SELECTED SOCIO-CULTURAL INFLUENCE ON TEENAGE PREGNANCY AMONG SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN THARAKA NITHI COUNTY, KENYA.

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A Thesis Submitted to the Graduate School in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Award of the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Foundations of Tharaka University

THARAKA UNIVERSITY

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DECLARATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Declaration

This thesis is my original work and has not been submitted for the award of a diploma or conferment of a degree in any institution.

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DEDICATION

Dedication of this thesis goes to my lovely husband; Mr. Isaac Mbae Ali, My children; Joan Gakii, Caroline Muthoni, DollyLiz Makena and Brian Nyaga and my Mum and Dad.

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ABSTRACT

"Teenage pregnancy is a significant global concern that limits young girls' opportunities to pursue higher education, impacting both developed and developing nations and early motherhood affect young women' and their children's health and wellbeing, impede educational possibilities, and increase the likelihood of school dropouts. Teenage pregnancy is still common in Kenyan secondary schools, especially in Tharaka Nithi County, despite a number of efforts by the Kenyan Government. Some specific socio-cultural elements may be to blame for the poor success in resolving this issue. Therefore, the purpose of this study was to look into particular sociocultural aspects that influence teen pregnancy among students in secondary schools in Tharaka Nithi County. Peer pressure, social media exposure, parental influence, and socioeconomic status were all aspects of sociocultural influences. A descriptive study approach was adopted drawing on Psychosocial Theory of Human development and Vygotsky's Socio-cultural Theory. The theories were used to show hypothesised relationships between the study variables. Data were collected from 17 secondary schools using Cluster sampling. The target population included 11,936 students in form three from both public and private secondary schools in Tharaka Nithi, County. Sample size of 414 respondents 34 teachers, and 380 students (300 girls and 80 boys) was used. Data collection instruments were validated by experts from Tharaka University's Faculty of education. The instruments were structured questionnaires and interview schedules. Pilot testing was conducted in two schools in Meru County, and reliability confirmed with a Cronbach alpha as 0.754. Descriptive statistics (frequencies, percentages, and standard deviation) and inferential statistics (Chi-square tests) were used for data analysis, facilitated by Statistical package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 27.0 software. The findings revealed significant social cultural influences on teenage pregnancy among secondary school students. Parental influence showed a chi-square result of $\chi 2$ (16, 409) =111.378, p=0.000; Socio –economic status, $\chi 2$ (16, 409) =26.620, p=0.046; Peer influence, χ^2 (16, 409) =26.620, p=0.046; exposure to social media, $\chi 2$ (16, 409) =97.614, p=0.000 all indicating a significant impact. These results provide parents and stakeholders with a clearer understanding of the social, economic and cultural contexts affecting teenage well-being. The study recommends that the National and Tharaka Nithi county governments should engage parents in workshops on comprehensive sex education, offering relevant educational materials and guidance. Additionally, policies to curb cultural practices that contribute to teenage pregnancy should be strengthened by the Ministry of internal security. This research provides valuable insights for school administrators, education policymakers, teachers, parents, and other stakeholders in understanding and mitigating the social-cultural influences on teenage pregnancy. This knowledge can inform appropriate measures to mitigate the influence of social cultural influences on teenage pregnancies. The findings contribute to the broader body of knowledge on this subject and acts as a basis for further research.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AFIDEP	African Institute of Development Policy
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
BMC	Bone Marrow Concentrate
CDC	Centres for Disease Control and Prevention
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
HIV	Human Immune Virus
KNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
LBW	Low Birth Weight
NACOSTI	National Council for Science, Technology, and Innovation
NCPD	National Cereals and Produce Board
NDHS	Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey
NGOS	Non-Governmental Organizations
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
SPSS	Statistical Packages for Social Sciences
SRH	Sexual Reproductive Health and Research
STDS	Sexually Transmitted Diseases
TV	Television Set
UNFPA	United Nations Populations Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund.
UK	United Kingdom
US	United States
USA	United State of America
WHO	World Health Organization
KMTC	Kenya Medical Training College
SNS	Social Networking Sites
KCSE	Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education

CHAPTER ONE
INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background Information

The Kenyan 2010 Constitution, through its Bill of Rights, underscores the significance of education for all parts of society. The Kenyan government acknowledges the significance of education and has undertaken significant initiatives to advance it, as evidenced by the Vision 2030 initiative. The objective of education is to elevate Kenya to a middle-income status by 2030 via sustainable economic growth and development. Human capital development, emphasizing the need of superior education and training for all Kenyans, constitutes a principal pillar of Vision 2030. The Basic Education Act (2015) delineates the rights of Kenyan children, encompassing free and compulsory basic education, as well as prohibiting discrimination based on gender or inhumane treatment. Access to education empowers individuals to achieve their maximum potential and positively impact their communities and the nation at large. Education possesses the capacity to alter lives, alleviate poverty, and foster social and economic advancement. Consequently, all individuals in society must have access to education, irrespective of their socio-economic situation, gender, or any other factors that may impede their capacity to obtain it. Despite the Kenyan government's initiatives to enhance education for the youth, teenage pregnancy continues to impede many young girls' access to education.

A significant social challenge confronting numerous African nations nowadays is Teenage pregnancy. The word teenage pregnancy denotes expectancies in Teenage females, often aged 13 to 19 (Akella & Jordan, 2015). The age range defined as Teenage pregnancy differs worldwide; yet, in numerous areas, pregnancies at a young age are categorized as such. The typical age at which females commence menstruation is approximately 12, heightening the probability of unwanted early pregnancies (Perissinotto et al., 2014). Thus, need of early guidance among the teenagers as they go through this period. The present study sought to investigate the sociocultural determinants affecting teenage pregnancies, with the objective of mitigating the risks encountered by both Teenage mothers and their offspring. Teenage pregnancy poses considerable challenges for both developing and developed nations due to its detrimental effects on young females.

Teenage pregnancy may result in numerous social difficulties for Teenage mothers (Madume, 2021). Otumo (2024) asserts that the consequences of Teenage pregnancy adversely affect the health and welfare of both the young mother and her offspring. Teenage mothers encounter several problems, such as health issues, restricted educational prospects, low socioeconomic standing, hazardous activities, and challenges in meeting their child's requirements. Furthermore, Teenage pregnancy can significantly impede the psychosocial development of young females. Davis (2017) observes that problems during pregnancy rank among the primary causes of mortality for females aged 15 to 19 globally. Teenage mothers face an elevated chance of developing illnesses such as eclampsia, puerperal endometritis, and systemic infections in comparison to women aged 20 to 24. Moreover, offspring of Teenage mothers frequently encounter low birth weight, health complications, developmental obstacles, and occasionally neglect.

Teenage pregnancies and their related adverse consequences are critical concerns in numerous countries, especially in low and middle-income nations. The incidence of this issue is particularly elevated in disadvantaged neighborhoods, which frequently go ignored. The World Health Organization (WHO, 2016) states that problems during pregnancy and childbirth are primary causes of mortality among females aged 15 to 19. Infants born to Teenage mothers are at a 50% increased risk of stillbirth, premature death, or suffering from both immediate and chronic health complications. Moreover, pregnant Teenage frequently encounter an increased likelihood of discontinuing their education (Rosenberg et al., 2015), which may restrict their economic prospects (WHO, 2016; UNFPA, 2016). The negative consequences have prompted heightened global initiatives to ascertain both risk and protective factors aimed at decreasing teenage pregnancies in wealthy nations.

The worldwide situation with teenage pregnancy demonstrates variable tendencies. Countries such as the USA and Canada have experienced a decrease in teenage pregnancy rates (Muganda-Onyando & Omondi, 2008), however the underlying causes of this fall remain ambiguous. Certain studies attribute the decline to heightened abstinence among teenagers and enhanced contraceptive utilization among sexually active individuals. Conversely, studies demonstrate that Teenage pregnancy

rates are markedly elevated in the lake regions of western Kenya relative to other areas of the nation. Numerous studies associate elevated rates of teenage pregnancies in Kenya with factors including income inequality, educational attainment, insufficient sexual education, peer influence, inadequate academic performance, cultural norms, substance misuse, early sexual engagement, and poverty (Musonga, 2014). The results suggest needs for caution among the stakeholders.

Teenage pregnancy frequently leads to premature motherhood, compelling young females to assume adult responsibilities for which they may lack emotional or physical readiness (Katherina & Saverio, 2022). This circumstance may result in physical and emotional stress that negatively impacts maternal mental health, the mother-child bond, and the healthy development of offspring born to these young mothers. Njoka (2016) noted that pregnant teenagers often face prejudice in obtaining reproductive health services, resulting in many lacking antenatal care and support from skilled professionals. Moreover, Teenage pregnancy is correlated with enduring health concerns and mortality risks associated with childbirth-related issues and unsafe abortions.

Research work by Engel et al. (2019) observe that, notwithstanding the adverse effects of Teenage pregnancies, the phenomenon continues to exist in both industrialized and developing countries. In the United States, initiatives designed to avert Teenage pregnancies have become essential components of national health and development programs. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC, 2001) documented a notable reduction in teenage pregnancy rates in the United States from their apex in 1990, decreasing from 834,000 in 2000 to 757,000 in 2002. Akella and Jordan (2015) emphasize a consensus among governmental and non-governmental organizations on the requisite measures to avert teenage pregnancies in the United States.

Diverse approaches, such as extensive sexual education, media awareness campaigns highlighting the adverse effects of teenage pregnancy, and enhanced access to family planning services, have been executed. However, according to Rodriguez (2021), the

teenage pregnancy rate in the USA is the highest among developed nations, indicating a necessity for additional study into effective intervention measures.

Although global teenage pregnancy rates are predominantly decreasing, the scenario in Asia, especially Southeast Asia, exhibits stagnation (UNICEF, 2018). Teenage pregnancy rates exhibit considerable disparities among countries in this region. In the Philippines, 10% of girls aged 15 to 19 are expected to be mothers, although Thailand exhibits an even greater incidence of teenage motherhood. Southeast Asian nations have instituted programs to enhance access to contraceptives and health education for Teenage females. In certain regions, including the Philippines and Timor-Leste, customary rules and religious doctrines obstruct access to contraception. Notwithstanding stringent cultural norms concerning premarital sexual activity, Japan also witnesses significant rates of Teenage pregnancy (Kohei et al., 2019). This suggests that dependence exclusively on government programs may be inadequate to tackle the rate of teenage pregnancies.

In developing nations, over one-third of women deliver their first child during adolescence, with nearly half of these new mothers aged 17 or younger (Darroch et al., 2016). In 2014, the WHO said that over 95% of Teenage pregnancies transpire in developing nations, with Africa demonstrating the highest fertility rates among females aged 15 to 19, at 119.7 births per 1,000 women, in contrast to the global average of 58.1 births (NCPD, 2021). In reaction to this dilemma, NGOs and governmental entities across several African nations have implemented diverse methods aimed at teenagers. These tactics encompass promoting abstinence prior to marriage, restricting early marriages, preventing coerced sexual encounters, and endorsing contraceptive usage in accordance with WHO guidelines (Mkwananzi & Odimegwu, 2016). Madagascar has established youth-friendly clinics to offer discreet access to contraceptives and reproductive health information (Neal et al., 2015). Notwithstanding these measures, numerous African nations continue to contend with elevated instances of Teenage pregnancy.

The predominant social and economic repercussions of Teenage pregnancy in Sub-Saharan Africa are the forfeited educational prospects due to young women discontinuing their schooling. This region has some nations where Teenage pregnancy rates above 30% (Sibusiso & Clifford, 2015). Research conducted by Makiwane, Gumede, and Molobela (2018) reveals that a significant number of teenage women in South Africa give birth outside of wedlock, setting the country's teenage fertility apart from that of other sub-Saharan countries. This underscores the necessity to assess a comprehensive array of effects on young mothers, their offspring, family constituents, and society at large.

In Uganda, more than 25% of females experience pregnancy before the age of 19, positioning it among the Sub-Saharan African nations with the highest rates of Teenage pregnancy. A 2020 nationwide survey on violence in Uganda indicated that over fifty percent of Teenage females had encountered childhood sexual assault (Republic of Uganda, 2022). These findings may elucidate the consistently elevated rates of teenage pregnancy among Ugandan girls. A demographic and health survey done by the Ugandan government revealed heightened morbidity and mortality risks for pregnant Teenagers and their newborns. The UNFPA reported a notable increase in Teenage pregnancies in certain districts of Uganda (Nanyazi et al., 2022), notwithstanding the government's attempts to address this problem.

Kenya is experiencing a troubling incidence of early pregnancies among high school pupils. Global Childhood Kenya reported 82 births per 1,000 live births due to Teenage pregnancies in 2019 (Muturi, 2014). From July 2016 to June 2017, there were 378,397 documented pregnancies among females aged 10 to 19 (Monari et al., 2022). The survey revealed that 349,465 females aged 10 to 19 were pregnant, comprising 932 girls aged 10 to 14, indicating that numerous pregnant minors remain in secondary school. Notwithstanding certain advancements, the statistics remain disturbingly elevated, especially in Tharaka Nithi County.

In Kenya, teenage pregnancy is more common in rural areas than in urban areas, primarily due to poorer educational attainment and socioeconomic position in rural regions. In addition, the traditional gender norms that assigns men the role of

breadwinners and women that of homemakers exacerbate the prevalence of teenage pregnancy (Kumar et al., 2017). Cultural ideas around sexuality, premature marriage, and insufficient reproductive health education significantly contribute to this issue. The Kenyan government, via the Ministry of Health and in partnership with international organizations, is diligently striving to disseminate accurate information and tools to avert early and unwanted pregnancies among teenagers (Ministry of Health, 2015).

Kurgat (2023) examined the elements that contribute to the ongoing prevalence of defilement cases in Tharaka Nithi County through a phenomenological research design. The survey encompassed 93 girls and five boys, indicating that 95.7% of participants recognized communal behaviors, with female genital mutilation (FGM) being reported at a prevalence of 38.6%. Furthermore, 21.4% consented to marriage following initiation, whereas 8.6% reported experiencing sexual harassment by drunkard individuals. The results demonstrated that rites of passage and economic circumstances substantially influence child defilement and contribute to Teenage pregnancies. The findings highlight the essential importance of parental accountability in tackling this matter.

Kenya has implemented legislation banning marriage before the age of 18 and is dedicated to improving sex education, supplying emergency contraceptives to Teenagers, and rigorously punishing individuals who perpetrate sexual coercion against teenagers (Government of Kenya, 2020). Reports indicate that approximately 18% of Teenage girls aged 15 to 19 experience pregnancy annually (NCPD, 2021). This prompts inquiries on the efficacy of existing preventative methods. Notwithstanding initiatives undertaken over ten years ago to safeguard the educational rights of Teenage girls, some 13,000 girls withdraw from school each year owing to pregnancy (Government of Kenya, 2020). This underscores the persistent issue of teenage pregnancy in different parts of the country, requiring additional examination at the county level.

Tharaka Nithi County exhibits notably high rates of Teenage pregnancy, with approximately 14% of females aged 15 to 19 either having given birth or being

pregnant as of 2017 (AFIDEP, 2017). The increasing incidence of teenage pregnancies in this county has significant issues for future development. Considering the significant frequency of this issue, it is essential to comprehend the socio-cultural variables that contribute to it. The National Council for Population and Development (2021) indicated that Tharaka-Nithi County had one of the highest rates of teenage pregnancies. The rising incidence of pregnant teenagers in the region continues to be high despite the implementation of suggested interventions to address this problem (Muchunku, 2014). Examining socio-cultural influences, including parental supervision, socioeconomic position, peer interactions, and social media exposure, may uncover further strategies to address this escalating issue.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The increased incidence of Teenage pregnancies among secondary school students is a considerable worry for all stakeholders, leading to augmented governmental expenditure in diverse initiatives to tackle the issue. Notwithstanding the Kenyan government's efforts through the Teenage Sexual Reproductive Health program, the Kenya Population Situation Analysis reveals negligible advancement in the reduction of teenage pregnancies. Although previous studies have investigated the general prevalence of teenage pregnancy in the nation, there is insufficient data regarding specific socio-cultural elements that contribute to elevated rates. This study sought to address this gap by examining specific socio-cultural factors influencing Teenage pregnancies among secondary school students in Tharaka Nithi County, a region noted for its high incidence of teenage pregnancy.

1.3 Purpose of the Study

This study investigated the socio-cultural influences associated with teenage pregnancy among secondary school students in Tharaka Nithi County, Kenya.

1.4 Objectives of the Study

The study was guided by the following objectives:

i. To explore the impact of parental influence on teenage pregnancy among secondary school students in Tharaka Nithi County, Kenya.

ii. To assess the role of socio-economic status in teenage pregnancy among secondary school students in Tharaka Nithi County, Kenya.
iii. To investigate the influence of peer groups on teenage pregnancy among secondary school students in Tharaka Nithi County, Kenya.
iv. To examine the effect of social media exposure on teenage pregnancy among girls' secondary school students in Tharaka Nithi County, Kenya.

1.5 Hypotheses of the Study

$H0_1$: Parental factors do not have a statistically significant impact on teenage pregnancy among secondary school students in Tharaka Nithi County, Kenya.

$H0_2$: Socio-economic status does not significantly influence teenage pregnancy among secondary school students in Tharaka Nithi County, Kenya.

$H0_3$: Peer group influence does not significantly affect teenage pregnancy among secondary school students in Tharaka Nithi County, Kenya.

$H0_4$: Exposure to social media does not have a statistically significant impact on teenage pregnancy among secondary school students in Tharaka Nithi County, Kenya.

1.6 Significance of the Study

This study is anticipated to offer several benefits to stakeholders in the education sector in Tharaka Nithi County. The findings will provide parents and other stakeholders with a deeper understanding of the environment in which children are growing up, highlighting how these surroundings influence their health and overall well-being. This knowledge can assist the County government in crafting more effective strategies to address teenage pregnancies and births within the region. Additionally, teachers and students may gain valuable insights from the study, fostering a better understanding of the challenges faced by adolescent girls in schools. The research may also prove useful to educational administrators, including directors, managers, and school principals, as it provides evidence-based recommendations for developing policies and programs aimed at reducing teenage pregnancies and mitigating associated risks. Finally, the study will contribute to the existing body of knowledge and serve as a foundation for further research in the field.

1.7 Scope of the Study

The research examined both private and public secondary educational institutions in Tharaka-Nithi County. The participants comprised male and female secondary school students, class teachers, and leaders of guidance and counseling departments. The study examined the effects of parental influence, socio-economic status, peer group dynamics, and social media exposure on teenage pregnancy among secondary school students.

1.8 Limitations of the Study

The research exhibited following limitations.

i. Issues concerning individual teenage pregnancy are delicate. Respondents can choose to conceal details about teenage pregnancy issues due to potential personal victimization. The researcher assured the interviewees that their answers would remain confidential and exclusively utilized for the study.
ii. Students may be reluctant to address the socio-cultural factors contributing to teenage pregnancies. The researcher upheld the highest possible standards of confidentiality and anonymity to the greatest extent possible.

1.9 Assumptions of the Study

The following assumptions were formulated before the actual study.

i. The data collected from the sampled participants could accurately reflect the social and cultural influences on teenage pregnancy in Tharaka Nithi County.
ii. It was assumed that the respondents would be objective and provide true answers to the questions
iii. It was assumed that the respondents knew the social cultural influences affecting Teenagers in Tharaka Nithi County.
iv. The study assumed that the research results would inform policies and programs to reduce Teenage Pregnancies in the region.
v. It was assumed that socio-cultural influences play a critical role in influencing teenage pregnancy among secondary school students.

1.10 Operational Definition of Terms

Adolescent: Adolescent Pregnancy: Students in secondary education aged 13 to 19.

Cultural Influence: The change in students' attitudes, beliefs, and practices among the study population, which includes spoken language, religion, customs, socially-accepted gender roles and professions, dietary habits, academic performance, and recreational activities that inform behavior associated with teenage pregnancy.

Influence: It denotes the ability to alter the behavior of secondary school students.

Neglect: Defined as insufficient adult supervision and a lack of attention to the needs of adolescents.

Secondary School: An educational institution consisting of students from Form One to Form Four.

Socio-cultural Influence: This pertains to the elements that pertain to attitudes, values, and beliefs that affect the convictions and behaviors of secondary school students.

Socio-economic Status: Refers to the aggregation of variables including income, level and kind of education, occupational type and status, and place of residence.

Teenage Pregnancy: Denotes conception occurring between the ages of 10 and 19 years.

CHAPTER TWO
LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Teenage Pregnancy

Teenage pregnancy denotes expectancies' happening in females aged 14 to 19 years. Teenage pregnancy is a considerable global challenge, affecting both the psychological and physical health of Teenagers. Addressing this issue is crucial, as our approach to teenage pregnancy will influence the development of subsequent generations. Teenage pregnancy has significant ramifications for social, cultural, economic, and health outcomes. Numerous young females encounter significant pressure to marry at a young age and assume motherhood, frequently when they are still minors. The incidence of teenage pregnancy increases when girls are unable to make informed choices regarding their sexual and reproductive health (CDC, 2021). It is vital for girls to possess autonomy over their bodies, comprehend the ramifications of adolescent pregnancy, and obtain complete healthcare and sexual education.

Mitigating adolescent pregnancy is a concern for policymakers and the public because of its significant social, economic, and health-related repercussions for young parents, their families, and society at large. Research have been done globally investigating the variables contributing to early pregnancies, particularly in wealthy nations. In Kenya, socio-cultural factors are essential for developing effective policies. These effects may include social and cultural elements that impact individual behavior and development (Akintoye & Saliu, 2020). Many adolescent females possess misconceptions concerning contraception and lack understanding of where to acquire and how to utilize contraceptives successfully. This underscores the considerable influence of social variables on individual lives and systemic transformations among adolescents.

The society is essential in shaping cultural influences (Razmjoo & Movahed, 2009). Culture comprises the values, beliefs, conventions, and standards maintained by a society, significantly impacting individual or collective behaviors. Alterations in economic situation can modify lifestyles and behaviors, but caregiver neglect may precipitate behavioral problems, occasionally culminating in deviant attitudes. Comprehending socio-cultural effects is essential for tackling societal difficulties

(Esbensen, 2019). The study intended to investigate socio-cultural determinants, including parental supervision, socio-economic position, peer impact, and social media exposure, on adolescent pregnancy among secondary school students.

Teenage pregnancies put considerable financial strains on society (Martin & Yoyce, 2013). Initially, governments designate financial resources to assist adolescent mothers and their offspring through maternal and child healthcare services. Secondly, especially in Africa, pregnant adolescents frequently forfeit educational chances, since they may be dismissed or compelled to withdraw from school upon revealing their pregnancy. This interruption constrains their opportunities and sustains the cycle of poverty, preventing young mothers from obtaining the skills essential for steady employment, so impacting society at large.

Since 1990, the incidence of teenage pregnancies in the United States has markedly decreased by 9%, from 834,000 to 757,000 pregnancies (CDC, 2001). This decrease can mostly be ascribed to successful initiatives advocating for sexual education and public awareness on the ramifications of adolescent pregnancies, coupled with enhanced access to family planning services. Notwithstanding this advancement, the United States has the highest rates of teenage pregnancy among industrialized countries (Rodriguez, 2021), underscoring the necessity for additional exploration into effective intervention tactics. The predominant incidence of teenage pregnancies in the United States transpires inadvertently and without the institution of marriage. Recent numbers indicate a persistent trend, with a 13.5% reduction per 1,000 girls aged 15 to 19 in 2022 (CDC, 2022). Studies demonstrate that this tendency is associated with heightened rates of abstinence from the use of alcohol among adolescents.

In 2014, England and Wales recorded around 871,038 conceptions among teens aged 18 and below, including 4,160 conceptions for those under 16. The birth rates for those aged 15 to 17 were 6.8 per 1,000, significantly lower than those in Denmark and the Netherlands (Mclaren, 2016). These statistics indicate that tackling teenage pregnancy is essential for both developing and developed countries.

Rodriguez (2021) examined public policies and targeted initiatives throughout Latin America and the Caribbean designed to mitigate teenage pregnancy. This systematic review included peer-reviewed papers and reports from 2000 to 2019, identifying 30 pertinent studies from multiple nations in the region. The findings indicated that several activities were executed in educational and healthcare environments, emphasizing sexual and reproductive health education, contraception, family planning services, as well as endeavors to mitigate gender-based violence and empower adolescent females. The evaluation highlighted the necessity for additional research to comprehend how enhanced access to family planning and education can affect adolescent pregnancy rates.

