

**CHRISTIAN SERVICE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, KUMASI**

**DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY**

**TEENAGE PREGNANCY AMONG THE YOUTH AND THE CHURCHES IN  
NKWANTAKESE (AFIGYA KWABRE DISTRICT)**

**PROJECT WORK  
(LONG ESSAY)**

**OWUSU MAXWELL**

**JUNE, 2018**

**TEENAGE PREGNANCY AMONG THE YOUTH AND THE CHURCHES IN  
NKWANTAKESE (AFIGYA KWABRE DISTRICT)**

**OWUSU MAXWELL  
(10004138)**

**A long essay submitted to Christian Service University College, in partial fulfillment  
of the requirement for the award of Bachelor of Arts in Theology with  
Administration.**

**JUNE, 2018.**

**DECLARATION**

I, Owusu Maxwell, solemnly declare that this dissertation has never been submitted by me or any other person at this University or any other institution for the award of degree. This is my own work in design and execution, that I am aware of the implications of plagiarism as academic dishonesty, and that all sources of reference used have been duly acknowledged.

Signature.....

Owusu Maxwell  
(Student)

Date.....

Signature.....

Christine Nancy Adjei Glover (Mrs.)  
(Supervisor)

Date.....

Signature.....

Dr. Samuel B. Adubofuor  
(Head of Department of Theology)

Date.....

**DEDICATION**

I dedicate this work to the almighty God who has given me strength, hope and meaning in this life. With deep love and gratitude to my dear mother, Madam Mary Owusu Afriyie and to my uncle and his wife Rev. and Mrs. Baffour Owusu Gyimah who I owe this achievement of my life to, and also to my supervisor, Mrs. Christine Adjei Glover. Lastly, to my friend Peter Yeboah for his support and care.

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# CHAPTER ONE

## GENERAL INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Introduction

The world is faced with many social vices which continue to increase and give birth to concerns and challenges in the society. Among these social vices is teenage pregnancy which has become an issue not only to the society but to the youth and the church as well. Both the formal and informal educational systems teach about the causes and effects of teenage pregnancy. Again it has become the duty of the church to give vivid information about teenage pregnancy to the youth. But there is still more concerns about this problem in the society and the church. This social problem is against the truism that the youth are the future leaders. So the question is, when can the youth begin to take advantage of the future leadership?

Evangelism, teachings in church, outreach, church activities and church programs are all abilities that the youth are involved in the church and they are sometimes capable of leading the church without giving them credit. There has been a concern of how the youth steadily rise in delinquency and it has become an issue and a problem to the church and the society. One of the major delinquency that the youth are highly involved is the sexual behavior and it is getting out of hand because it is resulting in numerous pregnancies among the youth. The best solution to this youth delinquency lies in the hands of the Christian parents, teachers in various forms of education and the church.

It is also a duty of the church to train and prepare a better life for the youth in this world so that the youth can conform to the norms and values in the society. But if the youth are not concern and not giving attention to what the church is doing, the world could fall or slip into total immorality. In biblical context, Apostle Paul stated in (2 Timothy 2:22) that the youth should flee from their youthful lust and follow righteousness. Again, in (Ephesians 5:3) the youth are to avoid every form of immorality. (Refer to appendix IV for the pictorial view of some of the pregnant teenagers in Ghana).

The aim of this study is to seek the views and opinions of the people concerning the causes and effects of teenage pregnancy on the youth and the churches in Nkwantakese (Afigya Kwabre District).

## **1.2 Background to the Study**

The society and the church's concern about teenage pregnancy has increased and continue to rise to a serious social and spiritual problem as far as the society and the churches are concerned. Globally, fifteen (15) million women under the age of twenty (20) years give birth, representing up to one-fifth of all births and 529, 000 women die due to pregnancy and childbirth related complications every year. Teenage pregnancy is a major concern to world communities with US being at the top with almost 1,000,000 teenage pregnancies each year. If the youth are involved in the sexual act and the society has nothing to say or is not concern about it, why should the church bother itself about the issue of the teenage pregnancy? And also if the church is truly the temple of Christ, and the young girls are getting pregnant before they get married, then how do we classify them and also how do we defend the church as a better place for the youth? Is the church

teaching the right thing about Christian living and are the youth sincerely encountering the faith of Christ? What will be the testimony of the church about such people or will there be any testimony for such people if they continue to be in the church?

Traditionally, especially in Africa, the setting of culture requires that a girl is not supposed and expected to be pregnant unless she is married. Sex before marriage is seen as a deviation and in some tribes, is a taboo. Krobo (Ga Adangbe) in Ghana especially allows all teenage girls undergo puberty rites before they enter into marriage. The same way that the church ensures that after the youth becomes a Christian, he or she is confirmed to God's word, full of advice, suggestions and admonitions for spiritual benefits. But now in some African countries, the sexual behavior of urban adolescents is very similar to that of people in the same age category in USA and Europe. In the same continent (Africa), girls are often married at a young age and are under pressure to give birth to children. The study seeks to examine the causes and effects of teenage pregnancy in Nkwantakese (Afigya Kwabre District).

### **1.3 Statement of Problem**

Teenage pregnancy has been one of the major hindrances to the educational success of girls. Teenage pregnancy is more prevalent among unbelievers and is seen to be gradually creeping into the Christendom with the churches in Nkwantakese (Afigya Kwabre District) included. As more young women remain in the church and when they past puberty, more youth are exposed to the risk of becoming pregnant. Therefore in the view of this, it has become necessary for the churches in Nkwantakese (Afigya Kwabre District) to identify the causes and effects of this issue on the youth and the church.

#### **1.4 Research Questions**

The following sub-research questions is addressed in order to know the views of the people in both the church and the society as well as to answer the main question of the study.

- How does the church influence the youth in the teachings of teenage pregnancy?
- How can the youth notice the effects of teenage pregnancy in his or her life?
- How does the youth approach a pregnant teenager in the church?
- What is the reaction of a pregnant teenager in the midst of her friends, families and church members in the church?

#### **1.5 Aim and Objectives of the Study**

The study aims at creating awareness of the intensity of the problem of teenage pregnancy, its causes and effects among the youth and the churches in Nkwantakese (Afigya Kwabre District). The objectives are:

- To create good relationship between the churches and the youth.
- To enhance effective parental control on children.
- To create awareness of teenage pregnancy and its effects.
- To reduce social problems and promote girl child education.

## **1.6 Scope and Focus of the Study**

This work looks at the issues of teenage pregnancy among the youth in the churches as follows; Presbyterian, Methodist, Pentecost, Roman Catholic, S.D.A, True Church and Dominion in Nkwantakese (Afigya Kwabre District) in the Ashanti region of Ghana. The study does not examine every detail about the churches but identifies the causes and effects of teenage pregnancy among the youth and the churches in Nkwantakese (Afigya Kwabre District) and recommends some measures to address such issues. The study also briefly addresses the historical background of the churches in Nkwantakese (Afigya Kwabre District) in the Ashanti region.

## **1.7 Research Methodology**

Majority of the work was used by the qualitative method and the rest was the quantitative method. The quantitative method was used to access the results of the data collected. The researcher used the phenomenological and the historical approach and examined the issue of teenage pregnancy in Nkwantakese (Afigya Kwabre District). A phenomenological study involves trying to understand the essence of a phenomenon by examining the views of people who have experienced that phenomenon. Or it examines human experiences through the descriptions provided by the people involved. These experiences are called lived experiences.

Historical studies concern the identification, location, evaluation, and synthesis of data from the past. Historical research discover the events of the past and relate these past happenings to the present and to the future. These methods are relevant for the study because it enabled the researcher to analyze issues that remained central to this work.

### **1.7.1 Methods of Data Collection**

Obviously, this nature of work could not have been done without collecting information. Therefore, the researcher adopted some methods of data collection that was used to analyze and obtained data and also gathered information for the study. These include both primary sources and secondary sources.

#### ***1.7.1.1 Primary Sources***

The researcher used structured and unstructured interviews. The personal interview include having a personal interaction ‘one on one’ with a respondent. The interviews enabled the researcher and respondents to develop a personal friendship which also created a conducive environment for the researcher to meet the respondents face to face to elicit relevant pieces of primary information. For the primary source of information, questionnaires were designed for adults, church leaders, and some resource persons in the field who had knowledge and information for the work.

#### ***1.7.1.2 Secondary Sources***

The researcher consulted different secondary sources from documentary sources such as books, magazines, journals, brochures as well as the internet. These are published and unpublished materials of scholarly opinion. In addition, dictionaries, newspaper publication and articles were used. The secondary sources helped in a way of collating and analyzing the various views on the issue of teenage pregnancy among the youth and the churches in Nkwantakese (Afigya Kwabre District)

### ***1.7.2 Sample/Sampling Technique***

In this study, the researcher used probability sampling technique to select his respondents. In this work, the units of the sample were selected by a systematic procedure. The respondents were intentionally picked for the study because they satisfied certain qualities which exhibited most of the characteristics of interest to the study. The categories of people that the researcher interviewed include the youth, parents and church leaders of churches in the society.

