

**SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS AND TEENAGE PREGNANCIES IN AKERIAU  
SUB-COUNTY, AMURIA DISTRICT**

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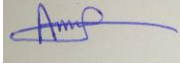
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## **DECLARATION**

I hereby declare that this research report is my original work and has never been submitted to any institution of higher learning for any academic award

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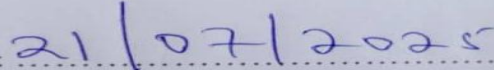
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## APPROVAL

I certify that this research report on the topic “socio-economic factors and teenage pregnancies in Akeriau sub-county, Amuria district” has been written under my supervision and is ready for submission to the faculty of social sciences as a partial requirement for the award of Bachelors degree of social work and social administration of Uganda Christian University.

Signed 

Date. 

MR. ODONGO JOSEPH

(SUPERVISOR)

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

I acknowledge God the Alpha and Omega, for the precious gift of life, strength, knowledge and wisdom which have enabled me carry out this research report successfully.

I acknowledge my research supervisor Mr. Odongo Joseph for his tireless efforts and guidance till the completion of this research report.

## **LIST OF ACRONYMS**

MoH	Ministry of Health
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Science
UBOS	Uganda Bureau of Statistics
UDHS	Uganda Demographic Health Survey
UNFPA	United Nation Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nation Children Fund
WHO	World Health Organization

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## **ABSTRACT**

The study concentrated on the topic socio-economic factors and teenage pregnancies in Akeriau sub-county, Amuria district study used a descriptive mixed research design and it considered a sample size of 86 respondents. Findings of the study revealed that: Economic poverty has a very big influence on teenage pregnancies, that economic poverty creates lack of resources and support resulting in to teenage pregnancies, that there is a relationship between peer pressure and teenage pregnancies, that there is a relationship between peer pressure and teenage pregnancies, that curiosity due to peer pressure contributes on increasing teenage pregnancies and lastly that boys face peer pressure validation of man hood regarding sexual activity leading to teenage pregnancies. The study recommends that: Government should put in place programs to help reduce on increasing levels of poverty within the community, that there is need to sensitize the community on cultural perceptions in order to reduce on increasing teenage pregnancies and lastly that Government and stakeholders should ensure that strict policies are put in place to reduce on teenage pregnancies.

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the background of the study, statement of the problem, purpose of the study, research objectives, research questions, scope of the study, significance of the study, conceptual framework and definition of key terms.

### 1.1 Background to the Study

This study seeks to look at socio-economic factors and teenage pregnancies in Akeriau Sub County, Amuria District. Teenage pregnancy is defined as a teenaged or underage girl, usually within the ages of 13-19, becoming pregnant (Save the Children International, 2021).

According to WHO, every year an estimated 21 million teenage girls aged 15-19 become pregnant with the prevalence being higher by 95% in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) (4). Nearly 50% of these pregnancies were unintended, resulting in an estimated 12 million births. Even though in 2021, UNICEF indicated that the adolescent birth rate (ABR) had decreased globally from 65 births per 1,000 women to 43 births per 1,000 women aged 15-19 from 2000 to 2021, the variation in rates differs between regions (World Bank, 2021).

Among the high-income countries, Europe has the lowest teenage pregnancy rate at 8 births per 1,000 women aged 15-19, while United States accounts for the highest teenage pregnancy rate at 17 births per 1,000 women aged 15-19 respectively (5,6). Southern Asia had 29 births, Latin America and the Caribbean had 55 births, and Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) has the highest birth rates worldwide with 101 births per 1,000 women aged 15-19 respectively (World Bank, 2022). Compared to any other continent, Africa has a higher proportion of youths and the factors that contribute to teenage pregnancies in SSA are heterogeneous and vary by region (WHO, 2020). WHO projections indicate that the number of births for this age group is expected to increase globally by 2030, with the greatest contribution being from SSA (WHO, 2022)

Teenager has been defined as a person within the ages 13-19 (World Bank, 2023). And poverty is defined as income per capital less than or equal to one dollar per day in dollar adjusted for purchasing power. The teenage period is described as transitional years and is ones of mental and physical development, experimenting and taking risks. The riskiest of all

teenage behaviour is that of sexual activity. Teenage pregnancy is defined as a teenaged or underage girl, usually within the ages of 13-19, becoming pregnant. The term in everyday speech usually refers to women who have not reached legal adulthood, which varies across the world, who become pregnant (Okiria and Okiidi et al., 2020). A studies done by McDevitt (2022) and Save the Children found that, annually 15 million children are born to women under age 20 worldwide, more than 90% in developing countries. Worldwide rate of teenage pregnancy range from 143 per 1000 females 15 -19 years of age in some sub-Sahara Africa countries to 2.9 per 1000 in South Korea. So, the highest rate of

Denmark and the other Scandinavian countries have the lowest rates of teenage births in Western Europe, but it is uncertain why rates had gone down, and how these trends can be sustained (Knudsen et al., 2022). One explanation for the lower Danish figures may be unrestricted access to contraceptives (the Pill since the mid 60's), effective information, and abortion on demand since 1973 (Knudsen et al. 2021). Another explanation may be the huge expansion of education free of charge, and vocational training, especially women benefited from this development during the last twenty to thirty years.

In the Asia Pacific regions, teen pregnancies range up to 43% in Bangladesh and from 11.1% to 47.3% in Nepal (Jelili, et al., 2022). In 2020, Canada had a pregnancy rate of 33.9 per 1000 females aged 15–19, much lower than the rate that year in England and Wales and the United States. (Langille 2023) records that from 1994 to 2002, the rate of teenage pregnancy declined substantially in both Canada and the United States, but it increased slightly in England and Wales as reflected in the table below. From this, one can conclude, therefore, that Canadian teenagers become pregnant less often than those in England and Wales and the United States but more often choose to terminate the pregnancy (Langille, 2024).

The Sub-Saharan Africa region accounts for the highest adolescent fertility rate at 119.7 compared to the global average of 58.1. It is estimated that in low and middle income countries 10% of all girls become mothers before they are 16, with the highest levels being in Sub-Saharan Africa, south central and south-eastern Asia (WHO, 2021). Data from Demographic Health Surveys indicate that teenage pregnancy rates in Sub-Saharan Africa range from a low of 5.9 percent in Burundi to a high of 43.1 percent in Niger (World Bank, 2022).

Teenage pregnancy in Sub-Saharan Africa has important social and economic outcomes, the most highly publicized of which stem from lost educational opportunities when pregnancy

forces young women to leave school. Ideally, an investigation of the consequences of adolescent childbearing and sexuality should cover a wide range of outcomes that affect not only the young mother and her child, but also other family members and society at large. Most unintended pregnancies experienced by adolescent women occur among those who are using no contraceptive method or a traditional one: 92% of those in Sub-Saharan Africa (UNFPA, 2022). The majority of countries with teenage pregnancy levels above 30% occur in sub-Saharan Africa (Sibusiso and Clifford, 2017). The 2010 South African Demographic and Health Survey (SADHS) survey indicated that 27% of women had a child by the age of 19 years. A sociological difference between teenage fertility in South Africa and other sub-Saharan countries, however, is that in South Africa child-birth to teenaged women tends to take place outside of marriage (Makiwane & Udjo, 2018).

African Network for the Prevention and Protection Against Child Abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN)'s survey in Akeriau Sub County, Amuria district is, 25% of households were headed by child mothers following sexual exploitation, as the leading cause of the increase in teenage pregnancies (ANPPCAN report, 2021). Another survey conducted in Mukono Municipality by Child Care and Youth Empowerment Foundation revealed an increase in the number of teenagers delivering in health centers, who were mostly orphans or came from broken families. Thus, with a 25% rate of child mothers, Uganda is among the countries with the highest teenage pregnancies in Africa.

