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***Lived Experiences of Adolescent Fathers: Basis for an Enhanced
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Lived Experiences of Adolescent Fathers: Basis for an Enhanced Intervention Program

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Abstract

Title: Lived Experiences of Adolescent Fathers: A Basis for an Enhanced Intervention Program

This paper seeks to present the experiences of males who have fathered a child on their adolescence and to explore possible intervention program that could be enhanced.

There are few literatures that focus on the bout of adolescent fathers. They both have dual challenge to face: being an adolescent and a new father, which calls for the need for social services, support and organizational interventions.

Applying an Exploratory Sequential Mix Method Research Design, the study drew strengths from the combined methods. The first phase documented the lived experiences of the respondents and five themes surfaced which are: *below or near the poverty threshold, community and school-based exposure, stalled education, social support and social constructs*. A questionnaire was then designed to help generalize results and an enhanced intervention program Batang Ama, Turo at Alaga (BATA) project is proposed.

The result of this study adds to the buildup of previous research in the field.

Keywords: adolescent fathers, teenage fathers, transition, early fatherhood, services,

Lived Experiences of Adolescent Fathers: Basis for an Enhanced Intervention Program

CHAPTER 1

The Problem and Its Background

Introduction

According to reports from the United Nations Population Fund (UNPFA), within the last two decades of all countries with available data, adolescent fertility rates have declined, except in the Philippines.

Last August 2021, the Commission on Population and Development (PopCom) released a statement regarding the issue on the rising number of adolescent fathers. According to them, the Philippine Statistics Authority in 2018 has recorded 5,054 aged 18 years and below who have fathered a child, which is a leap from 3,148 in 2010.

The result of the list of Not-Attending School in Bulacan under the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program last 2017 shows that there are 307 program beneficiaries, 18 years old and below, who have failed to attend school because of reasons of teenage pregnancy and teenage marriage/cohabitation.

The increasing number of incidences draws studies on how teenage mothers deal with the whole process of pregnancy. There is little information however how the adolescent male handles the changing role he will face in becoming a teenage father. Ungwonsapatt, 2020 added that there are few literatures that are tackling the issue of adolescent fathers, and that there are

few “organizational supports that are available to them” (Kiselica & Kiselica, 2014) despite having experienced tremendous “emotional distress, being controlled by strong social and cultural expectations, and nurtured by older family members” (Astuti, et al, 2021).

Expectant fathers have the dual challenge of not only facing being a teenager but also being a father (Uengwongsapat,2020), which posits many problems and the need for services and social support.

The study explored the experiences of adolescent fathers, as well as existing guidelines on how to buffer the challenges that go with the transition and proposed an enhanced program to assist them in their current state.

Background of the Study

The position of fathers is crucial in the family, performing a myriad of roles. Fatherhood is a demanding experience, since having a child is a life-changing event; reallocation of time and financial expenses is expected (Fletcher and Wolfe, 2012). Buist, et al., (2002), stated that “developmentally, becoming a father requires a man to build on the experiences he has had throughout childhood and adolescence”.

The person-in-environment theory guides on understanding that the individual’s environment has an impact to his decisions and the way that they live. Different systems such as familial, educational and socio-economic environments are important aspects in considering the PIE theory. Social workers in particular can help determine the person’s influences through looking into his environment and the factors that are also connecting to his behavior. These could attempt to pinpoint the issues and the pursuit to find solutions through improving the environments.

Generally, adolescent fathers drop out of school, and look for jobs that could assist their partner throughout her pregnancy. They “typically achieved a lower level of education, have higher rates of unemployment, are more financially dependent, lower in socioeconomic status, have more behavioral problems such as smoking, drinking and illicit drug use, have more simultaneous sexual partners and sexually transmitted infections, engaged in more aggressive behavior and have more adverse early life experiences” (Quinlivan & Condon, 2005). These multilevel stresses may greatly affect the psychological aspect and overall well-being of the father.

Palsson et al., (2017) concluded that “transition to fatherhood is a challenging time” which has been described as an emotional roller coaster (Asenhed et al., 2014). It was ascertained by Sriyasak (2015) that major changes happen during the birth of a child. Barlette (2004) suggested that major changes for a first-time father could affect him physically and psychologically.

Undoubtedly, fathers adapting to their new roles go through different changes. However, there is a double dose of challenges and stresses for teenage fathers as they not only go through the changes and challenges of being a father, but also their teenage development (Steinberg, 2011)

With the increasing incidence, it is only necessary to give precedence to the experiences of early transition to fatherhood since the usual views of society to pregnancy, childbearing and parenting are highly attached to females only and how to ensure that these adolescents are given the proper attention they need.

Theoretical Framework

This study looked into the adolescents' experiences for the changing roles they have faced during adolescence fatherhood. The researcher based the study from the Ecological Systems Theory that examines the person's relationships with communities and larger society, including the micro, mezzo, exo and the macro system. Each system has its own set of norms, rules and roles that shape the individual's development. The ecological theory of Bronfenbrenner was used to explore the different environments involving adolescent fathers, the effect these systems have on the individual and the kind of support they provide. This study looked into the existing experiences of adolescence fatherhood from their own recollection including the interconnectedness of different systems which will serve as a basis for enhanced intervention program.

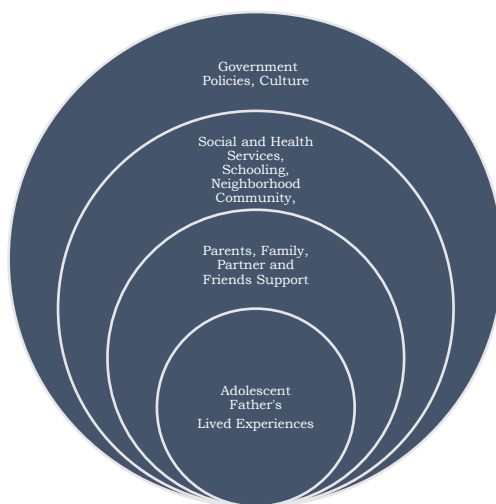


Figure 1: Adolescence Fatherhood in the context of Ecological Systems Theory

Objectives

The sudden transition of role of an adolescent posits changes that may greatly affect the wellbeing of the adolescent father, as well as his social functioning.

This study had two phases that identified the lived experiences of adolescent fathers, their characteristics and existing programs that assist their transition to fatherhood. Results then were used to propose an enhanced program and service for adolescent fathers.

Specifically, the study sought answers to the following objectives:

Phase 1: To identify the lived experiences of adolescent fathers.

Phase 2:

1. To determine respondents' characteristics in terms of:
 - civil status
 - number of children
 - educational attainment
 - employment status
 - hours spent on child/children per day
2. To examine the respondents' well-being when the profile characteristics are taken as test factors
3. To recommend a program that may be implemented for the adolescent fathers

Significance of the Study

The results of the study will be of great benefit to the following:

Adolescent Fathers. The study will provide ample amount of understanding and support to the teenage fathers who have always been excluded in previous studies in the setting of teenage pregnancy.

Adolescent Mothers. The results of the study will benefit the female partner with the realizations and support both teenagers will get.

Social Workers. This study will foster new ways of utilizing skills and knowledge on handling cases of teenage fathers.

Province of Bulacan. The results of the study will facilitate stronger mechanisms on case finding, handling and intervening with said cases.

Policy Makers. Data that will be drawn from the research will vastly contribute to the formulation of policies and guidelines on how to prevent, and address issues of teenage fatherhood.

Scope and Limitation

The coverage of the study focused on 20- 25 years old males in the 1st District of the Province of Bulacan who were 12-17 years old when they first fathered a child.

The study did not give attention to the age of the female partner, or the age of their child during conduct of research.

Definition of Terms

The following terms are defined for better understanding on the concepts used in the study.

Adolescent. It refers to those who are 12-17 years old.

Adolescent Fathers. It refers to adolescent males aged 12-17 who have fathered a child from unintended pregnancy.

Children Not Attending School (CNAS). Refers to the list from the 4Ps program beneficiaries who are consistently tagged as not attending/not complying in their school attendance.

Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps). It refers to the flagship program of the government on a conditional cash transfer basis, aiding eligible beneficiaries to uplift their level of wellbeing through investment in human capital.

Poverty Threshold. It denotes the line or the minimum amount of income or resources necessary for a family or an individual to meet the basic needs on food and non-food requirements.

Social Construct. It is defined as ideas or perceptions that are created and accepted by the society.

Social Service. Refers to the range of programs, projects and services that is intended to benefit the needs of community members which include education, housing, financial and other assistance.

Social Support. Refers to the physical, psychological, material or emotional comfort or support given to an individual through friends, family, peers or groups.

Social Work. It is a practice-based profession which promotes and enhances the social functioning of individuals, families and communities.

Stalled Education. Refers to the delayed or held up completion of education or schooling of a person due to different reasons.

Transition. It refers to an experience that denotes sudden change.

Unintended Pregnancy. It refers to unplanned pregnancy of partners.

Well-Being. It refers on the subjective experience of oneself on different factors including positive relationships and access to social services.

CHAPTER 2

Review of Related Literature and Studies

This chapter provided the related literature from foreign and local authors, published and unpublished materials from the internet as sources of materials. The researches and studies addressed the different concepts, ideas, generalizations and conclusions which guided the researcher in developing the study.

Prevalence of Teenage Pregnancy

Teenage pregnancy has been on the rise. There are various researches that have been done to study the alarming phenomenon.

The woman who bears the child and is undergoing changes to accommodate life inside her womb is equally expectant and important with the father (WHO, 2007), who is an excellent source of support to the adolescent mother and the child (Fagan, Futris, & Bernd, 2004; Gee & Rhodes, 2003).

The Influence of Parenting to Child Development

A study conducted by Gittins et.al (2019) mentioned that “parenting has a strong influence in child development”, that parental support is related to children’s positive development outcome. Cummings et al (2000), defined parenting’s parental support or affective parent-child relationship as a relationship with different deliveries such as acceptance, being involved, warmth, responsibility and emotional stability. There are different parenting styles;

one includes psychologically controlling behavior that could deeply damage children, on which may be due to poor self-worth. (Gittins, et al.,2019).

Bhana & Nkani (2014) supported the dearth of studies, implying that “the social, economic and cultural values surrounding teenage fatherhood have been less examined (Swartz and Bhana, 2009) and is needed to give focus on ideas of “masculinity based on power over women” and to raise educational and social outcomes through provision of support to the young mother and their child (Jewkes, Morrell, and Christofides ,2009).

Role of Fathers

Various research conducted mentioned that the role of both the mothers and fathers through positive parenting “promotes healthy development of children and families” (Jeong et al. 2018), but has given less attention to the roles of fathers in general.

The roles of fathers in the process of parenting are as equally important as the mothers’ roles. Fathers who are emotionally involved and invested with the lives of their children are associated with better well-being, cognitive development and social competence by providing a wide range of stimulation (Cabrera et al., 2000). It is essential then that both the mother and the father enjoined in the parenting.

Risk Factors of Adolescence Fatherhood

Some of the major risk factors of an adolescent to become a young father are “a member of a minority race, have a mother who gave birth as a teen, have parents with limited education, and have parents with limited educational expectations for their son Fletcher & Wolfe (2012). Included as well are living with a single parent, early initiation of sexual activity, history of

conduct disorder, and leaving school before age 16 years (Pears, Pierce, Kim, Capaldi, & Owen, 2005). They also mentioned that parent's failure to adequately monitor children's whereabouts and activities is also a risk factor.

