (Kirchengast, 2016). According to the World Health Statistics (2014), the average global birth rate among 15–19-year-old girls is 49 per 1000 girls, whereas country rates range from 1 to 299 births per 1000 girls. According to Spencer (2011), teenage pregnancy is a universal social and educational concern in developed, developing, and underdeveloped countries. In developed countries, teenage birth rates are low compared to the situation in developing countries. In developing countries, Wado (2019) asserted that 21 million girls aged 15–19 become pregnant each year, and almost 12 million of them give birth. Also, nearly half of all teenage pregnancies that occur in developing countries are unplanned.

In Sub-Saharan Africa, there is a high level of teenage pregnancies compared to other continents of the world (WHO, 2014). According to Mbelwa and Isangula (2012), statistics reveal that in 2008, 121 out of 1000 teen girls were found to have pregnancies in Burkina Faso and Sub-Saharan Africa as a whole, and about 35% of the pregnant teens aged 15–19 were secondary school students. In Nigeria, teenage pregnancy takes place in both rural and urban areas across regions, but it is more prevalent in rural areas (Adikwu & Okafor, 2021). According to a report by the Demographic and Health Survey, about 23% of females between 15 and 19 years old are bearing children, while 10% of adolescents residing in rural areas are already bearing children, compared to 32% of adolescents in urban locations (DHS, 2013). Hence, indicating that teenage pregnancy is on the rise in the country (Amadi, 2019).



In the view of Kost, Henshaw, and Carlin (2010), pregnancy at whatever stage in life can be a life-changing experience that cuts across boundaries of race, educational attainment, or socio-economic status. Complications during pregnancy or childbirth are the leading cause of death globally for girls' ages 15 to 19. According to Sekgobela (2008), pregnancy is a unique condition because it is the only state that allows two people to line up under one skin. This two-in-one state affects the physical well-being of the mother. Some of the physical problems include vomiting, bleeding, nausea, cephalo-pelvic disproportions, dizziness, and preeclampsia toxemia, among others (Sekgobela, 2008). Hence, besides these several health challenges of teenage pregnancy, educational attainment is hindered. Similarly, Maemeko, Nkengbeza, and Chokomsu (2018) claim that in most cases, the academic performance of teenage mothers who opt to continue with their schooling lowers significantly. To them, when a teenager gives birth, she is forced to balance taking care of her child with her studies. In most cases, her academic performance is negatively affected, as evidenced by her poor grades, which may also force the young girls to give up on their education and pursue early marriages or other endeavours.

On the other hand, Education is a lifelong process that enables the continuous development of a person's capabilities as an individual and as a member of society (Effle, 2011). It is central to the development of young people as it prepares them for the world of work and life (Sibekoko, 2012). In educational institutions, success is measured by academic performance, or how well a student meets standards set by the institution. Sophie, Benedikt, and Thomas (2011) averred that students with higher mental ability, as demonstrated by IQ tests, tend to achieve highly in academic settings. Thus, academic performance is how students deal with their studies and how they cope with or accomplish different tasks given to them by their teachers (Benedikt & Thomas, 2011).

With pregnancy being the most rewarding experience of a woman's life, which can also be a tremendous challenge owing to the fact that it is a period during which a woman undergoes several hormonal changes accomplished by discomfort, distraction, and physiological transformation, it is clear that a pregnant teenager will struggle in her academics (Mfuh, Umma, & Sunday, 2013). When a female student becomes pregnant, her physical and mental state is adversely affected, which in turn affects her studies (Sekgobela, 2008). According to Charles (2011), teenage pregnancy is an undesirable phenomenon. This is because it interferes with expectations regarding education, self-realization, and economic prosperity among affected victims. To Charles (2011), Stress arises even when pregnancies are planned, and to think of unplanned pregnancies means that the girl child has to restructure her roles because she is inadequately prepared for parenthood.



