

**CAUSES OF EARLY PREGNANCY AMONG GIRLS IN SECONDARY
SCHOOLS IN LIRA DISTRICT**

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**A RESEARCH REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
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DECLARATION

I **AKAO JULIET PATRICIA** declare that this dissertation has not been previously submitted and approved for the award of a degree by this or any other University. To the best of my knowledge and belief, the book contains no material previously published or written by other person except where due reference is made in the book itself.


Signed..........

Date.....

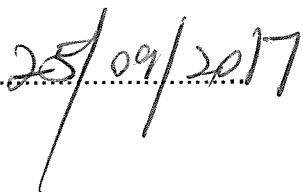
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APPROVAL

This dissertation entitled "***Causes of Early Pregnancy among Girls In Secondary Schools In Lira District***" has been submitted to the College of Education Open and Distance Learning for approval as a candidate's University Supervisor.

Signed 

Mr. Ssekandi Elias
(Supervisor)

Date..... 

DEDICATION

This dissertation is dedicated to my parents; my father; Oyugi Francis, my mother; Joan Oyugi and my husband; Okwir Martin who taught me that the best kind of knowledge to have is that which is learned for its own sake and taught me that even the largest task can be accomplished if it is done one step at a time and the financial support rendered to me during the course and my children; Paul and Mercy.

May God bless you.

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ABSTRACT

Other purposes included making room for the improvement on the educational attainment of female in society, encouraging teenage mothers of the chances of education after birth and examining the causes of early pregnancy among girls in secondary schools in Lira district.

Questions were answered like; Is it possible to make room for improvement of the educational attainment of female in society?, Can teenage mothers be encouraged of the chances of education after birth? And what are the causes of early pregnancy among secondary school girls in Lira District?

The sample size of 60 respondents was selected. The data collected from the field was analyzed and interpreted using different ways like use of frequency tables and percentages, bar graphs, pie charts. Quantitative data was analyzed statistically and content or thematic analysis used to analyze the qualitative data collected.

The study established that the causes of early pregnancy among secondary school girls carry same major causes like poverty which takes 38.3% followed by low socio-economic status which takes 20% and the rest follows with drugs and alcohol carrying 18.3%, socialization carrying 11.7%, personality takes 6.7% and lastly perception with 5%.

Sex education should be promoted in secondary schools. The students of secondary school should be taught about it, they should be taught the dangers of involving in early sex and the outcomes so that they can know how to make decisions wisely without regretting in the end.

This research was specifically done in Lira district and so it is recommended to be done in other districts to see the major cause of early pregnancy so that the government can come up with a recommended solution for the general problem.

And also more research should be done on how best girls in secondary schools can be helped so that they stay in school and complete their studies.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background Information

Early pregnancy among secondary school girls is one of the post global challenges posing potential threat to the future generation. A report by Save the Children 2005 showed that 3 million pregnancies occur to women under age of 20 worldwide and 90% of them in developing countries. The highest rate of early pregnancies is in sub-Saharan Africa of which Uganda is one of them. WHO reports (2005) indicate that Africa is the leading continent with highest rate of early pregnancies where women tend to marry early. 53% of women in Africa give birth before the age of 18.

India subcontinent is trailing behind Africa in early pregnancies among secondary school girls with the rate of 71 to 119 per 1000 young girls aged between 15 and 19. In Southern Asia, the rate of early pregnancies is decreasing except for Bangladesh and Indonesia, which have the same trend like India. In India early pregnancies contribute 26 to 37% of death among female adolescents while in Bangladesh the death toll due to early pregnancies 12 26 to 37% (Global incidence of teenage pregnancies, Wikipedia 2006).

The United States has the low rate compared to the other two continents of Africa and Asia. In USA the birth rate is 53 per 1000 among women aging 15 to 19, however the early pregnancy trend in US seems to be the highest in the developed world.

In North America, specifically Canada, the rate is 33.9 per 1000 early pregnancies (Global) incidence of teenage pregnancy, Wikipedia 2006).

Europe has lowest rate of early age pregnancies compared to other continents. In UK the rate recorded in 2002 was 10.4 per 1000 young girls in Landon and 20.20 per 1000

girls in upcountry. Italy has the lowest among the European countries with 3.3 per 1000 births among the same age categories as above mentioned (WHO).

Early sexuality activities, early pregnancies increased spread of STDs and HIV/AIDS are major challenges facing developing countries in sub-Saharan Africa. About 17 million girls aging 16 to 19 years in sub Saharan Africa give birth each year and most of these pregnancies are not planned. The WHO estimates that 4.4 million abortions are sought by young girls each year. The report further reveals that more than 50% of teen agers are at risk of contracting HIV. However, efforts to understand, prevent and contain early sexuality behavior related to reproductive health problems are very minimum and in some areas they do almost not exist at all (Vibeke, 2001).

It is indicated that more than 90% of early pregnancy occur in Africa among secondary school girls between 15 to 19 the highest rate of early pregnancies is 143 per 1000 girls aged 18 to 19 in sub-Saharan Africa. Due to their social status, young girls are among the vulnerable social group in many African societies. Their low social status in the community poses a high risk for them to be the most victim of sexual exploitation. They are the most affected physically and socially. Ninety percent of maternal death in sub-Saharan Africa is due to early pregnancy. Estimated 12 million cases of STD are occurring in worldwide, among them 3 million cases are reported to have occurred among secondary school girls.

