Examining The Influence Of Early Pregnancy On School Dropout In Communities A Case Study Of Luwero District

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Abstract: The goal of the study was to determine how early pregnancy affected school dropout in the Luwero District. Of 330 respondents, 270 provided the researcher with reliable data, which served as the foundation for the study's conclusions. Purposive sampling procedures were utilized by the researcher to gather data, and SPSS was used to evaluate data using quantitative methods. The study's goals were to investigate the link between early pregnancy and school dropout, to determine the effects of early pregnancies on school dropout, and ultimately to identify strategies for minimizing the impact of early pregnancy on school dropout. The study's findings made it evident that while the majority of respondents told the researcher there was a strong correlation between early pregnancies and school dropout, just a small number of respondents gave data indicating that the association is only moderately strong. The study's findings revealed that the majority of respondents told the researcher that family matters were the primary impact of early pregnancy on school dropout, while a small number of respondents said that the majority of those who experience early pregnancy fear being laughed at.

Keywords: early pregnancy and school dropout

Background of the study

Globally, social problems like corruption, stigmatization, tribalism, socioeconomic inequality, and problems with public health are just a few that continue to obstruct national progress. Teenage pregnancy is one of the major societal issues that researchers are debating and that affects both developing and developed societies. Its effects on societal advancement, mortality rates, educational enrollment and attainment, as well as child and psychosocial state, have reached alarming levels globally. Hence, an adolescent or underage female becoming pregnant between the ages of thirteen and nineteen is known as a "teenage pregnancy" (Alabi, 2017).

According to Brown (2013), it is a social issue when an individual who is seen by society as a child performs adult duties like sexual activity, breastfeeding, and reproduction. Moreover, it can be defined as the stage of conception brought on by a child's sexual exploitation and drug misuse.

A developmental psychology lens for examining hardship and achievement is called "resiliency theory" (Gonzales, 2013; Brindis, Sattley, & Mamo, 2015). Resilience is the ability that all young people possess to develop normally and learn well, according to Benard (2014). Resilient people are successful learners and have healthy developmental processes.

According to Scott-Fisher and Campbell-Forrester (2013), developing resilient students requires a long-term process of systemic transformation in the family, school, and community. There are three main components: youth resilience, protective factors, and risk factors (Gonzales, 2003). According to the West & Verhagen formula, the presence of three or more risk factors may result in a poor outcome for adolescents, whereas the presence of protective factors increases the likelihood of positive results. We can work with our strengths if we concentrate on resilience.

According to Cunningham and Boult (1996), teenage pregnancy has a number of social repercussions, including school drop-out or interrupted education, falling victim to criminal activity, abortion, social exclusion, child neglect, difficulties for students adjusting to school, adoption, lack of social security, poverty, subsequent pregnancies, and adverse effects on family life.

According to some research, dropping out of school is a "uniquely predictive predictor" for teenage pregnancies and a cause, rather than an effect, of getting pregnant (Bonell et al, 2014)

Problem Statement

According to the District Child Abuse Reports (2020), early pregnancy would have a significant impact on the district's high percentage of school dropouts. Most parents or relatives of teenagers have pulled them out of school due to an unintended pregnancy. And for their involvement, the teenage guys are brought before the police and courts. In the meantime, the failure to teach girls about sex is the fault of both the educational system and the communities. Both in schools and in communities, sex education must have an ethical underpinning. The larger societies are not exempt from bearing some of the responsibility.

The neighborhood has failed to foster a sexually promiscuous environment and has given up on its usual collective responsibility for establishing moral discipline in the youths. Given the aforementioned circumstances, the researcher plans to conduct additional research to determine the impact of early pregnancy on school dropout in the Luwero District.

Objectives of the study
1. To examine the relationship between early pregnancy and school dropout
2. To ascertain the implications of early pregnancy on School Dropout.
3. To find out ways of reducing early pregnancy on School Dropout.

Research Questions
1. What is the relationship between early pregnancy and school dropout?

