



## Sociological Implication of Teenage Pregnancy in Kano Municipality

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### KEYWORDS

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### ABSTRACT

Teenage pregnancy has become a serious canker-worm that has eaten deep into the fabric of our societies. This study focused on the prevalence of this act among the teenagers in Kano Municipality. Specific objectives were outlined as thus: to find out the factors contributing to rise of teenage pregnancy in Kano municipality, to find out the social consequences of teenage pregnancy in Kano municipality and to recommend possible solutions. The study investigated the general causes, effect and the way out of this social menace in our societies. Rational Choice theory (1988) was employed to guide the study. 120 respondents were sampled for the quantitative aspect of the study and 20 respondents for qualitative. Data's gotten from questionnaires were analyzed using statistical package for social sciences (SPSS 21) while data from in-depth interview were transcribed contextually. Findings revealed that some of the root causes associated with teenage pregnancy are poverty, lack of proper sex education and low parental guidance while the effects include: school drop-out, inadequate care for the child born by teenage mother, health problems and a host of vices. The study suggested adequate parental care, sex education and creation of jobs, counseling and rehabilitation of victims as ways of reducing teenage pregnancy in Kano Municipal. The researcher believed that the use of these recommendations will greatly reduce the rate of teenage pregnancy in Kano Municipality.

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### INTRODUCTION

Non-marital pregnancy is any pregnancy that occurs outside marriage. Non-marital pregnancy can take many forms which include: non-marital teenage pregnancy, young girls who have passed teenage age who are not married but get pregnant, women that are married but get pregnant outside marriage. It can also be widows or divorcees who become pregnant. But teenage pregnancy happens to girls in their teens, it is also referred to as adolescent pregnancy. Pregnancy can occur with sexual

intercourse after the start of ovulation, which can be before the first menstrual period (menarche) but usually occurs after the onset of periods. In well-nourished females, the first period usually takes place around the age of 12 or 13. (Mayor, 2021). Teenage pregnancies and teenage motherhood are a cause for concern worldwide. From a historical point of view, teenage pregnancies are nothing new. For much of human history, it was absolutely common that girls married during their late adolescence. This kind of reproductive behavior was socially desired and

considered normal. Nowadays, however, the prevention of teenage pregnancies is a priority for public health in nearly all developed and increasingly in developing countries. According to more recent studies, teenage pregnancy are marked with social disadvantage, such as poverty, unemployment, low educational level and single parenting. (Laratta, 2022).

Nigeria is one of countries with a high rate of fertility, most coming from teenagers. Under age pregnancy is rampant in Northern Nigeria. Though non-marital teenage pregnancy is frowned at in the North both by religious and social outfits, it still remains one of the prominent social menaces in the region. Teenage pregnancy is one of modern society's evils and is a rather alarming situation. Most countries, in the region consider teenage pregnancy a social stigma, and it can have devastating effects on the teen's social life. The negativity, the social alienation and the financial distress can wreak havoc in anyone's life, let alone that of a teen, which isn't yet mature or strong enough to face the world. However, this problem is increasing at an alarming rate (Maggwa, 2019).

Kano Municipality is one of the Local governments Area of Kano State, located in the North West Nigeria with a total population of 371, 243, 151,607 females and 17km<sup>2</sup>. The people frown at any pregnancy that occurs outside marriage. Even though they are strict measures put in place to avoid teen pregnancies significant numbers of the act still exists. The Hausa/Fulani are the indigenes. The norms guiding pregnancy and sexual relationship among the Hausa/Fulani people are that: before a person is allowed customarily to have sex, the bride wealth must have been paid and all traditional rites including the traditional marriage must have taken place. Any sexual relationship and pregnancy that occurs outside these norms are referred to as taboo and frowned at.

Non-marital teenage pregnancy and childbearing is often considered one of the foremost social problems facing contemporary Kano Municipality. The consequences and causes of both early and non-marital reproduction have long been of interest to Demographers and policy makers, who are often, charged both with monitoring the patterns of non-marital childbearing (and its consequences) and with actively working to change these patterns (Sedgh 2021).