Ochen (2019) conducted a study in Ontario, Canada; examining predictors of teen pregnancy among girls aged 14 to 19 who were alive at 12 years of age from 1991 to 2021. The study's results indicated that out of 2,242,929 teens, 163,124 (73%) experienced a pregnancy, with the majority occurring at age 18. It was also shown that out of 2.2 million teenagers, the risk of premature death was 1.9 per 10,000 teenagers. Among those without pregnancy, 4.1 per 10,000 persons were years among those with pregnancy and 6.1 per 10,000 among those with 2 or more pregnancies. The results indicate that teen pregnancy may be readily identifiable marker for subsequent risk of premature mortality in early childhood.

While the rates of teenage pregnancies and births are falling overall, they are stagnating in Asia, particularly South-East Asia (UNICEF, 2018). However, there were differences in the frequency of teen pregnancies among the nations of South-East Asia. For instance, one in ten females between the ages of 15 and 19 in the Philippines is expected to become mothers. Teenage girls in Thailand are likely to become pregnant than those in the Philippines. To combat the issue of teen pregnancy, nations on all Asian continents have created legislation that makes it simpler for teenage females to get contraception and health and sex education (UNICEF, 2018). However, traditional laws and religious beliefs frequently restrict teenage girls' access to and use of contraception in some nations, including the Philippines and Timor-Leste.

A study conducted by Meena et al. (2024) in India revealed that 6.8% of women aged 15 to 19 commenced childbearing between 2019 and 2021. This phenomenon was observed to be prevalent, particularly in rural regions and socioeconomically deprived states. The National Health Survey revealed that 4.2% of individuals aged 15-19 were either pregnant or had children. The qualitative research utilized a phenomenological methodology. The tool for data collection was an in-depth interview. A purposive sampling and snowball sampling approach was employed to get a sample size of 21 adolescent mothers as participants. The findings revealed that adolescent moms faced several medical issues, insufficient awareness, inadequate family and spousal support, along with psychological stressors and societal constraints as primary hurdles. The treatments were suggested as cooperative education, with ownership assumed by the village chief.

The research conducted by Susantry (2024) in Indonesia examined the awareness of adolescent females on the hazards associated with early pregnancies in the context of low birth weight incidents in midwifery. The primary aim was to assess young women's awareness of the risks associated with early pregnancy and the prevalence of low birth weight (LBW). The findings reveal that risk factors adversely affect the physical, psychological, and social health of teenagers and their unborn offspring. Risks for infants include premature mortality, low birth weight (LBW), congenital anomalies, and infant mortality.

Idris et al. (2022) utilized a cross-sectional design in Malaysia, employing a 25-item open-ended questionnaire as the data collection instrument. Idris et al. identified familial, peer-related psychological, economic, and sexual knowledge factors as important drivers to hazardous sexual behaviors and adolescent pregnancy. Suleiman et al. (2023) identified insufficient awareness regarding reproductive and sexual health among teenagers, along with sociocultural and peer influences, parental values, and socioeconomic and educational level, as primary factors contributing to adolescent pregnancy.

Ali et al. (2020) conducted a cross-sectional study in Bangladesh with 15,842 ever-married women. The study's results indicated that numerous factors are related with

teenage pregnancy. A significant correlation existed between adolescent pregnancy and educational attainment, adherence to the Muslim faith, awareness of contraceptive methods, and socioeconomic status as shown by a higher wealth index. The study's results reveal a positive correlation but do not demonstrate a causal association between teenage pregnancy and its associated factors due to the cross-sectional nature of the research.

The adolescent population in Sub-Saharan Africa is experiencing fast growth. BMC Women's Health Research indicates that the adolescent pregnancy rate in the region exceeds the global norm by more than twofold. A subset of the data obtained from women aged 20 to 24 was included for the analysis. The incidence of adolescent pregnancies from 2003 to 2008/2009, and again in 2014, was examined by trend analysis. Factors associated with adolescent pregnancies were examined by pooled and binary logistic regression analysis. The incidence of teenage pregnancy in Kenya is notably elevated, with an estimated prevalence of 38.9% among adolescents aged 15-19 (Mutea et al., 2022). The high adolescent pregnancy rate in Kenya is particularly alarming due to its correlation with heightened health risks, including early delivery, maternal mortality, and low infant weight. The high adolescent pregnancy rate in Kenya is particularly worrying because it is linked to increased health risks such as early birth, maternal mortality, and low baby weight.

Ahinkorah et al. (2021) highlight the prevalence of adolescent pregnancy and its associated determinants in sub-Saharan Africa. Cross-sectional data from the Demographic and Health Surveys was collected in 32 sub-Saharan African countries between 2010 and 2018. The researchers investigated the incidence of initial teenage pregnancies among women aged 15 to 19 across several countries and studied the correlations between individual and environmental factors and first teenage pregnancies. The study's findings indicated that females from poorer socio-economic backgrounds, especially those living in metropolitan areas with limited education, were more likely to experience their first teenage pregnancy in the region. The results revealed that the complicated problem of adolescent pregnancy significantly affects the health and well-being of youth in sub-Saharan Africa. The study's findings reveal that adolescent pregnancy is a critical issue in sub-Saharan Africa; therefore,

additional extensive research is necessary to understand the root reasons and determine effective treatments. This study investigated particular sociocultural factors through descriptive and inferential statistics, primarily emphasizing descriptive analysis in sociocultural situations different from Kenya. Furthermore, it is crucial to examine the influence of gender on adolescent pregnancies and the effectiveness of interventions like community-based and health education initiatives that have been inadequately explored in previous studies.

Kassa et al. (2018) examined teenage pregnancy in the East, West, Central, North, and Southern African sub-regions. This research employed a meta-analysis derived from an extensive review of pertinent published and unpublished papers from Africa. Kassa et al. discovered that the prevalence of teenage pregnancy was greatest among those aged 10 to 19 years. The findings indicated that the risk factors related with teenage pregnancy included poverty, low educational attainment, early menarche, minimal parental participation, and insufficient perceived social support. The findings indicated that initiatives have to prioritize diminishing alcohol consumption, enhancing parental oversight, and augmenting access to educational and health information to mitigate the incidence of teenage pregnancy in Africa.

Amaadu et al. (2022) performed a study to examine the factors linked to adolescent pregnancy. The study utilized a sample of 245 adolescents aged 15 to 19 years. The case-control design indicated that teenagers in rural regions who are out of school are at a higher risk of becoming pregnant. The findings indicated that poverty, peer pressure, inadequate education, dysfunctional families, poor communication between parents and adolescents, absence of sexual health education, child marriage, coerced sexual activity, misconceptions regarding contraceptives, and non-utilization of contraceptives are the primary factors contributing to teenage pregnancies.

A research in Nigeria by Alhassan (2015) on the impact of teenage pregnancy on attaining universal basic education revealed that inadequate sex education, ineffective parenting, poverty, curiosity, dysfunctional families, and the erosion of traditional customs contributed to teenage pregnancy. The research utilized a sample of 80 participants. A mixed-method approach was employed. The study's results indicate

that teenagers primarily rely on peer-based sex education, suggesting a neglect of parental responsibilities.

Ankabi et al. (2021) conducted a study in Nigeria examining the impact of socioeconomic factors on the prevalence of teenage pregnancy. A sample size of 8,448 females was utilized. The study's results revealed that 19% of young ladies aged 15 to 19 in Nigeria have encountered teenage pregnancy. The results indicated that socio-economic factors significantly influenced teenage pregnancy, with 33.2% of cases occurring in individuals aged 18 to 19 years. Rural contributed 27.2%, the Islamic region 25.2%, and North West 28.5%. Poverty accounted for 32%, lack of education for 43.7%, marital or cohabitation status for 73.9%, and employment for 21.5%.

In Gauteng, South Africa, the incidence of infants born to adolescent mothers has increased by 60% since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic (Save the infants, 2021). The Gauteng Department of Health indicates that 23,000 females under the age of 18 gave birth between April 2020 and March 2021, of which 934 were under 14,577 girls aged 19 and younger who gave birth in the same period the previous year. Teenage pregnancy in South Africa compels numerous girls to abandon their education, entraps many in a cycle of poverty reliant on governmental assistance, and subjects them to societal stigma as teenage moms or coerces them into early marriage.

Mathewos and Mekuria (2018) performed a study on students aged 15 to 19 in Arba Minch Town, southern Ethiopia. A cross-sectional investigation was conducted across multiple institutions. Five hundred seventy-eight students from four distinct schools in the city were chosen via a systematic sampling technique. A pre-validated, self-administered, structured questionnaire was utilized to gather data collected by trained personnel. Factors influencing teenage pregnancies were determined by multivariate logistic regression analysis. The researcher determined that the total prevalence of adolescent pregnancy was 11.3%. The study's results indicated that the primary factors correlated with teenage pregnancy included insufficient parental supervision, poor academic achievement, inadequate health information, early initiation of sexual activity, and alcohol consumption. The study's findings indicate that strategies to

reduce teenage pregnancies should prioritize decreasing alcohol consumption, enhancing parental supervision, and expanding access to education and health information for adolescents.

Ngoda et al. (2004) determined that teenage pregnancy in Tanzania rose from 23% in 2010 to 27% in 2016. Several factors found as influencing teenage pregnancy differed across various contexts. Poverty, unemployment, and inadequate educational attainment among both adolescents and their spouses were identified as the primary factors contributing to teenage pregnancy. Additional characteristics found included coercive sexual relationships, gender power dynamics, early marriages, substance misuse, the expense of contraceptives, and misconceptions regarding contraceptives, as well as the unwelcoming nature of reproductive services for adolescents.

Okot et al. (2023) examined the prevalence of teenage pregnancy and its associated factors in the Agogo district of Uganda. The research was a community-based survey utilizing a cross-sectional methodology. A multi-stage sampling method was employed to get a sample size of 289 adolescent females aged 13 to 17 years. Data was collected using a pre-tested semi-structured questionnaire. Multivariate logistic regression analysis revealed that 81.5% of individuals achieved primary education, 21.5% reported a history of sexual intercourse, and 32% experienced sexual abuse. The prevalence of teenage pregnancy is associated with alcohol usage.

Malesi et al. (2021) conducted a study in Kenya examining the impact of parental income sources and levels on teenage pregnancy in public elementary schools in Nandi County. The target population comprised 72 public primary schools, encompassing 14,855 boys and girls in grades 7 and 8. 7,963 boys and 6,892 girls. Data for the research was gathered through questionnaires and interviews. The results indicated that a majority of participants (59.1%) reported that teenage pregnancy affects their academic performance.

Miriti and Mutua (2019) conducted an exploratory study in Nzambani ward, Kitui County, utilizing semi-structured interviews as the research instrument. The research examined the influence of parenting on adolescent pregnancy. Findings indicate that

teenage pregnancy is aggravated by certain parents who neglect their children by placing them under the care of grandparents or relatives. It was also disclosed that numerous teenage girls experience a deficiency in parental supervision due to their mothers remarrying and thus abandoning them. The findings indicate that grandparents and relatives are insufficiently prepared to supervise adolescents, hence increasing the likelihood of engaging in sexual relationships at a relatively young age. The results align with the findings of Shiateya's (2016) study on factors influencing teenage fertility in coastal Kenya. The data suggested that parental absence directly influences adolescent sexuality and pregnancy. The presence of both parents serves as a protective barrier against the sexual exploitation of female children. The presence of a father signifies that daughters are safeguarded from predatory men, but the presence of a mother suggests that daughters are shielded from abusive fathers.

Early marriage is prevalent in the county, particularly among females from lower socio-economic strata (Icheria, 2015). This heightens the probability of adolescent pregnancy by diminishing the time available for a girl to finish her education. Boys are often perceived as more appealing than girls, resulting in heightened sexual activity among boys and intensified pressure on girls to participate in premarital sex. The gap in literature exhibits a notable deficiency of studies investigating the influence of gender norms and the accessibility of contraception within the county. The study aimed at investigating the specific socio-cultural factors influencing teenage pregnancy among secondary school students.

2.2 Parental Influence and Teenage Pregnancies

Parental neglect refers to the failure of a parent or caregiver to provide adequate care, support, and attention to a child. Neglect can take various forms, such as physical, emotional, medical, or educational. Indicators of parental influence include a parent's attitudes and beliefs about sex, education level, and involvement in their child's life, including monitoring their child's activities and providing guidance and support. Other indicators of parental influence may include the parent's economic status, cultural background, and communication style. The presence or absence of parental influence can significantly influence a teenager's decision-making and behaviour, including their risk of becoming pregnant. Understanding the factors that influence

parental influence and the signs of parental neglect is critical in developing effective interventions to prevent teenage pregnancies and promote the well-being of children and families.

According to the Queensland Government's Department of Child Safety, parental influence fails to provide a child with basic physical needs (such as food, clothing, or a safe place to sleep) and emotional needs (such as comfort and emotional support). The University of Queensland researchers examined the relationship between child neglect and teenage pregnancy. The researchers examined data from 8000 mothers and children, starting with pregnancy and continuing through early adulthood. The study's results revealed that parental neglect significantly predicted teenage pregnancy. Specifically, it was found that girls who reported experiencing neglect were at an increased risk of becoming pregnant (Strathearn et al., 2020). The study also found that girls who had experienced neglect in their childhood were more likely to become pregnant than those who had not. The findings of this study suggest that parental responsibility influences teenagers' engagement in early sexual relation because of neglect and guidance by parents.

A research study was conducted in the United States by Nava (2012) on the relationship of parental perceptions, attitudes towards sex education and risk of teenage pregnancy. A sample size of 276 Latino Teenage and their parents was drawn. Qualitative data from Focus groups were collected using interview schedules. The results indicated that teenagers the use of contractive as having been contributed by parental guidance through open communication and liberal attitudes on sexuality. These teens had lower incidences of pregnancies. On this basis, the present study was concerned on relationship between parents' perception and Teenage early engagement in sex involving both qualitative and quantitative data.

A study conducted by Madkour et al. (2013) examined the influence of family support and control on teenage girls' decisions concerning pregnancy resolution in the United States. This research emphasized the impact of parental circumstances on teenage girls' decisions regarding pregnancy termination or continuation. Analysis of data from a longitudinal Teenage health research indicated a substantial correlation

between parental dynamics and the choices taken by these girls. Individuals subjected to diminished parental control exhibited a reduced propensity to choose abortion, whereas those with elevated control or better educated parents shown an increased likelihood of giving birth. This research highlights the significant influence parents have on their daughters' reproductive decisions and indicates that parental assistance is essential for assisting teenagers in sexual decision-making.

In Nigeria, Mercy (2016) did a study investigating the influence of parental supervision on adolescent pregnancy among female secondary school students. The study utilized a descriptive survey methodology using a sample of 358 participants. Questionnaires served as the principal instrument for data collection. The results revealed that the majority of pupils had discomfort when addressing sensitive subjects with their parents. A substantial majority of adolescents (98.1%) indicated that their parents prohibited the use of contraceptive tablets or condoms. The study revealed that although sex education can be advantageous for adolescents, many lack the requisite understanding during their teenage years.

Sekiwunga and Whyte (2009) conducted a study in Uganda examining parental neglect and its effects on teenage pregnancy in eastern Uganda. This study employed a descriptive cross-sectional design with qualitative data collection techniques, utilizing a purposively selected sample of 22 participants for focus group talks. The results revealed that adolescent pregnancy was frequently ascribed to inadequate family support, with parents and guardians forcing their daughters into premature marriages rather than offering appropriate care. The study sought to investigate the fundamental variables contributing to parental neglect, which may result in early pregnancy.

Ayanaw et al. (2018) conducted a study in Ethiopia involving teenagers aged 15-19 in Wogedi, a northern province. This cross-sectional study had 514 individuals and employed a standardized questionnaire for data collection, succeeded by comprehensive analysis. The researchers projected that 13.8% of adolescent females will experience pregnancy. The research discovered numerous critical characteristics linked to teenage pregnancy, including insufficient parental supervision, subpar

academic achievement, early onset of sexual activity, and alcohol use. The results underscore the necessity for initiatives aimed at decreasing alcohol use, augmenting parental engagement, and expanding educational and health resources to mitigate adolescent pregnancy rates.

Kandagor et al. (2021) investigated child neglect and its counseling implications among primary school children in Marigat Sub County, Kenya. The study employed an ex-post facto research design to examine 384 people using questionnaires. The data analysis encompassed descriptive and inferential statistics, utilizing t-tests with a significance threshold established at 0.05. The study revealed that adolescents lacking sufficient supervision were at an increased risk of participating in sexual behaviors that could result in teenage pregnancy. It underscored the significance of parental impact in early pregnancy and indicated a want for additional research to comprehend how parental neglect may exacerbate this issue.

Furthermore, Auma (2015) investigated parental engagement in the prevention of adolescent pregnancy in Kenya. This descriptive cross-sectional survey focused on 30,422 households, with a sample size of 138 individuals. Data were gathered via semi-structured questionnaires and key informant interviews. Results indicated that 85% of parents endeavored to educate their daughters about sexuality, although 67% had discomfort in doing so. Moreover, 55% of parents were oblivious to their daughters' friendships, and 49% indicated a deficiency in intimacy with their daughters. Although 62% of adolescent females exhibit reluctance to engage in conversations regarding sexual topics with their parents, statistical study indicated no substantial correlation between parental intimacy and discussions about sexuality. The results indicated that parental involvement may affect the choices of adolescent females, underscoring the necessity for more extensive research incorporating viewpoints from both students and educators.

Kemunto et al. (2023) examined the correlation between parenting methods and adolescent sexual behavior in Kajiado County, Kenya. This concurrent mixed-methods study engaged 310 individuals and employed a four-factor questionnaire alongside interviews for data gathering. The findings revealed no substantial

association between various parenting styles and adolescent sexual practices; yet, other factors were identified as crucial. This study concentrated on parenting style as a component of social and cultural impacts, while the current study seeks to examine multiple facets of these influences on adolescent pregnancy.

2.3 Social-Economic Status and Teenage Pregnancies

The socioeconomic status of one's family influences access to essential necessities such as medical attention and education. Understanding the influence of socioeconomic status on teenage pregnancies is critical to developing effective early detection and reduction programs in settings with low incomes. Teenage pregnancies are common among low-income females, as their family's socioeconomic situation influences their participation in intergenerational and transactional sexual activities. American researchers discovered a link between Teenage pregnancy and socioeconomic level. Latinas have the highest teen pregnancy rates in the country (Fite et al., 2014). Women in the United States with lower socioeconomic position have the highest rates of teen pregnancy and unplanned pregnancies. The study additionally showed that girls from poor families are far more likely to become pregnant than girls from privileged backgrounds, that parental education does not lead to Teenage pregnancy, and that girls from poor families have the possibility of returning to school even after dropping out due to pregnancy.

Akella and Jordan (2015) evaluated the correlation between socioeconomic status and adolescent pregnancy in the United States. It was designed as a descriptive survey study. Interviews were conducted with twenty groups of African American adolescents. The researchers utilized a conversational tone for encouraging discussion and presented open-ended questions to participants. The interview transcripts undertook theme analysis. The study's findings indicated a correlation between teenage pregnancy and social status, educational attainment, and cultural norms among adolescents. The participants of the study acquired knowledge of social inadmissibility through observations of their parents, peers, and community. Teenage pregnancy grew prevalent as the habit was transmitted between centuries. Nonetheless, the study was carried out in the United States, where living conditions

and cultural norms diverge from those in Kenya. This study aimed to ascertain the impact of socioeconomic level on adolescent pregnancy rates in counties.

A research study by Aluga and Okolie (2021) in the United Kingdom on the social economic causes of teenage pregnancy and early motherhood included youths aged 10 to 19. The United Kingdom (UK) has the highest teenage birth rate of any Western European country, according to Auga and Okolie. Intervention efforts have been in place since 1999. Such solutions include sex education and health services, as well as the adequate traditional approaches to teen conception and birth control. The findings revealed that social economic distress led to differing educational and unemployed expectations among young individuals. It was also established that maternal diseases remain the top causes of death among Teenage girls aged 15 to 19.

Hamilton et al. (2014) performed a population-based assessment of maltreatment history among adolescent moms in California. This study employed correlation and descriptive survey techniques. A simple random selection method was utilized for selecting 300 individuals for the investigation. Data were collected using questionnaires, interview protocols, and document analysis frameworks. The research revealed that adolescent pregnancy exerts a considerable economic burden on society. Accidentally pregnant American teenagers tend to discontinue their high school education and live in low-income neighborhoods (Hamilton et al., 2014). Their children face health and developmental challenges, emotional and financial difficulties, and are subjected to various high-risk behaviors. While socioeconomic variables have a role in teenage pregnancy in California, the current study looked into how socioeconomic status effects Teenage pregnancy in Kenya, as these factors differ between developed countries like America and undeveloped countries like Kenya.

Similar to the study's findings, Vikat (2012) investigated financial inequality and adolescent pregnancies in Finland. A descriptive survey was utilized to gather both quantitative and qualitative data from the study's 217 participants. The researcher employed focus groups to get qualitative information from respondents, and questionnaires to collect quantitative information. The data were evaluated using descriptive statistics, namely percentages. The results indicated a substantial

correlation between teenage pregnancy and the occupation and educational attainment of the fathers or guardians. Girls from families engaged in unskilled manual labor are more predisposed to becoming adolescent mothers compared to those from professional backgrounds. The current study sought to close the gap by looking into the causes and implementing solutions to prevent Teenage pregnancies among secondary school students.

A research review of 166 Southern Asian articles by Poudel et al. (2022) conducted an assessment of which 15 met the eligibility criteria. The research results revealed a decrease in social economic engagement and an increase in sexual behavior among youths who use birth control. Teens who are highly motivated to do well in school are statistically less likely to get pregnant than their peers. When young people have strong familial ties and support, they are less likely to have sexual relations and have children. Mothers with less education are more likely to give birth before they are 20. Years.

In Iran, Omani- Samani et al. (2018) conducted research to evaluate socioeconomic factors impacting unwanted pregnancy in Tehran, Iran. The research was a cross-sectional analysis performed in a hospital environment. A target population of 5,152 infants from 103 hospitals was included. The household was assessed utilizing the asset-based methodology and main component analysis. The results indicated that unplanned pregnancies are disproportionately prevalent among Iranian women, with economic disadvantage contributing to 27% of the discrepancy.

Akanbi et al. (2021) investigated the socioeconomic difficulties impacting pregnant mothers in Nigeria The investigation employs a descriptive survey research design. The Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS, 2018) encompassed a sample of 8,448 female adolescents who were pregnant. The poll indicates that 19% of girls aged 15 to 19 experienced unintended pregnancies in Nigeria. The findings indicated that socioeconomic status significantly influenced rates of teen pregnancy. Akanbi et al. (2021) highlighted the importance of providing girls and women in Nigeria with a robust education that equips them with the necessary knowledge to make informed choices about their sexual and reproductive health. The investigation focused solely

on social and economic factors as the determinants of teen pregnancy. The current study broadened the scope by incorporating other characteristics not included in the model, such as parents' social economic status across several dimensions such as poverty levels.

Amadi (2019) conducted an investigation into teenage pregnancy and its impact on secondary school education in Nigeria. A total of 151 female students were included in the sample. The data collection involved the use of semi-structured questionnaires. The findings of the study indicated that there is a heightened likelihood of teen pregnancy associated with drug abuse and low socioeconomic status. Akanbi et al. (2021) and Amadi (2019) overlooked the anticipated influence of socioeconomic status on teenage pregnancies among secondary school students. This study aimed to explore the impact of socioeconomic status on teenage pregnancy.

Another study in Nigeria by Okoli et al. (2022) on social and economic differences in teen pregnancy was carried out. A cross-sectional research with individual recode data was conducted. A sample of 8423 women aged 15 to 19 years. The degree of differences in teen pregnancy was determined using a normalized concentration index. The findings suggest that teenagers with poor socioeconomic level are more likely to have an unwanted pregnancy Tennagers with diminished educational attainment are at a heightened risk of experiencing teenage pregnancy. than those from higher socioeconomic status homes. The findings show that inadequate support from parents, religious leaders, and other community stakeholders must be addressed, which is what the current study intended to establish.

Loto and Isuku (2020) discovered that economic class significantly impacted teen pregnancy rates among teenage girls in secondary schools in Metropolis. The investigation employed a descriptive study design, encompassing a sample size of 825 participants. The earlier research primarily examined parenting styles, whereas the present investigation is focused on the socio-cultural factors influencing teen pregnancy. This illustrates a comprehensive strategy aimed at motivating adolescents, especially younger individuals, to assist peers who engage in sexual activity.