Teenage pregnancy in Akeriau Sub County, Amuria district is a major challenge. According to the Uganda Demographic and Health Survey of 2011, 24% of teenagers (15-19) have begun childbearing in Akeriau Sub County, with girls living in rural settings beginning childbearing earlier than their urban counterparts (24% vs 21%)<sup>3</sup>. Teenage pregnancies are particularly high in Akeriau Sub County (30%) compared to other sub counties. Furthermore, in Akeriau Sub County, 10% of girls are married by 15, 40% are married by 16<sup>th</sup> birthday and the sub county has a very low primary survival rate of 33%<sup>6</sup>, indicating a serious dropout phenomenon. Doctors with Africa CUAMM is active in Amuria district (one of the rural post-conflict districts in Teso sub region of Uganda), since the late 1980s. Amuria district has a total population of 383,644, out of which 52,524 are girls, and 51,636 are boys aged 10-19. In 2022, 3,362 girls aged 12-17 already experienced pregnancy Tomkins (2020)

However, several kinds of literature associated with socio-economic factors does not address teenage pregnancies (eg., Chepkwony et al., 2023) (Taylor and Ogbogu, 2022). Additionally,

there has been no comprehensive single author survey on the influence of socio-economic factors on the teenage pregnancies in Akeriau Sub County, Amuria district. Not that the subject has suffered from any lack of interests but many historical scholars and publications particularly in Uganda and Africa have often been drawn more to the international scene than to the potentially more hazardous subject of pupil's performance in pre-primary schools. Very few historical nodes have been made on the subject and the resulting literature has, however, almost exclusively taken the form of edited volumes, specialized monographs and polemical contributions to debates and this is the gap this study intends to fill. Davis (2020)

### **1.2 Problem statement**

Even with well-funded government programs, teenage pregnancies in Akeriau Sub County are still on the rise. For example, cases of teenage pregnancies rose from 272 cases in 2022 to 455 in 2023. In 2024, 562 teenage girls became pregnant and this number is growing uninterrupted (Probation Office, 2024, December). Teenage pregnancies have had far reaching consequences in terms of school dropouts, high child mortality and maternity deaths and low socio-economic development (Akeriau Sub County situational analysis report, 2022). According to preliminary results, Akeriau Sub County is one of the poorest and flood prone areas in Amuria District. Of the district's 372, 687 people, 70% are economically marginalized and 40% are living in poverty. Preliminary results further reveal that in Akeriau Sub County, 10% of girls are married by 15, 60% are married by 16<sup>th</sup> birthday (Akeriau Sub County Situational Analysis Report, 2022). There could be various reasons to explain this. Some of which are social economic factors contribute that significantly contribute to teenage pregnancies in the sub county. Despite the interventions in Akeriau Sub County through wealth creations programmes such as NAADS, PDM, YLP, UPE AND USE teenage pregnancies have continued to rise. Something must be done to mitigate this problem. This study therefore seeks to find out the influence of socio-economic factors on teenage pregnancies in Akeriau sub county, Amuria District.

### **1.3 Purpose of the Study**

The main purpose of this study was to find out the influence of socio-economic factors on teenage pregnancies in Akeriau Sub County, Amuria District

#### **1.4 Objectives of the Study**

- I. To find out how economic poverty influences teenage pregnancies in Akeriau Sub County, Amuria District
- II. To determine how peer pressure influences teenage pregnancies in Akeriau sub county, Amuria District
- III. To assess cultural beliefs influence teenage pregnancies in Akeriau sub county, Amuria District

#### **1.5 Research questions**

- I. How does economic poverty influence teenage pregnancies in Akeriau sub county, Amuria District
- II. In which ways does peer pressure influence teenage pregnancies in Akeriau sub county, Amuria District
- III. How do cultural beliefs influence teenage pregnancies in Akeriau sub county, Amuria District

#### **1.6 Scope of the Study**

The study scope is categorized into geographical, content and time scope as follows:

##### **1.6.1 Geographical Scope**

The study was conducted in Akeriau sub county, Amuria District. It is bordered by Katakwi in the east, Kalaki in the west, Alebtong in the north and Soroti in the south. The district is dominated by Itesot speaking people and their major economic activity is farming and pastoralism. Others are involved in businesses and bodas bodas. Akeriau Sub County in Amuria District has been chosen because increasing rates of teenage pregnancies in the area (Amuria District Situational Analysis Report, 2024).The study was conducted in the Parishes of Okude, Aita, and Otubet and it was carried out in the villages of Aita, Atapar, Oteme.

##### **1.6.2 Content scope**

The study contained information about the influence of socio-economic factors on teenage pregnancies in Akeriau sub county, Amuria District. Specifically, the study found out how economic poverty and peer pressure influence teenage pregnancies in Akeriau sub county, Amuria District. The study further assessed how cultural beliefs influence teenage pregnancies in Akeriau sub county, Amuria District. Through this content scope, the

researcher was able to collect adequate and relevant information that helped to attain study objectives. The researcher interacted with articles, books among others that relate to the topic under study.

### **1.6.3 Time Scope**

The research study considered the period between 2021 and 2024. This period was considered because it is during this time that cases of teenage pregnancies were more pronounced in Akeriau Sub County in Amuria district more pronounced (Akeriau Sub County Situational Report, 2024). This researcher interacted with district and sub county staffs to collect information relating to the research area.

### **1.7 Significance of the study**

The study findings may benefit the following categories of people:

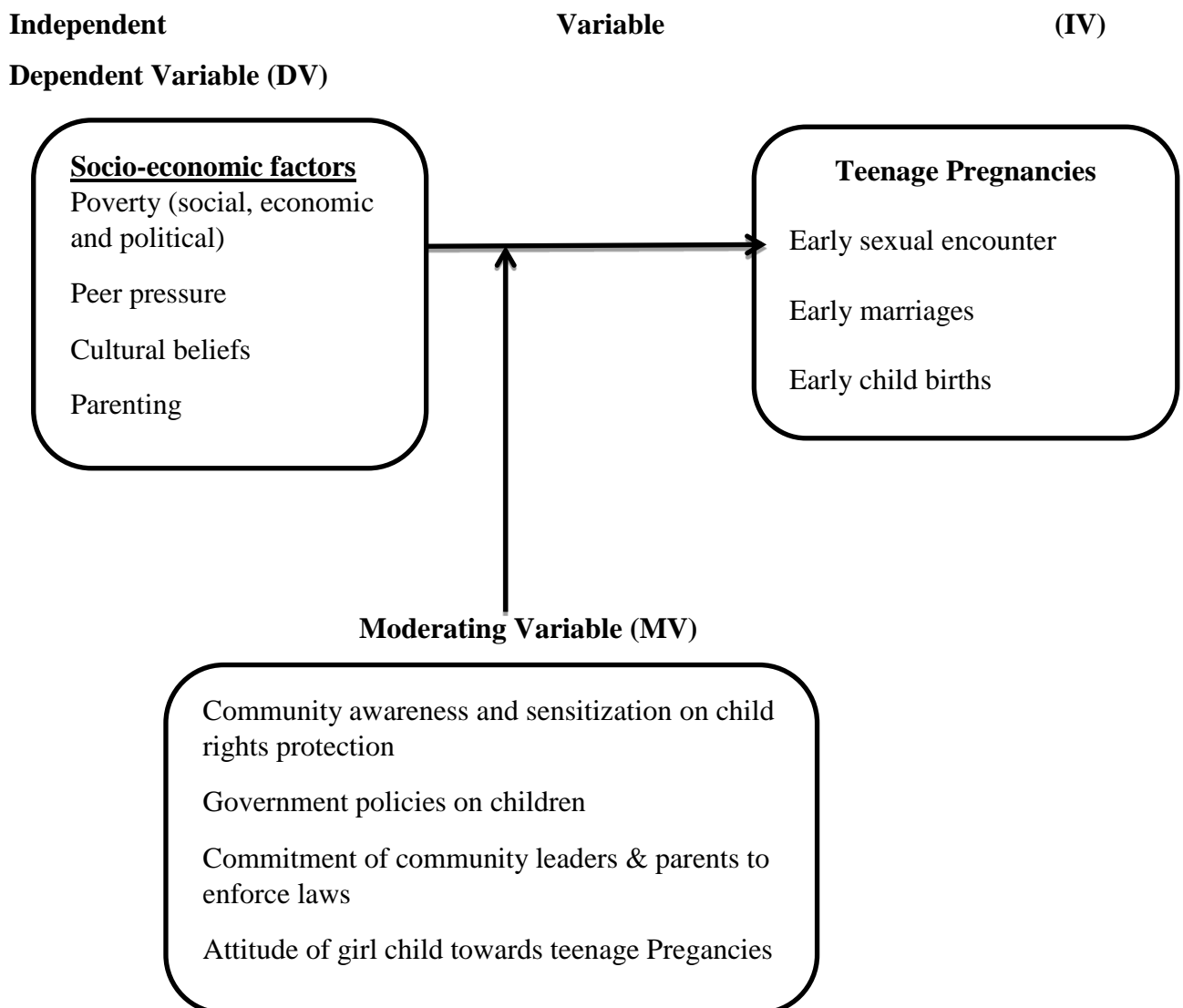
The study may provide information for government and stakeholders on the primary determinants of teenage pregnancies. This could help in designing effective interventions that can help to address the problem of teenage pregnancies.