Socially, the affected teenage girls are seen as second hand in the marriage market. They are always the topic of discussion; they are also seen as bad examples to the younger teenagers. Their educational life is considered ruined because they usually drop out of school to care for their children. Their pregnancy creates problems which include low educational level, poor health status, poverty and other poorer life outcomes.

### Statement of Research Problem

It has been observed that non-marital pregnancy is on the increase in Northern Nigeria (Maggwa 2021). A lot of problems have been caused by non-marital teenage pregnancy including school drop-out, unplanned marriage, and conflict with family members, anxieties, abortion, death of mother and child among others.

Sawhil (2022) argued that, a lot of proportion of non-marital births is to adult women, half of first non-marital are to teens. Thus, the pattern tends to start in the teenage years, and, once teens have had a first child outside marriage, many go on to have additional children out of wedlock at an older age. A number of programs aimed at preventing subsequent births to teen mothers have been launched but few have had much success.

During this period, teenagers are expected to acquire education and skills needed for the future. On the contrary many teenage girls engage in premarital sex, which expose them to the risk of sexually transmitted infections (STI's) and teenage pregnancies (Umeano, 2003). Pregnancy is usually welcome when it occurs at the appropriate time such as a mature age and in wedlock. On the contrary it is most unwelcome when it occurs outside of wedlock or during teen years, when the individual should be acquiring skills in formal or non-formal environments. Numerous studies Audu (2018), Noble, (2019), WHO (2019) and Onuzlike (2022) have indicated Poverty, pornography, mass media and peer influence as some of the factors responsible for teenage pregnancy. All teenage who engage in pre-marital sex are vulnerable to pregnancy. But even after taking background characteristics into account, other research documents that teen mothers are less likely to finish high school, less likely to ever marry, and more likely to have additional children outside marriage (Kohlberg 2012). Thus, an early teenage pregnancy is not just a marker of preexisting problems but a barrier to subsequent upward mobility.

The issue of teenage pregnancy is no longer a new thing in any society be it developed or developing. Various reasons has been adduced for its existence but the basic problem is the persistence and the geometric progression of its expansion despite all governmental and non-governmental agencies, schools, religious bodies efforts at resolving this cancerous or decadence in our societies. Little or no research has been carried out on the social stigma and isolation on these teenage girls, forming the basis of this research.

### Research Questions

This study intends to address the following questions;

1. What are the factors contributing to the increase in the rate of teenage pregnancy in Kano Municipal Local Government community?
2. What are the social consequences of teenage pregnancy in Kano Municipal Local Government?

### Objectives of the Study

The overall objective of this study is to investigate the consequences of teenage pregnancy and possible solutions to it. The Specific objectives are:

1. To find out the factors contributing to the rise of teenage pregnancy in Kano municipality
2. To find out the social consequences of teenage pregnancy in Kano Municipality

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

The aim of this chapter is to outline and explain the methodology that was used in collecting data, the advantage of the methods chosen and its significance to this type of study. The research is mainly restricted to Kano Municipal Local Government Area.

#### Location of the Study

The location of this study is Kano Municipal Local Government Area of Kano State. It is also known as capital of Kano State. It has thirteen (13) political wards. According to the 2006 (census figure), Kano Municipality had a population of 365,525. It has a land area of 17km<sup>2</sup>. The major ethnic group is Hausa. (Kano Chronocles, 2019) Located in the Central part of Kano State, the climate in Kano Local Government is Hot. The dominant occupations in Kano Municipal Local Government are trade and art and craft.

Kano Municipal Local Government Area is chosen by the researcher as the location of the study because it has been noted by the researcher, being an indigene that non-marital teenage pregnancy occurs very frequently there. There are enormous tourist attractions in Kano Municipality such as the Kano Museum, the ancient Kano wall, the mysterious Kano Palace and Kano Zoological Garden.

