

## **Driving Factors, Issues, and Insights of Adolescents in Teenage Pregnancy in Lucena City**

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### **Abstract**

In the Philippines, approximately 13% of adolescents become pregnant, resulting in 180,916 births to girls aged 10-19. The study aims to understand the driving factors, issues, and insights of adolescent teenage pregnancy. It also aims to propose a strategic intervention and implementation plan to address the rising number of teenage pregnancies. It was conducted in the 12 barangays who has the highest rate of teenage pregnancy in Lucena City. A total of 103 conveniently selected teenage mothers in the 12 barangays served as respondents of the study. The study is a descriptive research that utilized quantitative and qualitative methods through survey questionnaires and interviews. It was revealed that the impelling causes of teenage pregnancy were Social media use, Natural causes, Pornography, Peers, Parents, Chores, Poverty, Materialism, and Female enticement. The respondents identified several challenges in terms of their social lives, health, schooling, and finances. Challenges in terms of social lives include access to public health facilities, child rearing, self-care, assistance in parenting, and limited supplies and services in BHCs. The challenges in education include education disruption, financial hardships, needed alternative forms of learning, and support from partners and immediate family to continue education. Meanwhile, for economic issues, financial hardship, future education plans, and plans to secure well-paid jobs were identified. Lastly, for social issues, the thematic analysis revealed the following: negative acceptance from the family and the community, normalizing being pregnant at a very young age, and feeling judged and becoming the center of gossip. The developed strategic intervention program includes three approaches: healthy sexuality, a comprehensive teenage program, and a societal approach. Parents and adults discomfited with their sexuality family approach, consistent adult involvement for the child, healthy communities, media responsibility, and reaffirming the importance of values and involvement of religious and other organizations may be targeted.

*Keywords: Social Science, Teenage Pregnancy, Quantitative and Qualitative, Philippines*