The Social Dimensions of Teen Pregnancy in the Philippines

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Objectives of the Presentation

1. To present the experiences of females ages 15-19 in premarital sex (PMS) and early pregnancy
2. To identify other risky behaviors and their association with PMS and teenage pregnancy
3. To identify social and some economic factors related to PMS and teenage pregnancy
4. To recommend further steps in moving forward in reduction of teenage pregnancy.
Social Environment of the Adolescent

- Society / Government
- Community
- Relationship
- Individual

"May baby na ang baby ko!"
Data Sources

I. 2013 YAFS4 Survey: 5,654 representative female population ages 15-19
   (Subfile of YAFS4 n=11,462, both sexes. Full sample N=19,178)

II. 2016 Focus Group Data on Parents and Teens regarding Parent-Child Relationships relevant to ASRH
Profile of YAFS 4 Study Population

**Marital Status**
- Ever been in union: 15.3%
- Never married (Single): 84.7%

**Current Residence**
- Urban: 28.7%
- Rural: 71.3%

**Education**
- No schooling/pre/elementary: 21.6%
- High school undergraduate: 19.3%
- High school graduate/vocational: 9.3%
- College+: 49.8%

**Main Activity**
- None: 16.1%
- Student: 0%
- Unemployed, looking for work: 9.7%
- Housework: 4.6%
- Unpaid family worker: 2.5%
- Working (domestic helper included): 13.4%
The FGD Data

Respondents

1) Female adolescents
   • Aged 12-20
   • Currently pregnant
   • Have a child or children
   • In-school and out-of-school

2) Male Adolescents
   • Aged 12-20
   • In-school and out-of-school

3) Mothers/Fathers
   • Not more than 45 years old
   • Have children aged 12-20

4) Health Service Providers
The FGD Data

Areas

- Albay
- Ifugao
- Mt. Province
- Quezon City
- Eastern Samar
- Compostela Valley
- Sultan Kudarat
- Sarangani
- Maguindanao
- North Cotabato
Findings
Premarital Sex (PMS) and Teen Pregnancy

- Of the teenagers who got pregnant, 77.7% had premarital sex (PMS);
  4% did not have PMS
- Of the never pregnant, 22.3% had engaged in PMS

14.1% had premarital sex
14.4% have been pregnant
Other Risk Behaviors & their Association with PMS/Pregnancy
Smoking & PMS/Pregnancy

Higher proportion of PMS/pregnancy among those who smoked than those who did not smoke

QG19. Have you ever tried smoking cigarettes?
Drinking & PMS/Pregnancy

Higher proportion of PMS/pregnancy among those who drank than those who did not drink alcoholic beverages

- Ever had sex:
  - Yes: 20.7%
  - No: 6.9%

- Ever been pregnant:
  - Yes: 19.1%
  - No: 9.3%

QG30. Have you ever tried drinking (alcoholic beverages)?
Drug Use & PMS/Pregnancy

Higher proportion of PMS/pregnancy among those who have tried using drugs than those who did not.

QG54. Have you ever tried using drugs or other substances?
FGD: Other Risk Behaviors

"Kasi nangyayari ‘yan minsan, ‘pag ganyan na inuman hanggang mag-umaga. ‘Pag lasing na, tapos ‘yan na, hanggang magkatuksuhan na."
(Male adolescent, Albay)

“Yon kasi ‘yong sabi nila na masarap daw ang bawal. Sinubukan lang.”
(Male adolescent, North Cotabato)
Socio-economic Factors and PMS/Pregnancy
Education & PMS/Pregnancy

Lowest educational levels and completion of high school are associated with higher incidences of PMS & Pregnancy.
Main Activity & PMS/Pregnancy

Housework & Doing Nothing as the main activities are associated with high levels of PMS/Pregnancy

QA9. What was your main activity in the past three months?
“Kasi malapit na ako mag-graduate ng grade 6 tapos hindi ako naka-graduate kasi nauna (namatay) na ‘yong nanay ko. Tapos, naghinto na ako mag-aral kasi wala na magastos sa akin tapos ‘yong tatay ko nagkasakit...Tapos naghanap ako ng trabaho para matulungan ko ‘yong tatay ko...Hindi na ako naka-graduate. ‘Mas gusto ko na lang magsama na lang tayo (boyfriend).’“

(Female adolescent, Maguindanao)
Self-Esteem
INDIVIDUAL LEVEL
Self-Esteem & PMS/Pregnancy

Those who disagree that they persons of worth have higher levels of incidence of PMS /Pregnancy

Self-Esteem: I am a person of worth.