### ***1.7.3 Data Analysis***

This method depends on the quality of information based on its relevance to the subject rather than the quantity of responses to the particular issue. That is, instead of drawing from a large representative sample, the researcher sought to acquire information from relatively smaller group of people.

## **1.8 Literature Review**

The researcher examined and made use of the views and opinions of scholars or writers whose studies were important and has carried out similar studies in relation to the issue at stake. Areas that were addressed were classified under topics such as: the church and the youth, the challenging and effective parenting, youth chastity and sex and teenage pregnancy, its causes and effects.

### **1.8.1 The Church and the Youth**

Many men and women of our generation have devoted their lives, making the world a better place to live. And also dedicated Christians in our generation have devoted the best years of their lives, reaching out men and women for Christ, building churches and sending out missionaries.

The church programmes can provide much that teens cannot get elsewhere: Bible instructions in Sunday school; worship in church services; training in youth programmes; fellowships. Missionary education, evangelism, all these and many more church-related activities can contribute to the up building of youth spirituality. The view about the writer shows that, there is a need for the church leaders to make it a task to win the youth to Christ and then help them to behave prudently, and also involve the youth in church programmes to live in accordance with His word.

Youth need a sense of purpose. The youth does not need only a creed to believe but a cause which demands their fullest effort. One great need in youth work is to help gain a sense of mission and a purpose. Where youth have seen themselves as the church in action, they have moved out in power, often to the surprise of their leaders. And also Youth need a sense of participation. One reason young people drop-out of church is that they find it boring, uninteresting and lacking sufficient activities. In many churches youth are only spectators, forced to observe without opportunity to contribute. The above views of the writer gives a clue about how the church can be a great school for Christian living and service for the youth. The church can also provide answers to their questions by allowing the youth to participate in church activities. However, the opportunity for serving is lacking therefore it is the responsibility for church leaders to help the church to

see the worth of its youth, and in turn helping youth dedicate themselves to the work of the church.

### **1.8.2 The Challenging and Effective Parenting**

Bringing up children is perhaps, one of the biggest challenges that parents have faced for ages and will continue to face. Unlike others problems that come up in marriage, parenting is one that we cannot run away from. Once God blesses a couple with children, they have the duty of bringing them up. No matter how much experience a couple may think they have in bringing up children, there is bound to come a time in their life when they may feel defeated and ask themselves, “where did we go wrong?”

It is not Mr. Parent, it is not Mrs. Parent but simply, parent, emphasizing the dual and equal role of the spouses in bringing up the children. The role of the parents in shaping the lives of their children is probably greater today than ever before. For example, in traditional African society, child training was the responsibility of the whole community. Apart from the grandparents, aunties, uncles, brothers and sisters who usually lived on the same compound, every adult had the right of discipline and to ensure that a child was brought up according to the traditions of the elders.

The tendency of modern society is to look to the school, the church or some external institution as primarily responsible for the upbringing of our children. The school may teach science, mathematics or history but not the art of living. The church may teach godly principles but the children will look to the parents for their practical demonstration. The art of godly living is to be learnt at home. Therefore, it is the wish of every parent that the environment in which their children are brought up would be less threatening. But no one can promise a drug-free society, or even a society without sex abuse, immorality and loose morals. Rather, parents are called upon to train their children to face these very challenges, and win.

The above views of the writer shows how challenging it is in bringing up children as a parent. It also gives us clue on how responsible parents should be. One factor that the writer elaborated on, was that, it is not Mr. Parent, it is not Mrs. Parent but simply, parent, emphasizing the dual and equal role of the spouses in bringing up the children. These are vital information that helped the researcher to examine challenges of parents in

bringing up their children and irresponsible behavior of the parents which has resulted in social vices such as teenage pregnancy.

Parents must understand the teen years because it's important to make a distinction between puberty and adolescence. Most of us think of puberty as the development of adult sexual characteristics: breasts, menstrual periods, pubic hair, and facial hair. These are certainly the most visible signs of impending adulthood, but kids who are showing physical changes (between the ages of 8 and 14 or so) can also be going through a bunch of changes that are not readily seen from the outside. These are the changes of adolescence. Many kids announce the onset of adolescence with a dramatic change in behavior around their parents. Kids of this age are increasingly aware of how others, especially their peers, see them and are desperately trying to fit in. What do we aim at in bringing up our children? Sometimes the child will turn outright or bad, despite the effort one puts in. It is a wish for every parent to see their children becoming doctors, engineers, pastors, lawyers etc. there is nothing wrong about having that ambition or that wish for the children.

The above views of the writer gives a clear awareness of how parents should understand their children's changes of adolescence. And also for parents to understand the distinction between puberty and adolescence. It also gives a clear understanding about effective parenting. Again, it gives a clue about the necessity of parents to be responsible. This is vital information and it has helped the researcher in examining the dangers of an indiscipline life of both the parent and the child which has resulted in social vices such as teenage pregnancy.

### **1.8.3 Youth Chastity and Sex**

God created sex for men and women and in fact all his creation as a gift for enjoyment and also for procreation. His instructions on sexual relations are clear. His standards of sexual issues should never be compromised because he gives power to men and women to control and to avoid unlawful sexual relations. “How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word” (Psalm 119:9). Chastity is a virtue that every well-meaning parent should wish for the child. The youth should be given opportunity for the mind to be filled with chaste promoting materials. As soon as a person’s mind is pre-occupied with sexually oriented materials, it changes his or her perception of life. If the mind is filled with immoral thoughts through music, films and dramas, the youth gradually become immoral. When one considers the dangers associated with a premarital sexual relationship, the better option is to refrain from it.

The above views of the writer shows that God created sex but he gave the power to men and women to control it and not for the youth. It also gives a clue about how important chastity is to the youth. The researcher used this view and did more work on how the youth can abstain from any sexual behaviour that will result in sex, so that the person can live a chastity life. It is appropriate and a good conduct, if the youth do not rush into sexual relationships and start to produce children too early in life.

### **1.8.4 Teenage Pregnancy, Causes and Effects**

Teenage pregnancy is defined as a girl, usually within the ages of 13-19, becoming pregnant. Sometimes the age of the girl is less than 13years. The term in everyday speech usually refers to girls who have not reached legal adulthood, which varies across the world, who become pregnant. One social problem which is staring at us in the society is

teenage pregnancy. Girls are no longer confined to the home and kitchen so they become vulnerable to sexual harassment leading to teenage pregnancy. Formerly it was a taboo for a girl to get pregnant when she is not married.

This view about the writer shows who a teenager is, and also gives a clear idea about how teenage pregnancy has become a social problem and how girls have become vulnerable to sexual harassment leading to teenage pregnancy. This information has helped the researcher in analyzing on sexual harassment of the youth leading to teenage pregnancy and how it has become a social problem.

Teenage pregnancies may result for different reasons in industrialized countries as compared to developing countries. Factors or causes that contribute to teenage pregnancies include: Customs and traditions that lead to early marriage (developing countries), Adolescent sexual behavior which may also be influenced by alcohol and drugs, Lack of education and information about reproductive sexual health including lack of access to tools that prevent pregnancies, Peer pressure to engage in sexual activity, Incorrect use of contraception, Sexual abuse that leads to rape, Poverty.

The above views about the writer outline the causes and how it has contributed to the development of teenage pregnancy and these causes are all human behaviors. Therefore the researcher has taken into consideration and addressed to these causes and how it has contributed to such social vices like teenage pregnancy.

According to the Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE), the Executive director indicates that in Zambia alone, 2,230 girls had been forced to drop out of school for the last years because they got pregnant. Most studies found that dropping out of high school is a negative effect of teenage pregnancy. Teenage pregnancy is commonly associated with school non-attendance and dropout. Pregnancy and its complications often predispose youths to permanently leave school. Adolescents do not usually plan to get

pregnant when they engage in sexual behavior. Teenage pregnancies that are unplanned may lead to impulsive decision-making, and pressure from parents, peers, society and school may have an impact on the decisions teens make. Their inability to see future consequences for their behavior as well as psychological immaturity puts them at risk. Severe emotional disturbance (SED) has been defined as the display of behavioral difficulties in pregnant adolescents, sometimes as a result of internal distress (feelings of sorrow, anger, anxiety, frustration, disappointment), that are persistent over time and disrupt learning. Depression can be described as feelings of sadness, loneliness and futility combined with fatigue, disturbed sleep patterns and confusion.

