

The Role of Community-Based Programs on Teenage Pregnancy Prevention in Mitigating Unwanted Cases: A Perspective Among Selected Residents of Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental

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ABSTRACT

Teenage pregnancy remains a pressing public health concern, especially in the Philippines, where the incidence rate continues to rise despite existing interventions. This study focuses on the municipality of Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental—the province's highest in teenage pregnancy cases—to assess the effectiveness of community-based prevention programs. Using a quantitative research design, data were gathered from residents participating in these programs to evaluate socio-demographic profiles, awareness levels, and beliefs about contraceptive practices and their influence on teenage pregnancy rates. Findings revealed that most respondents, mainly young adults including a notable number of males, demonstrated a good level of awareness of prevention initiatives such as seminar workshops; however, the need for enhanced consultation and reproductive health services was emphasized. Statistical analysis confirmed a significant correlation between community programs and reduced teenage pregnancy rates, indicating that awareness efforts contribute to behavioral change and improved outcomes. Nonetheless, gaps remain in service accessibility and youth engagement. The study concludes that while current initiatives are beneficial, their impact can be strengthened through targeted outreach to marginalized sectors, comprehensive sexual education in schools, and increased youth-friendly health consultations. It further recommends fostering collaboration between local leaders, educators, and healthcare professionals to design interactive, culturally sensitive interventions that encourage open dialogue and responsible decision-making among adolescents. Ultimately, empowering the youth with adequate knowledge, support, and opportunities is vital in reducing teenage pregnancy and ensuring a healthier, more sustainable future for the young population of Tagoloan.

INTRODUCTION

Teenage pregnancy, defined as childbearing among females aged thirteen to nineteen, remains a major public health and social issue that continues to affect millions globally. The World Health Organization reported in 2022 that approximately sixteen million girls between the ages of ten and nineteen give birth each year, representing about eleven percent of all global births. This phenomenon perpetuates cycles of poverty, limits educational and employment opportunities, and poses serious health risks for both mothers and their infants.

In the Philippines, the challenge remains severe, with the Philippine Statistics Authority recording 180,916 adolescent live births in 2019. Despite numerous national initiatives led by the Department of Education, Department of Health, Department of Social Welfare and

Development, and the Population Commission, the rates of teenage pregnancy remain among the highest in Southeast Asia. In Northern Mindanao, the municipality of Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental, has emerged as a focal point of concern, with the National Demographic and Health Survey (2022) identifying it as having the highest incidence of teenage pregnancies in the province.

Existing interventions in Tagoloan include school-based lectures, reproductive health seminars, and awareness campaigns. However, the persistence of high rates suggests that these efforts may not be sufficiently comprehensive or sustainable. The study therefore draws upon Social Learning Theory, which emphasizes observational learning and behavioral modeling within a community setting, and Community Empowerment Theory, which promotes participatory involvement and shared responsibility among stakeholders. These frameworks highlight the importance of education, awareness, and community engagement in shaping responsible behaviors among adolescents.

Objectives of the Study

The purpose of this study is to evaluate the effectiveness of community-based programs in Tagoloan by examining how awareness, attitudes, and engagement among residents relate to teenage pregnancy prevention. It aims to provide a clearer understanding of local dynamics and to inform the design of more inclusive and effective interventions that empower youth, parents, educators, and local authorities to work collaboratively toward holistic and sustainable solutions.

Statement of the Problem

This study determines the effectiveness of the role of community-based programs in preventing teenage pregnancy among the residents of Tagoloan being top in the number of cases of teenage pregnancy in the province of Misamis Oriental (MPDO, 2023). Furthermore, the study will answer the following problems:

1. What is the level of awareness among residents in Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental, regarding community-based programs in preventing teenage pregnancy in terms of:
 - 1.1 Information Drive
 - 1.2 Seminar Workshops
 - 1.3 Consultation
 - 1.4 Budget Allocation
2. What is the level of effectiveness in the practice of contraceptives and celibacy in mitigating unwanted cases of teenage pregnancy?
3. Is there a significant relationship between Community-based programs and mitigating unwanted cases of teenage pregnancy?
4. What are the gaps in this research study?

METHODOLOGY

Research Design and Locale

This study employed a quantitative-descriptive design conducted in Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental, selected for its high incidence of teenage pregnancies. The study focused on evaluating community-based initiatives aimed at prevention and awareness.

Respondents and Sampling

A total of 300 respondents from ten barangays participated in the study, using a self-selection survey method. Participants included residents actively involved in community-based programs addressing reproductive health and adolescent issues.

Data Collection

Primary data were gathered through a structured questionnaire consisting of three sections: (1) demographic profile, (2) awareness and participation in community-based programs, and (3) perceptions of teenage pregnancy prevention strategies. Secondary data were obtained from the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office (MSWDO) and Municipal Health Office (MHO).

Data Analysis

Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics (frequency, percentage, mean) and correlation analysis to determine relationships between community initiatives and teenage pregnancy prevention.

Scoring Procedure

To assess participants' attitudes and perceptions, this study utilized a Likert scale, a widely-used scoring method in social sciences research. Each survey item was presented with a set of response options ranging from strong agreement to strong disagreement, enabling participants to express the extent of their agreement with each statement. Specifically, a five-point Likert scale was used, with the following scoring:

Numerical Value	Description
4	Strongly Agree (SA)
3	Agree (A)
2	Disagree (D)
1	Strongly Disagree (SD)

In this scale, higher scores indicate stronger agreement or a more positive response toward the statement, while lower scores indicate disagreement or a more negative response. The responses were scored numerically and then analyzed to determine trends, average responses, and the general sentiment of the participant group. This quantifiable approach facilitated a more precise measurement of subjective opinions, allowing for meaningful statistical analysis.

Furthermore, aiming to address Statement of Problem No. 2, the scoring procedure with its interpretation is used:

Rating Scale	Range Values	Verbal Description	Interpretation
4	3.26 – 4.00	Strongly Agree	Very High
3	2.51 – 3.25	Agree	High
2	1.76 – 2.50	Disagree	Low
1	1.00 – 1.75	Strongly Disagree	Very Low

and for Statement of Problem No.3, the interpretation of the values is appropriate as follows:

Rating Scale	Range Values	Verbal Description	Interpretation
4	3.26 – 4.00	Strongly Agree	Very Effective
3	2.51 – 3.25	Agree	Effective
2	1.76 – 2.50	Disagree	Less Effective
1	1.00 – 1.75	Strongly Disagree	Not Effective

This scoring method was chosen because it effectively captures varying degrees of attitudes, beliefs, or perceptions, making it particularly suitable for measuring complex psychological and social constructs. The aggregated data from the Likert scale responses provided a basis for understanding overall tendencies within the sample and for comparing sub-groups to identify any significant differences in perception.

Ethical Considerations

Informed consent was obtained from all participants. Confidentiality and anonymity were maintained throughout the research process, consistent with ethical standards in human subject research.

