

Investigation of Economic Factors Contributing to Teenagers' Pregnancy in Public Secondary Schools at Kilolo District Council.

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Abstract: *Teenage pregnancy is a global public health concern with multifaceted determinants, including economic factors that significantly influence its incidence. This study investigated the economic factors contributing to teenage pregnancy within the context of Kilolo District Council, Tanzania. The research employed a mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative and qualitative interviews to gather comprehensive data on economic conditions and teenage pregnancy rates. Key findings revealed a strong correlation between economic factors and teenage pregnancy. Poverty, parental unemployment, and inadequate access to sexual and reproductive health education emerged as central economic determinants associated with elevated teenage pregnancy rates. The study recommends the government to create economic empowerment programs targeting teenagers and their families, these programs should provide vocational training, job placement services, and financial literacy education to improve economic stability. Furthermore government should offer parenting support and education programs that empower parents to communicate effectively with their children about sexual health and provide emotional support. In the future, research must be carried out in investigating how economic factors intersect with other determinants of teenage pregnancy, such as race, ethnicity, and cultural factors, to develop more nuanced interventions.*

Keywords— Teenage pregnancy, Economic factors, Community Engagement, Poverty, Sexual Health Education, Household Income.

1. INTRODUCTION

Pregnancy in very young women is usually considered to be a very dangerous experience, due to the fact that teenage students are psychologically and bodily immature for reproduction [1]. Due to the physical and mental alterations that takes place, teenagers are attentive in discovering the world from one place to another place, from which some develops sexual characteristics [2]. Teenage pregnancy is a complex issue influenced by a variety of economic, social, cultural, and individual factors. While the economic dimension is just one aspect, it plays a significant role in understanding why teenagers become pregnant[3].

According to [4], poverty is a major economic factor that contributes to teenage pregnancy because in economically disadvantaged households, teenagers may lack access to education, healthcare, and family planning resources. Some teenagers may see early motherhood as a way to secure financial support or escape challenging living conditions [5]. Furthermore, a study by [6] revealed that poverty plays significant role in teenage pregnancy in which adolescents from low-income families were more likely to engage in early sexual activity due to limited access to educational and extracurricular opportunities, also financial instability led to a lack of access to healthcare, including contraception, and limited awareness of reproductive health. Teenagers from economically disadvantaged backgrounds are at a higher risk of experiencing teenage pregnancy due to the fact that poverty limits access to quality education and job opportunities,

making teenage parenthood seem like a viable option for some young individuals seeking financial stability [7].

A study by [8], found that economic hardship always limits teenager's access to quality education and in some cases, teenage mothers may drop out of school due to the financial burden of childcare, reducing their future earning potential and perpetuating the cycle of poverty. Furthermore, high level of unemployment and underemployment among parents or caregivers can increase the financial stress on families in which teenagers feel pressured to contribute to the household income, leading to early sexual activity and unplanned pregnancies [9].

Some teenagers, especially in economically disadvantaged communities, views pregnancy and motherhood as a way to gain social status or achieve a sense of purpose and this is usually influenced by media portrayals of teenage mothers who appear to have glamorous lives [10]. Moreover, a study by [11], found that economic factors also intersects with peer pressure and social norms in which in some communities, teenage pregnancy is seen as normal or even desirable, particularly if it leads to financial support or independence. Economic disparities among peers leads teenagers to engage in risky behaviors, including sexual activity, to fit in or acquire material possessions like the desire for consumer goods or financial stability might motivate some teenagers to become parents prematurely [12].