It may also assist law enforcement institutions in understanding the socio-economic factors on teenage pregnancies so that they can effectively and efficiently implement laws and deliver justice to victims

This study may provide data to inform policy thinking on how to address the problem of teenage pregnancies and its more often significant relationship to socio-economic factors

The findings may benefit future researcher who intend to carry out similar a study by acting as a source of information.

## 1.8 Conceptual Frame work



**Figure 1.1: Conceptual framework**

**Source: Adapted from Mugenda and Muganda (2004): Conceptual Frameworks**

The above conceptual framework shows the relationship between variables. Socio-economic factors as independent variable is characterized by poverty, peer pressure and cultural beliefs. While dependent variable is teenage pregnancies with parameters of early sexual encounters, Early marriages and Early child births. The conceptual framework has been drawn on the assumption that if socio-economic factors are improved, teenage pregnancies can be avoided and the reverse is undoubtedly true. Nevertheless, this may not be automatic as other factors may come into play. These may include community awareness and sensitization, Child rights

protection and reforming socio-economic systems. These factors have been dully coined as intervening variables by the study and are being isolated to avoid making wrong conclusions. Socio-economic factors such as poverty, peer pressure, cultural beliefs and parenting if not controlling can significantly contribute to teenage pregnancies because they shape the environment under which children live. It is also true according to the framework that teenage pregnancies can be directly influenced by socio-economic factors if moderating factors such as Community awareness and sensitization on child rights protection, government policies on children and commitment of community leaders & parents to enforce laws are not strictly implemented.

## CHAPTER TWO

### LITERATURE REVIEW

#### 2.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the review of the past literature related to the area under investigation and the review has been conducted according to objectives in chapter one.

#### Definition of key terms

**Social factors:** These are conditions that determine one's way of life and they are beyond human control such as family background and parenthood among others (UNESCO, 2023)

**Economic factors:** These are conditions that determine the level of income e.g. employment, education, factors of production etc (Sewkandi et al., 2022)

**Teenager:** Is any person below the age of 17 years (Obbo and Ojangole et al., 2022)

**Teenage pregnancies:** Teenage pregnancy is defined as a teenaged or underage girl, usually within the ages of 13-19, becoming pregnant (Save the Children International, 2021)

#### 2.1 Influence of economic poverty on teenage pregnancies

Economic poverty has dual dynamics in teenage pregnancy. Being a determinant as well as a consequence of teenage pregnancy especially in developing countries, many of the individual and environmental risk factors that are determinants of teenage pregnancy may be tied into experiences of poverty (World Bank, 2022). The environment that economic poverty creates, lack of resources and support, the resulting perceptions of limited educational and financial opportunities may reduce the cost of teen pregnancy and motherhood for adolescent females. Having a child may be perceived as the only way to bring meaning into the adolescent's life Amin et al. (2018).

Teenage pregnancy is an epidemic that has long lasting repercussions for the parents, child and the society in general. The teenage parent risks being stigmatized isolated from their peer group and sentenced to a life of poverty. Economic poverty may be a preexisting condition rather than an effect of teenage pregnancy (Ojangole et al., 2022). Perhaps the most important consideration of teenage pregnancy is the impact it has on the unplanned child. Teen parents are known to start a vicious cycle that is hard to break once it gets started and where teen

pregnancy is high, it can be argued that a high number of children are beginning their lives from disadvantaged points.

The persistently high teenage pregnancy rate with its attendant consequences being recorded in many parts of the world has been known to contribute significantly to high maternal and infant morbidity and mortality especially in developing countries Amin et al. (2018). In addition its effect on population growth rate, development and HIV prevalence is significant, thereby contributing to the already high level of economic poverty in developing countries.

Poverty has a considerable impact on the prevalence of teen pregnancy. Amin et al. (2018) discovered that economic disadvantage, as defined by factors such as unemployment and poor income, increases the chance of adolescent pregnancy. Due to a lack of financial means, access to education, healthcare, and contraception is limited, resulting in greater incidence of unwanted pregnancies. Furthermore, in economically deprived regions, social and cultural norms may prolong early marriages and traditional gender roles, increasing the chance of adolescent pregnancy (Boonstra, 2022).

Geronimus et al. (2017) conducted research that highlights the concept of "weathering" among disadvantaged populations, where chronic exposure to social and economic stressors, including economic poverty, accelerates biological aging and increases the likelihood of early childbearing among teenage girls. This shows that economic poverty has biological consequences for reproductive health in addition to affecting people's socioeconomic conditions. Furthermore, research has found a link between adolescent pregnancy and educational attainment. Economic poverty is both a result and a cause of a lack of access to quality education, contributing to a cycle of disadvantage. According to Kalamar et al. (2023), adolescent births frequently result in school dropout, restricting chances for future economic stability and perpetuating the economic poverty cycle for both the young mother and her child.

Furthermore, worldwide comparisons emphasize the influence of economic poverty on adolescent pregnancy. According to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), poor countries such as Niger and Bangladesh have a larger proportion of adolescent moms than wealthy countries such as Switzerland and Japan. There are significant differences in teenage pregnancy rates among countries based on socioeconomic class. In the United States, for example, higher rates of adolescent pregnancy are observed among disadvantaged areas, where poverty rates are higher (Casey et al., 2022). According to a study conducted by

FAWE Uganda in 2011, the lack of basic necessities exposes females to the danger of adolescent pregnancy. In situations where girls face extreme economic poverty and lack access to basic necessities such as food, shelter, and education, they may resort to engaging in transactional sex as a means to survive. The study suggests that these vulnerable and disadvantaged girls, lacking agency and resources, may feel compelled to exchange sex for money or material goods. This form of survival sex increases their risk of unintended pregnancies and exposes them to various health and social challenges. The findings highlight the urgent need to address poverty and ensure the provision of basic necessities to prevent the exploitation and vulnerability of girls, ultimately reducing the incidence of teenage pregnancies (FAWE Uganda, 2011). To summarize, economic poverty is a crucial factor influencing adolescent pregnancy. Economic disadvantage restricts access to education, healthcare, and contraception, perpetuating the poverty cycle and increasing the chance of childbirth at a young age. The research cites the complicated connection between economic poverty, social determinants, and adolescent pregnancy, emphasizing the need for comprehensive treatments that target both socioeconomic and individual-level issues.

