

THE COURSES OF TEENAGE PREGNANCIES IN KONOIN SUB-COUNTY BOMET COUNTY, KENYA

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Abstract: The teenage pregnancies have become rampant in konoin sub-county and this has been caused by many reasons, the aim of this study was to identify the major courses of the teenage pregnancies in Konoin sub-county bomet county. It does appear however that many young girls indulge with unprotected sex which risk them of being pregnant In some cultures, customs and traditions lead to early marriage. In these cases, pregnancy is acceptable and is most often intentional.

Keywords: Pregnancy, Teenage, Social, Economic, Cultural.

1. INTRODUCTION

Background of the study

Teenage pregnancy is seen in many African cultures as a curse without considering the courses. When the victims are questioned they seem to have no otherwise but to have sexual intercourse as the solution to their current problems. The major courses of teenage pregnancies especially in Konoin sub-county are: social factors, economic factor, and cultural factors among others. Many research has been carried out on the courses but the findings seem the same and the question remains why then researchers conduct research without first implementing the findings, this deem to be hard simply because the act of sex depend on individual decisions to do it or not to do it, this therefore made me to conduct this research by meeting individual victims and their friends. This research will add up the existing pool of research for the eradication of teenage pregnancy.

2. THE COURSES OF TEENAGE PREGNANCIES

1. Social factors

Many a times family members distance themselves from the young girls by the name of being busy in their work places this give chance to idle men to approach the girls and since the girls have not been train on sex issues they end up having un protected sex which risk them of becoming pregnant.

Peer pressure is also among the social factors that contribute to early pregnancies among the teenagers. Many of them have the boy friends and when they are having the girl talks they only discuss hove good to have a boyfriend being a sex partner and by so others who don't have the partners get encouraged to have them just like the friends. This can be called impulse sexing which definitely make them pregnant.

Media Influence

The media has a large effect on teen pregnancy, especially shows such as "Teen Mom" and "16 and Pregnant". These shows often glamorize pregnancy and hide the true hardships associated with pregnancy which encourages these teens to become pregnant. Some teenage females become pregnant just so they are able to drop out of high school or to force their partners into a deeper commitment. Rebellion is also another reason why some teens will become pregnant. In order to show their independence and deem themselves as having more control over their lives, a teen may decide to have a child. These television glorify the idea of having a child through the promotion of these teenagers having a more adult lifestyle, with more responsibility and decision-making power.

2. Economic factors

Many girls are influenced by money to give in for sex this is because their families are not in the position of providing for them according to their needs and so they seek refuge from other able people who only ask for sex with the exchange of money and also for other material things that a family can not afford.

Low literacy, which makes the girls have limited exposure to contraceptives. A study by Population Council (2015) reveals that there are still prevailing myths about contraceptives where even those girls who know about them fear consequences such as "you can give birth to an animal", "your child will be born looking weird", "Condoms go all the way up into the stomach and don't come out."

Poverty, which drive young girls to work as sex entertainers to earn a living and are therefore easily lured into accepting payments either in cash or kind (food, clothing, electronics, etc) for sex without protection leading to pregnancies according to the Kenya Human Development Report 2013,

3. Cultural factors

Most of the cultural practices in Konoin sub-county majority of the habitants being kipsigis usually allow the girl child and the boy child to sleep in the same room even when they are 10years and above, this adolescence age is critical because every kid what to discover why a girl or a boy have what they have and also what to know the use of those organs. Because sexual organs are sensitive they enjoy touching them and by so doing they end up having sex and finally early pregnancies.

Cultural night dances also contributes a lot since the same teenagers who have little or no knowledge on sex can get time to interact with other people who might be having intentions of only exploiting them sexually which leads to early pregnancies because of unprotected sex.

3. CONCLUSION

The increase in the number of teenage pregnancies is causing great concern and is becoming a critical issue. This situation requires the urgent attention of every section of society in order to prevent family life from disintegrating completely.

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