TEENAGE PREGNANCY AMIDST COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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Teenage pregnancy refers to teenagers being pregnant at the age of between thirteen to nineteen years of age. Girls who are sexually active may get pregnant and give birth. It is one of the major problems in society as it contributes to mortality of mother and child. Adolescent’s body is still developing that early pregnancy may result to health risks and complications. According to reports, health risks and complications due to young pregnancy and childbirth are one of the primary causes of mortality for teenagers around the world.

According to National Research Council of the Philippines (DOST-NCRP) the surge to the rate of early pregnancy in the country is not due to pandemic but the factors brought by the pandemic itself. These factors are school closures, broken family and lack of knowledge about reproductive and sexual education.

School closures is one of the leading factors why many girls aged 10-19 got pregnant, because they are not enclosed to usual protection of the school environment. Girls, who are left alone to the care of their grandparents or guardians, have the tendency to got pregnant out of rebellion or because they long for affection that they cannot get from their parents.

In relation to that, it is a high time for the Department of Education to include reproductive and sexual education to the curriculum. This is to educate the students the danger of getting pregnant earlier and for them to avoid getting pregnant. Parents must realize and accept the truth that as young of 10 to 19 year old girls are sexually active
because this is the age where teenagers are getting attracted to opposite sex and have relationships.

In addition to that, we are now in an era where computers and internet dominate the world, these adolescents are exposed to social media and websites where sex videos are accessible even by minors. Curiosity will lead them in wanting to experience what they have watched from the internet.

References:
