



# TEENAGE GIRL CHILD

## SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

### TEENAGE PREGNANCY "THE UGLY MONSTER"

Teenage pregnancy can simply be described as a situation where a girl child between the ages 13-19 becomes pregnant.

Over time, it has become a known fact that most young girls (over 47%) get sexually active before their 18th birthday.

Majority of these girls have had unplanned pregnancy at one point or the other.

Over 72% of these pregnancy ends up being aborted.

Only less than 20% of abortions are done medically (pills or surgery) rather the teen may devise other crude alternatives.

### CAUSES OF TEENAGE PREGNANCY

- Peer pressure that may result in under aged sexual relationships.
- Early marriage as obtained in certain customs and tradition.
- Sexual assaults resulting to rape.
- Drug misuse and abuse.
- Poverty.
- Naïveté and low self-esteem.
- Inadequate parental love, care and support.
- Improper use of protection and/or contraceptives.

### CONSEQUENCES

Even though over 72% of teenage pregnancies gets terminated which in some cases, result in severe medical complications or even death of the young girl, still those that keep theirs are likely to face certain challenges like:

- Dropping out of school.
- Being abandoned and rejected by family.
- Forced to engage in cheap and hard labor just to cater for themselves and their unborn.
- Forceful marriage to partner.
- Societal nuisance.
- Suffer depression and may even get suicidal.

Research has shown that, apart from the fact that the teenage girl suffers both physically and emotionally, the medical consequences surpasses and seems to be even more detrimental.

Owing to the insufficient parental care and in most cases total abandonment, the pregnant teen is less likely to receive adequate prenatal care and even when she does, usually late. This trend may likely result in;

- Premature births and/or low birth weight.
- Still-birth.
- Health challenges and/or developmental delay of the child.
- Severe complications like prolonged or obstructed labor as a result of underdeveloped pelvis and/or improper positioning of the fetus requiring quick Caesarian Section and if unavailable may result in OBSETRICS FISTULA (a tear in the birth canal that causes leakage of urine and/or feces).
- Maternal morbidity and mortality.

### POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

You will agree with me that knowing a problem is key to its solution. Now to "THE BIG QUESTION"

**How do we tackle this monster?**

#### At TGCSDI, we think:

- Proper reproductive and sex health education is paramount.
- A teenage girl child should be allowed to attain full maturity both physically and psychologically before marriage.
- It's true you cannot fully rule out peer pressure but teenagers could be guided adequately on their choice of peers, above all parental love and care is key.
- Sexual assaulters must be properly convicted irrespective of their status in the society and relationship with their victims. Victims should be encouraged to report any form of assault be it who. Also, the stigmatization of rape victims must stop and anyone who does should be sanctioned.
- Proper use of protection and contraceptives could be relevant but ABSTINENCE is the only sure way to prevent TEENAGE PREGNANCY.

At **TGCSDI**, we disapprove of teenage sexual relationship and advocate for total abstinence.

**Teenage Girl Child Support and Development Initiative** ....together we can make it easier

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