A research conducted by [13] revealed that, the economic stability of the family unit is crucial in the sense that in households where parents are absent or struggling financially, teenagers always seek emotional and financial support through relationships that leads to unplanned pregnancies. Also the

study by [14], found that teenagers who came from households with limited financial resources faced challenges in accessing information on sexual and reproductive health and further lack of parental support or supervision due to economic pressures contributed to early sexual activity. Parents, or guardians' unemployment or underemployment usually contributes to financial instability within the household and in some cases, teenagers may become pregnant as a way to fulfill emotional or psychological needs or as a response to perceived family expectations [15]. Economic stressors usually strain family relationships and reduce the availability of parental guidance and support thus teenagers tend to seek emotional and financial support from romantic partners, potentially leading to early and unplanned pregnancies [16].

The availability of comprehensive sex education programs in schools always vary according to the economic resources allocated to education thus inadequate sex education usually leads to a lack of awareness about contraception and sexual health thus increasing the risk of teenage pregnancy [17]. In some cultures, early marriage and childbearing are encouraged, because teenage getting early marriage tend to bring home some finances to serve the family which eventually leads to teenage pregnancy [18]. [19] conducted a research in teenage pregnancy and found that in some communities, early marriage and childbearing are culturally accepted or even encouraged, and economic considerations plays a role in these decisions. Teenagers from economically disadvantaged backgrounds usually lacks access to comprehensive sexual education and family planning information and this lack of knowledge leads to misconceptions about contraception and reproductive health [20].

The high incidence of teenage pregnancy in Kilolo District Council, particularly among teenagers attending public secondary schools, is a pressing concern. This issue is primarily driven by a complex interplay of economic factors, including poverty, limited access to education and healthcare, and a lack of economic opportunities for both teenagers and their families. Understanding the extent and impact of these economic factors is crucial for developing targeted interventions to reduce the prevalence of teenage pregnancy and improve the overall well-being of adolescents in this community.

The main objective of this study is to investigate and analyze the economic factors that contribute to teenage pregnancy in Kilolo District Council, with the aim of providing insights into the relationship between economic conditions and adolescent reproductive behavior. By achieving this objective, we seek to inform evidence-based strategies and interventions that can mitigate the impact of these economic factors and reduce the prevalence of teenage pregnancy, thereby enhancing the overall well-being and prospects of teenagers in Kilolo District Council.

The main contributions of this study are as follows:

- ❖ The study identifies and elucidates specific economic factors that have a significant impact on teenage pregnancy rates in Kilolo District Council.

- ❖ Through data analysis, the study quantifies the relationships between economic variables (e.g., poverty, sexual education) and teenage pregnancy.
- ❖ Based on the findings, the study offers evidence-based policy recommendations that address the identified economic factors contributing to teenage pregnancy.
- ❖ The study provides a contextual understanding of how economic factors operate within the specific social, cultural, and economic context of the region or community.

The remaining part of the paper is structured as follows: Methodology is stated in section 2, followed by the results and discussion in section 3 while section 4 represents the conclusion of the study.

2. METHODOLOGY

The methodology used in this study comprised of both secondary and primary data collection methods. Secondary information applied in the present research comprised of journals, magazines and internet sources. A well-structured and managed questionnaire, focus group and interview tools were prepared and distributed to the respondents from three wards of Kilolo District Council. 46 teenage mothers from all three wards were surveyed for the determination of data collection. The data were collected based on suitability methodology. The data collected were analyzed through percentages and frequencies in which the data were presented in table formats which were obtained using Excel and some using SPSS 26 (Statistical Package for Social Science version 26.0).

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this section the results and discussion of the findings are presented, they begin with simple demographic information of respondents followed by main indicating factor which is economic factors contributing to teenagers pregnancy

3.1 Demographic information

This section presents general information of respondents such as age, education level and occupation of parents/guardians.

3.1.1 Age of Respondents

The respondents in this study were asked to explain their age at which they conceived, the result shown that (2.2%), of respondents were below 13 years,(58.6%) of respondents

were aged 13 up to 16 years old, (37%) of respondents were aged 17-18 and(2.2%) of respondents were aged above 18 years old. This implies that most of respondents interviewed

aged 13 up 16 got pregnancy because this age most of them they were in maturity age and high risk of getting early pregnancy.