In light of the above, teenage pregnancy undoubtedly has a negative impact on the academic performance of a girl child. It has been a hindrance towards realization of young girls' dreams bearing in mind that most of the young girls after pregnancy finds it difficult to go back to school. Regrettably, amidst the negative impact of this unwelcoming phenomenon on the academic performance, health and personality development of affected female students, recent studies have indicated that teenage pregnancy is still prevalent in our society, and several factors seem to have been responsible for its rise in Nigeria. According to Anderson (2017), some of the reoccurring factors are peer influence, lack of sex education, poor social training, lack of self-discipline, exposure to television, motion pictures, music, and magazines that transmit either a covert or overt message on married sexual relationships, and above all, poor parental and religious backgrounds, amongst others. Despite all efforts that have been made by both governments, schools, religious bodies, and non-governmental agencies to resolve some identified factors leading to this cancerous or decadence in our society, this social malady is still posing a strong threat to the academic development and health of the girl child in Nigeria. Hence, this paper aims to have an empirical study on the subject of discussion, as it will help to unearth ideas, opinions, and various viewpoints that will aid in developing a feasible framework for the reduction of the obnoxious rise of teenage pregnancy to the barest minimum. Therefore, it is against this background that this research paper is designed to investigate the impact of teenage pregnancy on the academic performance of female secondary school students in Awka South Local Government Area of Anambra State.

Review of Relevant Literature

In this section, issues arising from the work and related areas are reviewed under a number of sub-headings, as follows:

Prevalence of Teenage Pregnancy among Female Secondary School Students

Sociologically, teenage pregnancy is a social problem because humans are social beings. The WHO (2014) factsheet reports that teenage pregnancy remains a major contributor to maternal and child mortality. About 16 million girls aged 15–19 give birth each year, which is about 11% of all births worldwide. As reported by UNFPA (2012), although there has been a slight decline in teenage pregnancy in developing countries over the last two decades, Sub-Saharan Africa continues to have some of the highest rates of teenage fertility in the world, especially among secondary school students, showing almost no decline since 1990.



According to the United Nations Population Fund (2013), there are 580 million teenage girls in the world, and four out of five of them live in developing countries. As reported by the British Council of Nigeria (2012), it is important to pay attention to the situation of women and girls, particularly in a nation like Nigeria, because it has the highest population in Africa, of which 49% are females. More importantly, 47% of Nigerian women are mothers before they reach 20.

The 2018 Nigeria Demographic Health Survey (NDHS) revealed that an estimated 1 in 5 teenage females had begun childbearing, with rates varying from 28.5 births per 1000 teenage females aged 15–19 years in the southwest (NDHS, 2018). In Nigeria, teenage pregnancy takes place in both rural and urban areas across regions, but it is more prevalent in rural areas. Also, teenage pregnancy is more prevalent in the northern than southern parts of the country due to the prevalence of early marriages (Ashimolowo et al., 2017). According to the National Population Commission (2018), 23 percent of girls aged 15 to 19 have started childbearing. About 400,000 unplanned births occur annually in Nigeria, and half of these births are to teenage secondary school girls between the ages of 15 and 19. Similarly, UNFPA (2013) noted that the fertility rate of 102 live births per 1000 in 2020 was the highest in Africa, and the growing size of the youthful population is likely to escalate an already worsening situation of maternal and child health outcomes as a result of increased teenage pregnancies.

Factors Influencing the Prevalence of Teenage Pregnancy among Female Secondary School Students

Teenage pregnancy has become a public health issue because of its observed negative effects and causes on perinatal outcomes and long-term morbidity (Timbiri & Egbochukwu, 2023). The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy (2023) states that children from poor social environments are affected by a multitude of social factors, such as teenage pregnancies, community violence, gang activity involvement, coercion, a high rate of substance abuse, and social pressure, which increases the likelihood of the cycle of teenage pregnancy within families. Honig (2010) asserts that girls feel that they can only be accepted as women once they prove their fertility, thus self-affirmation.

According to Osulah (2017), early sexual ingress and premarital sex are increasingly common features of the female teenage years. For that reason, young adults are becoming sexually active at increasingly younger ages. Teenage pregnancies are commonly witnessed among girls from developing countries, whereby every year teens have children. It is from this view that teenage pregnancies are influenced by several factors, such as poverty, peer pressure, and the quest to feel (Kapileh, 2019). Similarly, Chen (2013) noted that the greater



occurrence of teenage pregnancy rates is commonly related to poverty. It is from this perspective that a large number of teenage school girls decide to be involved in relationships with older male folks so that they can offer them their needs as a sense of security.