## **2.2 Influence of peer pressure on teenage pregnancies**

According to Alhassan (2024), more than 29% of pregnant teenagers reported that they feel pressured to have sex by their peers to maintain friendship and fit in with them. Further, many a times, girls allow their friends to influence their decision to have sex even when they do not fully understand the consequences associated with the act. Some want to appear ‘cool’ and sophisticated, but in some cases the end result is unplanned teen pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections and rejection. Alhassan(2022), adds that, cell phone usage promotes easy communication among peers and their partners as it gives them easy access to the internet which they use without regulations, to surf explicit content motivating early sex. It seems that relationship and atmosphere within the home can push teenagers to seek love and affection from their male colleagues which invariably makes them engaged in early sex which consequently lead to teenage pregnancy.

According to Gyan (2022), peer influence is also paramount during the period of adolescence. It was further found that adolescents in a suburb of Accra, Ghana, mostly engaged in sex as a result of peer influence, which may predispose them to early pregnancy and motherhood and HIV/AIDS infection supported by Christofides (2024). Negative peer pressure has been identified to be a contributing factor to teenage pregnancy. A study

conducted to investigate patterns and determinants of entry into motherhood in two informal settlements in Kenya established that having negative models in peer were associated with early childbearing among females aged 15–17 years (DonatienBegy, 2022). Similar findings have been established in America where, even among friends, a friend's childbearing increases an individual's risk of becoming a parent (Nicoletta Balbo,2023). The influence works in such a way that such pregnancies are usually not anticipated. As Kabiru, (2022) noted, in most cases, lack of discouragement from friends not to have boyfriend predisposes teenagers to unplanned pregnancy.

A study on strategies and practices for managing the consequences of unintended pregnancy among young people show that boys usually face peer influence including validation of manhood regarding sexual activity and some sexual partners that one had (Mumah, 2024). The study further notes that boys without sexual partners or who did not show evidence of sexual activity were frequently treated disrespectfully by their peers. As one of the adolescent put it: You find the other boys telling you that you don't have a girlfriend...That you are not a man enough. Peer pressure does not only work with adolescents who might not have correct information themselves but also goes against what would have been considered wise decision among parents and health providers. For instance, asked what they thought were factors contributing to adolescent pregnancy, a parent said: —Youngsters fail to regularly admit the right facts we give them about their sexuality. When you inform them on their sexual conduct, they go back and repeat the wrong things that their peers taught them (Akwas, 2022). These show the greatest impact peer pressure has on adolescents' sexuality. The same can be said to teens with positive peer pressure where older adolescents with high levels of perceived peer orientation to or approval of pro-social behaviors are likely to delay childbearing (DonatienBegy, 2021).

Crichton, Okal, Kabiru and Zulu (2022), pointed that, most young girls in Kenya rely on parents, equally uninformed peers, and popular media for information on sexual maturation, pregnancy and sexuality, who often do not provide them correct and timely information, exposing them to sexual and reproductive health risks including unintended pregnancies. Crichton et.al (2024), states that parents and adults sometimes, knowingly, provide false information about sex to discourage their children from participating in sexual activities. Some parents make statement such as “boys and men are animals”. This makes teenagers more curious and wants to prove their parents wrong. Also, curiosity makes them engaged in sexual relationship to prove themselves, even when they are not ready for it. Girls fear to be

ridiculed and jilted by their peers, they think that to keep their boyfriends, they have to give in to sex and maintain emotional intimacy, while boys believe that having sex gains them higher social status, therefore teenagers rely on their peers for information, which makes them prey to teenage pregnancy

Peer influence describes adolescents' likelihood to behave differently while in the presence or company of their peers than when alone. Thus, peer social context is a key factor in adolescents' risktaking (Albert, Chein, Steinberg, 2022). For this study, the definition of peer influence was derived from Ambrosia, et al., (2018) who explain that adolescents are notorious for engaging in risky, reward-motivated behavior, that occurs most often in response to social reward, typically in the form of peer contexts involving intense positive affect (Ambrosia, et al., 2021). And these include engaging in normative thrill-seeking behaviors like dangerous driving, sexual intercourse without condom use, and drug use as well as foregoing more preventive behaviors that could promote health and safety such as the use of seat belts or bicycle helmets

Pijl, Frostad & Mjaavatn (2022), identify that before adolescence, a child's friends and access to them are controlled by parents, but in adolescence, teens begin to select their friends, to spend considerable time with them, and do so without parental supervision. This confirms that in adolescence, teens begin to share more intimate bonds with friends, share personal secrets and feelings, and connect to those with similar problems or situations for acceptance. Nevertheless, while many writers agree that teens look out for peers with whom they share common interests, activities, cultural background, or just attitude towards life, Erikson (2023), adds that oftentimes as they experiment, teens may be attracted to peer groups with very divergent interests

Peer pressure is often associated with negative outcomes like dodging school, wearing indecent clothes, alcohol, and drug use, however, it can also have a positive influence. Prinstein & Dodge (2008), identify that teens encourage each other to make wise decisions and discourage harmful choices, as well as help adolescents, learn, clarify, practice, and maintain norms for social behaviors, promote socio-emotional competence, inspire hobbies, and guide them in their identity formation as well as establishing autonomy from parents, among others.

Steinberg & Monahan (2022), suggest that peer influence is one of the major contextual factors contributing to adolescent risky behavior. Neuroimaging evidence confirms that peer

presence alone leads to greater activation in brain regions concerned with reward processing. In this study, peer influence was viewed in terms of interactions among teenagers, the sexual experiences that become central in their relationships, and the friendship patterns teens establish.

### **2.3 Influence of cultural beliefs on teenage pregnancies**

Studies in Uganda show that there is a general reluctance on the part of adults particularly fathers to discuss sexual issues. Talking about sex is a taboo, Oke (2020), Loaiz and Liang (2021) explored the question of who provides young people with information about sex and found that mothers were significantly more likely to do so than fathers. Sex education both in schools and in the home is very inadequate in Uganda. Few adolescents receive comprehensive sex education, and often teachers do not have sufficient training or information (Fraenkel & Wallen, 2018; Mwaba, 2020).

A study in Brazil shows that despite an acceptance of sex among Brazilian teenagers, the conversation about sex continues to be a taboo. Loaiz and Liang (2023) paradoxically, despite an environment of transformations in which sex gains a status among youth and adolescent as an acceptable behaviour, conversations about sexuality continue to be taboo in the family; contraception is not openly discussed in school, and sexual education is a highly controversial theme in Brazilian society. Teen and youth sexual relations have been modified, but these changes were not sufficient to alter the ways in which contraception can be discussed. Women are still considered to be the sole responsible for pregnancy, while men continue being absolved or omitted from their participation in the reproductive event.

Teachers are gatekeepers of knowledge and skills for the large majority of young people most that live in developing countries and attend school at least in their early years (Finer & Zolna, 2022). Religious and cultural taboos prevent open dialogue about premarital sex at home or in schools, despite the fact that such sexual activity is common. One study of urban slum dwellers in Nairobi found that mothers struggle to discuss sex and unintended pregnancy with their daughters because they feel embarrassed or shy. Because it is viewed as a taboo, even teachers have found it difficult to talk about sex with their adolescent learners leaving them to discover for themselves (Fraenkel & Wallen, 2018; Mwaba, 2020). Loaiz and Liang (2021) emphasized that to be able to provide counselling on sexuality matters, the giver needs to be able to differentiate what forms of sexual behaviour and beliefs are accepted to them at a

personal level and differentiate this to what could be acceptable to their clients, or other people, in order to avoid unnecessary biases.

