



Problems Single Teenage Mothers after Reabmission in Schools

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ABSTRACT

This study was designed to explore the problems single teenaged mothers face after re-admission to schools as perceived by them in Mangochi, T/A Chimwala Malawi. The study is undertaken through a standard approach which is guided by the reality of lived experiences to an academic construct. Using both primary and secondary data sources in which the researcher used questionnaire, as well as focused group that's under primary source and in secondary the researcher will use journals, books, tutorials, etc." Other scholars have conducted a research concerning the extent of the problem of teenage pregnancy in Malawi, perceptions of teenagers concerning sexuality, contraception, causes and factors influencing teenage pregnancy, but none have addressed the experiences of the young single mothers. The research used both qualitative and quantitative methods because qualitative method has involved in-depth of the information and non-numerical data and quantitative has been used in interpreting the numerical data in which it has involved 100 participants.

This research has focused on the problems of teenaged mothers and the research has also shown the problems that teenaged mothers face, perception of the people towards teen mothers, roles of stakeholders in mitigating the challenges faced by these teenaged mothers and the sustainability of support given to teenaged mothers will also establish.

It is therefore concluded that, teenage motherhood is an important area and needs more attention from researchers and different other stakeholders to focus on experiences of teenaged mothers.

1. INTRODUCTION

As in many developing countries, teenage pregnancy is one of the major obstacles to the educational success of girls in sub-Saharan Africa (Swainson, Benders, Gordon & Kadzamira, 2001). Current study in South Africa has outlined that more than 30% of teens have given birth at least once below the age of 18 (Mahy & Gupta 2002; NRC-IOM 2005). Mokgalabone (1999:60) said that pregnancy is among the most serious causes of school disruption, particularly at secondary-school level.

That is, in many cases the birth of a Baby marks the end of schooling for the teen mothers (Grant & Hallman, 2006). Research shows that there are factors that influence whether or not a teenmother is able to continue schooling after the birth of the baby. Most of the factors depend on the girls' ability to manage logistics and finances associated with mothering and schooling simultaneously (Kaufman, Wet & Stadler, 2001).

While it is no longer common to bar teen mothers from continuing with their education, those who go back to school after the birth of their babies face a number of challenges as learners and that makes it hard for them to succeed with their schooling. Arlington Public School (2004) reports that adolescent mothers face difficulties and the girls experience undue pressure from parents, peers and teachers.

On the one hand they receive very little support from school and their homes; while on the other they are usually misunderstood (Arlington Public School, 2004). In most cases the situation of the teen mothers is worsened because the fathers of their children play no role in the children's upbringing.

Shaw, Lawlor and Najman (2006) were of the view that, teenage pregnancy resulting to under common conditions into teenage motherhood is and has remained a societal and health problem in many developing countries; this is an issue that needs to be tackled. According to Vinnerjung, Franzen and Danielson (2007) the United States of America has the maximum teenaged birth percentage of which each 1000 females (52.1%) are aged among 15-19 years, when compared to other developed countries, followed by the United Kingdom, in Europe (30.8%), Canada (20.2%) and Australia (18.4%).

Makiwane, Desmond, Ritcher and Udjo (2006) explained that in several community self-governing countries an increase in teenaged motherhood takes to be related with the presence of an expanded welfare system, for instance, in the USA, it is informed that around one-half of teenage mothers go on welfare among one year of birth and 77% within five years of birth.

According to Carter and Spear (2002) teenage motherhood remains to be a public condition issue requiring immediate attention precisely in the rural areas of southern USA. Welfare systems are understood by many to require a need for encouragement to the teenagers, since they obtain economic provisions once they bear children. Nations like the USA and Britain have realized the difficulties and removed the funding from teenaged mothers

(Makiwane et al, 2006) The World Health Organization (2011) statistics revealed that the worldwide average number of births for each every 1000 girls in the 15-19 age groups is 65. Asia has 56 per 1000 girls in the equal age group and this figure rises to 70 per 1000 girls in Thailand.

One major social problem confronting many countries in the world is teenage pregnancy and subsequent teenage motherhood or underage motherhood. From the developed countries such as United States of America, to the developing countries, this problem has been a source of worry for most parents, policy makers, social workers and other human service providers due to its negative repercussions on the education of the girl-child (Grunseit, 2007).

In 1997, Grunseit found that the USA had the highest rate of adolescence pregnancy. In addition, he stated that every year more teenage girls became pregnant, many younger than 17 years old. As in many developing countries, teenage pregnancy and subsequent teenage motherhood is one of the major hindrances to the educational success of young girls in sub-Saharan Africa³ (Swainson, Bendera, Gordon and Kadzamide, 1997). A research carried out in South Africa showed that by the age of 18 more than 30% of teenage girls had given birth at least once (Mahy & Gupta, 2002). Mokgalabone, (1996) maintains that pregnancy is among the most serious causes of school disruption among young girls. This is more so at the secondary school level though undocumented reports show that the trend is extended in primary schools. In most cases, the birth of a child usually marks the end of schooling for young-mothers (Grant & Hallman 2006).