In Uganda early pregnancies is the problem that is prevailing almost in the whole country though in some regions the situation seems to be worse enough when compared to others. Transition tares of early pregnancies indicate that there is an increase of early pregnancies from 5.2% in 2003 to 21.9 percent in 2007.

Pregnancy among secondary school girls has major repercussion to the affected girls. Most of health problems among young women are associated with early pregnancies.

This is due to the fact that the reproductive organs of these youngsters are not fully developed to be able to handle pregnancy.

As a result most of the girls die while delivering. Most of the deaths are due to rupture of the uterus, abortion, over bleeding and immature birth. Low birth weight is associated with several infant problems and disorders such as respiratory distress syndrome intestine problems, under developed organs and finally high rate of infant mortality.

Children born to mothers below age 18 are ½ times more likely to die before age 5 than those born to mothers aged twenty to thirty four. It is stating that 3 of every 4 African women become mothers while they are in their teens and 40% of births in Africa are to women under age seventeen of which most are secondary school girls.

Adolescents, more than other age groups are exposed to reproductive health risks as the average age of marriage goes up worldwide, the periods of sexual activity before is increasing. But young people are often denied the information and the means they need to avoid unwanted pregnancy and students of the 160 girls aged 5 to 15 worldwide, about 11%, twenty nine million lack access to effective contraceptive protection.

In the light of this. "Need Gross nickel Wisconsin state chair of Sierra club population committee (2007) asserts that half of all new HIV infections occur in people aged 15-17 (secondary school students). The infection rates among young girls are high than among young boys marginalized young people such as street children, show higher infection rate than well to do young people.

The girls has the highest number of pregnancy rates in Africa than any other continent, especially sub-Saharan Africa living in poverty and confronted with peer pressure, young women around ½ of the sexually active youth age 15-17 do not use condoms

and the teenage pregnancy rate in Uganda at 31% is the highest in sub-Saharan Africa about 36 million people currently live in Uganda with just over seventy percent of the population under 20 years of age. Despite economic progress and the development experts considering Uganda as "a model of success and a source for stability in another wise troubled sub Sahara region of Africa more than 50% of Ugandan young girls are affected by cases of early pregnancy," UNFPA, 2007.

In Lira where the study based, the urban population growth is estimated as the rate of 12.5 percent and population under age 15 is 50.4% growth rate through early pregnancy with HIV and AIDS prevalence rate.

1.2 Background

The research was carried out in Lira district Northern Uganda. Lira district is among the highly developed districts in Uganda where different activities are carried out like farming, businesses, and learning among others. Since it's along the Great Northern Bypass where people from different countries pass from to carry out trade it faces a number of challenges of which early pregnancy among secondary school girls is one of them due to different groups of people who sometimes stage near many secondary schools and interact with the people in the area. Since business people are considered to be the richest when any secondary school girl is lured by one of them they cannot easily resist the force impaired on them and this always end up in a bad side of the girl by either conceiving early or contracting Sexually Transmitted diseases. (STDS)

1.3 Statement of the problem

With the changes in our society, secondary school girls who are supposed to be called innocent now take part in sexual activities like adults. Unfortunately, the result now becomes the problem of herself, her parents, the society and even the unborn child. The problems of this study were;

- Does early pregnancy result in school dropout and constitute socio-economic menace?

- Do teenage mothers still see the need for further studies / education?
- Are secondary school girls still shy and frightened to seek information about contraceptives?
- Do parents and guidance fail to motivate and advice their girls?

1.4 Purpose of the study / objectives

Based on the background of this study and the stated problem above this research was set to achieve the following objectives;

- i) Make room for the improvement on the educational attainment of female in society.
- ii) To encourage teenage mothers of the chances of education after birth.
- iii) To examine the causes of early pregnancy among girls in secondary schools in Lira district.

1.5 Research Questions

- 1) Is it possible to make room for improvement of the educational attainment of female in society?
- 2) Can teenage mothers be encouraged of the chances of education after birth?
- 3) What are the causes of early pregnancy among secondary school girls in Lira District?

1.6 Scope of the Study

1.6.1 Contextual scope.

The study covered the students affected by early pregnancy factors contributing to early pregnancy among girls in secondary schools in Lira District.

1.6.2 Geographical scope

The study was carried out in some few selected schools in Lira District, northern Uganda, Langoa sub-region. It is 347km from the capital city Kampala and is boarded

by the districts of Pader in the North, Kotido and Moroto in the East, Kaberamaido in the South East, Kamuli and Kayunga in the south.

1.6.3 Time scope

The study took a period of 4 months from March to June.

1.7 Significance of the Study

This study will help to educate on the consequences of early pregnancy, on educational attainment and also the significant negative emotional and social consequences of sexual activities leading to early pregnancy in order for the following persons /groups to benefit.

Future mothers who would want to enjoy their family through this study would attain from sex in order not to destroy their future.

Parents of these teens would benefit by excluding shame or ridicule by friends.

The society is also in the position to benefit due to the fact that the society would be made up of planned children who are needed and reduces population.

The school authorities would have more students to educate with more zeal and seriousness.

Teenagers would escape unwanted pregnancy, TDs, shame and safeguard their future.

The future generation and unborn babies would be born into a planned organized and prepared environment.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

This section shows all the literature that will be used in the study. This will help the researcher in data compiling and making the analysis in the research report. In this chapter several materials like text books, magazines, pamphlets, newspapers and internet will be consulted to help in the data collection and the chapter will have causes of early pregnancy among secondary school girls.