#### Research Design

This study is descriptive survey research design. This involves the administration of structured questionnaire to the selected respondents. The justification for selecting female is that they are directly involved. Key Informants Interview (KII) was conducted after a non-participatory ethnographic observational study for six (6) months starting from May, 2023 to October, 2023 in the studied ties. The reason for employing aforementioned ethnographic study is to help the researcher in getting data as very limited data were available regarding the subject under investigation in the study area.

#### Population of the study/ Sampling tools

The target population of the study is all females of child bearing age that have been pregnant or given birth out of wedlock, whether married or not married in Kano Local Government. Kano Municipality has thirteen (13) political wards.

In the course of this research, the researcher adopts the multi-stage sampling technique which allowed for a repeat of two or three procedures in an attempt to draw out the actual respondents for a study in a situation where the population was large. Due to the fact that it is not possible to compile an exhaustive list of the total population of female of child bearing age in Kano Municipality, the researcher adopts multi-stage sampling technique and simple random sampling technique was also used for the selection of respondents.

The multistage cluster sampling is usually use when there is a large area to cover and makes it difficult to complete and exhaust the number of population, it is usually carried out in the following stages of selection

1. Identification of the location: The research duels solemnly in Kano Municipality of Kano state Nigeria
2. Conceptualization of the location (into wards): Kano Municipal Local Government has thirteen (13) political wards which include Chedi, Dan'agundi, Gandun Albasa, Jakara, Kankarofi, Shahuci, Sharada, Sheshe, Tudun Nufawa, Tudun Wazirchi, Yakasai, Zaitawa and Zango. Each ward constitute a cluster.
3. Selection of wards: Seven wards (clusters) were randomly selected by the researcher which include Dan'agundi, Gandun Albasa, Jakara, Kankarofi, Shahuci, Sharada, and Yakasai.
4. Identification of wards into streets: In this stage systematic sampling was used and streets were selected after every 5<sup>th</sup> street.
5. Selection of households: In this stage 120 people were randomly selected from 120 different households and the questionnaires were administered to them.

The questionnaires were administered on female who are of child bearing age.

#### Methods of data collection

Data collection method is concerned with the specific procedures for gathering information for the study. The researcher adopts the use of both quantitative and qualitative research technique.

Using quantitative technique, survey method will be adopted and a questionnaire will be used in soliciting information from the respondents. The questionnaire was designed to obtain personal information from the respondent on the consequences of non-marital pregnancy. It includes four sections and consists of both open and close-ended questions. The first section consists of socio-demographic characteristics such as age, religion, occupation, etc. Section B contains social factors associated with non-marital pregnancy, section C focus on the consequences of non-marital pregnancy, while section D concentrated on the possible solution to non-marital teenage pregnancy. The questionnaires will be

administered by the researcher on a face to face basis. The choice for open-ended questions was to ensure good quality response to the questions and allow the respondents express their views on the questions involved. The close-ended questions allowed the respondents select among the various options provided in the questionnaire. The questionnaire was designed in English language; however those (respondents) who do not understand English Language were assisted by the researcher by interpreting the question into local language (Hausa). In-depth interviews were also made to get in-depth information. The interview was on a face to face basis on elderly people to get their views on the issue of non-marital teenage pregnancy in Kano Municipality.

Method of data analysis

The data elicited from the questionnaires will be coded and analyzed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS

21) while information from the in-depth interview will be transcribed from phone voice recorder, edited and analyzed contextually. The researcher adopts the use of frequency distribution and percentage distribution to show the number and characteristics of subjects who responded to specific questions. In addition, the researcher also will use cross tabulation where necessary as well as other statistical tools in analyzing the findings of this research.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The study sociological implication of teenage pregnancy, laid emphasis on the three (3) different objectives. They were, to ascertain the social factors associated with rise of teenage pregnancy, to identify the social consequences of teenage pregnancy and lastly, to find out possible solution to teenage pregnancy in Kano Municipal Local Government Area.

