

AKSU Journal of Social Sciences (AKSUJOSS)
ISSN: 2504 – 933X
Vol.5,No.2 (April) 2025,pp.98-110
DOI: https://doi.org/10.61090/aksujoss.2025.007
URL: htpp://www.aksujournal.com/vol.5.2

Received: **November 28, 2024**
Accepted: March 6, 2025
Published online: **April 5, 2025**

Determinants and Consequences of Teenage Pregnancy in Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria

Inimfon Joseph Ottong
Department of Sociology and Anthropology
Akwa Ibom State University, Obio Akpa Campus, Nigeria.
inimfonottong@aksu.edu.ng

Wisdom Matthew Akpan
Department of Sociology and Anthropology
Akwa Ibom State University, Obio Akpa Campus, Nigeria.
wisdomakpan@aksu.edu.ng

Chanda Chansa Thelma
Department of Humanities and Social Sciences,
Chreso University, Lusaka, Zambia.
tchanda@chresouniversity.edu.zm

Edidiong Anthony Ekoriko
Department of Sociology and Anthropology
Akwa Ibom State University, Obio Akpa Campus, Nigeria.
edidiongekoriko@aksu.edu.ng

Mfon Effiong Asuquo
Department of Sociology and Anthropology
Akwa Ibom State University, Obio Akpa Campus, Nigeria.
mfonasuquo@aksu.edu.ng

Abstract

Teenage pregnancy is the occurrence of pregnancy in girls below twenty years, it is a social and public health issue that denies girls the opportunity to complete education and acquire human capital skills needed for gainful employment in the labour market and decision-making on key issues of development. It is a leading cause of mortality among adolescent girls and it affects the current and future socio-economic well-being of pregnant teens. Previous studies on teenage pregnancy treated teenage pregnancy as purely a public health issue thereby largely focusing on the health implications of teen pregnancy. This study therefore examined the determinants and the consequences of teenage pregnancy, and to achieve this purpose, the study adopted the

Sexual risk and protective factors theory as its theoretical underpinning, an online survey was conducted using Google Docs and 340 questionnaires were administered. Univariate (mean and standard deviation) and bivariate analyses (Pearson correlation P≤0.05) were done on the data collected. The study found that poor parenting style and inadequate/ lack of access to sex education were factors that determine teenage pregnancy in Akwa Ibom State. School abandonment was found to be a consequence of teenage pregnancy. The study recommends that before sexual debut, students should have access to sex education and that parents should provide the best parenting style to complement the efforts of the school counsellors.

Keywords: Teenagers**,** pregnancy, sex education, parenting style, sexual debut.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

In a typical African society, pregnancy and childbirth are celebrated issues, however, when a teenager becomes pregnant the case is not usually the same, in such instances, it becomes a social and public health problem that affects not only the pregnant teen but the society at large as it is associated with high maternal and child morbidity and mortality which affects the socio-economic development of a country. Teenage is a period where teenagers are expected to acquire the education and skills needed for future growth, yet, on the contrary, many teenage girls engage in premarital sex, which exposes them to teenage pregnancy (Umeano, 2003; Alabi & Oni 2017). The world has come to recognize that teenage pregnancy is a global issue that affects the current and future socio-economic well-being of women and consequently, reducing the high rate of adolescent pregnancy and maternal mortality is considered an imperative for sustainable development discourse This is evident in Sustainable Development Goals three (SDG), target 3.1 and 3.7 seeking to (Kassa, Arowojolu, Odukogbe & Yalew, 2018; WHO 2024).

Globally, teenage pregnancy is one of the leading causes of school abandonment by girls, World Health Organization (2014), and it is also reported by (WHO 2017) to be the leading cause of mortality among adolescents. According to Holmes (2015), adolescents account for 16million out of 300 million births worldwide. The global adolescent birth rate has declined from 65 births per 1000 women in 1990 to 47 births per 1000 women in 2015, Mkwananzi & Odimegwu, (2016) and 64.5 births per 1000 women (15–19 years) in 2000 to 41.3 births per 1000 women in 2023 (WHO 2024). Despite the overall progress, projections indicate the number of adolescent pregnancies will increase globally by 2030, with the greatest proportional increases in West and Central Africa and Eastern and Southern Africa, (WHO, 2017).In 2021, Nigeria's adolescent pregnancy rate was 106 per 1000 and this showed an increasing rate despite in global decline (Alukagberie, Elmusharaf, Ibrahim, Poix, 2023).

