

SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS AND LIVING ARRANGEMENT OF TEENAGE MOTHERS IN RURAL SOUTH WEST, NIGERIA: IMPLICATIONS FOR CHILD UPBRINGING.

Extended Abstract

Introduction

The world population reached an alarming figure of seven (7) billion in 2011 with developing nations accounting for the largest proportion of this figures. The reduction of poverty is the most difficult challenge facing any country in the developing world where on the average majority of the population is considered poor and resides in the rural areas. In the realization of this, development efforts have been targeted towards these vulnerable groups such as teenage mothers, even though the situation seems not to have improved.

Statement of Problems

There are numerous detrimental consequences associated with teenage mothers, among which is health and physical, developmental, psychological and social implications. For instance, studies have shown that strong correlation exists between the age of a mother and maternal mortality. Young mothers face higher risks during pregnancies including complications such as heavy bleeding, fistula, infection, anemia, and eclampsia which contribute to higher mortality rates of both mother and child.

Similarly, it is a huge responsibility for a teenage to become a mother particularly a girl who may not adequately prepared for such roles. This heavy burden has a serious impact on their psychological welfare, their perceptions of themselves and also their relationship. Teenage parents are more likely to suffer abuse and violence, with inevitable psychological as well as physical consequences.

Objectives of the study

The general objective of this study is to examine the nexus of interaction between the teenage mother, living arrangement and implications for child upbringing. Other specific objectives are:

- (1) Identify the socio-economic and cultural causes of teenage mother among the rural teens in Iludun-Ekiti in the southwest Nigeria;
- (2) To examine the poverty profile of teenage mothers among the rural teens in Iludun-Ekiti in the southwest Nigeria;
- (3) Examine the living arrangement and living conditions of rural teenage mothers in Iludun-Ekiti in southwest Nigeria;
- (4) To examine the health implication of teenage mothers and their coping strategies in the study area;
- (5) Determine the implication of socio-economic status and living arrangement of teenage mothers on child upbringing and development..

Literature Review

Several Theories and literature have shown that there is a strong correlation between

socio-economic background, living arrangement of teenage mother and child upbringing and development in the society, particularly in developing countries such as Nigeria.

Felice, Feinstein, Fisher and Kaplan (1999) in their studies found that 83% of teenage mothers and 61% of adolescents who have abortions are from poor or low-income families. Teenage mother and child rearing therefore carries a high economic burden for these families (Kirby, Coyle, Gould, 2001).

Teenage mothers compared to their older mothers counterparts have been found to have poor education, low economic status, and become unemployed (Bradley, Cupples and Irvine, 2002). Evidences further revealed that teenage mothers less likely to be employed, to have stable employment, or have high earnings; and more likely to be living in poverty (Attico and Hartner, 1993; Chase-Lansdale and Brooks-Gunn, 1994; Furstenberg, Brooks-Gunn and Morgan, 1987; Hardy *et al.*, 1997; Hayes, 1987; Luster and Mittelstaedt, 1993). Teenage mothers are more likely to have subsequent children, and larger family size contributes to the scarcity of resources within the family with its attendant socio-concomitant effects on the child upbringing and development (Downey, 1995; Maynard, 1997).

Theoretical Orientation.

Multi-theoretical approaches was adopted. Hence, several theories were reviewed, which include: (i) The Differential Association theory- Southerland's Approach; (ii) The Psychological Theory -Freudian Approach; (iii) Health Behaviour Model; (iv) Rational Choice Theory; (v) Family Stress Model; (vi) Structural Frustration Theory.

Method and Materials

Method can be said to refer to the research techniques or the tools that are used for data collections and analyses. These include the study area; population or universe of interest; sampling procedure; sampling frame; sample size, data collection instrument and method of data analysis. It can also be referred to as the philosophy of the research process.

Population of study

The target population was teenage mothers. A woman between age 13 and 19 who has had one or more children resident in Iludun Ekiti, in Ekiti State southwest Nigeria

Unit of analysis and Sample size

The universe of the surveys or the unit of analysis comprises teenage mothers. A total of Two Hundred and Fifty (250) respondents were included in the sample.

Sampling Procedures and Sampling Techniques

In order to collect an unbiased sample for the study, multi-stage sampling technique was adopted. Both probability and non-probability sampling techniques were employed to select the samples of eligible respondents interviewed. The proposed (250) Two

Hundred and Fifty respondents were distributed across the various settlements that made up Iludun-Ekiti, Ekiti State.

Data Collection

A questionnaire was developed consisting of 32 closed-ended questions and six open ended questions covering broadly the following areas: Socio-demographics, poverty, living arrangement, consequences of teenage mother, etc. The questionnaire was structured in such a way that it captured all the areas of concerns.

Discussions and Finding of Studies

Data collected were analyzed using both simple percentage distributions of socio-economic characteristics of the respondents and a more scientific tool of logistic regression analysis using SSPS 11.0. The study found that teenage mothers are on the increase in most rural areas in the Southwest Nigeria. The study found that socio-economic variables as the determinants of teenage mothers.

In conclusion, the paper advocate for compulsory education for girls and injecting family management and planning at all levels of schooling. Parents should be educated on family-planning and control to enable them to have reasonable number that can be taken good care of.

Reference

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