Madlala, 2018 revealed on the study that young men aged 18-23 who have undergone a semi-structured interview to assert their perceptions on teenage pregnancy were not involved in any programs regarding reproductive health that could potentially prevent teenage pregnancies. There is also the factor about poor father and son's communication on issues such as sex and teenage pregnancy. These findings induce unprotected sex practices which overall contribute to early pregnancy.

In a press statement last 2021, the Department of Health's (DOH) Disease and Prevention and Control Bureau Supervising Health Program Officer Dulce Elfa stated that discussions regarding reproductive health, including sexual topics remained as a taboo for parents and family, one of the reasons for adolescent to not open up and seek guidance from them because of having feelings of shame. They tend to look for answers through searching in the internet and prefers peer to peer talk.

Effects of Adolescence Fatherhood to Psychosocial Being, Education, Child Involvement and Employment

A study conducted by Sheeran et al. (2020) concluded that teenage fathers have been viewed by the society negatively, as seen through social constructs stereotypes which could result in internalized stigma, and thereby affecting help-seeking behaviors. The results identified that the teenage fathers are "perceived to lack maturity, morality, competence, warmth and capacity to parent."

These combined stresses contribute to the overall wellbeing of the adolescent. Research proves that higher stress and marital dissatisfaction the new father goes through results in lower parental self-efficacy that in turn also affect his association and involvement with his child (Singley, 2015; Murdock, 2013; Sevigny & Loutzenhiser, 2010).

On the other aspect, Fletcher & Wolfe, (2012) analyzed that teenage fatherhood results in decreased years of schooling, increased early marriage and cohabitation, and increased fulltime and military employment status.

A study of Jeong, 2020 using a longitudinal data on a 1,779 sample of adolescent boys in various countries to investigate the socio-demographic determinants of adolescent fatherhood and the subsequent consequences on their lives. The results showed that adolescent fathers have “higher likelihood of school dropout, being overweight, smoking, greater internalizing problems and less time spent on leisure activities and more time spent on caregiving activities.”

Because of the societal norms demanded to the fathers to be the provider, the teenage father’s working status, despite his inadequacies, may have a significant impact on his involvement with the child (Fagan, Barnett, Bernd, & Whiteman, 2003) since there is higher power attached to breadwinning status, as an expression of masculinity and cultural ideas, as found out in a study of Zulu men in South Africa, calls ‘provider masculinity’, by Hunter (2010). With their difficulties to provide, teenage fathers have been viewed to be absent or uncaring (Bhana & Nkani,2014).

Also, noted in the reasons of less paternal involvement to the child and his partner is the conflicting relationships with the mother, or maternal grandparents, as well as lack of financial supports (Bunting & McAuley, 2004), thus, leading young fathers being rejected (Swartz and

Bhana, 2009), and being seen as useless (Hunter, 2006) by the family of the mother. All of these increase emasculations to the teenage father. (Bhana & Nkani, 2014).

Meytin, 2018 on her study mentioned and explored the socioeconomic attainment in adulthood of teen mothers and teen fathers. Using the Life Course Theory and two potential longitudinal predictors which are family support and adult identity. Study 1 resulted to having Black teen fathers with great parental support experienced greater accumulations on socio-economic disadvantages in comparison with the white ones. In her Study 2, teen mothers and their adult identity profiles may have an impact on their socio-economic outcomes but shown no significant association between parental support and socio-economic outcomes. In her Study 3, “longitudinal predictors of educational attainment and income in adulthood were examined for teen fathers” and have resulted to “(a) teenage fathers' risk behavior in adolescence is associated with lower educational attainment and income in adulthood and (b) work participation in their early 20s may reduce teen fathers' investment in education”. These results can be taken into account on formulating needed buffers to cut off negative effects with early parenthood.

While a number of studies viewed the transition to fatherhood, especially for adolescents, a stressful event, few have positively experienced it.

Mukuna, 2020 on his study explored the experiences of school-aged 17-20 years old adolescent fathers. On the results after the thematic analysis, they have reported having experienced “humiliation from their teachers and peer rejection” However, the students also went through transition on which they have become resilient, being involved to their children's lives on upbringing and growth and establishing a positive relationship with their partner.

A study of Chin, Hall & Daiches (2011) noted that fathers observed changes in personality: a father conveyed being “more sensitive” and “caring more about others” (Premberg et al., 2008). A number of fathers mentioned going through positive changes in their relationship, noting that they are ‘calmer’, ‘deeper’, ‘stronger’ relationships post-birth (Fägerskiöld, 2008; Premberg et al., 2008).

There are conflicting views on the effects of teenage fatherhood. It is on this premise that the researcher would like to divulge more on what adolescents of Bulacan go through during their transition to fatherhood.

Well-Being of Adolescent Fathers

Well-being is a state or report of one’s happiness, satisfaction and general good feeling. According to CDC wellbeing is associated with self-perceived health, longevity, healthy behaviors, mental and physical illness, social connectedness, productivity, and factors in the physical and social environment, and that individual who report to have high levels of wellbeing are “more productive at work and are more likely to contribute to their communities.” Furthermore, the CDC clarifies that there is no single factor or determinant for a person to say that he/she has a good wellbeing, but rather is dependent on the following: good health, positive social relationships and availability and access to basic resources such as shelter and income.

Yogman et al., (2016) on their study posits that a “father’s own well-being can also influence the well-being of the child.” It also shows that “new fathers were 1.38 times as likely to be depressed as compared to aged males.” A male who is going through transition to fatherhood for the first time may have an impact on the way he parents, especially if he goes through depression.

Fuller, 2016 also mentioned that past researches have shown that adolescent parenthood have an increased multitude of issues pertaining to wellbeing, more so for adolescents who are belonging to the poor socio-economic background or from those population who have low access and utilization of different human services.

Support of Different Systems to Adolescent Fathers

Uengwongsapat, 2020 and Kershaw, 2015 both agreed that for the adolescent father to cope, family support was necessary. Additionally, “social support from friends, healthcare professionals and a well-structured social services support network” would further provide assistance to the adolescent fathers. These would help them become more caring, responsible and productive ones, which currently are only being receiving such support from their own parents (Kirven, 2014).

In South Africa, their Department of Social Development, 2012 White Paper on Families released an “attempt to strengthen healthy families in the country, recognizing the positive effect of fathers in improving a child’s life chances” (Makusha, Richter, and Bhana ,2012).

Bhana & Nkani ,(2014), elaborated that providing support and ensuring teenage fathers’ involvement to their child is “key to addressing the negative consequences of household poverty, poor outcomes for children and the negative effects it has on fathers.” This must be part of policy makers’ thrust on development of programs and strategies to address the needs of the fathers, specifically a multi-sectoral approach which will ensure the involvement of families, schools, community, political and cultural economy.

Those who have solid support networks and with role models, could facilitate a sense of competence and buffer effects of conflicts and demands of parenting to the fathers (Singley,

2015). According to Chin, Hall & Daiches (2011) there is a sense of relief from anxiety as fathers gain confidence in providing infant care.

Fuller, 2016 added that different programs and services for adolescent fatherhood and “committed participation in human service interventions” have an effect in positive building of personality and good foundation of relationships inside the family.

Evidently, support from different sources has good outcomes to the adjustment of the young fathers. It is noteworthy, however, that lack of social support may have adverse effect, such as depressive symptoms as reiterated by Singley (2015) and depression has reduced frequency of interaction and engagement of a father to infants (Bronte-Tinkew et al., 2007) and could potentially lower parenting self-efficacy of fathers (Sevigny & Loutzenhiser, 2010).

Role of Practitioners to Adolescence Fatherhood

Hynan, Mounts, & Vanderbilt ‘s (2013), study “Depression Screening for New Fathers”) recommended that there must be regular screenings for new and expectant fathers so as to be more aware of the father’s health during the transition period.

Singley (2015) supported this and mentioned that increasing awareness on the father’s mental health during the whole perinatal period is needed. Ramchandani et al., (2005) added that men are at high risk to suffer mental health issues, and yet most of the studies in this area focuses on the well-being of the mother and the infant (Brockington, 2004).

Existing policies include the DepEd Order No. 31, series 2018 (DO 31) or the Policy Guidelines on the Implementation of the Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE), which “aims to enhance the holistic wellness of the Filipino adolescents and effectively address their

needs for health and protection through education by ensuring that they are equipped with comprehensive information and appropriate life skills that can advance gender equality and empowerment, clarify their values and attitude, and reduce risks related to poor health outcomes – thereby enabling them to achieve their full potential.” However, the guidelines are addressing the education and awareness campaign to prevent the occurrence of pregnancy, as well as fatherhood. There is little to none that addresses the needs for education or other support to be given to their students in case they face such transition.

The Department of Health further stated last 2021 in an interview mentioned the launching of I choose, a program that will “promote healthy options for the youth and encourage them to make informed choices”. Part of this program is the availability of making facilities adolescent friendly, ensuring that the health staff are trained on what approaches to use with adolescents. Disease and Prevention and Control Bureau Supervising Health Program Officer Dulce Elfa explained that there are studies that claim Filipino health care workers are judgmental and bias that limit the adolescents’ access to different health information and services.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development with the Administrative Order No.40 Series of 2003 entitled “Guidelines on the Implementation of Empowerment and Reaffirmation of Paternal Abilities (ERPAT)” discusses and gives importance on the roles of fathers, responsibilities and abilities through advocacy and social mobilization, building of father’s organizations and associations, capability building and training and networking and alliance building. Its target beneficiaries do not specify the involvement of teenage fathers.

Last June 2021, the Department of Social Welfare and Development together with the Commission on Population and Development launched their undertaking on the so-called “Social

Protection Program for Teenage Mothers and their Children "(SPPTMC), which is anchored in the General Appropriations Act of 2021. This collaboration specifically benefits teenage mothers and their children, which will ensure prevention of teenage pregnancies and create measures and programs which are sufficient and accessible for them.

Furthermore, DSWD through its Social Technology Bureau has conceptualized last 2020 and on its preliminary stage a concept paper entitled "TEEN SUPPORT: Psychological Support and other Interventions for Teenage Parents and their Families". Teenage parents will be beneficiaries, which will subsequently target their psychological health and well-being and thereby improving their knowledge, skills and overall capacity on taking on their new roles and responsibilities as expected of them as parenting youth. This includes the following: Online Psychological Support, Family Life Enrichment Sessions and Direct Assistance and Referral Services.

Synthesis

Most of the studies that have been conducted look into the effects of the new roles attached to adolescent fatherhood. Some have recommended in general ways to assist in their adjustments to fatherhood. This study could be a basis for policy makers to formulate a holistic program of services that focus more on the well-being of the father, specifically the adolescents to take on the responsibility of the new role.

The above collection of mostly foreign studies and researches provide background and information to the challenges faced by the adolescent fathers in their course of transition to fatherhood. There are different effects, especially with their education and employment, and the importance and strength of support coming from their primary families. These have given a

clearer understanding on what adolescent fathers perceive to be paramount on his decision making and hierarchy of needs.