Globally statistic reveals that in 2022, an estimated 13% of adolescent girls and young women give birth before age 18 (UNICEF, 2024) and every year, an estimated 21 million girls aged 15 to 19 years, (2024) and 1 million girls below 15 years become pregnant, (WHO, 2017)of which approximately 50% were unplanned and which resulted in an estimated 12 million births (WHO 2024).Sedgh, (2015) discovered that low and middle-income countries have the highest rates of adolescent pregnancies. The proportion of adolescent pregnancy and childbirth ranged from 2% in China to 18% in Latin America and the Caribbean, to more than 50% in sub-Saharan Africa (WHO, 2017).African countries lead the world in teen pregnancies, (Geda, 2019).Across sub-Saharan Africa, it is estimated that 14 million unintended pregnancies occur every year, with almost half occurring among women aged 15-19 (WHO, 2017) and each year, births to adolescent girls aged 15 to 19 years account for 16% of all births in sub-Saharan Africa,(Geda, 2019). In Nigeria, one in five teenage girls aged 15-19 are already mothers or pregnant (NDHS, 2018). Giving birth as a teenager leads to having more children compared to women who start childbearing after their teenage years. The outcome of such a phenomenon contributes to high population growth.

As reported by several scholars, teenage pregnancy and sexual harassment in schools (UNICEF, 2019; Akpan, Ekoriko, Ekanem&Ottong, 2023), deny girls the opportunity to complete education and acquire human capital skills critical for gainful employment in the labour market and decision-making on key issues of development. Given the absence of welfare benefits and child support in Nigeria, teenage pregnancy leads to increased dependency which

perpetuates poverty and the low status of women. More than 70,000 adolescent girls die every year because of pregnancy-related complications mainly in developing countries (Akpor& Thupayagale-Tshweneagae, 2019). According to WHO, (2024), pregnancy and childbearing in adolescence contribute to increased risks of maternal mortality and morbidity such as eclampsia, puerperal endometritisetc, children born to adolescent mothers are more susceptible to premature birth, low birth weight, and other adverse birth outcomes. Klein, Barratt & Blythe (2005), revealed that about 90% of pregnancies to teenage girls are unwanted which is confirmed by the excessive number of pregnancy terminations occurring in this age cluster.Based on 2019 data, 55% of unintended pregnancies among adolescent girls aged 15–19 years end in abortions, which are often unsafe in LMICs (WHO, 2024).

However, pregnancy among teenagers has been reported by pieces of literature such as Chanda, (2023) to have implications on the development, educational opportunity, population growth and health of women. For this reason, the reduction of adolescent pregnancy has long been the focus of attention by several governmental and non-governmental organizations. Education is one of the strongest predictors of health status; the more education people have the better their health is expected to be (Freudenbeg & Ruglism, 2017) and the longer their life expectancy (Economist Intelligence Unit, 2012). Pregnancy among school-age girls as noted in many countries of the region, has come to destroy the gains that have been made over the years, (Grant &Hallman 2006). Klepinger, Lundberg & Plotnick, (2015) in a study of high school students found that "early childbearing lowers the educational attainment of young women.

Different researchers have identified different determinants of teenage pregnancy: like not living with parents, low socioeconomic status, early sexual intercourse and low level of contraception knowledge. The declining age at menarche and better nutrition and healthier lifestyles of younger generations are reported as factors for the high rate of adolescent pregnancy globally, (Geda, 2019). Research shows that the majority of teenage pregnancies are not planned, and they affect the mother's educational attainment and her child in terms negative life chances. Teenage pregnancy has no lone or simple cause; its connected factors are multifaceted. The various factors include poor socioeconomic background, lack of parental control, alcohol and substance use, low level of education, increase in domestic and sexual violence, peer pressure, early marriages, practices, beliefs, religion, the unwelcome attitude of health workers, lack of access to contraceptives/ family planning services, lack of sex education and early age at menarche (Amuah, 2009).