Unequal gender relations within adolescent relationships are highly associated with sexual violence which influences teenage pregnancy. In a Ugandan study, Holt et al (2022) noted that health care workers (HCWs) found that gender dynamics in relationships also played a factor in determining young women risk of STIs and unplanned for pregnancy. Power relations between men and women take multiple forms, but in Uganda they are commonly manifested as and imposed through sexual violence and assault. Also in Uganda in his study, Mwaba (2020) found that, 60% of pregnant teenagers were beaten more than ten times by their male partners during their sexual activity.

Gendered attitudes, behaviours, and gender power inequalities in intimate relationships impact on risky sexual behaviour, which consequently exposes boys and men and their partners to the risk of HIV infection, other sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and to unwanted pregnancies. Gender power inequities exemplified in men's frequent dominance in community and family decisions, impact on Sex and Reproductive Health (Kanku & Mash, Kayindu & Asiimwe, 2020). Still in Uganda, Mwaba, 2020 emphasizes that the culture of submission to male partners often led to unprotected sex resulting to STIs, HIV and unintended teenage pregnancy.

Oke (2020) definitions of femininity that idealize women as passive and sexually ignorant/innocent reinforce existing power imbalances in women's relations with men. It is these power imbalances that contribute to adolescent pregnancy that has a disproportionate and negative impact on girls (Mwaba, 2020). The power imbalances are expressed in sexual relationships and confer on men the ability to influence and/or determine women's SRH choices, including utilisation of health care services and use of modern contraceptives including condoms (Kanku & Mash, Kayindu & Asiimwe, 2020).

Power balances at home and at school within adolescent relationships determines the level of sexual risks and consequences such as HIV and STIs and early age conception. Several studies have found that women's household power has effects on general contraceptive use Adogu, Udigwe, and Ubaiala (2021), and that forced sexual initiation, physical violence, and unwillingness to confront an unfaithful partner are strongly associated with teenage pregnancy (Mwaba, 2021). Moreover, the placing of importance on female fertility by the African culture also has immense influence on teenage pregnancy. The cultural importance of

female fertility has also been cited as a primary reason for non-use of contraceptives and unprotected sex and for persistent high pregnancy rates among Ugandan adolescents (Kanku & Mash, Kayindu & Asiimwe, 2021). With regard to male adolescents, Finer and Zolna in their work also suggest that for young Zulu men, early fatherhood is a welcome affirmation of masculine maturity and strength. This finding has been echoed in studies undertaken in Uganda and Ghana (Maba, 2020; Oke, 2020; Mayen, Asiimwe, Mugenyi & Asiimwe 2023, Apiku & Asiimwe, 2023), indicating that by early adolescence, boys have begun to view fatherhood as a marker of man- hood and sexual prowess.

Young mothers lack of emphasis on their children's schooling also contributes to a daughters' greater likelihood of teenage childbearing. Single parent families and more so female head families have children prone to conduct disorder and more so girls who have no role model to look up to. These girls are prone to early sexual initiation and its associated risks. Girls with conduct disorder are also at greater risk of teenage pregnancies (Mwaba, 2022). Overall, adolescents who live with both parents, who report communication with their parents about sex and who perceive high levels of parental monitoring are accordingly less likely to report high levels of sexual risk-taking.

## **2.4 Conclusion**

Many studies tend to categorize large age groups into single "generations of teenagers" with uniform values, ignoring the wide diversity of experiences and perspectives within each generation, especially across different cultural contexts.

Most research relies on cross-sectional data, which means comparing individuals from different generations at a single point in time, limiting the ability to analyze how cultural values and attitudes change within a generation over time. Additionally, many studies focus on individual attitudes and behaviors without considering the broader societal and cultural factors that shape generational differences. Studies often fail to account for the impact of socio-economic factors potentially overlooking significant variations in values and beliefs based on ethnicity, socioeconomic status, or geographic location.

Through utilizing in-depth interviews and focus groups to gain richer insights into the subjective experiences and perspectives of individuals across generations, this study therefore included participants from diverse cultural backgrounds and socioeconomic levels to capture a wider range of experiences within each generation and analyze generational differences within the specific cultural framework of a society to understand how cultural

values interact with generational experiences and above all, developed a more nuanced generational definitions (employed more detailed age cohort classifications to better capture the diversity within each generation).

## CHAPTER THREE

### METHODOLOGY

#### 3.0 Introduction

This chapter looks at the following; research design, study population, sample size and selection, sampling techniques and procedures, data collection methods and techniques, validity and reliability of instruments, procedure of data collection, data analysis and ethical considerations.

#### 3.1 Research Design

The study employed a mixed methods research design. Both qualitative and quantitative approaches were used in this study. A case study and descriptive research design will be used as research designs for this study. Quantitative technique of data collection was used structured questionnaires for eliciting information from teenage girls and parents. Qualitative data collection techniques will aid with use of interview guides will help to get information from local leaders who were purposively selected. This helped to provide in-depth information on the subject matter from the right persons who handle teenage pregnancies.

#### 3.2 Study Population

The study population comprised of both male and female respondents, literate and illiterate from Akeriau Sub-County. Furthermore, seniors who deal with issues of teenage pregnancies was included in the sample such as local leaders, Probation Officer, Police, and Local Councils,

**Table 1: The target population and the corresponding sample**

<b>Participants</b>	<b>Study Population (N)</b>	<b>Sample Size (n)</b>	<b>Sampling Technique</b>
Residents	60	46	Simple random sampling
Technical/leaders/ administrators	30	23	Purposive sampling
Girls	20	17	Purposive sampling
<b>Total</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>86</b>	

#### 3.3 Sample size

In determining the sample size, the researcher used Krejcie and Morgan table (1970) of determining a sample size. Since the population is 110, according to the Krejcie and Morgan table (1970), the researcher arrived at a sample size of 86 persons to be disproportionately distributed amongst the different strata of the population as illustrated in detail in table 2 below.

Category of respondents	Location	Number	Data collection tool to be used
Chief administrative officer	District	1	Interview guide
Sub county chief	Sub County	1	Interview guide
Probation officer	District	1	Interview guide
Head masters	Schools	4	Interview guide
Child protection officer	police	1	Interview guide
Parish chiefs	Parish's	5	Interview guide
Teachers	schools	10	Interview guide
Girls	Akeriau sub County	17	Structured questionnaire
Residents	Akeriau sub County		Structured questionnaire

**N.B** 2 FGDs was held in two parishes.

### **3.4 Sampling Techniques**

#### **3.4.1 Purposive Sampling for Qualitative Data**

Purposive sampling methods were used in this study. A purposive sampling technique was used to get the respondents to give technical information from respondents. Purposive sampling was used to select Chief administrative officer, Teachers, Probation officer, Head masters, Child protection officer, Parish chiefs and Sub county chiefs who were provided qualitative data for the study.

#### **3.4.2 Simple Random for Quantitative Data**

The study employed simple random sampling to select girls and residents of Akeriau sub County. The goal of simple random is to give every respondent a chance to participate in the study and this sampling technique avoids biasness.

### **3.5 Data collection instruments**

#### **3.5.1 Questionnaire Survey**

The study employed questionnaire survey to collect data and it comprised of closed ended questions which helped to collect quantitative data from respondents. Administered to resident's both literate and illiterate who were helped by research assistants

#### **3.5.2 Interviews**

Qualitative data was collected through conducting interviews as advocated by Saunders, et al, (2019). The interview guide helped the researcher to know whether all questions have been asked or not. Interviews helped to collect data from Teachers, Parish chiefs, Child protection officer, Head masters, Probation officer, chief administrative officer and Sub county chief.

