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A Study to Assess the Knowledge on Teenage Pregnancy Among Adolescent Girls Studying in Government High School Bagalkot

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Abstract **Original Research Article**

Introduction: Teenage pregnancies is shaped by a mix of cultural, social, and economic factors that vary globally. In some societies, it's seen as a natural milestone, while in others, it's a life-altering events, often exacerbated by lack of support and preparation. Adolescent girls face health risks due to physical immaturity and limited healthcare access. Key factors include socioeconomic disadvantages, family dynamics, peer pressure, and educational barriers. In low-income countries, issues like early marriage, malnutrition, and lack of support systems worsen the problem. The WHO reports 11% of births are girls under 20, with 95% in low and middle-income countries. Countries like India, Bangladesh, and Nepal, especially rural areas, report high pregnancy rates, driven by cultural practices like child marriage. In developed countries, teenage pregnancy often relates to balancing child-rearing with education, while in developing countries, it results from teenage pregnancy [1]. ***Method:*** The present study is a descriptive study design. A purposive sampling technique was adopted to select samples in the present study. The sample comprises of 60 adolescent girls were selected from Government High School Bagalkot. Written consent was taken from participants for the study. Socio demographic variables, self-structured questionnaire. were used as tool for data collection. The data was analysed by using descriptive and inferential statistical in terms of mean, frequency, distribution, percentage, and chi square. ***Result:*** The Percentage wise distribution of knowledge of adolescent girls studying in Government high school Bagalkot scores reveals that out of 60 adolescent girls' highest percentage (86%) found with poor knowledge, (11%) noticed with average knowledge and in the present study sample shows only (3%) of adolescent girls has good knowledge. The overall knowledge Mean score was 4.2833 with SD 1.9579. ***Conclusion:*** This study reveals that the most of the adolescent girls have poor knowledge (86%) regarding teenage pregnancy. Hence, more research studies are need to be conduct with similar topic, there was a lack of knowledge regarding teenage pregnancy.

Keywords: Adolescent girls, knowledge, teenage pregnancy, assessment and socio demographic variables.

INTRODUCTION

Pregnancy can be understood as a transmission and part of a woman's transition to motherhood [2]. Teenage pregnancy is an important public health problem in both developed and developing countries, as it is a 'high risk' or 'at-risk' pregnancy due to its association with various adverse maternal and fetal outcomes which results in increased mortality and morbidity of the mother and the child. Adolescent pregnancy occurring in girls aged 10-19 years remains a serious health and social problem worldwide and has been associated with numerous risk factors evident in the young people, family, peer, school and neighbourhood contorts [3]. The United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) defines "teenage pregnancy" as when an adolescent girl becomes pregnant between the age group 13–19 years. Pregnancy in adolescents is a risk event because the body of an adolescent is still growing and not entirely prepared for reproduction. Approximately 20,000 girls give birth before 18 years, which is 7.3 million births annually [4].

NEED FOR THE STUDY

Teen pregnancy is one that occurs from puberty to 19 years of age and is also known as adolescent pregnancy. Puberty is the stage of adolescence when a younger girl can reproduce. However, reproduction can also take place before the first menstrual cycle. Teenage

pregnancies is a fairly common occurrence in India, due to many factors such as early marriage, girls reaching puberty at younger ages and high specific fertility rate in the adolescent age group. In India teenage pregnancy varies from 8 to 14% [5].

The consequences of teenage pregnancy can be severe, both for the young mother and her child. Health risks, such as pre-eclampsia, anaemia and premature delivery, are higher among teenage mothers. Moreover, the socio-economic impact can be devastating, as many adolescent mothers drop out of school, lose employment opportunities, and face social stigma [6].

Teenage pregnancies among those aged between 15- 17 years are higher in Karnataka (17 per cent) against the national average (16 per cent). In India it is estimated that 1/3rd of the total population is under the age group of 20 years, and adolescent are at the risk of sexual and reproductive health problems. More than 15 million girls aged between 15-19 years give birth every year. Adolescent girls who get pregnant before 18 years may be five times more likely to die than a woman aged 20-28 years. Teen pregnancy in India is high with 62 pregnant teens out of every 1,000 women [7].

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

A study to assess the knowledge on teenage pregnancy among the adolescent girls. Quantitative approach with descriptive research design was used. Non probability convenient sampling technique was used to select 32 teenage girls residing in selected rural area of Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Silvassa. Interview schedule with structure knowledge questionnaire was used to collect the data. The tool consists of two sections. Section- I include socio demographic variables and section – II include- structured knowledge questionnaire on teenage pregnancy. Study was analyzed by using both descriptive and inferential statistics. The study result shows that the maximum number (37.5%) of teenage girls have very poor and 15.625% of them have good knowledge on teenage pregnancy. The study concluded that the majority of the teenage girls are not having adequate knowledge regarding teenage pregnancy [8].