Hypothesis of the Study

This study is guided by the assumption that community-based programs play a significant role in reducing the incidence of teenage pregnancy in Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental. Based on the objectives and framework of the study, the following hypotheses were formulated:

Null Hypothesis (H₀):

There is no significant relationship between community-based programs and the reduction of teenage pregnancy cases among the selected residents of Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental.

Alternative Hypothesis (H₁):

There is a significant relationship between community-based programs and the reduction of teenage pregnancy cases among the selected residents of Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Statistical analysis confirmed the significance of community-based programs in reducing unwanted teenage pregnancies, rejecting the null hypothesis. This meant that community programs played an important role in reducing cases of teenage pregnancy. All analyzed programs demonstrated meaningful correlations, indicating their effectiveness in addressing this pressing social issue. These findings underscore the necessity for continued investment in community initiatives that engage both young individuals and their families, fostering a supportive environment for discussions around sexual health. By doing so, communities can work collaboratively to empower teenagers with the knowledge and resources needed to make informed decisions, ultimately reducing the incidence of teenage pregnancy.

Problem 1. What is the level of awareness among residents in Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental, regarding community-based programs in preventing teenage pregnancy in terms of:

Table 1 presents the level of awareness of residents in Tagoloan regarding Information Drives on preventing teenage pregnancy. Overall, respondents agreed with the effectiveness of information drives, with a mean of 2.95 (SD = 0.64) interpreted as "High." The residents' overall agreement indicated that they saw these information drives as valuable in sharing knowledge about teenage pregnancy. This suggested that the community valued education and awareness as tools to combat teenage pregnancy. When people were aware of the issues and solutions, they were more likely to make informed choices. Such drives could create an environment where discussions about teenage pregnancy became normal and accepted, encouraging more young people to seek help and information. This showed a hopeful sign that the community could unite to address teenage pregnancy through shared understanding and support. A study by Somefun et al. (2021) emphasized that access to health information significantly enhances adolescents' ability to make informed decisions regarding sexual health, thereby reducing rates of teenage pregnancies.

Table 1. Level of Awareness in Preventing Teenage Pregnancy in Terms of Information Drive

Indicators	Mean	SD	Description	Interpretation
1. Information drive in our community effectively raises awareness about teenage pregnancy prevention.	2.96	0.61	Agree	High
2. The materials provided in the information drive are easy to understand and relevant to local teenagers.	2.96	0.59	Agree	High
3. Regular information drives in my community can help reduce the rate of teenage pregnancy in our community	2.93	0.74	Agree	High
4. The community's involvement in the information drive encourages open discussion on teenage pregnancy	2.96	0.65	Agree	High
5. I believe the information drive addresses the key issues surrounding teenage pregnancy effectively	2.97	0.61	Agree	High
Overall	2.95	0.64	Agree	High

The highest-rated indicator was "I believed the information drive addressed the key issues surrounding teenage pregnancy effectively," with a mean of 2.97 (SD = 0.61), interpreted as "Agree" and "High." The strong agreement on this statement suggested that residents felt the information drives were relevant to their needs. This meant that the content of the drives likely connected well with the concerns of the community. When people believed that the information given was effective, they were more likely to engage with it and share it with others. This could lead to a ripple effect, where more people become informed and involved in preventing teenage pregnancy. Such positive perceptions of the drives could encourage organizers to continue and improve these programs, making them even more impactful for the community. Research by Worku et al. (2016) found that effective communication strategies significantly improve engagement levels among adolescents in health-related programs, reinforcing the importance of content in information drives.

The lowest-rated indicator was "Regular information drives in my community could help reduce the rate of teenage pregnancy in our community," with a mean of 2.93 (SD = 0.74), interpreted as "Agree." While respondents still agreed that regular drives could be helpful, the lower score might have indicated some doubts about the actual impact of these drives on reducing teenage pregnancy rates. This could have shown that while awareness was important, the residents may have felt that more action was needed beyond just information sharing. It suggested a need for additional support and resources, such as community programs and services that addressed the root causes of teenage pregnancy. The community might have benefited from combining information drives with other strategies to create a more comprehensive approach to tackling the issue effectively. A study by Plan International (2019) highlighted that while informational campaigns are crucial, they must be supplemented with accessible healthcare services and community support initiatives to effectively reduce teenage pregnancy rates.

Noticeably, the responses of college-level students in Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental, regarding the effectiveness of information drives on teenage pregnancy prevention, reflect a nuanced perspective. Their "high" ratings across indicators suggest an appreciation for the efforts but also imply gaps or limitations are preventing these from being rated as "very high." One possible reason could be the accessibility and depth of the information provided. While the students agreed the materials were relevant and easy to understand, they may have found the

content somewhat surface-level, lacking in depth or in addressing the diverse and complex realities of teenage pregnancy. College students are often exposed to more detailed and critical analyses in their education, which might have set higher expectations for the information drives. Another factor might be the consistency and reach of these drives. Although the respondents agreed on their importance, they might have observed irregularities in their implementation or felt that the initiatives were not consistently reaching all segments of the community, particularly those most vulnerable to teenage pregnancy. This could have tempered their perception of the overall effectiveness. The lower rating for the statement about regular drives reducing teenage pregnancy rates highlights a potential skepticism about whether awareness alone is enough to address the issue. Being in college, these students likely recognize that teenage pregnancy is influenced by a range of socio-economic and cultural factors. They might feel that without tangible support systems—such as access to healthcare, contraceptives, counseling, and economic opportunities—information drives, while valuable, are insufficient to bring about significant change.

Additionally, cultural factors and taboos around discussing sexual health might have influenced their responses. Even if the information drives are effective, the broader societal reluctance to openly address such topics may dilute their impact. College students, while more open to these discussions, may still be influenced by the prevailing norms of their community, making them cautious in expressing unreserved confidence in the initiatives.

Lastly, the students' "high" ratings might also stem from a recognition of potential but unfulfilled opportunities. They may appreciate the intention and effort behind the information drives, but see room for improvement in terms of innovation, inclusivity, and engagement strategies to make them more compelling and impactful.

In essence, the respondents' feedback reflects a balanced acknowledgment of these programs' strengths while signaling areas for improvement. Their college-level education provides them with the analytical tools to identify gaps and suggests that a more comprehensive approach—integrating education, resources, and community collaboration—is needed to elevate the effectiveness of these efforts truly.

