

Activating Knowledge on Adolescence Program (AKAP): Preventing the Surge in Teenage Pregnancies During the Covid-19 Pandemic

FELIX C. BALIZA

Cesar C. Tan Memorial National High School
Division of Quezon

MYLENE D. GALPA

Cesar C. Tan Memorial National High School
Division of Quezon

KEANA JEFFREY D. DISCARGA

Cesar C. Tan Memorial National High School
Division of Quezon

ABSTRACT

The study aims to prevent the surge of teenage pregnancy during COVID-19 pandemic by implementing the Activating Knowledge on Adolescence Program (AKAP). The data were collected from the twelve (12) students of Cesar C. Tan Memorial National High School who became pregnant during the time of pandemic. A descriptive type of research was used to explain the phenomenon. The study revealed that majority of the respondents who got pregnant were ages between 14-17 with family monthly income of Php10, 001-Php15, 000. They weren't ready to be a parent that confronts them with financial problems, conflict with parents, and problems taking care of the baby. The financial program greatly contributed to the respondents' economic resources since they honed their skills to earn a sustainable income covering family expenses. Concurrently, information sharing through pamphlets and video clip has a positive impact among teenage mothers on how they should take care of their wellbeing and the child.

Keywords: Pandemic, Teenage Pregnancy, Information Sharing, Financial Intervention

Introduction

Covid-19 widespread has been labeled as the foremost challenging emergency that the humankind has confronted since World War II (UN Chief). This widespread brought a parcel of challenging issues around the world that driven to the passing of more than a million individuals and affirmed cases that are nearing to 90 million concurring to World Wellbeing Organization. Besides, this widespread has influenced a lot of Filipinos within the Philippines when President Rodrigo Duterte requested a across the nation lockdown which happened on Walk of 2020 taken after by the announcement of state of adversity on the nation for 6 months. This lockdown confined

the developments of individuals wherein a parcel of trade foundations was forced to closed down. Open transportation was minimized and driven to the closure instructive educate, not fair here within the Philippines but around the world.

A parcel of schools was constrained to shut since of a conceivable surge within the number of Covid-19 cases. After the closure of instructive education, a parcel of uncommon issues emerge that incorporates the remove learning giving a major stun to the instructors, understudies, and guardians. Sometime recently, understudies go to school and the instructor are the ones doing the educating face-to-face but presently the understudies are made to do homeschooling where their guardians or gatekeepers are anticipated to instruct distinctive subjects which were instructed to them at school some time recently the widespread.

Final Eminent 2020, the Philippines' financial advancement office announced the number of adolescent pregnancies as a "national social emergency". Since of the Covid-19 widespread, the circumstance on adolescent pregnancy got to be more awful. This is often since the government's convention to confine the individuals from going out of their homes subsequently, get to to birth control has been seriously decreased. Agreeing to the College of the Philippines Populace Organized, an assessed 751,000 impromptu pregnancies are set to happen this 2021 taking after the Covid-19 widespread. A few of the reasons that can be connected to this surge of high school pregnancies are need of get to to birth control, need of data almost sexual and regenerative wellbeing and rights, family community and social weight to wed, sexual savagery, additionally dropping out of school.

Agreeing to think about by Maemeko et. al (2018), titled "The effect of High school Pregnancy on Scholastic Execution of Review 7", one of the causes of adolescent pregnancy is school dropout. It is expressed within the ponder that being in school can avoid the understudies from getting pregnant so those who have dropped out of school are likely to drop. Considers on high school pregnancy too suggest that high school pregnancy contains a relationship on their state of life. Meaning destitution is associated to a high school young lady confronting parenthood at an early age.

Cesar C. Tan Memorial National High School is one of the schools in the Philippines affected by Covid-19 pandemic. It is a public school situated in a small island in the province of Quezon, Quezon. Because of unstable internet connection and many students who cannot afford smartphones/gadgets for online learning, the school decided to go with the Modular Learning. It is a form of distance learning that uses Self-Learning Modules (SLM) with a complete guide of both students' and teachers' desired competencies. From March 2020 up to the present, a lot of problems related to modular learning kept on rising. One of the problems encountered by Cesar C. Tan Memorial National High School faculty includes the number of students who dropped out of school because of pandemic. In addition to this, a lot of students were also having a hard time answering their modules. It turned out that instead of doing their modules, they'd rather help their

parents earn money to support for the needs of their family. There are also cases where students-- both male and female face the early stage of parenthood.