The review of studies further provided the demand for interventions and services to help them in their new role. In this study, the social services and package of programs available are delved. In the Philippine setting, the study was able to examine the existing services.

CHAPTER 3

Methods and Procedure

This chapter focused on the type of research methodology used, the respondents, sampling technique and size, and statistical treatment that were used in the study.

Research Design

The design that was utilized in this study is the Exploratory Sequential Mixed Method Research Design. According to Fetters, Curry, and Creswell, 2013 “qualitative research methodologies are used to explore why or how a phenomenon occurs, to develop a theory, or describe the nature of an individual’s experience, while quantitative methodologies address questions about causality, generalizability, or magnitude of effect”. The combination will draw strengths from the two methods. Creswell and Plano Clark (2011) further described the method which says that the Mixed Method Research Design is used in a single study, where both qualitative and quantitative data will be “collected and analyzed separately, and integrated – either concurrently or sequentially – to address the research question”.

For the Phase 1 of the study, an in -depth interview was used for data gathering. After the in- depth inquiry, the experiences were interpreted. A survey questionnaire was used for Phase 2.

Statistical Analysis Plan

The statistical analysis plan of this study included the research study design, the data analysis plan, and the statistical methods used for the analysis of the variables and data, wherein each section further presented details of the needed information to determine the results of this study.

Data Analysis Plan

For the Qualitative Data, thematic analysis was used to analyze the data gathered. As per Braun and Clarke (2006), thematic analysis is a method for “identifying, analyzing, organizing, describing and reporting themes within a data set.”

The Quantitative Data, on the other hand were analyzed through the following: Descriptive Statistics, Cross Tabulation Analysis and Chi Square. Descriptive statistics provide descriptions on the basic features of the study. Obtained means was able to describe the demographic profile of the respondents, while the frequency count was used in determining the common issues and concerns faced during the transition to fatherhood. The Cross-tabulation analysis helped process and analyze the relationships on multiple variables. The Chi-Square with the formula $\chi^2 = \sum (O_i - E_i)^2 / E_i$, where O_i = observed value (actual value) E_i = expected value showed the significance of the relationships of the variables.

Setting of the Study

The setting of the study was in District 1, Province of Bulacan. Its proximity to Manila and other nearby provinces is one of the reasons why it is dubbed as the Northern Gateway from Manila. The First District is composed of 5 municipalities and 1 city which are predominantly low lying areas and with various coastal barangays.

Inclusion Criteria

In this research, the respondents of the study were males aged 20-25 years old, residents of the First District of Bulacan, who have first fathered a child in their adolescence (aged 12-17 years old), who may or may not be living with their first child, or their first partner.

Exclusion Criteria

Excluded in this study were those teenage fathers who are only 18-19 years old currently, and those residing from other parts of Bulacan. Those who refused to give informed consent were not included as well.

Sample Size Computation and Sampling Technique

Five (5) participants were selected through a purposive snowball sampling technique. This technique is widely used for populations that are difficult to locate or identify. Participants who were interviewed were obtained through community leaders or informants who have knowledge of cases, using semi-structured interview guides. A survey questionnaire was prepared where participants, through the same sampling technique, were able to answer in a span of 20 minutes. Because there was limited knowledge on the number of teenage fathers, an estimate of sample size was conducted by the number of items in the questionnaire and ten samples per item was considered acceptable. An estimate of 160 participants were distributed in the six municipalities of District 1, Bulacan.

Research Instruments Used

The researcher used an in-depth semi-structured interview as the main instrument for data collection. An interview guide was prepared. In the data collection for Phase 2, a survey questionnaire was prepared. The researcher used a structured questionnaire that was validated by experts in research and in the field of study. Because the result from case narratives cannot generalize the study, the Phase 2 provided representativeness of the gathered data and became the basis for the proposed program.

Reliability Test

The reliability test is done to check the degree of which the data are consistent and stable. It is the ability for the results to be repeatable. After the pilot testing, the same self-made instrument will be administered to same respondents and bigger sample. A reliability coefficient of .6 and above will be accepted.

Ethical Considerations

The study was conducted in District 1 of Bulacan: Malolos, Calumpit, Pulilan, Hagonoy, Bulakan and Paombong. All participants were protected from physical danger as interview and self-administered questionnaires were utilized, and they could skip questions should they feel some level of discomfort, fear or embarrassment. The researcher asked permission from the respondents first. An informed consent was secured before conduct of the interview. The consent detailed the study for them, its purpose and objectives and the possible output. Their real names and other personal information were kept confidential to protect their identity. The participation was entirely voluntary, including the rights for withdrawal anytime they warrant. Community leaders and other key informants were utilized to assist in the distribution and retrieval of the questionnaire. Once the questionnaires were collected, gathered data were subjected for tabulation and analysis. The participants were informed that the result of the study may be shared through other researchers, co-participants, publications and conferences. There was no declared conflict of interest, cost and compensation to participate in the study.

CHAPTER 4

Presentation, Analysis and Interpretation of Data

This chapter presents the results, analysis, and interpretation of the data gathered according to the stated problems. The integrative analysis of data that were used in this study are the following: collecting and analyzing both quantitative and qualitative data, ensuring the appropriate sample size for quantitative and qualitative analysis and integrating the data during data collection, analysis, or discussion.

Phase 1 of the study drew narratives from five participants through an interview. A set of semi-structured questions was used to facilitate sharing of their experiences as an adolescent father. This was qualitatively documented employing thematic content analysis which identified repeated patterns that were meaningful to them.

The five participants were chosen based on their unique attributes as adolescent fathers: 1) a student; 2) a school dropout; 3) with multiple children from different mothers; 4) a college graduate; and 5) an out-of-school youth.

Phase 1 of the Study

Profiles of the participants

Jan Michalel is currently studying. He hails from Pamarawan, Malolos, a coastal barangay. He was 17 years old when he fathered a child and is now 21 years old. He has four siblings. His mother is a housewife with a small sari-sari store, and his father works as a construction worker.

His current partner is 19 years old. They have one child together. He is currently a Grade 12 student in La Consolacion, University Philippines.

During the course of the interview, four themes have been identified: *(a) part of families near or below the provincial poverty threshold, (b) community and school-based exposure, (c) social support, and (d) social construct*. These themes will be further discussed below using subsections with sample excerpts to expound the points.

Part of Families Near or Below the Provincial Poverty Threshold

Codes regarding Jan Michael's association with families near or below the provincial threshold was noted early on. He mentioned the life of his family, how many they are in the household and the employment his parents have. Excerpt 1 pictured this:

- (1) "My father is a construction worker, while my mother has a small store only. Our life is simple. I have many siblings." (*"Yung tatay ko po construction worker, nanay ko po may maliit na tindahan lang. Simple lang po buhay namin. Madami po kami magkakapatid."*)

Jan Michael described his family regarding the simple means they have for the employment, and the meager income that goes with these jobs. He also stressed the number of the siblings he has which also is a factor on the budgeting of the family. Him being a student didn't also stop to look for jobs as well as he knows the current socio-economic status of his family, which is illustrated in excerpt 2:

- (2) “ I help with coral reef building with my father sometimes, because I have school even online, it’s not everyday. Our earning is not much. We sometimes earn 300 or 400 pesos.” (*“Tumutulong po ako sa pagbabaklad, kasama si tatay minsan. Dahil po may school ako kahit na online, hindi naman po ito araw-araw. Hindi naman po ganun kalaki, minsan po mga 300-400 po.”*)

Based from his narration, Jan Michael helps in any way to ensure that he may be able to provide for his family and his upcoming one. His knowledge on the family’s situation may have contributed to him helping out in any way possible.

Community and School-based Exposure

Another valid theme that has occurred from the semi-structured interview with Jan Michael is the community and school exposure as one of the reasons to him early transition to fatherhood. He illustrated this through in excerpt 3.

- (3) “ I live in the coastal area, that is why our community is small. My girlfriend and I see each other often. We are also classmates in high school.’ (*“Sa coastal po ako nakatira, kaya po maliit po ang barangay namin, lagi din po kami nagkikita ng girlfriend ko po. Magkaklase po kami sa highschool”*)

Excerpt 3 pinpointed one of the major reasons for Jan Michael and his partner to be susceptible to early pregnancy and fatherhood. Since he is living in an isolated island or a coastal community, he affirms that they have constant communication and convenient physical presence.

He also mentioned that he found this a trivial issue since his friends are already accustomed to sex practices. Excerpt 4 exemplified this.

- (4) “We have many friends who tried it. So we also got curious.” (*“Marami din po kaming mga kaibigan na nag try din po, kaya nacurious po kami.”*)

The excerpt further described that his friends in his community has an influence on his choices in life, including his new responsibility.

Support System

The next theme that had surfaced is the presence of support within the family. He repeatedly gave appreciation and thanks to his mother, seen on excerpt 5.

- (5) “Being a young father is tough. My mother is a big help since I do not know how to take care of a small child, especially when the baby was a new born- so small. I am usually sleepless too.” (*“Mahirap pong maging batang ama. Malaking tulong po sina mama kasi po hindi po ako marunong mag alaga ng bata. Lalo na po nung bagong silang po, napaka liit ng baby. Madalas na din po akong puyat.”*)

He was able to somehow ease in the challenges of the new responsibility as an adolescent father and he regard his mother as one to thank for, especially that he doesn’t have any experience yet in taking care of a small newborn, as well as the physical and mental demands that go with it. He also has his partner as a support system.

(6) “My wife and I help each other out. After I come from work, I attend my schooling.

So I cannot do it without her help.” (*“Nagtutulungan po kaming mag-asawa. Kasi kapag po galing ako sa pagbabaklad, tapos nagaaral pako kaya po hindi ko po nagagawa yun kung hindi din po nila ko natutulungan.”*)

Jan Michael is balancing different roles in his life as he is now an adolescent father, a student, a son and a partner. He is able to do this through the help of his support system.

Social Constructs

The last theme that had arose in the discussion with Jan Michael is the social constructs placed on him. His feelings of fear, gossips, and shame were taken into account as shown in the next excerpt.

(7) “I am ashamed that is why I help with extra work in the fish pond. Our parents help us out. Sometimes we stay here, the other times at my partner’s family. When I knew that she was pregnant I was afraid since we were studying. We heard a lot of gossips before. Both our families had an agreement that we are to be wed only after we finish our schooling.” (*“Nahihiya po ako kaya tumutulong po ako sa pananambak sa palaisdaan, pa extra-extra po. Tinutulungan din po kami ng mga magulang namin, minsan dito po kami, minsan doon po sa kanila. Nung nalaman ko po natakot po ako nun lalo na nag-aaral pa po kami. Madami din po kami narinig na tsismis, kaya po pinagkasundo muna po kami nagkausap po mga pamilya namin. Kailangan muna po ako matapos sa pag-aaral bago po kami magpakasal.”*)

Jan Michael's feelings of shame towards the pregnancy and the fatherhood comes from both sides of the family, as well as the gossips coming from other members of the community. There is also a qualifier before they are able to marry, putting education in a pedestal.

Participant 2 stopped schooling. John Leonardo is currently 20 years old and was 17 when he fathered a child. He lives on the border of the City of Malolos and Bulacan, Bulacan. He has 8 siblings. He is with his partner who has 12 siblings. They have one child. He stopped schooling while he was Grade 9 at Marcelo H. Del Pilar National High School. He met his partner during one of their night outs. They were acquaintances through one of their friends.