Impacts of Teenage Pregnancy on the Academic Performance of Female Secondary School Students

Gyan (2013) asserted that teenage pregnancy has a lot of social impacts, which include: dropout or interrupted schooling, falling prey to criminal activity, abortion, ostracism, and child neglect; school adjustment difficulties for their children; adoption and lack of social security; poverty; repeated pregnancy; and negative effects on domestic life. Teenage mothers are usually constrained by pregnancy in such a way that they fail to participate in educational activities. More so, they fail to complete their schooling because they are overwhelmed with their academic work because they are mothers first and learners later (Eloudou-Enyegue, 2004). McCauley-Brown (2005) asserts that teenage mothers who experience difficulties at school have less motivation to stay in school. These challenges may be exacerbated because, as teenagers, the girls are in a crucial phase of their lives as they are experiencing the opportunities available in society (Barmao-Kiptanui, Kindiki, & Lelan, 2015).

According to Barmao-Kiptanui, Kindiki, and Lelan (2015), a pregnant schoolgirl meets with one of three outcomes: expulsion from school, re-entry, or continuation. Each of the three options that face the pregnant school girl has both principled and practical difficulties. According to Sedh et al. (2015), the impact of teenage pregnancy on academic performance has been extensively studied globally, with evidence of poor academic outcomes such as low grades, increased absenteeism, and higher rates of school dropout. In Nigeria, several studies have also shown a significant association between teenage pregnancy and poor academic performance (Adepoju et al., 2019).

Theoretical Framework

The functionalist perspective stands out as the most relevant in discussing the subject matter and was therefore adopted as the framework for this research paper. As provided by Auguste Comte, Herbert Spencer, Emile Durkheim, Robert Merton, and the father of modern functionalism in the 20th century, Talcott Parsons. The functionalist perspective states that the various societal components play different roles, and each part performs its role for the maintenance of the whole. Functionalism views teenage pregnancy as a product of dysfunctional social institutions that fail to fulfil their functions properly. For instance, it is the duty of the family and school as agents of socialisation to provide adequate



support and guidance to teenagers through teaching them the right way of life and societally approved values. In a situation where both institutions fail to perform their roles, chances are high that these teenagers will derail and start engaging in numerous deviant acts that can lead to teenage pregnancies.

Therefore, for the incessant rise in teenage pregnancy to reduce drastically, all hands must be on deck to provide needed support and guidance to female teenagers so as to see them become good ambassadors of society.

Research Methodology

The research design for this paper was a cross-sectional survey. The area of the study was Awka South Local Government Area, located in Anambra State, with its headquarters in Awka. Awka South has a land area of 10.95 square metres and experiences two distinct geographical seasons (the rainy and dry seasons), with an estimated total amount of precipitation of 2950mm. Nine towns make up the Awka South Local Government Area: Awka, Nibo, Nise, Isiagu, Mbaukwu, Okpuno, Ezinato, Umuawulu, and Amawbia. The indigenous people of Awka South are primarily of the Igbo ethnic group. Awka South, which is the local government that hosts the state capital city, Awka, the seat of government, has 18 public secondary schools.

Awka South Local Government Area is bounded to the north by Awka North Local Government Area, to the west by Njikoka Local Government Area, to the south by Anaocha Local Government Area, and to the east by Orumba North Local Government Area. A sample size of 200 respondents was adopted for the quantitative component of this study. The 18 public secondary schools in Awka South Local Government Area have a cumulative population of 11,266 secondary school students. However, the target population for this research paper was the senior secondary students, particularly senior secondary 1 and senior secondary 2 students of girls' secondary schools Amaenyi-Awka and Nneoma Community Secondary School Nibo. The population of the two secondary schools is 2,723 students (PPSC, 2023). The study participants, who are all female, have a total population of 1061. The choice of these study participants was considered most suitable because a teenager within 15–17 years of age is assumed to be knowledgeable about issues concerning teenage pregnancy and the impact on the academic performance of teenage mothers. The questionnaire and In-Depth Interview (IDI) guide were the instruments used for data collection. The questionnaire items were arranged thematically and meticulously in line with the research objectives, and they were both closed-ended and open-ended, aimed at gaining more insight into the issue under study. On the other hand, the in-depth interview guide was designed to gather relevant qualitative data from selected



respondents and also elucidate and support the findings from quantitative data. Finally, the quantitative data from the questionnaire was analysed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) software. The researcher made use of frequency distribution tables and percentages to present the data for easy understanding and clarity.