2. What are the implications of early pregnancy on school dropout?
3. What are the ways of reducing teenage pregnancy?

METHODOLOGY

Research Design
The Researcher used a quantitative research design. Quantitative research design was used because the researcher carried out research in Luwero District which has a big population. The researcher went ahead to use quantitative measures like percentages to make it possible to collect

Study Population
According to Greg Lawrings (2015), population is defined as the inhabitants of a particular place. The study population included the population description and the population sampling design.

The targeted population was on 300 Students and 25 teachers and 70 parents. The researcher used a sampling technique to get a sample.

Table 1: Target Population

Respondents	Target Population
Students	300
Teachers	25
Parents	70
Total	**395**

Population and Sampling technique
The population from which the sample was taken involved the teenage Students in Luwero District, teachers and parents. The respondents were got from various villages and schools in the District in order to come up with accurate data to help the researcher get all that is needed.

Table 2: Sample Size

Respondents	Target Population	Sample Size	Percentage
Students	300	270	90%
Teachers	25	20	80%

Parents	70	40	57%
Total	**395**	**330**	

Source: Field data (2021)

The researcher used a sample size of 270 Students, 20 teachers and finally 40 parents in all the different villages and schools in Luwero District using stratified sampling technique because it was the most effective when handling heterogeneous populations. Respondents from different villages and schools were then selected using simple random sampling technique to make the results are objective.

Instruments for research

Both the primary and secondary sources of data and information were generated by the researcher. The researcher employed questionnaires as data collection techniques when gathering primary data. The researcher used publications by well-known authors in this sector, such as periodicals, essays, books, and newspapers, to acquire the necessary secondary data.

Questionnaires

The targeted demographic was literate and so able to complete the questionnaires, so this choice of tool was made. The responders had enough time to think about their responses. Furthermore, self-administered, questionnaires provide a quick way to get information from a sample of a sizable population.

Data Collection Procedure
The Researcher made sure that he or she has the respondents consent towards the study in order to make data collection from them easy and accurate. The researcher went ahead to seek appointments from the school heads, Parents and students in order to design questionnaires to avoid having excess or less. The researcher then attended to the respondents on the agreed times to carry out data collection.

Data Processing and Analysis
Data will be processed from the questionnaires that will be administered to the respondents, the researcher will then go ahead and gather the questionnaires from respondents in order to know the number of respondents who responded to the questionnaires from the sample size that will be used. The researcher used SPSS to analyze data and present them into percentages on graphs and pie charts to be easily understood.

RESULTS

Introduction
This chapter presented the response rate of the respondents, demographic profile of respondents, data presentation, analysis and interpretation of findings.

Response Rate
The response rate of the respondents is explained in the table below:

Table 3: Groups of respondents and number of questionnaires retrieved

Source: Research data 2021

The table above clearly indicated that the researcher retrieved data from 230 students out of the sample size of 270 students and the researcher at the same time retrieved data from 25 Parents out of the sample size of 40 and finally the researcher retrieved data from 15 teachers out of the sample size of 20. This made a total of 270 respondents who presented to the researcher accurate data that was used basing on the objectives of the study.

Respondent Groups	Target Population	Sample Size	Retrieved Questionnaires
Students	**300**	**270**	**230**
Parents	**70**	**40**	**25**
Teachers	**25**	**20**	**15**
TOTAL	**395**	**330**	**270**

Demographic Profile of the respondents

Gender Composition of respondents
Table 3: Table showing gender Composition of respondents

GENDER	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE (%)
MALE	100	37
FEMALE	170	63
TOTAL	**270**	**100**

Source: Research data 2021

The table above shows the gender composition of respondents and it indicated that 63% of the respondents were females and 37% of the respondents were males.

Age of respondents

Table 4: Table showing age of respondents

AGE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE (%)
15 - 35	230	85
36 - 50	30	11
51 - 60	6	3
61+	4	2
TOTAL	**270**	**100**

Source: Research data 2021

The table above shows the age of respondents and it indicated that 85% of the respondents ranged from 15 to 35, 11% of the respondents ranged from 36 to 50, 3% of the respondents ranged from 51 to 60 and finally 2% of the respondents were above 60 years old.