A teenage mother generally lacks parenting skills, fails to understand what her child needs and does not realize the importance of smiling, touching or verbally communicating with her child – anger against society is taken out on the child and physical abuse is possible.

The views of the writer above shows the effects of teenage pregnancy. According to the views of the writer, teenage pregnancy brings about school dropout. It also leads to impulsive decision making. Severe emotional disturbance e.g.: anger, anxiety, frustration etc. is also an effect of teenage pregnancy. The writer also view about the lack of parenting skills from the teenage mother and how it affects the child. This view enable the researcher to made critical analyses about effects of teenage pregnancy not only on the youth but also on the church.

### **1.9 The Significance of the Study**

The study is very significant and it provided the churches with an authentic information of how they are to handle the youth in their churches. And it has also helped the churches to use the information derived from this study to come up with teachings and policies to address the phenomenon called teenage pregnancy. The youth will also use this study to acquire knowledge on how to handle problems related to teenage pregnancy and also use

it in their activities and programs. This will also be useful to the communities by educating and encouraging them to prevent more incidences of teenage pregnancy.

The results of this study will not only be useful to the church and the youth but also to the Department of Education and the Department of Health and Social welfare in Afigya Kwabre District. The results of this study may also be used by the researchers as a baseline study for future studies in the area.

### **1.10 Content or Organization of the Work**

The study was limited to the churches in Nkwantakese (Afigya Kwabre District). As far as the content of the study is concerned, the study was divided into five chapters. Chapter one constituted the general introduction to the study and addresses such issues as the introduction and background to the study, the statement of problem, the research questions, the aims and objectives of the study, literature review, the significance of the study, the research methodology and the scope and focus of the study. The second chapter is where the researcher introduced the reader to the historical background of the phenomenon under study. In the third chapter, the main issues of teenage pregnancy were discussed, with emphasis on its causes and effects. Chapter four constituted interpretation and analysis of research data. The researcher did a critical analysis of issues that emerged out of the previous chapter. The fifth chapter concluded the study and addressed the summary of the study, general conclusion to the study and offered some recommendations. There was also a reference list which captured all the sources of information, as well as an appendix of questionnaires, an interview guide and some relevant pictures.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY**

#### **2.1 Introduction**

The previous chapter constituted the general introduction of the study which includes; background of the study, statement of the problem, research questions, aim and objectives of the study, scope and focus of the study, research methodology, significance of the study, organization or content of the work and the literature review which discussed the views of scholars who have made contributions to the discussion of teenage pregnancy. Issues considered in the literature review include; the church and the youth, effective parenting, youth chastity and sex and teenage pregnancy, its causes and effects. This chapter will examine the historical background of the study which includes Nkwantakese community in the Afigya Kwabre District. Again, since the topic of the study is centered on the churches in the community, two churches were used as a case study to represent the churches. They are Presbyterian Church of Ghana, Church of Pentecost Ghana and both the Presbyterian Church and the Pentecost church in the Nkwantakese community.

#### **2.2 History of Nkwantakese Community**

Nkwantakese is a suburb of Kumasi which is situated in the middle of towns called Akom, Ampatia, Penteng and Besease. These towns are located in Afigya Kwabre District near Offinso road. The name of Nkwantakese was derived from a discovery of their land by a hunter. It is said that, it was a hunter who first came to the land and it was a forest at that time. At the forest, the hunter discovered that there were two junction

(Nkwanta) of which on his left hand leads to the big forest and one at his right hand to the smaller forest. Therefore he went back and informed his king Nana Boakye Yam I and they came and settled at the big forest. And because of the junction that led to the discovery of that forest, they called the place Nkwantakese. The first chief of Nkwantakese was called Nana Boakye Yam I and the current one is called Nana Boakye Yam II. The chief was paying lease to Ahenkro chief because he gave the land to him and later on the land became his after the payment of the lease was over. The chief of Nkwantakese gave the land of Ampatia to his son to settle. Penteng and Besease town was established at the time when Nkwantakese was already settled and established therefore they came under the chief of Nkwantakese.

Almost 90% of the inhabitants of the land are farmers. It is said that, at first cocoa farming was their major crop farming but due to the establishment of Barekese Dam, most of their cocoa farm were taken and some of their lands were taken to the other side of the Dam. Nkwantakese is not a commercial community but few people are in the trading system of which some sell food stuffs, alcoholic beverage, etc. The only social amenities the community can boast of are electricity, road and school. They have only one basic and Junior High Schools which is Methodist Primary and Junior High School (JHS) and L/A Junior High School (JHS). Education has become an issue to them because one can start school from kindergarten to only junior high school because that is the only school they have. They have a football park which organizes matches to refresh the youth and the community. They also have a palace and a community center and a mini clinic but no market place. Because it is a small community, the youth are not violent but engage in ungodly social acts like drinking, teenage behaviors etc. The

community use to worship ancestors but now Nkwantakese has various religious worship. Churches have spread the town and now most of the inhabitants are Christians who belong to the orthodox churches such as Presbyterian, Methodist, Roman Catholic, whereas the remaining are Pentecostal and charismatics. (Refer to Appendix I for the pictorial view of the community).

### **2.3 Presbyterian Church of Ghana**

The history of the Presbyterian church of Ghana can be traced to the arrival of the Basel Missionaries on the shores of the Gold Coast in 1828. The first four missionaries arrived at Osu, on 18<sup>th</sup> December of that year. When all of them succumbed to malaria and died within few months, another group of three were dispatched, two of whom also died after a short stay. It was Andreas Riis, a Danish native who survived and decided to move inland into the Akuapem Hills to make another attempt.

The next important date and event of significance in the life of the PCG was 17<sup>th</sup> April 1843 when a large group of African descendants from Jamaica landed at Osu to begin another phase of the Basel (Switzerland) Mission evangelization work. The growth and consolidation of the Basel (Switzerland) Mission presence occurred between 1840 and 1870, a period that saw the arrival in the Gold Coast of many talented and committed missionaries from Europe. It was also the period that saw the establishment of the first eight mission stations of the church, namely, Osu, Abokobi, Akropong, Aburi, Kibi, Odumase-Krobo, Anum and Ada. By 1866, Johannes Zimmerman had finished translating the whole bible into Ga followed by Christaller's Twi translation in 1870.

It is virtually impossible to talk of PCG without reference to the branch of the church in Ashanti and beyond. The Basel (Switzerland) Mission had made exploratory visit to Salaga, Kete Krachi and Kpandai as early as 1876 but conditions were then not conducive for the start of full scale mission work. They established a school and clinic and started reaching out to the surrounding areas. The inclusion of the north in the Presbyterian map has made it possible for the church to describe themselves as a truly national church.

The PCG was from the beginning a church that produced local leadership who not only assisted the missionaries but also became missionaries to their compatriots. By the early 1950s, the first product of the Akropong Seminary had started coming out as trained teachers and catechists, and in no time, were competent enough either to be put in charge of some of the stations or sent out to evangelize. These included David Asante, who was even sent for further training in Basel (Switzerland) and was ordained a minister and put in charge of Larteh. In 1918, Rev Willkie helped to organize the first Synod meeting of the church which elected the first Moderator, Peter Hall and the first Synod Clerk, N.T. Clerk, both of whom were descendants of the pioneer Jamaican missionaries. By the end of 2002, the church was running a total of 1907 schools, 37 health institutions and 7 Agriculture development programs were under the care of the church.

#### **2.4 Nkwantakese Presbyterian Church**

Nkwantakese Presbyterian local church is known as Hope congregation and was established in the year 2005 by the Bible Study and Prayer Group (BSPG) members from Suame and Makro Presby led by Asante Opoku through evangelism. Their first place of

worship was in the Methodist Junior High School classroom with a total of 13 members. They later moved from the classroom to their own land which presently have a church structure uncompleted on it. (Refer to Appendix II for the pictorial view of Nkwantakese Presbyterian Church). Fred Dua Agyemang was the first care taker who served the church while he was still doing his training course as a Catechist but left after the training. And now the present Catechist who is in charge of the church is called Collins Agyen.

It is said that, the late Anane contributed to the establishment of the church. The late Anane gave the church instruments and a land to construct the church but because of the location of the land, the church could not use the land but still became a property for the church. Now the church is having a numerical strength of members which Adults (above 40 years) are thirty two (32) with eleven (11) males and twenty one (21) females, Young Adult Fellowship (30-40 years) are twenty eight (28) with twelve (12) being males and sixteen (16) being females. The Young Peoples Guild (18-30 years) are fifty nine (59) in total with twenty seven (27) males and thirty two (32) being females Junior Youth (12-18 years) also has a total number of forty three (43) which sixteen (16) are boys and twenty seven (27) are girls and the children (below 12 years) makes a total of fifty eight (58) with twenty five (25) boys and thirty three (33) girls. The church has a total number of two hundred and twenty two (220) members and according to their statistical report, it shows that majority of the members are youth who fall within the age of twelve to thirty (12-30) years. The church's problem is that, they have no place for their youth to have their own service therefore they worship with the adults which makes it difficult for the youth to feel comfortable. Another problem the church is facing is that they have only one group in the church which is the singing band which is not supposed to be like that.