Table 1: Showing demographic Information of respondents

Variables		Frequency(n=46)	Percent (%)
Age of respondents	Below 13	1	2.2
	13 - 16	27	58.6
	17 - 18	17	37
	Above 18	1	2.2
	Total	46	100.0
Level of Education of respondents	Form one	8	17.4
	Form two	15	32.6
	Form Three	21	45.7
	Form Four	2	4.3
	Total	46	100.0
Occupation of Parents/Guardians	Farmer	26	56.5
	Teacher	3	6.5
	Business	12	26.1
	Unskilled labour	2	4.3
	Doctor/Nurse	1	2.2
	Driver	2	4.3
	Total	46	100.0

3.1.2 Level of education of respondents at the time when they got pregnancy

Table 1, shows the level of education of the respondents when they first got their pregnancy and as it can be evidenced most of the respondents were in form one (17.4%), form two (32.6%) form three (45.7%) and lastly form four(4.5%). This implies most of form four they know how to be protected against getting early pregnancy because they have high knowledge about sexual reproductive health, so they know to use to calendar for their menstrual period compared to education level below form four who are not aware about the topic of reproduction so it becomes difficult for them to control sexual emotions while also having to take care of the outcome caused by those sexual emotions.

3.1.3 Occupation of Parents or Guardians

The nature of occupation of the parents/guardians living with the teenage girls sometimes contributes to the early pregnancy attainment depending on the family income. In this

study the researcher asked the respondents about the occupation of their parents and the majority were farmers 56.5% of the respondents, followed by business activities carried out by their parents or guardians (26.1%), followed by teacher (6.5%), driver (4.3%), unskilled labour (4.3%) and the smallest number of the respondents were found to the daughters of doctors or nurses (2.2%). This implies that the economic status of the parents contributes very much to the vulnerability of teens to engage in sexual intercourse especially if the parents are very busy with their economic activities compared with being busy in educating their daughter about the impact of early pregnancy to teenage students as shown in table 1, in which only one respondent came from the family whose economic activities is based on health and hence being able to provide education regarding sex to their daughters. So generally, occupation of parents contributes in different ways the vulnerability of teenage students to early pregnancy and mainly from those parents whose economic level are low in the sense that they cannot rise enough funds to take care of their teenagers. Findings from this study bodes well with the findings from [21] who concluded that parents especially

mothers who were housewives, their daughters were susceptible to teenage pregnancy (86%) compared to teenagers whose parents were employed (2%).

3.2 Economic Factors

3.2.1 Provision of sexual and reproductive health education by parents

Table 2 indicates that most 93.5% of the respondents were not got sexual reproductive health education from their parents and the rest 6.5 were got sexual reproductive health from their parents. It implies that most of female students they lack knowledge from their parent about sexual reproductive health that why were engaged in unsafe sexual intercourse lead them to got early pregnancy. Family guidance is very important in shaping behavior of most teenage students being either boys or girls as it is at home place where the teenage student is required to first get good behavior from his or her parents or guardians before starting to learn other behaviors from outside home environment like in schools or churches/mosques. So parents or guardians are the ones who are first required to provide education about sexual reproductive health to their children so that whenever they learn from other persons must be compared with the education they got from their parents. So in this part the respondents were approached with questions whether their parents provided them with basic sexual reproductive health education, how the parents reacted when they first noticed that their daughter has started dating or having sexual intercourse, did they blame their daughters for getting pregnancy and finally the question about improper guidance from parents were given to respondents to find out if it was one of the causes of early pregnancy.

During focus group discussion one of the respondents explain that;

“...I was living with my uncle when I was still studying, when I got my first menstrual period I was scared and felt shy to tell him so when I needed sanitary pads, I would ask for money to buy some other school stuffs such as books and use that money to buy sanitary pads. I got reproduction education from my elder friends at school who were in form four while I was in form two, due to lack of Sexual health education from family members I ended having sexual relationship with my fellow students who was in form four and later I got pregnancy ...”