In South Africa, Mkwananzi (2017) examined the correlation between poverty and adolescent pregnancy. The research encompassed females within the age range of 10 to 19, who took part in comprehensive household surveys carried out from 2011 to 2013. A total of 25,492 females were enlisted to engage in the study. The simulation of pregnancy was conducted through the application of multilevel logistic regression analysis. The data were presented in the form of means and percentages. The findings of the study indicated a distinct correlation between teen pregnancies and the socioeconomic status prevalent in both households and communities. The findings support the proposition that adolescent pregnancy is a phenomenon arising from low-income households and communities in South Africa. Nevertheless, the South African study fails to illustrate the ways in which socio-economic status may impact teenage pregnancy. This study aimed to assess the impact of socioeconomic status, both at the familial and community levels, on the incidence of teenage pregnancies among secondary school students.

A study conducted in South Africa discovered that poverty is both a cause and a result of early pregnancy. According to the findings, poverty can lead to intergenerational sex, transactional sex, or just sexual relationships, which are not ideal but do have some benefits. It also limits a girl's ability to negotiate condom use, keeps her in violent situations, and adds another layer of uneven power (Mkhwanazi, 2010). Poverty has been connected to greater rates of teen pregnancy, and the poorest women in the United States are the most likely to have an unplanned pregnancy (Finer & Henshaw 2006, cited in Kimemia 2015). The data reveal that socio economic position has a major impact on teen pregnancy.

In Kenya, Olenja et al. (2020) examined the factors that affect the rates of teenage pregnancy within the Maasai community in Kajiado West County. The study employed a qualitative research design. The distinctive data collection techniques employed in this study encompassed key informant interviews, focus groups, and individual in-depth interviews. Information was gathered via interviews and discussions with young individuals, alongside a select group of key informants such as parents, educators, community leaders, and policymakers. Furthermore, the study included boda-boda drivers and sand harvesters to examine the impact of girls'

socioeconomic conditions on their vulnerability to sexual harassment and abuse. The findings of the study indicated that several risk factors, such as low socioeconomic status, peer influence, cultural practices (including FGM), lengthy commutes to school, and reliance on boda-boda transportation, significantly increase the probability of a girl experiencing teenage pregnancy. Low socioeconomic status, familial connections, and transactional relationships are three interrelated elements that increase the susceptibility of young girls to teenage pregnancy. The study did not explore the influence of socioeconomic status on teenage pregnancy among secondary school students. This study addressed the contextual gap by examining how socioeconomic status influences teenage pregnancy among secondary school students.

A comparable investigation by Njoka (2016) carried out in Kilifi County, Kenya, examined teenage pregnancy. This investigation was carried out utilizing qualitative data. Information on teenage mothers was collected through multiple approaches, such as a literature review, expert interviews, focus group discussions, and individual case studies. Interviews were conducted with individuals from diverse faith backgrounds, as well as educators, community leaders, and public workers, as a component of the study. The investigation revealed that a lack of awareness regarding family planning, socioeconomic factors, and political impact on reported cases all play a role in the dissatisfaction surrounding teenage pregnancy. Traditional dances, supportive perspectives, and the dismantling of social barriers all contribute significantly to the overall dynamics. The report indicates that adolescent pregnancy adversely affects the health, social interactions, and financial security of young women. However, the study did not consider the broader perspective of how socioeconomic status influences teenage pregnancy among secondary school students, which this research aimed to explore.

2.4 Peer Group Influence and Teenage Pregnancies

Alhassan (2015) reported that over 29 percent of pregnant teenagers expressed feeling compelled to engage in forced sex in order to maintain their relationships and conform to their peers. Moreover, even when they lack awareness of the associated risks, females often allow their peers to sway their decision to participate in sexual activity. Some individuals strive to seem "cool" and knowledgeable, but in specific

circumstances, this can result in unexpected teen pregnancies, STDs, and feelings of rejection. Teenage pregnancies seem to stem from relationships and the home environment, which may lead teenagers to seek love and affection from their male peers. This early sexual activity will inevitably lead to teenage pregnancies. The study found that teenagers feel peer pressure to engage in sexual activity in order to sustain and enhance their relationships. This study seeks to explore the impact of peer pressure on secondary school students who yield to it and will provide strategies for mitigating its influence.

In the United States of America, Domenico and Jones (2014) examined the causes of teenage pregnancies and their effects. The researcher employed a qualitative research methodology. A questionnaire with ten questions regarding the factors contributing to teenage pregnancy was utilized to collect data. A total of one hundred fifty participants were selected for the study through a simple random sampling method. Data was collected using a questionnaire, an interview schedule, and a document analysis guide. The research indicated that peer pressure played a crucial role in adolescent pregnancies. The study also revealed that teenage girls in America who became pregnant would inadvertently drop out of high school. While peer group was recognized as a factor affecting teenage pregnancy in America, the study did not evaluate the impact of the peer group on teenage pregnancy, which the current study aims to explore.

In America, Ribas (2021) examined the immediate factors contributing to teenage pregnancy in Latin America. The study utilized a descriptive survey design. The sample for the study consisted of three hundred individuals from South America and the Caribbean who were specifically chosen for this research. Descriptive statistics were utilized to analyze the data, employing frequency distribution and percentages. The Chi-square analysis was employed to evaluate the hypotheses of the study. The examined hypotheses indicate a causal relationship between peer pressure and teen pregnancy. The study did not clearly indicate the extent to which peer group influence could be utilized to predict the likelihood of teenage pregnancies. This study aims to explore the impact of peer groups on teenage pregnancy.

Adebayo (2019) examined the factors influencing teenage pregnancy among female teenagers in the Akoko district of Ondo State, Nigeria. The design of the study employed was a descriptive survey. A purposeful sampling technique was employed to select three thousand six hundred pregnant teenagers who registered with the Akoko Districts Health Center for antenatal treatment. The researcher developed a contributing variable for the Teenage Pregnancy Questionnaire, which was subsequently used to collect data. Demographic data were analyzed using simple percentages, and the linear regression method was utilized to test the hypotheses at a significance level of 0.05. Results indicated that peer pressure, insufficient parental guidance, limited knowledge of sex education, and media/internet usage were all contributing factors to teenage pregnancy.

A comparable study carried out in Nigeria by Isuku (2015) focused on peer pressure and teenage pregnancy among secondary school girls in the metropolis. This study utilized a descriptive research design and implemented a multi-stage sampling procedure to determine the sample size. A total of 825 participants were included in the sample size. Qualitative data was gathered through the use of a questionnaire. The results indicated that the level of peer pressure among teenagers was low, despite the fact that peer pressure as a socialization agent could have complex consequences on teenagers' lifestyles, particularly regarding sexuality. The results highlight the significance of teenagers being able to assess and reflect on the suggestions and advice received from their peers, as well as the importance of surrounding themselves with positive influences for support.

In Ugu, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, Govender et al. (2019) conducted a study examining the knowledge, attitudes, and peer influences regarding pregnancy and sexual and reproductive health among teenagers utilizing maternal health services. The researchers conducted a survey to explore the participants' understanding of HIV/AIDS, contraception, and pregnancy, as well as their attitudes and perceptions regarding these subjects. The survey conducted in the study revealed that most participants were aware of HIV/AIDS and contraception, although the majority held misconceptions regarding pregnancy. The majority of participants indicated that their peers had a greater impact on their decisions regarding sexual health compared to

their parents or teachers (Govender et al., 2019). This was additionally illustrated by the influence of peer groups, which ranked among the primary reasons participants cited for engaging in unprotected sexual intercourse. The findings of the study indicate that peer influence plays a significant role in shaping teenage sexual behaviors, including the risk of teenage pregnancies. The researcher proposes that programs aimed at reducing teenage pregnancies should incorporate interventions that focus on peers, in addition to parents and teachers.

Further research is essential to gain a deeper understanding of the role of peers in teenage pregnancies across various contexts, as well as the effects of different types of interventions. This paper aimed to fill this knowledge gap by suggesting that teachers, parents, counselors, and all individuals who closely interact with teenagers should provide appropriate guidance to help them make the most of this developmental stage.

Qolesa's (2017) research sought to identify the factors contributing to the high rate of teenage pregnancies in Heidedal, located in the Mangaung District of South Africa's Free State Province. The research involved a sample size of 16 individuals and employed qualitative research methods. Twelve teenage mothers and four key informants were interviewed for this study due to their expertise in working with teenagers. Thematic analysis was employed to explore the data and pinpoint the most prominent themes, while concept interpretation was utilized to formulate explanations that addressed the study's aims and objectives. The study concluded that teenage pregnancies were influenced by hazardous sexual behavior, peer group dynamics, poor communication between parents and children, cultural beliefs, and factors within the health system, particularly the attitudes of nurses towards adolescents.

Dunor and Urassa (2017) conducted a study in Tanzania that explored the access of teenage girls to reproductive health services and investigated the factors contributing to teenage pregnancies. The study conducted in Tanzania included four secondary schools. A total of 156 pupils participated in the study. Data was gathered through key informant interviews, focus groups, and questionnaires. Quantitative data was examined using SPSS, while qualitative data was studied through content analysis. The study indicates that factors such as peer group influence, cultural aspects, and

insufficient knowledge regarding reproductive health issues all play a role in teen pregnancies.

In a different study, Nyakubega (2012) explored the factors associated with teenage pregnancy among secondary school students in Tanga Municipality, Tanzania. The research employed a cross-sectional descriptive-analytical design, utilizing a sample size of 200 secondary students from the Tanga municipality in Tanzania. Data was gathered using surveys translated into Swahili, and the analysis was conducted with the Epi Info application. The survey indicates that peer pressure and limited access to education for girls are the main factors contributing to teenage pregnancies. This study will thoroughly explore the factors contributing to teen pregnancy, as well as the disparities in luxury and education addressed within its scope.

Ochen et al. (2019) examined the factors contributing to teenage pregnancies among girls in the Lira District of Uganda. The study indicates that peer group influence has a positive correlation with teen pregnancies. For girls who recognized being influenced by their peers to engage in premarital sex, the likelihood of teenage pregnancy increased by 1.60 times. Ochen et al. (2019) found that girls with access to sexual health information experienced a lower pregnancy rate. Specifically, these girls had a 0.67 times reduced likelihood of becoming pregnant during their teenage years. Furthermore, there was a higher occurrence of teenage pregnancies among girls who had experienced sexual abuse. The researchers determined that peer group influence plays a significant role in teenage pregnancy in Uganda. They also suggested concentrating treatments on peer groups to reduce the occurrence of teenage pregnancies. The paper, however, fails to explore how various societal influences may impact the rate of teenage pregnancies. This paper aims to address the literature gap by exploring the impact of additional socio-cultural influences on teenage pregnancy rates among secondary school students.

A study conducted in Uganda by Kukundakwe (2021) examined peer influence and teenage pregnancy among adolescents in secondary schools. A cross-sectional research design was employed. Data for the research was gathered through questionnaires, focused group discussions, and interviews. A sample consisting of

105 teenagers, 15 teachers, and 12 parents was drawn from a total population of 200 respondents. The analysis of the data was conducted using descriptive and content analysis methods. The findings revealed that negative peer pressure interactions, the timing of sexual intercourse, and unhealthy friendships elevate the likelihood of teenage pregnancy, whereas positive peer interactions, delayed sexual intercourse, and healthy friendships contribute to a decrease in teen pregnancy.

In Kenya, Waraga and Ngari (2018) explored the social, economic, and cultural factors that contribute to teenage pregnancies in the country. The relationship between peer groups and teenage pregnancies was one of the factors examined in the study. The researcher employed an ex-post-facto survey study as the chosen approach. The research involved 222 participants, comprising students, principals, and teacher counselors. All participants filled out questionnaires, and head teachers along with teacher counsellors took part in oral interviews. The Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) software was utilized to analyze the data, which was subsequently presented in tables of frequencies and percentages. The research area identified peer group influence, social media use, and parental influence as social causes of pregnancy. The report recommended that the school administration provide training for peer counsellors. The current study seeks to explore the socio-cultural factors impacting teenage pregnancies among secondary school students.

A further investigation conducted by Nyangaresi et al. (2024) examined the factors contributing to teenage pregnancy in Kakamega Central Sub County, Kenya. A structured questionnaire and interview were utilized. The study population consisted of 17 secondary schools located in Kakamega Sub County. The study's results revealed that peer pressure emerged as one of the leading contributors to teen pregnancy, closely followed by sexual abuse and drug abuse. The findings indicate that addressing the lack of awareness among young people is essential to reduce instances of drug and substance abuse, which may lead to sexual abuses and ultimately result in teen pregnancy.

Kiarie (2015) conducted a study exploring the impact of peer pressure, social media, cultural influences, and economic factors on teenage pregnancy among secondary

school students in Imenti-North Sub-County, Kenya. The investigation utilized a descriptive survey research design. The sample included nine education officers, 90 teachers from 20 public secondary schools, and four form three students. Surveys were conducted among students and teachers, while education officers in the Sub County were interviewed using a standardized interview guide. Data were examined both qualitatively and statistically using SPSS version 21.0. The study indicates that peer group influence plays a role in teen pregnancies, with girls in the sample acknowledging this factor in their experiences with pregnancies. This study finds it fascinating to explore the impact of group pressure on teenage pregnancy among secondary school students.

A research study was carried out by Kimemia (2015) examining the factors influencing teenage pregnancy in public schools within the Imenti North sub-county of Meru County. The target population consisted of 5,496 teachers and 300 educational officers. A sample size of 359 respondents was utilized. The study design was descriptive survey research. The instruments used for data collection were questionnaires for students and teachers. The study findings indicated that teenagers experience pressure from their friends to engage in sexual activity. The majority of respondents indicated that peer group pressure leads many teenagers to engage in premarital sexual activities, which can result in pregnancy. The findings indicate that parental communication regarding peer group pressure could reduce the chances of teenage pregnancy in Imenti North Sub County.

2.5 Exposure to Social Media Use and Teenage Pregnancy

Social media encompasses platforms like WhatsApp, Twitter, and Facebook, which are created to communicate messages to extensive audiences (Kimemia & Mugambi, 2016). This involves techniques used to convey or gather information for multiple audiences at the same time. Across the globe, countless adolescents engage with one another via social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and WhatsApp. Social media serves various purposes, such as acquiring information, enhancing knowledge, fostering self-awareness, facilitating social interaction, and providing entertainment (Nelago, 2020). Nelago (2020) asserts that social media significantly impacts teenage views, intentions, and behaviors. Social media represents a significant yet sometimes

overlooked influence on the character development of Teenagers. Exposure to social media can, to some degree, inspire youngsters to be productive, innovative, and collaborative. This involves generating content disseminated among members on websites or blogs.

Nonetheless, social media usage has been attributed to several societal ills (Kimemia & Mugambi, 2016; Fahmida et al., 2016). In modern society, technology is becoming increasingly accessible to all, with minimal control over the information provided to them. The accessibility of various technologies undeniably influences individuals' perceptions and experiences. The utilization of cell phones has facilitated seamless communication via WhatsApp and Facebook among peers and their associates. Cell phones have facilitated internet access, enabling minors to navigate explicit content on social media sites with minimal control, potentially encouraging premature sexual interactions.

A study conducted by Nwagwu (2017) that determined Internet usage correlates with a reduced probability of teenage pregnancy. The findings revealed that most parents in various African communities periodically engage in discussions about reproductive health with their children; consequently, teenagers frequently rely on informal sources for information related to their sexuality. Nwagwu further demonstrated that traditional sexual education denies women from engaging in discussions, so allowing the male partner to dictate condom usage, frequency of sexual intercourse, and behaviors A range of online tools, such as websites, social media platforms, bulletin boards, and chartrooms, can provide health information and enable access to data for a potentially large teenage audience.

The Internet provides an interactive, anonymous, confidential, and easily accessible platform for acquiring sensitive information on sexuality by Teenagers. The Internet allows teens to investigate delicate subjects while safeguarding their privacy. In addition to serving as a repository of health information that facilitates sexual health promotion, contraceptive literacy, and personalized Teenage counseling using online chat, the internet can also be utilized for the procurement of contraceptives (Aicken et al., 2016; Bacchus et al., 2019).

The predominant use of mainstream mass media in health programs presents an opportunity to enhance and distribute content across various social media platforms, such as Facebook, along with a range of websites available to internet users. The prevalence of social media platform usage among teenagers is on the rise (Chetly-Mhlanga et al., 2020). Adolescents who had frequent access to newspapers or magazines exhibited a lower likelihood of experiencing teenage pregnancy compared to their peers who lacked such access. Newspapers and periodicals are generally produced in various languages, enabling a wide audience and acting as a conventional means of disseminating printed information (Paul & Singh, 2016). They can effectively improve teenage health education by sharing resources on a range of subjects. This exposure equips teenagers with improved access to sexual and reproductive health information, enabling them to make informed decisions and recognize the various services available, including family planning. The relationship between television viewing and radio listening with teenage pregnancy, as shown in multivariate analysis, weakened when socioeconomic characteristics were included in the multivariable analysis. This indicates that socioeconomic factors affect teenage pregnancy by shaping how respondents receive, utilize, and interpret messages from mass media.

This finding is consistent with other studies carried out under similar conditions. Lim et al. showed that traditional media, such as television and radio, were the least favored sources of sexual and reproductive health information among teenagers, while the internet emerged as the most preferred source. The observed insignificance in television viewing and radio listening can be attributed to several factors. Media messages often do not address the cultural and practical barriers to behavioral change. Additionally, there is a lack of engagement from teenage peers and relatable role models who can effectively influence teenagers. Furthermore, the involvement of local populations or communities is insufficient, which is crucial for ensuring that sexual and reproductive health messages are context-specific and epidemiologically relevant. Moreover, the SRH information disseminated by radio and television may enhance knowledge and sensitization but may not effectively inspire Teenagers to alter their behavior; thus, it is essential to concentrate on behavioral change within communities. Despite the proposed efficacy of media exposure in disseminating

sexual and reproductive health information, certain studies indicate a correlation between specific broadcast content and heightened engagement in risky sexual behaviors, underscoring the necessity for regulation of internet and mass media usage (Ahinkurah et al., 2021).

Abdissa (2016) investigated social mass and Teenage pregnancy in Canadian schools. A total of 374 educators and students were anticipated to participate. The data collecting involved the utilization of questionnaires. The research demonstrated that social media substantially influences Teenage pregnancy rates. The results indicated that for every additional teenager exposed to explicit social media content, there is a decrease of 0.3441 units in the teenage pregnancy rate, provided that all other factors are held constant. This study was carried out in Canada, indicating that the influence of social media exposure on teenagers could differ. This arises from the differences in cultural practices between Canadians and Kenyans. This investigation explored the influence of social media on teenage pregnancy rates among secondary school students.

In the United States, Souza (2020) examined the correlation between Teenage pregnancy and social media. The research employed a qualitative textual analysis design that facilitated data collection through meticulous examination, description, and interpretation of an extensive array of previously gathered material pertinent to the topic. The findings of the study revealed that the use of social media had a negative impact on teenage pregnancy rates among students in the USA. The study conducted in the USA included individuals of all genders.

A comparable study in the USA was executed by Akella (2022) regarding the effects of social networking sites on Teenage pregnancy. The study examined the motivations for the daily use of Facebook by Teenagers. The findings indicated that social networking platforms like Facebook encouraged and influenced Teenagers to partake in risky behaviors, including gambling, sexual activities during school hours, pornographic conduct, and teenage pregnancy.

In 2009, Razmjoo and Movahed investigated the connection between teenage pregnancy and social media usage in Iran. A total of one hundred twenty-four high school students took part in the descriptive survey conducted for this study. Data was collected from students using questionnaires. The analysis of the collected data involved the use of inferential and descriptive statistics. The findings revealed a notable relationship between students' engagement with social media and the occurrence of teenage pregnancies. Nonetheless, the study did not adequately highlight the impact of social media as a contributing factor to teenage pregnancies. This study examined the influence of social media on teenage pregnancy among secondary school students.

Ihejirika and Ngowari (2020) investigated the influence of social media exposure on the rates of pregnancy among secondary school students in Nigeria. A total of one hundred high school students from six different schools in the Bonny Local Government Area of Rivers State took part in the study, which employed a descriptive survey methodology. A structured questionnaire was utilized to gather data. To analyze the data, descriptive statistics including means, percentages, and standard deviations were employed. The findings demonstrated that the use of social media heightened the probability of teenage pregnancy. The analysis failed to consider the predictive potential of teenagers' involvement with social media.

Zyl-Schalekamp and Mthombeni (2017) conducted an examination in Zambia focusing on social media and pregnancy among first-year students at a South African university. A descriptive survey design was utilized in the study, involving a sample of 210 students. Information was collected through surveys sent to students using a complimentary E-learning platform called Edulink. The collected data underwent descriptive analysis using means, percentages, and standard deviations. Chi-square tests were employed to conduct hypothesis testing. The analysis of the data revealed that engagement with social media, as well as print media and sexual websites, had an impact on pregnancy rates among students. This investigation focused on first-year South African students, while subsequent studies will mainly target form three secondary school students.

In Zambia, Sserwanja et al. (2022) sought to investigate the relationship between the accessibility of mass media and the incidence of teenage pregnancy. The study revealed that 84.6% of the surveyed teenagers had access to mass media. The correlation between access to mass media and teenage pregnancy is significant, with those having access being 1.6 times more likely to experience pregnancy than those without it. The findings indicated that individuals who had access to mass media were more inclined to engage in sexual debut before the age of 15 and to partake in unprotected sex, in contrast to those lacking such access. Furthermore, those who had access to mass media demonstrated a reduced level of awareness regarding contraception and reproductive health in comparison to individuals lacking that access. The findings suggested that individuals with access to mass media were more likely to come across sexual messages, which could lead to early sexual initiation and unprotected intercourse (Sserwanja et al., 2022). The investigation revealed a significant relationship between teenage pregnancy and media exposure in Zambia. The findings of this study indicate that exposure to social media could be a contributing factor to teenage pregnancy, highlighting the importance of interventions targeted at young individuals who are exposed to such platforms. However, the study falls short in clarifying the impact of social media exposure on adolescent sexual behavior and its subsequent link to pregnancy. This study sought to fill the existing gap by investigating how social media exposure influences teen pregnancy.

A study by Akessa and Dhufera (2015) explored the factors influencing teenage pregnancy in Ethiopia. Akessa and Dhufera (2015) employed a cross-sectional research design involving a sample of 294 students, gathered through a simple random sampling technique. Questionnaires were disseminated to gather data on various factors affecting student academic advancement. The Chi-square test of association was utilized for the analysis of the data. Regression analysis was utilized to determine the impact of different factors on students' achievement. The findings revealed a notable relationship between social media usage and teenage pregnancies. The study, however, did not explore the influence of social media exposure on teenage pregnancies among female secondary school students. The study failed to clarify the causal relationship aspect that the present investigation sought to explore.

In Tanzania, Mtindi (2020) examined the influence of social media on teenage pregnancy among female secondary school students in Kwimba District. The investigation employed a cross-sectional survey approach, involving a sample of 267 participants selected through a simple random sampling technique. Data collection involved the use of structured surveys and interviews. The analysis of data involved the application of descriptive statistics, specifically focusing on percentages and frequencies. The results demonstrated that mobile phones, televisions, and adult publications influenced teenage pregnancies. The study, however, did not include information about other social media platforms like WhatsApp, Twitter, and Facebook, which the current investigation seeks to integrate concerning teenage pregnancy among secondary school students.

In Kenya, Kisobo, Malesi, and Awinja (2019) investigated the role of social media exposure in influencing teenage pregnancy among secondary school students in the Kwanza division of Trans Nzoia County. The study utilized a cross-sectional survey design. A simple random sampling technique was utilized to obtain a sample size comprising 12 schools and 275 participants, which included students, teachers, head teachers, and division education officers. The instruments utilized for gathering data comprised checklists, questionnaires, interview guides, and documentary analysis. The results suggest that vulnerability to social media could play a role in teenage pregnancy. This study investigated the influence of social media on teenage pregnancy. Furthermore, the investigation established a framework for managing exposure to social media influence among secondary school students in the county.

In Siaya County, Kenya, Judith (2020) did a study on the consequences of teenage pregnancy on scholarly achievement in high schools. The study employed a descriptive design. A sample size of 50 females was employed for the study. The collection of data for the study involved the use of questionnaires and oral interviews. The results demonstrated a significant correlation between the environment and media regarding early teen pregnancy among high school girls. The study's results indicate that intervention techniques must be implemented to mitigate the influence of mass media on teenage pregnancy.

