

Emerging teen fatherhood and its implications for national development

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Abstract

While girl-teen pregnancy is frowned at world-wide, the acquiescence of many communities and cultures towards teen fatherhood is appalling in developing nations especially in sub-Saharan Africa. The study examined the prevalence and implications of teen fatherhood on national development. Structured face-to-face interviewed technique was used among 200 teen-males that were randomly selected from Ado/Odo Ota local government area of Ogun State. Data were analyzed using univariate and logistic multivariate techniques. The result revealed that 35 percent of the respondents had fathered at least child and 61.4 percent were involved in multiple sexual partnerships. The study also showed that teens' involvement in sexual activities is positively associated with paternal income and mothers' education. It indicated that respondents that adopted condoms, pills and local herbs for protection were 0.647 and 0.332 times less likely to be involved in multiple sexual partnerships compared to teenagers who used no form of protection. It revealed that age, religious affiliation and knowledge about the mode of HIV transmission were statistically insignificant correlates of involvement in multiple sexual partnering. The study concludes that teen fatherhood would have negative developmental effects for the father, the children and the mother. The author recommended that action-based home-front enlightenment towards the implications of pre-mature sexual activities is expedient in order to raise healthy population with potential for sustainable development.

Key words: Teens, fatherhood, sexual activity, STIs, child

Background to the study

Teenage fathers are relatively absent from public statistics and there are no popular population based data in Nigeria on the age at which fatherhood starts compared with the voluminous statistics on motherhood and female fertility. While girl-teen pregnancy is frowned at world-wide, the acquiescence of many communities and cultures towards teen fatherhood is appalling in developing countries especially in sub-Saharan Africa. Although, the teen male responsibility for pregnancy is not always easy to determine, their prevalence cannot be denied and their attendant consequences might not be too benign for development (Flanigan, Huffman & Smith, 2002; 2002b; Teens for Health, 2008; Leslie, Gates & Taylor, 2010). Why would a society abhors teen-girl pregnancy and permits teen-fatherhood? What are the likely consequences to a

country where too many of her young men are not waiting to be emotionally and financially ready before they become fathers? What are the profiles of teen fathers in this part of the world and what are their knowledge and attitude towards sexual relationships and preventive measures against STIs? The forgoing questions formed the basis of this study.

In Asia, among the non-Hispanic black, 25 percent fathered their first child before they were 20 years old, 19 percent of Hispanic fathers and 11 of whites became fathers while they were teens (Leslie et al, 2010). Other studies revealed that 2-7 percent of male teenagers were fathers in 1993, 2.3 percent in 1998 and 28 in 2000 (Sonenstein, Pleck & Ku, 1993; Ventura et al, 1998; Thornbery et al, 2000). In the United States, 15.3 percent of men have fathered a child before their 20th birthday in 2002 (Martinez et al, 2006). Studies have also shown that many of the problems faced by teen mothers are also experience by teen fathers. Teen fathers are more likely to live in deprived areas, suffer unemployment and lack access to healthcare services (Leslie et al, 2010). About 20-30 percent of men who fathered a child before aged 20 years had never lived with their child (Quinlivan & Condon, 2005; Leslie et al, 2010). The absence of the father in the life of the child can portends danger for the development of the child and society in general. Specific statistics on most of these issues are difficult to establish for Nigeria like most nations in sub-Saharan Africa.

Teen fatherhood and teen pregnancy cannot be dissociated from unguided sexual relationships and adequate guidance in all facets of their childhood constitutes the uppermost need of most teens and adolescents. However, the cumulative effects of this unmet need possess important implications for future well-being and could as well set the scene for sexual misdemeanour with likely grave consequences on health and development of a nation. Many researchers have shown that infants born to very young mothers experience greater risks of having health and developmental problems relative to those born to older mothers (WHO, 1986; Makinson, 1985; Bledsoe & Cohen, 1993; National Department of Education, 2009). At the same time, most children whose fathers left the family early in life tend to have early exposure to sexual activities (Action Health Incorporated (AHI), 2009).