Teenage pregnancy has become a major problem for the teachers of CCTMNHS since a lot of students are dropping out because of them being pregnant at the time of pandemic, the time where they were not supervised by teachers and where they are not in school. Due to the problems arising regarding teenage pregnancies at CCTMNHS, the researchers came up with a study that aims to identify the factors that relates the COVID-19 pandemic to teenage pregnancies and formulate solutions that will help stop the trend in this growing rate of teenage pregnancies not just in CCTMNHS but also to other schools situated here in Quezon, Quezon. This research will focus on information sharing where students will be equipped with a lot of knowledge regarding teenage pregnancies, and financial intervention which does not necessarily mean giving out cash but establishing programs that will help the students to be equipped with life-skills even staying at home that would support their family needs.

Research Questions:

1. What is the demographic profile of the respondents in terms of:
 - 1.1 Age;
 - 1.2 Family Income?
2. What are the effects of becoming a young mother to her wellbeing during the pandemic?
3. What is the extent of Activating Knowledge on Adolescence Program in meddling teenage pregnancy among respondents in terms of:
 - 3.1 Financial Intervention
 - 3.2 Information Sharing

Literature Review

Teenage Pregnancy in the Philippines

Concurring to a report by UNFPA titled "Eliminating High school Pregnancy within the Philippines", Philippines has one of the most noteworthy adolescent pregnancy rates among the ASEAN member states. It is also expressed within the diary that 500 teenagers ended up pregnant and gave birth each day. Additionally, this ponder clarifies how those young people who have started childbearing at the age of 18 a long time and beneath are less likely to total auxiliary instruction compared to the teenagers who have not started childbearing. Besides, because the understudies could not total their instruction, work openings within the future are reduced and a source of pay for their families is too influenced. The journal moreover pointed out a few variables that contribute to different pregnancies in youths which are as takes after (1) lower instructive

fulfillment and financial status (2) destitute get to contraception exacerbated by legitimate obstructions to get to cutting edge contraception (3) challenge within the usage of comprehensive sexuality instruction and (4) limited-service conveyance focuses giving juvenile and youth-friendly sexuality and regenerative wellbeing administrations (UNFPA, 2020).

Alvarez, et al., (2016) appeared the significance of wellbeing instruction. It served as an eye-opener to the open to be mindful of early high school pregnancy conjointly to advance a few arrangements such as arranging, execution and assessment of the programs that would construct maintainable development. As expressed within the study, sex instruction ought to be consolidated within the educational modules of auxiliary schools to legitimately teach their understudies on this subject which is exceptionally convenient to their era.

Maravilla, et al., (2018) appeared that there's a consistent drift of one in each 5 adolescent moms within the Philippines encountering pregnancy from 1993 to 2013. The think about too expressed that the Philippines is at that point as it were nation within the Pacific locale with no noteworthy decay in juvenile ripeness within the past decades. Sort of home and socio-economic status were moreover considered in this think about. A case of rehashed birth was too characterized in this think about as a juvenile with at slightest two live births.

Adolescent Sexual Initiation and Pregnancy

Habito et. al., (2019) found out that within the nonappearance of dependable, effectively open information on pre-adult sexual and regenerative wellbeing (SRH), the information wellbeing assembled (DHS) information can give critical experiences approximately juvenile regenerative moves and experiences on, to begin with pregnancy. Comes about appeared that defensive impact of instruction and having a place to higher riches quintiles on pre-adult pregnancy dangers.

Effects of Teenage Pregnancy

Concurring to a journal by Arrange Worldwide, (2016) titled "Teenage Pregnancy", juvenile pregnancy is considered to be a worldwide issue most likely to those who are destitute and who have a place to marginalized community. It is expressed within the diary that adolescent pregnancy increments when girls are denied the proper to form choices approximately their sexual and regenerative wellbeing and wellbeing. Youths who confront the early stage of parenthood are at dangers since of their youthful or juvenile bodies conjointly to the babies born to more youthful moms are too at hazard. Young pregnancy has negative social and financial impacts on young ladies, their families and their communities. Dismissal by guardians is frequently confronted by the teenagers who experience this circumstance of early young pregnancy and are more inclined to savagery by their accomplices.