He said that he usually lives with his aunt since his parents are separated. His mother provides for most of the expenses especially for his schooling. "I often drink out with my friends but I was studying then. I am not in any part of a fraternity organization ("*Mahilig po akong uminom kasama mga barkada ko po, pero nag-aaral po ako nun. Hindi naman po ako basagulero.*").

In the course of discussion with John Leonardo, themes have also been identified: (a) *stalled education*, (b) *community exposure*, and (c) *support system*.

Stalled Education

He stopped schooling after he learned the pregnancy. John Leonardo has this to say on the following except:

- (8) “We only tried having sex. We were so young then. We didn’t expect that she will get pregnant. I felt that I wasn’t ready. I was studying then and I didn’t know anything. But I took up the responsibility. I didn’t run”. (*“Tinry lang po namin mag sex. Bata pa po kami, parang 17 lang din po siya. Hindi din po namin expect na mabubuntis siya agad. Feeling ko po hindi pa po ako ready nun, nag-aaral po ako nun at wala po ako alam. Pero paninindigan ko po yung responsibilida”*).

John Leonardo explained as captured by the excerpt that he stood by his responsibility as an adolescent father and stopped schooling. He further mentioned that they didn’t expect that they will get pregnant as they just tried it and that he wasn’t ready and didn’t know anything yet. Nonetheless, that didn’t stop him from being a father.

Community Exposure

As seen in the following excerpt, another theme that was perceived was the exposure to different gatherings that have predisposed him and his partner to unsafe sex practices:

- (9) “ We usually see each other through drinking sessions with other friends. Maybe it was influenced by alcohol. But I took up the responsibility.” (*“Madalas kaming nagkikita sa inuman naming magkakaibigan , siguro dala na din sa alak. Pinanagutan ko naman siya.”*)

John Leonardo further mentioned that he didn’t have knowledge on his partner before until he met her in one of his friend’s gatherings, where they drank some alcoholic beverages and parties. One thing led to another, and that the events turned into a new transition in his life.

Support System

Another theme that has appeared is the presence of support system during his transition to a new responsibility. Excerpt 10 illustrated this.

- (10) “I took up the responsibility. While selling garlic and cornpepper, my aunt looks after our child. Sometimes our child is left at her parents, while also looking after her another child before we had our own. If not for them, we won’t be able to work and provide.” (*“Pinanagutan ko naman siya. Habang naglalako kami ng mga panindang bawang at paminta, sa tita ko minsan o sa mga magulang niya iniwan ang anak namin. Yung nanay din po niya inaalagaan ang anak niya at anak po namin. kung wala po sila, hindi po ako makakapag trabaho”*).

John Leonardo repeatedly mentioned that his partner has been his support on their new journey. They hand in hand work together through selling of spices such as garlic and pepper. Aside from the partner, his aunt as well as his partner’s family is also there. He attributed their help to be fundamental for him to be able to work and provide for his own family.

Participant 3 have multiple children from different mothers. Ruel is a resident of Calumpit. He is now living with his two children with his second partner. He is a sampaguita vendor and met his first partner as they were neighbors before. He was 16 when he first fathered a child. He didn’t have any schooling, so he describes himself as “no read, no write”. He is a beneficiary of 4Ps and is currently 24 years old. His current partner is a stay-at-home wife, and looks after their two children, a 2-year-old and a 9-month-old infant. They live in a small hut, closely knitted with other relatives.

Some themes are ascertained following the semi-structured interview with Ruel, which include the following: (a)poor household, and (b)community exposure.

Community Exposure

Ruel is a native of Calumpit and he lives closely with his relatives. They are living near the road with other neighbors. This is one of the reasons as to the exposure to early fatherhood is disposed. Ruel has this to say on the following excerpt.

(11) “I really do not have many friends because I sell sampaguita just like my parents.

We are neighbors. we are at our youth so hormones. I was only 16 back then.”

(*“Wala naman po ako masyadong kaibigan kasi nga po nagsasampagita po ako, tulad po ng mga magulang ko. Kapitbahay ko po siya, wala lang po siguro po mapusok po kami nun. 16 po ako nun”*)

Having his neighbor physically near him made both of them vulnerable. He vehemently said that they were “playing with fire” during their youth. He also added that he doesn’t have any friends as he is busy working.

Part of the Poor Households

Ruel is a beneficiary of Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program. He mentioned that he was not able to finish any grade levels, thus making it hard for him to read and write. Him belonging to the Program was a proof already that he is belonging to the poor sector of their community. Further illustrations of this theme are depicted on Excerpt 12, 13 and 14.

(12) “We are only poor then. But we are okay because we’re able to eat three times a day. But what will I be able to feed my new family? I have many siblings. My parents

are only sampaguita vendor. I just followed them. It's enough we're able to eat three times a day. That is okay." (*"Kasi mahirap lang naman po kami. Pero okay naman po kami nun, nakakakain po kami magkakapatid. E ano po papakain ko sa bagong pamilya ko. Madami po kami magkakapatid, yung mga magulang ko po nagsasampagita. Sumunod din po ako sa yapak nila. Tama lang po na nakakakain sa araw-araw. Okay na po iyon."*)

Ruel has this to say during the interview when asked regarding his family's current socio-economic status. Their main mean of livelihood is through preparation and selling of sampaguita. He has many siblings where the budget is divided, and that he had accepted his fate as a sampaguita seller.

- (13) "Nothing changed much because I am still a sampaguita vendor to provide for my family. I sell them in the streets. There is nothing more that I can do except for this." (*"Wala naman pong masyadong nagbago dahil nagsasampagita na po ako para sa pang tustos naming pagpapamilya, lalo lang po nadagdagan dahil may sarili akong pamilya. Naglalako po ako, wala naman pong ibang pagkukuhanan kundi po ito"*).

On this excerpt, even after being an adolescent father, his ways have not much changed despite the new responsibility. He still sells sampaguita but compensated to add more since he has his new partner and children.

Ruel mentioned that him being young with no job predisposed his first partner and their child to leave for the province, unable to see his child growing up.

- (14) “My first partner and I parted ways. My first child is with her. Currently I have two children in my new partner. I was still young back then and I don’t have anything to feed them.” (*“Naghiwalay po kami nung unang kinakasama ko. Kasama na po niya yung anak ko. Ngayon po may dalawa na po akong anak sa pangalawa kong asawa. Bata pa po kasi ako nun at ano pong ipapakain ko po sa kanila.”*)

Participant 4 graduated from College. Mark Joseph is living in Pulilan, Bulacan and a College Graduate who is considered a young parent as he fathered his first child when he was 17 years old. He is now 22 years old and has a position of Vault Custodian in Cebuana Lhuillier in one of its branches. He studied in Bulacan Polytechnic College with the degree BS Information System. He married his long-time girlfriend and the mother of his children.

When asked to remember their memories when his partner became pregnant, different themes have surfaced, such as (a) *social constructs*, (b) *support system* and (c) *school exposure*.

Social Constructs

- (15) “I was afraid then because both of us are studying. I was ashamed then thinking what am I able to provide for my family. I was ashamed on my parents. I made this mess that is why I wanted to give up studies and pursue call center agent work then.” (*“Natakot po ako nun, kasi pareho po kaming nag-aaral. Nahiya din po ako na wala po akong mabibigay sa mag-ina ko. Nakakahiya naman po sa magulang ko, pinasok ko po yung ganun kaya gusto ko nalang po mag Call Center muna nun.”*)

Mark Joseph had feelings of anxiety and shame when he first knew about his new role as an adolescent father. This comes with the thought of what he could provide to his family. He also mentioned that both of them are studying and fear of the impending transition to new responsibility was ahead of them. Because of his shame and guilt, he wanted to stop school but he was persuaded not to. He also added that he may have a broken family if he will not be able to provide.

- (16) “I did both schooling and working at the same time for my family. I felt that if I wasn’t able to provide, we will have a broken family.” (*Pinagsabay ko po yun para sa magiging pamilya namin kasi feeling ko po maging broken family po kapag hindi mo sila na suportahan.*”).

Support System

Mark Joseph furthered the discussion centrally on his gratefulness for his family, especially his mother and his aunt, as outlined in Excerpt 17.

- (17) “That is why my mother’s support and of my aunt are a big help to me. We are not rich. We have a simple life. We are able to go by everyday. My father earns a little. With his construction working gig. My mother is at home only. My aunt helps a lot and supports us. I have high gratitude to them”. (*“Kaya po ang suporta ng nanay at ng tita ko malaki pong tulong. Hindi naman po kami mayaman, simple lang po pamilya namin. Nakakayanan naman po sa araw-araw. Maliit lang po kita ng tatay ko sa pag construction worker. Si nanay naman po ay sa bahay po. Yung tita ko po tumutulong tulong sa amin. Kaya malaki din po talaga utang na loob ko sa kanila”*).

Despite the simplicity of his family, and the financial assistance, it was more of the support given by the mother and his aunt that he truly appreciated. According to him, they encouraged him to finish his studies as stated in Excerpt 18.

- (18) “They are the primary reason why I was able to push through my schooling. They supported me.” (*“Sila po talaga ang nagpumilit na ituloy ko po ang pag-aaral ko. Sinuportahan po nila ako nun.”*)

In these excerpts, he associated his success to pursue his studies because of the presence of support system. He attributed this on overcoming one of his remarkable transitions of responsibilities.

- (19) “I was a working student then. I really pursue to study while also working. With the help of my other, they pushed me to strive more. It was a really hard situation since working was physically demanding already add it up with a newborn and schooling. I handled that everyday and my teachers are aware of the situation. They understood that I also work as a waiter in McDonalds. Currently I am a custodian in Cebuana Lhuillier. That is why I believe it really depends on the person on how he pursues his life.’ (*“Nag working student po ako nun. Sobra po akong nag pursige matapos ang pag aaral ko. Pinagsabay ko po ang trabaho at pag-aaral. Sa tulong po ng nanay ko, talaga pong pinush nila ko matapos yung pag-aaral ko. Napakahirap po dahil pagod sa pagtatrabaho, puyat sa pag-aalaga tapos papasok pa kinabukasan. Yung mga teachers po din namin alam po na wala po akong tulog dahil pagkatapos po sa eskwelahan, waiter naman po ako sa McDo. Ngayon po e tapos na po ako mag college, Custodian na din po ako sa Cebuana. Kaya talaga pong nasa tao*

iyon. Magpursige po dahil may maririnig ka sa iba kapag wala ang pinapakain sa pamilya mo.”)

- (20) “My wife supports me. I feel a sense of enthusiasm as she believes and supports me. My parents and my partner motivated me to achieve more. We now have a small home, there is more to do though. My wife will continue her college once face to face classes resume.” (*“Yung asawa ko din po ay nakasuporta sa kin, lumalakas po loob ko na pagsabayin trabaho at pag aaral ko nun, sila po nag bigay ng motibasyon ko para pag igihan lalo na po ngayon. Nakapag patayo na po kami ng maliit na bahay, pero marami pa ang kailangang gawin. Ipagpapatuloy din po ng misis ko college niya pag may face to face na po.”)*)

School Exposure

When Mark Joseph was asked regarding his inclination on adolescent fatherhood, he mentioned that it was because his being close to his girlfriend whom was his classmate then, which is exemplified in Excerpt 20.

