

Socio-Economical and Sociological Factors as Predictors of Illegal Abortion among Adolescent in Akoko West Local Government Area of Ondo State, Nigeria

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Abstract This study examines the socio-economic and sociological factors as predictors of illegal abortion among adolescents in ten secondary schools namely Ajegunle high school, Agbogbo High school, Akoko Grammar school, Ikare Grammar School, Comprehensive High School, Okede Grammar School, Mount Carmel Girls Grammar School and Victory College. The participants for this study consisted of 500 respondents selected from the population of adolescent in Akoko West local Government sampled using survey research design. Simple random sampling technique was used to select the ten secondary schools while the purposive sampling technique was used to select 500 adolescent students. A self developed questionnaire with reliability co-efficient of 0.84 was used to collect the data using cronbach alpha. The descriptive statistics of frequency, percentages, were used to analyze the demographic information while non-parametric statistics of chi-square (X^2) was used to test the hypotheses formulated at 0.05 alpha level of significant. The result showed that poverty, drop out of school, level of education and inadequate of medical personnel, facilities and equipment were predictors to illegal abortion among adolescent in Akoko West Local Government of Ondo State. Based on the findings, it was recommended that Government should eradicate poverty in our society by providing job opportunities for the masses, more hospitals, health centers' should be built with modern medical equipment and medical personnel, and there should be public awareness about the dangers of illegal abortion.

Keywords Miscarriage, Cultural, Psychological, Pregnancy, Infertility

1. Background of the Study

The rate of pregnancy among adolescents is on daily increase and this is causing major health and social problems in the society. Pregnancy among adolescent is one of the major prevalent health concern for families as a unit, the society and the government both at local, state and federal level. According to [1] more than one million adolescents ranging between ages of 15 to 17 years became pregnant. Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey in 1992 revealed that more than a quarter of Nigerian adolescents ages between 15 and 19 years are pregnant or have had children, and that 43% of the pregnancy are unintended or unplanned for. The same agency revealed that adolescent are more likely to resort to induced and unsafe abortion which can result into morbidity and mortality Reference [2]. stated that adolescents are sexually active beyond what parents, teachers and religious leaders think the prevailing situation

is, this is due to the fact that they are at a stage of life characterized by intense sexual drive, peer pressure, a perverse social environment poor reproductive health knowledge, just to mention a few and one of the consequences of the aforementioned is teenage pregnancy. Reference [3]. stated that more and more adolescent are becoming sexually active, at early ages, at a high frequency, with many partners and without the benefit of effective and regular contraception. He went further to say that the result of these encounters is unwanted and unplanned pregnancy. Young girls involved in this practice while still in school thereby depending on their parents and guardians for survival. At times they are not even sure of the father of the expected child as most of such pregnancies are unwanted, unplanned and unintended the girls are force to terminate pregnancies by all means because they are not ready for motherhood as that would mean losing out of many life opportunities such as education, jobs, marriage. They fear retribution and rebuke by the family and society as a whole, though a few of such girls do carry the pregnancy up to the stage of delivery. It is presumed that a good proportion of them do terminate their pregnancy to remedy the already awful situation.

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Reference[4]. stated that female adolescents become pregnant due to some socio-economic and sociological factors. This is also a problem, as abortion is not yet legalized by the Federal law makers of Nigeria .As such when abortion is done, it is often done in secrecy and usually quacks are consulted. This often lead to sudden death, female adolescents contacting HIV/AIDS, health problem such as psychological problems, reproductive tract infections, heavy bleeding-leading to severe-anemia, toxemias, vesico-vaginal fistula (VVF) damaged uterus, infertility and sterility.

According to[3]. Abortion could be therapeutic in nature to save the mother's life or done when congenital malformation of the foetus is diagnosed. It can as well be criminally induced; and both can become complete or incomplete abortion. Incomplete abortion can lead or give rise to heavy bleeding, sepsis and other serious medical or gynecological complications. Reference[5]. Bureau on abortion population stated that estimated 68,000 girls and women die each year from induced unsafe abortion and million suffer complications that require medical attention. More than one quarter of world population live in countries where abortion procedure is prohibited and only allowed for therapeutic purpose, however regardless of legal status people still carry out abortion, and nearly half of them are performed by an unskilled practitioners in an unsanitary environments.

Reference[6]. submitted that socio- economic status is a component of social environment, which has tremendous, impacts on a person's health including that of the family. With enhanced socio-economic status, the individual would be able to afford products and services that will improve his health and quality of life. These groups of adolescents seek help from cheap medical health centres without being mindful of the existing skills; frequently they patronize quacks and unskilled health personnel with all its attendant consequences. Due to their low economic status; traditional medicine practioners, seek medication and finally they involved in abortion.