Stopping the Surge in Teenage Pregnancy

In an interview conducted by UNFPA in their article "In the Philippines, data key to ending adolescent pregnancy", a young lady of 19 a long time, named Gina, not her genuine title said "I was stunned when I found out I was pregnant, I had to drop out of tall school to discover a work to bolster for my family". "Gina" could be a third-year tall school understudy when she got pregnant. The article centered on how high school pregnancy impacts the lives of these youthful youths and how they are forced to drop out of school to supply for their families. Besides, this article pointed out the significance of raising mindfulness on high school pregnancy so they can be dependable and too accepting that taught young ladies can alter the world. UNFPA collaborated with the office of the Vice President and three Universities—Western Philippine University, Mindanao State University, and the University of the Philippines Visayas to empower adolescent girls with age- and developmentally appropriate information on sexual and reproductive health. UNFPA collaborated with the office of the Vice- President and three Universities—Western Philippine College, Mindanao State College, and the College of the Philippines Visayas to engage youthful young ladies with age- and formatively fitting data on sexual and regenerative wellbeing (UNFPA, 2018).

Methodology

The data were collected from twelve (12) respondents of Cesar C. Tan Memorial National High School during the School Year 2020-2021. A descriptive method of research was used to describe the situations concerning teenage pregnancy. The researchers have personally identified the respondents and its parents for the financial intervention and information sharing. The researchers' level of awareness scale was weighted from the respondents to its number of questions. The researchers collaboratively asked and worked with the guidance councilor/teachers/advisers/school head/district supervisor through the use of information sharing. Parents of the respondents were identified and were formally sent an invitation for a survey and informal interview to illicit factual information on the status of their child. The questionnaires were self-made by the researchers in line with the problems stated in this research and personally administered to explain well the purpose of the study. The researchers ensured the confidentiality of the answers/feedback to the questionnaires given to them and are made sure to be used only for the study's intended purpose. Lastly, questionnaires will be retrieved by the researchers from the respondents and will be treated statistically to come up with a conclusion of the study.