METHODOLOGY

Research approach: A non-experimental approach

Research design: Descriptive study design

Duration of study: 1 year

Research variable: The study variables for the present study are Assessment of knowledge regarding teenage pregnancy among adolescent girls.

Socio-demographic variables: In this study demographic variables refers to Age, Gender, Standard of the studying, Religion, Type of family, Area of residence, Birth order in the family, Monthly income of the family, Type of houses, Bread winner of the family, Age at menarche, Mention the availability of nearby medical services, educational status of the father, educational status of the mother, source of information.

Target population: Target population of the present study consists of all the Adolescent Girls who are attending various High school Bagalkot, Karnataka.

Sample: Sample consist subjects of units that comprise the population for the present study, Sample consist of adolescent girls with age group between 14-16 who are attending Government High school Bagalkot.

Sample size: Total Sample size for the present study was 60, which comprises women in the age group of 14-16 years who are attending Government High school Bagalkot.

Sampling technique: A Purposive sampling technique was adopted to select the sample for the present study.

Inclusive criteria;
The study includes adolescent girls who are;

- Able to communicate and understand Kannada and English language.
- Available at the time of data collection.
- Willing to participate in the study
- In between the age group of 14-16 years.

Exclusive Criteria;
The study excludes the women, who are;

- Unable to co-operate throughout the study.
- Who are mentally unstable to provide the data.
- Age group below 13.
- Who are sick during the period of study.

DELIMITATIONS
The study is delimited to:

- ➢ The study is delimited to the sample of 60 adolescent girls studying in Government High school of Bagalkot.
- ➢ Assessment of teenage pregnancy among adolescent girls.
- ➢ Adolescent girls aged between 14 to 16 years.

ETHICAL CONSIDERATION:

- ✓ Permission was taken from the Principal of Shri B.V.V.S Sharadambe Institute of Nursing science's Vidyagiri Bagalkot.
- ✓ Permission was obtained from Principal of Government High school Bagalkot.
- ✓ Informed consent was taken from the subjects.

Method of data collection: In the present study, the data was collected by the self-structured knowledge questionnaire.

RESULTS

PART –I: SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES

In this study, majority of the adolescents were 15-16 years old. Socio demographic variables which consist of Age, Gender, Standard of the studying, Religion, Type of family, Area of residence, Birth order in the family, Monthly income of the family, Type of houses, Bread winner of the family, Age at menarche, Mention the availability of nearby medical services, educational status of the father, educational status of the mother, Source of information.

PART-II: SELF ADMINISTRETED QUESTIONNAIRE TO ASSESS KNOWLEDGE REGARDING TEENAGE PREGNANCY.

In this study adolescent girls according to them

Scoring of self-structured knowledge questionnaire.

¬ For each answer, score 1 was given.

¬ For each incorrect answer, score 0 was given.

¬ Total score is 15. Calculated score was converted to percentage.

Table 01: Assessment of Mean, SD related to Knowledge regarding Teenage pregnancy

Assessment	Mean	SD
Knowledge	4.2833	1.9579

Above table No 4: depicts knowledge regarding teenage pregnancy score Mean was 4.2833 with SD 1.9579

Table 02: Association between knowledge score with their selected socio demographic variable.

SL. No	Socio-demographic variable	DF	chi-square	Table value	P Value	Interpretation
1	Age in years	1	4.92	3.84	0.20	NS
2	Gender	1	6.61	3.84	0.01	Significance (*)
3	Standard of the studying	1	4.92	3.84	0.26	NS
4	Religion	1	0.37	3.84	0.54	NS
5	Type of family	1	0.74	3.84	0.38	NS
6	Area of residence	1	0.05	3.84	0.81	NS
7	Birth order in the family	1	1.42	3.84	0.23	NS
8	Monthly income of the family	1	0.35	3.84	0.55	NS
9	Types of houses	1	9.57	3.84	0.01	Significance (*)
10	Bread winner of the family	1	0.55	3.84	0.45	NS
11	Age at menarche	1	6.61	3.84	0.01	Significance (*)
12	Mention the availability of nearby medical services	1	0.08	3.84	0.76	NS
13	Educational status of the father	1	0.19	3.84	0.65	NS
14	Educational status of the mother	1	0.09	3.84	0.75	NS
15	Source of information	1	0.02	3.84	0.87	NS