In several kinds of literature, teenage pregnancy has been attributed to various factors including early menarche, early marriage, social permissiveness (favouring early exposure to casual sexual activity), unmet needs for contraceptives, maternal deprivation and pre-existing psychosocial problems in the family, Onwubuariri & Kasso, (2020). The overpowering effect of the partners, inadequate parental support, single-parenting or lazier-faire parenting style, lack of education, poor socioeconomic background, unemployment and the general non-functioning family unit could also contribute, (Oni, 2017). In many developing countries, lack of resources makes contraception and reproductive advice inaccessible and this situation may be exacerbated by religious beliefs that disapprove of artificial birth control methods. As a result, many adolescents both married and unmarried would find it difficult to locate or even seek help about sexual matters, (Onwubuariri*et al.*, 2020). Were, (2007) suggests the problem of teenage pregnancy should be viewed within the broader socio-economic and socio-cultural environment

in which the adolescent operates. These factors can therefore be grouped under four main headings namely social, economic, cultural and programmatic or health service factors.

The social determinants of teenage pregnancy may include lack of parental control, increase in domestic and sexual violence, poor educational attainment, peer pressure, high alcohol intake and increase in social events (funerals and festivals). Economic factors may include occupation and level of income. Issues relating to programmatic factors may include health service factors such as attitude of health workers, working environment, lack of sex education and lack of access to family planning services. Cultural factors which may contribute to teenage pregnancy are age at menarche, beliefs, practices, religion and early marriages. Furthermore, few counselling facilities offer sexual counselling to teens, especially in this part of the world where the common belief is that sexual activities should be kept secret and in a culture where chastity is celebrated (Onwubuariri*et al.*, 2020). In such cultures, sexual matters are considered top secrets and discussion of such is not encouraged, this often implies secret childbirth, and unsafe abortions these indicate the need for comprehensive sex education to address teenage pregnancy, (Chanda, Mwansa, Zohaib, Edwin, Derick &Akpan, 2024). These are duties of school counsellors and in Nigeria, most schools lack counsellors that could readily offer sexual education/ counselling to teenagers.

Several studies have been done on teenage pregnancy. However, there is a paucity of literature in Akwa Ibom State, a typical African society where the issue of sex is best considered private and such topics are usually not discussed between adults and teens. Also in a time of increasing demand for commercial sex even among adolescent girls, inadequate parental support, lack or inadequate access to sex education and the changing aspirations of young girls, Understanding the determinants of teenage pregnancy among girls in Akwa Ibom State will help in curbing the menace. Considering that factors which contribute to teenage pregnancy rates in Akwa Ibom State are many and varied just like its consequences may vary across regions and cultures, the study therefore sets out to examine lack/inadequate sex education and parenting style as factors that determinants of teenage pregnancy among girls and to explore school abandonment is a consequence of teenage pregnancy in Akwa Ibom State. The study seeks to investigate the factors that determine teenage pregnancy and the consequences of such pregnancy on teenage girls in Akwa Ibom state.

2. EMPIRICAL REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Akpan et al (2024) studied the Determinants and Consequences of Teenage Pregnancy Among Girls in AkwaIbom State, Nigeria. Data were analyzed using simple percentages and chi-square $P \leq 0.05$. The study found that students have poor perception and negative attitudes toward sexual harassment and these are risk factors of sexual harassment. The study recommends that students develop and maintain a positive perception and attitude to help them avoid being sexually harassed. Students should report any case of sexual harassment in school and such complaints should be made to people in authority not just to friends and fellow students.

Similarly, Chanda et al (2024) in the study Sexuality education: a tool to reducing teenage pregnancy rates employed a mixed-methods approach combining quantitative and qualitative methods. The population sampled 250 respondents, consisting of head teachers, teachers, pupils, and community members from 5 selected secondary schools in the Lusaka district of Zambia implementing sexuality education programs. The findings indicated that well-implemented

sexuality education programs can significantly lower teenage pregnancy rates. These programs help dispel myths and misconceptions about sex, promote healthy attitudes, and foster open communication between adolescents and their peers, parents, and educators. Additionally, CSE programs that address gender equality and power dynamics can help young people develop respectful and consensual relationships, further contributing to the prevention of teenage pregnancies. The study recommended that young people with the information and skills they need to make informed decisions about their sexual health, CSE programs can help prevent unintended pregnancies and support the overall well-being of adolescents.

