

# A Rise from A Downfall: A Multiple Case Study on the Voices of Teenage Parents in School

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**Abstract**— The purpose of this qualitative study was to explore the truth behind the experiences of teenage parents who continue their studies. We conducted the study at Asuncion, Sagayen and Sawata National High School of Davao del Norte. The results of the interview were transcribed, translated and coded to produce clear understanding details about the informants. Through in-depth interview and face to face discussion with the informants, it was found that teenage parents who continue their studies experience tough challenges such as facing hard situations, endure the negative outlook of other people and difficulties in fulfilling the role of being a parent and student. As to their struggles, they also shared the status of their lives in terms of financial state. In terms of their coping mechanism, they coped with their struggles with the help of their parents, friends and including their self-support system. Further, the insights that they shared to other teenage parents as students are to be positive thinkers, motivate their selves more and make their child the number one inspiration in achieving their dreams in life. This study has significance in education as to how to address the problem and find ways to prevent it.

**Keywords**— multiple case study, and voices of teenage parents.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Being a parent is one of the biggest responsibility of a person on his or her life. It requires love and patience since it needs a lot of efforts and hardships. For teenage parents who are lack of support from their own parents experience more daunting as they seek support in adult-oriented system.

When teenage parents do not receive the support and resources they need, a variety of detrimental consequences can result. Parenting as a teenager does have special challenges, including handling people's judgmental attitudes and finishing your education (Raising Children Network, 2019).

In our community, we noticed that the number of teenage parent is increasing. This case is alarming to everyone since it affects the community and the outlook of those people who are involve with this issue. They probably experience people's judgements and become ashamed that is why they decided to not going back to school and finish their studies.

This qualitative case study is the first research conducted by the researchers in our school and locality. On the other hand, we found out that research about teenage parenthood in school has not been discovered despite of the case that our society is facing. For these compelling reasons that this was conducted at Sagayen

National High School with its nearby schools like Asuncion National High School and Sawata National High School to give attention to the existing problem on the said issue.

## II. METHODOLOGY

### *Research Design*

The research design is intended to provide an appropriate framework for a study. A very significant decision in research design process is the choice to be made regarding research approach since it determines how relevant information for a study will be obtained; however, the research design process involves many interrelated decisions (Sileyew, 2019).

This qualitative study was conducted through inductive conventional content analysis. In a case study, the insight-stimulating cases should be selected for special study. For particular problems, certain cases may be found more appropriate than others. In case study, the researcher himself has to be very alert. The results of exploratory research are not usually useful for decision-making by themselves, but they can provide significant insight into a given situation. This abundance of case study literature and striking similarities between social science and design research motivated the authors to implement case study method for design investigation.

The case study protocol explained in this paper could serve as a template for researchers who find cases study

method suitable for their design research (Summers, 2008).

### **Data Collection**

Implementation of a case study approach involves a unique degree of interaction for participants, the researcher, and the research audience. The researcher collaborates closely with the participant to collect the data then selects and structures the ideas to include in the report, developing themes, highlighting some ideas, subordinating or eliminating others, and finally connecting the ideas and embedding them in a narrative context. In this process, the researcher is sharing the personal meanings of events and relationships both as voiced by the participant and by the researcher. As the audience reads the case study, they in turn, based on their prior experience and personal knowledge, mentally add and subtract information from the study, shaping what they read (Stake, 2005).

The case study is a data collection method in which in-depth descriptive information about specific entities, or cases, is collected, organized, interpreted, and presented in a narrative format. The case study report is essentially a story. The subject of the case may be an individual, a family, a neighborhood, a work group, a classroom, a school, an organization, a program, or any other entity. As a data collection approach, it is widely applied in sociology, anthropology, psychology, education, and medicine and offers much potential value to performance technology. Case studies offer rich perspectives and insights that can lead to in-depth understanding of variables, issues, and problems (Liebert, Poulos, & Strauss, 1974).

The interviews were focused on the experiences of the participants while teenagers were asked to explain their experiences of motherhood in adolescence and their challenges. Central questions were asked and progression was made into specifics, also in accordance with participants' statements additional probing questions were used (Mangeli et al., 2017).

### **III. DATA ANALYSIS**

In qualitative research the data was very important in drawing out the picture of the story. It involved simple communication to the people that will give the most important details of the data.

Qualitative data analysis can be described as the process of making sense from research participants' views and opinion of the situation, corresponding patterns, themes

categories and similarities. It is the process of bringing order, structure, and meaning to the mass or collected data. It was messy, ambiguous and time-consuming, but also it is creative and fascinating process. Broadly speaking it is the process of making sense of interpreting and theorizing data that signifies a search for general statement among categories of data.