In sub-Saharan Africa, a review by Kenya Bureau of Statistics (2010), the Demographic Health and Survey [DHS] 2008-09 data from 23 sub-Saharan countries showed that pregnancies accounted for an average of 18% of all female dropouts in secondary schools and more than 20% in nine countries (Eloundou-, Enyégué 2004).

According to Kenya Demographic Health Survey [KDHS], (2009), 7 out of 10 girls have had their first sexual intercourse by the age of 18 years, while 18% of teenage girls have experienced a pregnancy by the same age. The high rate of early initiation to sex coupled with inadequate information on reproductive health, favour high rates of teenage pregnancy. This greatly affects girls' education (Lloyd & Mensch, 2005). Studies have also shown that the timing of child bearing directly affects girls' educational outcomes (Ferre, 2009). Between 10,000 to 13,000 girls drop out of school annually due to pregnancy related causes.

However, only a small estimate of 1200 girls returns to school after delivery (CSA, 2008). Research also shows that there are factors that influence whether or not the young- mother learner is able to continue with schooling after birth of the baby. Most of the factors depend on the young-mother learner's ability to cope with the challenges associated with mothering and schooling simultaneously (Kaufman, Wet & Stadler, 2001).

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 AREA OF STUDY

This is the political or geographical area that includes its history, geography, language and other general features.

3.2 POPULATION AND SAMPLE

Brenda (2019) said that before research can begin the target population must be identified and agreed upon. The target population is the entire population or group that a researcher is interested in researching and analyzing therefore this study is targeting in finding out the experiences of single teen aged mothers in Mangochi T/A Chimwala.

Sample size measures the number of individual samples measured or observations used in a survey or experiment, for example in statistics, sample size is generally represented by the variable 'n'. Sample size is important in determining the accuracy and reliability of survey's findings. The number of respondents to be used in this study will be 100

3.3 DATA AND SOURCES OF DATA

In regards to this study, both primary and secondary data were collected. The questionnaire has been used to gather primary data and other secondary sources of data for the research.

This research is based on descriptive study using survey method, as the questionnaire was distributed to gather data from the public for the research about the empirical study on consumer consumption in real scenario. 100 responses were gathered from the circulation of the survey. Secondary data were collected from journal, Social Work articles from the previous researchers. Moreover, the data for this research was examined through SPSS software 20.

COLLECTION OF DATA

A well-structured questionnaire was prepared considering Problems Single Teenage Mothers after Readmission in Schools. Five points Likert scaling has been used to determine the problems Single Teenage Mothers have after Readmission in schools.

EXPLANATION BASED ON THE FEEDBACK FROM TEEN MOTHERS

Table 1 *circumstances that made you pregnant*

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Poverty	4	40.0	40.0	40.0
	Peer pressure	5	50.0	50.0	90.0
	Lack of parental care	1	10.0	10.0	100.0
	Total	10	100.0	100.0	