- (21) “I have few classmates, friends. My wife was my girlfriend back then. She was also a schoolmate. We are both studying in same school. I do not have any vices, I don’t smoke. I occasionally drink alcohol beverages and I do play online games such as Mobile Legends.” (*“May mga kaibigan po ako, mga kaklase. Siya po schoolmate ko po girlfriend ko po. Pareho kaming nag-aaral. Hindi naman po ako mabisyo, hindi po ako naninigarilyo. Alak po ayun mejo mahilig pong uminom. Mahilig din po mag Mobile Legends, ganun lang po.”)*)

He was a very studious 2nd year college student, and he had friends within and out of school. Despite him having his own circle, his physical closeness with his now wife drew them closer and tried things they are not yet prepared for.

Participant 5 is an out-of-school youth. Mark is a 21-year-old teenage father who had a child when he was 17 years old. He is living with his partner who was 15 years old when she was pregnant and is now 18. They have 2 children now, a 1-year-old and a 3-year-old. He has five siblings and is 2nd to the eldest. The eldest is a High School graduate and is now working and has a family of his own. The other three are all currently high school students.

He shared some of his memories as well when he was asked to remember his life before having his children of his own. Different themes were identified, which are *(a) community and school exposure, (b) being part of poor households and (c) stalled education.*

School and Community Exposure

Throughout the conversation using the semi-structured interview, Mark mentioned that he had vices and that he was an outgoing person. Numerous friends he said are already pregnant, as seen in Excerpt 22.

(22) “I love playing mobile games. I drink. I have many friends who are also pregnant.” (*“Mahilig po ako maglaro sa internet. Mahilig po akong uminom. Sa mga barkada ko din po marami din naman buntis na”*)

His exposure or knowledge of his friends being adolescent fathers to their own was not new to him. Furthermore, his partner was also his classmate before. Having more convenient reasons for them, and their youth have linked him into adolescence fatherhood.

- (23) “She is my classmate since we are highschool sweetheart. I did not force him to have sex. Maybe because we are so young and eager to try and we became curious.”
(“Kaklase ko din po siya sa eskwelahan dati, matagal na din po kami mag girlfriend high school pa lang. Hindi ko naman po siya pinilit, siguro dahil po sa edad din namin nacurious po kami.”)

Poor Household

Mark’s family belongs to the poor households in their community. Having raised in a coastal municipality, their main jobs include fishing as well as meager jobs in fish ports. His father is “naghihilado”, which to their language translates to a person who pulls a basin of fishes from boats into the ports and stocks them into delivery trucks. Their ways were adapted by Mark, in Excerpt 24.

- (24) “It was difficult especially expenses. Now we sell fish at the market or in different communities. We already have 2 children. It’s difficult but this is our responsibility now. Sometimes when we aren’t able to sell fish, we ask for debts from family members. My father is also a fisherman so we grew up knowing the ins and outs of it.” (*“Mahirap po lalo na po sa gastusin. Ngayon na naglalako ako ng mga isda sa mga iba’t ibang bayan. Dalawa na din po ang anak namin. Mahirap lang kami pero kakayanin po dahil ito na po ang pinaka responsibilidad ko. “Minsan po hindi sapat ang paglalako ng isda, nangungutang din po paminsan minsan. Sina tatay po e nangingisda po, minsan ang kargador po sa pondohan. Ako po ay lumaki na din*

naman sa ganun trabaho kaya po yung paglalako ko ng tilapia malaking bagay na po sa amin”).

He resorted to sell fishes in nearby municipalities to aid on their expenses as he already has two children on their home. They are also currently staying with his parents and other siblings and their own families.

Stalled Education

Mark was not able to finish his schooling. He stopped when he was in Grade 8, around 15 years old.

(25) “I didn’t want to study. I was 16 then when I went back to school to try Alternative Learning System but I also guave up. I really don’t know.” (“Wala po talaga akong hilig mag-aral. Noong ako po ay 16 years old, nagtry po ulit akong mag aral ng ALS pero hindi ko po talaga hilig, ewan ko po.”)

After a year, he stayed with his grandmother in Manila where he works as a fish porter and decided to fully stop from school.

Discussion and Analysis

From the narratives of the five participants, themes were identified and clustered. One of these includes them being *part of the families near or below the provincial poverty threshold*.

According to the Philippine Statistics Authority, the poverty threshold in the Province of Bulacan for the year 2020 is 21,989 or 9,162.08 for a family of five. Poverty threshold as defined by the PSA as the “minimum expenditure/income required for a family/individual to meet the basic food and non-food requirements.”

It is evident that most of the interviewed participants are subjected to the realities of poverty as they grew up in a poor household. According to a study of Gunawardena et.al, low socioeconomic status, and low income has been one of the predictors of young pregnancy in Africa. In a study of Cook et.al (2017), it was observed that adolescent fathers also in the UK come from the demographics of low socioeconomic status.

Another main theme that came out from the narratives was the *community and school-based exposure* of the participants.

Most of the participants' relationships with their partners were made during schooling, or those near them in their barangay, as neighbors or barkada.

Their narratives are consistent with the findings of Mathewos and Mekuria (2018), which stated that adolescents of higher grade levels are “more likely to experience pregnancy”. Attributed to this finding are the reasons for being “longer stay at school, high exposure and probability of getting sexual relation”. Furthermore, Filipino communities have close knit and ties with one another, making individuals with various age groups and gender preference consort easier with one another.

Another theme that emerged was *stalled education* although one of the clients mentioned that he is still studying through an online module in one of the universities in the city.

Adolescent or teenage parents are faced with new responsibilities due to their new role. Education is one of the core activities during adolescence, as well as with establishing intimate relationships with their peers.

Congruent to Maslow's Hierarchy, the adolescent fathers have prioritized providing the basic necessities in life such as food, shelter, clothing for their new family. They regard this as the top priority instead of education or forming relationships, which they are supposed to be developmentally taking instead.

Social Support was another theme that was highlighted in the five narratives.

One of the participants stated that his mother, and mother-in-law, in particular helps out while they both study and in the day-to-day responsibilities with the child. "Malaking tulong po sina mama kasi po hindi po ako marunong mag alaga ng bata. Lalo na po nung bagong silang po, napaka liit ng baby." Another participant shared: "Yung nanay din po na inaalagaan ang anak niya at anak po namin. kung wala po sila, hindi po ako makakapag trabaho."

In general, the participants emphasized the important role of the family in their lives as young families and in their role as adolescent fathers.

Having social support from members of the family is crucial in playing and promoting personal development (Chuang et al.,2011). Absence of support may increase anxiety and fear to face on personal problems (Matlakala et al., 2018). It is imperative that adolescent fathers are provided with social support to "help them transition into caring, responsible and productive young fathers" (Kirven, 2014).

Social Constructs of the teenage fathers was also one of the themes that emerged.

According to some of participants, they heard or felt that they were judged because of their carelessness on the accidental pregnancy. One of them also felt that he doesn't know about child rearing. It was mentioned more that they had to work since they felt it was shameful for them if they rely economically on their parents.

According to the study of Sheeran et al., (2020), some of the stereotypes focused on teenage fathers include the constructions of masculinity, such as hegemonic masculinity, which identifies "well-paid work and family breadwinning". Through the study as well, it was found out that negative attitudes toward teenage parents have been observed which includes being seen as "less favorably, less warm, competent and moral than adult parents". It was further mentioned by Johansson et al., (2014) that an adolescent father's personal identity is wedded to the breadwinner role more than that of being a parent. This constitutes a problem since an abrupt change of responsibilities of adolescents made them unable to finish their school and build their own career which makes them financially unstable. These result into mis-fulfillment of their role as the breadwinner, perceiving it as ineffectiveness and incompetence.

Reliability Test

Following the results from the first phase using the surfaced themes, the questionnaire was self-designed to elucidate the generality and verify them. The reliability test was conducted to provide data on the representation.

Reliability Statistics

Cronbach's		
Cronbach's Alpha	Alpha Based on Standardized Items	N of Items
0.79	0.813	9

Based on the table, the Cronbach's Alpha is 0.790, which indicates a high level of internal consistency for the scale –Indicators of Well Being of Adolescent Fathers.

Item-Total Statistics

	Scale Mean if Item Deleted	Scale Variance if Item Deleted	Corrected Item-Total Correlation	Squared Multiple Correlation	Cronbach's Alpha if Item Deleted
1. My wife and I have good relationship (<i>Mabuti ang pagsasama namin ng ina ng anak ko.</i>)	21.0667	48.892	0.306	0.379	0.799
2. Nakaapekto ang pagsasama namin sa pagpapalaki ng aming anak. (<i>Our relationship affects how we nurture and care for our child.</i>)	21.0333	55.413	0.049	0.284	0.83
3. I had formal education regarding Sex Education from family, school or community. (<i>May pormal na nagturo sa akin ng Sex Education mula sa pamilya, eskwelahan o sa barangay.</i>)	22.3667	45.826	0.6	0.587	0.752

4. I have knowledge on child rearing and familyhood. (<i>May alam ako sa pagaalaga ng sanggol at pagpapamilya.</i>)	21.1	46.162	0.557	0.828	0.758
5. Someone formally taught me about Responsible Parenthood. (<i>May pormal na nagturo sa akin ng Responsible Parenthood o Responsableng Pagmamagulang.</i>)	21.5667	42.944	0.583	0.862	0.753
6. Data was gathered from the community, or municipality regarding my current status. (<i>May kumuha ng datos mula sa barangay o sa munispyo patungkol sa aking pagiging batang ama</i>)	23.0333	45.895	0.758	0.854	0.738
7. I have formal trainings on how to take care of my child. (<i>May nagturo ng pormal na training patungkol sa pagaalaga at pagpapalaki ng</i>	23.1	47.059	0.688	0.824	0.747

anak mula sa barangay o

munispyo.)

8. I was able to receive

assistance from a government

or private institution. (*May*

ahensiya ng gobyerno o

23.2

49.89

0.543

0.532

0.765

pribadong ahensiya akong

nalapitan at serbisyong

natanggap patungkol sa aking

pagiging batang ama.)

9. Overall, I have good well-

being. (*Sa pangkalahatan, ang*

21.6667

48.092

0.483

0.593

0.769

aking antas ng kagalingan

(overall well-being) ay mabuti.)

The table above presents the value that Cronbach's alpha would be if that particular item was deleted from the scale. The table shows that removal of any question, except question 2, would result in a lower Cronbach's alpha. Therefore, the questions should not be removed. Removal of question 2 would lead to an improvement in Cronbach's alpha, and from the column "Corrected Item-Total Correlation" value was low (0.49) for this item. This might lead to considering whether we should remove this item.

Descriptive Statistics

The **Phase 2** of the study was conducted through a questionnaire on 122 participants all over the District 1 of Bulacan, with the distribution per municipality/city cited below:

Table 1

Distribution of Participants per City/Municipality

City/Municipality	f	%
Bulakan	12	9.84
Calumpit	10	8.2
City of Malolos	30	24.6
Hagonoy	29	23.77
Paombong	24	19.67
Pulilan	17	13.93
Total	122	100

As the geographical location of the participants was hard to reach, key persons and community leaders were tapped for the distribution and collection of questionnaires. Snowball sampling was used through referrals of known participants.