S = Significance
NS = Not significance
DF = Degree of freedom

The table shows that the calculated Chi-square values for the Socio-demographical variables like Adolescent girls of such as Age, Gender, Standard of the studying, Religion. Type of family, area of residence, birth order in the family, monthly income of the family, types of houses, bread winner of the family, age at menarche, mention the availability of nearby medical services, educational status of the father, educational status of the mother, source of information. The Chi-square table value for all the socio demographic variables like age, standard of the studying, religion, type of family, area of residence, birth order in the family, monthly income of the family, bread winner of the family, mention the availability of nearby medical services, educational status of father, educational status of the mother, source of information lesser than the chi square table value. This indicates that there was no significant association found between the above said selected socio demographic variables**.** P<0.05

The calculated chi square value for the socio demographic variables like types of houses (χ^2= 9.57 P value= 0.01) age at menarche (χ^2= 6.61 P value= 0.01) Gender (χ^2= 6.61 P value= 0.01). Here the chi square calculated value is higher than the chi square table value. This indicates there was a significant association found between the age at menarche, gender, types of houses. P<0.05

DISCUSSION

The findings of the present study are discussed in light of previous scientific studies in this chapter and discussion regarding findings of the study is presented in accordance with the objectives of the study and

hypothesis. The current study aims at evaluating the evaluate the knowledge on teenage pregnancy among adolescent girls studying in Government high school Bagalkot.

Findings of the present study shows that level of knowledge regarding teenage pregnancy scores reveals that out of 60 adolescent girls' highest percentage (86%) had poor knowledge, (11%) had average knowledge and only (3%) of adolescent girls were had good knowledge.

The present study results are support with a descriptive survey design was utilised, involving 187 teenage girls selected through multistage sampling from Awkuzu community. Data were generated with structured questionnaire and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), and analysed using SPSS, incorporating descriptive statistics and Chi-square tests to determine associations between unintended pregnancy and school dropouts. The study result shows that the prevalence of unintended pregnancy among respondents was 63.6%, with nearly half (46.5%) dropping out of school due to pregnancy. The Chi-square test confirmed a significant association between unintended pregnancy and school dropout ($\chi^2 = 12.83$, $p = 0.0003$). Additionally, 79.7% of participants were unaware of formal school re-entry policies, while 58.8% perceived school attitudes as stigmatising towards teenage mothers. Lack of sex education, peer pressure, and economic hardship were identified as principal causes of unintended pregnancy. The study concluded that Unintended pregnancy substantially disrupts the educational trajectories of teenage girls in Awkuzu. The compounded effects of insufficient policy support and negative social attitudes hinder school re-entry and educational attainment for teenage mothers [9].

The present study results are support with a analytical cross-sectional using multi-methods. It focused on adolescent girls aged 15 – 19. Quantitative and qualitative data were collected from primary and secondary sources. The 460 selected respondents were interviewed with a five-point scale likert-type questionnaire. Three case studies were conducted with adolescent mothers on their personal experiences with their families and community members. In-depth interviews, Participants for these interviews and discussions were purposefully selected. Descriptive statistics was used to assess their demographic background. The study hypotheses were tested using t-test and logistic regression analysis. The study result shows that the Majority (52.4%) of the adolescent pregnant girls and mothers studied were in school before they became pregnant but only about 6% had gone back to continue with their education. In all, about 53% of the adolescent pregnant girls and mothers studied were found to have high resilience whereas 47% had low resilience to teenage pregnancy. The study further revealed that personal, family, community and institutional factors have important influence on adolescent mothers' resilience to teenage pregnancy. However, personal and family factors were the most important factors. The study concluded that Adolescent girls in the Fanteakwa District were exposed to the risks of teenage pregnancy. Many of those who had experienced pregnancy and/or childbearing had low resilience to teenage pregnancy. The study has emphasized the importance of personal, family, community and institutional factors in building resilience in adolescent pregnant girls and mothers [10].

The study is concluded that there is poor knowledge on teenage pregnancy among teenage girls.

LIMITATIONS

The study limited to the sample of 60 adolescent girls studying in Government high school Bagalkot, were assess the knowledge on teenage pregnancy among adolescent girl's adolescent girls aged between 14-16 years.

CONCLUSION

The main focus of this study was to assess the knowledge on teenage pregnancy among adolescent girls studying in Government high school bagalkot. The data was collected from 60 adolescent girls. The study proved that to assess the knowledge on teenage pregnancy among adolescent girls is poor.

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