## **2.5 The Church of Pentecost Ghana**

James McKeown was the first Pentecostal missionary to come to Ghana from the United Kingdom. He landed on the shores of the country with little education and little training in 1937 on the invitation of Anim's Apostolic Church, Gold Coast, which had shifted affiliations from the Philadelphia Faith Tabernacle, USA to the Bradford Apostolic Church, UK. Born on September 12, 1900, McKeown himself earlier joined the Apostolic Church, UK from the Elim Pentecostal Church in Glasgow. A brush with a tropical disease which threatened McKeown's life and his decision to seek medical treatment and the subsequent misunderstanding with his Church who thought he had violated the doctrine of "only prayer for healing," led to his relocation in Winneba and eventual separation in 1939 from Anim who was the founder of the Apostolic Church, Gold Coast. While Anim adopted the name Christ Apostolic Church for his faction, McKeown maintained the name Apostolic Church of Gold Coast for his.

Through James McKeown's brother Adam McKeown who had been sent to Canada as a missionary after serving with his brother in Ghana for two and a half years, James and the Church in Ghana came into contact with Dr. Wyatt, an American revivalist from Portland Oregon and the Latter Rain Pentecostal group which he led. At the next Quadrennial Council meeting in 1953 in Bradford, amendments to the constitution, which were distasteful to James McKeown against which he voted, eventually caused his dismissal from the Apostolic Church. These particular amendments created separate apostles for whites and blacks, so that a black Apostle could not exercise authority over a white person, and made it impossible for anyone or group outside the Apostolic to be given any platform anywhere. James McKeown thought these were unscriptural. He was asked to

hand in his ordination certificate and leave. The Africans back in the Gold Coast were adamant. They wanted James McKeown back as their superintendent but they knew this would not be possible if they remained under the UK Apostolic Church. A unanimous decision to sever relations with the Apostolic Church, UK was, therefore, taken. There was now an independent African Church led by McKeown known as “The Gold Coast Apostolic Church”.

Further litigations over property and name which attracted the intervention of the then President of Ghana, Dr. Kwame Nkrumah to decree that McKeown be left alone to head the Church and be allowed to live in the country. He also decreed that the name be changed to avoid confusion with the name of the Bradfords. From August 1962, therefore, the name of “The Gold Coast Apostolic Church” headed by James McKeown became known as “The Church of Pentecost.” One of McKeown’s greatest strengths was his vision of training Africans to be in charge of the affairs of the indigenous African Church he had in mind. As a result he trained many local evangelists and pastors who became his trusted assistants though a few became treacherous and led some breakaways. These included such loyal men as S. R. Asomaning from Akroso, R. O. Hayford who was ordained an evangelist and D. K. Boateng as well as E. K. Okanta. Rev F. S. Safo who took over the chairmanship after McKeown’s retirement, Prophet M. K. Yeboah who was the next successor and R Egyir Painstil who was the first General Secretary of the Church were among those who were trained by James. James labored with his wife Sophia in evangelism to build the Church of Pentecost which is today the fastest growing church in Ghana and, probably in the whole of the West African sub-region.

## **2.6 Nkwantakese Pentecost Church**

Nkwantakese Pentecost church is known as Tetelestai Assembly which was established in the 1980s and it is located at the Zongo in the community. It is said that it was Kofi Nsiah and his wife Abena Serwaa who were worshipping at Edenase Pentecost and later established some in Nkwantakese. Their first place of worship was in the Methodist primary school classroom. They were first worshipping under the Offinso District and later moved to Ahenkro District in the year 1993. Nkwantakese Pentecost church had ministers who have served the church and they include: Quekou was the first Pastor for the church followed by Brown, Opoku Adepa, and Kodom is now the current Pastor for the church. The church started with fifteen (15) members at the time it was established and now they have about one hundred (100) members they can boast of. Forty five percent (45%) of the members represent the Adults; thirty percent (30%) represent the youth and twenty five percent (25%) children. (Refer to Appendix III for the pictorial view of Nkwantakese Pentecost Church).

## **2.7 Conclusion**

In the discussion, the background of the study was examined, which is very important for the study. Issues like; Nkwantakese community in the Afigya Kwabre District, the Presbyterian church of Ghana, the church of Pentecost Ghana and the Presbyterian Church and the Pentecost church in the Nkwantakese community, were addressed. It is significant for the study as we seek to understand the environment in which the study is being conducted. In the next chapter an attempt will be made to discuss and examine issues of teenage pregnancy and details of its causes and effects and again examine church policy for its youth.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **TEENAGE PREGNANCY AMONG THE YOUTH AND THE CHURCHES**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

In the previous chapter, historical background of the study was discussed in relation to the context of the study which consisted of Nkwantakese community, the Presbyterian church of Ghana, the church of Pentecost Ghana and both Presbyterian and Pentecost church in the Nkwantakese community. This chapter will consider the main issue of the study which is, teenage pregnancy among the youth and the churches in Nkwantakese community. Areas to be discussed include the main issues of teenage pregnancy among the youth and the churches in Nkwantakese community, the church policy for the youth, parental guide, causes and effects of teenage pregnancy.

#### **3.2 Teenage Pregnancy among the Youth and the Churches in Nkwantakese Community**

##### **3.2.1 The Concept of Teenage Pregnancy in the Community**

Teenage pregnancy is one of the social problems that are staring at Nkwantakese community. The girls in the community are no longer confined to the home and the kitchen, so they become vulnerable to sexual harassment leading to teenage pregnancy. According to one of the interviewees, when a girl is in her puberty stage, the girl must be taken to the queen before she can get pregnant whether married or not. A girl who indulges in sex prior to her initiation was severely punished, particularly if she had not reached physiological puberty. But now there is nothing like that anymore because of violations of rules.

### **3.2.2 Relationship between the Churches and the Youth in the Community**

The issue of teenage pregnancy in the community is not only the concern of the youth but also to the church as well because the youth are the same people we see in the churches. The church is another platform that gives teachings to its members, especially the youth, so that they can also be impacted. But there is a problem between the churches and their youth in Nkwantakese community because there is no relationship between the churches and their youth. Youth always want to be part of the church activities and uses their gifts to help the church. The youth always find their way out of the church or join another church when they are not recognized or not involved in any activities of their mother church. The welfare of the youth is very low in some churches. The churches focus much on their adult members because they respond to everything the church needs, like paying of tithes, dues, contributions etc. Some of the churches do not have meeting programs for their youth, therefore the teenagers are more found in unhealthy places than the church. Because the churches show less concern for their youth, there is no relationship between them, therefore the teenagers do not have much interest in the church.

### **3.2.3 Parents and Children Relationship in the Community**

Lack of parental love has resulted in lack of parental control on children especially girls in Nkwantakese community. Girls have the tendency to find love and confidence in their peer groups who may not have anything good to offer except their pre-mature curious discoveries in the world of sex. One problem of the community is also the relationship between the parents and their children. Some parents do not show concern of their children's welfare; they sometimes depend on their children for a living. Teenage girls in

such families always seek money from their opposite sex since they do not work. In addition, children that are neglected are prime candidates for social behavior such as teenage pregnancy.

#### **3.3.4 Factors of Teenage Pregnancy in the Community**

There is always a reason for doing something good or bad. Teenage pregnancy is found with many causes in our societies and much are found in Nkwantakese community. Lack of sex education is one of the major causes of teenage pregnancy that is causing harm to the youth in the community. Education about sex is not done in both their homes and in school to their children because they think it is not something that they should know at their age. Again, some of the rural areas do not have the opportunity to such education because all the seminars and workshops about such education are done in the cities. Poverty has become a driving force in Nkwantakese community which gets many girls into immoral behavior so as to care for themselves and sometimes for the family members as well. Parents' inability to provide for basic needs of girls drives them to accept presents from the opposite sex which invariably may have to be paid back with sex and this may result in teenage pregnancy. Peer pressure is also one of the causes of teenage pregnancy in Nkwantakese community and it is causing a lot of teenagers into social behavior. Parental neglect, broken home, etc. leads to peer influence in the community.