Interestingly, Chanda et al (2023) had earlier discovered in the work effects of teenage pregnancy among female learners: a case study of selected secondary schools in Zambia used a mixed methods approach which is a combination of quantitative and qualitative data. The findings indicated that due to teenage pregnancies, there were high levels of school dropout rates among female learners. Also, the study revealed that poverty, lack of education, lack of information about sexual and reproductive health, child marriages, sexual violence and drug abuse among others, resulted in teenage pregnancies in Kapiri Mposhi district.

Kassa et al (2018) in the study of prevalence and determinants of adolescent pregnancy in Africa used a systematic review and meta-analysis of published and unpublished studies in Africa. Data were extracted using the Joanna Briggs Institute tool for prevalence studies. This review found that the overall pooled prevalence of adolescent pregnancy in Africa was 18.8% (95%CI: 16.7, 20.9) and 19.3% (95%CI, 16.9, 21.6) in the Sub-Saharan African region. The prevalence was highest in East Africa (21.5%) and lowest in Northern Africa (9.2%). Factors associated with adolescent pregnancy include rural residence (OR: 2.04), ever married (OR: 20.67), not attending school (OR: 2.49), no maternal education (OR: 1.88), no father's education (OR: 1.65), and lack of parent to adolescent communication on sexual and reproductive health (SRH) issues (OR: 2.88). The study recommended targeted interventions by the government to reduce adolescent pregnancy.

Despite the increased empirical efforts on teenage and adolescent pregnancy there appears to be a dearth of information in localized studies on teenage pregnancy in Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria compared to what is available in the national. This study extends the body of literature by seeking to shed more light on the determinants and consequences of teenage pregnancy.

3. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This paper utilized the Sexual Risk and Protective Factors theory by Douglas Kirby and Gina Lepor (2007). Theory addressed two primary questions: factors influencing adolescents' decisions about sex and which of the stated factors could be altered.On the factors influencing teenagers about sex, the risk factors and protective factors were discussed. Risk factors are those things that encourage behaviors that could lead to teenage pregnancy or equally, things that could discourage the behaviors to prevent teenage pregnancy. Protective factors are the things that discourage behaviors that could lead to teenage pregnancy as well as the things that encourage behaviors that prevent teenage pregnancy. Therefore, as risk factors increase in a teenage person, there would be a reduction in the protective factors of such teenagers and vice versa. Risk factors and Protective factors include the characteristics of teens' families, peers and friends, romantic partners, communities, states and even the teenagers themselves. Applying the

sexual risk and protective factor theory to teenage pregnancy involves identifying how various risk and protective factors influence both the likelihood of teenage pregnancy and its outcomes.

The theory identified the sexual risk factors to be factors such as inadequate sexual education, early initiation of sexual activity, substance abuse, peer influence and social norms. When teenagers receive insufficient or inaccurate information about sexual health, contraception, and STI prevention; teens who begin sexual activity at a young age; use of drugs or alcohol can impair judgment and decision-making, leading to an increased likelihood of engaging in unprotected sex and higher rates of teenage pregnancy or if a teen's peer group or community normalizes early sexual activity. These factors increase the likelihood of unintended pregnancies and the risk of teenage pregnancy increases. Comprehensive sexual education, open parent-teen communication, supportive peer groups, and access to healthcare services thorough, evidence-based sexual education helps teenagers. When parents engage in open, honest discussions about sexual health, teenagers are better equipped to make informed decisions. The availability of reproductive health services, including contraception and counselling, provides teens with the means to prevent pregnancy and receive guidance on sexual health. Being part of a peer group that promotes healthy sexual behaviours and provides positive reinforcement can act as a protective factor against teenage pregnancy. The theory identifies the consequences of teenage pregnancy such as sexual risk factors, sexual protective factors, challenges of strong social support networks, and lack of continued education and career support.