2.6 Theoretical Framework

This study was guided by the Psychosocial Theory of Human Development and Vygotsky's Socio-Cultural Theory. The Psychosocial Theory of Human Development emphasizes the distinct stages of human development shaped by social and environmental influences. This theory posits that humans traverse eight stages of psychosocial development, each characterized by specific social and emotional problems. Diverse scholars embraced this hypothesis in their investigations. Pitso et al. (2014) investigated Erikson's theory of psychosocial development, specifically highlighting the identity vs identity uncertainty stage in their study on the psychosocial well-being of Teenage mothers. Questionnaires were employed to collect data from the 106 chosen participants. The binary regression model examined the determinants influencing pregnant Teenagers' readiness for parenting. The research findings indicated that 79% of Teenage mothers were unprepared for parenting, resulting in adverse psychological health outcomes. This study employed the theory to comprehend the developmental obstacles encountered by Teenagers in Tharaka Nithi County and how these challenges contribute to teenage pregnancy.

2.6.1 Psychosocial Theory of Human Development

The psychosocial theory of human development, established by Erikson in 1959 and significantly influenced by Sigmund Freud, was utilized in this context. The idea posits that there are eight unique periods of human psychological development from infancy to maturity that shape one's identity. Erickson (1963) asserted that the crisis encountered is psychological, as it involves the conflict between an individual's psychological needs and societal demands. Conversely, failure diminishes an individual's capacity to complete subsequent stages, resulting in has a negative view of themselves and their characteristics. During infancy, a person's psychological development mostly consists of the trust vs. mistrust stage.

At this stage, infants must cultivate trust in their surroundings and the individuals within them. In this research scenario, parental influence can affect pupils' levels of trust. It examined the influence of parental advice and assistance on students' trust levels and its correlation with teenage pregnancy.

The next phase is autonomy vs guilt and doubt, occurring in early childhood. It is a phase during which youngsters acquire knowledge and develop self-direction and independence. Poverty resulting from residing in an equitable or oppressed society can induce profound despair and desperation, perhaps leading to decisions that prioritize immediate pleasure (Omani-Samani et al., 2018). As a way out of unfavorable circumstances, a teen girl may consider having a kid. This outcome can be further solidified when societal attitudes support such expectations. The present study examined the impact of poverty on pupils' levels of autonomy. Poverty can engender feelings of humiliation, mistrust, and powerlessness. The impact of poverty on students' autonomy and its correlation with teenage pregnancy was analyzed.

The third stage, initiative against guilt, transpires throughout middle childhood when youngsters acquire the ability to take initiative and assume responsibility for their actions. Teenagers who have witnessed a peer's early pregnancy may acquire knowledge indirectly. They could modify their choices about early childbearing and diminish their sexual drive by concentrating on other facets of their lives, such as professions and education (Krugu, 2017). Peer effects can affect students' initiative levels and may induce feelings of shame when their decisions diverge from their friends' beliefs (Chirwa, 2019). Low aspirations may arise from reduced self-esteem, rendering a teenage girl vulnerable to peer pressure and sexual assault, which may result in neglecting contraception use. The research examined the effects of peer influences on students' initiative and guilt levels, and how this may relate to teenage pregnancy.

The fourth stage, industry versus inferiority, occurs during late childhood as children develop skills and achieve competence.

Teenage females may opt for early pregnancy influenced by their experiences and future expectations, and altering their perceptions can be achieved by environmental changes. Education aids teenagers in altering the age of their first sexual intercourse by enabling informed decision-making regarding the timing and rationale behind such choices. Social media can significantly impact pupils' thoughts and behaviors. This

study investigated the impact of social media usage on students' industry levels and its contribution to Teenage pregnancy.

Adolescents may encounter stage 5, defined by the conflict between ego identity and role confusion. The adolescent psyche is effectively suspended between the morality of childhood and the ethics of adulthood during this phase. This denotes a psychological phase (Erikson, 1963). It is a pivotal moment when a child begins to comprehend their developmental experiences. Achievement in this phase results in fidelity, signifying the capacity to commit to others and embrace interpersonal diversity. The inability to cultivate a sense of identity within society, characterized by occupational uncertainty and this may result in role confusion. This may lead to detrimental experimentation with diverse lifestyles and substances. At this stage, individuals develop an identity grounded on their values and ideas and are capable of assuming responsibility for their decisions.

The idea demonstrated that children with adverse psycho-social development are at an elevated risk of experiencing identity crisis or disorientation. This results in their victimization by psycho-social interactions, such as early pregnancy. Adults who are cognizant of this can ensure they address children's demands in the most suitable and psychologically beneficial way.

2.6.2 Vygotsky's Socio-Cultural Theory

Lev Vygotsky formulated this hypothesis in 1930. Vygotsky's socio-cultural theory posits that comprehending a child's development necessitates examining their interactions within Societal and cultural contexts. Participation in social activities is essential for development (Swain, Kinnear, & Steinman, 2015). It highlights the impact of adult values and behaviors on children's development (Wass & Golding, 2014). The Vygotsky theory asserts those children’s cognitive development progresses through social collaboration with others, especially those possessing higher expertise. The youth cultivates cognitive skills and engages in independent reasoning with the assistance of more experienced members of society. Initially inadequate tools become essential as youngsters develop and acquire a more profound understanding of the world.

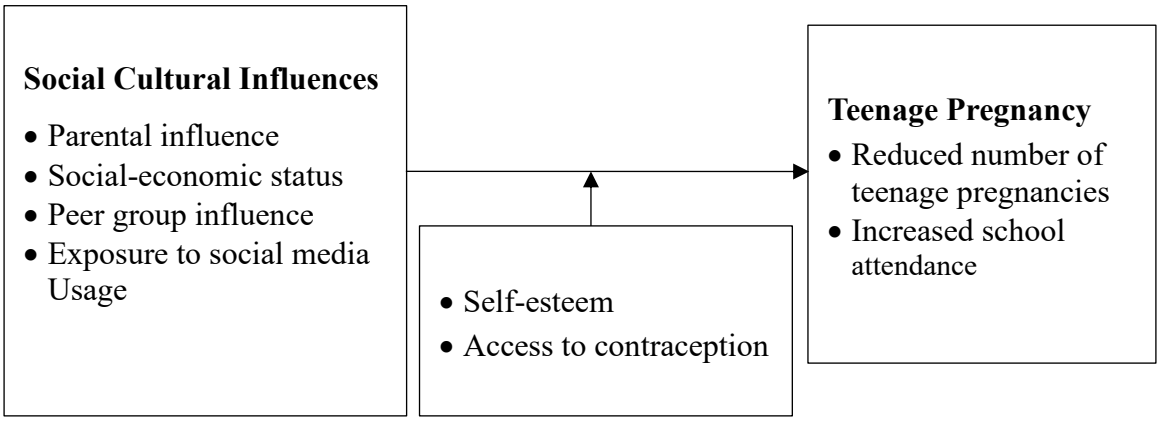
Vygotsky's socio-cultural theory posits that a child's classmates or adults can impact an individual's behavior. Consequently, friends significantly influence socialization. Vygotsky's theory underscores the importance of guidance from a more informed someone for the youth. This direction provided to a child empowers them to make significant life decisions, enhances their cognitive abilities, and fosters the adoption of appropriate social behaviors (Esbensen, 2019).

Vygotsky's socio-cultural theory offers a framework for analyzing the impact of socio-cultural factors, including parental influence, on teenage pregnancy among secondary school girls. Parents with greater knowledge are expected to provide better care and guidance to less informed teenage girls, thereby addressing the issue of teenage pregnancies. Vygotsky's theory provides a contextual framework for understanding how social and cultural influences, such as socioeconomic status and social media engagement, empower students to leverage their abilities in harmony with their community.

Vygotsky's theory posits that learning is culturally contingent, with individuals from other cultures exhibiting distinct learning modalities, hence underscoring the crucial role of culture in the present study. This concept posits that individuals get information and develop through their social interactions and cultural milieu, encompassing society values, beliefs, and norms. The theory posits that parents must contemplate the impact of culture on the learning environment and its influence on their teens' thoughts and behaviors in various scenarios. By examining the influence of social and cultural settings on teens' experiences, parents can gain a deeper understanding of the various factors contributing to teenage pregnancy and formulate effective preventive and intervention measures.

2.7 Conceptual Framework

Conceptual framework outlines the interplay between the independent, dependent, and intervening factors.



Independent Variable Intervening Variable Dependent Variable

Figure 1: Relationship between Social Cultural Influence and Teenage Pregnancy

The Figure 1 illustrates four sociocultural influences: social media exposure, peer group influence, parental influence, and socioeconomic position. The term "parental influence" describes the way in which a parent's views and values about sexuality may shape their children's sexual orientation and behavior. Because of their family's socioeconomic status, students from low-income backgrounds may have fewer educational and health care options available to them. What we call "peer group impacts" are the ways in which students' own actions and perspectives influence those of their classmates. Finally, students' exposure to social media affects their views and actions about sexuality, namely the amount of sex-related content they encounter on these platforms.

The mediating variables identified are self-esteem and the availability of contraception. They comply with the four independent factors. Self-esteem influences students' self-perceptions, which in turn affects their sexual decision-making. Access to contraception refers to the availability and utilization of contraceptives that reduce the risk of teenage pregnancy. To reduce the impact of confounding variables in the study, participants with similar levels of self-esteem and access to contraception were selected. The study employed a standardized instrument for self-esteem assessment to guarantee accurate measurement across all participants. The two intervening variables

resulted in the dependent variable: teenage pregnancy, characterized by a reduction in teenage pregnancy rates and an increase in school attendance. Comprehending the diverse socio-cultural factors that affect teenage pregnancy might facilitate the formulation of policies to reduce its prevalence in the region.

CHAPTER THREE
METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design

This study utilized a descriptive design. This approach allowed researchers to examine phenomena without variable manipulation (Kothari, 2011). A descriptive research design is suitable when the study's objective is to thoroughly illustrate events (Wiersma & Jurs, 2005). The researcher gathered and examined data within its natural context, without modifying the variables, making the descriptive design appropriate for the study. This study examined the extent to which the independent variable predicts the outcomes of the dependent variables.

3.2 Location of the Study

The study was conducted at selected public secondary schools in Tharaka Nithi County, Kenya. Tharaka Nithi County demonstrates significantly high teenage pregnancy rates, with approximately 14% of girls aged 15-19 having either given birth or being pregnant with their first child in 2017 (AFIDEP, 2017). The population exceeds 350,000, a significant portion of which comprises teenagers. The county contains 164 secondary schools distributed across, facilitating their selection. Most research on Teenage pregnancy has been conducted in metropolitan settings or utilized case studies. Tharaka Nithi has a significant cultural heritage, various economic challenges, and traditional practices, including the expectation of early marriage, making it a suitable location for research on teenage pregnancy, considering the impact of these socio-cultural factors on the issue.

3.3 Study Population

There exist 164 secondary schools accommodating a total of 52,800 pupils. Basic Educational Statistics Booklet, 2019. According to the national classification of secondary schools in Kenya, Tharaka Nithi County comprises 1 National, 23 Extra-County, 30 County, and 109 Sub-County schools. The study's target group consisted of 11,936 Form 3 students, including 6,700 girls and 5,236 males, from secondary schools in Tharaka-Nithi County.

3.4 Sampling Procedure and Sample Size

The study sample was obtained from the population of public and private secondary schools in Tharaka Nithi County. The target population consisted of 11,936 form three students from public secondary schools in Tharaka Nithi County. Stratified sampling was employed to identify counties exhibiting specific characteristics. The objective was to identify Counties with the greatest rates of teenage pregnancy. A particular county was deliberately chosen for inclusion in the study.

A cluster sampling method was employed to choose secondary schools for participation in the study. The sample size of 10% of 163 secondary schools translates to 17 schools in Tharaka-Nithi County, which according to Mugenda and Mugenda (2011) is considered an appropriate proportion for a descriptive study. Each school was assigned a special number. The numbers were put down in pieces of papers then inserted in a box and the researcher picked randomly. The sampling units were students rather than schools. Through simple random sampling a sample size of 414 respondents 34 teachers, and 380 students (300 girls and 80 boys) was used. The results of cluster sampling method are as seen in Table 1.

Table 1

Percentage of Schools in Each Category

Category of School	N	Percentage	Sample Size
National School	1	1.22	1
Extra County School	23	14.02	2
County School	30	18.30	3
Sub-County School	109	66.46	11
Total	163	100	17

Information presented in Table 1 indicates that 66.46% forms Sub county schools compared to 1.22% in the National category. National schools draw students from all regions of the country unlike the Sub-county that attracts majority of the students within the immediate local community of the school and their relatives host some other students from areas. Table 2 presents sampling frame of participants

Table 2

Sampling Frame

School Category	No.	No. of Students	No. of Girls	No. of Boys	No. of Teachers
National	1	40	40	-	2
Extra-County	2	60	40	20	4
County	3	100	80	20	6
Sub-County	11	180	135	40	22
Total	17	380	300	80	34

Information in Table 2 indicates 414 respondents were used. This comprised of 17 heads of guidance and counseling, 17 classroom teachers, and 380 students (300 girls and 80 boys).

Form three students were selected as participants because they had been in school for a longer period and had adequate knowledge of aspects of socio-cultural practices that can influence teenage pregnancies. Form Four class was not selected because it was an examination class and school authorities could not allow interference. In a school with more than one Form three stream, simple random sampling was used to select one stream to participate in the study.

3.5 Research Instruments

Data was collected using questionnaires and interview schedules.

3.5.1 Students Questionnaires

Qualitative data from teachers and students was collected by Questionnaire since a this was a large group of respondents' could be reached within a short period of time with least cost. The questionnaires were administered for a period of four weeks. The items in the questionnaire were recorded, screened and coded for data analysis. The questionnaires comprised of 30 open-ended items. Questionnaire had four sections. Section A comprised of three items that sought for demographic information of the respondents. Section B had seven items that focused on parental influence among secondary school students. Section C comprised six items on the role of socio-economic status in teenage pregnancy Section D comprised seven items investigating the influence of peer groups on teenage pregnancy among secondary school students, whereas Section E included seven items concerning social media influence on teenage

pregnancy among female secondary school students pregnancy in the same demographic.

3.5.2 Teachers Questionnaires

The teachers' questionnaire comprised of five sections. Section A had four items that sought for demographic data of the respondents regarding gender, age, and experience. Section B had seven items that focused on the parental influence on secondary school students. Section C had six items that focused on the social-economic status that influences secondary school students' pregnancy. Section D had seven items that focused on peer group influence on teenage pregnancy among secondary school students; while section E had seven items focus on exposure to social media influence on teenage pregnancy among secondary school students.

All the items were measured using a five-point Likert scale (5= Strongly Disagree, 4 = Disagree, 3=Neutral, 2= Agree, and 1= Strongly Agree). The participants were requested to honestly tick only once honestly based on their opinions the statement that describes their feeling or perception.

3.5.3 Interview Schedule

Interviews were conducted with heads of guidance and counseling who are believed to have adequate knowledge in the policies of education relation to teenage reproductive health. They revealed the factors influence their students to expectance at early ages. The interview schedule included items organized into four main categories: influences due to; parental, socio-economic status, peer group, and exposure to social media. All responses were scored as low, moderate to high.

3.6 Validity

Face validity was to show by facial look items in the questionnaires represents constructs seems relevant and appropriate for what they are assessing on the surface. This ensured that the questions asked accurately measured the participants' attitudes, beliefs, and behaviours regarding the topic. In addition, the content validity of the research instruments was established through the judgment of the University supervisors and head of guidance and counselling in secondary schools. The

comments and suggestions were incorporated to the final instrument before piloting. At the time of collecting data, respondents were encouraged to fill in the questionnaire to completion. This was assured by checking that all the sections of the instrument had been filled by giving respondents necessary support to have a complete filled questionnaire. The researcher minimized the incidences of non-return of questionnaire by allowing respondents to fill and collected questionnaire from the individual respondents.

3.7 Reliability

The Cronbach's Alpha coefficient of the pilot study was utilized to determine the reliability of the data collection instruments. The student questionnaire, consisting of 30 items, yielded a Cronbach's Alpha of 0.714, indicating an acceptable level of internal consistency. For the teachers' questionnaire, comprising 31 items, the Cronbach's Alpha was higher at 0.794, suggesting good reliability. The average Cronbach's Alpha for both questionnaires was calculated to be 0.754, falling within the generally accepted range indicating that both questionnaires were reasonably reliable in measuring the constructs that they were designed to assess. This level of reliability was crucial for ensuring that the questionnaires consistently reflect the respondents' attitudes and experiences.

3.8 Ethical Consideration

The researcher obtained approval from the Ethics and Research Committee of Tharaka University. An introductory letter was subsequently issued by the board of Post Graduate Studies at Tharaka University. Approval was required to secure a research permit from the National Commission for Science, Technology, and Innovation (NACOSTI). The researcher subsequently sought administrative introductions from the County Commissioner and the County Director of Education in Tharaka Nithi County, Kenya. This presented an opportunity for the researcher to engage with the principals and teachers of the participating schools to establish rapport. Prior to the administration of questionnaires and interview schedules, respondents were assured of confidentiality. Participants had the option to withdraw without incurring any penalties. All participants were guaranteed that their anonymity and involvement in the study would be kept confidential. Respondents were instructed

to refrain from including their names or the names of their schools on the questionnaires to maintain anonymity. The questionnaire did not require respondents to provide their names or any identifying information to maintain anonymity. Furthermore, the researcher assured the participants that their responses would be utilized solely for the study. The researcher scheduled survey administration at times that did not coincide with class periods to avoid disrupting school schedules. The researcher needed to guarantee the absence of psychological harm and avoid posing embarrassing questions to respondents. A letter outlining the study requirements and an appropriate consent form were distributed to all participants. The study maintained honesty, integrity, and objectivity in the reporting of collected data. All contributions from cited individuals were acknowledged in the references.

3.9 Data Collection Procedures

The researcher applied to the National Council for Science, Technology, and Innovation (NACOSTI) after receiving approval from the ethics committee at Tharaka University. With a valid study permit, the researcher sought for clearance from the County Director of Education and County Commissioner of Tharaka Nithi County. After approval, the researcher arranged convenient meeting times with the principals of the targeted schools. The researcher then visited the schools and reported to the administrators, who granted permission and logistics for issuing data collection instruments. Through the assistance of the assigned teacher, the researcher administered data collection instruments to the sampled respondents. Since most of the schools were on during the visit, the sampled teachers chose a suitable time to complete the questionnaires within two days. The entire questionnaire was referenced and items in the questionnaire were coded to facilitate data entry. The students filled out and returned questionnaires to the researcher. This guaranteed that all of the filled questionnaires were returned. The interview schedule was developed based on the research questions and objectives of the study. According to their schedule, the researcher visited the schools and set a date for the interviews with the heads of guidance and counselling. Once the date was set, trained research assistants carried out the interviews. The interview was carried out in a private and comfortable setting to ensure non- interruptions. The items in the interviews were the n organized

accordingly according to the themes as per the objectives and analysed together with items in the questionnaires.

3.10 Data Analysis

The research produced qualitative and quantitative data. The closed-ended items in the questionnaires produced quantitative data. Interviews conducted with the heads of guidance and counseling produced qualitative data. Following the collection of instruments from respondents, the data underwent a cleaning process to identify anomalies, outliers, and incomplete questionnaires. The cleaned data was coded by assigning numerical values to each response in the question. The coded data was subsequently input into a computer for analysis utilizing Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) for Windows version 26.0, incorporating the relevant codes and variable specifications. The qualitative data obtained from the interview schedules was analyzed using a systematic and categorized thematic approach. Quantitative data were analyzed using descriptive statistics, specifically measures of central tendency such as mean, percentages, and standard deviation. Chi-square test was employed to analyze inferential statistics and assess the association between demographic variables and teenage pregnancies. The dependent variable was teenage pregnancy, defined for girls aged 13 to 19 years. The analysis included independent variables such as parental influence, socioeconomic status, peer group, and exposure to social media. Univariate analysis was employed to evaluate the relationship between sociocultural variables and Teenage pregnancies. A summary of the data analysis plan is presented in Table 3

Table 3

Data Analysis Matrix

Hypotheses	Independent Variable	Dependent Variables	Statistical Methods
$H0_1$: There is no statistically significant parental influence on teenage pregnancy among secondary school students in Tharaka Nithi County, Kenya	Parental influence	Teenage pregnancies	Chi-square
$H0_2$: There is no statistically significant social-economic status influence on teenage pregnancy among secondary students in Tharaka Nithi County, Kenya	Social-economic status	Teenage pregnancies	Chi-square
$H0_3$: There is no statistically significant influence of peer group on teenage pregnancy among secondary school students	Peer group	Teenage pregnancies	Chi- square
$H0_4$: There is no statistically significant influence of exposure to social media on teenage pregnancy among secondary school students	Social media exposure	Teenage pregnancies	Chi square

CHAPTER FOUR

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Respondents Background Information

This section presents analyzed background information of the respondents of the sampled schools. Information on the distribution of students and teachers' findings are presented in Table 4.

Table 4

Respondents Response Rate

Group	Number targeted	Number that responded	Percent
Students	380	372	97.89
Teachers	34	28	93.33
Total	414	400	97.56

The results in Table 4 indicate that out of 380-targeted students, 372 responded, resulting in a high response rate of 97.89%. For teachers, 28 out of 34 responded, achieving a response rate of 93.33%. Overall, the research targeted 414 individuals (both students and teachers) and received 400 responses, leading to an overall response rate of 97.56%. The high response rates across both groups suggest that the research findings are likely to be representative and reliable. After establishing the response rate a test of normality was performed and the results are presented in Table 5.

Table 5

Tests of Normality

	Kolmogorov-Smirnov[a]		
	Statistic	df	Sig.
Teenage Pregnancies	0.192	409	0.000
Parental Influence	0.213	409	0.000
Social-Economic Status	0.204	409	0.000
Peer Group Influence	0.159	409	0.000
Social Media Exposure	0.251	409	0.000

a. Lilliefors Significance Correction

In a study, examining various factors related to teenage pregnancies, the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test for normality revealed significant deviations from the normal distribution for all variables. The variables included Teenage Pregnancies (df (409) =

0.192, p < .001), Parental Influence (df (409) = 0.213, p < .001), Social-Economic Status (df (409) = 0.204, p < .001), Peer Group Influence (df (409) = 0.159, p < .001), and Social Media Exposure (df (409) = 0.251, p < .001). These results suggest that the distributions of responses across all these variables significantly diverged from a normal distribution hence the need to use non-parametric methods of analysis such as chi-square. Information of respondents shown in Table 6 provides descriptive statistics on gender distribution among students and teachers.

Table 6

Gender Distribution

	Students		Teachers	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Male	83	22.31	21	61.76
Female	289	77.69	13	38.24
Total	372	100.0	34	100.0

The results in Table 6 reveal that of 372 students, 289 (77.69%) were female and 83 (22.3%) were male. In contrast, among 34 teachers, 21 (63.6%) were male and 13 (38.24%) were female. This data indicated a significant gender imbalance, with a predominance of female students and male teachers. Table 7 presents age distribution of the respondents.

Table 7

Age Distribution

	Students			Teachers	
	Frequency	Percent		Frequency	Percent
14 years and below	0	0	20-29 years	17	51.5
15 – 17 years	304	81.72	30-39 years	10	30.3
18 years and above	68	18.3	40-49 years	4	12.1
			>49 years	2	6.1
Total	372	100.0	Total	33	100.0

Information in Table 7 shows the age distribution of students and teachers. For students, the majority (81.72 %) fell within the 15-17 age groups, followed by those 18 years and above (18.3%), and the smallest group was 14 years and below (0 %). In contrast, the teachers' age distribution was more varied: 51.5% (17 teachers) were in the 20-29 age group, 30.3% (10 teachers) fell within the 30-39 range, 12.1% (4

teachers) were in the 40-49 age bracket, and 6.1% (2 teachers) were 50 years and above. This data indicates a younger student population concentrated in mid-teenage years, and a more diverse age range among teachers, with a notable skew towards younger ages. Table 8 presents distribution of students across four sub-counties within Tharaka Nithi County.

Table 8

Distribution of Students

Sub County	Frequency	Percent
Meru South	68	18.3
Maara	126	33.9
Tharaka North	98	26.3
Chuka/Igambang'ombe	80	21.5
Total	372	100.0

Information in Table 8 indicates that Meru South accounted for 68 students (18.3%), Maara had the highest representation with 126 students (33.9%), Tharaka North comprised 98 students (26.3%), and Chuka/Igambang'ombe included 80 students (21.5%). The total count for all sub-counties is 372, representing 100% of the students surveyed. This data indicates that Maara is the most populated among the four sub-counties, while Meru South has the lowest population in this distribution. This information is further presented in Figure 2.