### **3.2.5 Impacts of Teenage Pregnancy in the Community**

The problem of Nkwantakese community concerning teenage pregnancy is its effects on the youth, the community and the churches as well. The rate at which the teenagers are getting pregnant is very alarming and it is affecting the churches, the community and the pregnant teenagers as well. One of the common effects of teenage pregnancy among the youth in Nkwantakese is school drop-out. One of the causes was poverty which led them to such problem, therefore things becomes worse when the teenage girl gets pregnant. Therefore the girl has to stop schooling because she can no longer cater for herself and the baby who is yet to be born. Pregnant teenage girls still want to have some fun with their friends because they feel that, they are still kids but they always become the laughing stock in the midst of their peers and that is why they feel that they must drop out from school. Another effect of teenage pregnancy that is trending is abortion. Teenagers in Nkwantakese have abortions because they have concerns about how having a baby would delay important personal goals (for example, completing their education); they worry about the financial responsibilities associated with parenthood; and they feel that they are not matured enough to become a parent. Abortion as an effect of teenage pregnancy in the community is also a serious problem since it is illegal. Pregnant teenagers in Nkwantakese community living in poverty are exposed to stressful circumstances such as crime, violence, availability of drugs, and lack of safe child care because of lack of control and parental neglect. These are all factors of health risk of a pregnant teenager in the community. Because the pregnant teenagers in the community are not matured enough to carry a baby in their wombs, any little cause can harm both the

teenager and the unborn child. Therefore teenager's health in the community becomes risky when they are pregnant.

### **3.3 The Church Policy for the Youth**

However, to ensure good relationship between the churches and the youth, the church must put in place policies for her youth. The church can be a great school of Christian living and service for her youth. She can provide answers for her questions, a faith for their quest, and an avenue for their abilities. Every youth leader has the responsibility of helping the church to see the worth of her youth, and in turn helping the youth to dedicate themselves to the work of the church.

Children's Ministry that is active and planning ahead has a great opportunity for activities that assist the church in spreading the gospel. Children's Ministry helps the church's biological growth because it teaches children about their savior and maintains them in the church. It gives them both facts and experiences that help them decide to let Jesus live in their lives. The existence of children's Ministry helps validate the importance of children within the church. The youth are the strong pillars of every church and for that matter any church that has policies or structures for their youth, always see the activeness of the youth in every activities of the church. Therefore to keep the youth and have good relationship with them, church leaders must involve the youth in the church activities so that they can bring out their potentials to help the church and also help those with no potentials to be potentials.

### **3.4 Parental Guide**

Relationship between parents and their children is very important because it helps the parents to control their children effectively. Integrity is not an asset that you can buy at the shop or at the market place. It is a moral virtue that is taught and nurtured. One of the responsibilities of every family is to train their children about the importance of integrity, and when they grow up they will not depart from it. This is the first responsibility of every Christian family. Parents have the singular responsibility to bring up their children in such a way that they will come to know Christ Jesus as their Lord and Savior, develop intimate relationship with their God and increase their level of integrity.

Parenting a teen is not always easy. Youth need adults who are there for them especially parents who will connect with them, communicate with them, spend time with them, and show a genuine interest in them. Talking with teens about sex-related topics, including healthy relationships and the prevention of HIV, other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), and pregnancy, is a positive parenting practice that has been widely researched. When parents communicate honestly and openly with their teenage son or daughter about sex, relationships, and the prevention of HIV, STDs, and pregnancy, they can help promote their teen's health and reduce the chances that their teen will engage in behaviors that place them at risk.

Children are the heritage of the Lord, given to parents in trust. It should be the aim of the Christian parents to bring them up in the fear of the Lord. Therefore with regards to sexuality, parents should not feel uncomfortable talking to their children about such issue because the children need their parents to talk to them about sexuality. It can be difficult

to talk about sexuality in general but talking to the children about it is very important and it must be done.

### **3.5 Causes of Teenage Pregnancy**

It is claimed that Ghanaian society is becoming increasingly morally decadent. It is a society where sexual laxity, pornography, drug abuse and the uncritical adoption of indecent foreign cultures are displacing traditional African values. It is always important to create awareness about the causes of teenage pregnancy.

#### **3.5.1 Lack of Sex Education and Social Media**

Lack of sex education has been the cause of teenage pregnancy among girls. Innocent girls fall prey to teenage pregnancy. Most girls have been saddled with teenage pregnancy for one reason or the other due to lack of sex education both in the home and at school. Another cause that was explained by some interviewees was the use of social media. Some were of the view that, they were influenced by the pornographic movies, sexy pictures and some music videos etc. which are all found in the media.

#### **3.5.2 Poverty and Peer Pressure**

Poverty is defined as a complex phenomenon that generally refers to inadequacy of resources and deprivation of choices that would enable people to enjoy decent living conditions. Poverty can be viewed as the absence of peace in an individual. This could be as a result of hunger, lack of medical care, marginalization, denial of human rights relating to the fulfillment of basic human needs, freedom, etc.

### **3.5.3 Myths about Sex and Lack of the use of Contraceptives**

According to Andy and Helen Yawson (2012), there are thirteen (13) key popular myths about sex and the following are some of them;

- Sex is the best way to show love-even if you are not married.
- Pre-marital sex is alright as long as you intend to marry.
- Pornography prepares you for sex in marriage.
- Pornography is just harmless fun.
- One needs to test for sexual compatibility before marriage.
- A man will love a woman more if he makes love to her.

It has been estimated that two-thirds of all unintended pregnancies in developing countries occur among women and adolescents who do not use contraceptives. Most adolescents are mostly confused as to whether they have the legal right to use contraceptives and even if they have the right, which type of contraceptive to use and where to get it from. They are also concerned about how to use contraceptives. Contraception is the use of various devices, drugs, agents, sexual practices or surgical procedures to prevent pregnancy.

### **3.6 Effects of Teenage Pregnancy**

It is said that, for every effect there is a cause and for every cause there is an effect. Again, there is another saying that, at the end of every action, there is a result. Therefore teenage pregnancy as a problem has caused effects on the victims, their parents, the

society and the churches as well. Creating awareness about the effects of teenage pregnancy is one of the best ways to help the teenagers prevent themselves from such problem. These effects are detailed in the following discussion.

### **3.6.1 School Drop-Out and Shame**

Some teenagers are said to be negatively affected by their pregnancies so much that they either leave school temporarily or permanently. The teenage girl drop out from school if there is no help, or do not have enough money to take the child to the crèche or if they don't have support from the relatives. Again, they drop out because they cannot cope, when they are caring for the baby and attending school at the same time. Another effect of teenage pregnancy is that, pregnant teenage girls become more ashamed of themselves than the boys. Is true that they may be sexually active but they will still want to be respected, valued, loved and have a good reputation like 'good girl'. Sometimes they become ashamed when they hear the word chastity or their friends talking about moral life. Again, the shamefulness of the pregnancy sometimes leads to school drop-out. And also the family of the pregnant girl and the church that she attends will also be ashamed of the situation.

### **3.6.2 Financial Handicap and Abortion**

Financial stress may be defined as the inability to meet one's financial obligations, but can also include psychological or emotional effects. Research has documented the following negative outcomes of financial stress: depression, anxiety, poor academic performance, poor health and difficulty persisting towards degree completion.

Family financial exigencies and social custom induce girls to stay out of school and enter into early sexual relationships which lead them into getting pregnant at early stages of their lives thereby making them continue to be in the cycle of poverty. In other words, teenage pregnancy worsens the situation of poverty in the family. For example going for Prenatal and Antenatal, feeding and medicinal aspect also comes in for both the teen mother and the child.

World Health Organization (WHO) received data indicating that about fourteen (14) percent of all unsafe abortions throughout the world occurred among women under age twenty (20) while eighty six percent (86%) occurred among women ages twenty (20) and older. Unsafe abortion occurs most often in places where abortion is illegal and or where women have no access to safe services. In fact, abortion rates are far higher in countries where abortion is illegal or highly restricted than in countries where it is broadly legal.

### **3.6.3 Teenagers Health at Risk**

Moreover, young adolescents age ten (10) to fourteen (14), who also may be the most vulnerable medically due to rapid musculoskeletal and sexual growth, are obviously not capable of thinking like adults. At this age, adolescents tend to be egocentric and obsessed with their own bodies and selves. Their cognitive thinking is concrete and existential. In addition to their immaturity, adolescents lack basic information about health habits, signs and symptoms of early illness in themselves or their infants, and the advisability of early treatment when their infants become sick. Indeed, the adolescent parent may lack general knowledge about infant care.

There are health risks for the baby and the children born to teen mothers, including an increased likelihood of premature birth. Babies who are born prematurely, have smaller birth weights, developmental problems, and require additional time in intensive care neonatal units. The mothers face a greater risk of complications such as anemia, hypertension, and renal problems.