4. METHODOLOGY

The descriptive cross-sectional survey design was adopted for the study. The research study was conducted within the confines of Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. The population of this study were female residents in Akwa Ibom State. It comprises both indigene and non-indigene. The rationale for choosing female was because the study seeks to know the determining factors and the consequences of teenage pregnancy and it is only females that get pregnant. However, the total number of women living in Akwa Ibom State at the time of the study was unknown. Therefore, Cochran's formula for calculating an infinite population was used to calculate the sample size which was 384 respondents, however, during data sorting, only 340 questionnaires were correctly filled as used for analysis of the study. The sampling of the study population was achieved through convenience sampling. An online questionnaire hosted by Google Docs was shared on the different platforms were girls in Akwa Ibom State could access. The questionnaire was a structured questionnaire with close-ended questions. The questionnaire was constructed to provide answers to the research objectives of this study. The data generated for the study from the questionnaire were subjected to statistical analysis, the analysis involved the use of bivariate analysis. Descriptive statistics of mean score was used to show the mean response while correlation analysis was used to show the determining factors and the consequences of teenage pregnancy.

5. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS OF FINDINGS

RESULTS

Table 1 reveals the mean response on parenting style as a determinant of teenage pregnancy in AkwaIbom State. In Table 1, it is shown that not being mindful of teenagers' activities is at a higher risk (3.41) of exposing teenage girls to pregnancy, while a lack of quality time between parents and teenagers is less likely (3.11) to determine teenage pregnancy.

Table 1 Parenting style and teenage pregnancy among school girls in AkwaIbom State (N=340)

SN	Questions	SA	A	SD	D	Mean	Standard Deviation	Remarks
1	Teenage girls are becoming pregnant, as their parents are not mindful of their activities.	178	131	23	8	3.41	.721	Agreed
2	Teenage pregnancy among girls is a result of living with only one parent.	143	177	11	9	3.33	0.673	Agreed
3	Lack of quality time between teenagers and parents is a factor that determines teenage pregnancy.	96	205	18	21	3.11	0.757	Agreed
4	Teenagers get pregnant because their parents do not provide them with basic needs.	167	123	21	29	3.26	0.911	Agreed
	Total	**584**	**636**	**73**	**67**			**1360**

Source: Field Survey 2023

Table 2 reveals the mean response to questions on access to sex education as a determinant of teenage pregnancy among girls in AkwaIbom State. In Table 2, it is shown that on average, it is more likely (3.42) that some pregnant teenagers would not have gotten pregnant if they had gotten early sex education from their parents. While lack of sex education is less likely (3.32) to result in teen pregnancy on sexual debut.

Table 2 Response on lack of access to sex education as a determinant of teenage pregnancy among girls in AkwaIbom State (N=340)

SN	Questions	SA	A	SD	D	Mean	Standard Deviation	Remarks
5	Schools do not have any forum where teenagers are educated on sex and this results in teenage pregnancy.	175	137	11	17	3.38	0.776	Agreed

6	Some pregnant teenagers would not have gotten pregnant if they had gotten early sex education	168	156	8	8	3.42	0.659	Agreed
7	Teenage pregnancy would be reduced if school counsellors offered sexual education to teenagers.	166	143	20	11	3.36	0.738	Agreed
8	Lack of sex education in health facilities is likely to result in teen pregnancy.	169	127	27	17	3.32	0.832	Agreed
	Total	**678**	**563**	**66**	**63**			**1360**

Source: Field Survey 2023

In Table 3, it is shown that teenagers are more likely (3.64) to abandon school because they feel it is not appropriate to still come to school while pregnant as a teenager, while it was also revealed that teenagers are less likely (3.31) to stay away from school in search of financial resource to carter for the pregnancy which is not readily available in schools**.**

Table 3 School abandonment as a consequence of teenage pregnancy among girls in Akwa Ibom State (340)