Table 2. Level of Awareness Preventing Teenage Pregnancy in Terms of Seminar Workshop

Indicators	Mean	SD	Description	Interpretation
1. The seminar workshops conducted in our community provide valuable insights on preventing teenage pregnancy	2.89	0.56	Agree	High
2. The content of the seminar-workshop is tailored to the specific needs of teenagers in Tagoloan.	2.90	0.60	Agree	High
3. Attending seminar workshops has influenced my understanding of the causes and prevention of teenage pregnancy.	2.99	0.60	Agree	High
4. Seminar workshops on teenage pregnancy should be conducted more frequently in our community	3.06	0.63	Agree	High
5. The skills and knowledge gained from the seminar-workshops empower teenagers to make informed decisions about their reproductive health.	2.98	0.58	Agree	High
Overall	2.96	0.59	Agree	High

Table 2 presents the level of awareness of residents in Tagoloan regarding the Seminar Workshops on preventing teenage pregnancy. Overall, respondents agreed with the seminar workshops, with a mean of 2.96 (SD = 0.59) interpreted as "High". The findings showed that residents were generally aware of the seminar workshops on preventing teenage pregnancy,

indicating a collective recognition of their importance in the community. This awareness may have stemmed from past experiences, where such workshops might have provided essential information to parents and teenagers alike. The overall agreement reflected a shared understanding that education played a crucial role in addressing teenage pregnancy issues. Furthermore, this response suggested that the community valued initiatives aimed at empowering youth with knowledge and resources. It was important for local leaders and organizations to continue promoting these workshops, as sustained awareness could lead to more informed choices among teenagers and their families. A significant support study by Mendez et al. (2019) highlighted that community-based education programs significantly increased awareness and knowledge about sexual health, thereby reducing rates of teenage pregnancy in similar demographics.

The highest-rated indicator was "Seminar workshops on teenage pregnancy should be conducted more frequently in our community" with a mean of 3.06 (SD = 0.63), interpreted as "Agree." The strong agreement for conducting seminar workshops more frequently revealed a clear desire among residents for continued education and support in tackling teenage pregnancy. This suggested that the community saw a significant need for ongoing discussions and resources, highlighting that awareness was not enough without regular opportunities for engagement. Residents likely recognized that teenage pregnancy was a persistent issue requiring consistent attention and solutions. By advocating for more workshops, they expressed a commitment to fostering a healthier environment for young people. This enthusiasm could have encouraged local leaders to allocate more resources to these programs, leading to greater participation and a stronger impact on preventing teenage pregnancy. A study by Reyes et al. (2021) supports this finding, noting that regular educational interventions significantly improve community engagement and reduce teenage pregnancies. Additionally, the study of Philibert (2015) supports the strong community preference for more frequent seminar workshops on teenage pregnancy and highlights the effectiveness of well-structured, frequent adolescent pregnancy prevention programs. This study also emphasizes that consistent and evidence-based interventions help in shaping better knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors regarding teenage pregnancy. Programs that maintain regular engagement, such as workshops, not only provide vital information but also offer a supportive platform for discussions, reinforcing behavioral changes and long-term impact on prevention efforts.

The lowest-rated indicator was "The seminar workshops conducted in our community provided valuable insights on preventing teenage pregnancy," with a mean of 2.89 (SD = 0.56), interpreted as "Agree." While respondents agreed that the workshops provided some insights, the lower score indicated that there may have been room for improvement in the content and delivery of these seminars. Residents might have felt that the information shared could have been more relevant or practical for their specific circumstances. This suggested a need for the organizers to evaluate and enhance the workshop materials, ensuring they met the community's unique needs and concerns. By seeking feedback from participants and adapting the program accordingly, the workshops could have become more effective in equipping residents with the tools they needed to prevent teenage pregnancy. Improving the perceived value of these sessions could have led to increased engagement and more positive outcomes for the community. A relevant study by Santos et al. (2020) emphasized that educational content to meet specific community needs enhances its effectiveness in addressing issues like teenage pregnancy. The study highlights the critical role of frequent and targeted interventions, such as peer-led education and school-based workshops, in mitigating risky behaviors. By advocating for a multi-stakeholder approach, the research underscores the importance of shared responsibility in reducing teenage pregnancy rates and addressing their underlying causes.

Another relevant study supporting the result that seminars and workshops could be improved in terms of content and delivery is the research conducted by Kirby (2007). This study reviewed characteristics of effective adolescent pregnancy prevention programs, emphasizing the importance of curriculum relevance, clarity, and the method of delivery. Kirby identified that many programs failed to achieve optimal outcomes because they did not adequately consider community-specific needs or lacked interactive components that engaged participants effectively. This aligns with your findings that while the workshops provided some insights, there was room for improvement to meet the specific concerns of the community more comprehensively. Additionally, the qualitative study by Elliot and Okwumabua (1998) underscores the pivotal role of contextual relevance in the success of programs designed for adolescents. They found that such programs are most effective when they directly engage with the specific challenges and expectations faced by their target audience. This requires a deep understanding of the unique cultural, social, and personal dynamics that shape adolescents' experiences.

For example, cultural context might involve respecting and incorporating traditions, languages, or values that resonate with a particular group of adolescents. Social context could refer to addressing issues like peer influence, family dynamics, or community environments. On a personal level, tailoring content might mean considering developmental stages, individual aspirations, or the emotional realities of adolescence.

Moreover, the study highlights the importance of offering actionable and relatable strategies for change. This involves not only presenting information but also equipping adolescents with practical tools and realistic pathways to apply what they learn. By doing so, programs can empower young people to navigate their challenges and work toward positive outcomes in ways that feel relevant and achievable within their own lives. This holistic and tailored approach is critical for fostering meaningful engagement and sustained impact.

Table 3. Level of Awareness in Preventing Teenage Pregnancy in Terms of Consultation

Indicators	Mean	SD	Description	Interpretation
1. The consultation sessions provided for teenagers in our community offer useful guidance on preventing teenage pregnancy.	3.01	0.63	Agree	High
2. Consultations are accessible and confidential, making them a safe space for teenagers to ask questions.	2.94	0.64	Agree	High
3. The consultation services encourage teenagers to seek professional advice on reproductive health issues.	2.71	0.80	Agree	High
4. I believe consultations with healthcare professionals have a positive impact on teenage pregnancy prevention.	2.77	0.80	Agree	High
5. The consultation sessions help teenagers understand the consequences of early pregnancy and the importance of contraception.	3.02	0.69	Agree	High
Overall	2.89	0.71	Agree	High

Table 3 shows residents' level of awareness of Consultation services for preventing teenage pregnancy. Overall, respondents agreed with the consultation services, with a mean of 2.89 (SD = 0.71) interpreted as "High". The level of awareness among residents indicated a general acceptance of consultation services aimed at preventing teenage pregnancy. This awareness suggested that people recognized the need for such services in their community, which was crucial for addressing the issue of teenage pregnancy. Understanding these services could lead to better decisions among teenagers regarding their reproductive health. Moreover, as residents

became more informed, they might have discussed these services more openly with their peers, creating a supportive environment for teenagers. This acceptance laid a strong foundation for more effective programs in the future, ensuring that teenagers received the guidance they needed to make informed choices. A significant support study by Tsai and Wong (2015) emphasized the importance of community awareness and education in reducing teenage pregnancy rates, highlighting that informed communities are more likely to support preventive measures.

The highest-rated indicator was "The consultation sessions helped teenagers understand the consequences of early pregnancy and the importance of contraception," with a mean of 3.02 (SD = 0.69), interpreted as "Agree." This finding showed that residents believed the consultation sessions were effective in educating teenagers about the risks of early pregnancy. The fact that teenagers gained a clearer understanding of contraception and its significance could have empowered them to make better choices about their sexual health. When teenagers were aware of the consequences, they were more likely to take precautions and seek help when needed. This understanding not only helped reduce the rate of teenage pregnancies but also encouraged young people to talk to their parents and guardians about these issues. Thus, successful education through these sessions could have led to a healthier generation that valued informed decision-making. A study by Youth.gov (2016) found that comprehensive sexual health education significantly increased teenagers' knowledge about contraception and reduced rates of unintended pregnancies, reinforcing the effectiveness of such consultation sessions.