Results and Discussion

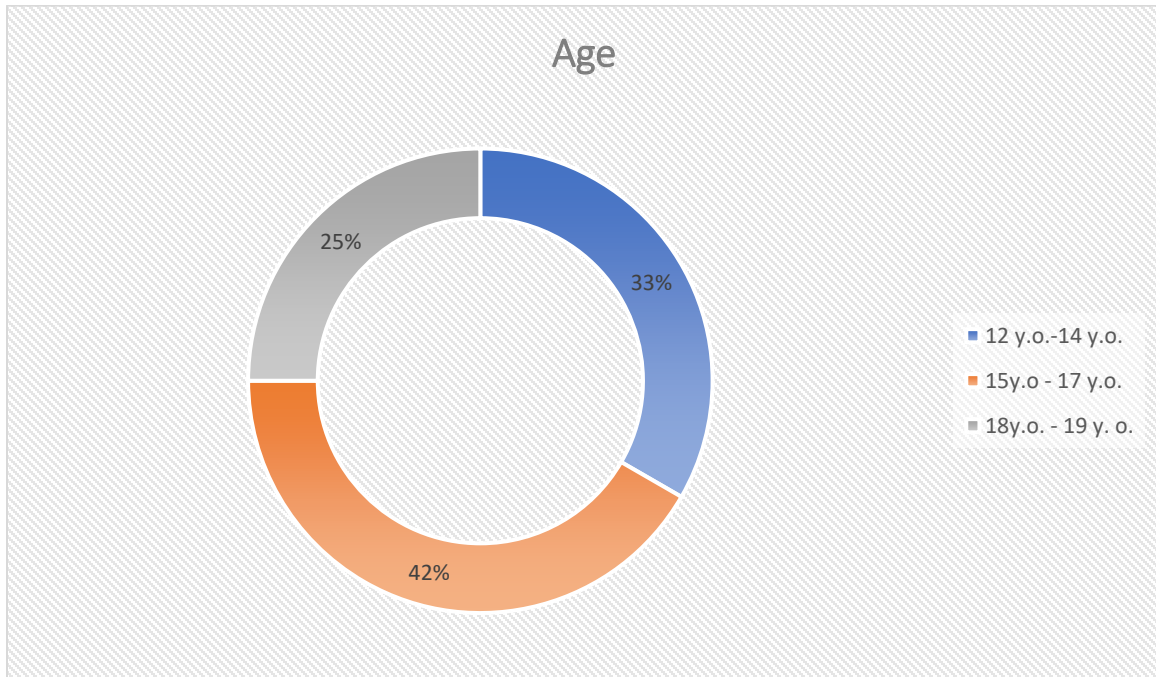


Figure 1. Age of the respondents

Figure 1 shows the demographic profile of the respondents in terms of age. Twenty five percent (25%) of the respondents accounts for respondents who are 18-19 years old. Thirty three percent (33%) accounts for 12-14 years old and forty two percent (42%) of the respondents have ages between 15-17 years old. It can be seen from the graph that majority of the respondents were those between the ages between 15-17 years old. These ages were susceptible in doing and exploring things without much thinking of the consequences which usually lead to unwise decisions.

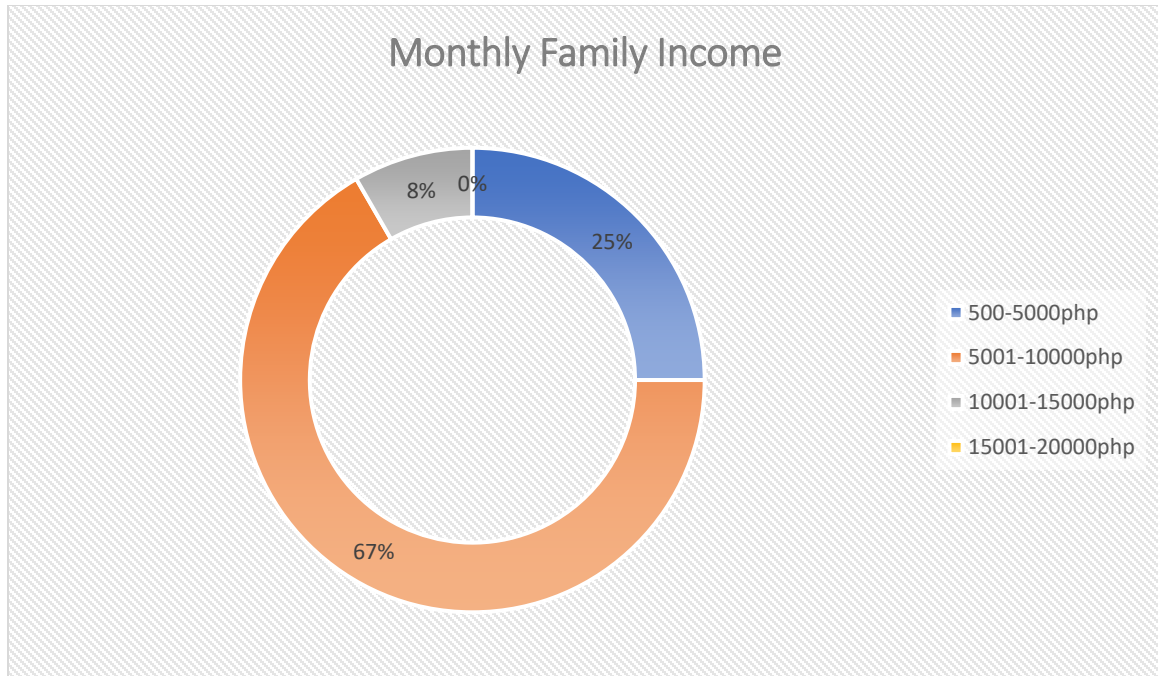


Figure 2. Monthly Family Income of Respondents

Figure 2 shows the demographic profile of the respondents in terms of monthly family income. Result shows that eight percent (8%) of the family income have a monthly income ranging from Php10, 001-Php15,000. Twenty five percent (25%) have a monthly family income ranging from Php500 – Php 5, 000. And the majority of the respondents have monthly family income ranging from PhpP5, 001 – Php10, 000. These circumstances can be attributed to the nature of available work in the island and the employment opportunities thereto.