SN	Questions	SA	A	SD	D	Mean	Standard Deviation	Remarks
13	Once a teen is pregnant, the pregnant teen abandons school.	196	91	31	22	3.36	0.896	Agreed
14	Pregnant teens abandon school because of shame.	209	101	21	9	3.50	0.731	Agreed
15	Once a teen is pregnant, she goes in search of financial resources to carter for the pregnancy which are not readily available in schools.	177	122	11	30	3.31	0.901	Agreed
16	It is not appropriate to still come to school while pregnant as a teenager.	245	77	9	9	3.64	0.666	Agreed
	Total	**827**	**391**	**72**	**70**			**1360**

Source: Field Survey 2023

Correlational Analysis

Table 4. Correlation table to determine the relationship between parenting style and teenage pregnancy

		Teenage Pregnancy
Parenting Style	Pearson correlation	0818
	Sig. (2 tailed)	0.000
	N	340

Source: Field Survey 2023

Here is a univariate analysis of parenting style and teenage pregnancy, the study found that there is a significant relationship between parenting style and teenage pregnancy of girls in AkwaIbom State.

Table 5 Correlation table to determine the relationship between inadequate access to sex education and teenage pregnancy

The study found that there is a significant relationship between access to sex education and teenage pregnancy among school girls in Akwa Ibom State.

		Teenage pregnancy
Inadequate access to sex education	Pearson correlation	0837
	Sig. (2 tailed)	0.000
	N	340

Source: Field Survey 2023

Table 6 Correlation table showing school abandonment as a consequence of teenage pregnancy

		Teenage pregnancy
School abandonment	Pearson correlation	0810
	Sig. (2 tailed)	0.000
	N	340

Source: Field Survey 2023

DISCUSSIONS OF FINDING

The discussion of the findings of this paper is based on the objectives of the study,

To determine if there is relationship between parenting style and teenage pregnancy among girls in Akwa Ibom State

The study found a positive relationship between parenting style and teenage pregnancy, that is to say, parenting style is a determinant of teenage pregnancy among girls in AkwaIbom State. The findings of this study align with previous findings (Oni, 2017) which reported parenting style as a determining factor of teenage pregnancy. This finding is true because teenagers whose parents are not mindful of their social activities are likely to keep unhealthy relationshipsand engage in unprotected sexual relations that may lead to teenage pregnancy. For teenagers who are staying with only one parent, the single parent is likely to be less concerned about the discipline of the teenager or not even being able to provide for some of the teenager's basic needs which may lead the teenager to engage in transactional sex thereby resulting in teenage pregnancy.

Parental rejection, or a lack of warmth, affection, or love, also leads adolescents to seek relationships outside the family to boost their self-esteem (Loto, O. and Isuku, 2016). However, strong family relationships and two-parent families have been found to lower the incidence of adolescent pregnancy Loto, O. and Isuku, (2016). Hymowitz (1997); Loto, O. and Isuku, (2016) claimed that parental influence was the most significant variable in adolescent pregnancy prevention.

Identify the relationship between access to sex education and teenage pregnancy among school girls in Akwa Ibom State

The study identified inadequate or lack of access to sex education as a determining factor of teenage pregnancy, this finding is in line with the findings of (Amuah, 2009) which reported that lack of sex education is a determinant of teenage pregnancy. Access to sex education a necessary for teenagers because sex education will open their minds to the knowledge of many sexual and health-related topics which will be of immense benefit to the teenager's sexual and health life. Sex education may debunk some of the fallacious beliefs commonly held by teenagers for example that for a girl to avoid someone to be able to give birth she needs to engage in sex from a young age.

Furthermore, being knowledgeable about sexual activities will enable the teenager to know the “dos and don’ts” of a sexual relationship. In other words, doing what is right and avoiding what is wrong will enable the teenager to avoid getting pregnant. During sex education, broad sexual topics are being discussed such as safe sex, contraception, adult relationships, menarche, menopause, pregnancy etc., and most of these topics are topics that teenagers should have a good knowledge of before their sexual debut else they make sexual debut with no or sometimes falls knowledge about most of those topics and with no knowledge about sex, most of this topics the teenagers are bound to learn on the sexual process which is a risk factor for teen pregnancy.