### **3.6 Data collection Procedure**

The researcher selected and presented a research topic to the University which was approved. Thereafter the researcher developed a research proposal. After approval of the research proposal, the researcher obtained an introductory letter from the university which was presented to the relevant authorities for data collection.

### **3.6 validity and reliability**

#### **3.6.1 Validity**

Pre-testing of the research tools were done in order to ensure that the right information is collected. The pre-test utilised checking on the aspects of duration of interview, estimate possibility of fatigue, comprehension of questions and their applicability. To improve on the clarity of field questions, adjustments was done on the questionnaires based on the feedback from the pre-test

#### **3.6.2 Reliability**

Data will be collected from 20 residents not among those in the sample. According to Mugende & Mugende (2016) the reliability coefficient Alpha is supposed to be above 0.7 to show that there is reliability.

### **3.7 Data presentation and analysis**

#### **3.7.1 Analysis of Quantitative data**

Quantitative data obtained from questionnaires was computed using inferential statistics. The first step in preparing this data is coding. This entailed assigning numbers to the respondents' responses so that they can be entered into a database (Sekaran and Bougie, 2016). Following coding, responses were fed into a database. Raw data was entered into the SPSS Data Editor.

#### **3.7.2 Qualitative data analysis**

##### **Thematic analysis**

The analysis of qualitative data involved identifying themes or patterns of cultural meaning; coding and classifying data, usually textual, according to themes; and interpreting the resulting thematic structures by seeking commonalities, relationships, overarching patterns, theoretical constructs, or explanatory principles. The analysis of data in this study involved organizing into meaningful themes and categories. The themes that emerged from each data set was presented and discussed separately to establish recurring ones. The findings were discussed, interpreted and supported through cross-referencing relevant sections in the literature review and the theoretical framework.

### **3.8 Ethical considerations**

#### **3.8.1 Informed consent and voluntary participation**

The researcher got consent from the respondents to be involved in the research not just forcing them to participate. The people participating in the study was made aware of what the study was about, it's purpose, usage of the data, and any consequences that may arise from it.

#### **3.8.2 Confidentiality**

During the study, information collected from subjects was kept strictly confidential and was not disclosed to third parties without the respondent's approval. During the study, individuals' identity was kept anonymous through the use of numbers or pseudonyms.

#### **3.8.3 Anonymity**

Anonymity was employed by the researcher and it involved concealing the identities of research participants. The researcher ensured that all respondents are anonymous, meaning

that their identities are unknown and not relevant to the study. Withholding respondents' identities ensures that their claims are authentic (Taylor, 2015).

#### **3.8.4 Plagiarism**

The researcher ensured that all written work is original and without any borrowed and manipulated texts, results or even expressions. The researcher made sure that, all words and publications of other authors are given their due acknowledgement.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

#### 4.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the views from respondents.

#### 4.1 Questionnaires return rate

A total of 86 respondents participated in the study and all the questionnaires and interview guides were returned. Thus the researcher registered 100% response rate.

#### 4.2 Demographic characteristics of the respondents

The variables involved were age (years), gender of respondents, educational level and the departments they work in the organization. Data obtained is presented in tables below:

##### 4.2.1 Age of Respondents

Table 4.1 below presents age distribution of respondents who participated in the study.

**Table 2: Age of respondents in years**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
21-29	3	3.8	3.8	38.8
30-39	34	42.5	42.5	46.3
Valid 40-49	46	50.0	50.0	96.3
50 above	3	3.8	3.8	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>100.0</b>		

*(Source: Primary data, 2025)*

3.8% of the respondents were 21-29 years of age, 42.5% were 30-39 years of age, 50% who were 40-49 years and 3.8% were 50 years and above.

Since majority of the respondents were 40-49 years, this means that they were mature enough and information acquired from them was reliable.

#### 4.2.2 Gender of Respondents

Respondents were asked to indicate their gender by ticking the appropriate column they belonged. With the main aim of finding out the number of males and females participated in the study.

**Table 3: Gender of Respondents**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
	Male	51	63.8	63.8	63.8
Valid	Female	35	36.3	36.3	100.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	

*(Source: Primary data, 2025)*

Majority (63.8%) respondents were males, 36.3% were females. Indicating that there were more males than females.

#### 4.2.3 Marital status of the respondents

**Table 4: Marital status of the respondents**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
	Married	62	77.5	77.5	77.5
	Single	17	13.8	13.8	13.8
Valid	Widower/ Widow	7	8.7	8.7	8.7
	<b>Total</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	100

*(Source: Primary data, 2025)*

13.8% of the respondents were single, 77.5% of the respondents were married 8.7% were widows/widower and 13.8 % of the respondents were single. Since majority were married, it indicates that responsible respondents participated in this research study.

#### 4.2.4 Educational of respondents

**Table 5: Levels of education**

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Valid Percent</b>	<b>Cumulative Percent</b>
Valid	University	29	36.3	36.3
	Tertiary	41	43.8	80.0
	Secondary	16	20.0	100.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*(Source: Primary data, 2025)*

36.3% of the respondents had ended at university level of education, 43.8% had ended at tertiary level and 20% had secondary level of education.

The data shows that majority of the respondents had attained some level of education whose opinions and views were guided and well informed. Uma (2020) argued that it is important in social investigation research to involve people that have attained an acceptable level of literacy and numeracy in order to be in position to understand and interpret content.

#### 4.3 Influence of economic poverty on teenage pregnancies

The first objective in this study was to find out the Influence of economic poverty on teenage pregnancies and responses were as follows:

**Table 6: Showing influence of economic poverty on teenage pregnancies**

<b>Statements</b>	<b>SD (%)</b>	<b>D (%)</b>	<b>N (%)</b>	<b>A (%)</b>	<b>SA (%)</b>
Economic poverty has dual dynamics in teenage pregnancies	3	9	16	55	3
Economic poverty creates lack of resources and support resulting in to teenage pregnancies	4	36	22	23	1
Teenage pregnancy has long lasting repercussions for parents and the society	5	6	14	44	17
Poverty has a considerable effect on prevalence of teenage pregnancies'	2	12	22	49	1

*Source: primary data, (2025)*

**Economic poverty has dual dynamics in teenage pregnancies**

The study investigated **economic poverty has an influence on teenage pregnancies**. According to the findings in table 6 above, 49% of the respondents agreed that economic poverty on teenage pregnancies, 3% disagreed, 16% were neutral, while 9% disagreed and 3% strongly agreed to the statement.

Therefore from the above findings, it is noticeable that economic poverty has a very big influence on teenage pregnancies

**Economic poverty creates lack of resources and support resulting in to teenage pregnancies**

The study also investigated whether economic poverty creates lack of resources and support resulting in to teenage pregnancies and, 23% agreed that economic poverty creates lack of resources and support resulting in to teenage pregnancies, 1% strongly agreed, 22% were neutral and 30% disagreed while 4% strongly disagreed to the statement. From the above findings it means that economic poverty creates lack of resources and support resulting in to teenage pregnancies

**Teenage pregnancy has long lasting repercussions for parents and the society**

On whether teenage pregnancy has long lasting repercussions for parents and the society, 38% of the respondents agreed to the statement noting that most teenage pregnancy has long lasting repercussions for parents and the society, 6% disagreed, 14% were neutral and 17% strongly agreed and 5% strongly disagreed. This finding implies that Teenage pregnancy has long lasting repercussions for parents and the society