Education level of respondents

Table 5: Education Level of respondents

EDUCATION LEVEL	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE (%)
DEGREE	10	4
DIPLOMA	30	11
SECONDARY LEVEL	210	78
PRIMARY	20	7
TOTAL	**270**	**100**

Source: Research data 2021

The table above shows the education level of respondents. It indicates that 4% of the respondents have degrees, 11% have diplomas, 78% have secondary level and finally 7% are of primary level.

Marital Status of respondents

Table 6: Marital Status of respondents

MARITAL STATUS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE (%)
MARRIED	25	9

DIVORCED	15	6
SINGLE	230	85
TOTAL	**270**	**100**

Source: Research data 2021

The table above clearly indicates that 9% of the respondents were married, 6% of the respondents were divorced and finally 230 of the respondents were still single since they were all students.

Working experience (Teachers)
Table 7: Working Experience

YEARS OF WORKING	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE (%)
01 - 05	8	53
06 - 10	5	34
11 - 15	2	13
TOTAL	**15**	**100**

Source: Research data 2021

The table above shows the working experience of the respondents and it presented that 53% of the respondents have a working experience of 01 to 05 years followed by 34% of the respondents who have worked for 06 to 10 years and finally 13% of the respondents had a working experience of 11 – 15 years.

Data Presentation, Analysis and Interpretation of findings
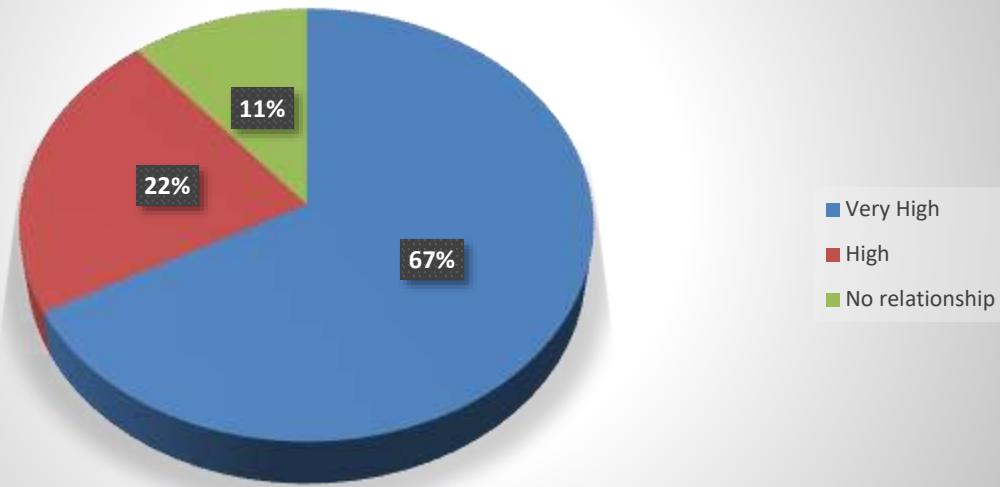
Relationship between early pregnancy on School Dropout
Table 8: Respondents views on the relationship between early pregnancy and early marriages

Respondents views	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE (%)
Very high	180	67
High	60	22
No relationship	30	11
TOTAL	**270**	**100**

Source: Research data 2021

Figure 1: Respondents views on the relationship between early pregnancies on school dropout