QC2$07. I feel that I'm a person of worth.
Self-Esteem & PMS/Pregnancy

Those who think that they are failures have higher incidence levels of PMS/Pregnancy

*Self-Esteem: I am a failure.*

18.7% Agree, 12.6% Disagree
19.7% Agree, 12.6% Disagree
A higher proportion of females living in rural areas left home compared to their urban counterparts. Between both sexes, there are more home leavers from teens living in rural areas over urban dwellers. For the sample, the average age when they left home is 14 years old.

**Mean Age first Lived away from family: 14.22**

QA26. *(When you were single,) have you ever lived away from your family for a period of three months or more?*

QA27. *At what age did you first live away from your family?*
Home Leaving & PMS/Pregnancy

Home leaving is associated with higher incidence of PMS/Pregnancy

- **Ever had sex**
  - Lived away from home: 19.8
  - Never left home: 11.6

- **Ever been pregnant**
  - Lived away from home: 20.4
  - Never left home: 11.6
Reasons for leaving home

Young people leave home for school and work-related reasons

QA29. Why did you live away from home the first time that you did?
Which of the reasons for leaving home are risky for pregnancy?

- Parents died: 75.00%
- Ran away from home: 66.70%
- Grandparents took care of R: 64.30%
- Job-related (to work, look for work, etc): 27.60%
- Any reason: 14.40%
- Never left home: 11.70%

QA29. Why did you live away from home the first time that you did?
FGD: Living Away From Home

“Hindi ko po nasasabi [na nagka-boyfriend ako] kasi po naulila na po kami sa papa tapos ‘yong mama ko po noon wala siya, nasa ibang bansa...Hindi niya po kami nasuportahan kaya siguro po maaga kaming nakapag-asawa.”
(Female adolescent, Ifugao)
"Gusto ko na talaga na maagang makaasawa kasi ‘yong dati na inuwian ko na auntie ko, hindi ko pala alam na ‘yong asawa niya, na gusto pala akong gahasain...Dalaga pa ako noon pero umuwi ako sa kanila kasi wala silang anak, kumbaga ako wala din nanay at tatay...”  
(Female adolescent, Maguindanao)
"Kapabayaan din ng magulang. Halimbawa, ‘yong magulang nando'n sa ibang bansa, 'yong bata nandito...’Pag nagpapadala 'yong magulang ng sustento niya, ginagamit sa iba...‘Yong nasa malayo sa mga magulang, kung minsan, ano na sila sa mga masasamang 'di kanais-nais na gawain. Droga, gano'n, hindi lang sa pag-inom inom, bisyo, paninigarilyo.” (Father, Ifugao)
Parenting Style
FAMILY
Parenting Style & PMS/Pregnancy

Having clear standards of behavior for the children while they are being raised is a protective factor for PMS/Pregnancy.

**On Parenting Style: Demandingness**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Ever had sex</th>
<th>Ever been pregnant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Always true</td>
<td>13.2</td>
<td>13.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never true</td>
<td>17.7</td>
<td>16.1</td>
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QB30$1. 1ST PERSON had clear standards of behavior for the children in your home when you were growing up.
FGD: Parenting Style

“Suporta talaga ng parents. Tama rin po na, naisip ko, ‘yong pagpigil na lumabas kapag gabi, gabi na uuwi, kasi do’n po naano.”

“Huwag higpitan kasi po pag lalo pong hinihigpitan, tulad po namin, kasi gano’n din po sa friends ko, lalo po silang tumatakas, lalo pa silang nagiging wild.”  