Causes of early pregnancy among girls in secondary schools.

2.1 Poverty

Poverty is a general problem that most people tend to experience at least once in their life but it cannot be a permanent thing. Most of the girls in secondary schools present themselves as from a poor family and this tend to disrupt their minds from doing the right things hence ending up in a trap like early pregnancy and dropping out of school.

D. Standey Eitzen et al (1997, social problems), poverty damages families. Poverty which coupled with divested divorce as more affluent families. Jobless persons are 3 to 4 times likely to marry; than those with jobs. Girls from families who are living in areas of high unemployment, poverty, and inferior schools are six to 7 times more likely to become unwed parents than are the more fortune girls (Coontz, 1994)

2.2 Socialization

It is normal for all secondary school girls to socialize with others but some groups of people socialize with influence much in their behaviours. They start modern dressing, admiring luxurious things like phones, drinking etc which increase their need for money so as to produce themselves with such needs and this forces them to get involved in love affairs with men who later seduce them to unprotected sex leading to unwanted, early pregnancy and sometimes acquiring HIV/AIDS.

Joseph Heffernan et al (1997, Social Work and Social welfare), Today teens are faced with a great deal of pressure from any sources, peers, the media, advertising to see their talents in terms of some activities like sexuality modeling which may later change the teens' character and behavior.

2.3 Personality

People have their own unique characters in life. According to the hierarchy of needs theory, Professor Abraham Maslow explains that human needs are in form of a hierarchy ascending from lowest to highest. He further says that human beings work to provide themselves with these needs and that the psychological needs people cannot do without them like food, water, shelter etc but when one set of needs is satisfied, then it ceases to be a motivator (a need). Therefore, secondary school girls tend to go in for men who can provide them with money so that they can be able to satisfy themselves with all the sets of needs and by so doing this they end up being lured to sexual practices which leads to early pregnancy and sometimes HIV/AIDS.

According to Sigmund Freud, we are being pushed and pulled by internal forces that we do not fully understand. The unconscious part influences much of our behavior, therefore, humans react basing on what is in their minds.

Daniel J. Curran et al (1996), social problems), report that girls who become pregnant and give birth often report that having a baby made them feel good about themselves and gave them a sense of accomplishment. Therefore, girls get pregnant so that they can give birth and accomplish their own wills.

2.4 Perception

Majority of the girls have perceptions that playing sex is enjoyable and good. They also have a wrong perception that involving in love affairs with a man can benefit them in many areas in life like exchange of gifts, sexual satisfaction, need provision and

whereas others expect cash money from their lover. These encourage girls to fall in love with men who finally lead to unprotected sex and hence early pregnancy.

John J. Macionis (2002, *Social Problems*), another recent trend is that the pregnancy rate for young girls in their early teens has been rising because the girls and boys are becoming sexually active at a younger age. Some are even having sex before their bodies mature and before they understand how their reproductive system works. UBC TV research on the causes of early pregnancy among secondary school girls revealed that too much parent's protection of their children and over restriction of children by their parents when they are still in secondary school increases their risks to unprepared relationships which exposes them to pregnancy when they are at school.

John J. Macionis et al (2002, *Society*), Being sexually active especially having intercourse clearly demands for a high level of responsibility because pregnancy can result. Girls may be biologically mature but not socially mature and may not appreciate all the consequences of their actions. Canadian women between the age of 15 to 19 become pregnant in 1997 (some gave birth, others had an abortion, and others experienced fetal loss via miscarriage or still birth). Girls' pregnancies are at a decade low in Canada; the teenage pregnancy rate was 42.7 pregnancies for every 1000 women ages 15 to 19 in 1997, the lowest in 10 years (Statistics Canada, 2000).

Mary Ann Suppes et al (2000, *The social work experience*), A growing body of research, including a recent study by the Alan Guttmacher Institute, indicates that childhood sexual abuse is a major factor in teenage child bearing (reported in NASW news 1995). Up to two-thirds of teen mothers say that they had sex forced on them by older men; an earlier study of almost 200,000 births by teenage mothers revealed that 70% were fathered by adults.

Yang Talk Publication, April 2008, Girls' breasts are sensitive parts of the body and if touched by any man can lead to a young girl accepting to have sex with any man who

can result in young girl's pregnancy. Therefore young girls who allow men to touch them especially around their sensitive parts of their bodies are exposed to higher chances of pregnancy compared to those who don't.

Daniel J. Curran et al (1996, Social Problems), research indicates that U.S teens are not more sexually active than their European peers. One significant difference between young people in the U.S and in Europe however is that the latter have earlier access to contraceptive and better education programmes and counseling services available (Jones, 1989). One consequence of this difference is a high rate of teenage pregnancy in the US.

2.5 Drugs and Alcohol

During adolescence, teenagers may drink and experiment with drugs frequently with their friends at social gatherings and parties. These people, however, do not realize the impacts alcohol and drugs have on the functioning of their brain, especially the effects of binge drinking which is drinking /consuming large amounts of alcohol during one sitting. Drinking excessively as well as experimenting drugs may lead to unwanted and unintentional early pregnancy. These substances greatly affect a teen ability to logically think and carryout general thinking processes, thus increases the chances they will engage in unprotected and unsafe sexual activity.