Data Presentation, Analysis and Findings

Table 1: Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

Variables	Frequency	Percent (100%)
Name of School		
Girls' Secondary School Awka	87	51.2
Nneoma Community Secondary School Nibo	83	48.8
Total	170	100.0
Class		
SS1	86	50.6
SS2	84	49.4
Total	170	100.0
Age		
15 – 17 years	170	100.0
Total	170	100.0
Religious Affiliation		
Christianity	155	91.2
Islam	1	0.6
African Traditional Religion	14	8.2
Total	170	100.0
Parents' Occupation		
Farmer	36	21.2
Trader	55	32.4
Civil servant	41	24.1
Artisan	20	11.7
Religious leader	11	6.5
Unemployed	7	4.1
Total	170	100.0
Parent's Monthly Income		
0–N50,000	60	35.3
N51,000–N100,000	14	8.2
N101,000–N150,000	42	24.7
N151,000 and above	54	31.8
Total	170	100.0

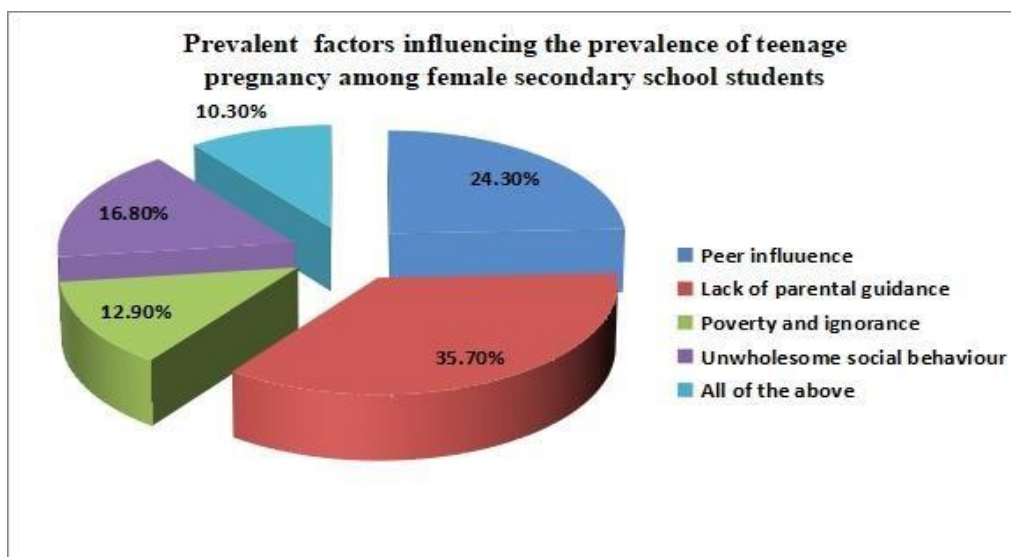
Field Survey, 2024

Table 1 show that 51.2% of the respondents are students of Girls Secondary School Awka while 48.8% of the respondents are students of Nneoma Community Secondary School Nibo. This indicates that most respondents that took part in this study are students of Girls Secondary School Awka. With regards to class, majority (50.6%) of the respondents are SS1 students while 49.4% are SS2 students. The column for age of the respondents revealed that many of the



respondents fall within the ages of 15–17. This implies that all the respondents that participated in this study are teenagers.

With regards to religious affiliation of the respondents, the result shows that 91.2% are Christians, 0.6% are Islamic followers whereas 8.2% of the respondents are worshippers of African Traditional Religion (ATR). This suggests that most residents of Southeast and Awka South LGA in particular are Christians. In terms of parents' occupation, 21.2% of the respondents are farmers, 32.4% of the respondents are traders, 24.1% are artisans, and 6.5% are religious leaders while 4.1% are unemployed. This indicates that majority of the respondents are traders. Furthermore, data analysis in table 1 shows that 35.3% of the respondents earn between 0–N50,000, 8.2% of the respondents earn between N51,000–N100,000, 24.7% earn between N101,000–N150,000 while 31.8% earn N151,000 and above. This implies that majority of the respondents have parents who are low income earners. It follows therefore that most teenagers that took part in this study are from relatively poor families.



Field Survey, 2024

Figure 1: Respondents' views on the most prevalent factor influencing the prevalence of teenage pregnancy among female secondary school students

With regards to various factors influencing the prevalence of teenage pregnancy among female secondary school students, figure 1 above shows that 24.30% of the respondents agreed that peer influence is one of these factors, 35.70% indicated lack of parental guidance, 12.90% noted that poverty and ignorance contribute to the high prevalence of teenage pregnancy among female secondary school students, 16.8% blamed teenage pregnancy on unwholesome social



behaviour while 10.3% indicated all of the above. This means that lack of parental guidance is the major factor influencing teenage pregnancy among female secondary school students in Awka South Local Government Area of Anambra State. This aligned with the qualitative data. According to one of the teachers interviewed during the field work:

There are many factors that influence the prevalence of teenage pregnancy among female secondary school students in Awka South LGA. Some of these factors include peer group pressure, the influence of social media and poor parenting which is also known as improper socialization of children (Male, Single, 30 years, Teacher, Nneoma Community Secondary School, Nibo).

