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CO210/007

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Community Issue Speech

Teen Pregnancy

Teen pregnancy is a concern issue that's been happening for a long time now. Why is it kept from happening and every year the rate of teen pregnancies are increasing? Teenagers are not only the affected ones, this also affects their families, government and health educators. In my opinion, in every female teenage pregnancy, there is a lack of communication on family matters, lack of education, sexual information that can easily access through social media/internet, and sexual violence.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), about 16 million girls aging between 15 and 19 years and about one million girls younger than 15 years give birth every year. But here in our community, teenage pregnancy has 41.3% in total during 2016. At the age of 9 to 16 girls are having their puberty, most of them are having difficulty to understand what is happening and be comfortable into it. Everyone is not lucky to have a parent/guardian to guide them in this time of their life. This is where family matters come in, teenage girls are beginning to develop as they grew up, they don't usually tell everything about what is happening to them and not all teenagers are open to their families. Secondly, lack of education, not most teenagers are able to finish their studies that's why they don't have enough sexual education to understand how

important this kind of situation is. During their puberty, teenagers are getting curious and begin to explore, not thinking what would be the outcome. They have easy access to the world of social media, the majority of them have access to the internet. Websites and videos are just one click to find and have answers for their curiosity. Lastly, sexual violence, 27.8% ages 15 and above worldwide had experience sexual violence.

Teenage pregnancy is a concern issue here in CNMI and around the world. Ages 12 to 19 had sex and most of them don't know the full effects of the intercourse without taking any birth control or contraception. According to PSS, they usually go out to different high schools providing information on our programs. We talk about abstinence or practice safe sex as of 2016. In several states condoms and birth controls are free, they just have to go and inquire for the nearest clinic and ask for it.

In conclusion, preventive steps should be taken so that teenagers have a better idea of what their life as a teen parent will be like. I think schools should really discuss this problem and make them understand what would happen to them if they get pregnant. Teens should use condoms and learn more about what the actions and consequences of sex are before and while they do it. In addition, teenagers should be more aware of what kind of society we live in, thinking what kind of future they might have, if they will be open minded in this kind of issue. Educating themselves and supporting one another as a woman.

Resources:

<https://www.intechopen.com/books/an-analysis-of-contemporary-social-welfare-issues/teenage-pregnancies-a-worldwide-social-and-medical-problem>

<https://www.saipantribune.com/index.php/programs-set-curb-nmi-teen-pregnancy/>