2.6 Low socio economic status

Girls who suffer from early pregnancy often come from families of low- socio- economic status. Growing up, these children often come from families who are suffering from poverty and do not have all the necessary resources to raise their child. The children grow up to have low educational goals and successes because of the lack of involvement from their own parents. These young kids then predisposed to a negative environment end up with less ambition to success in school and begin making friendships with other teens who are going through similar situations as them. It is

these groups of teens who begin to experiment with drugs and alcohol and do not do very well in school.

Low socio-economic status is further linked to low level of family connectedness. This means that children / youth growing up in these homes do not have strong role models or individuals to look up or learn from within these low socio-economic status families, abuse is often prevented and predisposes youth to unsafe and troubling conditions. Whether the child is being abused or witnessing domestic abuse, adolescents are being separated and disconnected from their families which might led to poor decision making. This lack of family connectedness pushes youth away from confiding in the adults within their homes but towards other troubled youth suffering in the same ways.

With their lack of education and knowledge about reproduction, these girls engage in unprotected and unsafe sexual activities. These girls do not know about the available contraceptives nor do they explore their options. Even if the girls have some form of contraceptives they are suing them incorrectly which makes them useless during sexual activity. These girls simply engage intercourse at very young ages and may have multiple partners which further leads to increased chances of early pregnancy. (University of British Columbia).

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

In this context the researcher described the methods that were used to arrive at answers and the empirical materials based on interviews and questionnaires administering were conducted on early pregnancy among secondary school girls in Lira district. This chapter also focused on the methods that were used in carrying out the research.

3.1 Research Design

The study concentrated on the selected secondary schools in Lira District. The schools were St. Katherine girls S.S, Lira Town College, St. Mary's Magdalene, Light Vocation S.S and Mentor Secondary School. In order to collect as much data as possible, descriptive and cross-sectional analytical research design basing on results from questionnaire and observation was used. The study analyzed the causes of early pregnancy among girls in secondary schools and some of the effects that may result from this.

3.2 Sampling Procedure

The research was carried out in 05 schools in Lira where the population to draw a sample of respondents was taken. The population comprised of headteacher, teachers, school nurse, students and the surrounding community where the school is located. A simple random sampling technique was used to obtain the samples.

3.3. Tools for data collection

The research tools that were used include the following;

3.3.1 Questionnaires.

Well typed questionnaires with brief introduction of the research were used where the respondents answered questions posed by the researcher. These questionnaires were given only to those who could read and write and those who could not were given a

different thing. The questions were simple and direct which helped the respondent to understand quickly.

3.3.2 Interview guide

Respondents who could not interpret questionnaires were interviewed face to face while the researcher took the data, the interviewee tried to make the interview simple too by asking some questions where the respondents were able to answer.

3.3.3 Observations

There are other causes that can be observed example if the researcher takes a visit to a home where a secondary school girl operates from he /she can tell the standard of living and make a conclusion of what causes early pregnancy in the community.

3.4 Research Procedure

Before going to the field, the researcher obtained an introduction letter from office of the Dean of College of Open, distance and E-learning that introduced the researcher as a student attempting to carry out an academic research.

This helped the researcher to seek permission from the concerned authorities like headteacher for the school, he /she had selected and the community that he /she wish to conduct other research. After these the researcher administered the questionnaires to the corresponding respondents and were given time to answer them and thereafter were picked later.

3.5 Data Analysis

The data collected from the field was analyzed and interpreted using different ways like use of frequency tables and percentages, bar graphs, pie charts. Quantitative data was analyzed statistically and content or thematic analysis used to analyze the qualitative data collected.

3.6 Limitations of the Research

The researcher faced a number of challenges as it was carried out and here are some of the challenges faced.

Limited time, as the research involved interacting with a number of people there was limited time for everything to be done. This was solved by using that limited time to finish up with the research work.

The researcher also faced some financial constraints since the researcher had to move from one place to another and purchase a number of things like stationeries, and personal welfare. This was solved through getting money from the relatives.

Unfriendly, unsocial, rude and hostile respondents was also a problem to the researcher as they were not willing to share their view with the researcher. It was solved by telling the respondents that the answers were going to be taken as confidential and for education purpose only.

3.7 Reliability and validity of the instrument.

Reliability of a research instrument is referred to as the measure of the degree to which a research instrument yields consistent results or data after repeated trial (Mugenda, 1999). In order to prove on the reliability of the research instrument, the researcher with the help of his supervisor critically assessed the consistency of the responses on the questionnaire to make judgment on their reliability. Split half technique of reliability testing was employed. This means the questionnaires were divided into two equivalent halves and then a correlation co-efficient for the two halves calculated using spearman's correlation co-efficiency.

Validity was ensured by using standardized questionnaires.

Table 1: Respondents

Types of respondents	Number
Headteachers	05
Teachers	05
Students	30
School nurses	05
Local community members	15
Total	60

CHAPTER FOUR

FINDINGS, ANALYSIS AND PRESENTATION

This chapter dealt with conversation of raw numerical data from the source documents tables pre-designed by the researchers for analysis. The research proceeded with the analysis of the descriptive data, which were captured by the use of questionnaires administered to teacher, students, school nurses, local community.

4.1 Social Demographic Characteristics.

4.1.1 Age

Respondents were asked questions related to their age and the results are shown in the table below;

Table 2: Age distribution of respondents.

Age group	Frequency	Percentage%
Below 15	2	3.3
15-20	23	38.3
21-30	7	11.7
31-45	11	18.3
46-55	13	21.3
Above 55	4	6.7
Total	60	100

Source: Primary data

The table 2 above shows that 3.3% of the respondents were between 13 years of age, 38.3% were between 15-20 years of age, 11.7% were between 21-30 years of age, 18.3% were between 31-45 years of age, 21.7% were between 46-55 years of age and 6.7% were above 55years of age.