#### **3.6.4 Fear, Depression and Stress of the Pregnant Teenager**

The girls who discover that they are pregnant may fear their parents because of how they will react when they hear the news. Fear affects the teenagers who become pregnant. One thing that affects them most is the fear of rejection from the guys who got them pregnant and also from their own parents. Pregnant teenagers fear that, they will lack support from inside and outside the family that they belong to. Parents' anger and retaliation is also one of the things that scares them off. All these fears may result to panic attacks.

Depression is a consequence of an ongoing struggle that depressed people endure in order to try and maintain emotional contact with desired objects. It involves a person who feels dependent upon relationships with others and who essentially grieves over the threatened or actual loss of those relationships. Depression can also occur when a person feels that they have failed to meet their own standards or the standards of others, and that therefore they are failures. The person ultimately turns the anger to herself. Research has shown that self-efficacy is associated with a reduced likelihood of stress among college students and is positively related to academic performance. Optimism refers to positive expectations about future outcomes. Optimism has also been found to be an important construct among college student academic outcomes and health outcomes.

### **3.7 Conclusion**

The discussion focused on the issues of teenage pregnancy, its causes and effects in Nkwantakese. Again it also addressed the churches policies for their youth and also parental guide which is also necessary for the study. The responses received from the field indicated that teenage pregnancy is a serious issue and needs to be addressed immediately. Another issue that will be addressed and examined in the next chapter is the analysis of the data collected for the study.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### INTERPRETATIONS AND ANALYSIS OF DATA

#### 4.1 Introduction

This chapter represents the analysis of the data collected for the study. Again, this chapter deals with the presentation of the data collected through the use of frequency distribution tables and percentages on conversions. The data was collected in two parts, the section 'A' dealt with the personal information about the respondents and the section 'B' dealt with the research questions for the study. The questionnaires were supervised by the researcher among teenage girls, boys and some older people in Nkwantakese (Afigya Kwabre District).

#### 4.2 Personal Data

This section of the questionnaires covered the respondents' age, sex, educational level, number of children, occupation and church. Though the personal information was not central to the study but it helped the researcher to formulate appropriate recommendations to help the teenagers avoid teenage pregnancy.

The respondents' age ranged from twelve (12) to twenty five (25) and above, with the majority being sixteen (16) to nineteen (19) years constituting forty percent (40%). Again, twelve (12) to fifteen (15) years also constitute thirty five percent (35%). This means that, the most respondents were teenagers. Out of the forty (40) respondents, sixty five percent (65%) were females. This indicates that majority teenage girls responded to the questions. Again, out of the total number of the respondents, seventy five percent (75%) were Junior High School students; only one (1) respondent representing two point

five percent (2.5%) was in Senior High School. Twenty two point five percent (22.5%) of the respondents were in Tertiary. This shows that the majority of the respondents were Junior High School students. Thirty four (34) respondents out of the total forty (40) respondents were not having children, which represents eighty five percent (85%). Four (4) respondents which represent ten percent (10%) were having one (1) to two (2) children. Three (3) to four (4) children and five (5) and more children were children having by the remaining respondents with two point five percent (2.5%) respectively. This means that, the majority of the respondents were not having children. The total number of the respondents were forty (40) and out of that, seventy five percent (75%) were students and ten percent (10%) of the respondents were teachers. Two (2) of the respondents were tailors and four (4) were other businesses and they represent, five (5%) and ten (10%) respectively. This shows that, the majority of the respondents were students. Fifty seven point five percent (57.5%) were orthodox out of the forty (40) respondents. Thirteen (13) respondents were charismatics and four (4) respondent were other churches and they represent thirty two point five percent (32.5%) and ten percent (10%) respectively. This indicates that, the majority of the respondents were orthodox. (Refer to appendix V for the personal data of the respondents)

#### **4.3 Results of the Questionnaire from Instructors**

The interpretations of responses are as follows: SA - Strongly Agree, A - Agree, SD - Strongly Disagree and D - Disagree.

### **The concept of teenage pregnancy**

Statements were made concerning the concept of teenage pregnancy and respondents were allowed to share their views. According to the first statement, sixty seven point five percent (67.5%) and twenty two point five percent (22.5%) of the respondents strongly agreed and agreed respectively that, teenage pregnancy is a transition between childhood and adulthood. Only ten percent (10%) of the respondents disagreed. This means that, majority of the respondents strongly agreed that teenage pregnancy is a transition between childhood and adulthood. Again, teenage pregnancy is delicate, which forty two point five percent (42.5%) and fifty percent (50%) of the respondents strongly agreed and agreed to that respectively. Five percent (5%) and two point five percent (2.5%) of the respondents strongly disagreed and disagreed that teenage pregnancy is not delicate. The highest respondents agreed with the above statement, measured the highest percentage. This implied that most teenage pregnancy is delicate. Majority of the respondents, thus sixty two point five percent (62.5%) and thirty percent (30%) strongly agreed and agreed respectively to the statement that, teenage pregnancy occurring in under aged girls? Only seven point five (7.5%) of the respondents disagreed. This indicates that girls under age are highly to get pregnant according to the views respondents. Again, fifty five percent (55%) and thirty five percent (35%) of the sample respondents strongly agreed and agreed that teenage pregnancy is high in Nkwantakese. Also, some respondents strongly disagreed and disagreed with the statement with five percent (5%) each. This indication shows that majority of the respondents agreed that, there is high level of teenage pregnancy in Nkwantakese. (Refer to appendix V for the respondent's views on Research Question 1).

### **What are the causes of teenage pregnancy?**

Some causes of teenage pregnancy were stated for the respondents to share their views on those causes, which sixty seven point five percent (67.5%) and twenty five percent (25%) of the respondents strongly agreed and agreed respectively that, lack of parental love and control was one of the causes of teenage pregnancy. Two point five percent (2.5%) and five percent (5%) of the respondents strongly disagreed and disagreed respectively. This shows that, parental love and control is very important for the children and their parents, but unfortunately some of the children in Nkwantakese are lacking the parental love and control. The respondents strongly agreed with fifty percent (50%) and some agreed with thirty five percent (35%) that peer pressure causes teenage pregnancy in Nkwantakese. Some of them strongly disagreed and disagreed with seven point five percent (7.5%) each with the statement. Fortunately the highest percentage of the respondents supported that peer pressure cause's teenage pregnancy. This implies that teenage pregnancy could be affected by peer pressure. Fifty two point five percent (52.5%) and forty two point five (42.5%) of the sample respondents strongly agreed and agreed respectively that lack of sex education causes teenage pregnancy. The rest of the respondents strongly disagreed and disagreed with the statement with two point five percent (2.5%) each. This implies that good knowledge about sex education could minimize teenage pregnancy. The respondents shared their views on the non-use of contraceptives as a cause of teenage pregnancy, which fifty five percent (55%) and thirty five percent (35%) of them strongly agreed and agreed respectively to the statement. Seven point five (7.5%) and two point five (2.5%) also strongly disagreed and disagreed respectively to the statement. This implies that non-use of contraceptives eventually lead to teenage pregnancy. Again, Myth

about sex was stated as one of the causes of teenage pregnancy and sixty percent (60%) and twenty five percent (25%) of the respondents agreed and strongly agreed respectively to it. While the rest of the respondents strongly disagreed and disagreed with seven point five percent (7.5%) each to the statement. This indicates that, myths about sex is also a threat and can cause teenage pregnancy. One major problem that was added as a cause of teenage pregnancy was poverty. The respondents strongly agreed and agreed with seventy two point five percent (72.5%) and twenty two point five percent (22.5%) respectively to the statement. The remaining respondents strongly disagreed and disagreed with two point five percent (2.5%) each. Fortunately the highest percentage of the respondents supported that, poverty cause's teenage pregnancy. This implies that, teenage pregnancy could be affected by poverty. (Refer to appendix V for the respondent's views on Research Question 2).