Table 2*Civil Status*

	f	%
Live-in (Nagsasama)	106	86.89
Single	11	9.02
Separated (Hiwalay)	3	2.46
Married (Kasal)	2	1.64
Total	122	100

Table 2 shows that most adolescent fathers choose to stay unmarried even after reaching the legal age after 3-5 years. 86.89% are in live-in relationships, while 2 participants or 1.64% are married. 11 or 9.02 % stayed single while 3 or 2.46% had a relationship but are now separated.

It is to be deduced that most of the adolescent participants have established a relationship and stayed with their partners even after 36-60 months through a common-law status, which is identified as those “who live exclusively with each other as husband and wife without the benefit of marriage”. This common-law status has its own benefits of ensuring that both parents are present in their family without the restriction of a lifetime commitment, or “testing the relationship.”

Table 3*Number of Children*

	f	%
1	95	77.87
2-3	27	22.13
Total	122	100

A total of 95 or 77.87% of adolescent fathers have one child after 3-5 years, while a total of 27 or 22.13% have 2-3 children. Those with 2-3 children were further validated to be in the ages of 14(1), 15 (1), 16(4) and 17 (21).

Table 4*Educational Attainment*

	f	%
Elementary Undergraduate	9	7.38
Elementary Graduate	5	4.1
Highschool Undergraduate	61	50
Highschool Graduate	44	36.07
College Undergraduate	1	0.82
College Graduate	1	0.82
Currently studying	1	0.82
Total	122	100

From the total 122 participants, half of them (61,50%) are high school undergraduate, while 44 or 36.07 % were able to finish their high school. Only 1 or .82 % was able to finish his college degree.

The effect of teenage pregnancy and fatherhood to their education is evident in this table as high school education is one of the most important activities in the adolescent's life. It is one of the key factors in the future success in life and establishing a vocation and future identity. However, most of the teenage fathers were not able to finish Secondary Education despite the number of support provided by the government.

Under the RA 6655: Free Public Secondary Education Act of 1988, all qualified citizens are provided with access to public secondary education. Furthermore, under the Voucher Program of the Government for the K-12, Junior High Schoolers are given subsidies to pursue Senior High School. Numerous services and opportunities are provided for Filipino schoolers.

From one of the narratives of the participants, he decided to stop schooling and dedicate his efforts on supporting the needs of his pregnant partner because he believes it is "shameful" for him not to provide for his family. *"Paninindigan ko po siya. Tumigil po ako sa pag-aaral kasi po nakakahiya din po. Naglalako po kami ngayon ng paminta"*. Another narrative revolved on planning to quit school but was encouraged and motivated by his support system through his mother and aunt.

Table 5*Current Employment*

	f	%
Employed-Part Time	26	21.31
Employed-Full Time	17	13.93
Self-employed	28	22.95
Worker-On Call	39	31.97
No Work	12	9.84
Total	122	100

Workers-on-call garnered the highest rating with 39 or 31.97% of the participants. Some of the jobs classified under this category are construction workers, waiters, and technicians. The self-employed category has the second highest score with 28 or 22.95%, which include those who are in trade and business such as selling different products followed by being employed part time with 26 or 21.31% and employed full time with 17 or 13.93%. There are 12 or 9.84% of the participants who are currently not working.

In a study of Astuti et al., (2021), since the education of the adolescent fathers was disrupted, opportunities for immediate and long-term opportunities became limited.

The figures show that a chunk of the participants is employed with meager jobs which do not require a college degree. A good number are self-employed which does not necessarily require completion of college education. Through this employment, they are able to provide for their family.

The narratives of the participants provide added information for this indicator. Some who were not able to finish their school because of the new role of pregnancy, while some are already working without being able to finish school, immediately provide for their pregnant partners and their future family. They opted to accept jobs and work meagerly to meet ends needs. “ I sell fish in other municipalities.” (“*Nagtitinda po ako ng tilapia, naglalako po ako sa ibang mga bayan.*”) Another participant mentioned that “My partner’s parents taught how to sell corn pepper and garlic.” (“*Ang mga magulang po niya nagturo po samin para maglako ng mga paminta at bawang.*”)

Table 6

Hours Spent with Child/Children

	f	%
0-1	7	5.74
2-3	4	3.28
4-5	11	9.02
5-7	31	25.41
8 and up	69	56.56
Total	122	100

Table 6 shows that 69 participants or 56.56% of the total participants are able to live with their child/children and spend time for more than 8 hours a day. There are 5.75% or 7 participants who have 0-1 hours of contact with their children in a day, 4 or 3.28 % between 2-3

hours, 11 or 9.02 % who spend 4-5 hours a day and 31 or 25.41% who are able to spend quality time from 5-7 hours a day.

It is to be noted that various studies state that father's involvement in a child's life is associated with various outcomes such as "higher IQs, advanced linguistic and cognitive capacities, and improved quantitative and verbal skills". Father's involvement also provides father's increase in self-confidence and sense of effectivity as parents. (Allen & Daly, 2007; Dyer, McBride, Santos, & Jeans, 2009; J. H. Pleck & Masciadrelli, 2004).

The result reflected on the table above is an indication that the study participants are able to give ample time to their children, which could lead to a more involved father relationship in the future.

Table 7

Current Age

	f	%
20	24	19.67
21	29	23.77
22	21	17.21
23	27	22.13
24	9	7.38
25	12	9.84
Total	122	100

Twenty-nine or 29 or 23.77% were 21 years of age during the time of the study; followed by the age of 23 with 27 or 22.13%; 20 with 24 or 19.67%), 22 with 21 or 17.21%; 25 with 12 or 9.84% and 24 with 9 or 7.38%).

The results of this study focused on the 20-25 years of age males who after 3-5 years have transitioned from adolescence and to being a new father altogether. Bonnie et al. (2015), together with numerous social and behavioral scientists (Schulenberg and Schoon, 2012; Shanahan, 2000) enumerated five of the major transitions in a young adult's life. These include leaving home, completing school, entering the workforce, forming a romantic relationship and transitioning into or moving toward parenthood. The age of young adulthood is indeed a major upgrade.

Table 8

Age First Fathered a Child

	f	%
13	1	0.82
14	1	0.82
15	5	4.1
16	6	4.92
17	109	89.34
Total	122	100

There are 109 or 89.34 % of the 122 participants who were 17 years of age when they first fathered a child. There was 1 each for 13 and 14 years old with .82% respectively. There are

5 participants who were 15 (4.10%) and 6 participants who were 16 (4.92%) when they first fathered a child.

Narratives from participants pinpointed that they are in relationships with their partners before they got pregnant. “We are in a relationship for a long period of time” (“*Matagal na po kaming mag girlfriend*”). Most of the adolescent fathers involved in this study are 17 years old and may be enrolled in higher grade levels in school. “I was second year college then and we often see each other at school” (“*2nd year college po ako nun, lagi po kami nagkikita.*”), and that long exposure to one another may have predisposed them to more intimate situations.

Table 9

Indicators of Well-Being

	Mean	S.D.	V.I.
L1: My wife and I have good relationship (<i>Mabuti ang pagsasama namin ng ina ng anak ko.</i>)	3.84	1.266	Agree
L2: Our relationship affects how we nurture and care for our child. (<i>Nakaapekto ang pagsasama namin sa pagpapalaki ng aming anak.</i>)	2.88	1.497	Unsure
L3: I had formal education regarding Sex Education from family, school or community. (<i>May pormal na nagturo sa akin ng Sex Education mula sa pamilya, eskwelahan o sa barangay.</i>)	2.23	1.353	Disagree

L4: I have knowledge on child rearing and familyhood. (<i>May alam ako sa pagaalaga ng sanggol at pagpapamilya.</i>)	3.36	1.273	Unsure
L5: Someone formally taught me about Responsible Parenthood. (<i>May pormal na nagturo sa akin ng Responsible Parenthood o Responsableng Pagmamagulang.</i>)	3.28	1.533	Unsure
L6: Data was gathered from the community, or municipality regarding my current status. (<i>May kumuha ng datos mula sa barangay o sa munispyo patungkol sa aking pagiging batang ama</i>)	1.85	1.118	Disagree
L7: I have formal trainings on how to take care of my child. (<i>May nagturo ng pormal na training patungkol sa pagaalaga at pagpapalaki ng anak mula sa barangay o munispyo.</i>)	1.66	0.993	Disagree
L8: I was able to receive assistance from a government or private institution. (<i>May ahensiya ng gobyerno o pribadong ahensiya akong nalapitan at serbisyong natanggap patungkol sa aking pagiging batang ama.</i>)	1.54	0.919	Disagree
L9: Overall, I have good well-being. (<i>Sa pangkalahatan, ang aking antas ng kagalingan (overall well-being) ay mabuti.</i>)	3.38	0.939	Unsure

Table 9 shows the determinants of well-being of adolescent fathers based on the review of related literature and existing services and programs in the country.

The first variable which is “My wife and I have good relationship” (*Mabuti ang pagsasama namin ng ina ng anak ko.*) shows that the mean score was 3.84 and with the verbal interpretation of “Agree (Sang-ayon)”. This indicates that most of the adolescent fathers have a positive relationship with the mother.

The second question which is yielded an “Our relationship affects how we nurture and care for our child. (*Nakaapekto ang pagsasama namin sa pagpapalaki ng aming anak.*)” “Unsure (Hindi Tiyak)” response. This means that most of the adolescent fathers are not sure whether having a relationship with the mother is valuable for their child.

The third variable looks into the “I had formal education regarding Sex Education from family, school or community. (*May pormal na nagturo sa akin ng Sex Education mula sa pamilya, eskwelahan o sa barangay.*)” The Department of Education is an advocate on disseminating information regarding safe sex practices. In here, the verbal interpretation is “Disagree” (Hindi Sang-ayon), an indication that most of the participants were not able to be educated formally on safe sex practices in school.

Regarding the next variable which is “.I have knowledge on child rearing and familyhood. (*May alam ako sa pagaalaga ng sanggol at pagpapamilya.*)” the response through the verbal interpretation of “Unsure” (Hindi Tiyak) indicates that adolescent fathers are neither agree or disagree on being prepared for the upcoming role of parenthood.

The next variable which is “Someone formally taught me about Responsible Parenthood. (*May pormal na nagturo sa akin ng Responsible Parenthood o Responsableng*

Pagmamagulang.)” has yielded an “Unsure” (Hindi Tiyak) answer from the participants. It may be deduced that a number of these adolescents during their transition to fatherhood were not subjected to this program by the government.

The variables of “Data was gathered from the community, or municipality regarding my current status. (*May kumuha ng datos mula sa barangay o sa munispyo patungkol sa aking pagiging batang ama*), I have formal trainings on how to take care of my child. (*May nagturo ng pormal na training patungkol sa pagaalaga at pagpapalaki ng anak mula sa barangay o munispyo.*), I was able to receive assistance from a government or private institution. (*May ahensiya ng gobyerno o pribadong ahensiya akong nalapitan at serbisyong natanggap patungkol sa aking pagiging batang ama.*)” are interrelated with one another, from the community up to the microlevel systems. All of which have generated a verbal interpretation result of “Disagree” (Hindi Sang-ayon). This denotes that the adolescent fathers who were participants of this study were not part of any data collection through interview or observations in their community which are necessary for mapping and matching to facilities and other services.