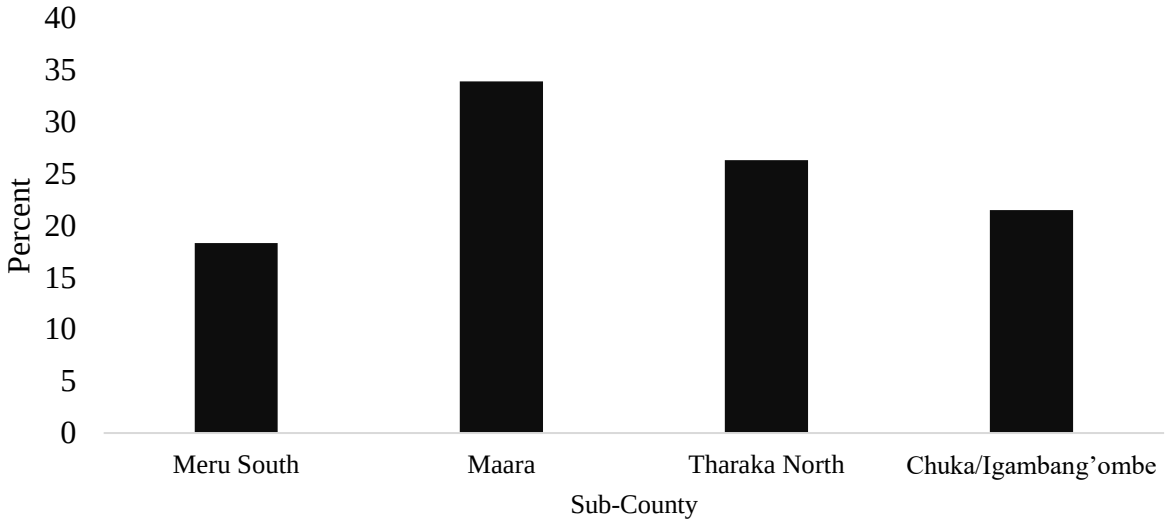


Figure 2: Distribution of Students in Four Sub- counties of Tharaka Nithi County

Information in Figure 2 indicates that that Maara had the highest population of students by Tharaka North, closely followed by Chuka /Igambang'ombe and lastly by Meru South. It was also necessary to establish the level of education among teachers that participated in the study. The findings are presented in Table 9.

Table 9

Teachers Level of Education

	Frequency	Percent
Certificate	2	5.89
Diploma	3	8.82
Degree	21	61.76
Masters and Above	8	23.53
Total	34	100.0

Information in Table 9 shows the educational qualifications of teachers, categorized into four levels. Information reveals that two teachers (5.89%) holds a Certificate in education, three teachers (8.82 %) have a Diploma, the majority, twenty-one teachers (61.76 %), possess a Degree, and eight teachers (23.53%) have attained Masters and Above. The total number of teachers is 33, making up 100%. This data indicates that most teachers have a Degree, and a significant proportion have advanced education (Masters and above), highlighting a high level of educational attainment among the teachers is likely to offer mitigation measures on teenage pregnancy. Information on teaching experience was sought and the results are presented in Table 10.

Table 10

Teaching Experience

Number of Years	Frequency	Percent
Less than 5 years	11	33.3
6 – 10 years	11	33.3
Over 10 years	11	33.3
Total	33	100.0

Information in Table 10 indicates the distribution of teaching experience among a group of 33 teachers. Each experience category; less than 5 years, 6–10 years, and over 10 years, contained 11 teachers, each constituting 33.3% of the total. This equal distribution indicated a balanced mix of relatively new, moderately experienced, and highly experienced teachers, with each experience level being equally represented.

Students questionnaire items sought to establish opinions on factors that they believe contribute to teenage pregnancies. The findings are presented in Table 11

Table 11

Students' Descriptive on Teenage Pregnancies

Descriptive Statistics	SD N (%)	D N (%)	N N (%)	A N (%)	SA N (%)	Mean	SD
Girls whose parents do not monitor are more likely to get pregnant.	66 (17.7)	45 (12.1)	48 (12.9)	97 (26.1)	116 (31.2)	3.41	1.476
Girls whose parents do not closely supervise them on holidays are at a heightened risk of becoming pregnant.	34 (9.1)	74 (19.9)	60 (16.1)	120 (32.3)	84 (22.6)	3.39	1.281
The occupations of parents substantially impact the likelihood of their daughters becoming teenage mothers.	102 (27.4)	93 (25.0)	60 (16.1)	78 (21.0)	39 (10.5)	2.62	1.355
Females participate in sexual activities to align with their peers' trends.	64 (17.2)	62 (16.7)	68 (18.3)	105 (28.2)	73 (19.6)	3.16	1.379
My companions compelled me to partake in sexual intercourse for the first time.	122 (32.8)	76 (20.4)	66 (17.7)	60 (16.1)	48 (12.9)	2.56	1.416
The information I obtain from my preferred social media source incites a desire for sexual activity.	109 (29.3)	83 (22.3)	53 (14.2)	64 (17.2)	63 (16.9)	2.70	1.470

Information in Table 11 shows that statements on girls whose parents do not monitor are more likely to get pregnant, a significant portion of the students showed agreement, with 57.3%. However, 28.8% disagreed. The mean of 3.41 and a standard deviation of 1.476 suggested a strong agreement on the statement. In the case of Girls whose parents do not closely supervise them on holidays are at a heightened risk of

becoming pregnant, the agreement was even more pronounced, with 54.9% agreeing however, 29.0% disagreed. The mean of 3.39 and standard deviation of 1.281 indicated a slightly more consistent agreement among the students.

The statement regarding the influence of parents' occupation had a more divided response. A significant 52.4% disagreed, while only 31.5% agreed. The mean of 2.62 and a standard deviation of 1.355 showed a broader spread in opinions. Concerning the statement; Girls participate in sexual activities to align with their peers' trends, 47.8% agreed, but 33.9% disagreed. The mean of 3.16 and a standard deviation of 1.379 indicated strong agreements among the students.

For the statement, my companions compelled me to partake in sexual intercourse for the first time. The highest level of strong disagreement was observed at 53.2%. However, 29.0% agreed. The mean was 2.56 with a standard deviation of 1.416, suggesting a general agreement. Lastly, the statement about social media influencing sexual desire saw 51.6% disagree while 34.1% agreed. The mean of 2.70 and a standard deviation of 1.470 indicated the students generally disagreed about this influence. In the survey regarding teachers' opinions on factors influencing teenage pregnancies, each statement was analysed with responses from 33 teachers and were accompanied by mean scores and standard deviations. The results are shown in Table 12.

Table 12

Teachers' Descriptive on Teenage Pregnancies

Descriptive Statistics	N	SD N (%)	D N (%)	N N (%)	A N (%)	SA N (%)	Mean	SD
Girls who their parents do not monitor are more likely to get pregnant.	33	..	..	7 (21.2)	10 (30.3)	16 (48.5)	4.27	0.801
Girls whose parents do not closely monitor during holidays are more likely to get pregnant	33	4 (12.1)	2 (6.1)	6 (18.2)	11 (33.3)	10 (30.3)	3.64	1.319
The kinds of jobs parents do significantly influence the chances of their girls Becoming teenage mothers.	33	7 (21.2)	8 (24.2)	4 (12.1)	9 (27.3)	5 (15.2)	2.91	1.422
Girls engage in sex to be fashionable with their friends.	33	2 (6.1)	6 (18.2)	4 (12.1)	10 (30.3)	11 (33.3)	3.67	1.291
Friends of girls make them engage in sexual intercourse for the first time	33	4 (12.1)	4 (12.1)	5 (15.2)	14 (42.4)	6 (18.2)	3.42	1.276
Information students get from favorite source make them desire to have sex	33	1 (3.0)	4 (12.1)	6 (18.2)	12 (36.4)	10 (30.3)	3.79	1.111

From the results presented in Table 12; girls whose parents do not monitor are more likely to get pregnant, a majority of the teachers (78.8%) strongly agreed, with 21.2% disagreeing. The mean was high at 4.27 with a relatively low standard deviation of 0.801, indicating very strong agreement among teachers. In the case of girls whose parents do not closely monitor during holidays are more likely to get pregnant, 30.3% agreed while 27.2% disagreement The mean was 3.64, and the standard deviation was 1.319, showing a strong agreement.

Regarding the influence of parents' jobs, 42.5% agreed that it significantly influences the chances of girls becoming teenage mothers. However, 45.4 % disagreed. The mean of 2.91 and a standard deviation of 1.422 suggested agreement among teachers. Concerning the belief that girls engage in sex to be fashionable with their friends, 39.4% each agreed and 18.2% disagreed. With a mean of 3.67 and a standard deviation of 1.291, there was a strong agreement among the teachers. For the statement, friends of girls make them engage in sexual intercourse for the first time, 60.6 % agreed contrasted by 12.1% each in disagreement. The mean score was 3.42, and the standard deviation was 1.276, showing agreement. Lastly, regarding the influence of information from favourite sources on students' sexual desires, 66.7% agreed with only 3.0% strongly disagreeing. The mean of 3.79 and a standard deviation of 1.111 indicated a relatively high level of agreement among teachers.

This study used a systematic review and meta-analysis of published and unpublished studies in Africa. Rates of Teenage pregnancy are increasing in developing countries, with higher occurrences of adverse maternal and perinatal outcomes. The few studies conducted on Teenage pregnancy in Africa present inconsistent and inconclusive findings on the distribution of the problems. This review included 52 studies, 254,350 study participants. A total of 24 countries from East, West, Central, North and Southern African sub-regions were included. The overall pooled prevalence of Teenage pregnancy in Africa was 18.8% (95%CI: 16.7, 20.9) and 19.3% (95% CI, 16.9, 21.6) in the Sub-Saharan African region. The prevalence was highest in East Africa (21.5%) and lowest in Northern Africa (9.2%). Factors associated with Teenage pregnancy include rural residence (OR: 2.04), ever married (OR: 20.67), not attending school (OR: 2.49), no maternal education (OR: 1.88), no father’s education

(OR: 1.65), and lack of parent to Teenage communication on sexual and reproductive health.

Results of the study are consistent with the results by Sarah et al (2015) on the effect of child abuse and neglect on teen's pregnancy risk. The study involved a total of 328 Teenage females aged 18years and below. The researchers compared teen's pregnancies between children living in poverty with no child protective services. Results for teens with history of poverty only 16.8 % had been pregnant at least once by age of 17 years. Multivariate analysis showed that factors of the family, maltreatment and youth services remained significant. Further studies by Ziblim (2017) on predictors of teen pregnancies in west Mamprosi revealed that peer influence, lack of parental control, sex education and social media are the main contributors of teen pregnancy. The study involved Teenage ages 12 – 19 years. A sample size of 196 participants was used. A mixed method research design was employed. The result of the studies shows consistent and inconsistent findings. Results of the study show that teen pregnancy is problematic issue. The rising number of teen pregnancy has been identified to be possibly due to a number of factors. Low economic status and lack of sexual education (Rowan, 2024), poverty, lack of gainful employment, inadequate sexual reproductive education (Kithuka, 2024), discourse about masculinity (Shikukutu & Ramarathan, 2024). The result suggests need of a comprehensive description that will inform decision-making.

4.2 Parental Influence on Teenage Pregnancy

The majority of parents oppose imparting information on sexual matters to their children. A significant percentage of individuals opposing this practice argue that exposing their children to this material is perilous, particularly at a young age (Mugambi, 2016). The survey on students' opinions regarding parental influence on teenage pregnancies provided varied insights, with responses from 372 students. Ideally, parents are supposed to help prevent teenage pregnancies because they are perceived to be the primary caregivers Okello et al. (2023). Incidences of teenage pregnancies are still high. The role of the parent in curbing teenage pregnancy within a social- cultural context that encourage early marriage. The responds were presented in Table 13

Table 13

Responses of Students' on Parental Influence on Teenage Pregnancies

Descriptive Statistics Statement: In my Opinion	N	SD N (%)	D N (%)	N N (%)	A N (%)	SA N (%)	Mean	SD
Girls whose parents have no problem with whichever friends they choose are more likely to get pregnant	37	34 (9.1)	65 (17.5)	75 (20.2)	128 (34.4)	70 (18.8)	3.36	1.229
Girls whose parents are generally helpful and supportive are less likely to get pregnant	37	45 (12.1)	55 (14.8)	51 (13.7)	104 (28.0)	117 (31.5)	3.52	1.380
Girls who lack parental expression of love get love from whatever sources which can lead them to get pregnant	37	40 (10.8)	50 (13.4)	44 (11.8)	100 (26.9)	138 (37.1)	3.66	1.373
Girls whose parents fail to take them to school get pregnant at a young age	37	59 (15.9)	39 (10.5)	57 (15.3)	95 (25.5)	122 (32.8)	3.49	1.440
Girls who are left under the care of people who are not their parents often get pregnant	37	101 (27.2)	122 (32.8)	80 (21.5)	44 (11.8)	25 (6.7)	2.38	1.193

Table 13 presents the results reflecting students' opinions regarding girls whose parents are indifferent to their choice of friends, with 53% suggesting a prevailing belief that parental oversight in children's friendships is significant for preventing teenage pregnancy. Nevertheless, 46.8% expressed disagreement. The mean was 3.36, with a standard deviation of 1.229, indicating significant agreement among the pupils. The study's results indicate that many parents are reluctant to discuss sexuality with their children, either due to concerns that the children may interpret this as mistrust of their sexual behavior or because they doubt their concerns will be taken seriously.

A substantial proportion of students, 59.5%, concurred that girls with usually supportive and helpful parents are less likely to experience pregnancy, indicating a strong belief that supportive parenting may mitigate the incidence of teenage pregnancies. In this context, 26.9% expressed significant disagreement, whereas the mean was 3.52 with a standard deviation of 1.380, suggesting substantial agreement. The minimal standard deviation suggests near-unanimity in the responses to the majority of the items. The results indicate that the absence of either parent may compel young females to seek a better life, often in pursuit of love, particularly from male companionship, hence increasing the likelihood of early sexual exposure.

The results indicate a significant prevalence of instances among teenagers engaging in sexual activities due to disparities in access to vital resources, leading them to make unsafe decisions to obtain these necessities from male partners, such as boda boda riders. The findings also demonstrated that Teenagers who perceive a sense of connection and support from their family are less prone to engage in sexual activity and experience pregnancy.

Oral interviews with heads of guidance and counseling departments indicated that the majority of teenage females who experience a sense of connection are less likely to become pregnant and tend to perform better academically. The findings indicate that Teenage goals may stem from elevated self-esteem, enabling females to withstand temptations such as peer pressure and sexual exploitation. Educated Teenagers were observed to utilize contraceptives at a significantly elevated rate. Effective techniques must be implemented to facilitate teenage girls' abstention from sexual intercourse and the utilization of birth control methods.

The results align with the research conducted by Sekiwunga and Whyte (2009) regarding parental neglect in Teenage pregnancy in eastern Uganda, which indicated that teenage pregnancy was attributed to parental influence. The study's findings indicated that parents who fail to support their daughters may compel them to marry at a young age, hence increasing their risk of early pregnancy. The study's results indicate that parents bear the primary responsibility for monitoring and supporting

their daughters to prevent them from seeking financial assistance or perks from male partners in exchange for sex.

A comparable study conducted by Mwangi (2019) in Meru County, Kenya, determined that parental discussion around sexual matters reduces the likelihood of Teenage pregnancy. The research utilized a descriptive design. The participants comprised 155 nursing students from KMTC in Meru County. The study's results indicated a strong correlation between parental communication and Teenage pregnancy. The results indicate that a lack of intimacy between parent and kid is likely to increase the likelihood of teen pregnancy. The current study aimed to determine the degree to which parental perspectives affect Teenage pregnancy.

The study's results align with the findings of Kandagor et al. (2021) about child neglect and its counseling implications for primary school pupils in Marigat Sub County, Kenya. The study revealed that unmonitored kids are at a heightened risk of being victims of sexual abuse, ultimately leading to unintended pregnancies. The study's findings indicate that parental neglect contributes to early pregnancy in Tharaka Nithi County, Kenya. The findings suggest that parental neglect is a significant role, as it has been demonstrated that neglect can result in teenage pregnancy.

The study's findings contradict the conclusions of a recent investigation by Manyibe (2021) regarding the influence of parenting style on Teenage sexual behavior. The research utilized a sample of 310 participants with a concurrent mixed-methods methodology. The data indicated no association between parenting style and Teenage sexual behavior; nonetheless, other factors are influential. The results indicate the necessity to evaluate the impact of additional parameters investigated in the current study.

Research conducted by Harvey et al. (2022) in Indonesia indicated that Teenage pregnancy tends to increase within the framework of unions (marriage or cohabitation). The data indicated that four women conceived outside of marriage, and 92% of them were married at the time of childbirth. The study's findings suggest that

parental influence may lead to earlier marriages among teenagers, which this research aimed to investigate.

Concerning the assertion that females deprived of parental affection seek love from alternative sources, which may culminate in pregnancies, 54.0% concurred, indicating a notion that the loss of parental love could drive them to pursue affection elsewhere, potentially leading to unintended pregnancies. The average was 3.66 with a standard deviation of 1.373, signifying robust consensus. Parents are expected to assist in managing teenage pregnancies, as they are considered the primary caregivers. The findings align with those of Akune et al. (2023), who determined that the prevalence of teenage pregnancies remains elevated due to parental influence within the socio-cultural framework, which fosters early marriage.

Likewise, the results of this study concur with Moisan et al. (2016) that parental responsibility is essential for sustaining a healthy family unit and instilling ethical values in their children. Moreover, their study indicates that disconnection and detrimental feelings arise when parents are indifferent, leading to a breakdown in communication between children and parents. The study's results align with the findings of Miriti and Mutua (2019). Miriti and Mutua's study demonstrated that parents significantly influence Teenagers' sexuality. Research indicates that the presence of both parents serves as a protective barrier against the sexual exploitation of female children, which may lead to Teenage pregnancy. The findings indicate that parental inability to guide their children may lead to less competent offspring who struggle with decision-making and lack the willpower to assume responsibility for their actions.

Among girls whose parents neglect to transport them to school, 58.3% strongly concurred that this leads to early pregnancies, whereas 26.4% disagreed, and 10.5% expressed neutrality. The mean of 3.49 and a standard deviation of 1.440 indicated robust consensus alongside a varied spectrum of perspectives. Yassin (2020) asserts that Teenagers' cognitive processes and reactions to environmental stimuli are influenced by their parents. Yassin's findings indicate that when parents neglect to send their teenagers to school, the Teenagers struggle to resist sexual advances from

male peers due to their inability to make sound decisions. Parental status can lead to the failure to take children to school. The study's findings align with those of Zakaria et al. (2022) in Malaysia regarding parental marital status and peer impact. The findings indicate that parental failure to discuss sexuality collectively with their children may promote early sexual activity among them.

The claim that females under the custody of anyone other than their parents often got pregnant encountered considerable opposition, with 60.0% expressing discontent. Only 6.7% indicated strong agreement. The mean of 2.38 and a standard deviation of 1.193 refuted this claim among the students. Research demonstrated that females who encountered neglect had an increased likelihood of pregnancy (Strathearn et al., 2020). The study revealed that girls who suffered childhood neglect were more susceptible to pregnancy than their counterparts who did not experience such treatment. The findings of this study suggest that parental influence may drive teenagers to partake in early sexual activities due to parental neglect and insufficient direction.

Overall, our responses indicated that students saw multiple dimensions of parental influence as significant determinants of teenage pregnancies. There is a general consensus that parental support, advice, and involvement significantly reduce the risk of teenage pregnancies. The diversity of replies and standard deviations among the assertions underscored differing ideas and perceptions, reflecting a complex perspective on parental impact. A Chi-square test was conducted to further elucidate the parental influence on teenage pregnancy, with the findings displayed in Table 14.

Table 14

Chi-Square Test for students

	Value	df	p-value
Pearson Chi-Square	100.751	16	0.000
Likelihood Ratio	76.360	16	0.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	49.590	1	0.000
N of Valid Cases	372		

From the data in Table 14, Pearson chi-square test was performed to determine the parental influence on teenage pregnancy among female secondary school students

according to students χ^2 (16, 372) =100.751, p=0.000 suggested that there was an influence of the parental influence on teenage pregnancy among female secondary school students according to students.

The study's results align with the findings of Madkour et al. (2013) regarding the relationship between parental support and control and Teenage girls' pregnancy resolution decisions in the United States, which indicated that parental support and control are essential in guiding teenage girls to make informed decisions about sexual matters. The results demonstrated a substantial correlation between parental support and control and the pregnancy resolution decisions of Teenage girls. The findings indicate that diminished parental support and control are likely to lead to increased instances of teenage girls conceiving and then terminating pregnancies. Girls who indicated diminished parental control were less inclined to undergo pregnancy termination. The study's findings indicate that parental involvement can assist teenagers in making appropriate decisions regarding sex. The poll regarding educators' perspectives on parental influence on Teenage pregnancies gathered responses from 33 teachers, encompassing a mean and standard. Further analysis was done on the teachers' opinions and the results are presented in Table 15.

Table 15

Responses of Teachers on Parental Influence on Teenage Pregnancies

Descriptive Statistics	N	SD N (%)	D N (%)	N N (%)	A N (%)	SA N (%)	Mean	SD
Girls whose parents have no problem with whichever friends they choose are more likely to get pregnant	33	2 (6.1)	3 (9.1)	7 (21.2)	12 (36.4)	9 (27.3)	3.70	1.159
Girls whose parents are generally helpful and supportive are less likely to get pregnant	33	3 (9.1)	6 (18.2)	2 (6.1)	6 (18.2)	16 (48.5)	3.79	1.453
Girls who lack parental expression of love get love from whatever sources which can lead them to get pregnant	33	1 (3.0)	..	6 (18.2)	13 (39.4)	13 (39.4)	4.12	0.927
Girls whose parents fail to take them to school get pregnant at a young age	33	2 (6.1)	2 (6.1)	5 (15.2)	9 (27.3)	15 (45.5)	4.00	1.199
Girls who are left under the care of people who are not their parents often get pregnant	33	10 (30.3)	4 (12.1)	10 (30.3)	3 (9.1)	6 (18.2)	2.73	1.464

Findings in Table 15 show that when it came to girls whose parents have no problem with whichever friends they choose are more likely to get pregnant, the majority of teachers showed a level of agreement: 63.7 % agreed with only 6.1% strongly disagreed. The mean was 3.70 with a standard deviation of 1.159, indicating a strongly agreement on the importance of parental discretion in their children's friendships. The results are in agreement with findings established by (Guttmacher Institute, 2019). The results showed that unintended teens pregnancies were linked to adverse outcomes for teens including lower income in adulthood and exposure to intimate partner violence.

Regarding the statement, girls whose parents are generally helpful and supportive are less likely to get pregnant, a significant portion of teachers, 66.7 % agreed However,

the mean was 3.79, with a standard deviation of 1.453, reflecting a strong sentiment that supportive parenting could lower the risk of teenage pregnancies. The findings are in agreement with the results of Nava (2012) on the influence of parental perceptions and attitudes towards sex education on Teenage sexual behaviour, specifically the risk of teenage pregnancy. The study found that Teenagers who reported more frequent and open communication with their parents about sex were more likely to use contraception and had lower odds of experiencing teenage pregnancy. Additionally, parents who provided their children with more comprehensive sex education and more liberal attitudes towards sexuality were associated with a lower risk of teenage pregnancy. Similarly, the findings agreed with Ayanaw et al. (2018) findings on a study among students aged 15-19 in Ethiopia. Wogedi, in northeast Ethiopia showed that teenage pregnancy is associated were lack of parental control.

For girls who lack parental expression of love get love from whatever sources that can lead them to get pregnant, the agreement was even more pronounced: 39.4% agreed The mean was high at 4.12, with a low standard deviation of 0.927, suggesting a strong consensus among teachers on this point. The results are in harmony with other findings by Shikukutu and Ramarathan (2024). Shikukutu and Ramarathan which showed that discourses about masculinity of boys meet a part in sexual relationship decisions that in most cases leads to impregnation. When boys use the word “score” referring to impregnating a girl to tease those that have not impregnated a girl can preferably be mitigated through parental communication.

In the case of girls whose parents fail to take them to school get pregnant at a young age, 72.8% agreed, while 6.1 % disagreement. The mean score was 4.00 with a standard deviation of 1.199, indicating a strong agreement among teachers on the correlation between lack of education and early pregnancies. In agreement with the findings are results of the study by Rowan (2021) who established that the rising number of teen pregnancy was possibly because of lack of sex education. The researcher further recommended the government should make it an initiative to allow use of contraceptives even without parental consent. Consistent with the findings of the study are results of a study in Nyatike Sub County in Kenya by Kithuka (2024).

