Teen pregnancy in the CNMI

Northern Marianas College

Jasmine Salas

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Teenagers are people between 13 to 19 years of age. Being a parent as a teenager proves to be a challenging experience as majority of teenage mothers lack financial ability to support their children and often seek help from their parents. Majority of modern societies are not conducive for adolescent parents to thrive, a majority of their pregnancies are unplanned and cannot find financial independence like an adult.

Young parents are not capable of raising enough money to cater for the basic needs of a baby, as they have no jobs and depend on their parents for support. Main expenses such as food housing, childcare, and health require a substantial financial muscle to provide. Majority of teenage mothers drop out of high school as they lack resources to support their education and children needs simultaneously.

Parents are to spend an average of $8,760 to $24,510 per child in a year. The young parents do not have a professional establishment resulting to low-level income that does not support the children’s needs especially those who have not graduated from high school. Graduates earn $10,000 more than high school drop in a year according to the U.S Census Bureau (Miller, 1999).

Young parents without an education background cannot obtain a high annual salary resulting to lack of adequate funds to support a family. Becoming a teen parent limits the level of education as the national conference of state legislators, makes a shocking realization that only 50% of all teenage moms make it through high school compared to the top graduation number of girls without babies.

Young parents drop out of school because of scarcity in financial resource to see them through college and support their young families at home. These young families do not enroll in institutes for higher education, and this limits their level of income, wallowing them in abject poverty, as they are not professionally competitive.

Reference

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