Table 1. Situation of the Respondents After Becoming a Teenage Parent

Statement	SA	A	D	SD	WM	Adjectival Rating
	4	3	2	1		
1. Becoming a teenage mother/ is an unwelcome surprise for me.	8	4			3.67	SA
2. I have less time to spend with friends	6	3	3		3.25	A
3. I have no time in answering the modules/studying	7	2	3		3.33	SA
4. My partner helps me in taking care of the baby	1	2	8	1	2.25	D
5. It is easy to become a teenage mother since responsibilities are shared compared to those older parents		2	4	6	1.67	SD
6. I had conflict with my family values	9	3			3.75	SA
7. I decided to live with my partner because of economic reasons.		1	3	8	1.42	SD
8. My parents support me in being a teenage mother.		1	9	2	1.92	D
9. I hate my parents because they didn't guide me with my situation	4	7	1		3.25	A
10. I am having financial problems	9	3			3.75	SA
11. I have a source of income to support for our expenses	1	4	7		2.5	D
12. I have knowledge on what to do after becoming pregnant		4	6	2	2.17	SD
Weighted Average Mean					2.74	A

Legend: 1:00 – 1.75 Strongly Disagree 1.76 – 2.50 Disagree 2.51 – 3.25 Agree 3.26 – 4.00 Strongly Agree

Table 1 shows the situation of the respondents who became teenage parent during the pandemic. The respondents have an overall rating of 2.74 or agree on their situation after they've got pregnant which brought huge changes in their usual activities and restrict them from doing things they'd used to do before. Results showed that respondents strongly agreed that after getting pregnant, they have no time answering their modules, conflict with family values, having financial

problems, and brought unwelcome surprise. Consequently, respondents agreed that they spend less time with friends and hate their parents for not guiding them in managing the situation. On the other hand, respondents disagreed that the partner didn't help take care of their baby, receive support from their parent, and have source of income to support their expenses. Concurrently, respondents were strongly disagreed that being young mother is easier than older parent, living with partner to support economic needs, and having adequate knowledge on what to do after becoming pregnant.

Table 2 Extent of Financial Intervention Program on Teenage Pregnancy

Statement	SA	A	D	SD	WM	Adjectival Rating
	4	3	2	1		
1. The seedlings/ crops provided help relieve my stress during this pandemic	8	4			3.67	SA
2. The crops given are easy to plant in our backyard/house	9	3			3.75	SA
3. My family benefited from crops and plants given	9	3			3.75	SA
4. I earned money from the crops/seeds given	10	2			3.83	SA
5. The baking ingredients/recipes are available in the local market	12	0			4.00	SA
6. The costs of ingredients for baking recipes are low	8	4			3.67	SA
7. The baked products help me earn substantial income to support my family needs	9	3			3.75	SA
8. The cooking ingredients/recipes are available in the local market	12	0			4.00	SA
9. The costs of ingredients for cooking recipes are low	12	0			4.00	SA
10. The cooked products help me earn sufficient income to support my family needs	11	1			3.92	SA

WEIGHTED AVERAGE MEAN	3.83	SA
------------------------------	-------------	-----------

Legend: 1:00 – 1.75 Strongly Disagree 1.76 – 2.50 Disagree 2.51 – 3.25 Agree 3.26 – 4.00 Strongly Agree

Table 2 shows the extent of financial intervention program made by the researchers for the respondents. The respondents have an overall rating of 3.83 or strongly agree which signifies that financial intervention program was significantly contribute to have sustainable source of income to cover their daily needs. Respondents were strongly agreed that the financial intervention integrated in the AKAP project tremendously support their financial needs and help them relieved stress by planting crops that eventually yield profit from selling it. Likewise, the baking recipes provided by the proponents give great opportunity to earn additional income since all ingredients needed in producing baked products are available in the local market. There were also number of substitute ingredients available that captures the taste and preference of customers. Finally, the cooking recipes taught to respondents allow them to get extra income that covers their expenses.

Overall, it could be concluded that the financial intervention contributes significantly to the livelihood of young mothers, enabling them to earn from planting crops/seeds, baking cookies and pastries, and cooking a variety of local menus to support their family needs.