The lowest-rated indicator was 'The consultation services encouraged teenagers to seek professional advice on reproductive health issues,' which received a mean score of 2.71 (SD = 0.80), interpreted as 'Agree.' This indicates that while residents supported the idea of consultation services, they may feel that teenagers still hesitate to seek professional help. This lack of encouragement to approach health professionals could lead to gaps in knowledge and support for teenagers facing reproductive health challenges. If teenagers do not feel comfortable seeking advice, they may miss out on vital information and resources.

To address this issue, it is essential to create a more inviting atmosphere that encourages teenagers to reach out for help. Building trust and ensuring that adolescents feel safe discussing their concerns with professionals could lead to more informed choices and better health outcomes. A significant study by County Health Rankings (2023) emphasizes that increasing accessibility and comfort in seeking professional advice is crucial for improving adolescent reproductive health outcomes. Adolescents require targeted support in reproductive health issues to foster meaningful changes in their lives, particularly in addressing early pregnancy concerns. Empowering teenagers through peer education programs, community involvement, and culturally sensitive approaches can also contribute to overcoming barriers. These efforts should align with broader public health strategies to ensure sustainability and effectiveness in promoting reproductive health education and services.

Table 4 presents the level of awareness of residents in Tagoloan regarding the Budget Allocation for programs aimed at preventing teenage pregnancy. Overall, respondents agreed with the budget allocation, with a mean of 2.90 (SD = 0.70) interpreted as "High". Many residents recognized the importance of funding for programs that tackled teenage pregnancy, showing a collective understanding of how resources could make a difference. This agreement reflected a shared belief that the government should prioritize the health and future of the youth. When people saw the value in allocating funds to such programs, it often led to greater community support and engagement. As a result, this awareness inspired local leaders to allocate more resources to these important initiatives, ultimately benefiting the youth and the community. A study by Popkin et al. (2016) emphasizes that community awareness and

engagement significantly enhance support for funding initiatives aimed at adolescent health, reinforcing the idea that informed communities are more likely to advocate for necessary resources.

Table 4. Level of Awareness in Preventing Teenage Pregnancy in Terms of Budget Allocation

Indicators	Mean	SD	Description	Interpretation
1. The community allocates sufficient budget to support programs aimed at preventing teenage pregnancy	2.93	0.69	Agree	High
2. Increased budget allocation would significantly enhance the effectiveness of teenage pregnancy prevention initiatives.	3.05	0.70	Agree	High
3. I believe the current budget allocation for teenage pregnancy prevention programs is well utilized.	2.91	0.68	Agree	High
4. The community prioritizes budget allocation for teenage pregnancy prevention over other health issues.	2.82	0.71	Agree	High
5. I feel that more financial resources should be allocated to awareness campaigns and workshops on teenage pregnancy prevention.	2.78	0.71	Agree	High
Overall	2.90	0.70	Agree	High

The highest-rated indicator was "Increased budget allocation would significantly enhance the effectiveness of teenage pregnancy prevention initiatives," with a mean of 3.05 (SD = 0.70), interpreted as "Agree." This strong agreement showed that residents believed more money could lead to better programs. When people felt confident that funding could improve initiatives, they were likely to support efforts that promoted these ideas. This understanding encouraged local governments to seek additional funding and resources, knowing that the community would back them. Increased funding also attracted experienced professionals and created more educational opportunities, further strengthening the fight against teenage pregnancy. In this way, community support and belief in financial investment led to meaningful change. Research by Smith et al. (2018) supports this notion, indicating that increased financial resources directly correlate with improved outcomes in teenage pregnancy prevention programs.

The lowest-rated indicator was "I feel that more financial resources should be allocated to awareness campaigns and workshops on teenage pregnancy prevention," with a mean of 2.78 (SD = 0.71), interpreted as "Agree." Although the response indicated some agreement, it also suggested that many residents may not have fully understood the need for more financial resources for awareness campaigns. This gap in perception could have led to fewer community discussions about the importance of education on this topic. If residents had not prioritized awareness efforts, it could have hindered the overall effectiveness of prevention programs. To address this, it was crucial to engage the community in conversations about the benefits of awareness campaigns and workshops. Raising awareness about the significance of education could have empowered residents to advocate for increased funding in this area, ultimately leading to more informed youth and healthier communities. A significant study by Johnson et al. (2020) highlights that enhancing community understanding of sexual health education is essential for garnering support for funding initiatives aimed at raising awareness about teenage pregnancy prevention.

Table 5 summarizes the overall level of awareness of residents regarding Community-Based Programs in preventing teenage pregnancy. The overall mean was 2.93 (SD = 0.66), interpreted as "High" with a verbal description as "Agree." This result suggested that residents generally recognized the importance of community-based programs aimed at preventing teenage

pregnancy. It indicated a positive level of awareness, which was crucial for encouraging participation and support for such initiatives. When community members understood these programs, they were more likely to share information and resources with others, leading to a collective effort in tackling the issue. A mean score close to 3 showed that most people saw these programs as helpful, which was a promising sign for future campaigns and activities. Overall, it highlighted the potential for increasing community involvement in programs that could foster a healthier environment for youth. This aligns with findings from Martinez-Garcia et al. (2019), which emphasized that community awareness and engagement are essential components in the effectiveness of teen pregnancy prevention initiatives.

Table 5. Overall Summary Table of Level of Awareness in Preventing Teenage Pregnancy

Indicators	Mean	SD	Description	Interpretation
Information Drive	2.95	0.64	Agree	High
Seminar Workshop	2.96	0.59	Agree	High
Consultation	2.89	0.71	Agree	High
Budget Allocation	2.90	0.70	Agree	High
Overall	2.93	0.66	Agree	High

The highest-rated indicator was "Seminar Workshop" with a mean of 2.96 (SD = 0.59), interpreted as "Agree." The strong support for seminar workshops indicated that residents found them valuable for learning about the prevention of teenage pregnancy. These workshops likely provided essential information, skills, and resources that empowered participants to make informed decisions. Residents appreciated the interactive nature of seminars, as they allowed for questions and discussions, making the learning experience more effective. By participating in these workshops, individuals gained confidence in discussing sensitive topics, which may have led to more open conversations in their families and communities. The high rating reflected a positive trend toward education, suggesting that continuing these workshops could have further enhanced community knowledge and engagement. This is supported by research from the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program (TPP), which found that educational workshops significantly improve knowledge and attitudes towards sexual health among participants.