4.1.2 Sex of the Respondents.

Sex was also another factor which was considered during the study. This is because the researcher was interested in finding out the number of females and males in the whole of the research population and compares the percentage composition of two and the response.

Table 3: Sex of the respondents

Sex	Frequency	Percentage
Female	36	60
Male	24	40

Source: Primary data

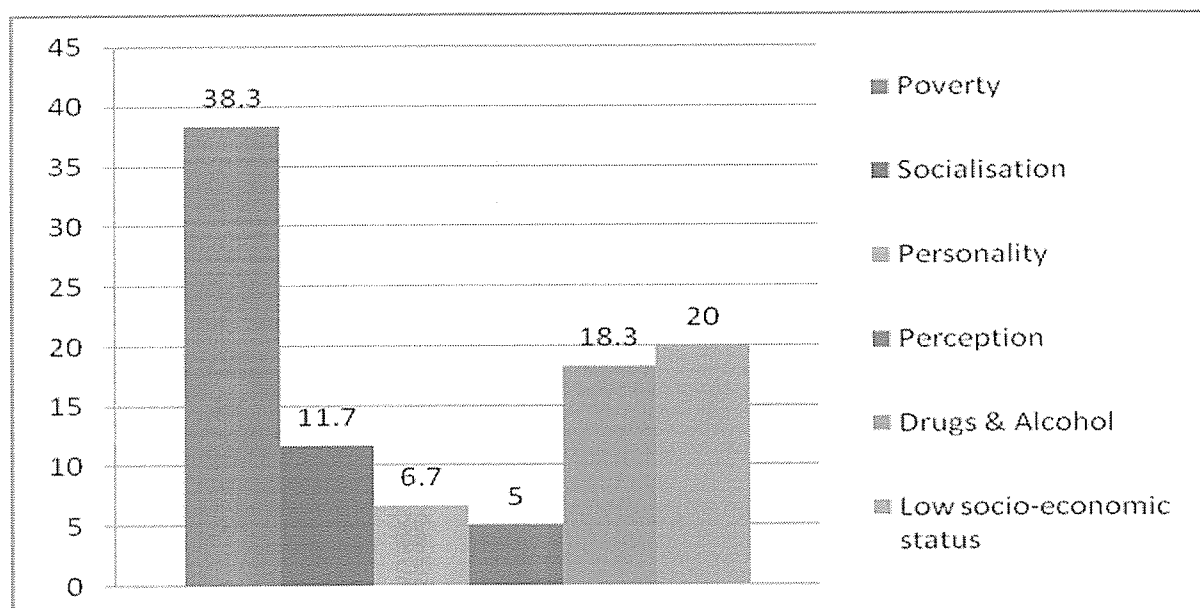
The table 3 above shows that 60% of the respondents were females and 40 % were males.

4.2. Causes of early Pregnancy among girls in Secondary schools in Lira District.

Table 4: The causes of early pregnancy among girls in secondary schools in Lira District

Response	Head teacher	Teachers	Students	Nurse	Local community	Total	Percentage (%)
Poverty	1	2	11	3	6	23	38.3
Socialization	1	1	3	0	2	7	11.7
Personality	0	1	1	0	2	4	6.7
Perception	0	0	1	1	1	3	5
Drugs & Alcohol	2	1	4	1	3	11	18.3
Low socio-economic status	1	0	10	0	1	12	20
Total	5	5	30	5	15	60	100

Figure 1: A Column graph showing the causes of early pregnancy in percentage according to the respondents



4.2.1 Poverty

Poverty is identified by the respondents as among the causes of early pregnancy among girls in secondary school. From the questions asked, 38.8% of the respondents show that poverty is the major cause of early pregnancy among girls in secondary schools, they said that it is a disease which starts from the students minds. Most of the students perceive themselves as people who have come from poor families and they are deceived with money by men yet money motivates them so easily and they end up falling in love with the men hence playing unprotected sex which results in early pregnancy.

4.2.2 Socialisation

11.7% of the respondents also noted that secondary school girls socialize with bad groups, but such groups of people they socialize with influence much their behaviors and they start smoking, involving in drug abuse, modern dressing etc which increase their need for money so as to provide themselves with such needs resulting to

engagement in love affairs which results in unprotected sex hence unwanted pregnancy or both.

4.2.3 Personality

Personality was identified as one of the causes of early pregnancy of girls in secondary schools. 6.7 % of the respondents found out that secondary school girls have their unique characters in life. According to hierarchy ascending from lowest to highest. Human beings work to provide themselves with these needs they cannot do without like food, water, shelter etc but as one set of needs is satisfied, then it cease to be a motivator (a need). Human personality varies from one person to the other personality which is always referred to the physiological needs people have can influence their behaviors. Secondary school girls have high demands of luxurious goods that leads them to early sex hoping to get good things, therefore they tend to go in for men who can provide them with money so that they can be able to satisfy themselves with all the sets of needs making them involve in love affairs which results in unprotected sex hence pregnancy.

4.2.4 Perception

According to the response in the questionnaires, 5% of the respondents said that perception is one of the causes of early pregnancy; perception is the way someone takes and thinks of something according to ones belief or understanding. In the research, girls tend to think that having sex is enjoyable and good, therefore, such perception always lead them to wrong decision making. They said these are wrong perceptions that forces girls to get men who can benefit them in many areas in life like exchange of gifts, sexual satisfaction and this results to engagement in sexual activities resulting to early pregnancy.