Kithuka found out that lack of gainful employment and inadequate sexual reproductive health services are associated with early pregnancy among teenagers 13 – 19 years.

Lastly, for the statement; girls who are left under the care of people who are not their parents often get pregnant, the responses were more divided 30.3% each disagreed and only 18.2% strongly agreed. The mean of 2.73 and a high standard deviation of 1.464 reflected diverse opinions on this matter.

Overall, these responses suggested that teachers generally perceived parental involvement, support, and guidance as critical factors in preventing teenage pregnancies. They tended to agree that lack of parental love and supervision could lead to higher pregnancy risks among teenagers. However, the varied responses across statements highlighted that not all teachers were unanimous in their views, suggesting diverse opinions within the teaching community. A chi-square test was performed to determine the parental influence on teenage pregnancy among female secondary school students according to teachers and the results are presented in Table 16.

Table 16

Chi-Square Test for Teachers

	Value	df	p-value
Pearson Chi-Square	13.453	12	0.337
Likelihood Ratio	14.378	12	0.277
Linear-by-Linear Association	5.904	1	0.015
N of Valid Cases	33		

From the analysis, Table 16 indicates χ^2 (12, 33) =13.453, p=0.337 The p value obtained is greater than 0.05 indicating that there is no statistically significant difference between parental influence and teenage pregnancy among female secondary school students according to teachers. Further analysis was conducted to test the hypothesis that stated that there is no statistically significant parental influence on teenage pregnancy among secondary school students in Tharaka Nithi County, Kenya. To test this hypothesis a chi-square test was performed to determine the parental influence on teenage pregnancy among female secondary school students in Tharaka Nithi County, Kenya. The results are presented in Table 17.

Table 17

Chi-Square Test for both Teachers and Students

	Value	df	p-value
Pearson Chi-Square	111.450	16	0.000
Likelihood Ratio	87.575	16	0.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	60.770	1	0.000
N of Valid Cases	405		

Information in Table 17 reveals that χ^2 (16, 405) =111.450, p=0.000 which indicates that the obtained p value is less than 0.05. A P value of less than 0.05 shows that there is statistically significance differences between parental influence and teenage pregnancy among secondary school students. The p-value being less than 0.05 leads to rejection of hypothesis and indicating that there is a statistically significant parental influence on teenage pregnancy among secondary school students in Tharaka Nithi County, Kenya. Some caregivers, parents or guardians who neglect children by delegating their responsibility to other people exacerbate teenage pregnancy. Lack of parental guidance among teenagers can be the main reason why teenage girls are likely to get married early, engage in premarital sex and take risky behaviour that is ends up in teenage pregnancy. When parents are presence, it acts as protective shield against girl child sexual exploitation that results to teenage pregnancy.

4.3 Influence of Social-economic Status on Teenage Pregnancy

The survey on students' opinions regarding the impact of socio-economic status on teenage pregnancies provided insights across five different statements. The responses of 372 students were outlined along with means and standard deviations for each statement. The responses were presented in Table 18.

Table 18

Responses of Students' on influence of Social-Economic Status on Teenage Pregnancies

Descriptive Statistics Item	N	SD N (%)	D N (%)	N N (%)	A N (%)	SA N (%)	Mean	SD
Girls from low-income families are at higher risk of becoming pregnant than girls from rich families	372	128 (34.4)	94 (25.3)	55 (14.8)	69 (18.5)	26 (7.0)	2.38	1.311
Girls who lack money to buy some of their basic requirements results to engage in sexual relationships to raise the money	372	13 (3.5)	39 (10.5)	72 (19.4)	127 (34.1)	121 (32.5)	3.82	1.106
Girls from Low social-economic classes would get pregnant in attempt to get cash from men.	372	24 (6.5)	50 (13.4)	70 (18.8)	142 (38.2)	86 (23.1)	3.58	1.169
Girls from poor would get pregnant in attempt to get out of the bad economic state	372	76 (20.4)	94 (25.3)	54 (14.5)	98 (26.3)	50 (13.4)	2.87	1.364
Girls from low-income families are easily lured into engaging in illicit sexual relationships in exchange for money	372	73 (19.6)	57 (15.3)	61 (16.4)	96 (25.8)	85 (22.8)	3.17	1.444

Table 18 shows the statements responses; results indicates that girls from low-income families are at higher risk of becoming pregnant than girls from rich families, a significant number, 59.7%, disagreed, indicating a major disagreement with this statement. Only 7.0% strongly agreed. The mean score was 2.38, with a standard deviation of 1.311, reflecting a general disagreement among the students on this correlation. The findings are in agreements with findings of other study by Kimemia (2015) who established that girls whose families are involved in unskilled manual labor are ten times more likely to become teenage mothers than girls from professional backgrounds. Family economic disadvantage exerts indirect effects on

child conduct problem outcomes through more direct effects on making it difficult to parent effectively. The results are in line with Agyeman et al. (2016) in a study involving a sample size of 400 teenagers established that parents and friends have a key role to play in influencing teenage pregnancy. Chi- square was used to analyse proportions. Similarly, Ankabi (2021) involving a sample of 8448 teenagers with pregnant expectannt mothers noted that social economic status had significant influence on teenage pregnancy.

Regarding the statement girls who lack money to buy some of their basic requirements results in engaging in sexual relationships to raise the money, there was a considerable agreement, with 63.9 % agreeing. Only 3.5% strongly disagreed. The mean was 3.82, with a standard deviation of 1.106, suggesting a strong belief among students that financial constraints might lead to sexual relationships for economic reasons. The results of the study are in agreement with findings by Akella and Jordan (2015) in USA. Their findings indicated a strong positive correlation between socio-economic status, level of education and cultural norms and teen pregnancy in the United States. The study's subjects picked up notions of what is and are not socially acceptable by watching their parents, friends, and neighbours.

The statement girls from low socio-economic classes would get pregnant in an attempt to get cash from men also saw a high level of agreement, with 61.3 % agreeing. Conversely, 6.5% strongly disagreed. The mean score was 3.58, with a standard deviation of 1.169, indicating a consensus on this viewpoint. For the statement; girls from poor families would get pregnant in an attempt to get out of the bad economic state, 26.3% agreed, and 33.8% agreed, while 20.4% strongly disagreed. The mean was 2.87, with a standard deviation of 1.364, showing a more divided opinion on this matter among the students. Lastly, the statement girls from low-income families are easily lured into engaging in illicit sexual relationships in exchange for money received a mixed response, with 48.6% agreeing contrasted by 19.6% strongly disagreeing. The mean of 3.17 and a standard deviation of 1.444 reflected diverse perspectives on this issue. The findings reveal that the girls affected by Teenage pregnancy among teenagers usually do so while trying to seek financial benefits from their male partners in exchange for sex. The findings are consistent with

findings of Krugu et al., (2017) that showed that teenage motivation for getting into sexual relationships are mainly beyond love but seems to focus on financial gains.

The results of the study are in harmony with findings of Mang'atu and Kisimbii (2019) who investigated the factors that lead to teenage pregnancies in Kilifi County. The results indicated that most young females impacted by the practice have gotten pregnant due to trading sex for food, clothing, and gifts. These girls are readily seduced by people willing to pay them in cash or in-kind for sex since they come from families with low socio-economic status, deprivation, and moms who were also survivors of Teenage pregnancies. Some parents urge their Teenage children to leave the house and collect money for daily needs. Consistent findings by Izugbara (2015) revealed that poor households were mostly affected by early pregnancies as compared to wealthy households. Similarly, Bior (2021) conducted a study in Sudan involving 120 students and the results revealed that a higher level of education acts as role models to their daughters. The results that educated parents are likely to monitor their children and guide them on sexual related matters.

Overall, these responses suggested that students had varied opinions on the influence of socio-economic status on teenage pregnancies. While there was a strong agreement that financial difficulties could lead to sexual relationships for economic benefits, there was less consensus on the broader correlation between poverty and teenage pregnancy risk. The spread in responses indicated a nuanced understanding of the socio-economic factors influencing teenage pregnancies among students. Pearson chi-square test was performed to determine the influence of social-economic status on teenage pregnancy among female secondary school students according to students and the results are shown in Table 19.

Table 19

Chi-Square Test for Students

	Value	df	p-value
Pearson Chi-Square	22.501	16	0.128
Likelihood Ratio	24.135	16	0.087
Linear-by-Linear Association	12.838	1	0.000
N of Valid Cases	372		

Table 19 data indicates χ^2 (16, 372) =22.501, p=0.128 was obtained. Information in Table 19 shows that a p- value of 0.128 obtained is greater than 0.05 suggesting that there was no influence of social-economic status on teenage pregnancy among female secondary school students according to students. The survey exploring teachers' opinions on the impact of socio-economic status on teenage pregnancies provided detailed perspectives across five statements, with responses from 33 teachers. Further analysis was conducted on opinions of the teachers and the results are presented on Table 20.

Table 20

Responses of Teachers' on Social-Economic Status on Teenage Pregnancies

Descriptive Statistics		SD	D	N	A	SA		
Item	N	N (%)	N (%)	N (%)	N (%)	N (%)	Mean	SD
Girls from low-income families are at higher risk of becoming pregnant than girls from rich families.	33	7 (21.2)	9 (27.3)	8 (24.2)	5 (15.2)	4 (12.1)	2.70	1.311
Girls who lack money to buy some of their basic requirements results to engage in sexual relationships to raise the money.	33	2 (6.1)	3 (9.1)	8 (24.2)	14 (42.4)	6 (18.2)	3.58	1.091
Girls from low social-economic classes would get pregnant in an attempt to get cash from men.	33	1 (3.0)	3 (9.1)	7 (21.2)	14 (42.4)	8 (24.2)	3.76	1.032
Girls from low social-economic classes would get pregnant in attempt to get out of the bad economic state.	33	1 (3.0)	4 (12.1)	8 (24.2)	13 (39.4)	7 (21.2)	3.64	1.055
Girls from low-income families are easily lured into engaging in illicit sexual relationships.	33	3 (9.1)	3 (9.1)	8 (24.2)	11 (33.3)	8 (24.2)	3.55	1.227

Information in Table 20 indicates that girls from low-income families are at higher risk of becoming pregnant than girls from rich families,"48.5% disagreed showing a notable disagreement. However, 27.3% leading to a mean score of 2.70 and a standard

deviation of 1.311, reflecting a range of opinions among teachers on this issue. In the case of Girls who lack money to buy some of their basic requirements results in engaging in sexual relationships to raise the money, a significant number of teachers agreed 60.6 %) agreed with only 6.1% disagreeing. The mean was 3.58, with a standard deviation of 1.091, indicating a consensus that financial struggles might lead to sexual relationships for economic benefits.

Regarding the statement that Girls from low socio-economic classes would get pregnant in an attempt to get cash from men 66.6 % agreed with only 3.0% strongly disagreeing, the mean score was 3.76, with a standard deviation of 1.032, showing a strong agreement among teachers on this viewpoint. For the statement; Girls from low socio-economic classes would get pregnant in an attempt to get out of the bad economic state, 60.6% agreed contrasted by only 3.0% strongly disagreeing. The mean was 3.64, with a standard deviation of 1.055, reflecting a general agreement among teachers on the influence of economic hardships on teenage pregnancies.

Lastly, the statement that Girls from low-income families are easily lured into engaging in illicit sexual relationships in exchange for money received a general agreement:57.5 % agreed while 9.1% each disagreed. The mean of 3.55 and a standard deviation of 1.227 indicated a general agreement in opinions among teachers on this issue.

Overall, these responses suggested that teachers generally perceived a significant impact of socio-economic status on teenage pregnancies. They tended to agree that economic difficulties could lead to teenage pregnancies, particularly in the context of seeking financial benefits. A chi-square test was performed to determine the influence of social-economic status on teenage pregnancy among female secondary school students according to teachers. Information of findings is presented in Table 21.

Table 21
Chi-Square Test for Teachers

	Value	df	p-value
Pearson Chi-Square	20.900	9	0.013
Likelihood Ratio	20.247	9	0.016
Linear-by-Linear Association	0.609	1	0.435
N of Valid Cases	33		

Table 21 indicates that χ^2 (9, 33) =20.900, p=0.013 suggesting that there was an influence of social economic status on teenage pregnancy among female secondary school students according to teachers. The second objective was to determine the influence of social-economic status on teenage pregnancy among female secondary school students in Tharaka Nithi County, Kenya Hypothesis two stated that there is no statistically significant social-economic status influence on teenage pregnancy among secondary school students in Tharaka Nithi County, Kenya. A chi-square test was performed to determine the influence of social-economic status on teenage pregnancy among female secondary school students in Tharaka Nithi County, Kenya and information presented in Table 22.

Table 22

Chi-Square Test for both Teachers and Students

	Value	df	p-value
Pearson Chi-Square	26.620	16	0.046
Likelihood Ratio	26.880	16	0.043
Linear-by-Linear Association	15.686	1	0.000
N of Valid Cases	405		

Data on Table 22 shows that χ^2 (16, 405) =26.620, p=0.046 indicated that there was a significant social-economic status influence on teenage pregnancy among secondary school students. The p-value being less than 0.05 and therefore the hypothesis was rejected and conclude that there is a statistically significant social-economic status influence on teenage pregnancy among secondary school students in Tharaka Nithi County, Kenya.

The findings align with those of Hamilton et al. (2014), who determined that Teenage pregnancy incurs significant financial burdens on society. A correlation and descriptive survey approach was adopted. A total of 300 individuals participated in the study. Data were gathered through questionnaires, interview protocols, and document analysis frameworks. The findings revealed that youngsters encounter health and developmental issues, emotional and financial challenges, and exposure to numerous high-risk behaviors.

The study's findings align with Vikat's (2012) reports. Vikat analyzed economic inequalities and Teenage pregnancies in Finland. A sample size of 217 people was

utilized. The findings indicated a significant correlation between teenage pregnancy and the career and educational attainment of dads or guardians. Girls from households involved in unskilled manual labor are ten times more likely to become Teenage mothers than those from professional backgrounds.

Akanbi et al. (2021) conducted a study revealing analogous findings regarding the socio-economic challenges faced by pregnant women in Nigeria. A descriptive survey research methodology was employed. The findings revealed that 19% of females aged 15 to 19 experienced unintended pregnancies in Nigeria. The research indicated that socio-economic status significantly influenced Teenage pregnancy rates. The study's results indicate the imperative of delivering comprehensive education to girls and women, equipping them with the knowledge required to make informed decisions regarding their sexual and reproductive health.

The findings of a study on teenage pregnancy and its effects on secondary school education in Nigeria, conducted by Amadi (2019) and referenced in Chemutai et al. (2022), align with the results of the current study. The findings indicate that substance abuse and low socio-economic position increased the probability of Teenage pregnancy. A sample size of 151 female students was utilized. Semi-structured questionnaires served as the instrument for data collection. The findings indicate that diverse multi-agency interventions are necessary to alleviate the effects of poor socioeconomic status; such initiatives can provide comprehensive assistance to disadvantaged learners inside our nation.

The study's findings align with Mkwananzi's (2017) results in South Africa, which involved females aged 10 to 19 from general household surveys performed between 2011 and 2013. A cohort of 25,492 females was selected to partake in the study. Data were expressed as means and percentages. The study's findings indicated that Teenage pregnancies were independently associated with socioeconomic status in homes and communities.

The study's findings align with those of Olenja et al. (2020), which examined the factors influencing teenage pregnancy rates within the Maasai community in Kajiado

West County, Kenya. The study employed a qualitative research design. The study's findings indicated that multiple risk factors, including low socio-economic status, peer pressure, cultural practices (such as FGM), lengthy trips to school, and reliance on boda-boda transportation, collectively elevate the likelihood of Teenage pregnancy among girls. Adverse socio-economic conditions, intergenerational dynamics, and transactional sexual interactions are three interrelated factors that increase the vulnerability of young girls to Teenage pregnancies.

The results align with those of a study conducted in Kenya by Njoka (2016). Njoka examined Teenage pregnancy in Kilifi County, Kenya. This study utilized qualitative data. The research indicated that a lack of knowledge regarding family planning, socio-economic conditions, and political factors contributing to netted cases all contribute to the persistence of Teenage pregnancy issues. Cultural elements, such as traditional dances, permissive attitudes towards the practice, and the erosion of societal constraints, all contribute...

4.4 Influence of Peer Group Pressure on Teenage Pregnancy

Peer group may have some significant influence on teenage pregnancy. A response from students on teenage pregnancy was presented in Table 23**.**

Table 23

Responses of Students' on Peer Group Influence on Teenage Pregnancy

Descriptive Statistics	N	SD N (%)	D N (%)	N N (%)	A N (%)	SA N (%)	Mean	SD
Girls engage in sex for fear of losing boyfriends.	372	34 (9.1)	65 (17.5)	63 (16.9)	101 (27.2)	109 (29.3)	3.50	1.319
Boyfriends usually push girls to have sex with them.	372	52 (14.0)	68 (18.3)	65 (17.5)	79 (21.2)	108 (29.0)	3.33	1.418
My friends like to persuade me to be in a sexual relationship with boys.	372	94 (25.3)	90 (24.2)	64 (17.2)	59 (15.9)	65 (17.5)	2.76	1.435
Friends can easily convince me friend to have sexual relationships with boys.	372	92 (24.7)	66 (17.7)	57 (15.3)	9 25.8)	61 (16.4)	2.91	1.442
Friends encourage each other to have sexual relationships	372	64 (17.2)	62 (16.7)	73 (19.6)	101 (27.2)	72 (19.4)	3.15	1.374

Table 23 indicates that 56.5% of students concurred with the assertion that girls engage in sexual activity due to the fear of losing their partners, suggesting a perception that relationship anxiety can drive such behavior. Nevertheless, 26.6% expressed disagreement. The average score was 3.50, with a standard deviation of 1.319, indicating a moderate level of consensus among the students. In the context of boyfriends, a notable consensus emerged, with 42.1% endorsing the notion that they pressure girls into sexual relations, while 32.3% opposed this view. The average was 3.33, with a standard deviation of 1.418, signifying a neutral perception of the impact of boyfriends. The study's findings align with those of Awuor (2018) regarding parental engagement in the prevention of teenage pregnancy. The study's findings indicated that peer contacts, the timing of sexual intercourse, and detrimental Teenage friendships elevate the likelihood of teenage pregnancy, but positive peer interactions and healthy Teenage relationships reduce it.

Concerning the assertion that my friends encourage me to engage in sexual relationships with males, 33.4% concurred, while a significant 49.5% disagreed, and 24.2% expressed neutrality. The mean of 2.76 and a standard deviation of 1.435

indicated a generally neutral sentiment toward this idea among the students. The study's findings demonstrate that peer influence is significant, as corroborated by research. The study's findings align with Mwangi's (2019) research, which indicated that peer influence shapes Teenagers' perceptions of sex and increases their susceptibility to variables that promote early marriages.

In response to the statement that friends can readily persuade me to engage in sexual interactions with guys, 42.2% expressed agreement while 42.4% expressed disagreement. The average score was 2.91, accompanied by a standard deviation of 1.442, indicating a spectrum of perspectives regarding the impact of friends on the decision to enter sexual relationships. Finally, the assertion that friends motivate one another to engage in sexual relationships elicited a varied response: 46.6% expressed agreement, whereas 33.9% strongly disagreed and 16.7% disagreed. The mean of 3.15 and a standard deviation of 1.374 reflect varied viewpoints on this problem among the students. The results align with Kimemia's (2015) findings in Kenya, which suggested that teenagers' friends exert pressure on them to engage in sexual activity, compounded by the influence of social media, alcohol, and drug addiction. Moreover, peer group pressure as an element of sex education diminishes the likelihood of teenage pregnancy.

The study's findings align with Kumalasari's (2016) research, which indicated that Teenagers with less awareness are more likely to participate in premarital sexual activities. The research was quantitative, encompassing a sample size of 144 individuals. An observational analytic design and cross-sectional methodology were employed. The results demonstrated a substantial correlation between knowledge peer influence and sexual behavior; nevertheless, the findings contradict previous research by demonstrating no statistically significant association between sources of knowledge and premarital sexual behavior. Dippel (2015) found that predominantly teenagers utilize health information sources adversely, leading to an inclination towards premarital sexual behavior. The study's results indicate that peers can be a substantial influence on sexuality; if teenagers associate with sexually active friends, they are likely to emulate their behavior due to a desire for social acceptance. Likewise, Yunitasari et al. (2024) utilized a cross-sectional design in Indonesia for

their study. The study results were derived from a sample of 287 females. Results were evaluated with the chi-square test. A significant link was observed between peer influence and teen pregnancy (P = 0.041), knowledge and teen pregnancy (P = 0.031), and the role of parents and teen pregnancy (P < 0.05).

The results of the study are consistent with results of a study conducted by Danlan et al. (2024). The study focused on perceptions of teenage mothers towards teenage pregnancy and their life style determinants. A cross- sectional study was employed. A sample of 30 teenage mothers, purposively selected from maternal child Health clinic. The findings revealed that their friends influenced 87% of teenage mothers as they interacted. It was found that 66.7 % of smokers and 73 % consumed alcohol and 80 % of mothers reported that they were having less communication with their teens. The result suggests that is peer influence as a significant role in influencing teenage pregnancy. Overall, these responses suggested that students had varied opinions on the role of peer pressure and relationships in influencing decisions about engaging in sexual activity. It was necessary to conduct a Pearson chi-square test was to determine influence of peer group on teenage pregnancy among female secondary school students according to students and the results are presented in Table 24.

Table 24

Chi-Square Test for students

	Value	df	p-value
Pearson Chi-Square	101.564	16	0.000
Likelihood Ratio	96.016	16	0.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	72.287	1	0.000
N of Valid Cases	372		

Data in Table 24 shows χ^2 (16, 372) =82.344, p=0.000 suggested that there was an influence of social media exposure on teenage pregnancy among female secondary school students according to students. Further analysis on teacher's responses was presented in Table 25.

Table 25

Responses of Teachers' on Peer Group Influence on Teenage Pregnancy

Descriptive Statistics	N	SD N (%)	D N (%)	N N (%)	A N (%)	SA N (%)	Mean	SD
Girls engage in sex for fear of losing boyfriends	33	4 (12.1)	5 (15.2)	7 (21.2)	10 (30.3)	7 (21.2)	3.33	1.315
Boyfriends usually push girls to have sex with them	33	1 (3.0)	3 (9.1)	9 (27.3)	7 (21.2)	13 (39.4)	3.85	1.149
Friends of girls like to persuade them to be in a sexual relationship with boys	33	1 (3.0)	7 (21.2)	9 (27.3)	10 (30.3)	6 (18.2)	3.39	1.116
Friends can easily convince girls to have sexual relationships with boys	33	..	4 (12.1)	12 (36.4)	12 (36.4)	5 (15.2)	3.55	0.905
Friends encourage each other to a peer to have sexual relationships	33	..	6 (18.2)	8 (24.2)	14 (42.4)	5 (15.2)	3.55	0.971

Information in Table 25 shows for the statement; girls engage in sex for fear of losing boyfriends, a significant number of teachers, 30.3% agreed, and 21.2% strongly agreed, suggesting a belief in the influence of relationship concerns on sexual activity. However, 27.3% disagreed. The mean score was 3.33, with a standard deviation of 1.315, indicating a neutral opinion. In the case of Boyfriends usually push girls to have sex with them; there was a notable agreement among teachers, with 60.6 % agreeing. Only 3.0% strongly disagreed. The mean was 3.85, with a standard deviation of 1.149, reflecting a consensus on the pressure exerted by boyfriends.

Regarding the statement that friends of girls like to persuade them to be in a sexual relationship with boys, 48.5% agreed while 15.2% disagreed, and 21.2% disagreed. The mean of 3.39 and a standard deviation of 1.116 suggested a divided belief in the influence of friends. As for friends can easily convince girls to have sexual relationships with boys, both agreement and strong agreement were observed at 48.5% each disagreeing. The absence of strong disagreement was notable. The mean score was 3.55, with a standard deviation of 0.905, indicating a strong belief in the persuasive power of friends. Lastly, the statement that friends encourage each other to

a peer to have sexual relationships saw 57.6 % agreeing with 18.2% disagreeing. The mean of 3.55 and a standard deviation of 0.971 reflected a general agreement among teachers on the role of peer encouragement in sexual relationships.