The lowest-rated indicator was "Consultation" with a mean of 2.89 (SD = 0.71), interpreted as "Agree." The lower score for consultation suggested that residents might not have fully understood the value or availability of consultation services related to preventing teenage pregnancy. This could have meant that while people agreed on its importance, they may have felt less informed or less involved in this aspect of community programs. It pointed to a need for increased promotion of consultation services, ensuring that residents knew how to access them and what benefits they offered. Encouraging more dialogue and feedback between community members and program providers could have strengthened this area and helped to create a more supportive environment for teenagers. Addressing this gap may have led to a better understanding and utilization of these essential resources. A study by the Office of Adolescent Health (2015) highlighted that enhancing communication about available resources is crucial for maximizing the impact of teen pregnancy prevention efforts.

The data in this study were analyzed using descriptive statistical measures, specifically the computation of means and standard deviations, to summarize and interpret residents' level of awareness. This statistical treatment provided a clear understanding of the responses' central tendency and variability of responses, allowing for an accurate interpretation of community perceptions and the effectiveness of information drives.

Problem 2. What is the level of effectiveness of the practice of contraceptives and celibacy in mitigating unwanted cases of teenage pregnancy?

Table 6. Residents' Beliefs on Mitigating Teenage Pregnancy Through Contraceptive Practices

Indicators	Mean	SD	Description	Interpretation
1. I practice using contraceptive methods that are readily available.	2.69	0.79	Agree	High
2. I am using natural methods of contraception.	2.63	0.76	Agree	High
3. I undergo surgical operation as a means of contraception.	2.56	0.81	Agree	High
4. I am practicing both natural and artificial contraception.	2.71	0.72	Agree	High
5. I use contraceptive methods as my effective way of preventing unintended pregnancies.	2.78	0.73	Agree	High
Overall	2.67	0.76	Agree	High

Table 6 presents the extent to which residents believed in mitigating unwanted cases of teenage pregnancy through the Practice of Contraceptive Methods. Overall, the respondents agreed with the statements, with a mean of 2.67 (SD = 0.76) and interpreted it as "High". Many people recognized the importance of contraceptive methods in preventing unwanted pregnancies, which showed that they were aware of their options and the potential benefits. This agreement indicated that the community valued education about contraceptives, as understanding these methods could lead to healthier choices. By agreeing on this issue, residents may have felt more empowered to discuss contraception openly, which could have helped break the stigma surrounding it. This open conversation was essential, as it could lead to increased use of contraceptive methods among teenagers, ultimately reducing the rate of teenage pregnancies in the area. When people believed in the effectiveness of contraception, they were more likely to use it, leading to a healthier future for the youth. A study by Washington et al. (2016) supports this finding, indicating that increased awareness and education about contraceptive methods significantly correlated with lower rates of unintended pregnancies among adolescents.

The highest-rated indicator was "I used contraceptive methods as my effective way of preventing unintended pregnancies," with a mean of 2.78 (SD = 0.73), interpreted as "Agree." This high rating showed that many individuals felt confident in using contraceptives to prevent unintended pregnancies, reflecting a positive attitude toward family planning. People who used contraceptive methods were likely making informed decisions about their reproductive health, indicating they understood the importance of planning for the future. This proactive approach could have helped teenagers and young adults take control of their lives, reducing anxiety about unplanned events. By recognizing contraception as an effective tool, residents could have created a culture that supported responsible sexual behavior and promoted healthy relationships. This understanding could have led to more significant discussions about sexual health in the community, encouraging more young people to seek information and resources about contraceptive options. A study by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (2019) emphasizes that effective contraceptive use among adolescents is linked to improved outcomes in family planning and reduced rates of teenage pregnancies. Also, the report of the Guttmacher Institute (July 2020) emphasized that fully investing in contraceptive services would lead to a substantial decrease in unintended pregnancies. This reduction would, in turn, lower the need for pregnancy-related and newborn care, highlighting the cost-effectiveness and health benefits of contraceptive use.

The lowest-rated indicator was “I underwent a surgical operation as a means of contraception,” with a mean of 2.56 (SD = 0.81), interpreted as “Agree.” This lower rating suggested that while some individuals might have agreed with the effectiveness of surgical methods, many may have been hesitant or unsure about this approach to contraception. The concern around surgical options could have stemmed from fear of the procedure, potential health risks, or lack of information about the process. It was essential for communities to provide clear information about all contraceptive methods, including surgical options, so that individuals could make informed decisions. By addressing these concerns, healthcare providers could have helped reduce fears associated with surgical contraception and encouraged discussions about the various methods available. Understanding all options allowed residents to choose what was best for their bodies, leading to a more informed community that prioritized health and well-being. Research by Nascimento et al. (2021) highlights that misinformation and fear surrounding surgical contraception can significantly impact its acceptance among adolescents.

Table 7. The Extent to which Residents Believe in Mitigating Unwanted Cases of Teenage Pregnancy Through the Practice of Celibacy

Indicators	Mean	SD	Description	Interpretation
1. I abstain from engaging in pre-marital sex.	2.84	0.78	Agree	High
2. I practice celibacy.	2.77	0.79	Agree	High
3. I advocate promoting abstinence by doing it.	2.57	0.89	Agree	High
4. I adhere to no sex before marriage.	2.57	0.87	Agree	High
5. I avoid practicing pre-marital sex.	2.88	0.77	Agree	High
Overall	2.73	0.82	Agree	High

Table 7 presents the extent to which residents believed in mitigating unwanted cases of teenage pregnancy through the Practice of Celibacy. Overall, the respondents agreed with the statements, with a mean of 2.73 (SD = 0.82) and interpreted it as “High”. The data indicated a strong belief among residents that practicing celibacy could help reduce unwanted teenage pregnancies. This reflected a community perspective that valued abstinence as a practical approach to preventing early pregnancies. It suggested that education and awareness about the benefits of celibacy might have been important for young people. Moreover, these results highlighted the need for support and resources that encouraged teenagers to make informed choices about their sexual health. Encouraging discussions around celibacy could have empowered young people to consider their options and understand the responsibilities that came with sexual activity. A study by Chiaforo et al. (2017) supports this notion, indicating that comprehensive sex education empowers individuals to make informed decisions, thereby reducing teenage pregnancy rates through increased awareness and understanding of sexual health issues.

The highest-rated indicator was “I avoided practicing pre-marital sex,” with a mean of 2.88 (SD = 0.77), interpreted as “Agree.” This finding showed that most residents felt positively about avoiding pre-marital sex, which aligned with their views on celibacy as a method to prevent teenage pregnancy. It suggested that there was a strong community consensus on the importance of self-control and making responsible decisions regarding relationships. The higher mean score indicated that residents likely saw avoiding pre-marital sex as an effective way to protect themselves and their futures. This belief could also have pointed to cultural or religious influences that promoted abstinence until marriage. Building programs that reinforced this attitude could have helped strengthen the community's commitment to supporting young people in making choices that prioritized their well-being. Research by Paton et al. (2020) found that laws mandating sex education in schools can positively impact adolescent behavior

regarding sexual activity, aligning with the community's emphasis on self-control and abstinence.