Globally, teen pregnancy ranges from 143 per 1000 in some sub-Saharan African countries to 2.9 per 1,000 in South Korea (Rudatsikira *et al*, 2007). In Nigeria, teen girls account for over 1 million births annually (AHI, 2009). It has also been observed that eight out of 10 teen fathers do not marry the mothers of their first children (Brein & Willis, 1997). The developing countries now have over one billion adolescents who are physically old enough to reproduce themselves but who are far too young to be responsible healthy parents of healthy children. Majority of this magnitude are under the age 15 and have no access to relevant information about sexuality (Matthews, 2007; Amoo & Adeyemi, 2010) and the means of livelihood. Men who did not live with both parents at age 14 are more likely to have had sexual intercourse during the teenage years compared with those who lived with both parents at age 14 (Martinez *et al*, 2006). African teenage fertility rates are the highest in the world (United Nations, 1989; National Department of Education, 2009) and in most sub-Saharan African countries, women's age at first marriage and first child births is mostly in the tens. Reducing the preponderance of teen fathers is a two-edged weapon that is closely connected to the goal of promoting responsible fatherhood and reduction in teenage pregnancy. This also could culminate in responsible sexuality and well-being of their children as a result of ensuing close connection between children and committed fathers. The study is meant to highlight the demographics profile of teen fathers in the location of study and to provide understanding on the knowledge and attitude of teen fathers on prevention of sexual transmitted infections (STIs) including HIV and its implications for national development.

Objectives of the study

The objective of the research is to examine the phenomenon of teen fatherhood and its implications for national development. Specifically, it is meant to identify teen fathers in the study location and their demographic characteristics. It is also established to assess the implications of their knowledge and attitude toward national development.

Literature Review

A teen father is a young male still under his 24th birthday but procreated or responsible for the procreation of an offspring regardless of the age of the woman (Martinez *et al*, 2006; Healthy Teen Network, 2011). Teenage fatherhood occurs when an underage boy (usually within the

ages of 10-24 years) becomes a father or an expectant father. However, as teen mothers face several problems ranging from obstetrics challenges to financial inadequacies, the teen fathers face more problems especially when taking into cognizance the patriarchal system in sub-Saharan region. In Nigeria, an average man is the social gatekeeper, economically and emotionally sources of livelihood of his wife(ves) and children (Isiugo-Abanihe, 2003; Amoo, 2011). Most teen lack legal capacity to work and where they do, it is always menial types with lower earnings. This invariably exposes them to deprivation including inadequacies at the home front which could likely affect their social-cultural responsibilities in the family.

Clarity of the perception of teenagers on sexual activity or its consequences is shrouded with confusion. This is compounded by cultural silence over sex or its education especially in sub-Saharan Africa. A study indicated that sexual experience before age 20 is nowadays regarded by teens as normal while almost 29 percent of them are exposed to pressure of sexual intercourse (AHI, 2009). It revealed that 33 percent of teenagers are already in relationship, over 24 percent experience unwanted sexual activities (AHI, 2009). While the society is sighing away from the responsibility of sexuality education, the social and economic consequences of early sex among the teenagers has remained burdensome over the family and the society as whole. Also, in sub-Saharan African region, the challenge of HIV/AIDS which has constituted a major health concern has been traced to heterosexual intercourse and increasing sexual misdemeanour among the teenagers. In Kenya, three percent of young female adolescent aged 15-19 years were HIV positive in 2004, Tanzania reported 1.8 percent of school children with different STDs include being tested positive for pregnancy (Rudatsikira *et al*, 2007). Niger experience according to Demographic Health Survey of 1992 (DHS, 1992) shows that 47 percent of women aged between 20 and 24 were married before the age of 15 and 87 percent before the age of 18 while about half of the total young adolescents had had a child before the age of 18.