The results of the study are in line with the findings of the study is supported by research conducted by Ochen et al. (2019) who investigated the factors that could lead to teenage pregnancies among girls in the Lira District of Uganda. The results indicated that peer group influence is positively related to teen pregnancies. The respondents indicated that girls are persuaded by their classmates to participate in premarital sex, the probability of teenage pregnancy raised by 160 times. Overall, these responses indicated that teachers generally perceived a significant role of peer relationships and pressures in influencing teenage sexual behaviours. They tended to agree that both romantic and peer relationships could exert considerable influence on teenagers' decisions to engage in sexual activity.

Research that supports these findings was conducted by Domenico and Jones (2014) in the United States of America. The researcher used a qualitative research methodology. A sample size 150 participants was used. A questionnaire, interview schedule, and document analysis guide were used to gather the data. The results showed that peer pressure was a significant factor in teen pregnancies. To further understand the relationship, a chi-square test was performed to determine influence of peer group on teenage pregnancy among female secondary school students according to teachers and the findings are presented in Table 26.

Table 26

Chi-Square Test for Teachers

	Value	df	p-value
Pearson Chi-Square	12.138	9	0.206
Likelihood Ratio	13.186	9	0.154
Linear-by-Linear Association	7.206	1	0.007
N of Valid Cases	33		

Table 26 reveals that $\chi 2$ (9, 33) = 12.138, p = 0.206 was achieved. A p-value exceeding 0.05 indicates that peer group influence on teenage pregnancy among female secondary school students, as reported by teachers, is minimal. The third objective was to ascertain the influence of peer groups on Teenage pregnancy among

female secondary school students in Tharaka Nithi County, Kenya. To analyze the hypothesis asserting that peer group had no substantial influence on Teenage pregnancy among secondary school students a Chi- square test was performed and the results are presented in Table 27.

Table 27

Chi-Square Test for both Teachers and Students

	Value	df	p-value
Pearson Chi-Square	111.378	16	0.000
Likelihood Ratio	106.262	16	0.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	81.607	1	0.000
N of Valid Cases	405		

From Information in Table 27, a chi-square test showed χ^2 (16, 405) =111.378, p=0.000 was obtained indicating that there was a significant influence of peer group on teenage pregnancy among secondary school students. The p-value being less than 0.05 led to the rejection of hypothesis and concluded that there was a statistical significant influence of peer group on teenage pregnancy among secondary school students. This study indicates that Teenagers frequently participate in sexual behaviors as a result of peer pressure. Research aligned with this study was undertaken by Alhassan (2015), revealing that over 29 percent of pregnant Teenagers reported experiencing coerced sexual encounters to maintain their relationships and assimilate with their peers. Moreover, females often allow their peers to influence their decision to engage in sexual behavior, even when they are oblivious to the associated hazards.

Consistent with the study's findings, Ribas (2021) examined the immediate causes of Teenage pregnancy in Latin America. A sample of 300 individuals from the South was chosen for the study. The analysis employed the Chi-square test. The univariate analysis demonstrates a causal relationship between peer pressure and teenage pregnancy. The data reveal that peer influence significantly affects teenage pregnancy. The study's findings align with those of Adebayo (2019), which examined factors influencing teenage pregnancy among female Teenagers in the Akoko district of Ondo State, Nigeria. The employed study design was a descriptive survey. A sample size of 3,600 pregnant Teenagers was utilized. Data were analyzed employing

basic percentages and the linear regression technique. The findings indicated that peer pressure, insufficient parental guidance, inadequate knowledge of sex education, and media/internet usage were all risk factors for Teenage pregnancy.

The findings indicate that Teenagers require supervision and education regarding the hazards associated with unintended pregnancies. The findings indicate that programs aimed at reducing teenage pregnancies should incorporate treatments focused on peers, in addition to parents and teachers. A comparable discovery by Nyakubega (2012) in Tanga Municipality, Tanzania corroborates the study's findings. The study examined factors associated with Teenage pregnancy among secondary school students. A cross-sectional descriptive-analytical design was employed. A sample of 200 secondary pupils was utilized. The results indicated that peer pressure and limited access to education for girls are the principal factors contributing to teenage pregnancies. The data indicate that the majority of teenagers engage in premarital relationships due to peer influence. The study's results align with the findings of Govender et al. (2019), which indicated that peers exerted greater effect on sexual health decisions than parents or teachers. This was further evidenced by peer group influence, which is among the primary reasons participants cited for engaging in unprotected sexual intercourse. The study's findings indicate that peer influence has a significant role in shaping Teenage sexual behaviors, including the risk of teenage pregnancies. The study's findings align with the research conducted by Waraga and Ngari (2018) regarding the correlation between peer groups and Teenage pregnancies. The research employed an ex-post-facto survey methodology. A sample size of 222 participants was utilized. The data was analyzed utilizing frequencies and percentages. The information suggested that peer group influence was recognized as a significant social factor contributing to pregnancy in the research area. The study's findings suggest a necessity for professional peer counselors to alleviate the effects of peer influence on teenage pregnancies.

The results align with Kiarie's (2015) research about the impact of peer pressure, social media, cultural influences, and economic factors on Teenage pregnancy among secondary school students in Imenti-North Sub-County, Kenya. A descriptive survey research methodology was utilized. The sample comprised nine education officers, 90

teachers from 20 public secondary schools, and four form three students. The study's findings suggested that peer group impact contributes to Teenage pregnancies. The findings align with the conclusions of Qolesa's (2017) study regarding the variables contributing to the elevated rate of Teenage pregnancies in Heidedal, located in the Mangaung District of South Africa's Free State Province. A sample size of 16 individuals was utilized. Thematic analysis was employed to discern the most prominent themes, while concept interpretation was utilized to construct explanations that addressed the study's aims and objectives. The study's findings suggested that peer group impact was one of the variables contributing to teenage pregnancy.

4.5 Influence of Social Media Exposure on Teenage Pregnancies

The survey on students' opinions about the influence of exposure to social media on teenage pregnancies offered a variety of insights across six statements.

The results are presented in Table 28

Table 28

Responses of Students' on Exposure to Social Media Influence on Teenage Pregnancies

Descriptive Statistics	N	SD N (%)	D N (%)	N N (%)	A N (%)	SA N (%)	Mean	SD
The watching of adult-rated movies and explicit music online by students does not influence teenage pregnancy.	372	114 (30.6)	89 (23.9)	61 (16.4)	56 (15.1)	52 (14.0)	2.58	1.415
Parental control on access to social networking sites and the internet reduces the chances of sexual relationships among teenagers and teenage pregnancy.	372	53 (14.2)	88 (23.7)	68 (18.3)	98 (26.3)	65 (17.5)	3.09	1.329
Seeing characters in popular online television shows and the internet acting a certain way about sex significantly influences how I feel about sex and sexuality in real life.	372	52 (14.0)	61 (16.4)	74 (19.9)	95 (25.5)	90 (24.2)	3.30	1.365
Facebook, WhatsApp, and other social Networking Services do not influence how I feel about sex and sexuality in real life.	372	87 (23.4)	81 (21.8)	76 (20.4)	71 (19.1)	57 (15.3)	2.81	1.388
Texting on mobile phones significantly nfluence teenage sex	372	89 (23.9)	82 (22.0)	67 (18.0)	93 (25.0)	41 (11.0)	2.77	1.349
Social media influences teenagers to have sex atan early age.	372	55 (14.8)	58 (15.6)	51 (13.7)	99 (26.6)	109 (29.3)	3.40	1.425

This study demonstrates that Teenagers often engage in sexual practices due to peer pressure. Research corresponding to this study was conducted by Alhassan (2015), indicating that more than 29 percent of pregnant teens reported enduring compelled sexual encounters to preserve their connections and integrate with their peers. Furthermore, girls frequently permit their peers to sway their decisions on sexual behavior, while being unaware of the inherent risks.

In accordance with the study's findings, Ribas (2021) investigated the immediate factors contributing to Teenage pregnancy in Latin America. A cohort of 300 participants from the South was selected for the study. The analysis utilized the Chi-square test. The univariate analysis indicates a causal association between peer pressure and Teenage pregnancy. The statistics indicate that peer influence substantially impacts teenage pregnancy. The study's results correspond with Adebayo's (2019) research, which investigated the determinants of teenage pregnancy among female teenagers in the Akoko district of Ondo State, Nigeria. The study utilized a descriptive survey approach. A sample size of 3,600 pregnant teenagers was employed. Data were examined using fundamental percentages and the linear regression method. The results revealed that peer pressure, lack of parental guidance, insufficient sex education, and media/internet consumption were significant risk factors for Teenage pregnancy.

The results demonstrate that Teenagers necessitate oversight and instruction concerning the risks linked to unwanted pregnancies. The findings suggest that initiatives designed to decrease teenage pregnancies should include interventions targeting peers, alongside parents and educators. A similar discovery by Nyakubega (2012) in Tanga Municipality, Tanzania supports the study's conclusions. The research investigated factors related to Teenage pregnancy among secondary school students. A cross-sectional descriptive-analytical design was utilized. A sample of 200 secondary students was employed. The findings revealed that peer pressure and restricted educational opportunities for girls are the primary factors contributing to Teenage pregnancies. The statistics suggest that most youths participate in premarital relationships as a result of peer influence. The study's results correspond with the findings of Govender et al. (2019), which demonstrated that peers had a more

significant influence on sexual health decisions than parents or teachers. This was further substantiated by peer group influence, which is one of the principal reasons participants identified for engaging in unprotected sexual intercourse. The study's findings demonstrate that peer influence significantly affects Teenage sexual practices, including the risk of teenage pregnancies. The study's results correspond with the research by Waraga and Ngari (2018) concerning the relationship between peer groups and Teenage pregnancies. The study utilized an ex-post-facto survey methodology. A sample size of 222 people was employed. The data was evaluated using frequencies and percentages. The data indicated that peer group influence was acknowledged as a substantial social factor contributing to pregnancy in the research area. The study's findings indicate a need for professional peer counselors to mitigate the impact of peer influence on Teenage pregnancies.

The findings correspond with Kiarie's (2015) study regarding the effects of peer pressure, social media, cultural influences, and economic factors on Teenage pregnancy among secondary school students in Imenti-North Sub-County, Kenya. A descriptive survey research methodology was employed. The sample included nine education officers, 90 teachers from 20 public secondary schools, and four third-year students. The study's findings indicated that peer group influence contributes to Teenage pregnancies. The results correspond with the conclusions of Qolesa's (2017) research concerning the factors contributing to the high incidence of Teenage pregnancies in Heidedal, situated in the Mangaung District of South Africa's Free State Province. A sample size of 16 participants was employed. Thematic analysis was applied to identify the predominant themes, while concept interpretation was employed to construct explanations that aligned with the study's aims and objectives. The study's findings indicated that peer group influence was a contributing factor to teenage pregnancy.

The results in Table 28 reveals watching of adult-rated movies and explicit music online by students does not influence teenage pregnancy, a significant number of students, 54.5%, disagreed suggesting a belief that such media could influence teenage pregnancy. However, 14.0% strongly agreed with the statement. The mean score was 2.58, with a standard deviation of 1.415, reflecting a general disagreement

among the students. The findings are in harmony with similar study findings by Ochen et al. (2019) who established that girls who had access to information on sexual health had a lower pregnancy rate. In particular, these girls had a 0.67 times lower chance of becoming pregnant as teenagers. Moreover, teenage pregnancies were more prevalent in girls with histories of sexual abuse.

Regarding parental control on access to social networking sites and the internet reduces the chances of sexual relationships among teenagers and teenage pregnancy, 43.8 % agreed indicating a belief in the effectiveness of parental control. However, 14.2% strongly disagreed. The mean was 3.09, with a standard deviation of 1.329, showing a neutral opinion. Internet use was associated with less likehood of teenage pregnancy. It was also noted parents in rarely communicate about their reproductive health with their children hence teens tend to rely on internets information about their sexuality. The results indicate that internets use encourages teens to have higher chances of interactivity and offers anonymous, confidential and easily accessible space to find sensitive topics online while ensuring their privacy is protected.

The statement seeing characters in popular online television shows and the internet acting a certain way about sex significantly influences how I feel about sex and sexuality in real life saw 49.7% agreeing while 14.0% strongly disagreed. The mean of 3.30 and a standard deviation of 1.365 indicated a neutral opinion on the influence of online portrayals of sex and sexuality. The findings are supported by research findings conducted by Urassa (2017) on Teenage girls' access to reproductive health services and the causes of teenage pregnancies Tanzania's Maura Region. A sample size of 156 was used. Key informant interviews, focus groups, and questionnaires were used to gather data. The results revealed that peer group influence, culture, and a lack of knowledge about reproductive health issues all contribute to teen pregnancies.

Dippel et al. (2015) findings showed that 53.1 % of teenagers mostly access information while 46.9 % of Teenagers are low in accessing information media. The level of knowledge about dangers of Teenage pregnancies can be influenced by the information obtained. It is further shown by Sserwanja et al. (2022) that majority of teens pregnancy who had exposure to exposure to internet, newspapers or magazines,

radio and television set were 10.5%, 22.6%, 43.1% and 43.1 % respectively. The study design was cross- sectional involving a sample size of 3000 Teenage aged 15 – 19 years. The respondents included were either pregnant or had an abortion in the last five years preceding survey. The results by Ssewanja et al. contradicts the findings of the present study by showing that teens exposed to newspapers and magazines are less likely to be pregnant compared to those with no access to newspapers and internet respectively.

Govender et al. (2019) in South Africa examined the knowledge, attitudes, and peer effects on pregnancy and sexual and reproductive health among teenagers using maternal health services. Through a survey, the researchers examined the participants' knowledge of HIV/AIDS, contraception, and pregnancy and their attitudes and perceptions of those topics. The findings showed that most participants knew about HIV/AIDS and contraception, while the majority had inaccurate knowledge of pregnancy. Accurate knowledge through social media is very crucial in influencing Teenagers to have the right information about dangers of Teenage pregnancies.

As for Facebook, WhatsApp, and other social Networking Services do not influence how I feel about sex and sexuality in real life, 45.2% disagreed suggesting a belief in the influence of these platforms. The mean was 2.81, with a standard deviation of 1.388, reflecting a range of opinions among students. In addition, the statement Texting on mobile phones significantly influences teenage sex received mixed responses, with 36 % agreeing contrasted by 23.9% strongly disagreeing. The mean of 2.77 and a standard deviation of 1.349 indicated diverse perspectives on this issue.

Lastly, Social media influences teenagers to have sex at an early age had 55.9% agreeing indicating a significant belief in the influence of social media. The mean of 3.40 and a standard deviation of 1.425 reflected a general agreement on this point. Description of the information in this study indicates that Teenagers have access to information. Therefore, Pearson chi-square test was performed to determine influence of social media exposure on teenage pregnancy among female secondary school students according to students and results presented in Table 29.

Table 29

Chi-Square Test for Students

	Value	df	p-value
Pearson Chi-Square	82.344	16	0.000
Likelihood Ratio	69.210	16	0.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	53.534	1	0.000
N of Valid Cases	372		

Information in Table 28 indicates that χ^2 (16, 372) =82.344, p=0.000 was obtained. The p – value obtained is less than 0.05 indicating that there was an influence of social media exposure on teenage pregnancy among female secondary school students according to students. Responses on teachers the influence of social media on teenage pregnancy was presented on Table 30.

Table 30

Teachers' Descriptive on Exposure to Social Media on Teenage Pregnancies

Descriptive Statistics	N	SD N (%)	D N (%)	N N (%)	A N (%)	SA N (%)	Mean	S.D
The watching of adult-rated movies and explicit music online by students does not influence teenage pregnancy .	33	7 (21.2)	8 (24.2)	10 (30.3)	4 (12.1)	4 (12.1)	2.70	1.287
Parental control on access to social networking sites reduces the chances of sexual relationships among teenagers and teenage pregnancy	33	..	4 (12.1)	7 (21.2)	10 (30.3)	12 (36.4)	3.91	1.042
Seeing characters in popular online television shows and the internet acting a certain way about sex significantly influences how students feel about sex and sexuality in real life.	33	..	1 (3.0)	9 (27.3)	17 (51.5)	6 (18.2)	3.85	0.755
Facebook and WhatsApp do not influence how students feel about sex in addition, sexuality in real life.	33	8 (24.2)	10 (30.3)	6 (18.2)	9 (27.3)	..	2.48	1.149
Discussions about sexual relationships on mobile phones significantly influence teenage sex.	33	1 (3.0)	2 (6.1)	7 (21.2)	14 (42.4)	9 (27.3)	3.85	1.004
Explicit sexual Electronic media influences teenagers to have sex at an early age	33	2 (6.1)	2 (6.1)	1 (3.0)	13 (39.4)	15 (45.5)	4.12	1.139

Table 30 indicates that the consumption of adult-rated films and explicit music online by students does not affect teenage pregnancy; nevertheless, 45.4% disagreed, suggesting a perception that such media could indeed encourage teenage pregnancy. Nonetheless, 12.1% concurred. The mean was 2.70, with a standard deviation of 1.287, indicating a diversity of perspectives. Parental control over access to social networking sites diminishes the likelihood of sexual encounters and teenage pregnancy, with 66.7% of instructors expressing agreement, indicating a robust conviction in the efficacy of parental oversight. The mean was 3.91, with a standard deviation of 1.042, signifying a consensus.

Regarding the portrayal of characters in popular online television series and on the internet, the manner in which sex is depicted substantially affects students' perceptions of sex and sexuality in reality, with a majority of 69.7% concurring. The average of 3.85, coupled with a low standard deviation of 0.755, indicated a robust consensus among teachers regarding this matter. Sserwanja (2022) found that exposure to newspapers or magazines and internet usage were substantially correlated with teenage pregnancy. Teenagers with daily exposure to newspapers or magazines (AOR: 0.33, 95% CI: 0.13 to 0.82) and internet usage (AOR: 0.54, 95% CI: 0.30 to 0.95) exhibited lower odds of experiencing pregnancy compared to those with no exposure to newspapers and the internet, respectively.

Concerning Facebook and WhatsApp, 54.5% disagreed with the assertion that these platforms do not affect students' perceptions of sex and sexuality in real life, suggesting a conviction in their influence. The mean was 2.48, accompanied by a standard deviation of 1.149, indicating a dissent over the assertion. The results by Nauret (2015) align with the conclusions of the study. The findings demonstrated that the additive utilization of Facebook by Teenagers elicits enthusiasm, social validation, and exhilaration upon receiving a "like" on their profile. The findings indicate that Facebook may encourage Teenagers to participate in sexual activities that could result in pregnancy.

The assertion on the impact of mobile phone communication on teenage sexual relationships revealed that 69.7% concurred, while only 3.0% strongly disagreed. The

average score was 3.85, with a standard deviation of 1.004, suggesting a prevailing conviction in the impact of mobile phone communications. Ultimately, 84.4% of respondents concurred that explicit sexual electronic media significantly promotes teens to engage in sexual activity at an early age, indicating a robust belief in its impact. A mean of 4.12 and a standard deviation of 1.139 indicated a robust consensus among educators.

Overall, these responses suggested that educators predominantly viewed exposure to certain media and social networking as significantly impacting Teenage sexual behavior and pregnancy. A significant consensus emerged on the influence of online content and debates, indicating a sophisticated comprehension of media's role in shaping Teenagers' perspectives and behaviors around sex. A chi-square test was conducted to assess the impact of social media exposure on Teenage pregnancy among female secondary school students, as reported by instructors, with findings displayed in Table 31.

Table 31

Chi-Square Test for Teachers

	Value	df	p-value
Pearson Chi-Square	12.307	9	0.197
Likelihood Ratio	14.076	9	0.120
Linear-by-Linear Association	5.433	1	0.020
N of Valid Cases	33		

Information in Table 31 shows that χ^2 (9, 33) =12.307, p=0.197 was obtained. A p-value greater than 0.05 was obtained. The obtained value indicates that there was no influence of social media exposure on teenage pregnancy among female secondary school students according to teachers.

The fourth objective was to determine influence of social media exposure on teenage pregnancy among female secondary school students in Tharaka Nithi County, Kenya. To test hypothesis four that stated there is no statistically significant influence of exposure to social media on teenage pregnancy among secondary school students in Tharaka Nithi County, Kenya a Chi- square was performed and the results are presented in Table 32.

Table 32

Chi-Square Test for both Teachers and Students

	Value	df	p-value
Pearson Chi-Square	97.614	16	0.000
Likelihood Ratio	83.239	16	0.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	67.018	1	0.000
N of Valid Cases	405		

A chi-square test was performed to determine influence of social media exposure on teenage pregnancy among female secondary school students in Tharaka Nithi County, Kenya. χ^2 (16, 405) =97.614, p=0.000 told us that there was a significant influence of exposure to social media on teenage pregnancy among secondary school students. Our p-value being less than 0.05, we reject H_{04} and conclude that there is a statistically significant influence of exposure to social media on teenage pregnancy among secondary school students in Tharaka Nithi County, Kenya.

In line with the findings of the study Nelago (2020) established that social media significantly influences Teenage attitudes, intentions, and behaviours. Social media embodies one of the ultimate important and unrecognized influences on Teenagers' character. The results indicate that certain extent, exposure to social media can motivate teenagers to be constructive, creative, and cooperative. This is through creating content shared among the members on websites or blogs.

The results of the studies conducted by Kimemia and Mugambi (2016); and Fahmida et al., (2016) are in disagreements with findings of the study. Researchers are of the opinion that exposure to social media should not be blamed for varied social evils in societies. The researchers argue that in a contemporary society, there is increasing accessibility of technology to everyone with limited control over whatever information is available to them. With all these readily available technologies, it cannot be denied that whatever people see and hear will affect them. The result suggests teenagers use with little or no regulations to surf explicit content from social media platforms can motivate them to have early sexual relationships.

Consistent with the findings are results of a study conducted by Abdissa (2016) on social mass and teenage pregnancy in schools in Canada. A sample size 374 educators

and students participated. The results of the study showed that social media has a significant effect on teen pregnancy. The results indicated that as the number of teenagers exposed to explicit social media content increases by one unit, the teenage pregnancy rate would decrease by 0.3441 units when other elements are held constant.

Research in accordance with this study was conducted by Souza (2020) on the relationship between teenage pregnancy and social media in the USA. The study's findings revealed that social media use negatively impacted teenage pregnancy among students in the USA. Similar study by Razmjoo and Movahed (2009) in Iran on the connection between Teenage pregnancy and the use of social media revealed that there was a reasonable difference between students' level of exposure to social media and teenage pregnancies. Sample size of 124 high school students was used. The results indicate there is strong relationship between social media influence and teenage pregnancy.

Ihejirika and Ngowari (2020) study on the effects of exposure to social media on Nigerian secondary school students getting pregnant conquered with the results of the study. Ihejirika and Ngowari used a sample size 100 high school students from six different schools in the Bonny LGA of Rivers state. Descriptive statistics means, percentages, and standard deviations were employed to analyse the data. The findings revealed that using social media raised the risk of teen pregnancy.

The findings of the study are in agreement with the study conducted by Zyl-Schalekamp and Mthombeni (2017) at a South African University. The study investigated social media and pregnancy among first-year students. A descriptive survey design was employed. A sample size of 210 students was used. Data were analysed descriptively using means, percentages, and standard deviations. Chi-square test was used to analyse data. The result of the data analysis revealed exposure to social media, such as print media, erotic websites, and social media, influenced rates of pregnancy among the students.

The findings of the study concur with other findings from a study in Zambia by Sserwanja et al. (2022) found that among the Teenagers surveyed, 84.6% had access

to mass media. Access to mass media was found to be significantly associated with teenage pregnancy, with those having access to mass media being 1.6 times more likely to be pregnant than those without access. The study also found that those with gain to mass media were more probably to experience sexual debut before age 15 and to engage in unprotected sex than those without access. Furthermore, those with access to mass media were more likely to have a lower level of knowledge about contraception and reproductive health than those without access. The study also revealed that those with access to mass media were more likely to be exposed to sexual messages through media, which may have led to early sexual debut and unprotected sex exposure to social media is a risk factor for Teenage pregnancy and highlight the need for interventions targeting teenagers with such exposure.

Results of a study by Akessa and Dhufera (2015) on factors influencing teenage pregnancy in Ethiopia showed a strong association between social media and teenage pregnancies. Akessa and Dhufera employed a cross-sectional research design and a sample size of 294 students. Data were analysed using the Chi-square test of association. The impact of different factors on students' success was determined by regression analysis. Similar results were obtained in Kwimba District in Tanzania by Mtindi (2020). The study was on the influences of social media on teenage pregnancy among girls in secondary schools in Kwimba District in Tanzania. A cross-sectional survey research design was employed with a sample size of 267 respondents was used. The results revealed that mobile phones, televisions, and erotic magazines influenced teenage pregnancies. Similar finding from a study by Awinja (2019) agrees with the findings of the study. The study investigated the level of exposure to social media as one of the factors influencing teenage pregnancy among secondary school students in the Kwanza division of Trans Nzoia County-Kenya. The study used a cross-sectional survey research design.