### **IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

This qualitative multiple case study focused in exploring the reasons of teenage parents as students. This study wanted to know the experiences of those teenage parents who continue their studies. It focused on the heart of issue that will magnified the lens of their thoughts, point of views perceptions insights and feeling of teenage parents as students.

This will create awareness to all students and parents whom really wanted to avoid those kinds of difficulties and the struggles that a teenage parent as student have experienced. There were four research questions in this study. Each research questions have probing questions that served as the guide for in-depth interview. The first research question was about the experiences of teenage parents who continue their studies despite of their situation. The second research question deal on their coping mechanism. The third research question concerned with their insights and the last one was about the changes brought to teenage parents as they continue their studies.

Each of the four participants was given time to answer the questions to complete their demographic profile. The whole duration of the in-depth interview had been recorded. They have been assured of the complete confidentiality of the data gathered.

- **Case 1** - The Future Chef Mom (not her real name). The 8th child of the family, 17 years old, born on June 26, 2002. Her daughter is 2 years old. Her ambition in life is to finish her studies and to become a successful chef someday. She loves to cook whenever there is a celebration in their home. She is a grade 11 student.
- **Case 2** - The Future Engineer Dad (not his real name). The second child of the family, 19 years old, born on September 20, 2000. His son is 3 months old. His ambition in life is to finish his studies and become a successful engineer someday. He plays a guitar to his child and considers it as their bonding, whenever he sang in front of his child he felt

comfortable and at the same time happy. He is a grade 11 student.

- **Case 3** - The Future Teacher Mom (not her real name). The youngest child of the family, 21 years old, born on November 07 1998. Her son is 2 years old already and she wants to finish her studies and become a good teacher someday. She is a grade 12 student.
- **Case 4** - The Future Entrepreneur Mom (not her real name). The 2nd child of the family, 19 years old, born on March 15, 2000. His son is 2 years old. She wants to become a successful business woman someday. She is currently taking the academic track Humanities and Social Sciences (HUMSS). She is a grade 12 student.

### *The experiences of teenage parents as students*

There were five major themes that compiled out from the analysis of the data for research question number one which is Difficulties in their responsibility, Tiresome situation, Happiness in their situation, Academic disturbance and Financial problem.

The first major theme on the experiences of teenage parents who continue their studies is the Difficulties in their responsibility. You might feel that there's a lot going on in the rest of your life and you're struggling to give your child enough attention (Raising Children Network, 2019). Moreover, relationship problems also surface around this time and the romantic relationship that the teens might have enjoyed changes into misery. All of this is unexpected and adds another layer of trauma (Faeza, 2016).

The second major theme that compiled in this research question is the Tiresome situation. You might worry about balancing work and family life, finding a job, finding affordable child care, or keeping in contact with your friends. There might be the challenges of finishing school while looking after a baby (RCN et al., 2019). Adolescents often become mothers without the necessary knowledge, skills and resources to deal with early motherhood, which adds stress to their already challenged development level (Erfina & Ismail, 2019).

The third major theme was Happiness in their situation. It was found that students who are parents felt happy despite of the responsibilities at home and at school because of the help of their parents (Jamisola, Estomata, Halasan, & Intel, 2014). Moreover, on the upside, you might find that parenting comes to you quite naturally as

a teenage parent. You might be better than older parents and getting used to the changes that children bring, as well as dealing with little or no sleep but despite of that they will feel relieve seeing your child in the good hands (RCN et al., 2019).

The fourth major theme was Academic Disturbance. Teenage parents having a hard time in taking care of their child, that is why they suffered about charged with disturbance in academic in the state some for the activities and making projects others for doing something in their classroom they cannot handle well (Ripley, 2016).

The fifth major theme was Financial Problem. One main issue is earning money. Teenage parents may need to earned money to help their needs and expenses and they findings way to earned money to support their studies specially their child (Dwilson, S 2011).

### *The coping mechanisms of teenage parents as students*

There are five major themes that emerged during the analysis of data for the second research question. The first major theme on the coping mechanism of teenage parents as students is Time management. Time management is a big concern for young parents these days. Between household responsibilities, college, and a stressful workplace, many mothers have given up on the fight to find time for themselves and are just trying to get everything done. Routine is a time management tip that can save you mental energy and stress (Teen Moms, 2015).