The lowest-rated indicator was "I advocated promoting abstinence by doing it," with a mean of 2.57 (SD = 0.89), interpreted as "Agree." This result indicated that while residents agreed with the idea of promoting abstinence, they might have felt less confident or active in advocating for it themselves. This could have suggested a gap between personal beliefs and public advocacy, indicating that while individuals may have valued abstinence, they might not have felt equipped or motivated to share these views with others. It raised questions about the support systems available for those who wished to advocate for abstinence, such as educational resources or community programs. The lower score could also have reflected a need for more community engagement and discussion on how to effectively promote these values. Addressing this gap could have led to stronger advocacy efforts, ultimately benefiting young people in the community. A study by Skosana et al. (2020) highlighted the importance of parental involvement and community support in effectively promoting abstinence, suggesting that enhanced advocacy efforts could significantly benefit adolescents.

Table 8. Overall Summary Table on the extent to which Residents Believe in Mitigating Unwanted Cases of Teenage Pregnancy

Indicators	Mean	SD	Description	Interpretation
Practice of Contraceptive Method	2.67	0.76	Agree	High
Practice of Celibacy	2.73	0.82	Agree	High
Overall	2.70	0.79	Agree	High

Table 8 presented the summary of the extent to which residents believed in mitigating unwanted cases of teenage pregnancy. Overall, the respondents agreed with the statements, with a mean of 2.70 (SD = 0.79) interpreted as "High". The responses showed that most residents were aware of the need to reduce teenage pregnancy in their community. Their agreement suggested they recognized the importance of taking steps to address this issue. Many felt that teenage pregnancy could lead to challenges for young people and their families, affecting education and health. This understanding motivated residents to support programs and policies aimed at preventing teenage pregnancy. When people believed in the need for change, they were more likely to act, such as participating in educational activities or community initiatives. Such collective awareness and action could lead to a stronger, more informed community that valued the well-being of its youth. A study by Stroble (2016) highlights that social support significantly influences adolescent mothers' intentions and capacity to re-engage with education, emphasizing the critical role community awareness plays in addressing teenage pregnancy.

The highest-rated category was "Practice of Celibacy," with a mean of 2.73 (SD = 0.82), interpreted as "Agree." The strong support for celibacy showed that many residents believed in the value of waiting until they were older and more prepared for relationships. This idea may have stemmed from cultural or religious beliefs that encouraged young people to focus on their education and personal growth before starting families. By promoting celibacy, the community could have helped teenagers understand the importance of making informed choices about their bodies and futures. This belief could also have led to fewer risky situations that might have resulted in early pregnancies. When young people adopted such values, they may have had better chances of achieving their goals and leading more stable lives. Encouraging celibacy as a positive choice could have created a supportive environment for youth development. Research indicates that strong family support correlates with better educational outcomes for

adolescents, reinforcing the notion that community values around celibacy can foster healthier decision-making among youth (Stroble, 2016).

The lowest-rated category was “Practice of Contraceptive Method,” with a mean of 2.67 (SD = 0.76), interpreted as “Agree.” The lower support for using contraceptive methods indicated that there might have been some hesitation or lack of knowledge about these options among residents. This could have been due to cultural beliefs, misinformation, or limited access to resources that provided education about contraception. If residents were not fully embracing contraceptive practices, it could have led to an increase in unplanned pregnancies among teenagers. Understanding contraceptives was crucial for empowering young people to make safe and informed choices. By addressing this gap in knowledge, communities could have provided better education and resources to help reduce teenage pregnancy rates. This focus on contraception could have led to healthier choices and futures for young people, helping them avoid the challenges of early parenthood. A qualitative study found that inadequate support systems often exacerbate the challenges faced by adolescent mothers, highlighting the necessity for comprehensive education on contraceptive methods as part of community initiatives.

The statistical treatment used in this data interpretation relies on descriptive statistics to summarize and explain the findings. Specifically, measures of central tendency, such as the mean, were employed to determine the average responses for each indicator, including “Practice of Contraceptive Method” and “Practice of Celibacy.” The data was also categorized into qualitative descriptions like “Agree” and “High” to provide a clearer context for interpreting the numerical values. These descriptive labels help to articulate the extent of agreement and the perceived importance of the indicators among respondents. While the analysis does not include inferential statistical methods, such as correlations or hypothesis testing, the use of descriptive statistics effectively summarizes perceptions and attitudes. Moreover, the interpretation integrates qualitative insights, such as cultural beliefs and potential gaps in knowledge, to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the results.

Problem 3. Is there a significant relationship between Community-based programs and mitigating unwanted cases of teenage pregnancy?

Table 9. Correlation Between Community-based Programs and Mitigating Unwanted Cases of Teenage Pregnancy

Correlation		Mitigating Unwanted Cases		Overall	Decision	Interpretation
Community-based programs		Practice of Contraceptive Method	Practice of Celibacy			
Information Drive	Pearson <i>r</i>	0.175	0.309	0.284	Reject H ₀	Significant
	Relationship Strength	Very Weak	Weak	Weak		
Seminar Workshop	p-value	0.002	<0.001	<0.001		
	Pearson <i>r</i>	0.363	0.269	0.372	Reject H ₀	Significant
Consultation	Relationship Strength	Weak	Weak	Weak		
	p-value	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001		
Budget Allocation	Pearson <i>r</i>	0.288	0.536	0.484	Reject H ₀	Significant
	Relationship Strength	Weak	Moderate	Moderate		
	p-value	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001		
	Pearson <i>r</i>	0.383	0.399	0.461	Reject H ₀	Significant
	Relationship Strength	Weak	Weak	Moderate		
	p-value	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001		

Note: Relationship Strength Scale: 1 (Perfect); ± 0.80 to ± 0.99 (Very Strong); ± 0.61 to ± 0.79 (Strong); ± 0.41 to ± 0.60 (Moderate); $\pm .21$ to $\pm .40$ (Weak); $\pm .01$ to $\pm .20$ (Very Weak). **. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed); **. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed). $p < 0.05$ (significant) and $p > 0.05$ (not significant)

Table 9 presents the correlation analysis results between community-based programs and their effectiveness in mitigating unwanted cases of teenage pregnancy. The analysis showed that all community-based programs, including Information Drives, Seminar Workshops, Consultations, and Budget Allocations, exhibited significant correlations with mitigating unwanted cases. Overall, the findings rejected the null hypothesis (H_0). This meant that community programs played an important role in reducing cases of teenage pregnancy. When communities invest in education and resources, they can help teenagers make better choices about their bodies and futures. These programs provide knowledge and support, which are essential for guiding young people. As more teenagers receive accurate information about sexual health, they are likely to use contraceptives and consider celibacy as a viable option. This showed that with the right programs in place, communities could effectively reduce unwanted teenage pregnancies. A study by Goyder et al. (2015) supports these findings, indicating that community-based interventions significantly lower teenage pregnancy rates through educational approaches and resource allocation.

The strongest correlation was observed in Consultations, which showed a moderate relationship in overall mitigating unwanted cases of teenage pregnancy, with (Pearson $r = 0.484$, $p < 0.001$). Consultations offered teenagers personalized support and advice, helping them understand their options better. This one-on-one interaction made it easier for them to ask questions and express their concerns. When teenagers felt comfortable talking about their issues, they were more likely to seek help and learn about contraceptive methods and celibacy. This could lead to healthier choices and reduce the chances of unwanted pregnancies. The strong correlation also highlighted the importance of having accessible consultation services in the community, so that every teenager could benefit from them. A significant study by Shearer et al. (2018) found that personalized consultation services effectively reduced rates of teenage pregnancy by providing targeted support and information.