A simple random sampling procedure was adopted to obtain a sample size of 12 schools and 275 respondents comprising students, teachers, head teachers, and division education officers. The results revealed that vulnerability to social media might be one of the factors that cause teenage pregnancy.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Summary of Research Findings

A summary of research findings is based on the results of chapter Four presented.

5.1.1 Parental Influence on Teenage Pregnancy

Research objective one was to investigate the parental influence on teenage pregnancy among secondary school students in Tharaka Nithi County, Kenya. The results of the students' descriptive statistics revealed that there was strong relationship of the parental influence and teenage pregnancy among female secondary school students according to students.

Girls whose parents do not supervise them are more likely to become pregnant, with a substantial 68.05% of respondents, including students and teachers, expressing agreement. Nonetheless, 42.7% of students expressed disagreement. A low standard deviation of 1.476 for students and 0.801 for teachers indicates a consensus. The results indicate that girls born without a paternal or maternal figure may render female offspring of Teenage mothers more susceptible in their pursuit of improved living conditions and companionship, regardless of gender.

Concerning the replies from heads of the counselling department regarding the relationship between less involved parents and their secondary school daughters. The results suggested that the majority of students' lament that their relationships with their parents are not close and have diminished in intensity due to the economic activities undertaken by their parents.

Girls with usually helpful and supportive parents are less likely to become pregnant. The consensus was much higher, with 54.9% of students in agreement and 60.6% of teachers concurring. Girls deprived of parental affection seek love from many sources, resulting in unintended pregnancies. The consensus was notably stronger, with 63% of students in agreement and 78.8% of teachers. Nonetheless, 34.0% of pupils and 21.2% of teachers expressed disapproval. A standard deviation of 1.3 was reported for pupils and 0.9 for teachers, respectively.

The statement concerning the challenges faced by secondary school girls from low socioeconomic backgrounds indicates that poverty, stemming from residing in an unequal or marginalized society, engenders despair and desperation in teenagers, leading to decisions that prioritize immediate gratification.

Girls whose parents neglect to ensure their school attendance experience early pregnancies. The majority of respondents concurred, with 68.3% of students and 92.8% of teachers in agreement. Nonetheless, 26.4% of pupils and 12.2% of teachers held an opposing viewpoint. A standard deviation of 1.4 and 1.2 was respectively obtained. The findings suggest that education among Teenagers can postpone the onset of first sexual intercourse. The conclusions are additionally corroborated by findings from a study conducted in the Netherlands and Scandinavian nations. The findings indicated that Teenage pregnancy correlates with greater awareness of contraception use, effective sex education, and cultural norms that encourage candid discussions about sexual issues (Krugu, 2018). Kearney and Levine (2021) also observed that female children born to single moms, teenage mothers, or mothers with low educational and economic standing are at an increased risk of becoming pregnant.

Girls placed in the custody of individuals other than their parents frequently experience unintended pregnancies. The consensus was notably stronger, with 60.0% of students in agreement compared to 47.2% of teachers. Nonetheless, 60.0% of students and 42.3% of teachers opposed the remark. The standard deviation for professors was found at 1.464, while for pupils it was 1.1.

The chi-square test results indicated $\chi 2$ (16, 405) = 111.378, p = 0.000, demonstrating a significant impact of parental influence on Teenage pregnancy among secondary school students.

5.1.2 Parents Social- Economic Status Influence on Teenage Pregnancy

Objectives two was meant determine the influence of social-economic status on teenage. The statement regarding the influence of parents' jobs had a more divided response. A significant 52.4% disagreed while 31.5 % agreed in case of students. The mean of 2.62 and a standard deviation of 1.355 showed a broader spread in opinions

and less overall agreement. Regarding the influence of parents' jobs, 42.5 % agreed while 45.4 % were in disagreement in case of teachers responses. The mean of 2.91 and a standard deviation of 1.422 suggested a more neutral perspective among teachers. Chi- square analysis for both students and teachers revealed that χ^2 (16, 405) =26.620, p=0.046 indicated that there was a significant social-economic status influence on teenage pregnancy among secondary school students.

5.1.3 Peer Group Influence on Teenage Pregnancy

The third objective was to determine peer group influence on teenage pregnancy among secondary school students in Tharaka Nithi County, Kenya. For the statement, my friends made me engage in sexual intercourse for the first time, the highest level of disagreement was observed at 53.2 %, with 29.0% agreeing and 17.7% staying neutral. However, 16.1% agreed, and 12.9% strongly agreed that peer influence do affect teen pregnancy.

Concerning the belief that girls engage in sex to be fashionable with their friends, 63.6% agreed while 6.1% strongly disagreed for teachers and a mean of 3.67 and a standard deviation of 1.291 was obtained. Regarding responses on students 47.8 % of teachers agreed but 33.9% were of the contrary opinion with 18.3% being neutral. The mean of 3.16 and a standard deviation of 1.379 indicated neutral opinion but also highlighted diverse viewpoints among the students. Regarding the statements that friends make me engage in sexual intercourse for the first time majority of the students (53.8%) were in disagreement while 29% were in agreement with a 17.7 % in neutral position. Teachers reported that majority of teenagers are influence by their peers (60.6% in comparison to 24.2 % were of the contrary opinion. Reports of oral interview were also agreement with students and teachers responses. Chi-square results analysis for both students and teachers indicated χ^2 (16, 405) =26.620, p=0.046. The results revealed that there was a significant peer influence on teenage pregnancy among secondary school students.

5.1.4 Social Media Influence on Teenage Pregnancy

The fourth objective was to determine influence of social media exposure on teenage pregnancy among female secondary school students in Tharaka Nithi County, Kenya.

Rregarding the influence of information from favourite sources on students' sexual desires, 66.7 % agreed with only 3.0% strongly disagreeing. The mean of 3.79 and a standard deviation of 1.111 indicated a relatively high level of agreement among teachers. While for students 51.6 % were in disagreement with only 34.1 % agreeing and 14.2% remain neutrall. The mean of 2.70 and a standard deviation of 1.470 indicated the students generally disagreed about this influence. For both students and teachers χ^2 (16, 405) =97.614, p=0.000 indicates that there was a significant influence between exposure to social media and teenage pregnancy among secondary school students.

5.2 Conclusion

The study was based on four hypotheses accepted or rejected at alpha = 0.05 of significance. $H_0$1 stated there is no statistically significant parental influence on teenage pregnancy among secondary school students in Tharaka Nithi County, Kenya. The results of Chi square of both students and teachers showed χ^2 (16, 405) =111.378, p=0.000 was obtained. The findings reveal and that there is a statistical significant influence of peer group on teenage pregnancy among secondary school students. The results suggest that peer influence has a strong positive significant influence on Teenage pregnancies.

$H_0$2 stated that there is no statistically significant social-economic status on influence of teenage pregnancy among secondary school students in Tharaka Nithi County, Kenya. The Chi- square analysis for both students and teachers χ^2 (16, 405) =26.620, p=0.046 was obtained. The chi- square results indicated that there was a significant social-economic status influence on teenage pregnancy among secondary school students. The p-value being less than 0.05 led to the rejection of null hypothesis. The study concludes that there is a statistically positive significant influence of social-economic status on teenage pregnancy among secondary school students in Tharaka Nithi County, Kenya.

$H_0$3 stated that there is no statistically significant relationship of peer group influence on teenage pregnancy among secondary school students in Tharaka Nithi County, Kenya. For both students and teachers χ^2 (16, 405) =26.620, p=0.046 indicated that

there was a positive significant social-economic status influence on teenage pregnancy among secondary school students. The study conclusion is that there is a statistical significant positive relationship of social-economic status on teenage pregnancy among secondary school students in Tharaka Nithi County, Kenya.

$H_0$4 stated that there is no statistically significant influence of exposure to social media on teenage pregnancy among secondary school students in Tharaka Nithi County, Kenya. For both students and teachers χ^2 (16, 405) =97.614, p=0.000 showed us that there was a significant influence of exposure to social media on teenage pregnancy among secondary school students. The p-value being less than 0.05 led to rejection of hypothesis and the study concludes that there is a statistically significant influence of exposure to social media on teenage pregnancy among secondary school students in Tharaka Nithi County, Kenya.

5.3 Recommendations

From the findings of the study, the following are the recommendations made:

i. The Government of Kenya through the Ministry of Education should come up with policies that are aimed at supporting Teenagers to curb vices that results due indulging in premarital affairs due to social economic status of the family.
ii. The researcher recommends that the Ministry of Education Science and technology should come up with policies that ensure learners have effective peer counseling programs environments. Teacher counselors need to design peer-counseling programs aimed at facilitating student's positive attitudes and harmonious coexistence with their fellow learners as brothers and sisters.
iii. National and Tharaka Nithi county governments should engage parents in workshops to train them on comprehensive sex education and provide them with educational materials and guidelines.
iv. The Ministry of Health through the department of Public Health at the county level should develop intervention such as parent teen communication, to promote parental monitoring and supervision of teenage girls.
v. It is necessary for school management to ensure that life skills training in our schools to enable our learners to have negotiation skills assertiveness that will

enable them to cope with the challenges associated with mass media and new technologies hence reduce teenage pregnancies.

vi. Parents should introduce their children to religious related programs like Sunday schools, Sunday services and madrasas to equip them with religious norms which promote healthy living when they reach teenage ages.

5.4 Suggestions for Further Research

i. A comparative study to determine the relationship between social cultural influence and teenage pregnancy need to be carried out.

ii. Research should investigate the obstacles to parental engagement in the prevention of teenage pregnancy.

iii. Further study is necessary in additional regions of Kenya to provide a broader understanding of parental and stakeholder involvement in the prevention of teenage pregnancy.

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APPENDICES

Appendix I: Introductory Letter

Joyline Mukwairu Njeru

Tharaka University

P.O BOX 193-215

Marimanti

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: RESEARCH PAPER ON SOCIO-CULTURAL INFLUENCE ON TEENAGE PREGNANCY AMONG SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

I am a post-graduate student at Tharaka University pursuing a Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Foundations degree in the Department of Education. As part of the course, I am researching selected sociocultural influence on teenage pregnancy among secondary school students in Tharaka Nithi County, Kenya.

I hereby enclose a questionnaire that I kindly request you to go through, and please fill in answers for items. Your assistance in this regard will provide important insight into the factors that lead to a higher teenage pregnancy rate.

Thank you very much for your time and answers.

Yours Faithfully

Joyline Mukwairu Njeru

Appendix II: Students Questionnaire

This questionnaire is formulated to gather information for a study on parental influence and Teenage pregnancy. Your responses will be kept confidential and solely for academic purposes.

SECTION A: Personal Information

Please tick (√) on the appropriate box on each of the statements below:

1. Gender:
    - Male [ ]
    - Female [ ]
2. Age:
   13- 14 years [ ]
   15 – 16 years [ ]
   17 - 18 years [ ]
   19+ years
3. Sub County
   Meru South [ ] Maara [ ] Tharaka North [ ] Chuka/Igambang'ombe [ ]

SECTION B: Parental Influence and Teenage Pregnancies

Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements. Use a scale of **SD** – Strongly Disagree; **D** – Disagree; **N** – Neutral; **A** – Agree and **SA** – Strongly Agree

	Statement	SD	D	N	A	SA
1	My parents/guardians are strict about monitoring my friendships and social activities					
2	Parental guidance is important in preventing teenage pregnancy during holidays.					
3	The occupations of parents Substantially impact the likelihood of their daughters becoming teenage mothers.					
4	My parents provide me with information on how to prevent teenage pregnancy.					
5	Girls who do not receive love and support from their parents may feel emotionally neglected and look for affection and acceptance elsewhere.					
6	The information I obtain from my preferred social media source incites a desire for sexual activity.					
7	Girls left under guardian often gets pregnant.					

PART C: Social-Economic Status and Teenage Pregnancy

Kindly rate the extent to which you agree with the following statements on the influences Social-Economic Status on teenage pregnancy among secondary school students. Use a scale of **SD** – Strongly Disagree; **D** – Disagree; **N** – Neutral; **A** – Agree and **SA** – Strongly Agree

Statement		SD	D	N	A	SA
Statement		SD	D	N	A	SA
1	Girls who lack financial resources for their fundamental necessities resort to engaging in sexual encounters to obtain funds.					
2	Girls from low-income households face a greater likelihood of experiencing pregnancy compared to those from affluent ones.					
3	Girls from low socioeconomic backgrounds may become pregnant in an effort to obtain financial support from men.					
4	Girls from impoverished backgrounds may become pregnant in an effort to escape their adverse economic conditions.					
5	Girls from impoverished backgrounds may become pregnant in an effort to escape their adverse economic conditions					
6	Young women from economically disadvantaged backgrounds are readily enticed into participating in unlawful sexual activities for financial compensation.					

PART D: Peer Group Influence and Teenage Pregnancy

Please rate how much you agree with the following assertions about peer group influence on adolescent pregnancy among secondary school students. Scale: SD (strongly disagree), D (disagree), N (neutral), A (agree), and SA (strongly agree).

Statement		SD	D	N	A	SA
1.	My companions compelled me to partake in sexual intercourse for the first time.					
2.	Boyfriends often pressure girls into engaging in sexual activities.					
3.	Friends motivate one another to engage in sexual relationships.					
4.	My buddies attempt to convince me to engage in a sexual relationship with males					
5.	Friends can often persuade me to engage in sexual interactions with males					
6.	Friends encourage each other to have sexual relationships					

PART E: Exposure to social media and Teenage Pregnancy

Kindly rate the extent to which you agree with the following statements on the Exposure to Social Media influences on teenage pregnancy among secondary school students. Use a scale of **SD** – Strongly Disagree; **D** – Disagree; **N** – Neutral; **A** – Agree and **SA** – Strongly Agree

Statement		SD	D	N	A	SA
1	Information from my favorite social media sources sometimes makes me more aware of my sexual desires.					
2	Watching adult-rated movies and explicit music online by students does not have a significant impact on teenage pregnancy					
3	Parental controls on access to social networking sites and the internet can help reduce the likelihood of teenagers engaging in sexual relationships and experiencing teenage pregnancy.					
4	Seeing characters in popular online TV shows and internet content acting in certain ways regarding sex can significantly influence my perceptions of sex and sexuality in real life					
5	Platforms like Facebook, WhatsApp, and other social networking services do not directly influence how I feel about sex and sexuality in real life.					
6	Texting on mobile phones plays a significant role in influencing teenage sexual behavior					
7.	Early exposure to social media enables one to engage in sexual relation					

SECTION B: Parental Influence and Teenage Pregnancies

Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements. Use a scale of **SD** – Strongly Disagree; **D** – Disagree; **N** – Neutral; **A** – Agree and **SA** – Strongly Agree

Statement		S	D	N	A	S
1	Parents/guardians that are strict about monitoring friendships and social activities reduce teenage pregnancy.					
2	Parental guidance is important in preventing teenage pregnancy during holidays.					
3	The occupations of parents substantially impact the likelihood of their daughters becoming teenage mothers.					
4	Parents provide girls with information on how to prevent teenage pregnancy.					
5	Girls who do not receive love and support from their parents may feel emotionally neglected and look for affection and acceptance elsewhere.					
6	The information I obtain from my preferred social media source incites a desire for sexual activity.					
7	Girls left under guardian often gets pregnant.					

PART C: Social-Economic Status and Teenage Pregnancy

Kindly rate the extent to which you agree with the following statements on the influences Social-Economic Status on teenage pregnancy among secondary school students. Use a scale of **SD** – Strongly Disagree; **D** – Disagree; **N** – Neutral; **A** – Agree and **SA** – Strongly Agree

Statement		SD	D	N	A	SA
1	Girls who lack financial resources for their fundamental necessities resort to engaging in sexual encounters to obtain funds.					
2	Girls from low-income households face a greater likelihood of experiencing pregnancy compared to those from affluent ones.					
3	Girls from low socioeconomic backgrounds may become pregnant in an effort to obtain financial support from men.					
4	Girls from impoverished backgrounds may become pregnant in an effort to escape their adverse economic conditions.					
5	Girls from impoverished backgrounds may become pregnant in an effort to escape their adverse economic conditions					
6	Young women from economically disadvantaged backgrounds are readily enticed into participating in unlawful sexual activities for financial compensation.					

PART D: Peer Group Influence and Teenage Pregnancy

Please rate how much you agree with the following assertions about peer group influence on adolescent pregnancy among secondary school students. Scale: SD (strongly disagree), D (disagree), N (neutral), A (agree), and SA (strongly agree).

Statement		SD	D	N	A	SA
1	Girls companions compelled them to partake in sexual intercourse					
2	Boyfriends often pressure girls into engaging in sexual activities.					
3	Friends motivate one another to engage in sexual relationships.					
4	Girls buddies convince them to engage in a sexual relationship with males					
5	Friends can often persuade girls to engage in sexual interactions with males					
6	Friends encourage one another to have sexual relationship					

PART E: Exposure to social media and Teenage Pregnancy

Kindly rate the extent to which you agree with the following statements on the Exposure to Social Media influences on teenage pregnancy among secondary school

students. Use a scale of **SD** – Strongly Disagree; **D** – Disagree; **N** – Neutral; **A** – Agree and **SA** – Strongly Agree

Statement		SD	D	N	A	SA
1	Information from my favorite social media sources sometimes makes me more aware of my sexual desires.					
2	Watching adult-rated movies and explicit music online by students does not have a significant impact on teenage pregnancy					
3	Parental controls on access to social networking sites and the internet can help reduce the likelihood of teenagers engaging in sexual relationships and experiencing teenage pregnancy.					
4	Seeing characters in popular online TV shows and internet content acting in certain ways regarding sex can significantly influence my perceptions of sex and sexuality in real life					
5	Platforms like Facebook, WhatsApp, and other social networking services do not directly influence how I feel about sex and sexuality in real life.					
6	Texting on mobile phones plays a significant role in influencing teenage sexual behavior					
8.	Early exposure to social media enables one to engage in sexual relation					

Appendix III: Interview Schedule for Heads of Guidance and Counseling

1. In what manner do less engaged parents interact with their secondary school daughters?
2. What obstacles do secondary school girls from less engaged parental backgrounds encounter?
3. Identify challenges faced by secondary school females from low socioeconomic backgrounds.
4. What social problems do secondary school females encounter from their peers?
5. In what ways do social media influence secondary school girls?

Appendix IV: Table of Determining Sample Size

The table for determining the size of a randomly chosen sample for a given population of N cases such that the sample proportion is within ± 0.05 of the population within a 95% confidence interval.

N	S	N	S	N	S
10	10	220	140	1200	291
15	14	230	144	1300	297
20	19	240	148	1400	302
25	24	250	152	1500	306
30	28	260	155	1600	310
35	32	270	159	1700	313
40	36	280	162	1800	317
45	40	290	165	1900	320
50	44	300	169	2000	322
55	48	320	175	2200	327
60	52	340	181	2400	331
65	56	360	186	2600	335
70	59	380	191	2800	338
75	63	400	196	3000	341
80	66	420	201	3500	346
85	70	440	205	4000	351
90	73	460	210	4500	354
95	76	480	214	5000	357
100	80	500	217	6000	361
110	86	550	226	7000	364
120	92	600	234	8000	367
130	97	650	241	9000	368
140	103	700	248	10000	370
150	108	750	254	15000	375
160	113	800	260	20000	377

Appendix V: County Commissioner Authorization

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AND NATIONAL ADMINISTRATION

Telephone: 064 - 630356
Fax: 064-630356
E-mail: cctharakanithi@gmail.com
When replying please quote

County Commissioner
Tharaka Nithi County
P.O. Box 22-60406
Kathwana

16th April, 2024

Ref: TNC/ED/VOL.1/309

TO DEPUTY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
THARAKA NITHI COUNTY

RE: AUTHORIZATION TO CARRY RESEARCH -JOYLINE MUKWAIRU NJERU THARAKA UNIVERSITY

Reference is made to a letter from National commission for science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI) Ref NO.384998 dated 3rd April, 2024.

The above person is authorized to carry research on "selected social-cultural Influence on Teenage Pregnancy among students in Tharaka Nithi County, Kenya'' for a period ending on 3rd April,2025

Please accord her the necessary support.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER
THARAKA-NITHI
17 APR 2024
P. O. BOX 22-60406
KATHWANA

MUTUA KATHUO
FOR: COUNTY COMMISSIONER
THARAKA NITHI

Appendix VI: County Director of Education Authorization

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
STATE DEPARTMENT OF EARLY LEARNING AND BASIC EDUCATION

Telegrams: "Elimu", Chuka
Telephone: Chuka 630353
FAX: 064 630166
Email: *tharakanithicountyedu@gmail.com*
When replying please quote:

COUNTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATIO
THARAKA NITHI
P.O. BOX 113-60400
CHUKA.

16th APRIL ,2024

TNC/ED/RA/GEN/129/102

Ms.Joyline Mukwairu Njeru
UNIVERSITY OF THARAKA

RE: RESEARCH AUTHORIZATION FOR MS.JOYLINE MUKWAIRU NJERU

I am pleased to inform you that you have been authorized to undertake research on " ***selected Social –Cultural Influence on Teenage Pregnancy among Secondary Students in Tharaka Nithi County"*** The research will be undertaken for a period ending **04/APRIL/2025**.

On completion of the research, you are expected to give a hard copy and soft copy of the research report/thesis to this office.

The research Authorization is granted according to all existing rules and regulations in force from time to time and observance of Covid-19 Guidelines and protocols as recommended by the relevant government MDAs.

Good luck!

County Director of Education
Tharaka – Nithi
P. O. Box 113 – 60400,
Chuka

Bridget Wambua (Mrs)
County Director of Education
THARAKA NITHI

Appendix VII: Institutional Ethics Review Letter

THARAKA UNIVERSITY

P.O BOX 193-60215,
MARIMANTI, KENYA

Telephone: +(254)-0202008549
Website: https://tharaka.ac.ke
Social Media: tharakauni
Email: info@tharaka.ac.ke

INSTITUTIONAL SCIENTIFIC AND ETHICS REVIEW COMMITTEE

20th February, 2024.

REF: TUNISERC/NSEC/ DOO2

Dear, Joyline Mukwaru Njeru

RE: Selected Social-Cultural Influence on Teenage Pregnancy among Secondary Students in Tharaka Nithi County, Kenya

This is to inform you that ***Tharaka University ISERC*** has reviewed and approved your above research proposal. Your application approval number is ***ISERC04023.*** The approval period is ***20th February 2024 –20th February, 2025.***

This approval is subject to compliance with the following requirements;

i. Only approved documents including (informed consents, study instruments, MTA) will be used
ii. All changes including (amendments, deviations, and violations) are submitted for review and approval by ***Tharaka University ISERC***.
iii. Death and life threatening problems and serious adverse events or unexpected adverse events whether related or unrelated to the study must be reported to ***Tharaka University ISERC*** within 72 hours of notification
iv. Any changes, anticipated or otherwise that may increase the risks or affected safety or welfare of study participants and others or affect the integrity of the research must be reported to ***Tharaka University ISERC*** within 72 hours
v. Clearance for export of biological specimens must be obtained from relevant institutions.
vi. Submission of a request for renewal of approval at least 60 days prior to expiry of the approval period. Attach a comprehensive progress report to support the renewal.
vii. Submission of an executive summary report within 90 days upon completion of the study to ***Tharaka University ISERC***.

Prior to commencing your study, you will be expected to obtain a research license from National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI) https://research-portal.nacosti.go.ke and also obtain other clearances needed.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Fidelis Ngugi
Chair, ISERC Tharaka University

Appendix VIII: National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI) License

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCIENCE,TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

Ref No: **384998**

Date of Issue: **03/April/2024**

RESEARCH LICENSE

This is to Certify that Ms.. Joyline Mukwairu Njeru of Tharaka University, has been licensed to conduct research as per the provision of the Science, Technology and Innovation Act, 2013 (Rev.2014) in Tharaka-Nithi on the topic: Selected Social-Cultural Influence on Teenage Pregnancy among Secondary Students in Tharaka Nithi County, Kenya for the period ending : 03/April/2025.

License No: **NACOSTI/P/24/34052**

384998

Applicant Identification Number

Director General
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCIENCE,TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

Verification QR Code

NOTE: This is a computer generated License. To verify the authenticity of this document, Scan the QR Code using QR scanner application.

See overleaf for conditions