(Female adolescents, Quezon City)
Confidante of Young People for Problems Met
Mothers as top choice for daughters as consultant for their problems diminishes during intimate relationship issues

QB34. With whom shared/talked: PROBLEM REGARDING RELATIONSHIP W/ FAMILY MEMBERS; PROBLEM REGARDING RELATIONSHIP W/ FRIENDS; PROBLEM REGARDING INTIMATE RELATIONSHIPS; SCHOOL-RELATED PROBLEMS; FINANCIAL PROBLEMS
FGD: Communication with Parents

"Mas nakikinig ang mga mother sa sinasabi namin." (Male adolescent, Mt. Province)

“No’ng magsyota kami ng asawa ko, ‘yon ‘yong tinatanong ni mama kung may nangyari na ba. ‘Yon po sinabi ko pa sa kanya na meron. Tinanong niya kung ilang buwan na, do’n po ako naging open sa kanya.” (Female adolescent, Quezon City)
FGD: Communication with Parents

“Kasi kung makikipag-usap ka sa magulang, magsasalita din sila. Kung sa mga kaibigan, nagtatawanan lang kami.”
(Female adolescent, Sarangani)

"Maglalakwatsa kasi ‘pag binata. Based sa experience ko, mas gusto ko maglakwatsa ‘pag sabay ang barkada, mag-computer, kaysa sa mag-aral, dahil pagdating sa paaralan tamad na."
(Male adolescent, North Cotabato)
Influence of Siblings’ Behavior on Teenage PMS/Pregnancy

Have siblings with early pregnancy experience

QB3c. Among your sibling, how many got pregnant/ got someone pregnant before age 18.
FGD: Having siblings with early pregnancy experience

“Sa aking barangay, mayroong eldest sister na nabuntis nang 14 years old. Ngayon, ang bunso niyang kapatid nabuntis nang 13 years old. ‘Yong 14 years old...ang nag-alaga sa kanyang mga kapatid...Kaya naging bored ang 14-year old na anak sa pag-alaga ng mga kapatid, siguro dahil hindi siya nag-aaral. Sabi niya, ‘Ako ang nag-aalaga sa mga kapatid ko. Mag-alaga na lang ako ng sarili kong baby.”

(Health worker, Compostela Valley)
Media

COMMUNITY
Use of Internet

Internet is widely used by the teenagers for various activities

Online Activities

- Social networking: 53.6%
- School projects/research: 35.6%
- Surf: 16.6%
- Chat: 13.0%
- Watch videos: 11.9%
- Download music: 7.3%
- Check mail: 4.7%
- Download movies: 4.1%
- Shop online: 4.0%
- Blog: 4.0%

**63.1% use the internet**

**58.0 have own email account**

**57.6% have own FB account**

QE5. What do you do when you use the internet?
Exposure to pornographic movies/videos is associated with higher PMS/Pregnancy.

QE21. Have you ever watched pornographic/X-rated movies or videos (including from the internet and cell phones)?
FGD: Exposure to Pornography

“Ang parents dapat maging open-minded, na dapat i-accept ang change kasi iba na ang generation ngayon kompara sa generation noon. Sa bagong generation ng kabataan ngayon madami nang involved– cellphone, open wifi, Facebook. Anytime ano pumasok sa isip nila, pwede na nila ma-access.”
(Health worker, Sultan Kudarat)

"Sa computer, akala mo nagre-research sila pero nanonood pala sila ng sex video."
(Father, Ifugao)
SOCIETY
Poverty & Pregnancy

Higher proportion of pregnancy among girls from poor households

Poverty status derived from calculated wealth index collapsed into quintiles.
SUMMARY

There are factors in the socio-economic environment of the teenagers that serve either as risk or protective factors for PMS/Pregnancy.
Risky Behaviors

Education

Friends

Risky Behaviors

Individual

Self-esteem

Main Activity

Friends

Family: Intact (leaving home). Parenting style. Communication

Siblings: residence

Media: type

School System

Employment

Society / Government

Poverty

Community

Relationship

Main Activity
• This presentation showed quite a number of these factors

• However, there are still more that can be unearthed even from the YAFS4 data alone.

• YAFS4 data alone can still yield some more useful information that can be used to address more issues surrounding the issue of teen pregnancy.

• What we showed are just one factor influence at a time, the relative strength of influences still are not shown. This will be useful in identifying and prioritizing intervention programs.
Moving Forward on Teenage Pregnancy (TPreg)

Two Tracks of Action

A. Further research – tightening the information on the determinants of TPreg

B. Identify programs in various levels of influences
   A. Review existing programs for relevance, effectiveness, impact AND Propose improvements
   B. Identify gaps in current programs
   C. Propose programs to fill in the gaps
• Let us consolidate efforts toward addressing the increasing problem of teenage pregnancy through
• Better information and more appropriate and sufficient actions