“...my father was very brutal to me up to the extent I didn't know whether he was giving me sexual reproductive health education or he was warning me because he once told me 'if you get pregnancy by having sexual affairs with different boys

then you will see if I'm your father or just your brother' this statement as read it is not educative or warning to me so up now I don't know if such kind of statement is educative rather than frightening statement, so most of the time I would get my sexual reproductive health education from the school I was studying and that was in form three... ”

Most of the respondents said their parents or guardians were very furious after discovering they were in sexual association with boys or men and some parents threatened to stop supporting their secondary school education because they thought they are now grown up to handle their things like one of respond in focus group discussion argue that;

“...I was living with my guardian whom she share the same grandmother with my mother because my mother and father died when I was just four years old so she decided to take care of me including my education, so when she discovered that I have started involving in sexual intercourse she said that “now I'm grownup to the extent I can control myself so she should stop providing me with necessary needs including stop paying school contributions” because there was no school fees in public school but there still existing monthly or yearly contributions, so this was her reaction and when I got pregnancy she chased me away from home that I brought shame to her family and my sibilings can learn bad behavior from me...”

3.2.2 Action taken by the parents or guardian after getting pregnancy

Table 2, shows the responses from the respondents on whether their parents blamed them after getting pregnancy and as shown the majority said they got blame from their parents (84.8%) compared to minority who said no (15.2%) who said they did not get any blame from their parents. For those who got blame most of them were not living with both parents thus they were living with only one parent or guardian who were also afraid to be blamed by another parent. For instance one of the respondents opened that:

“...my parents were divorced since I was 6 years old so my father decided to marry another wife while I remained with my mother for the most of my life and my mother decided not to be married again so she was mostly involved in church activities so she wanted also me to rise with God fear notion kid, when I got pregnancy, she was very much furious because first of all my father would blame her for the kind of lifestyle she applied to me when I was growing and secondly my mother was thinking about fellow church members for the shame I brought to the fear God family. So basically I was blamed for getting pregnancy before marriage...”

Table 2: Showing family guidance from parents and teenage pregnancy

Variable		Frequency(n=46)	Percent (%)
	Yes	3	6.5
Provision of sexual education by parents	No	43	93.5

	Total	46	100.0
Action taken by the parents or guardian after getting pregnancy	Yes	39	84.8
	No	7	15.2
	Total	46	100.0
Improper guidance from parents as the cause of early pregnancy	Yes	40	87
	No	6	13
	Total	46	100.0

Most of the respondents said their parents or guardians were very furious after discovering they were in sexual association with boys or men and some parents threatened to stop supporting their secondary school education because they thought they are now grown up to handle their things like one of respond in focus group discussion argue that;

“...I was living with my guardian whom she share the same grandmother with my mother because my mother and father died when I was just four years old so she decided to take care of me including my education, so when she discovered that I have started involving in sexual intercourse she said that “now I’m grown up to the extent I can control myself so she should stop providing me with necessary needs including stop paying school contributions” because there was no school fees in public school but there still existing monthly or yearly contributions, so this was her reaction and when I got pregnancy she chased me away from home that I brought shame to her family and my siblings can learn bad behavior from me ...”

3.2.3 Improper guidance from parents or guardians

Improper guidance from close family members like parents or those who surrounded the respondents were considered as contributing factor on the teenage student pregnancies depending on who is very close to the respondents. For example in the sample size of 46, about 87% agreed that improper parental guidance on the sexual reproductive health were the causative agent of early pregnancy compared to 13% of the respondents who did not blame improper guidance of parents or close members of the family as the cause of early pregnancy and this is shown in table 2. This implies that most of the respondents which have improper guidance from their parents or guardians doesn’t know what is right or not, even to engage in sexual intercourse and lead early pregnancy.