**Table 7: Influence of peer pressure on teenage pregnancies**

	N	1 (SD)	2 (D)	3 (U)	4 (A)	5 (SA)	Mean	Std. D	Comments
Peer pressure contributes to increasing rates of teenage pregnancies	86	5 (3.6%)	5 (3.6%)	10 (15.8%)	46 (50%)	20 (27%)	3.82	1.022	<i>High</i>
There is a relationship between peer pressure and teenage pregnancies'	86	0 (0%)	2 (3.5%)	3 (7%)	66 (63.4%)	15 (26.1%)	3.96	0.815	<i>High</i>
Curiosity due to peer pressure contributes to teenage pregnancies	86	5 (5%)	5 (5%)	0 (0%)	56 (67.0%)	20 (23%)	4.14	0.600	<i>Very High</i>
Boys face peer pressure validation of man hood regarding sexual activity leading to teenage pregnancies	86	10 (12.5%)	5 (4%)	5 (4%)	54 (51.1%)	32 (28.4%)	4.01	0.905	<i>High</i>
Valid N (list wise)	86								
<b>Overall Mean &amp; Standard Deviation</b>							<b>4.00</b>	<b>0.824</b>	<i>High</i>

Respondents were asked to reveal if lower Peer pressure contributes to increasing rates of teenage pregnancies and 27% of the respondents strongly agreed that Peer pressure contributes to increasing rates of teenage pregnancies, 50% of the respondents agreed, 15.8% of the respondents were undecided, 3.6% of the respondents disagreed and lastly 3.6% of the respondents strongly disagreed. A high mean of 3.82 indicated that Peer pressure contributes to increasing rates of teenage pregnancies. This finding was in line with Tomkins (2020) who conducted a research study in Namibia and found out that peer pressure contributes to teenage pregnancies.

26.1% of the respondents strongly agreed that there is a relationship between peer pressure and teenage pregnancies', 63.4% of the respondents agreed, 7% of the respondents were undecided, 3.5% of the respondents disagreed, and lastly none of the respondents strongly disagreed. A high mean of 3.96 indicated that there is a relationship between peer pressure and teenage pregnancies'. This study finding was in line with Opio (2020) who conducted a research study in Kumi and noted that there is a relationship between peer pressure and teenage pregnancies'

Responses on if curiosity due to peer pressure contributes to teenage pregnancies showed that 23% of the respondents strongly agreed, 67% of the respondents agreed, none of the respondents were un decided, 5% of the respondents disagreed and strongly disagreed. A very high mean of 4.01 indicated that curiosity due to peer pressure contributes to teenage pregnancies. This finding was similar to that of Nuwagaba (2020) conducted a research study in Tanzania and asserted that curiosity due to peer pressure contributes on increasing teenage pregnancies.

Responses on if boys face peer pressure validation of man hood regarding sexual activity leading to teenage pregnancies showed that 28.4% of the respondents strongly agreed, 51.1% of the respondents agreed, 4% of the respondents were undecided and disagreed, and lastly 12.5% of the respondents strongly disagreed. A high mean of 4.01 indicated that Boys face peer pressure validation of man hood regarding sexual activity leading to teenage pregnancies This study finding was similar to that of Davis (2020) who noted that educated people peoples pressure on boys manhood has pushed men of them in to teenage pregnancies.

A high overall mean of 4.00 indicated that peer pressure has an influence on teenage pregnancies

One interviewee said that:

“peer pressure contributes to teenage pregnancies ”

Yet another interviewee also revealed that:

**“.....peer pressure on has an influence teenage pregnancies”.(Masaba Andrew pseudo name, personal communication, march,2025)**

#### 4.4 Influence of cultural beliefs on teenage pregnancies

**Table 8: showing Influence of cultural beliefs on teenage pregnancies**

	N	1 (SD)	2 (D)	3 (U)	4 (A)	5 (SA)	Mean	Std.D	Comments
Cultural perceptions towards girls push them in to teenage pregnancies	86	1 (2%)	0 (0%)	4 (6%)	25 (30%)	56 (62%)	4.46	1.072	<i>Very High</i>
Fear to educate girls and boys on sex due to African culture contributes to increase in teenage pregnancies	86	0 (0%)	5 (3%)	10 (7%)	51 (54%)	20 (36%)	4.22	0.668	<i>Very High</i>
Sex being a taboo in most cultures has widened the gap on sex education	86	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	5 (10.2%)	61 (67.0%)	20 (22.7%)	4.14	0.600	<i>Very High</i>
Religious and cultural taboos prevent open dialogue leading to increase in teenage pregnancies	86	2 (1%)	3 (3%)	0 (0%)	25 (38%)	56 (58%)	4.50	0.684	<i>Very High</i>
Valid N (list wise)	86								
<b>Overall Mean &amp; Standard Deviation</b>							<b>4.34</b>	<b>0.732</b>	<i>Very High</i>

*0.00-1.00 Very Low, 1.10-2.00 Low, 2.10-3.00 Moderate, 3.10-4.00 High, 4.10-5.00 Very High*

The third objective of the study was about Influence of cultural beliefs on teenage pregnancies and responses in line with this objective are as illustrated below:

Respondents were asked to reveal if Cultural perceptions towards girls push them in to teenage pregnancies and their children and 62% of the respondents strongly agreed, 30% agreed, 6% were undecided, none of the respondents disagreed and lastly 2% of the respondents strongly disagreed. A very high mean of 4.46 indicated that Cultural perceptions towards girls push them in to teenage pregnancies. This study finding was in line with Oburu (2023) who conducted a research study in Nigeria and asserted that cultural perceptions has pushed many girls in to teenage pregnancies.

Respondents were asked to reveal if fear to educate girls and boys on sex due to African culture contributes to increase in teenage pregnancies and 36% of the respondents strongly agreed, 54% of the respondents agreed, 7% of the respondents were undecided and lastly none of the respondents strongly disagreed. A very high mean of 4.22 suggested that fear to educate girls and boys on sex due to African culture contributes to increase in teenage pregnancies. This study finding was in line with a study conducted with Marvin (2024) who asserted most families in African setting fear to educate their girls leading to teenage pregnancies.

Responses on if sex being a taboo in most cultures has widened the gap on sex education showed that 22.7% of the respondents strongly agreed, 67% of the respondents agreed, none of the respondents were undecided, 3% of the respondents disagreed, and lastly 1% of the respondents strongly disagreed. A high mean of 4.14 indicated that there is a relationship between sex being a taboo and teenage pregnancies. This study finding was similar to that of Martins (2022) who conducted a research study and found that sex being a taboo contributes to teenage pregnancies

Responses in line with if religious and cultural taboos prevent open dialogue leading to increase in teenage pregnancies showed that 58% of the respondents strongly agreed, 38% of the respondents agreed, none of the respondents were undecided, 3% of the respondents disagreed and lastly 1% of the respondents strongly disagreed. This study finding was in line with Anthony (2020) agreed that religious and cultural taboos prevent open dialogue leading to increase in teenage pregnancies.

## **4.5 Discussion of findings**

### **Influence of economic poverty on teenage pregnancies**

Findings here revealed that economic poverty has a very big influence on teenage pregnancies this finding was in line with that of Ojangole (2025) who conducted a research study in Kenya and found out that majority of the teenage pregnancies are as a result of economic.

Findings also revealed that economic poverty creates lack of resources and support resulting in to teenage pregnancies

Lastly under this objective, findings revealed that that Teenage pregnancy has long lasting repercussions for parents and the society and this was in line with a study conducted by marvin.

### **Influence of peer pressure on teenage pregnancies**

Findings indicated that Peer pressure contributes to increasing rates of teenage pregnancies. This finding was in line with Tomkins (2020) who conducted a research study in Namibia and found out that peer pressure contributes to teenage pregnancies, that there is a relationship between peer pressure and teenage pregnancies'. This study finding was in line with Opio (2020) who conducted a research study in Kumi and noted that there is a relationship between peer pressure and teenage pregnancies', that curiosity due to peer pressure contributes to teenage pregnancies. This finding was similar to that of Nuwagaba (2020) conducted a research study in Tanzania and asserted that curiosity due to peer pressure contributes on increasing teenage pregnancies and lastly that Boys face peer pressure validation of man hood regarding sexual activity leading to teenage pregnancies This study finding was similar to that of Davis (2020) who noted that educated people peoples pressure on boys manhood has pushed men of them in to teenage pregnancies.