Table 2: Respondents' views on the Impacts of Teenage Pregnancy on the Victim's Academic Performance

Responses	Frequency	Percent
Stigmatisation of the affected teenager	35	20.6
Suspension or expulsion from school	50	29.4
Missing classes	33	19.4
Repeating classes	15	8.8
Poor academic performance	37	21.8
Total	170	100.0

Field Survey, 2024

In terms of the impacts of teenage pregnancy, 20.6% of the respondents said that it leads to stigmatisation of the affected teenagers, 29.4% of the respondents opined that it leads to suspension or expulsion from school, 19.4% revealed that teenage pregnancy could force female students to miss classes, 8.8% of the respondents affirmed that it also leads to repeated classes while 21.8% believed that teenage pregnancy leads to poor academic performance among victims. This implies that female students with unplanned pregnancy are likely to be suspended or rusticated from school. This aligned with the qualitative data. One of the interviewees stated:

Teenage pregnancy affects the academic performance of students. It has forced many female students to drop out of school to take care of their unborn babies. Teenage pregnancy has limited, if not destroyed the destinies of many young girls in Awka South LGA (Female, Married, 36 years, Teacher, Girls' Secondary School, Awka).



Table 3: Respondents' views on Measures that will help to manage the High Incidence of Teenage Pregnancy among Female Secondary School Students

Responses	Frequency	Percent
-Development of effective measures to enhance the transition of teenage mothers from one class to another	32	18.8
-Provision of adequate counselling by both parents and teachers to teenagers on the dangers of teenage pregnancy	27	15.9
-Adequate sensitization of the effects of pregnancy on teenagers	39	22.9
-Introduction to contraception education in schools	21	12.4
-All of the above	51	30.0
Total	170	100.0

Field Survey, 2024

In terms of measures that will help to manage the high incidence of teenage pregnancy among female secondary school students, 18.8% of respondents suggested the development of effective measures to enhance the transition of teenage mothers from one class to another, 15.9% proposed the provision of adequate counselling by both parents and teachers to teenagers on the dangers of teenage pregnancy while 22.9% of the respondents recommended adequate sensitization campaigns on the effects of pregnancy on teenagers. Again, 12.4% of the respondents supported the introduction to contraception education in secondary schools while 30.0% indicated all of the above. This means that majority of the respondents opined that all the measures outlined above can help to manage or curb the current high rate of teenage pregnancy in Awka South LGA. This aligned with the qualitative data. One of the interviewees stated:

Policy makers should frequently organise awareness creation programmes to educate people on the dangers of teenage pregnancy to young girls and the society in general. Forms of such awareness programmes may include radio jingles and television series, social media content creation and sponsored community events amongst others (Male, Married, 45 years, Teacher, Girls' Secondary School, Awka).



Table 4: Relationship between Prevalence of Teenage Pregnancy and Location of Secondary Schools in Awka South Local Government Area

		In your opinion, do you think teenage pregnancy is more prevalent in rural secondary schools than urban secondary schools?							
		Responses							
		Yes	No	Don't know	Total	Chi square	Df	Sig.	
Prevalence of Teenage Pregnancy	Very often	38	11	5	54				
	Often	76	15	8	99	27.115	6	.001	
	Rare	5	4	3	12				
	None	5	0	0	5				
	Total	124	30	16	170				

The Chi-square test was run to determine whether teenage pregnancy is more prevalent in rural secondary schools than urban secondary schools in Awka South Local Government Area of Anambra State. Result of the test showed a statistically significant evidence to accept the stated alternate hypothesis, $X^2(6, 170) = 27.115, p = .001$. This implies that teenage pregnancy is more prevalent in rural secondary schools than urban secondary schools in Awka South Local Government Area. In other words, respondents living in rural areas are more vulnerable to teenage pregnancy than their counterparts living in urban areas of Awka South Local Government Area.