Similarly, Budget Allocation also reflected a moderate correlation with overall mitigating efforts (Pearson $r = 0.461$, $p < 0.001$). Having a dedicated budget for community programs ensured that these initiatives could run effectively and reach more young people. When funds were available, programs could expand their reach and provide more resources for education and support. This meant that teenagers could access workshops, consultations, and materials that helped them make informed decisions. A strong budget also allowed for the training of staff who could deliver these programs effectively. This financial support was crucial for reducing unwanted teenage pregnancies, as it directly impacted the quality and availability of services offered to young people. Research by the County Health Rankings team (2023) emphasizes that adequate funding for teen pregnancy prevention programs is essential for their success in reducing adolescent pregnancy rates.

The seminar and Workshop also reflected a weak correlation in mitigating unwanted cases of teenage pregnancy, with (Pearson $r = 0.372$, $p < 0.001$). While these programs were helpful, they may not have provided the same level of personalized support as consultations. Workshops often involved larger groups, which could make it difficult for individuals to engage and ask questions. This could limit the impact of the information shared, as some teenagers might have felt shy or uncomfortable discussing sensitive topics in front of others. However, the significance of the correlation suggested that these seminars still played a role in educating teens. Communities should have considered combining workshops with smaller group discussions or individual consultations to enhance their effectiveness in preventing unwanted pregnancies. A systematic review by Coakley et al. (2019) indicates that while group workshops are beneficial, integrating smaller group discussions can significantly improve engagement and outcomes related to teenage pregnancy prevention.

In contrast, the Information Drive revealed weaker relationships in mitigating unwanted cases of teenage pregnancy, with (Pearson $r = 0.284$, $p < 0.001$), but it was still significant. Information Drives often involve broad outreach strategies, such as flyers and social media campaigns, which could spread awareness quickly. However, they may have lacked the depth and personal connection found in other programs. While these drives were good for raising awareness, they might not have provided the necessary guidance and support that teenagers needed to make informed choices. The weaker correlation indicated that simply sharing information was not enough; young people may have required more interactive and engaging methods to truly understand and apply the knowledge they received. This suggested that while Information Drives were useful, they should have been part of a larger strategy that included more direct and personalized support for teenagers. A study by HHS (2022) supports this notion by highlighting that effective teen pregnancy prevention requires not only awareness but also interactive engagement strategies to foster understanding among adolescents.

The statistical treatment used in this data interpretation is correlation analysis through the use of Pearson's correlation coefficient (Pearson's r). This method evaluates the strength and direction of the relationship between community-based programs (independent variables) and their effectiveness in mitigating unwanted teenage pregnancies (dependent variables). The analysis measured the correlation strength for different initiatives, such as Information Drives, Seminar Workshops, Consultations, and Budget Allocations, in relation to outcomes like the practice of contraceptive methods, celibacy, and overall effectiveness. The significance of these relationships was determined by p -values, with all correlations in the study being statistically significant ($p < 0.001$), leading to the rejection of the null hypothesis (H_0). This demonstrates that community-based programs have a meaningful impact on reducing teenage pregnancy rates.

Problem 4. What are the gaps in this research study?

Findings reveal relevant research gaps that need to be considered, fostering a more inclusive study.

Underrepresentation of Female Respondents. In the discussions about teenage pregnancy, female participation is essential as their perspectives and experiences are directly relevant to understanding and addressing the issue. Their firsthand experiences provide invaluable insights into the challenges they face and the factors that contribute to or prevent early pregnancies. Furthermore, female respondents can share their knowledge and experiences, helping researchers identify gaps in current education, outreach, or community-based programs. Including female respondents ensures that the research on teenage pregnancy is grounded in real-world experiences. Their participation helps create solutions that are empathetic, practical, and tailored to the needs of those most affected. This inclusivity ultimately leads to more effective and sustainable programs and policies for teenage pregnancy prevention and support.

Deficiency in the Representation of Parents and Elderly. The representation of mothers, parents, and elderly individuals in discussions of teenage pregnancy is crucial due to their significant influence on the lives and decisions of teenagers. Parents, particularly mothers, often serve as primary caregivers and role models, shaping their children's understanding of relationships, sexuality, and reproductive health. Their perspectives provide critical insights into the family dynamics, cultural expectations, and communication patterns that can either prevent or contribute to teenage pregnancies. Including the elderly in these discussions adds a generational perspective, highlighting how societal norms and values around teenage pregnancy have evolved over time and how traditional beliefs might still impact behavior and decision-making today.

Furthermore, parents and elderly community members play a key role in fostering an environment where teenagers feel comfortable seeking guidance on sensitive topics. Their views can help identify gaps in education, healthcare, and community support systems, ensuring that interventions address real needs. By incorporating their perspectives, programs can also bridge the gap between generations, promoting shared responsibility and collective action in preventing teenage pregnancies. Ultimately, their inclusion ensures that solutions are holistic, culturally appropriate, and grounded in the lived realities of families and communities.

Lack of Representation of Barangay Health Workers (BHW). Barangay Health Workers (BHWs) play a crucial role in addressing teenage pregnancy within communities. As frontline healthcare providers, they are often the first point of contact for adolescents and families, making them essential in the dissemination of information and resources. BHWs contribute significantly to educating teenagers about reproductive health, family planning, and the consequences of early pregnancies. Through counseling and outreach activities, they create awareness about contraception, safe practices, and the importance of delaying pregnancy until the appropriate time.

Moreover, BHWs act as mediators between healthcare institutions and the community, ensuring that teenagers have access to necessary medical services, including prenatal care for young mothers and postnatal support. Their presence within the barangay allows them to foster trust and provide culturally sensitive guidance, addressing the unique challenges faced by adolescents in their specific social and cultural contexts. They also play a key role in identifying at-risk teenagers and linking them to support systems, such as community programs or social services, to prevent further complications.

In addition to health education, BHWs often advocate for policy changes and program implementation at the grassroots level, ensuring that teenage pregnancy prevention remains a priority within local governance. Their contributions are instrumental in reducing stigma, fostering open discussions about reproductive health, and creating a supportive environment where teenagers feel empowered to make informed decisions. By bridging the gap between healthcare services and the community, BHWs are indispensable in mitigating the prevalence and impact of teenage pregnancies.

Overlook Representation of Educators. The representation of educators in surveys about teenage pregnancy is crucial because they play a significant role in shaping the knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors of teenagers. Educators are often at the forefront of providing comprehensive sexual education, which is a critical tool in preventing teenage pregnancies. Their insights can highlight gaps in the curriculum, the effectiveness of existing educational programs, and the challenges in addressing sensitive topics like reproductive health. Additionally, teachers interact with students daily and are well-positioned to observe behavioral patterns, risk factors, and the influence of peer pressure that may contribute to early pregnancies.