### **Influence of cultural beliefs on teenage pregnancies**

Findings indicated that Cultural perceptions towards girls push them in to teenage pregnancies. This study finding was in line with Oburu (2023) who conducted a research

study in Nigeria and asserted that cultural perceptions has pushed many girls in to teenage pregnancies, that fear to educate girls and boys on sex due to African culture contributes to increase in teenage pregnancies. This study finding was in line with a study conducted with Marvin (2024) who asserted most families in African setting fear to educate their girls leading to teenage pregnancies and lastly that there is a relationship between sex being a taboo and teenage pregnancies. This study finding was similar to that of Martins (2022) who conducted a research study and found that sex being a taboo contributes to teenage pregnancies

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **5.1 Introduction**

This chapter looks at the summary and recommendations about the research study.

#### **5.2 Summary**

In summary, the study revealed that, that economic poverty has a very big influence on teenage pregnancies, that economic poverty creates lack of resources and support resulting in to teenage pregnancies, that there is a relationship between peer pressure and teenage pregnancies, that there is a relationship between peer pressure and teenage pregnancies, that curiosity due to peer pressure contributes on increasing teenage pregnancies and lastly that boys face peer pressure validation of man hood regarding sexual activity leading to teenage pregnancies

#### **5.3 Conclusions**

Findings concluded that: economic poverty has a very big influence on teenage pregnancies, that economic poverty creates lack of resources and support resulting in to teenage pregnancies, that there is a relationship between peer pressure and teenage pregnancies, that there is a relationship between peer pressure and teenage pregnancies, that curiosity due to peer pressure contributes on increasing teenage pregnancies and lastly that boys face peer pressure validation of man hood regarding sexual activity leading to teenage pregnancies

#### **5.4 Recommendations**

From the study findings and conclusions of the research study, the following recommendations were made:

Government should put in place programs to help reduce on increasing levels of poverty within the community

There is need to sensitize the community on cultural perceptions in order to reduce on increasing teenage pregnancies

Government and stakeholders should ensure that strict policies are put in place to reduce on teenage pregnancies

### **5.5 Areas for further research**

- a) Effect of education on teenage pregnancies
- b) Effect of poverty on school drop out

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## APPENDICES

### Appendix I: Consent Letter

Dear Respondents

#### Re. Request to Complete Research Questionnaire

I am **Alwa Esther** a student of Uganda Christian University pursuing a Bachelor's Degree of social work and social administration and am currently undertaking a research on a topic '**social economic factors and teenage pregnancies in Akeriau Sub County, Amuria District**. You are kindly requested to participate in this research study and your selection to this effect has been based on random basis. Please feel free as you respond to the study questions.

Thank you

.....

**(RESAERCHER)**

**Appendices II: Questionnaire Guide for residents and girls**

**SECTION A: REpondent's BIO – DATA**

***INSTRUCTIONS***

*Please fill in the blank spaces or tick (✓) in the boxes provided where necessary.*

1. Name: (optional)

.....  
.....

2. Age: 15 – 30                        31 – 45                       46 – 60                       60 +

3. Sex: Male                        Female

4. Marital status: Single                        Married                        Divorced   
Separated                      Widowed

5. Location:

Cell ..... Parish

Sub ..... – ..... County

6. Levels of education:

None                        Primary                        Secondary

Tertiary and above

Other (please specify)

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

**Appendix III:**

For each of the sections you are required to tick (√) on a response option ranging from the levels below.

Levels: 1 = strongly disagree (SD), 2 = disagree (D), 3 = Not sure (N S), 4 = agree (A) and 5 = strongly agree (SA)

	<b>Influence of economic poverty on teenage pregnancies</b>	<b>SD</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>SA</b>
1	Economic poverty has dual dynamics in teenage pregnancies					
2	Economic poverty creates lack of resources and support resulting in to teenage pregnancies					
3	Teenage pregnancy has long lasting repercussions for parents and the society					
4	Poverty has a considerable effect on prevalence of teenage pregnancies'					
	<b>Influence of peer pressure on teenage pregnancies</b>					
1	Peer pressure contributes to increasing rates of teenage pregnancies					
2	There is a relationship between peer pressure and teenage pregnancies'					
3	Curiosity due to peer pressure contributes to teenage pregnancies					
4	Boys face peer pressure validation of man hood regarding sexual activity leading to teenage pregnancies					
	<b>Influence of cultural beliefs on teenage pregnancies</b>					
1	Cultural perceptions towards girls push them in to teenage pregnancies					
2	Fear to educate girls and boys on sex due to African culture contributes to increase in teenage pregnancies					
3	Sex being a taboo in most cultures has widened the gap on sex education					

4	Religious and cultural taboos prevent open dialogue leading to increase in teenage pregnancies					
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**Appendix IV: Interview Guide for Chief administrative officer, Sub county chief**

**,Teachers, Head masters ,Child protection officer, Parish chiefs and probation officer  
Probation officer.**

Dear respondent, I am **Alwa Esther** a student of Uganda Christian University, pursuing a Bachelors Degree of social work and social administration. I am carrying out a study on the **“social economic factors and teenage pregnancies in Akeriau Sub County, Amuria District. ”**. The information you provide will only be used for the purpose of this study and will be treated with utmost confidentiality. Your participation in this study is highly valued and welcome

**(A). Influence of economic poverty on teenage pregnancies**

1. Economic factors have an influence on teenage pregnancies

- a.) Yes      b) No

2. If yes, explain in detail the influence of economic poverty on teenage pregnancies?

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**(B). Influence of peer pressure on teenage pregnancies**

5. Peer pressure has an influence on teenage pregnancies?

- a.) Yes      b) No

6. If yes, what are the different influences of peer pressure on teenage pregnancies?

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**(C). Influence of cultural beliefs on teenage pregnancies**

7. Cultural beliefs influence teenage pregnancies?

- a.) Yes                      b) No

8. If yes, what is the influence of cultural factors on teenage pregnancies?

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**Thank you for your Participation**

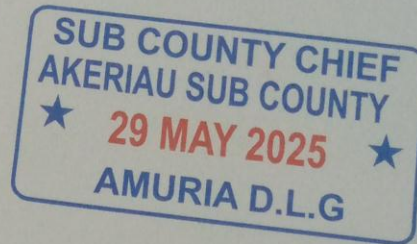
**Appendix v: Data collection letter**



UGANDA CHRISTIAN  
UNIVERSITY  
A Centre of Excellence in the Heart of Africa  
MBALE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Office of the Academic Registrar

To THE SUB COUNTY CHIEF  
AKERIAU SUB COUNTY



Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Academic Research

Christian greetings!

We are honored to introduce to you Mr. Mrs./Miss ALWA ESTHER

Of Registration Number; 523/muc/BSW/036 pursuing a Masters' Degree/Postgraduate Diploma / Bachelor's Degree

He/ she is required to carry out an academic research on the topic  
SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS AND TEENAGE PREGNANCIES  
IN AKERIAU SUB-COUNTY, AMURIA DISTRICT

and thereafter produce a well bound hard cover research report (MAROON) in color for undergraduate and three (BLACK) copies for Postgraduate students as a University requirement for the award of a degree/diploma in the academic discipline that he / she is pursuing.

We shall be grateful for the help you may offer to him or her accordingly.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

Mr. Akampurira Timothy

Academic Registrar