Both the table and the figure above indicates that 67% of the respondents informed the researcher that the relationship between early pregnancy and school dropout is very high followed by a few respondents who informed the researcher that the relationship is high and finally according to the findings of the study, 11% of the respondents informed the researcher that there is no relationship between early pregnancy and school dropout.
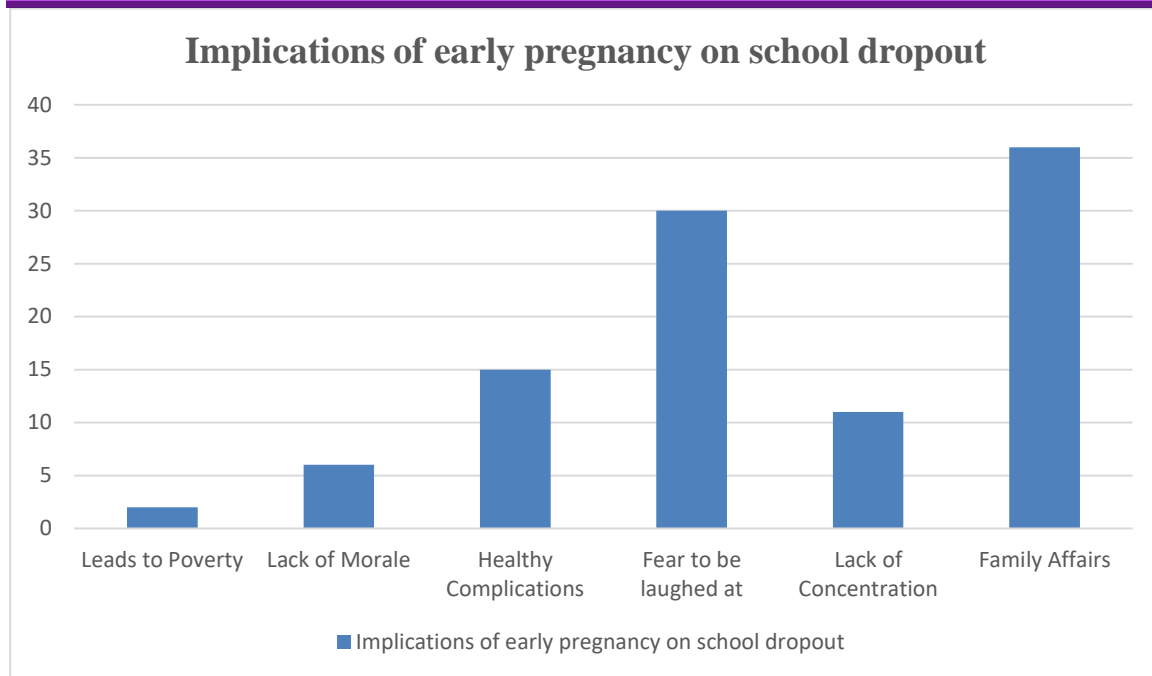
To ascertain the implications of early pregnancy on school dropout

Table 9: Implications of early pregnancy on School dropout

Respondents views	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE (%)
Leads to Poverty	5	2
Lack of morale	15	6
Healthy complications	40	15
Fear to be laughed at	80	30
Lack of concentration	30	11
Family affairs	100	36
TOTAL	**270**	**100**

Source: Research data 2021

Figure 2: Implications of early pregnancy on school dropout

Implications of early pregnancy on school dropout
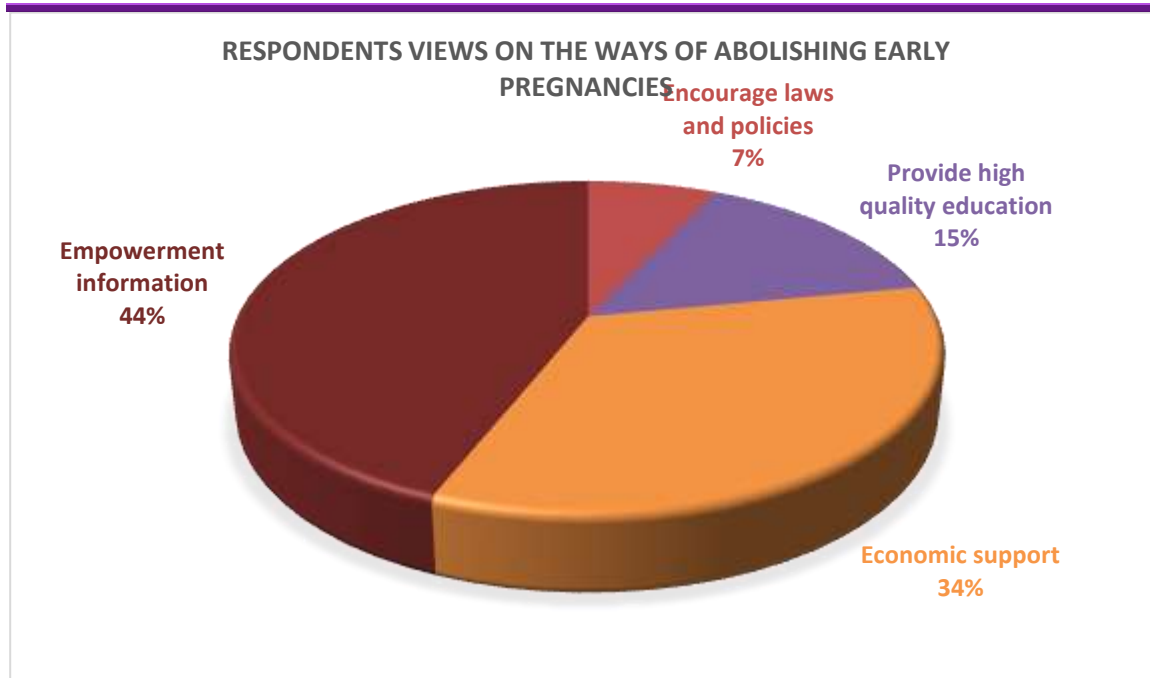