The second major theme is Self-motivation, this is their way to continue in living and remind themselves that they already have a baby to raise. The focus is a skill building foundation to help teen mothers and fathers develop self-sufficiency to enable them to become successful and engaging parents (Lewis, 2018). Moreover, the main thing to remember about extrinsic motivation is that influence is exerted from the outside, in making adolescent effort dependent on external pressure. This is different from intrinsic motivation that works from the inside out, influence generated independently from desire within (Pickhardt, 2017).

The third major theme that occurs in the analysis of data is Support from family and friends, this was the teenage parents cope on their problems and discrimination they encountered. If you are able to stay with your parents,

consider doing so, as it may help you deal with the daily pressure of looking after your child. This means you'll be in a better physical and emotional state to study (Pregnancy, Birth, Baby, 2019). Investment and promotion, through social policy of informal peer support in terms of friendship groups has also been suggested specifically to support teenage mother (Ellis-Sloan & Tamplin, 2018).

The fourth major theme is Trust in themselves. Trust is the important part of a relationship. It represents your belief in someone's good sense, ability or honesty (RCN et al., 2019). Moreover, trustworthy behavior in other aspects of their life, setting them up for positive relationships into adulthood (Children By Choice, 2019).

The fifth major theme is Continue their goals for better future. Continuing education for teenage parents, while continuing their education in your situation, it is possible if you know your options and a way forward (CBC et al., 2019). Continuing education for teenage parents can be possible with help and support (RCN et al., 2019).

### ***The insights of teenage parents as a student***

There were four major themes emerged out from the analysis of data for research question number three. These are Ignore negative feedback of others, Be proud of one's self, Continue, Recover and Stay Still, and Think before you act.

The first major theme is Ignore negative feedback of others, this is one way of surviving as a teenage parent and student, since they do not know the real story of teenage parents who are also students they have no rights in discriminating and judge them right away. They do not need our judgment. They need our love and support. Teen parents need to know that they can be forgiven. They may or may not know the acts they have committed were sinful, but they will most likely feel the shame others place upon them (Dawson, 2019).

The second major theme of insights of teenage parents as a students is Be proud of one's self. Show to everyone that you are not that regretful person instead show them what you can and what you get. A valuable part of people's self-concept, which involves the personal emotions and thoughts.

This is defined as the sense of value that an individual has about to people and that begins to be shaped in the

daily life of childhood (Mohamed & Mahmoud, 2018). In addition, being proud of themselves create a very powerful mindset that not only can filter life experience but can also motivate behavior (Pickhardt, 2017).

The third major theme is Continue, Recover, and Stay Still. It is worth making the effort to continue with your education, as it has many benefits-including job and financial security to be able to support yourself and your child (RCN et al., 2019).

The fourth major theme is Think before you act. Having self-control is a large factor in our lives and can impact on our relationships, work lives families and general sense of well being, so it makes sense we want to teach ways of managing our self-control and think before we act (Bhardwaj, 2017).

### ***The changes brought to teenage parents as a student***

There are four themes that emerged during the analysis of data for the fourth research question. The first major theme is More Mature. To watch someone else go through the process will help them understand that mistakes are not the end of the world, and it will allow them to observe how someone should handle mistakes in a mature way. When you make mistakes, admit you've made an error, a bad judgment, or a poor decision. Mistakes are a chance to learn improved ways of doing things (Middle Earth, 2015).

The second major theme is Know how to manage time. Once said that time is money. Just like money, time must be managed properly. If you manage your time properly you find the right balance between your work, leisure and rest time (William, 2017).

Moreover, you cannot manage time, you manage the events in your life in relation to time. How you use that time depends on skills learned through self-analysis, planning, evaluation, and self-control (University of Georgia Extension, 2016).

The third major theme is More Responsible. You are in line for a promotion, but you are not the only candidate under consideration. You are not worried, though you believe the odds are in your favor (Robert Half, 2016).

The fourth major theme is Become Stronger. A strong personality, at least to me, means that you always let your opinion be known whether it will be popular or not. As an introvert myself, I seem to always pick people

with "strong" personalities as my dear friends (McDonough, T 2016). Many people think that their personality traits are something that they received at birth. Taking the positive personality traits we do have for granted, we do not always consider ways to develop and improve our own character (Bright Side, 2015).

### ***Implication for practice***

There are five major themes generated from the experiences of teenage parents who continue their studies, these are difficulties in their situation, tiresome situation, happiness in their situation, school disturbance and financial problem.

On the first major theme they felt the difficulties of the situation they have in daily living especially the role of being a parent and a student. When they are at school they will do the responsibilities as a student like projects and assignments, when they are at home they will become a parent who is taking good care of their child.

The second major theme was tiresome situation, the dual responsibility they have is exhausting. They need to fulfill their responsibility as a parent and a student.