### **What are the effects of teenage pregnancy?**

Some effects of teenage pregnancy were stated for respondents to share their views, and out of that, seventy two point five percent (72.5%) and twenty five percent (25%) of the respondents strongly agreed and agreed respectively that, school drop-out is an effect of teenage pregnancy and could affect education. But two point five percent (2.5%) disagreed while none of the respondents strongly disagreed with the statement. This implies that, teenage pregnancy could affect teenage pregnant girls' education. Again, fifty five percent (55%) and forty two point five percent (42.5%) of the respondents strongly agreed and agreed respectively that, during childbirth teenage mother's health is at stake, while two point five percent (2.5%) of the respondents disagreed, but none of the respondents strongly disagreed. This implies that the statistical implication shows that

teenage mothers are at risk during childbirth. Isolation and rejection by parents, friends, community and church is also one of the effects of teenage pregnancy that was stated. Forty two point five percent (42.5%) and thirty seven point five percent (37.5%) strongly agreed and agreed respectively to the above statement that, when teenage girl becomes pregnant there would be isolation and rejection. While the remaining respondents strongly disagreed and disagreed with the above statement with ten percent (10%) each. This implies that most teenage pregnant girls are rejected by parents, friends, community and the church as well. Sixty five percent (65%) and thirty two point five percent (2.5%) of the sample respondents strongly agreed and agreed respectively that, financial handicap is also one of the effects of teenage pregnancy. Only two point five percent (2.5%) disagreed with the same statement above. This shows that, positive responses measured the highest percentage and signifies that any teenager who is involved in teenage pregnancy is likely to face financial handicap. According to the respondents, fear and stress to the pregnant teenager is also an effect of teenage pregnancy. Fifty two point five percent (52.5%) and forty two point five percent (42.5%) of the respondents strongly agreed and agreed respectively to the above statement that, when teenage girl becomes pregnant fear and stress becomes part of them. The rest of the respondents strongly disagreed and disagreed with the above statement with two point five percent (2.5%) each. This indicates that, there is a possibility that fear and stress will come upon the pregnant teenager. One of the effects of teenage pregnancy that was stated was that, teenage pregnancy brings shame to the teenager, the family and the church as well. Forty two point five percent (42.5%) and thirty two point five percent (32.5%) of the respondents strongly agreed and agreed to the statement. While the remaining

respondents strongly disagreed and disagreed with the above statement with twelve point five percent (12.5%) each. This implies that, teenage pregnancy could affect teenage pregnant girls, their families and their churches with shame.(Refer to appendix V for the respondent's views on Research Question 3)

**What are the church and society policies and programs that can remedy the problem of teenage pregnancy?**

Church and society policies and programs that can remedy the problem of teenage pregnancy were stated and respondents were allowed to share their views. Out of the hundred percent (100%) respondents, eighty percent (80%) and twenty percent (20%) of the respondents strongly agreed and agreed respectively that, active sex education is both church and society program that can remedy teenage pregnancy. None strongly disagreed and disagreed to the above statement. This implies that, teenagers should be educated on sex education earlier by parents and educators and also contributions from community with ethical values. Again, fifty seven point five percent (57.5%) and forty percent (40%) of the respondents strongly agreed and agreed respectively that, youth development programs such as career workshop is one of the societal programs that can remedy teenage pregnancy. While two point five percent (2.5%) of the responds disagreed with the above statement. This indicates that, career workshops for teenagers are programs that can develop the youth and keep them from social behaviors. Involving youth in church activities is a policy that can help cure teenage pregnancy. Forty seven point five percent (47.5%) and fifty percent (50%) strongly agreed and agreed respectively with the statement. But only two point five percent (2.5%) strongly disagreed with the statement above. Majority of the respondents were in favor of the statement which implies that,

involving youth in church activities mostly keep them in the church and prevent them from any social behavior. Almost all the respondents strongly agreed and agreed with fifty percent (50%) and forty two point five percent (42.5%) respectively with the statement that, parents and children relationship seminars are programs that can also remedy teenage pregnancy. While only seven point five percent (7.5%) respondents strongly disagreed with the statement. This implies that, seminars for parents and children's relationship are important for the entire community. Setting up counseling and guidance unit for church members is also a church policy that can help cure teenage pregnancy. Fifty seven point five percent (57.5%) and forty two point five percent (42.5%) of the respondents strongly agreed and agreed respectively that, counseling and guidance unit will help the church members to open up their problems. None of the respondents went against the statement. This indicates that counseling and guidance unit will help keep the youth away from problems such as teenage pregnancy. (Refer to appendix V for the respondent's views on Research Question 4)

#### **4.4 Discussion and Findings of Results**

The findings revealed that teenage pregnancy is rampant among teenagers in Nkwantakese. The highest percentage of the concept of teenage pregnancy is the transition between childhood and adulthood. The finding is in agreement with Clea McNeely and Jayne Blanchard (2009:7) that, girls experience a rapid growth spurt, typically starting around age ten (10). This growth spurt lasts for a few years, and then girls continue to grow more slowly until they are seventeen (17) or eighteen (18). The major cause of teenage pregnancy at Nkwantakese according to the respondents is largely

due to poverty. This finding agrees with David Gordon (2006:30) that, poverty affects different aspects of people's lives, existing when people are denied opportunities to work, to learn, to live healthy and fulfilling lives. Lack of income, access to good quality health, education and housing, and the quality of the local environment all affect people's well-being. The respondents strongly agreed that school drop-out is the major effect of teenage pregnancy. The findings also agree with Moyagabo (2012:11) that, dropping out of high school is a negative effect of teenage pregnancy. Teenage pregnancy is commonly associated with school non-attendance and dropout. Pregnancy and its complications often predispose youths to permanently leave school. The highest solution that the respondents strongly agreed is active sex education. The finding is in agreement with Amy S. Hedman et al. (2008:185) that, Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) is advocated to be most effective in teaching teens about the knowledge, skills, and values related to their sexual health.

#### **4.4.1 Results from Interview**

The interviews from the people of Nkwantakese reveal that, teenage pregnancy is a serious issue that needs an urgent remedy. According to some of the interviewees, it is an obligation for the church to educate its members especially the youth in various aspects of their lives in order to fit into the society with good character and produce good fruits. Education on teenage pregnancy is very important for the church to embark on because the rate at which more teens are having babies is alarming. Some also argue that, parents and churches should be concern of their youth because, it is said that, "the youth are the

future leaders” and therefore much concern and care should be on them to direct and guide their activities in order to live a moral life.

About eighty five percent (85%) of the interviewees argued that, the way church members treat and approach a pregnant teenager is very unpleasant. Therefore the pregnant teenagers always feel bad and shy to participate in any activities of the church. Some even stop the church because of the treatment they receive from others in the church. Majority of the interviewees were of the view that, there is lack of recognition and involvement of youth in church activities and it drives the youth out of the church to where they will be recognized and accepted. Seventy percent (70%) of the interviewees said that, pregnant teenager’s notice the effects of their situation when they are in trouble or any critical stage like; financial handicap, school drop-out, their health at risk etc. The church also becomes aware of the effects when the teenager stop coming to church or does something bad like; abortion or death. (Refer to appendix VI for the interview questions).

#### **4.6 Conclusion**

Throughout the discussions, it has been revealed that teenage pregnancy is high in Nkwantakese community and poverty is one of the major causes of such problem. The result shows that, teenage pregnancy is affecting the teenager’s education in the community. Policies and programs which can help the youth develop good character must be implementing in order to shield them from such influence.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 5.1 Summary of the Study

Teenage pregnancy is a serious issue that influence the youth in the society and in the churches in Nkwantakese (Afigya Kwabre District). The concept, causes and effects of teenage pregnancy had been clarified for a better understanding. The study attempted to investigate the factors leading to teenage pregnancy and its impact on the youth. Majority of the work was used by the qualitative method and the rest was the quantitative method where it was used to access the results of the data collected. The study was basically to identify the causes and effects of teenage pregnancy that has to be cleared before the church and the society can implement the appropriate preventive measures to cure such social menace.

Prepared questionnaires were set and respondent's views were collected and out of that, the researcher was able to identify some of the factors that makes the teens pregnant at early age. Poverty, peer influence, lack of sex education etc. are some of the key factors of teenage pregnancy in Nkwantakese. Again, the study examined the impact of teenage pregnancy and it is ascertained that, pregnant teenagers are at a high risk of experiencing depression, birth complications and even death, teenagers that are pregnant may shy away from others especially her mates and the general public, most of her friends may reject her, teen mothers are not matured to meet emotional and social needs of children and pregnant teens have a high risk of getting high blood pressure called pregnancy induced hypertension. Furthermore, the research also shows that many teenagers who involve in

teenage pregnancy experience financial handicap which was as a result of incomplete education.

The data collected based on the opinion of the respondent shows that there were many factors which instigated teenagers into sexual intercourse based on this note; strategies had been employed by the researcher on how to curb the causes and effects of teenage pregnancy most especially in Nkwantakese (Afigya Kwabre District). Church and society policy and programs such as career workshop for the youth, parents and children relationship seminars, counseling unit for church members etc. are all some of the strategies that had been employed to remedy the problem of teenage pregnancy in Nkwantakese community.