More so, most times the little knowledge most teenagers have on sexual issuesis always gotten from peers not from proper sex educators like counsellors and parents and in some cases the knowledge gotten from fellow teens can be detrimental to the teenager's health and sexual life. It is therefore essential that teenagers have access to sex education if there is to be a

reduction in teenage pregnancy. According to Chanda *et al.*,(2024), sexuality education plays an important role in the reduction of teen pregnancy as it provides teens with accurate information on sexual health. When a teen is properly informed through comprehensive sex education, she can make informed decisions on her sexual behaviour.

Discussions of findings on school abandonment as a consequence of teenage pregnancy among school girls in Akwa Ibom State.

The study through its findings ascertained that school abandonment is a consequence of teenage which is determined by parenting style and lack of access to sex education. This research finding supports the previous finding by WHO, (2014) and Geda, (2018) which reported that teenage pregnancy causes school abandonment by teenage girls. When a teenage girl becomes pregnant she is likely to abandon school either due to shame, financial need or any other reason and this abrupt ending of educational pursuit leads to low educational attainment by girls thereby driving away the gains that come with educational attainment. This could partly explain the decline in completion rate from 68% to 54 % for secondary school students (UNICEF, 2023)

Teenage pregnancy denies girls the opportunity to complete education and acquire human capital skills critical for gainful employment in the labour market and decision-making on key issues of development. The benefits and gains that come with educational attainment cannot be over-emphasized because education is a necessary factor for the empowerment of women. So the abandonment of school by women leadsto the low empowerment of women. WHO, (2014) reported that teenage pregnancy is one of the causes of school abandonment by girls and as such, teenage mothers may lack the skills necessary for work, making it difficult for them to find and maintain a career and establish their source of income (Chakole, Akre, Sharma, Wasnik & Wanjari, 2022).

6 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Knowing that teenage pregnancy is still a serious issue among teenage girls, one that denies girls the opportunity to complete their education and acquire skills necessary for future development and despite efforts the menace still prevails in society, therefore this study was aimed at identifying the determinants and consequences of teenage pregnancy in AkwaIbom State. The study found and concluded that parenting style and lack of access to sex education are factors that determine teenage pregnancy and that when a teenager is pregnant, the consequence is that she is likely to abandon school – if parents exhibit poor parenting style and if teenage do not have access to sex education she is likely to become pregnant. The study also concluded that school abandonment is a consequence of teenage pregnancy in AkwaIbom State.

Based on the findings, the study recommends that Parents should provide the best parenting by ensuring to provide the child's basic needs and pay critical attention to the child's activities. Parents should try to spend quality time with their children and avoid children being raised by a single parent so that in situations where one parent is found wanting the other could cover up. Schools and even communities should have forums where sexual education is being taught to avoid teenage girls getting knowledge of sexual issues from peers and other uncensored sources. School counsellors should offer sexual education to students in the school environment. Teenagers should be counselled to refrain from sexual relationships at teenage age, especially when do not have a good sexual education because it may likely result in pregnancy. Schools,

communities and churches should once in a while organize symposiums where teenagers will be taught about the implications of teenage pregnancy.

REFERENCES

Akpan, W. M. Ekoriko, E. A., Ekanem A.E. &Ottong, I. J. (2024). Attitude and Perception as Associated Risk Factors of Sexual Harassment of Secondary School Girls in Abak L.G.A, Akwa Ibom State. *African Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities Research 7*(1), 174-184. DOI: 10.52589/AJSSHR-BFL1J7YK

Akpor, O., &Thupayagale-Tshweneagae, G. (2019). Teenage pregnancy in Nigeria: professional nurses and educators' perspectives. *F1000Research 8*, 31-34 doi.org/10.12688/f1000research.16893.1

Alabi, O., & Oni, I. (2017). Teenage pregnancy in Nigeria: causes, effect and control. *International journal of academic research in business and social sciences, 7*(2). doi.org/10.6007/IJARBSS/v7-i2/2610

Alukagberie, M., Elmusharaf, K., Ibrahim, N., Poix, S. (2023). Factors associated with adolescent pregnancy and public health interventions to address in Nigeria: a scoping review.*Reprod Health. 20*(1):95. doi: 10.1186/s12978-023-01629-5

Amuah, P. (2009). The determinants of teenage pregnancy at Kpone-on-sea. University of Ghana http://ugspace.ug.edu.gh