Furthermore, educators can provide valuable perspectives on the support systems required in schools to assist at-risk students, such as counseling services and awareness campaigns. Their experiences can help identify barriers, such as cultural sensitivities or lack of resources, that hinder effective teenage pregnancy prevention strategies. By involving educators in the research, policymakers and program designers can ensure that prevention initiatives are practical, educationally sound, and aligned with the real-world needs of students. Ultimately, their participation enhances the reliability and applicability of the study, contributing to more informed and impactful interventions.

Nonexistence Representation of Community Leaders. The representation of community leaders in the conduct of a survey about teenage pregnancy is vital for several reasons. Community leaders, including local government officials, educators, health workers, and religious leaders, play a key role in shaping the attitudes, behaviors, and resources available within a community. Their involvement ensures that the survey reflects the broader social, cultural, and economic context that affects teenage pregnancy. These leaders often have firsthand knowledge of the challenges and barriers faced by young people in their communities, as well as insights into the effectiveness of current programs and policies aimed at prevention. Furthermore, community leaders can help bridge trust gaps between researchers and the residents they aim to study, facilitating greater participation and more candid responses. Their leadership and support are also crucial for ensuring that the findings of the survey are translated into actionable solutions that align with community needs. Overall, the inclusion of community leaders ensures that the survey is not only relevant and accurate but also fosters a collaborative approach to addressing teenage pregnancy in ways that are culturally appropriate and sustainable.

Nonrepresentation of Teenage Mothers. The presence of young mothers in the conduct of a study about teenage pregnancy is invaluable. Their lived experiences provide a unique and authentic perspective that cannot be captured through theoretical analysis or second-hand accounts. As individuals who have directly navigated the challenges, responsibilities, and societal perceptions associated with teenage motherhood, they offer critical insights into the complexities of this issue. Young mothers can shed light on the multifaceted realities of teenage pregnancy, including the emotional, social, and economic impacts. Their voices help uncover the nuances of their journeys, from the initial discovery of pregnancy to the day-to-day challenges of parenting. This perspective is essential for understanding the barriers they face, such as access to education, healthcare, and social support, as well as the coping mechanisms they employ to overcome these obstacles.

Including young mothers in the research process also ensures that the study remains grounded and relevant to those it seeks to represent. Their participation can help identify gaps in current policies, programs, and support systems that may not be apparent to researchers or policymakers without firsthand accounts. For example, they can provide detailed feedback on the effectiveness of sex education programs, accessibility of reproductive healthcare, and the adequacy of community resources.

Moreover, their involvement lends a sense of empowerment and validation to young mothers. By actively contributing to the research, they become partners in shaping solutions, rather than passive subjects of study. This collaborative approach fosters trust, enriches the data with real-world experiences, and promotes a more inclusive and compassionate understanding of teenage pregnancy.

In sum, the presence of young mothers in studies about teenage pregnancy is not just beneficial—it is essential. Their contributions ensure that the findings are comprehensive, impactful, and reflective of the true needs and experiences of the population being studied. Their voices bring depth, authenticity, and humanity to the research, paving the way for more effective and empathetic interventions.

Methodological Challenges. Addressing the gap in methodological challenges in the conduct of surveys about teenage pregnancy is vital to ensure the reliability, accuracy, and ethical soundness of the research. Methodological challenges, such as accessing teenage populations, ensuring confidentiality, and gaining informed consent, can hinder the collection of comprehensive and representative data. These barriers, if unaddressed, may lead to incomplete or biased findings, which can misinform policies and interventions. Moreover, ethical considerations, particularly when engaging with minors, are crucial to maintaining the integrity

of the research and protecting respondents from potential harm or stigma. Overcoming these challenges allows for the inclusion of diverse voices, especially those directly affected by teenage pregnancy, ensuring that the study captures a holistic view of the issue. By addressing these gaps, researchers can design effective, culturally sensitive, and actionable strategies that contribute to reducing teenage pregnancy rates and mitigating its social, health, and economic impacts.

Geographical Biases. Addressing the gap of geographical bias in surveys about teenage pregnancy is critical for ensuring a comprehensive and equitable understanding of the issue. Geographic bias occurs when research disproportionately focuses on certain areas, such as urban settings while neglecting rural or underserved regions. This bias can result in findings that are not representative of the diverse circumstances influencing teenage pregnancy. For instance, teenagers in rural areas may face unique challenges, such as limited access to healthcare services, inadequate sexual education, and cultural norms that differ significantly from those in urban areas. Without including these perspectives, interventions may fail to address the root causes of teenage pregnancy in specific communities.

Moreover, addressing geographical bias ensures that resources and programs are allocated more effectively and equitably. Policymakers and stakeholders need accurate, location-specific data to design tailored solutions that cater to the needs of all populations. Furthermore, addressing geographical biases ensures that interventions are context-specific, effectively targeting both urban and rural communities with tailored solutions.

The statistical treatment used in the data interpretation is descriptive analysis. The interpretation identifies and discusses various research gaps related to underrepresentation across specific groups, including female respondents, parents, elderly individuals, barangay health workers (BHWs), educators, community leaders, and teenage mothers. These gaps highlight areas where the inclusion of diverse perspectives would enhance the comprehensiveness and relevance of research on teenage pregnancy. The descriptive approach explores themes and challenges such as methodological limitations, geographical biases, and the roles of different community members, emphasizing the need for inclusivity and representation. By examining these gaps intentionally, the study identifies barriers to holistic research and highlights the importance of engaging directly affected groups to inform more practical, equitable, and effective interventions for preventing teenage pregnancy. This method provides a nuanced understanding of the issue, focusing on real-world implications rather than statistical relationships. Ultimately, this descriptive approach provides a framework for developing equitable policies and programs that are grounded in comprehensive, culturally sensitive insights.

CONCLUSION

Community-based programs emerged as a key factor in mitigating unwanted cases of teenage pregnancy. Among the various initiatives, Seminar Workshops received the highest ratings, showcasing their effectiveness in promoting engagement and understanding of the issues at hand. These interactive sessions encourage participants to discuss and reflect on teenage pregnancy prevention actively. By fostering an environment that promotes open dialogue, these programs not only educate but also empower individuals to make informed choices regarding their sexual health.

The belief in the Practice of Celibacy as a means of preventing teenage pregnancy indicates a strong cultural inclination toward abstinence until individuals are more prepared for relationships. This insight highlights the need for programs that not only provide education but

also address cultural and social values that influence teenage behavior. Such an approach can lead to a more comprehensive understanding of the factors contributing to teenage pregnancy and the development of more effective prevention strategies.

Statistical analysis confirmed the significance of community-based programs in reducing unwanted teenage pregnancies, rejecting the null hypothesis. All analyzed programs demonstrated meaningful correlations, indicating their effectiveness in addressing this pressing social issue. These findings underscore the necessity for continued investment in community initiatives that engage both young individuals and their families, fostering a supportive environment for discussions around sexual health. By doing so, communities can work collaboratively to empower teenagers with the knowledge and resources needed to make informed decisions, ultimately reducing the incidence of teenage pregnancy.

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