Table 1: Socio-demographic characteristics of respondents

| Age in year        | Frequency (F) | Percentage (%) |
|--------------------|---------------|----------------|
| 17-20              | 40            | 33.3           |
| 21-24              | 30            | 25.0           |
| 25-28              | 50            | 41.7           |
| Total              | 120           | 100            |
| Religion           |               |                |
| Christianity       | 3             | 2.5            |
| Islam              | 117           | 97.5           |
| Total              | 120           | 100            |
| Occupation         |               |                |
| Students           | 70            | 58.3           |
| Farming            | 10            | 8.3            |
| Trading            | 30            | 25.0           |
| Civil servant      | 10            | 8.3            |
| Total              | 120           | 100            |
| Monthly income (₦) |               |                |
| 4,000 or less      | 50            | 41.7           |
| 5,000 to 9,000     | 35            | 29.2           |
| 10,000 to 14,000   | 25            | 20.8           |
| 15,000 or more     | 10            | 8.3            |
| Total              | 120           | 100            |

Source: (Field Survey 2025)

The age distribution of the respondents shows that most of the respondents are aged between 25 and 28 years fifteen 41.7%. Majority of the respondents are students in primary school, 50% and 29.2% respondent has no formal education. Therefore most of the respondents have some formal education. One hundred and seventeen of the respondents

97.5% are Muslims while three 2.5% respondent are Christian. Most 41.7% of the respondents earn ₦4000 or less per month, 29.2% of the respondents earn ₦5000-₦9000, 20.8% earn ₦10000-₦14000 while 8.3% earn above ₦15000. Therefore the respondents who work are predominantly low income earners.

Table 2: The ages at which respondents got pregnant

| Age in years | Frequency (F) | Percentage (%) |
|--------------|---------------|----------------|
| 15-17        | 28            | 23.3           |
| 18-20        | 62            | 51.7           |
| 21+          | 30            | 25.0           |
| Total        | 120           | 100            |

Source (Field Survey 2025)

The table indicates that 51.7% of respondents got pregnant within the age range of 18 and 20years. When girls are sexually active, they tend to seek for sexual pleasure and in satisfying this sexual pleasure from their boyfriends or where ever they can get it and this can result to pregnancy. Most of the respondents 75% did not want to be pregnant at the time they took in. Such girls were not ready for parenthood. Some were raped by men, some were drugged, and others were pressured. Among the respondents interviewed, fifteen (15) said they were raped. The in-depth interviewees said that most teenage pregnancies result from factors external to the people involved. The interviewee pointed out that parents leave their children to fend for themselves. The girls go out and see all manner of flashy things from friends they would like to have them too. If their parents cannot provide such, some of the girls have sex with men who give them money in return to acquire such needs. The Influence of foreign culture is also a factor.

In-depth interview conducted with a primary school headmaster revealed that foreign culture and lack of moral training are factors that lead to teenage pregnancy in Kano Municipality. In his words:

“In our culture, pregnancy occurs only in marriage but foreign culture has influenced most of our young girls most of the so call celebrities are single parents now a girl can talk of sex freely. Another factor like lack of moral training from parents as stated by most respondents is giving rise to teenage pregnancy in Kano”

The analysis of responses on what happened to the pregnancy shows that most 45% of the girls who got pregnant delivered their children, 12% were still pregnant, at the time the study was conducted, 25% had spontaneous abortion while 18% had induced abortion. Some of those that delivered the babies are faced with the problem of who will take care of the baby, because they

take care of the baby themselves despite being financial handicaps. Some work in places where babies are not permitted. They look for baby sitter. Those that go to farm look for where to keep the babies while at work. There is therefore general problem of the babies’ upbringing. With the coming of the child to the family, there is an increase in hardships because there is an extra mouth to feed. Some of these children grow up with little parental care and are prone to various abuses. The female children may grow up to repeat what their mothers did that is premarital pregnancy.

Most 43% of the respondents had abortion and it affected their health. All the 18% induced abortions were septic because they were done by quack doctors. A lady was almost at the point of death after the abortion. She was rushed to the hospital. However she survived it. For those who had spontaneous abortion that is those who had their pregnancies unwillingly terminated, it also affected their health. Two of the respondents who aborted had been rendered infertile.