Around the globe, the teenagers constitute more than two-third of the world population with higher proportion in developing nations (Makinwa-Adebusoye, 1991; Bledsoe & Cohen, 1993; British Council Nigeria & Harvard School of Public Health, 2010; Population Reference Bureau (PRB), 2010). One in three African teenagers lives in Nigeria. Specifically, teen's population in Nigeria is 31,035,369 representing 22.5 percent out of a total population of 140,461,790. About

48 percent of this magnitude belongs to female gender while 52 percent are males (National Population Commission (NPC), 2010). However, their sexual conduct and discord have become persistent challenges with no agreeable determinant factors in the research parlance. The consequences of their misdemeanor go beyond repercussions for the young only but for the society as a whole.

Teenagers represents important target group in terms of development and sustainable growth of the economy (PRB, 2010; Bloom, Canning & Sevilla, 2003). The mean age of puberty has been declining. However, the increasing rate of sexual activity among them is a bugging issue. cursory observation could reveal a breakdown of traditional value system or a seemingly liberation of sexual relationships especially in modern society of today (Amoo & Adeyemi, 2010). The incursion of modernization in the face of abject poverty or inadequacies could also be possible determinants. Categorically, it has been observed that seven out of every ten males and five out of every 10 females attending elementary schools in Nigeria are sexually active and have had sexual relations at least once (WHO, 2004). Although, young adolescent is a period which an individual makes a gradual transition from childhood to adulthood, it is a period for caution and maximum monitoring by the parents or guardians as the case may be. They naturally become aware of their sexual drive and feels to be handled, touched, loved and cared for by someone of the opposite sex in the face of erroneous belief that they are 'matured' and can take meaningful decisions on their own but without adequate knowledge of future implications (Faoye & Lana, 1998).

Teenagers are beset with myriads of challenges such as unwanted pregnancy, unexpected fatherhood, induced and unsafe abortion, sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/ AIDS, contraceptives use, childbearing, early marriages and so on (Jemmott, Jemmott & Fong, 1998; Khan & Vinod, 2008). An unplanned pregnancy can be an emotionally wrenching experience for the boy-father and it could be more frightening for teens which may be unprepared to father a child. In this circumstance, the boy-man may suggest termination of the pregnancy and, to do so through a 'clandestine approach'. Abortion in this kind of situation could be dangerous and might lead to death or other health hazards. It has been noted that the risk of death associated with teen pregnancy is twice as much great for girls between 15 and 19 years compared to others

in older age groups and that they are more susceptible to suffering from anaemia, risk of malnutrition and high blood pressure (Locoh, 2000; Treffers, 2003, U.S Department of Health and Human Services, 2009). These complications could be aggravated in the absence of responsible mature husbands. Therefore, it is believed that teenagers require true knowledge of certain facts of life and informative literature that will guide them towards responsible and safe sexuality, hence the need for this study.

Research Design

A quantitative research method was adopted in this study. Four wards were randomly selected from the sixteen wards in Ado-Odo/Ota local government area that was purposively selected for the study in Ogun State of Nigeria. A total of 200 teens were interviewed through a structured face-to-face questionnaire technique. Data were analyzed statistically using a combination of univariate and multivariate analytical techniques. The univariate analysis featured descriptive statistics such as frequency distributions that was used to assess the demographic characteristics of the respondents. The two hypotheses formulated were tested to confirm interrelationships among the selected background variables and dependent variables using logistic and linear regression techniques.