## **5.2 Conclusion**

It came out of the study that, teenage pregnancy is an issue that is concern to both the society and the church. The causes of this problem are many arising from lack of parental love or control, peer pressure, lack of sex education, non- use of contraceptives during sexual intercourse, myth about sex and poverty. Therefore the church and the community have the duty to help solve this problem. The effects of those mentioned above on teenagers have reached a level where the parents, the church and the community should step in with much concern to take measures to resolve such problems. One common effect that is trending is the act of unsafe abortions which is leading the girls to severe pains and death as well. School drop-out, financial handicap, health risk, isolation and rejection from parents, friends and community are all effects of teenage pregnancy. Solutions to this problem that have affected so many teenagers were also suggested.

Teenagers should be educated on sex earlier by parents and educators and also contributions from community ethical values. Again, the church must play a major role in the lives of the youth in the community by setting up counseling unit for its members and involve the youth in any church activities.

### **5.3 Recommendations**

#### **5.3.1 Community Programs**

Teenage programs should be tailored to the needs of individual communities and include health promotion information and advice, especially on risk taking behavior. Again, seminars should be made continuously by the community leaders in order to provide comprehensive educational and support services to teenagers and pregnant teenagers. Local government council should develop programs that will empower teenagers to cope with the challenges that they face during their pregnancy. Another thing that can help curb teenage pregnancy is that, the leaders of the community should set up rules and regulations to keep the youth from engaging in social behaviors. For example, every child below eighteen (18) years should not be seen alone except with their parent in the community at 9:00pm. (Refer to appendix V for the pictorial view of some of the community youth development programs).

#### **5.3.2 Church Support**

The churches can contribute in the effort to reduce teenage pregnancy by joining hands with the community leaders to set up career workshops for the youth. For example, teenagers can learn something out of the career workshops and set up their own small

business to support them in their day to day activities. Furthermore the churches can set up youth clubs to teach them the gospel and entertain them to keep them from going to cinemas, night clubs and drinking bars. Engaging them in church activities is also a way of training the youth to become people with integrity.

### **5.3.3 Parental Obligations**

Teenagers should be enlightened about the consequence of engaging in sex at the early stage of their lives and parents should stand at best to meet the needs of the teenage child. Parents should not be too harsh on teenagers but they should be approachable so as the children can confide with them whenever there is a pressure from peers. Pregnant teenagers will still need love and control from their parents, the church, the community and their friends so that they can have healthy leaving and also stay away from any social behavior.

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## **INTERVIEWS**

Arhin Thomas - Nkwantakese Presbyterian Church Treasure, 10<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

Charity Gyamfi - Nkwantakese Pentecost Church Elder, 11<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

Opanyin Osei Owusu- A Native of Nkwantakese town, 10<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

## APPENDIX I

### Pictorial View of Nkwantakese Community



## APPENDIX II

### Pictorial View of Nkwantakese Presbyterian Church



## APPENDIX III

### Pictorial View of Nkwantakese Pentecost Church



## APPENDIX IV

### Pictorial View of Pregnant Teenagers in Ghana



APPENDIX V

Pictorial View of Youth Development Programs



## APPENDIX VI

### QUESTIONNAIRES

I am a final year student of Christian Service University College reading Bachelor of Arts in Theology with Administration. I am researching into the causes and effects of teenage pregnancy among the youth and the churches. Could you please spare me some of your time to complete the following questionnaire? This questionnaire consists of two sections, section A contains the respondent's personal data and section B is question on the subject of the study. This questionnaire will be treated confidentially. Please answer the questions by ticking (✓) the appropriate response applicable to you.

#### Section A: Personal Data

1. Age:

- 12-15 years ( )
- 16-19 years ( )
- 20-24 years ( )
- 25 and Above ( )

2. Sex:

- Male ( )
- Female ( )

3. Education level:

- JHS ( )
- SHS ( )
- Tertiary ( )
- None ( )

4. No. of children:

- 1-----2 ( )
- 3 -----4 ( )
- 5 and above ( )
- None ( )

5. Occupation:

- (A) Tailoring ( )
- (B) Student ( )
- (C) Teaching ( )
- (D) Others specify -----

6. Church

- (A) Orthodox ( )
- (B) Charismatic ( )
- (C) Others specify.....

## Section B

Tick the option applicable to you with Strongly Agreed (SA), Agreed (A), Strongly Disagreed (SD) and Disagreed (D)

S/N	Concept of teenage pregnancy	SA	A	SD	DA
1	Teenage is the transition between childhood and adulthood				
2	Teenage pregnancy is delicate				
3	Teenage pregnancy occurring in under aged girls				
4	Teenage pregnancy is high in Nkwantakese (Afigya Kwabre District)				

	Cause of teenage pregnancy				
5	Lack of parental love or control				
6	Peer pressure				
7	Lack of sex education				
8	The non-used of contraceptives during sexual intercourse				
9	Myths about sex				
10	Poverty				
11	Lack of recognition and involvement of youth in church activities				

	Effect of teenage pregnancy				
12	Incomplete education				
13	Mother's health at a risk during child birth				
14	Isolation and rejection by parents, friends, community and church				
15	Financial handicap				
16	Fear and Stress to the pregnant teenager				
17	It brings shame to the church and reduces their attendance				

	<b>Church and Society Policies that can remedy the problem of teenage pregnancy</b>				
18	Active sex education				
19	Youth development programs such as career workshop				
20	Involving youth in church activities				
21	Parent and children relationship seminars				
22	Setting up counseling and guidance unit for the members in church				

**APPENDIX VII**  
**RESULTS FROM THE DATA COLLECTED**

Personal data	Options	Respondents	
		Number (No.)	Percent (%)
Age	12-15 years	14	35
	16-19 years	16	40
	20-24 years	2	5
	25 and above	8	20
Sex	Male	14	35
	Female	26	65
Educational Level	JHS	30	75
	SHS	1	2.5
	Tertiary	9	22.5
	Others specify	0	0.0
No. of children	1-2	4	10
	3-4	1	2.5
	5 and above	1	2.5
	None	34	85
Occupation	Tailoring	2	5
	Teaching	4	10
	Schooling (student)	30	75
	Other specify	4	10
Church	Orthodox	23	57.5
	Charismatic	13	32.5
	Other specify	4	10

**Table 1:** Respondents' view on the Concept of teenage pregnancy.

No.	Question	SA		A		SD		D	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1	Teenage is the transition between childhood and adulthood	27	67.5	9	22.5	0	0.00	4	10
2	Teenage pregnancy is delicate	17	42.5	20	50	2	5	1	2.5
3	Teenage pregnancy occurring in under aged girls	25	62.5	12	30	0	0.00	3	7.5
4	Teenage pregnancy is high in Nkwantakese (Afigya Kwabre District)	22	55	14	35	2	5	2	5

**Table 2:** Respondents' view on causes of teenage pregnancy.

No.	Question	SA		A		SD		D	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1	Lack of parental love or control	27	67.5	10	25	1	2.5	2	5
2	Peer pressure	20	50	14	35	3	7.5	3	7.5
3	Lack of sex education	21	52.5	17	42.5	1	2.5	1	2.5
4	The non-use of contraceptives during sexual intercourse	22	55	14	35	3	7.5	1	2.5
5	Myths about sex	10	25	24	60	3	7.5	3	7.5
6	Poverty	29	72.5	9	22.5	1	2.5	1	2.5

**Table 3:** Respondents' view on effects of teenage pregnancy.

No.	Question	SA		A		SD		D	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1	School drop-out	29	72.5	10	25	0	0.00	1	2.5
2	The teenagers health at risk during child birth	22	55	17	42.5	0	0.00	1	2.5
3	Isolation and rejection by parents, friends, community and church	17	42.5	15	37.5	4	10	4	10
4	Financial handicap	26	65	13	32.5	0	0.00	1	2.5
5	Fear and stress to the pregnant teenager	21	52.5	17	42.5	1	2.5	1	2.5
6	It brings shame to the church and reduces church attendance the church attendance	17	42.5	13	32.5	5	12.5	5	12.5

**Table 4:** Respondents' view on Church and Society Policies that can remedy the problem of teenage pregnancy.

No.	Question	SA		A		SD		D	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1	Active sex education	32	80	8	20	0	0.00	0	0.00
2	Youth development programs such as career workshop	23	57.5	16	40	0	0.00	1	2.5
3	Involving youth in church activities	19	47.5	20	50	1	2.5	0	0.00
4	Parents and children relationship seminars	20	50	17	42.5	3	7.5	0	0.00
5	Setting up counselling and guidance unit for the members in church	23	57.5	17	42.5	0	0.00	0	0.00

## **APPENDIX VIII**

### **INTERVIEW QUESTIONS**

- What measures can the church put in place to influence the youth concerning teenage pregnancy?
- Should the church be concern of her youth?
- How does the church members approach a pregnant teenager?
- What is the reaction or attitude of the pregnant teenager in the church?
- What makes some of the youth members leave the church?
- To what extent will the church and the youth notice the effect of teenage pregnancy in her life?