The last variable “Overall, I have good well-being. (*Sa pangkalahatan, ang aking antas ng kagalingan (overall well-being) ay mabuti.*)” has yielded an “Unsure (Hindi Tiyak)” response from the participants. As mentioned by the CDC, there is no single factor that determines a good well-being, but is rather associated with good health, positive relationships and access to basic resources such as shelter and income. Furthermore, since the teenage father’s identity is closely associated with the breadwinner role, satisfaction in life makes it difficult for them (Johansson and Hammarén, 2014).

A study of Aviles et al., 2020 stated that one of the key developmental tasks of adolescence is engaging in romantic relationships. Erik Erikson's theory also mentioned that adolescents develop a sense of identity during this period, and the successful accomplishment progresses Fidelity. Despite their transition to a new role, the result on the given table suggests that they were able to commit to their partners.

Furthermore, Goldberg's et al., 2014 study showed that parents' relationship and supportiveness "has a slight association with lower levels of children's behavioral problems". This is an example of an extensive body of knowledge that supports child-wellbeing and their parents' relationship. With the result mentioned above, adolescent fathers needed additional knowledge on this importance, as well as the risks and consequences for the future of their children.

Sex Education is an important aspect as studies show that this helps disseminate information and facts on sexual well-being, the risks and consequences of early pregnancy and parenthood. With the result, it could be deduced that not all of high school students are able to receive vital details and counsel pertaining sex and their sexuality that could ultimately provide them with informed choices about sex and relationships.

Parenthood is one of the major developmental phases within families. Anxieties about the upcoming role could be managed through preparation and having knowledgeable practices. This aspect could be an important tool to be reviewed and appended by future researchers to be included in the programs and services.

Aside from the abovementioned, the RA 10354 or Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Act of 2012, aims to "empower the Filipino people, especially women and

youth, through informed choice and age- and developmentally- appropriate education.” This law ensures the linkages and access to “information, facilities and services”. Responsible Parenthood trainings provide useful information on which they are able to “respond to the needs and aspirations of their children.” With the result, this implies that young parents, and adolescent fathers in particular, need more guidance and attention for them to be formally taught of the different knowledge and skills, as well as opportunities this law could provide.

Collection of data, as well as other determinants also could produce a good assessment that could characterize the overall demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the community.

Services are quite advantageous too. As the study of Lee et al., (2018) says, community-based and father-inclusive programs are beneficial to young fathers who particularly do not attend or interact with regular prenatal and well-child checkups and follow ups. These support mechanisms in the ground could potentially enhance the sense of belongingness of the adolescent fathers and provide positive stimulus against stress.

All of the experiences are knitted with one another: quality of relationship and support, existing school-based programs, knowledge and preparation, a feeling of connectedness to community-based programs, data gathering, research, mobilization, and training, and subjective measure of well-being. In this study, the adolescent fathers were able to delineate their circumstances through their own views. Young fathers facing double major developmental tasks of transitioning to adulthood and fatherhood may have a more added dissatisfaction. The study was able to establish certain facets that are needed to be looked at closely. Different factors and measures could enhance their overall life’s functioning. This is necessary to ensure their child’s

healthy and holistic development. It is also a reminder to recognize that adolescent fathers play an indispensable role in the family and the benefits this come with.

Table 10

Crosstabs and Chi-Square

	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig. (2- sided)	Decision	Verbal Interpretation
Lived Experiences and Age First Fathered a Child	200.205 ^a	96	0	Reject Null Hypothesis	Presence of Association
Lived Experiences and Educational Attainment	157.606 ^a	144	0.207	Accept Null Hypothesis	No Association
Lived Experiences and	111.071 ^a	96	0.139	Accept Null Hypothesis	No Association

Employment

Status

The mean score of the questions which were translated to the **lived experiences** of the once adolescent fathers, were gathered. These mean scores were then cross-tabulated with the values of the following characteristics: age first fathered a child, educational attainment and employment, and were taken as test factors.

From the table shown above, the value of the test statistic is 200.205. Since the p-value is **0.00** and is less than the significance level ($\alpha = 0.05$), they reject the null hypothesis. Therefore, there is **an association between the lived experiences of the adolescent father and their age when having their first child.**

It can be deduced that the timing of fatherhood, their age when they became a father, has an association with the measured lived experiences. From the aforementioned tables and narratives, this association rings true. The timing of parenthood has a significant effect to different aspects of the lives of teenagers. They are more likely to drop out from school, consequently having decreased educational achievements and low socio-economic opportunities. There is also likelihood of increased cohabitation. “Bata pa po kami nun e. Huminto na din po ako sa pag-aaral”, “Nagtitinda po ako ngayon ng tilapia”, “Naglalako po ako kami ng bawang at paminta”, “Nagsasampagita po ako”. These are some of the described experiences of the participants.

From the table shown above on Educational Attainment, the value of the test statistic is 157.606. Since the p-value is **0.207** and is greater than the significance level ($\alpha = 0.05$), they do not reject the null hypothesis. Therefore, there is **no association** between the lived experiences of the adolescent father and their **Educational Attainment**.

This table shows that there is no relationship as to what the participants were able to finish in school whether they are College Graduate or Undergraduate or a High School Graduate or Undergraduate, to the lived experiences.

From the table shown above on Employment, the value of the test statistic is 111.071. Since the p-value is **0.139** and is greater than the significance level ($\alpha = 0.05$), we do not reject the null hypothesis. Therefore, there is **no association** between the lived experiences of the adolescent father and their **current job position**.

The participants' current employment, either he is a worker on call or self-employed, doesn't have any association to the lived experiences of the participants.

Table 10*Programs/Services for Adolescent Fathers*

	f	%
Financial Assistance	38	31.15
Livelihood Assistance	29	23.77
Work Opportunities	23	18.85
Guidance of Parents or Community	15	12.3
TESDA/Skills Training	11	9.02
Child Rearing Program	3	2.46
Educational Assistance	1	0.82
Support In Legal Documents	1	0.82
Custody	1	0.82
Total	122	100

When asked about possible services or programs they would want to be implemented, the above table shows that around 38 or 31.15 % of the participants prioritized financial assistance for their family, which is followed by the request for livelihood assistance with 29 or 23.77 % and work opportunities with 23 or 18.85%. A total of 15 or 12.30 % of the total participants mentioned that they need guidance from parents or from their community.

This implies that a number of participants ranked employment and livelihood opportunities number 1 in their hierarchy. This does not contradict previous studies that denote males or teenage fathers to see the breadwinner role in their identity.

A study by Kiselica, 2014 suggested that teenage fathers are more likely to attend and participate in parenting programs that focus on their specific needs such as “obtaining gainful employment and conflict-resolution with the mother of their baby and the legal system”. These results will be taken into account when programs and initiatives will be made for the adolescent fathers.

Proposed Enhanced Intervention Program for Adolescent Fathers

Batang Ama, Turo at Alaga (BATA) Project

Goal: To provide an enhance comprehensive intervention project for the adolescent fathers and their families.

Needs	Objectives	Activity	Methodology	Time Frame	Resources Needed	Monitoring Scheme	Expected Outcome
Self-Enhancement/ Personality Development	To develop and improve the adolescent's perspective towards dual responsibility	Tailor fit personality development course	Counseling, training and seminar	1 month	Modules	Attendance to courses	The adolescent is able to have a better sense of himself.
Importance of Support and Relationship	To improve partners' intimacy and relationship and adolescent father's involvement	Establish and reinforce Family Seminars and Therapy to prepare young parents for their new roles and stress the importance of family support.	Counseling, Information Campaign, Trainings and Seminars	2022-2023	Modules, Social Workers, Marriage Counselors	Attendance of Adolescent fathers to trainings, seminars; Local Civil Registry number of married young couples	The adolescent father understood his identity, emotional intimacy and was able to express deep connections with his partner

		Continuous advocacy and marriage counseling.					through positive actions.
Strengthened Sex Education	To enhance adolescence knowledge, skills and attitude towards sex and sexuality	Strengthened Sex Education Program, with more focus on higher-grade level schoolers. Increase visibility and expand reach of Guidance Counselors to young students.	Review of policy and guidelines on the existing Sex Education module in school Information Campaign, hiring of Guidance Counselors, School Social Workers	2022-2023	Counselors, Social Workers, Modules,	Attendance to symposiums and sex education campaigns,	The adolescents have gained more knowledge and skills regarding sex through safe sex practices.
Compliance-Based Attendance/ Alternative Mode of Learning	To increase number of high school graduates	Adapt a comprehensive program for adolescent parents to be able to finish High-School; explore	Drafting of legislations/ resolutions	2022-2023	Legislation, 100,000.00	Compliance rate of adolescent fathers, Number of high school graduates,	The adolescent father was able to graduate and has an increased economic sufficiency.

		compliance-based mode as a form of persuasion and motivation					
Research Data	To establish a baseline data of adolescent fathers	<p>Establish a process for data banking through data gathering, research and validation.</p> <p>Ensure both attendance of young parents to seminars, especially targeting during weekends.</p>	Information Campaign, Data Collection	2022-2023	Barangay Workers	Demographics of collected data regarding number of young fathers, civil status, number of children etc.	There is available data on every community as a basis for policy making
Community-Based/ Neighborhood Group	To provide immediate support to the individuals and their families	<p>Organization of community-based fathers' groups, old and young.</p> <p>Tie up with school to ensure</p>	Group Formation	2022-2023	Community Organizers, Social Workers, Legislations, 100,000.00	Presence of Young Fathers' Group, minutes of the meeting	The adolescent fathers were able to receive assistance to finish their schooling, has increased sense of

		compliance-based attendance in school in exchange of financial or in-kind assistance until able to graduate.					belongingness in the community
Knowledge/ Preparation	To provide and enhance knowledge, skills and attitude on what to expect on the whole journey of pregnancy and fatherhood	Establish an ante-natal class as a social preparation by trained medical and social professionals	Information Campaign	2022-2023	Module on pregnancy and parenthood, Trainings and Seminars by professionals, 100,000.00	Attendance to classes/ trainings/ seminars	The adolescent father was able to provide a caring and nurturing environment to his partner and child.
Financial/ Livelihood Assistance	To assist individuals through provision of resources	Allocation of budget specifically designated for adolescent fathers or young couples who are starting their families	Distribution of grants-in-aid for livelihood or income generating activities for eligible adolescent fathers who meet criteria that will be set such as, but not limited to:	2022-2023	300,000	Disbursement report	The adolescent fathers and his family are able to answer their immediate needs

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigent • Is currently studying (or his partner) • No other means of support 				
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CHAPTER 5

Summary of Findings, Conclusions and Recommendations

This chapter presents the summary of findings, conclusions and recommendations.

Summary of Findings

Based on the gathered data, the following findings of the study are presented:

1. **Themes** that have emerged in the study are the following:
 - a. **Near of Below the Poverty Threshold** was a general finding across all the participants.
 - b. **Community and School-Based Exposure-** All the five participants experienced adolescent fatherhood through this second theme.
 - c. **Stalled Education** was a frequent theme from the participants.
 - d. **Social Support-** All the five participants generally considered this theme during their adolescent fatherhood journey.
 - e. **Social Constructs-** This theme was generally felt by all the participants.