Results and discussion

Socio-Demographic Characteristics of the respondents

Table 1 presents the demographic profile of the respondents interviewed. 35 percent had fathered a child, impregnated a girl or currently married as at the time of the survey while 65 percent were single. All respondents covered were male teenagers less than 20 years of age. The mean age recorded was 17 year. While all educational categories were reflected in the survey, the proportion that attained secondary education and below was 76.6 percent. Tertiary education accounts for 22.5 percent only and those who are illiterate are about 6.5 percent as shown in Table 1. There is relatively no variation in education attainment between those who were married and the single. Considering the tender age of the respondents and their sexual behaviour, it was considered necessary to evaluate their parents' background especially in areas of education, occupation and their income status. This procedure was in consonance with the study objectives and findings from other studies that have indicated interconnections between

adolescent sexual behaviour and their parental background (Bledsoe & Barney, 1993; Brein & Willis, 1997; Faoye & Lana, 1998; AHI, 2009; Amoo & Adeyemi, 2010).

Table 1: Selected Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

Selected variables	Never Married		Married		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Age group of respondents						
Below 10 years	18	13.8	8	11.4	26	13.0
10-14 years	34	26.2	15	21.4	49	24.5
15-19 years	78	60.0	47	67.1	125	62.5
Total	130	65.0	70	35.0	200	100.0
Respondent's education						
No Schooling	5	3.8	8	11.4	13	6.5
Primary Education	20	15.4	9	12.9	29	14.5
Secondary Education	72	55.4	41	58.6	113	56.5
University & others	33	25.4	12	17.2	45	22.5
Father's educational attainment						
No Schooling	7	5.4	8	11.4	15	7.5
Primary Education	19	14.6	7	10.0	26	13.0
Secondary Education	71	54.6	39	55.7	110	55.0
Tertiary education	33	25.4	16	22.9	49	24.5
Religion Affiliation						
Christianity	67	51.5	34	48.6	101	50.5
Islam	56	43.1	29	41.4	85	42.5
Traditional	7	5.4	7	10.0	14	7.0
Father's Occupation						
Trading	31	23.8	22	31.4	53	26.5
Artisan	48	36.9	19	27.1	67	33.5
Farming	10	7.7	6	8.6	16	8.0
Civil Servant	16	12.3	9	12.9	25	12.5
Other Professional	20	15.4	9	12.9	29	14.5
Unemployed	5	3.8	5	7.1	10	5.0
Father Income Status						
Less than N10,000	30	23.1	22	31.4	52	26.0
N10,000-N19,999	46	35.4	17	24.3	63	31.5
N20,000-N29,999	10	7.7	7	10.0	17	8.5
N30,000-N39,999	20	15.4	11	15.7	31	15.5
N40,000 and above	19	14.7	8	11.5	27	13.5
Unemployed/No Income	5	3.8	5	7.1	10	5.0
Employment Status						
Employed	77	59.2	29	41.4	106	53.0
Not Employed	53	40.8	41	58.6	94	47.0
Total	130	100	70	100	200	100
Financial/Other Support						
Receives Support	66	50.8	27	38.6	93	46.5
Receives no Support	64	49.2	43	61.4	107	53.5
Total	130	100	70	100	200	100.0

Source: Field Survey 2011

The table revealed that half of the respondents were Christians, 42.5 percent were Muslims while only seven percent practiced traditional religion (Table 1). The percentage distribution of fathers' educational attainment followed a normal distribution pattern as reflected in Table 1. It specifically shows that 7.5 percent of the teen fathers had no formal education while 24.5 percent had attained above secondary education. Half of these fathers had attended only secondary school while 14.5 percent had only primary education. However, while lower illiterate level was observed among the parents whose children had not impregnated any girl, a relatively 1.2 percent more parents were illiterates among those who have impregnated at least a girl. In addition, similar patterns of educational attainment were observed for respondents' mothers. Parental occupational distribution shows that higher proportions of parents are traders, artisans, civil servants and professionals. Those who were not employed among the fathers were five percent while 13.5 percent were unemployed among the mothers.