Table 5: LOCATION (Rural and Urban) and Prevalence Of Teenage Pregnancy (POT) Crosstabulation

		POT			Total
		DOK	NO	YES	
LOCATION N	Count	16	0	0	16
	Expected Count	1.5	2.8	11.7	16.0
	GSS (URBAN) Count	0	0	124	124
	Expected Count	11.7	21.9	90.4	124.0
	NNEOMA (RURAL) Count	0	30	0	30
	Expected Count	2.8	5.3	21.9	30.0
	Total Count	16	30	124	170
	Expected Count	16.0	30.0	124.0	170.0



Discussion of Findings

This research paper examined the impact of teenage pregnancy on the academic performance of female secondary school students in Awka South Local Government Area of Anambra State and the following results were found. It was found that there are many factors influencing the prevalence of teenage pregnancy among female secondary school students in Awka South LGA. Lack of parental guidance was found to be the major factor influencing the prevalence of teenage pregnancy among secondary school students. Other factors include peer influence, poverty, ignorance and unwholesome social behaviour. This agrees with the study by Adebola (2020) which found that lack of parental guidance, peer influence, hardship, and ignorance are the major factors influencing the prevalence of teenage pregnancy. In a related development, another study by Ashimolowo et al. (2017) reported that peer influence, poor parental supervision, ignorance and unprotected sexual encounters are some of the factors influencing the prevalence of teenage pregnancy among female secondary school students in Ejigbo Local Government Area of Osun State, Nigeria. Further findings revealed that many female teenagers experience the following emotions whenever unplanned pregnancy occurs: guilt, happy, depressed and scared. It was found that teenage pregnancy affects the academic performance of students. Again, it has a number of implications on female secondary school students namely: stigmatization, suspension or expulsion from school, missing classes and repeating classes. This agrees with the previous study by Amadi (2019) carried out in Obio Akpor LGA, Rivers State to examine the impacts of teenage pregnancy in the area. The study argued that teenage pregnancy could lead to negative outcomes such as withdrawal from school to avoid stigmatization, withdrawal from school as a result of financial implications, guilt, depression and suspension from school activities. In agreement, a similar study by Mbah (2016) argued that there is a positive connection between teenage pregnancy among female secondary school students and poor academic performance.

This research also found that there are many measures that could be put in place to reduce the incessant rise in the rate of teenage pregnancy in Awka South Local Government Area. These measures were found to include: development of effective measures to enhance the transition of teenage mothers from one class to another, provision of adequate counseling by both parents and teachers to teenagers on the dangers of teenage pregnancy, adequate sensitization of the effects of pregnancy on teenagers and introduction of contraception education in schools. This agrees with the study by Ojo and Ijabadeniyi (2021) which found that measures to curb teenage pregnancy among secondary school students should include: re-modernization of school curriculums, adequate sensitization and proper upbringing of children by parents and guardians. Concluding, the research hypothesis indicated that teenage pregnancy is more prevalent in rural secondary



schools than urban secondary schools in Awka South Local Government Area. In other words, respondents living in rural areas are more vulnerable to teenage pregnancy than their counterparts living in the urban areas of Awka South Local Government Area.

The findings in this study agreed with the theoretical framework adopted for this study. Functionalism was adopted as the theoretical framework for this study because it stands out as one of the most relevant theories reviewed in this study and was therefore adopted as the framework. As provided by functionalist theorists, various societal components play different roles, and each part performs its role for the maintenance of the whole. Hence, functionalism views teenage pregnancy as a product of dysfunctional social institutions that fail to fulfil their functions properly. For instance, it is the duty of the family and school as agents of socialisation to provide adequate support and guidance to teenagers through teaching them the right way of life and societal approved values. In a situation where both institutions fail to perform their roles, chances are high that these teenagers will derail and start engaging in unprotected sex and other risky sexual acts that may lead to teenage pregnancy.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Pregnancy is supposed to be a wonderful gift in the life of mothers because they enjoy every moment of holding their own children. It is supposed to bring about happiness and positive atmosphere among close relatives, friends and well-wishers. However, teenage pregnancy is considered a problem of immense proportion. Today, it is a burden to the underage child, her family and well-wishers. Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations were made to address the issue;

1. There is need to develop effective measures to enhance the transition of teenage mothers from one class to another in all the secondary schools in Awka South LGA.
2. There is need for the provision of adequate counselling by both parents and teachers to teenagers on the dangers of teenage pregnancy in Awka South LGA.
3. School proprietors should provide adequate sensitization of the effects of pregnancy on teenagers in Awka South LGA.
4. Curriculum planners should introduce contraception education in both public and private secondary schools in Awka South LGA of Anambra State.



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