Chakole S, Akre S, Sharma K, Wasnik P & Wanjari, M.(2022) Unwanted Teenage Pregnancy and Its Complications: A Narrative Review. *Cureus14*(12): e32662. doi:10.7759/cureus.32662

Chanda, C. T. (2023), effects of teenage pregnancy among female learners: a case of selected secondary school in Kapiri Mposhi district of central Province, Zambia. International Journal of Science and Research Archives 10(1), 272-280 DOI: https://doi.org/10.30574/ijsra.2023.10.1.0740

Chanda, C., Mwansa, P., Zohaib, H., Phiri, V., Madoda, E. &Akpan, W. (2024). Sexuality education: A tool to reducing teenage pregnancy rates. *World Journal of Advanced Research and Reviews,23*(02), 491–501. e DOI: https://doi.org/10.30574/wjarr.2024.23.2.2393

Economist Intelligence Unit (2012). The learning curve report: lessons in country performance in education. London: Pearson PLC.

Freudenberg, N., &Ruglis, J. (2007). Reframing school dropout as a public health issue. *Journal of Prevention Chronic Disease: Public Health Research, Practice and Policy 4.* Available at http://www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2007/oct/07_0063.html.

Geda,Y. (2019). Determinants of teenage pregnancy in Ethiopia: A case–control study. *Curr Med Issues*, *17*(3). doi: 10.4103/cmi.cmi_12_19

Grant, M., & Hallman, K. (2006). Pregnancy-related school dropout and prior school performance in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. *Studies in Family Planning, 39*(4), 369-382.

Holmes, N. (2015). A global perspective on adolescent pregnancy. *Int J NursPract, 21*, 677- 681.

Kassa, G., Arowojolu, A., Odukogbe, A., &Yalew, A. (2018). Prevalence and determinants of adolescent pregnancy in Africa: a systematic review and Meta-analysis. *Reproductive health,15*,195. doi.org/10.1186/s12978-018- 0640-2

Kirby, D., &Lepore, G. (2007). Sexual risk and protective factors. Factors affecting teen sexual behavior, pregnancy, childbearing and sexually transmitted diseases: which are important? which can you change?

Klein, J., Barratt, M., & Blythe, M. (2005). Adolescent pregnancy: current trends and issues. *Pediatrics*, *116*, 281.

Klepinger, D., Lundberg, S., &Plotnick, R. (2015). Adolescent fertility and the educational attainment of young women. *Family planning perspectives*, *27*, 23-28.

Loto, O. and Isuku, E.J (2016). Parental Factors and Teenage Pregnancy among Adolescent Girls in Secondary Schools in Ibadan Metropolis *International Journal of Educational Administration, Planning and Research* Vol. 8, No. 2; 28 – 2451

Mkwananzi, S., & Odimegwu, C. (2019). Teen pregnancy in sub-saharanafrica: the application of social disorganization theory; 2015. *Asian Journal of Medicine and health, 17*(3) 1-5. doi:10.10.1016/j. evohumbehav.1016.01.001

Onwubuariri, M. & Kasso, T. (2020). Teenage pregnancy: prevalence, pattern and predisposing factors in a tertiary hospital, southern Nigeria.

Sedgh, G. (2015). Adolescent pregnancy, birth, and abortion rates across countries: Levels and recent trends. *J Adolesc Health, 56*(2), 223.

United Nation Children Educational Funds UNICEF (2023). Nigeria Education Fact Sheet 2023

UNICEF (2024) Early childbearing. Available at https://data.unicef.org/topic/child-health/adolescent-health/

Were, M. 2007. Determinants of teenage pregnancies: the case of Busia District in Kenya, *Econ and Hum Bio, 5*, 322-339. doi:10.1016/j.ehb.2007.03.005

World Health Organization WHO. (2008b). MPS Notrs on Adolescent Pregnancy. Geneva: Department of Making Pregnancy Safer. 1 (1). Retrieved on 10th December 2023

World Health Organization (2017) Adolescent pregnancy. Media Centre.

World Health Organization (2024) Adolescent pregnancy.Accessed at www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/adolescent-pregnancy