Table 3 Extent of the Information Sharing Program on Teenage Pregnancy

Statement	SA	A	D	SD	WM	Adjectival Rating
	4	3	2	1		
1. The developed pamphlet/video clip on teenage pregnancy is very informative	12				4.00	SA
2. I learned a lot from the contents of pamphlet/video clip specifically, taking good care of her wellbeing and the baby	11	1			3.92	SA
3. It helps me to become aware of my situation as a teenage mother	8	4			3.67	SA
4. The pamphlet/video clip gave me knowledge on pregnancy services provided by the school guidance counselor and teachers	12				4.00	SA
5. The information provided in the pamphlet/video clip allows me to identify government agencies that give assistance to pregnant woman	11	1			3.92	SA

6.	The pamphlet / video clip discusses the consequences of teenage pregnancy	10	2			3.83	SA
7.	The pamphlet / video clip show tips and ways to prevent teenage pregnancy	11	1			3.92	SA
8.	The pamphlet / video clip explains the things to do once teenage pregnancy occurred	12	0			4.00	SA
WEIGHTED AVERAGE MEAN						3.91	SA

Legend: 1:00 – 1.75 Strongly Disagree 1.76 – 2.50 Disagree 2.51 – 3.25 Agree 3.26 – 4.00 Strongly Agree

Table 3 shows the extent of the information sharing program on teenage pregnancy made by the researchers for the respondents. The respondents have an overall rating of 3.91 which implies that the respondents strongly agree on the effectivity of the information sharing program made specifically for them. They were strongly agreed that the information provided in the pamphlet and video clip were informative, discusses school assistance and services for teenage pregnancy, and the things they need to do during the pregnancy. The developed information tools allow the respondents to identify the different government agencies that provides assistance to pregnant woman and the intricacies being pregnant at an early age.

In sum, the information tools developed by the proponents gave a clear understanding on how teenage mother will taking good care of their wellbeing as well as protecting their child from any harmful effects of exposing them from unsafe environment.

Conclusion

1. Based from the data obtained in the demographic profile of the respondents, it showed that majority of the respondents who got pregnant have an age ranging between 14-17 years old. These ages were susceptible to exploring things without considering its consequences yielding an unwanted outcome, including early teenage pregnancy. The majority of family monthly income ranges between Php10, 001- Php15,000. This can be attributed to the availability of work present in the locale and the resources to generate income.
2. Results showed that majority of the respondents weren't ready when they became teenage parent and that it caused them to have no social life and have no time to spend with friends. Likewise, conflicts arose when they became teenage parents such as having financial and family problems and with regard to taking care of the child.
3. The program on information sharing and financial intervention was effective since respondents gained knowledge and skills. The financial intervention contributes significantly to young mothers' livelihood, which enables them to earn from planting crops/seeds, baking cookies and pastries, and cooking a variety of local menus to support

their family needs. While information sharing can be used in the long run to prevent the surge in teenage pregnancy, especially the information in the pamphlet and video clip regarding teenage pregnancy. They were informed of the things they need to do to maintain optimum health of both the mother and the child.

References

- Alvarez et al, (November 2016). The Phenomenon of Teenage Pregnancy in the Philippines. Retrieved from <https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/236412741.pdf>.
- Habito, et al., (2019). Adolescent Sexual Initiation and Pregnancy: what more can be learned through further analysis of the demographic and health surveys in the Philippines? Retrieved from: <https://bmcpublihealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12889-019-7451-4>.
- Maravilla et al, (November 2018). “Trends in Repeated Pregnancy among adolescents in the Philippines from 1993 to 2013”. Retrieved from https://www.researchgate.net/publication/328771104_Trends_in_repeated_pregnancy_among_adolescents_in_the_Philippines_from_1993_to_2013.
- Plan International, (2016). Teenage Pregnancy. Retrieved from https://plan-international.org/sexualhealth/teenagepregnancy?gclid=Cj0KCQiA34OBBhCcARIsAG32uvOjHFM708g7iK5T_9hDEkRr9r1Mvjdr2vn6lsnYS18T1fGw4eqPK8aAh93EALw_wcB.
- UNFPA (January, 2020). Eliminating Teenage Pregnancy in the Philippines. Retrieved from https://philippines.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/UNFPA_Policy_Brief_Teenage_Pregnancy_%282020-01-24%29.pdf.
- UNFPA (March 2018). In the Philippines, information key to halting teenage pregnancy. Retrieved from <https://www.unfpa.org/news/philippines-information-key-halting-teenage-pregnancy>.