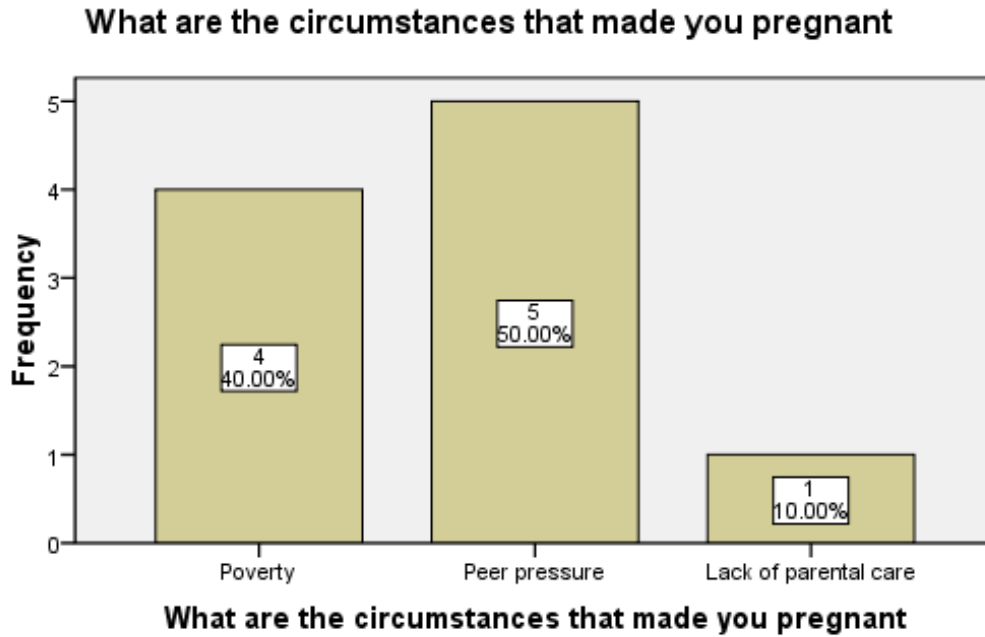


Figure 1 portrays the causes of teenage pregnancy in which from the data collected 40% of the respondents explained that it is because of poverty in which they lacked some basic necessities so their boyfriends were giving them some money to fulfill their desires in which the result was pregnancy. On the same cause 50% of the respondents accepted the fact that it was through peer influence that made them to start sexual activities in exchange of money hence it made them to be in the situation that they are in and lastly 10% of the respondents stated that there was no parental care.

Table 2 *challenges that you face within the community*

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Torture from peers and the community at large	5	50.0	50.0	50.0
	Lack of financial support	2	20.0	20.0	70.0
	Rejection	3	30.0	30.0	100.0
	Total	10	100.0	100.0	

What are the challenges that you face within the community

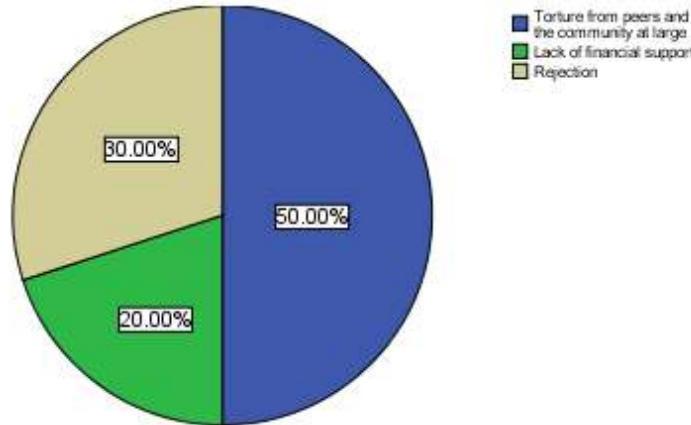
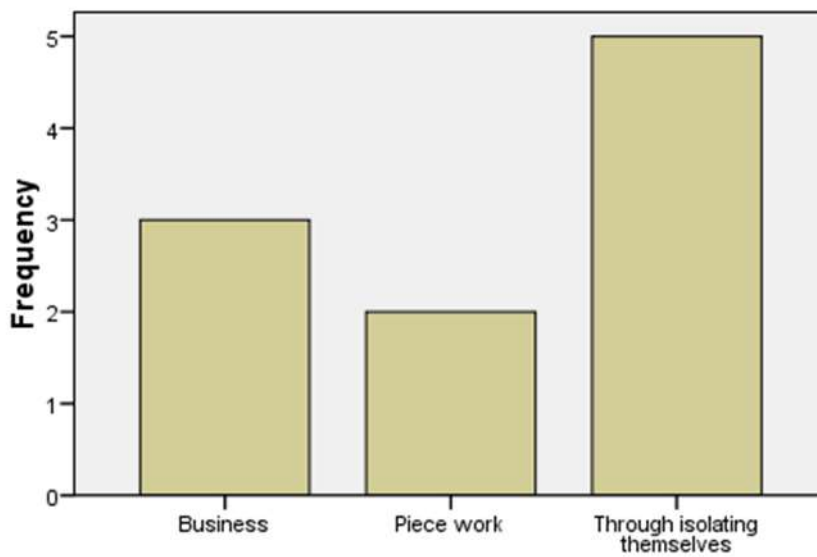


Figure 2 outlines that most teen mothers outlined that they actually face a lot of humiliation from fellow peers, as it is shown from the table above 50% of accepted the fact that they receive torture from peers and the community at large while 30% said that they receive rejection and 20% said that they lack financial support to sustain themselves as well as their child.

Table 3 Ways in which you overcome the challenges faced

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Business	3	30.0	30.0	30.0
Piece work	2	20.0	20.0	50.0
Through isolating themselves	5	50.0	50.0	100.0
Total	10	100.0	100.0	

Ways in which you overcome the challenges faced



Ways in which you overcome the challenges faced

Figure 3 above states that these mothers used different strategies to overcome the challenges that they usually face in their day to day life and it has been explained that 30% of the respondents used Business as one way to overcome their different day to day challenges and 20% said that they use piece work to sustain themselves but 50% said that they only mind their own business they don't associate with the youths.