Employment and financial conditions of teen fathers

In sub-Saharan Africa, fathers automatically become breadwinners for their immediate families (Isiugo-Abanihe, 2003; Amoo, 2011). Where condition warrants it, they may also have to support other relatives. This could however cause additional burden to teen fathers because they are to combine fatherhood with transitory challenges to adulthood. The employment status shows that majority of those who have married are not employed as at the time of the interview. Specifically, the finding revealed that 58.6 percent of the teen fathers were not employed while 59.2 percent of their counterparts were working as indicated in table 1. The result further indicated that 50.8 percent of teens male who were not married had access to financial support from either their own parents or other relations while only 38.6 percent of those who were married received support from other relations (see Table 1). This implies that they may likely face greater financial hardship and be economically disadvantaged. In this regard, it is not unlikely that the financial constraints they were experiencing will limit their access to good health services, adequate food for the family and, of course, good education for their children. The multiplier effects of the consequential ill-health, uneducated future children, and mass unemployment in the future will be devastating for national development. These findings conform to other discoveries that teen fathers are likely to stand the risk of poor school

attendants and achievement, expose to shame (low self esteem) and substance abuse (Thornberry *et al*, 1997).

The study also evaluated the social independence of the respondents in terms of accommodation. Questions were canvassed on the ownership and type of accommodation they occupy and their income status. The findings show that none of them owned a house. Relatively half of them were living with their parents or staying in their fathers' houses, 5.7 percent lived in community houses, only 12.9 percent occupied rented apartments as at the time of the interview as indicated in Table 2. The proportions that stayed in their in-laws and other relative's apartments/houses were 8.6 and 15.7 percent respectively. Although, the reasons for this was not directly asked from the respondents, it is assumed that the lower economic status identified earlier (see Table 1) was responsible for these positions.

Knowledge, attitude and sexual behaviour of teen fathers towards prevention of STIs

Perception of the respondents differs on the benefits of sexual intercourse. Axial coding procedure was employed to streamline them into four principal categories. Almost half of the teen fathers (47.1 percent) considered the sexual intercourse as crucial step to speed up marriage processes and solidify relationship between the partners. It is considered as a means of demonstrating affection among 17.1 percent while 30 percent believed it serves as means of evaluating their "beauty and worth" among their peers (see table 2). About 5.7 indicated that sex is medicinal and healthy exercise to the body. Virtually all respondents viewed sexual intercourse as indispensable as far there generation is concerned.

The highlights from the frequency of sexual intercourse signaled urgent attention. 54.3 percent of teen fathers confirmed they had sex within the last three months. The result of the analysis revealed that 61.4 percent of the teen fathers had sexual partners who they were aware have other sexual partners (see Table 2). The observation here depicted a 'network-like chain' of sexual partnerships which expose them to the risk of sexual transmitted infections and portends great obstacle towards prevention of HIV spread. In addition, the continuing spread of these diseases is dangerous to future availability of healthy male population that is crucial to economic development. It is also surprising to know that about 38.6 percent engaged in unprotected sex

despite the high level of awareness about HIV/AIDS and the knowledge of its transmission. While half of the teen fathers indicated that it could be transmitted through sexual intercourse, only 17.1 percent aware that transfusion of infected blood can cause HIV. 5.7 percent were of the opinion that witchcraft could cause HIV/AIDS while about 14 percent indicated that it is hereditary in nature as shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Knowledge, Attitude and sexual behaviour of teen fathers towards prevention of STIs