Most of respondents during focus group discussion who blamed about improper guidance from parents or close family members like sisters and siblings in general, one respondent argued that:

“...my mother was a single parent who raised me alone and at the moment when my father died she was not employed because she depended everything from father who was an electrical technician working at Ilula district hospital. So after he died life became so difficulty for us which prompted my mother to start doing business at home by selling local alcoholic drinks like bamboo juice (ulanzi), local spirit drink

(gongo) and sometimes local corn drinks (komoni), this prompted many local customers who used to come and sometime sleep with my mother which I was seeing with my own eyes and when I was growing some customers directed their attention to me by promising to give me huge amount of money so that I can sleep with them without telling my mother but I refused and when I refuse they will tell my mother that they would not come again because I’m cruel and not listening to them when they send me to take something which made my mother to be angry to me. So this made me to start fearing those customers and one day I accepted one of them which finally became my habit to have sex with that customer and when I entered form three I was already experienced and I started dating bodaboda guys and sometime I brought some money back home and my mother never asked me where I got the money, but after getting pregnancy that is the time when my mother discovered the source of my money. So generally improper guidance from my family contributed to my sexual intercourse involvement which lead to my pregnancy...”

The interview with one of the responders’ parent argued that; “...due to hardship of life I started the business of selling local beer (komoni) at home, so many young and elder men came at her home to drink alcohol, my daughter was also at home most of the time hence helped me to sell alcohol, this exposed my daughter to sexual intercourse with these men at the end she got pregnant...”

It was observed that poor parental care, failure for parents and guardians to provide reproductive health education to their children leads to these children to engage in sexual intercourse without knowing the negative impacts of it and later on get pregnancy.

The findings from this study are similar to the findings of [1] who found that lack of sexual reproduction from both sides i.e., from parents or guardians living with the teenage students and from school were contributing factor on teenage pregnancy because teens were not aware about either use of contraceptive pills or practicing sex on dangerous days.

Similarly, these results agrees with the findings from Namibia carried out by [22] who found that parents or guardians were reluctant to discuss anything related to sex education which they took it as a taboo to talk to a teenager about sexual education, but when they grow up they were ready to be exposed to sexual education after reaching the age of 20.

To conclude, sexual education from both parents or guardians living with the teenage students and from school are needed in order to make girls ready to control their sexual emotions during dangerous days or to make them be aware about the use of contraceptives or totally making them to start using condoms when they have already started engaging in sexual intercourse.

3.2.4 Accommodation and teenagers’ pregnancy in public secondary schools

Most schools in most part of rural areas are situated sparsely over large geographical zones, and for this reason students are forced to travel to/from school to their place of residents which poses risks to female students if the students are not staying in hostel located in school compounds. So the accommodation issues may sometimes contributes to early pregnancy among teenage students. In this study respondents were distributed with questionnaires having some specific questions like whether the respondents stays in school hostel or outside, if outside the distance from school to their homes or rented houses, ability of their parents to pay transport for the students staying off hostel, and whether the long walking distance contributed to early pregnancy.

3.2.4.1 Respondent’s accommodations

Table 3, shows that, most of 63% respondents got pregnancy while studying were staying at home place with their parents or guardians so they were going to school either through transport or by walking, which in turn poses a risk of engaging

into early sexual intercourse through frequent meeting with the guys like bodaboda or those elders who have money to spend with teenagers students. But as shown again, those students who were residing on Hostel 17.4% and those residing on the rooms rent nearby school which were 19.6% have at least escaped attractions from outsiders like bodaboda guys. .Female students got high risk of raped because of lift, if not staying in hostel located in school compounds. So the accommodation issues may sometimes contributes to early pregnancy among teenage students. The study identified that most of female student got pregnancy because of accommodation, one of respondent said that:

The study identified that most of female student got pregnancy because of accommodation, one of respondent said that:

“... my school is far away from therefore my parents rented a room for me nearby the school, thus I was free whatever I wanted including living with my boyfriend in my room, hence I got pregnancy....”