EXPLANATION BASED ON THE RESPONSE FROM PARENTS/GUARDIANS OF TEEN MOTHERS

Roles played in mitigating the challenges teen mothers face

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Financial support at family level	2	20.0	20.0	20.0
Provision of parental guidance and counselling	8	80.0	80.0	100.0
Total	10	100.0	100.0	

Explains that most parents said that they provided parental guidance and counselling on which it represented 80% and 20% said that they provided financial support at family level.

How sustainable was your support to her

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid She now knows how to take care of her child	8	80.0	80.0	80.0
She went back to school	2	20.0	20.0	100.0
Total	10	100.0	100.0	

How sustainable was your support to her

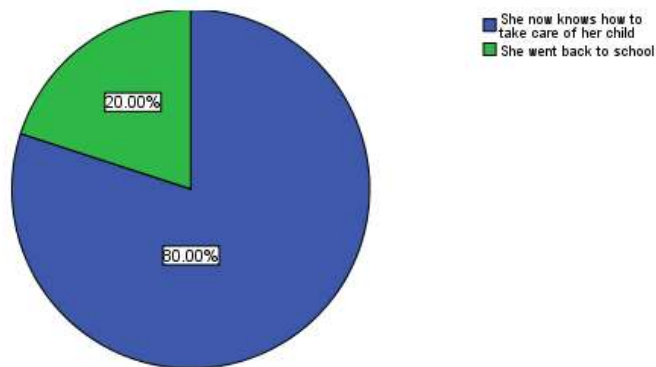


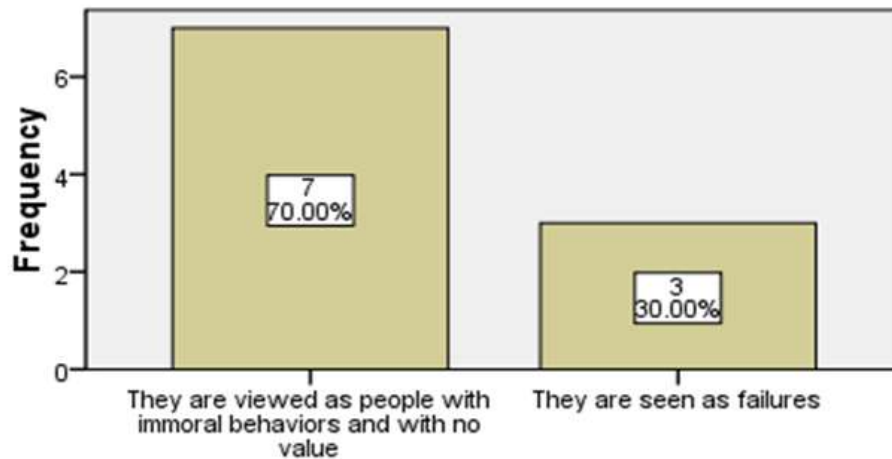
Figure 7 above table outlines the sustainability of the support that was rendered in which 80% of the respondents said that the teens now knows how to take care of the child and 20% said that she was convinced to go back to school.

RESULTS BASED ON THE VIEWS OF THE COMMUNITY MEMBERS

4.3.1 perception of the community towards teen mothers

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid They are viewed as people with immoral behaviors and with no value	7	70.0	70.0	70.0
They are seen as failures	3	30.0	30.0	100.0
Total	10	100.0	100.0	

What are the perception of the community towards teen mothers



What are the perception of the community ...

Figure 8 explains about the how the communities view, see or clarify the teen mothers in which from the findings 70% said that they are viewed as people with immoral behaviors and with no value and 30% said that they are seen as failures and with no proper future.

CONCLUSION

It is important that this study should also be conducted at a larger representation in this country because there are more people who are actually facing a lot of challenges but yet they don't have any chance to voice out their worries and suffering hence they end up suffering in silence and in pains and what we need to understand as a nation is that we should never undermine the strength and power of a person we should not be the once to give limits on what one can do and what he cannot do in this case we should not be the ones to destroy the future of these mothers and having a child is not the end of someone's future there are a lot of women out there who once faced this teen pregnancies and because they did not look down on themselves they still pursue their dreams they are somebody today, so these teen mothers should not be the one's on the fore-front undermining themselves and that they can still fight for their dreams. With this we should all try as a nation to provide safe and better environment for these teen mothers and also there are some areas that this study has not focused much on, in which it needs further research, for example this research has not conducted the in depth understanding on why these mothers are addressed as single mothers why don't they get enough care and support from their spouses, so this this is what the study hasn't explored much on but rather it has put much emphasis on the day to day experiences.

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