2. Civil Status

Majority of the adolescent fathers chose to stay unmarried, in alive-in status three to five years after.

3. Number of Children

Majority of adolescent fathers have only one child.

4. Educational Attainment

Fifty percent of the adolescent fathers were high school undergraduates.

5.Current Employment

Workers-on call garnered the highest rating.

6.Hours Spent with Child/Children

Majority of adolescent fathers spend 8 hours and above with their child.

7.Age First Fathered a Child

Majority of the adolescent fathers were 17 years old when they had their child.

8.Well-Being- The overall wellbeing of the respondents in this study was Unsure.

9.There is a **presence of association** with the **age** first fathered a child and the indicators of **well-being**.

10.There was **no association** found between **educational attainment** and **employment status** to the indicators of **well-being**.

11.Proposed Intervention Program for Adolescent Fathers

An enhanced intervention program titled BATA (Batang Ama, Turo at Alaga) is proposed based on the results of the study.

Conclusions

Adolescent fatherhood is rarely tackled but is present in the vast community. There are different contributory factors that come to play and there are more harsh effects that happen in an adolescent's life during their transition to a dual responsibility. The results from this study affirmed different claims of previous researches regarding this phenomenon especially on Filipino adolescent fathers that chose to stop school and partake on livelihood opportunities as influenced by the society. The different systems in a person's lives have a direct and indirect contribution on his current status. There are existing interventions especially from the government that could be tailored fit for their consumption.

Recommendations

Based on the findings and conclusions of the study, following recommendations are hereby presented:

1. For educators to strengthen the current sex education campaign in schools, with more focus on higher-grade level schoolers. This will ensure that formal knowledge and the risks and dangers of engaging in pre-marital sex is laid out and consequences of teenage pregnancy and parenthood is centered.
2. For key agencies such as DSWD and DepEd to adopt a holistic and well-founded program for near or graduating students to finish their secondary school to increase chances of proper employment in the future.
3. For the Local Government Unit and DSWD to establish an intensive data gathering, mobilization and training servicing the adolescent fathers, thereby

improving their participation and involvement which are necessary for policy making and program development.

4. For key stakeholders such as DSWD, DOH, DepED, and DILG to adapt a comprehensive Intervention Program for adolescent fathers which include key stakeholders and partners where activities such as continuous research, young fathers-watch group in communities and family empowerment will be organized and discussed.
5. For researchers that similar study may be conducted to a larger group of participants to actuate generality of findings.

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APPENDICES



Appendix A

CENTRO ESCOLAR UNIVERSITY**Graduate School**

Manila

Permission to Conduct Study

Date:

Hon. Engr. Gilbert Gatchalian

Mayor

City of Malolos, Bulacan

Dear Hon. Mayor Gatchalian,

Greetings!

I am Carla R. Maghupoy, a Registered Social Worker and a MS Social Work student in Centro Escolar University-Manila. I am currently developing my study entitled “Lived Experiences of Adolescent Fathers: A Basis for a Proposed Intervention Program”. Teenage pregnancy is alarming, and most of the studies center on the well-being of the mother and the child, while fathers are being left unwarranted.

With that being said, I’m hereby seeking for the approval of your consent to conduct the study on five of your constituents, who has fathered a child in his adolescence. I will also be closely working with the Social Welfare and Development and the Population Commission Offices of your city to gather data on case finding.

Upon completion of the study, I undertake to provide you with a copy of the full research report.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 09292566585 and through carla.roxas.maghupoy@gmail.com.

Thank you for your time and I am hoping for a favorable response.

CARLA R. MAGHUPOY

CEU-MSSW



Appendix B

INFORMED CONSENT



TITLE OF THE STUDY:

Lived Experiences of Teenage Fathers: A Basis for a Proposed Intervention Program

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:

Carla R. Maghupoy

MS Social Work- Centro Escolar University

09292566585

carla.roxas.maghupoy@gmail.com

ADVISER:

Dr. Lolita D.Pablo

Centro Escolar University

PURPOSE

You are being invited to partake in the study “Lived Experiences of Teenage Fathers: A Basis for a Proposed Intervention Program” which aims to gain a better understanding of the experiences during early fatherhood and the interventions that can be proposed thereafter.

STUDY PROCEDURE

Participants will be 20-25 years old who have fathered a child when he was 12-17 years old. The data gathering of this study has two phases. The first phase involves five participants who will be asked a series of open-ended questions. All the participants' responses will be analyzed through themes, which will subsequently be used for the second phase of data gathering through a questionnaire for an estimate of 160 participants who will be contacted by Community Leaders and other key informants.

DURATION

Your participation for the first phase will involve one visit for an in-depth interview in your spare time, approximately 60 minutes in length. *(Your participation for the second phase will involve the completion of a questionnaire in your spare time, approximately 20 minutes in length.)*

RISKS

This study has low risk, that the probability of your answers to leak is low. Some questions may make you feel some level of discomfort, fear or embarrassment. The investigator will do everything to make sure this doesn't happen.

VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION/WITHDRAWAL

Your decision to participate in this study is entirely voluntary. You may choose to skip questions on the questionnaire or ask the interviewer to move on to another topic, or not to take part in the whole study. You may withdraw from your participation anytime you warrant.

BENEFITS

There is no direct benefit to you. However, results of the gathered data will be highly beneficial on understanding teenage fathers. These will assist policy makers and institutions on creating appropriate and responsive measures that will help teenage fathers on the transition to the new role and thereafter, and ultimately the whole family and society at large.

DATA PROTECTION & CONFIDENTIALITY

The principal investigator will have access and will safely keep all files and data collected. Names and other personal data of the respondents will be collected, processed and coded to protect their identity.

SHARING OF DATA & RESULTS

Participants will be kept informed on the data gathered. The results of the study may be shared with other researchers and participants but all information taken from this study will be confidential and anonymous.

COMPENSATION

There is no cost nor compensation for your participation in this study.

PERSON TO CONTACT

This study has been approved by the CEU Institutional Ethics Review Board (IERB) headed by Dr. Ronald D. Subida at 1st District , #9 Mendiola St, San Miguel, Manila,

1008 Metro, Manila and may be reached through ierb@ceu.edu.ph or (+63)2 8735-68-61 to 71 loc.228, for any clarifications and grievances.

CONSENT

I have read and I understand the information provided above. I voluntarily agree to participate in the research study entitled “Lived Experiences of Adolescent Fathers: A Basis for a Proposed Intervention Program” which aims to gain a greater understanding on teenage fatherhood and the interventions that could be proposed thereafter.

I understand that even if I agree to participate in the study now, I may withdraw anytime I warrant. All the information that I will share will be treated confidentially, and my identity will remain anonymous.

Participant’s Name : _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Investigator’s Name : _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____



APPENDIX C

CENTRO ESCOLAR UNIVERSITY

Interview Guide



- Can you please tell me your name (optional) and a little background on how you became a teenage father?



- Please tell me about the issue of teenage pregnancy in your community? Is it rampant?

- What do you think are the reasons for the incidents in your own experience?

- How old were you when you fathered your first child?
- What did you feel when you knew about the pregnancy?
- What did you experience going through the news that you will now be a father?
- What changes happened to you? In your education?
- Did you seek a job?
- In your family and friends?
- How about the people in the community?
- How about your personality?
- What were the supports that you had during the changes in your roles?
- Was the government involved during transition?
- What are some of your recommendations to help teenagers like you?
- What do you think we should be doing to better support you and your family?
- What are your plans for you?
- Do you wish to tell me anything else?

APPENDIX D



TALATANUNGAN TUNGKOL SA BUHAY NG MGA BATANG AMA:

BASEHAN PARA SA MUNGKAHING PROGRAMA

Pangalan (Opsyonal):_____ Edad:_____

Bday:_____

Tirahan:_____ CellPhone

No.:_____

4Ps beneficiary: ☐ Do ☐ ndi Kung OO, 4Ps HH ID

No:_____

Civil Status: ☐ Kasal ☐ gsasama H☐ lay Sing☐ Iba☐

pa:_____

Relihiyon:_____

Part I. Direksyon: Itsek lamang ang naaangkop na sagot sa kahon.

1. Ilang taon ka unang nagka anak?

<input type="checkbox"/>	12 na taong gulang
<input type="checkbox"/>	13 na taong gulang
<input type="checkbox"/>	14 na taong gulang
<input type="checkbox"/>	15 na taong gulang
<input type="checkbox"/>	16 na taong gulang
<input type="checkbox"/>	17 na taong gulang

2. Ilan na ang kasalukuyang bilang ng anak?

	1 na anak
	2-3 na anak
	4-5 na anak
	6 at higit pa

3. Ano ang pinakamataas na antas na natapos sa pag aaral?

	College Undergraduate
	College Graduate
	Hindi nakapag-aral
	Iba pa:_____

	Elementary Undergraduate
	Elementary Graduate
	Highschool Undergraduate
	Highschool Graduate

4. Ano ang kasalukuyang katayuan sa pagtatrabaho?

	<i>Self-Employed</i>
--	----------------------

	<i>Employee (Full Time)</i>
	<i>Employee (Part Time)</i>
	<i>Worker (On Call)</i>
	Hindi nagtatrabaho
	Iba pa:_____ -

5. Ano ang estimated na sinasahod ng iyong buong pamilya sa isang buwan?

	15,001-20,000 Php
	20,001-25,000 Php
	25,001-30,000 Php
	Iba pa:_____

	1-1,000 Php
	1,001-5,000 Php
	5001-10,0000 Php
	10,001-15,000 Php

6. Ilang oras nakakasama ang anak/mga anak sa isang araw?

	0-1 oras
	2-3 oras
	4-5 oras
	6-7 oras
	8 oras at higit pa

7. Nagsasama pa ba kayo ng ina ng una mong anak?

	Oo
	Hindi na
	Minsan
	Iba pa:_____

Part II A Direksyon: Itsek ang naaayon antas na tungkol sa iyong karanasan bilang isang batang ama gamit ang sumusunod na iskala.

Scale

Verbal Interpretation

5

Lubos na sumasang-ayon

4

Sang-ayon

- 3 Hindi tiyak
- 2 Hindi sang-ayon
- 1 Lubos na hindi sumasang-ayon

	1	2	3	4	5
Mabuti ang pagsasama namin ng ina ng anak ko.					
Nakaapekto ang pagsasama namin sa pagpapalaki ng aming anak.					
May pormal na nagturo sa akin ng Sex Education mula sa pamilya, eskwelahan o sa barangay.					
May alam ako sa pag aalaga ng sanggol at pagpapamilya.					
	1	2	3	4	5
May pormal na nagturo sa akin ng Responsible Parenthood o Responsableng Pagmamagulang.					
May kumuha ng datos mula sa barangay o sa munisipyo na tungkol sa aking pagiging batang ama.					
May nagturo ng pormal na training tungkol sa pag aalaga at pagpapalaki ng anak mula sa barangay o munisipyo.					
May ahensya ng gobyerno o pribadong ahensya akong malapitan at serbisyong natanggap na tungkol sa aking pagiging batang ama.					

Sa pangkalahatan, ang aking antas ng kagalingan (<i>overall well-being</i>) ay mabuti.					
--	--	--	--	--	--

1. Anu-ano ang sa palagay mong tulong na kailangan ng isang batang

ama? _____

2. Iba pa na gusto mong

sabihin: _____

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