It was observed that many school are located in remote areas out of peoples’ reach therefore students tend to walk for a long distance so as to attend school. Thus makes most of parents to rent rooms or to pay hostels for their children.

Female students got high risk of raped because of lift, if not staying in hostel located in school compounds. So the accommodation issues may sometimes contributes to early pregnancy among teenage students.

4. Table 3: Showing the distribution or respondent’s accommodation and ability of parents to provide transport fare

Variable		Frequency(n=46)	Percent (%)
Respondents accommodation	Hostel	8	17.4
	Rent a nearby school room	9	19.6
	Home	29	63.0
	Total	46	100.0
Ability of parents to afford transport fare	Able to afford	9	19.6
	Not able to afford	37	80.4
	Total	46	100.0

3.2.4.2 Ability of parents to afford transport fare

Table 3, which shows that almost 80.4% were not capable to afford transport fare from school to home and from home to school while only 19.6% of the respondents were financially stable to afford. This implies that most of the respondents whose families were not capable to provide transportation fares and who were residing far away from school environments and so they were facing long distance walking from school to home and from home to school were faced with

temptations from different take holders who were capable to provide transport easily and hence reduce the burden of transportation and most of them were ended up getting pregnancy. Because of the nature of economic status it sometimes requires students to walk long-distance from their home to and from school due to financial. In ability of their parents to pay transport for the students staying off hostel, and whether the long walking distance contributed to early pregnancy.

During focus group discussion, one of the respondent stated that;

“...It is hard to go to and from the school daily, my parents could not provide for me transport fees everyday so there was a time I had to walk to school on foot for a long distance. Sometimes I escaped the school early so I can walk home and arrive on time, because of being alone on the road I was tempted by some vehicle drivers to give me lifts later on I found myself in sexual relationship with a stranger who always helped me.....”

It was observed that; Due to schools being far away from peoples’ livelihood and many parents were not able to provide the transport fees to their children, this made them to walk for a long distance going and coming back from the school and it was very dangerous to girls as some had to arrive home late at

night .This influenced many girls to engage in sexual relationships.

3.2.4.3 Respondent’s means of transport

Table 4, findings shows (15.8%) of respondents were used Hiace/ Bus as the means of transport, 5.3% of the respondents used motorcycle as the means of transport and 78.9% were coming to school by walking. This implies that most of respondents were very much prone to sexual relationship as they meet temptations regularly from the *bodaboda* guys and other elders who seduces the teens when they go to school and when they are on their way back to home from school after school hours. Most schools in rural areas are situated separate layover large geographical ones, and for this reason there was no way female students must travel to/from school for long-distance.

Table 4: Showing the distribution or respondent’s means of transport and whether they got temptations on the way

Variable		Frequency(n=38)	Percent (%)
Respondents means of transport	Walking	30	78.9
	Hiace	6	15.8
	Motorcycle	2	5.3
	Total	38	100.0
Respondents temptations on the way caused by long distance	Yes	30	78.9
	No	8	21.1
	Total	38	100.0

Note: The total frequency is 38 because those were the respondents who were not residing in hostel at the time when they got pregnancy.

3.2.4.4 Respondent’s temptations along the way

Table 4, Findings indicated that 78.9% of respondents agreed that they got temptations frequently when they were getting back home from school and 21.1% of respondents was not agreed. It implies that most of the respondents engaged in sexual relationship with motorcycle guys (*bodaboda*) who offered free transport as well as they promised to buy some snacks and food generally which made the teenage students to be attracted to such kind of offers.