Most 40% of the girls who had teenage pregnancy were in secondary school at the time of pregnancy. The implication of this is that some of these girls will stop school and take care of themselves and their pregnancy. Among the girls that got pregnant, only 10% continued school. The implication is that there will be high rate of school dropout; the illiteracy level will also be high because there is a relationship between school dropouts among girls that become pregnant in school.

**Social factors associated with teenage pregnancy**

This section presents the social factors associated with teenage pregnancy in Kano Municipality. These factors include age at which ladies got pregnant, poverty, levels of educational attainments, the influence of foreign culture and other factors. The ages at which the respondents got pregnant are presented in Table 3.

**Table 3: The ages at which respondents got pregnant**

| Age in years | Frequency (F) | Percentage (%) |
|--------------|---------------|----------------|
| 15-17        | 28            | 23.3           |
| 18-20        | 62            | 51.7           |
| 21+          | 30            | 25.0           |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>120</b>    | <b>100</b>     |

Source (Field Survey 2025)

**Table 4: The reactions of the men responsible for pregnancy and the provider of the child’s material needs**

| Reactions    | Provider of the child’s material needs |           |                    |           |                             |           |                       |          |                |           |
|--------------|----------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------------------|----------|----------------|-----------|
|              | Mother of the baby                     |           | Father of the baby |           | Baby’s mothers and guidance |           | Baby’s father parents |          | Still pregnant |           |
|              | N                                      | %         | N                  | %         | N                           | %         | N                     | %        | N              | %         |
| He denied it | 10                                     | 10        | 0                  | 0         | 35                          | 35        | 0                     | 0        | 4              | 4         |
| He accept it | 3                                      | 3         | 25                 | 25        | 12                          | 12        | 4                     | 4        | 6              | 6         |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>13</b>                              | <b>13</b> | <b>25</b>          | <b>25</b> | <b>47</b>                   | <b>47</b> | <b>4</b>              | <b>4</b> | <b>10</b>      | <b>10</b> |

Source: Field Survey (2025)

Table 4 indicates that among the 50% of the men that accepted responsibility for the pregnancies, 25% provides the material needs of the child, only three (3) mother's provided for the child's needs. Among the 49% men that denied responsibility of the pregnancy, ten mothers provide the needs of the child.

The analysis of response on who provides most of the material needs of the child shows that most of the material needs of the child were provided by people other than the man responsible for the pregnancy. This shows that the

child would be a burden to the mother's family or in some cases the father's family. Some of the mothers who stopped school and were working could not earn enough for even themselves. They were forced to look for help from their parents or relatives. Some of the respondents interviewed had however been abandoned by families and had to go through pain to raise their child. The relationships of friends and family members with the respondents before and after they got pregnant outside marriage are presented in Table 5

**Table 5: family members and friends reactions to respondents before and after they got pregnant**

| Relations and friends    | Cordial |    | Neither cordial nor hostile |    | Hostile |    | Total |     |
|--------------------------|---------|----|-----------------------------|----|---------|----|-------|-----|
|                          | N       | %  | N                           | %  | N       | %  | N     | %   |
| <b>Father</b>            |         |    |                             |    |         |    |       |     |
| Before                   | 95      | 95 | 3                           | 3  | 2       | 2  | 100   | 100 |
| After                    | 4       | 4  | 2                           | 2  | 94      | 94 | 100   | 100 |
| <b>Mother</b>            |         |    |                             |    |         |    |       |     |
| Before                   | 93      | 93 | 7                           | 7  | 0       | 0  | 100   | 100 |
| After                    | 60      | 60 | 22                          | 22 | 18      | 18 | 100   | 100 |
| <b>Brother (s)</b>       |         |    |                             |    |         |    |       |     |
| Before                   | 70      | 70 | 27                          | 27 | 3       | 3  | 100   | 100 |
| After                    | 18      | 18 | 30                          | 30 | 52      | 52 | 100   | 100 |
| <b>Sister (s)</b>        |         |    |                             |    |         |    |       |     |
| Before                   | 98      | 98 | 1                           | 1  | 1       | 1  | 100   | 100 |
| After                    | 20      | 20 | 66                          | 66 | 14      | 14 | 100   | 100 |
| <b>Friends</b>           |         |    |                             |    |         |    |       |     |
| Before                   | 69      | 69 | 12                          | 12 | 19      | 19 | 100   | 100 |
| After                    | 74      | 74 | 10                          | 10 | 16      | 16 | 100   | 100 |
| <b>Religious Leaders</b> |         |    |                             |    |         |    |       |     |
| Before                   | 80      | 80 | 7                           | 7  | 13      | 13 | 100   | 100 |
| After                    | 25      | 25 | 10                          | 10 | 65      | 65 | 100   | 100 |