Vital Benefits of sexual intercourse	No	%	Accommodation	No	%
Keep us connected/Affection	12	17.1	Parent's House	40	57.1
step to marriage/Demonstration of love	33	47.1	Mission House/Community Hostel	4	5.7
Medicinal/Healthy to the body	4	5.7	In-law's house	6	8.6
It boosts my self-esteem	21	30.0	Relation's House	11	15.7
Total	70	100.0	Rented Apartment	9	12.9
Have intercourse in the last 3 months			Total	70	100.0
Yes	38	54.3	Current rate of intercourse		
No	32	45.7	Very Often	7	10.0
Total	70	100.0	Often	44	62.9
Have partner that has other sexual partner(s)			Not Often	11	15.7
Yes	43	61.4	Not at all	4	5.7
No/Don't know	27	38.6	No Response	4	5.7
Total	70	100.0	Total	70	100.0
Partner Age at first pregnancy			Preventives commonly used		
Less than 10 years	37	52.9	Condoms/Pills/Modern methods	28	40.0
10-14 years	33	47.1	Herbs/traditional methods	15	21.4
Total	70	100.0	No method	27	38.6
Reasons for having girl friends			Total	70	100.0
Poverty	10	14.3	Knowledge of HIV transmission		
Pleasure /affection	9	12.9	Hereditary	10	14.3
Commitment/Step to Marriage	13	18.6	Sexual Intercourse	35	50.0
Medicinal/health reason	11	15.7	Blood Transfusion	12	17.1
Feel Attractive	18	25.7	Witch/Witchcraft	4	5.7
Parental Influence	5	7.1	Poverty/Lack of money	9	12.9
Religious reason	4	5.7	Total	70	100.0
Total	70	100.0	Ever attended HIV screening		
Ever Heard about HIV/AIDs			Yes	13	18.6
Yes	57	81.4	No	57	81.4
No	13	18.6	Total	70	100.0
Total	70	100.0			

Source: Field Survey 2011

Proximate determinants of teen-boys involvement in sexual partnership

The two hypotheses formulated were: (1) whether having sexual partners is significantly influenced by parental social status and (2) whether socio-demographic characteristics are significantly related to teen-boys involving in sexual partnership. The first hypothesis was tested using linear regression analysis owing to the metric nature of the selected independent variables. In the model, social status of parents was captured using their educational attainment, occupational distribution as well as their income levels. The result shows that fathers' and mothers' education and mothers' occupation are negatively related to teen boy involvement in sexual activities. Only the mothers' educational attainment is significant at p-value 0.006. The finding however indicated that mothers' and fathers' incomes are positively related to teens' involvement in sexual activities (Table 3). Although, the variables of income are not statistically significant, it could be inferred that the higher the level of parents' income, the higher the likelihood that their children will engage in sexual activities.

Table 3: Regression analysis estimating the influence of parent's social status on teen boy involvement in sexual partnership

Selected indicators of Parent's social status	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta	B	Std. Error
(Constant)	1.375	0.111		12.435	0.000
Father's Education	-0.013	0.037	-0.042	-0.361	0.719
Mother's Education	-0.025	0.040	-0.075	-0.627	0.531
Father's Occupation	0.030	0.033	0.115	0.908	0.365
Mother's Occupation	-0.110	0.040	-0.477	-2.757	0.006
Father Income Status	0.025	0.024	0.123	1.072	0.285
Mum Income Status	0.035	0.029	0.216	1.204	0.230
R-Square = 0.122	Adjusted R Square = 0.095				

Source: Field Survey 2011

The second model was estimated using logistic regression analysis. The result amazingly indicated that knowledge about mode of HIV transmission was statistical insignificantly related to teen involvement in sexual activity. Those with understanding of HIV transmission were more prone to sexual activities compared to those who believed it is hereditary. It further revealed that respondents that adopt condoms, pills as well local herbs for protection were 0.647, 0.332 and 0.318 times (respectively) less likely to be involved in sexual activities compared to teenagers who use no form of protection as indicated in Table 4.