In the same vein[7] stated that sociological factors which include society, peer group, religious, culture, parent, and family just to mention a few sometimes contribute to misfortune or delinquency in female adolescents. The misfortune include, stealing, truancy, having multiple boy friends, attending night parties and eventually unwanted pregnancy which often result into abortion and untimely death.

1.1. Objectives

Despite the awareness about HIV/AIDS and the danger associated with abortion in public and private secondary schools, female adolescents are not cautioned about having unwanted, pregnancy which usually results into abortion and sometimes death. The fact still remain that Nigeria is yet to legalize abortion as many countries did. This is one of the reasons why most female adolescents secretly patronize quack doctors and nurses thereby endangering their live

through induced abortion. The objective of this paper, therefore is to identify the socio-economic and sociological factors that predict illegal abortion among adolescents in Akoko West Local Government Area of Ondo State in Nigeria.

1.2. Hypotheses

The following are our formulated and tested hypotheses for the study

1. Poverty will not significantly predict illegal abortion among adolescents in Akoko West Local government Area of Ondo State.
2. Level of Education will not significantly predict illegal abortion among adolescents in Akoko West Local government area of Ondo State.
3. Fear of dropping out of school will not significantly predict illegal abortion among adolescents in Akoko West local government area of Ondo State
4. Inadequate medical facilities will not significantly predict illegal abortion among adolescents in Akoko West Local Government area of Ondo State.

2. Methodology

2.1. Research Design

The descriptive research design was used for this study.

2.2. Population

The population for the study comprised all female adolescents 'in secondary schools in Akoko West Local Government Area in Ondo State.

2.3. Sample and Sampling Techniques

Simple random sampling techniques was used to select 10 secondary schools while purposive sampling technique was used for selection of female adolescents. 500 participants were selected, of which at least 50 female adolescents, students were taken from each secondary school under study

3. Research Instrument

The instrument for the study was a self– developed close ended type questionnaire designed in accordance with likert scale techniques of summated rating with weight allotted to them to enable the responded respondents indicate their extent of agreement or disagreement with the statement supplied. The response was on four rating of Strongly Agree (SA) Agree (A) Disagree (D) and Strongly Disagree (SD). The reliability coefficient of the questionnaire was 0.84 using cronbach alphas.

The descriptive statistics of frequency, percentages were used to analyze the demographic information while the inferential statistics of chi-square (X^2) was used to test the hypotheses formulated at 0.05 alpha levels.

4. Data Analysis

Table 1. frequency distribution of Age respondents

AGE	NO	%
14-15	49	11.4
16-17	211	49.1
18-19	136	31.6
20-21	34	7.9
Total	430	100.00

Table 1 above shows that 49 students were between the ages of 14-15 which represents 11.4%, 211 students were between the age range of 16-17 which represents 49%, 136 students were between the ages of 18-19 which represents 31.6% and 34 students were between the age range of 20-21 which represents 7.9%.

Testing of Hypothesis

H₀₁: poverty will not significantly predict illegal abortion among adolescents in Akoko West Local Government Area of Ondo State.

Table 2. Chi-square analysis of poverty as predictor of illegal abortion among adolescent in Akoko West Local Government Area of Ondo state

ITEM	SD	A	D	SD	TOTAL	%
6	43	38	32	30	143	33%
7	60	37	27	19	143	33.3%
8	34	38	40	32	144	33.4%
Total	137	113	99	81	430	
%	31.85	26.30	22.96	18.87		100

$X^2 = 48.6$; df 2: $p > 0.05$; critical value = 5.99

Table 2 revealed that 137 (31.85%) strongly agree, 113 (26.30%) agreed, 99 (22.96%) disagree and 81 (18.87%) strongly disagree that poverty is a predictor of illegal abortion among adolescents of Akoko West local government area of Ondo state. When the data was subjected to Chi-square (X^2) value of 48.65 was higher than the table value of 5.99 at 2 df and at 0.05 alpha level, therefore the null hypothesis was rejected.

The result showed that poverty is a predictor of illegal abortion among adolescents in Akoko West local government area of Ondo state. The findings support that of [8] where it was reported that poverty and socio economic sometimes lead adolescents into prostitution which results into unwanted pregnancy and illegal abortion. It is also correlated the findings of [6] where it was pointed out that socio-economic challenges and poverty can contribute to unwanted pregnancy among adolescents.

H₀₂: Level of education will not significantly predict illegal abortion among adolescents in Akoko West local government area in Ondo State.