Source: Research data 2021

According to the table and figure above, the findings of the study indicated that 36% of the respondents informed the researcher that the main implication of early pregnancy on school dropout is family affairs followed by 30% of the respondents who informed the researcher that health Complications is the main implication of early pregnancy on school dropout, 15% of the respondents presented results showing that healthy factors were also part of the implications of early pregnancy on school dropout, 11% of the respondents cited out lack of Concentration, 6% lack of morale and finally 2% of the respondents informed the researcher that early pregnancy leads to poverty hence school dropout due to lack of enough funds.

Ways of abolishing early Pregnancies
Table 10: Respondents opinions on the ways of abolishing early pregnancy

Ways of abolishing early Pregnancies	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Encourage laws and policies	20	7
Provide high quality education	40	15
Economic support	90	34
Empowerment information	120	44
Total	**270**	**100**

Figure 3: Respondents opinions on the ways of abolishing early marriages

RESPONDENTS VIEWS ON THE WAYS OF ABOLISHING EARLY PREGNANCIES

Encourage laws and policies 7%

Provide high quality education 15%

Empowerment information 44%

Economic support 34%

Source: Field Data (2021)

According to the findings of the study, over44% of the respondents informed the researcher that the only way early pregnancies would be abolished was through providing economic support to the girl child in order to make them access all their necessary needs followed by 34% respondents who presented results showing that through providing economic support to the girl child would also help to abolish early pregnancies and 15% of the respondents however presented results showing that providing high quality education would also pray a big role in abolishing early pregnancies of the girl child and finally 7% of the respondents presented results indicating that through encouraging supportive laws and policies against early pregnancies.

Conclusions

Conclusion: The study's findings clearly showed that the majority of respondents told the researcher that there is a very strong correlation between early gestation and school dropout, while only a small number of respondents presented data indicating that the correlation is only moderately strong, and some respondents told the researcher that there is no correlation at all.

The results of the study showed that the majority of respondents told the researcher that the primary impact of early pregnancy on school dropout was family matters, followed by a small number of respondents who told the researcher that another impact of early pregnancy on school dropout is that most of the victims of early pregnancy fear being laughed at. Another effect of early pregnancy on school dropout, according to some respondents, is health complications. A few respondents also told the researcher that lack of concentration is a consequence of early pregnancy on school dropout. Lastly, some respondents mentioned a lack of morale while others suggested that early pregnancy causes poverty, which is a significant factor in school dropout.

Recommendations

There is a need to make maximum sensitization on girl child empowerment in order to make them not to lose morale and avoid getting involved in early childhood relationships.

There is also a need to employ professional councilors in all the secondary schools in order to make the girl child present their issues such that they can be properly advised.

There is also a need to abolish traditional practices that emphasizes early pregnancies of the girl child in the community.

The researcher also recommends the parents to always send their children back to school whenever they get involved in early pregnancy.

There is also a need to enhance the health sector of the communities in order to cater for girls that usually get heath complications due to early pregnancies.

There is also a need to put strict laws on the adults who engage in early pregnancy to the young girls in order to make many fear to practice it.

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