Table 4: Logistic Regression estimating the effects of respondents' socio-demographic characteristics on the odds of teen boys engaging in sexual partnership

Socio-Demographic characteristics	B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)
Knowledge of modes of HIV transmission						
Hereditary	RC					
Sexual Intercourse	1.557	1.179	1.745	1	0.187	4.746
Blood Transfusion	0.295	1.146	0.066	1	0.797	1.343
Contact with Contaminated objects	0.686	1.211	0.321	1	0.571	1.986
Witch/Witchcraft	-0.047	1.464	0.001	1	0.974	0.954
Poverty/Lack of money	0.879	1.097	0.643	1	0.423	2.410
Protection mostly use against HIV						
None	RC					
Condom/Pills	-0.435	1.031	0.178	1	0.673	0.647
Follow my period (Calendar)	-1.103	1.089	1.025	1	0.311	0.332
Agunmu/Local herbs	-1.147	1.573	0.532	1	0.466	0.318
Ever Attended HIV/AIDS counseling						
No	RC					
Yes	-0.937	0.840	1.245	1	0.265	0.392
Age of Respondents						
Below 10 years	RC					
10-14	0.163	1.017	0.026	1	0.873	1.176
15-19	0.175	0.829	0.045	1	0.832	1.192
20-24	0.766	0.633	1.467	1	0.226	2.151
Respondent's Educational Attainment						
No Schooling	RC					
Primary Education	2.463	1.050	5.499	1	0.019	11.736
Junior Secondary Education	-2.409	1.333	3.266	1	0.071	0.090
Senior Secondary Education	-1.993	0.967	4.247	1	0.039	0.136
OND/NCE/A-level/Tech Education	-0.826	0.820	1.013	1	0.314	0.438
University & others	-1.157	0.918	1.587	1	0.208	0.314
Religion Affiliation						
Christianity	RC					
Islam	0.371	1.151	0.104	1	0.747	1.450
Traditional	0.509	1.206	0.178	1	0.673	1.664
Constant	-1.549	1.416	1.198	1	0.274	0.212
-2 Log likelihood = 124.081			Cox & Snell R Square = 0.201			
Nagelkerke R Square = 0.353			Overall Percentage = 89			

Source: Field Survey 2011

Also, the result indicated that education, attendance of HIV/AIDS counselling and adoption of measures against HIV infection were negatively related to teen involvement in sexual activities. However, while the teen father that had attained above primary level of education would less likely be involved in sexual activities, those with only primary education would be 11.736 times

more likely to be involved in sexual activities (Table 4). Primary education and senior secondary education were significant at p-value 0.019 and 0.039 respectively as shown in Table 4.

Conclusion and implications for national development

The proportions of teen fathers recorded in this study is relatively high (35 percent of the total sample) and this could portend danger to a developing nation like Nigeria. Considering also, the level of unemployment identified among the teen fathers, the implications could be that the teens would be unable to fund children education, have access to nutritious foods, and lack of adequate support for the mothers and the child in terms of healthcare services. This could aggravate the (already high) maternal mortality rate in Nigeria. Besides, the presence of inexperienced and immature fathers could likely hamper child development, poor upbringing and engender ill-equipped young folks that might not have economic prerequisite for sustainable development. Generally, sexual behaviour and decisions of young male have important implications for healthy productive future population. Lack of checks on their sexual behaviour could influence higher fertility level. The author therefore supported other studies that teenage fatherhood is a sexual and reproductive health matters that represents a crucial components of general health and a fundamental prerequisite for social, economic and human development (Flanigan et al, 2002, Treffers, 2003; Quinlivan & Condon, 2005; Teens for Health, 2008; Leslie et al, 2010). Ill-matured parenting could be inimical to the community development. It could also engender poor upbringing and availability of ill-equipped human energy that could jeopardize economic development. Thus, mature resourceful and responsible parenting is considered as essential ingredient for national development.

The study showed the importance of education as vital factor in controlling teen-boys' sexual comportment. Thus, it is recommended that a policy intervention that will incorporate universal implementation of sex education with involvement of teenagers and definite focus on pregnancy, STIs reduction and responsible sexual relationships be put in place. This will instill in the teens the need for responsible sexual relationships. Also, owing to the observed statistical insignificant relationship between knowledge about the mode of HIV transmission and indulgence in sexual activities, proactive home-front enlightenment on the consequences of premature and unprotected sex among the teens can also yield economic results.

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