Table 3. Chi-square analysis of level of education as predictor of illegal abortion among adolescents in Akoko West local government area of Ondo State

ITEM	SD	A	D	SD	TOTAL	%
9	38	64	22	20	144	33.4
10	40	60	24	19	143	33.3
11	42	38	32	31	143	33.3
Total	120	162	78	70	430	
%	27.91	37.67	18.14	16.28		100

Table 3, reveals that 120 (27.91%) strongly agreed and 162 (37.67%) agreed, 78 (18.14%) disagreed and 70 (16.28%) strongly disagreed. When the data was subjected to chi-square (X^2) a value of 158.71 was obtained against the critical value of 5.99 at degree of freedom 2 at 0.05 alpha level of significance. Hence, the null hypothesis which stated that level of education will not significantly predict illegal abortion among adolescents in Akoko West local government area in Ondo state was rejected. The findings of the hypothesis support that of [4] who discovered that sociological factor which include level of education of adolescent is one of the factors causing unwanted pregnancy which usually results into illegal abortion. The illegal abortion is common among secondary school girls than those who are at tertiary institution. Reference [7], stated that sociological factors which include (level of education, sex awareness and, taking part in physical activities can prevent unwanted pregnancy which could have resulted to illegal abortion.

H₀₃ fear of dropping out of school will not be significantly predictive of illegal abortion among adolescent in Akoko West local government area of Ondo state.

Table 4. Chi-square analysis of dropping out of school as predictor of illegal abortion among adolescent in Akoko West local government area of Ondo state

ITEM	SD	A	D	SD	TOTAL	%
12	97	71	32	16	316	50.2
13	57	62	61	34	215	49.8
Total	154	133	93	50	430	
%	35.8	31.0	21.6	11.6		100

Table 4 showed that 154 (35.8%) strongly agreed and 133 (31.0%) agreed that dropping out of school constituted predictor to illegal abortion among adolescent Akoko West local government area of Ondo state while 93 (21.6%) disagreed and 50 (11.6%) strongly disagreed respectively. On subjection of data to Chi-square statistics, 230.99 was obtained as against the table value 5.99 at alpha level significant with df₂. Therefore the null hypothesis is hereby rejected. This agrees with the finding of [9] who stated that one of the factors associated to adolescent pregnancy is fear of being rejected from association as well as school.

H₀₄; inadequate medical facilities will not significantly be a predictor of illegal abortion among adolescent in Akoko West local government area in Ondo state.

Table 5. Chi-square analysis of inadequate medical personnel and facilities as predictor of illegal abortion among adolescents Akoko West local government area of Ondo state

ITEM	SD	A	D	SD	TOTAL	%
14	41	52	34	17	144	33.4
15	50	35	27	21	143	33.3
16	42	42	34	35	143	33.3
Total	133	129	95	73	430	
%	31%	30%	22%	17%		100

$X^2 = 71.08$; df: $p > 0.05$; critical value = 5.99

Table 5, revealed that 133 (31%) strongly agreed and 129 (30%) agreed on the inadequate medical personnel and

facilities as predictor of illegally abortion among adolescent in Akoko West local government area of Ondo state, 95 (22.0% disagrees and 73 (17.0% strongly disagreed on the inadequate medical personnel and facilities as predictor of illegally abortion among adolescents in Akoko West local government area of Ondo state. On the basis of the obtained Chi-square value of 71.08, which is greater than the table value of 5.99 at 2df and 0.05 alpha level of significant the null hypothesis is hereby rejected. The result shows inadequate medical personnel and facilities would predict abortion among adolescent in Akoko West local government area in Ondo state. This disagrees with [10] who stated that Nigerian pregnant women have access to ante-natal care which means that there are enough medical personnel as well as facilities in the sector.

5. Conclusions and Recommendations

Adolescents involved in illegal abortion because of the socio-economic such as poverty and ignorance, level of their education, peer group influence, fear of dropping out of school, lack of sex education as well as inadequacy of medical personnel. Facilities and drugs were significant to predictor of illegal abortion among adolescent of Akoko West local government in Ondo state

Based on this, we put forward the following recommendations;

1. Government should try to eradicate poverty in the society by making job available to masses.
2. Government should legalized abortion as this will prevent adolescents from engaging in secrecy and patronizing quack doctors.
3. There must be provision for drop out school adolescent in the society. Such provision could be establishment of continue centers' as well as trade centers' for such drop out students.

4. There must be enough medical personnel as well as facilities such as equipments and drugs in existing hospitals. More hospitals should be built so that everybody would have access to medical care be it a pregnant or a non-pregnant person.

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