4.2.5 Drugs and Alcohol

From the findings in the questionnaire, 18.3% of the respondents suggested that drugs and alcohol is one of the major causes of early pregnancy. They said during adolescence, teenagers may drink and experiment with drugs frequently with their

friends at social gatherings and parties who may result in a number of outcomes such as engagement in sexual activities and love related affairs hence contraction of disease like HIV/AIDs /STDs and unwanted pregnancy. Drugs also tend to motivate adolescence to engage in different acts which are unwanted and not recommended in the society.

4.2.6 Low Socio economic Status.

20% of the respondents stated that low socio economic status is one of the causes of early pregnancy; they said girls who suffer from early pregnancy are those from poor families who tend to love men so that they can be able to provide for themselves some basic needs. The respondents went ahead to say these children growing up in families suffering from poverty and do not have all the necessary resources to raise their children tend to have low educational goals and successes because of the lack of involvement from their parents.

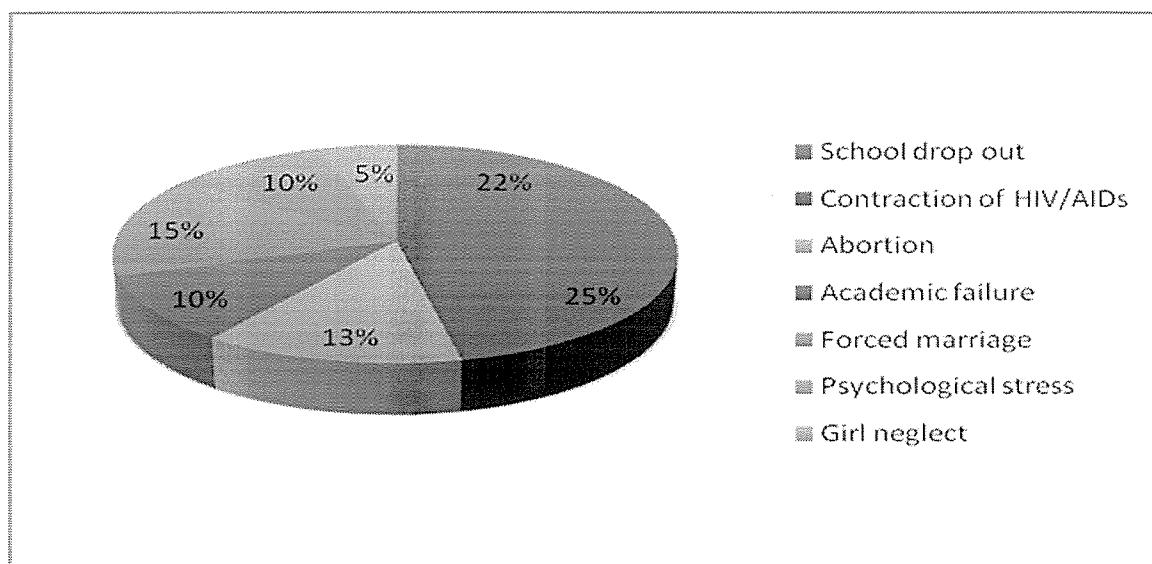
4.3. The effects of early pregnancy among girls in secondary schools in Lira District.

Table 5: Effects of early pregnancy among girls in secondary schools in Lira District

Response	Head teacher	Teacher	Students	Nurse	Local community	Total	Percentage (%)
School drop out	1	2	5	0	5	13	21.7
Contraction of HIV/AIDs	2	1	7	2	3	15	25
Abortion	1	1	3	1	2	8	13.3
Academic failure	0	0	4	0	2	6	10
Forced marriage	0	1	6	1	1	9	15
Psychological stress	1	0	3	1	1	6	10
Girl neglect	0	0	1	0	1	3	5
Total	5	5	30	5	15	60	100

Source: Primary data.

Figure 2: Pie Chart showing the Percentage of early pregnancy



4.3.1 School dropout

School dropout was among the effects of the early pregnancy of girls in secondary schools. 21.7% of the respondents identified that once they receive pregnancy among these girls most of them decide to do away with heavy stomach yet they are still young to handle such cases of pregnancy and once it is registered it always leads to expulsion and since these girls still have among way to go their parents may not mind about them of the period left and the last resort is to drop out of school hence the effect of early pregnancy.

4.3.2 Contraction of HIV / AIDs

25% of the respondents raised that contraction of HIV/AIDs is one of the greatest effect of early pregnancy among secondary school girls. They said since the girls are young they tend not to mind so much about who they are engaging in sexual relationships with and this always exposes them to high chances of contracting STDs and unwanted pregnancy. Girls in maximum attention because they think they know so much and can handle anything buy themselves hence resulting to wrong decisions and later bad results.

4.3.3 Death as a result of Abortion

Death was yet another effect of early pregnancy as identified by the respondent, children born to mothers below age eighteen are eleven over two times more likely to die before age of five than those born to mothers aged twenty to thirty four. About 13.3% of the respondents noted that in the early pregnancy cases, girls tend to abort and reduce on their burdens of carrying babies and continue with school but they may not succeed in aborting the baby and end up losing their lives by unprofessional process of abortion. Such cases were reported by the respondents because if you lose such young people the next generation may not be there, also it was found out that even if you abort still it will reduce your intelligent design and affect the girls academic.