The third major theme was happiness in their situation, despite of the difficulties and problems they encountered, they still found happiness in the situation they have right now.

The fourth major theme was academic disturbance since they are parent they cannot focus in their studies because they are restricted by their child-care responsibility.

The fifth major theme was financial problem, they cannot easily buy their needs to their family especially to their child.

There were five major themes generated from the coping mechanism of teenage parents who continue their studies these are, time management, self-motivation, support from family and friends, trust in themselves and continuing their goal for a better future.

The teenage parents informants shared on how they cope with their experiences, they have time management for doing all the things they need to do right away, they valued their time since they have a lot of responsibilities.

As a teenage parents as well as students they encourage themselves to continue and fight the challenges they are

facing. Their self-motivation makes them strong no matter how hard life is.

The teenage parents who continue their studies shared on how they cope with their experiences, they were being supported by their friends and family if they need help they just go to them and listen to their advice that can help them cope with their problems and they also found the comfort on their friends and family.

The trust that the teenage parents have help them to continue in their lives and continue their goals in life for better future.

There were four major themes created from the insights of teenage parents who continue their studies these are ignore negative feedback of others, be proud of one's self and continue, recover, and stay still.

The first essential theme was ignore negative feedback of others, since the judgment of other people cannot help them to survive but instead add more stress to them they just ignore it and prove them wrong.

They also shared that they are proud of themselves despite of the situation they have they still believe that they did something right not just for themselves but also to their child and they become motivated to go to school. They continue, recover and become stay still of the happenings of their lives.

There were four major themes generated from the changes brought to teenage parents who continue their studies these are more mature, know how to manage time, more responsible and become stronger.

The first major theme is more mature were the teenage parents know they things they need to do as a parent.

They also shared that knowing how to manage time help them to survive and continue their lives.

The third major theme was more responsible, because of the happenings in their lives they become more responsible and do things responsively.

Teenage parents shared that they become stronger because of the things happened in their lives, those things help to develop their personality.

### ***Implication for future research***

Future research enhancement may be considered through the basis of this study. Future problems that

were never mentioned in this study will be given appreciation and remedy. More related question will be added to gain more data for analysis and further studies.

Based on the results of the study, future researcher will level up the process and methods in obtaining, gathering and interpreting data of the teenage parents as students' lives. Observant and movement approach will be applied.

The next research will focus on how these teenage parents who continue their studies cope with critical society in their changing social circle as professional in their field that they want. There is also satisfaction for the other. Research opportunities in terms of the research participants who experience being a teenage parents and students of the province of Davao del Norte.

## V. CONCLUSION

Based upon the results of this study, we enumerated several remarks: First, with the experiences of teenagers being parents and students, we always look them as careless and do not think about the circumstances in the future. We used to discriminate them because of what had happened to their lives but we do not know the story behind them. It is not happiness and personal intentions they experiencing every day, instead full of discriminations. Some are longing for the acceptance of the people. We may not understand them, but those experiences taught them how to become a better individual, taught them how to manage such happenings and taught them how to live the life they had now.

Second, the coping mechanisms of teenagers being parents and students comes from within and from their friends. They are also searching for the advice of their families and people around them. The moment that they encountered misfortune, they really need the moral support from their families and friends and the most important is the acceptance of the society. It is the assurance that they are accepted, loved, and be loved by their families and friends who help them to conquer and stand still.

Upon delving the stories of these teenage parents as students and the advices coming from the society, it has been observed that their insights were essential and they must have self-encouragement.

We should not forget that teenage parents and students stumbles different kind of stories, even though some messed-up their lives still they are part of the society and

they need same treatments from us. Based on our study, they are striving for their child's future, even if they contrite but no more time to feel like this, instead they have to stay strong, accept and face the reality. Life was tough for them as they go through their situation full of shame but they did not stop hoping for the great uprising after the tremendous downfall for the light comes after any darkness.

The result of this study help everyone to empathize the struggles of these teenage parents and students and never appoint them as stain of an elegant dress. They are also victims of our mistreatment instead we must encourage and help them hand in hand.

To the people around, who do not know the stories behind, who do not respect them, this study enlightens your mind and thoughts that these teenage parents as students attain specific reasons why this circumstance happen to their lives and that they need some supports (moral) and aiming for the acceptance and still be a part of the community.

To those people who committed this kind of circumstance, whose facing different experiences, vanquish it and believe in yourself that you can do it for your better future. Be the best example to all teenagers who become a parent and still a student that can get some learnings from your story. Always think twice before surrendering your decision.

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