During the interview in study area, one of respondent quoted that:

“...the distance from my home to the school where I was studying was almost 6 kilometers away from home, every day I was supposed to walk 12 kilometers to and from school in addition with hunger I had when getting back home and on the way I was alone as most of my friends ended up 3 to 4 kilometers so there remaining 2

kilometers I used to walk alone, on the way when motorcycle guy sees me alone he would stop and persuade me to use his motorcycle or to facilitate transportation up to the nearby environment of my home place which made me attracted to the idea and eventually fell in love with that guy who used now to come to school to pick me and drop me nearby home and this lead to my first pregnancy when I reached form three...”

The Ward executive officer reported that;

“...students get pregnancy due to lack of accommodations as many students stay far away from their schools hence they need to walk for a long distance to and from school thus they tend to be influenced by motorcycle drivers commonly known as ‘*bodaboda*’ to get a lift which later on leads to sexual relationship hence early pregnancies...”

It was observed that; there is a problem of accommodations in secondary schools as most of the hostels are built for advanced schools while students in secondary schools are facing the challenge of accommodation as most of them are staying far

away from schools hence they tend to rent rooms near their schools and some with financial difficulties they stay at their homes, this led to young girls to be exposed to early sexual intercourse which leads to early pregnancy.

But on the other hand eight respondents which is about 21.1% of the respondents argued that they were not tempted by any guys along the way when they were walking back home and mostly was caused by the fact that they were walking in groups so it was so difficult for guys to stop one of their fellows for seduction. So generally, long walking distance from school to home and vice versa contributed very much to early teenage pregnancy as shown in Table 4.9 in which 87% of the respondent agreed that they got pregnancy because of the walking distance from school to home caused by temptations they get on the way back home but only 13% agreed that they got pregnancy because of the other factors a part from walking distance.

The study conducted in Lindi Region by [23] found similar findings with this study on the relationship between poverty on the sense of ability to provide transport fare for those students living far from school with teenage pregnancy as they stressed that teenage student were tempted by material or financial gain on the way from or back to school because of long walking distance.

So this concludes that walking distance contributes to early teenage pregnancy. Also this sum up on the area of accommodation of the students and vulnerability to get pregnancy as the large number of teenage students who got pregnancy were mostly allocated far from school a part from those who rent the rooms nearby school the largest number of teenage pregnancy came from those who were residing with their parents and this account on the improper guidance from parents about sexual reproductive health education to their daughters as elaborated in table 2.

4. CONCLUSION

From the findings, it was found that the nature of economic status of parents or guardians living with the respondents contributed very much to teenage pregnancy as teenagers from lower-income households were found to have a higher incidence of teenage pregnancy compared to those from more financially stable families and economic instability within families were found to create conditions where teenage pregnancy becomes an alternative path for support. Furthermore, the study found that teenagers faced challenges in getting sexual and reproductive health services and contraceptives and the lack of access to comprehensive sexual education was associated with higher teenage pregnancy rates.

5. RECOMMENDATION AND FUTURE WORK

From the research findings and the conclusion above, the following are the recommendations:

- ❖ Develop and implement comprehensive sex education programs in schools and communities that include information on contraception, sexual health, and responsible decision-making.
- ❖ Create economic empowerment initiatives targeting adolescents and their families. These programs should provide vocational training, job placement services, and financial literacy education to improve economic stability.
- ❖ Offer parenting support and education programs that empower parents to communicate effectively with their children about sexual health and provide emotional support.
- ❖ Engage community leaders, schools, and parents in initiatives to raise awareness about the consequences of teenage pregnancy and the importance of economic stability.
- ❖ Advocate for policy reforms that address economic disparities, such as increasing the minimum wage and implementing social safety nets for vulnerable families.

In the future, research must be carried on:

- ❖ Exploring the use of technology, including mobile apps and online platforms, to deliver sexual education and support services to adolescents, particularly in areas with limited access to traditional resources.
- ❖ Investigating how economic factors intersect with other determinants of teenage pregnancy, such as race, ethnicity, and cultural factors, to develop more nuanced interventions.
- ❖ Comparing the effectiveness of different economic empowerment and educational interventions in diverse regions or communities to identify best practices.

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