4.3.4 Academic failure

Academic failure was yet another effect of early pregnancy of girls in secondary school. A girl cannot concentrate in class because the thinking is so different and whatever they teach may not be encircled in their brain because more time will be given to her baby at home rather than school and absenteeism at school leads to failure. 10% of the respondents noted that these girls fail academically because their minds are tuned to their babies at home and they don't have the baby sitters, they because baby sitters of their kids making their performance detrimental at all levels in school.

4.3.5 Forced Marriage

15% of the respondents also came out forced marriage is the biggest effect of early pregnancy of girls in Secondary schools. The respondents reported that girl's are being forced to go and get married to father of their babies regardless weather they are still young or not because some families and to ignore their children after getting pregnant yet the man who gave her the baby may not be ready for marriage or not yet mature to handle family matters but the main reason is that the girls family are poor to handle the expenses of the baby in terms of feeding and dressing and they try to dock suck responsibilities by making a girl to have no choice but to go with the baby's father on condition.

4.3.6 Psychological stress

Psychological stress identified as one among the effects of early pregnancy of girls in primary schools. Stress comes when a girl was not ready to become a mother and becoming a mother looks to be a burden to girls who are still in primary school. Some of them are being laughed at by other young girls while others neglected at home yet no source of revenue to cater for their babies. The respondents noted that some of the girls run mad because of stress, they think beyond what they have never thought of becoming in the nearby future some of them they are forced to get married to men who gave them pregnancy they get to fight every day because men tend to use such tactics for ignoring the responsibilities accorded to them and girls suffer a lot with their babies.

4.3.7 Girl Neglect

Neglect was found alone among the effects of early pregnancy of girls in secondary schools. A girl in secondary school who gets pregnant may be neglected by their family members yet they may not have them while at school, their friend may not like to socialize with them because of fear that they are spoiled girls who often also teaches the associates to do the same. 5% of the respondents said that the effect carries a heavy weight than other effects since it affects who gets pregnant before official marriage is regarded an evil person and no one may associate with her, she is normally called to distance other people's daughters the reason behind this is that girls are regarded as source of wealth in African culture so the neglect comes because she, made the family to miss the dowry.

In Conclusion

From the research findings there are some causes of early pregnancy that come as a result of little government involvement in the community, the cause like poverty which is common in the country would mean an increase in early pregnancy and low socio economic state which is a great disease and would mean a great increase in early pregnancy. But some factors like perception have little influence on the cause of early pregnancy though they also contribute.

Therefore if poverty problem is to be addressed in the country it would mean decrease in early pregnancy hence protecting the secondary school girls from the effects of this.

Also the effects of early pregnancy have a direct impact on the victim than the parents, school and community. Example abortion this always either causes the victim to lose the life or has some health complications like rupture of uterus, contraction of HIV/AIDs also affects the victim, psychological stress, dropping out of school, forced marriage, girls' neglect which is also some of the effects of early pregnancy.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.0 Introduction

This chapter was concerned with the summary of the study, conclusion and recommendations.

5.1 Summary of the study

To examine the causes of early pregnancy among girls in secondary schools, the study was concerned in Lira district, Uganda.

A total of 60 (sixty) participants, 05 head teachers, 05 teachers, 30 students, 05 school nurses and 15 Local community members were involved in the study. The study questions were investigated in line with the research questions of the study.

The first research question seeks to find out if it is possible to make room for improvement of the educational attainment of female in society. It aimed at how female education can be promoted in the society to bring female on the same phase with male interns of development.

The second research question seeks to find out if teenage mothers can be encouraged to go back to attain education after birth. It is common that most girls stop on the way after getting pregnant and giving birth.

So the question was finding out if they can be encouraged of another chance for education.

They third research question seeks it find out the causes of early pregnancy among secondary school girls in Lira district. The study discovered that, poverty, socialization, personality, perception, drugs and alcohol low social economic status were the causes

the respondents gave. The respondents gave the major causes from the community and the school near them.

5.2 Conclusion

The study seeks to establish the causes of early pregnancy among secondary school girls.

The study established that the causes of early pregnancy among secondary school girls carry same major causes like poverty which takes 38.3% followed by low socio-economic status which takes 20% and the rest follows with drugs and alcohol carrying 18.3%, socialization carrying 11.7%, personality takes 6.7% and lastly perception with 5%.

In addition to the finding the causes of early pregnancy among secondary school girl, the research also sought to find out the effects of early pregnancy on the victims, it found out that the victims always suffer a lot of out comes from the situation like dropping out of school, contraction of HIV/AIDS, abortion, Academic failure, forced marriage, psychological stress and girl neglect which affects their life.

5.3 Recommendations

The recommendations were made in relation to the findings and conclusions. The researcher therefore came up with the following recommendations in an attempt to find out the causes of early pregnancy of girls in secondary school in Lira district Uganda. The following recommendations were therefore advanced by the researcher.

5.3.1 Promote sex education

Sex education should be promoted in secondary schools. The students of secondary school should be taught about it, they should be taught the dangers of involving in early sex and the outcomes so that they can know how to make decisions wisely without regretting in the end.

5.3.2 Arrest teachers

Teachers who pregnant girls in secondary schools should be arrested and sentenced according to the law. Such acts may be appointed of reference to other teachers who wish to do the same thing. By doing this it will reduce the number of teachers who pregnant girls in secondary schools in Lira district. Additionally they should lose their jobs in services of teaching not to be accepted anywhere as teachers and the general public has to be informed of such acts of abuse to young girls with strong recommendations.

