

ABSTRACT

Factors Involved In Teenage Pregnancy - A Comparative Study Of Factors Concerning Contraception

Cheryl Angeline McCollin-Walker

Teenage pregnancy is associated with a variety of adverse health and social consequences for young mothers and their infants. In the Caribbean the magnitude of the problem is noted to be increasing and it is therefore necessary to determine what factors may be contributing to the problem.

The study assessed primiparous teenagers who were attending institutions in the islands of Barbados and Jamaica. It was found that the knowledge about contraceptives after pregnancy was much greater than before, and this, coupled with the antenatal experience, was cited to be a major deterrent to these females becoming pregnant again during their teenage years.

Another issue noted to have emerged from the study is the degree to which myths and socio-cultural beliefs about sexual activity and pregnancy influence the attitudes of teenagers. Furthermore most teenagers considered that increased responsibility, loss of recreational time and

loss of education had caused the greatest changes in their lives since delivery. These issues should therefore be addressed in the management of the growing problem of teenage pregnancy.