**Table 6: What should be done for adolescent girls in school to minimize the occurrence of teenage pregnancy**

| Suggestions                                        | Frequency (F) | Percentage (%) |
|----------------------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Sex education                                      | 74            | 61.7           |
| Parents should take better care of their daughters | 41            | 34.2           |
| Create workshops for young girls in school         | 5             | 4.2            |
| <b>Total</b>                                       | <b>120</b>    | <b>100</b>     |

Source: Field Survey (2025)

The findings of this study revealed that majority of the respondents did not intend to be pregnant at the time they did. Most of them delivered their children in the hospital and those that had abortion, it affected their health. It was also discovered that most of the material needs of the children born to these unmarried women are provided by people other than their biological fathers.

On the consequences of teenage pregnancy, it was discovered that some (49%) of the men that impregnate the girls denied responsibility and this pose a great challenge for them and their family. The study also revealed that most of the respondents are in secondary school, and when they get pregnant they usually drop out

of school. This implies that the rate of school dropout will increase as the number of teenage pregnancy increase.

Also most of the respondents' lose the cordial relationship they use to enjoy from relatives and friends when they get pregnant outside marriage.

On the possible solution to teenage pregnancy, most (54%) of the respondents suggest sex education as a solution to teenage pregnancy among adolescent girls in school, they suggested sex lesson as a solution to teenage pregnancy among adolescent girls out of school and counseling as the solution to teenage pregnancy among ever married women.

## CONCLUSION

There is no doubt that the phenomenon of teenage pregnancy is on the rise in Kano Municipality. Most girls who got pregnant did not want to get pregnant, most of them got pregnant while in school and they drop out of school when they become pregnant. When they give birth, providing for the child becomes a problem to them, they lose the cordial relationships they had enjoyed with friends and family. In conclusion, the issues of poverty, sex education parental counsel etc are contributing factors leading to the rise of teenage pregnancy

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings in this study, the following recommendations are proffered.

1. There should be adequate parental care, Supervision and upbringing of children. A good parent should be able to read the child's desire, intentions and, or worries from her face. Parents must not wait to be told of the problem before responding to it. Parents should pry into their children's difficulties and make them understand that they are ever willing to help out. Parents should also equip their children about sexuality to enable them cope with peer pressure and the realities of adult life.
2. There is need for sex education both in primary and secondary school. This could be achieved by introducing subjects in schools to teach young girl's concepts as ovulation, fertility, menstrual cycle, puberty and ways of preventing unwanted pregnancies. The teaching of sex and sexuality education should be made compulsory in all schools to help adolescents understand their physiological make up.
3. Government need to create job opportunity for the people to reduce the rate of poverty. A priority needs to be given for girls in the public sector, mini jobs, training and skills acquisition programs mainly for teenagers.
4. Non-governmental organization should also help in public campaign on the consequences of teenage pregnancy. Teenage this could be achieved by creating programmes tailored to the needs of teenage

girls and include health promotion information and advice, especially on risk taking behavior.

5. Social welfare agencies (public and private) should redouble efforts in educating, counseling and rehabilitation of victims. By these efforts many of them could be encouraged to continue their education or engage in other meaningful activities to avoid early destitution and other life threatening experiences resulting from early motherhood.

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