5.3.3 Expel pregnant ones from school

Girls who receive pregnancy willingly by their teachers or any other person should be expelled from schoolboy not continuing from studying if the case is proved. This will make other students fear doing the act for fear of being expelled from school. This should happen to boys who pregnant too.

5.3.4 Promotion of ethics among teachers

Ethics is a code of conduct of which teachers should emirate while carrying their duties knowing that such acts of abuse is bad and professionally need to follow as a teacher. What teacher ought to do is teaching and counseling but not having sexual intercourse with the girls he teaches.

So such ethics should be followed by all secondary school teachers to ensure no pregnancy of girls in school.

5.3.5 Limit male teachers' closeness to female pupils

The kind of closeness of teachers of the opposite sex should be minimal in terms of interaction in all arenas of life while at school. It has been discovered that once a girl interacts freely with a teacher as human beings it may lead them into a wrongful act of abuse either the girl will seduce the male teacher or the male teacher will seduce the girl so such closeness should be limited.

5.4 Recommendations for further research

This research was specifically done in Lira district and so it is recommended to be done in other districts to see the major cause of early pregnancy so that the government can come up with a recommended solution for the general problem.

And also more research should be done on how best girls in secondary schools can be helped so that they stay in school and complete their studies.

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APPENDICES
APPENDIX I: QUESTIONNAIRES

This questionnaire comprise of different sections which will be answered by different groups of people. I request you to choose the sexton which corresponds to you only and answer the questions under them.

I Akao Juliet Patricia, a student of KIU pressuring a Bachelor's Degree in science with Education, do kindly request you to answer these questions with good motive so that it can help me successfully finished my Bachelor's Degree of Science with Education. I strongly affirm that this information is purely for academic purpose.

SECTION A

FOR THE HEAD TEACHERS

1. a) Sex (Tick on the boxes inside)

Male ☐ Female ☐

b) Age ☐

2. Do you also teach a part from being an administrator?

Yes ☐ No ☐

3(i) Have you ever registered any case of pregnancy among your girls at school?

Yes ☐ No ☐

b (ii) If yes how many do you always register in a school term and are those always responsible for the pregnancy ?

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(iii) If No why is it that girl in your school do not conceive while at school?

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4. What are some of the cause's of early pregnancy among these secondary school girls you have always discovered?

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5. What do you think should be done to avoid early pregnancy among secondary school girls and how can these girls be helped to finish school successfully?

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SECTION B
FOR TEACHERS

1a) Sex

Male ☐ Female ☐

b) Age

2a) Which level do you teach?

O' Level ☐ A 'Level ☐ Both ☐

b) If both have you noticed difference in behavior in the behavior students I these two levels

Yes ☐ No ☐

3a) Have you ever been consulted by a girl who has some problems that may force her to engage in sex that can lead to early pregnancy?

Yes ☐ No ☐

b) If yes, how did you handle this situation in order to avoid the occurrence of early pregnancy?

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.....

4. As a teacher do you always give some bit of guidance and counseling while conducting a lesson and do you talk to your students about how they can stay safe at school until they complete their studies, if Yes, how? And if No why don't you?

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5. What do you think are some of the causes of early pregnancy among girls in secondary schools and how can this problem be addressed?

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SECTION C

For Students

1a) Sex

Male ☐

Female ☐

b) Age

2a) Are you in a relationship?

Yes ☐

No ☐

b) Which class are you?

.....

c) How old are you?

.....

b) If you are a boy, have you ever been approached by a girl who wants you to have sex with here and how did you handle the problem?

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4. Have you ever witnessed the case of pregnancy among your fellow students? If yes what was the cause of that pregnancy?

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5. What do you think are some of the causes of early pregnancy among the students at school?

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6. What do you think early pregnancy cause when it has happened?

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3a) If you are a girl have you ever been asked for sex?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes how did you handle the situation?

.....

SECTION D

For School Nurse

1a) Sex

Male ☐ Female ☐

b) Age

2) Do you carry out regular pregnancy test among students?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, how often do you do it and do you always register some causes of it?

.....

.....

3a) Do you also offer guidance and counseling to students on health related problems?

Yes ☐ No ☐

4a) Do you think these characters / behavior can be bad and lead to early pregnancy and its associated effects?

Yes ☐

No ☐

b) What do you think are some of the causes of this bad behavior among students?

.....

.....

.....

5. If these behaviors can lead to early pregnancy what are some of the effects of this problem to the school, students, parents and community at large?

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.....

6. What do you think can be done to prevent the cause of bad behaviors that can lead to early pregnancy among secondary school girls?

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THANK YOU.

APPENDIX II: TIME FRAME

ACTIVITY	MONTHS						
	JAN	FEB	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY
Developing & Submission of proposal							
Data collection and Analysis							
Submission of report							

APPENDIX III: PROPOSED BUDGET

Description	Quantity / Units	Price	Total Amount
Type setting		50,000	50,000
Photocopying	100 pages	100	10,000
Printing	100 pages	150	15,000
Binding	3 copies	10,000	30,000
Stationeries	½ dozens of ruled papers	10,000	10,000
Transport	3 times	25,000	75,000
Welfare		70,000	70,000
Data collection		100,000	100,000
Data analysis		50,000	50,000
Other expenses			45,000
Total			455,000