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English Composition

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Research Analysis Paper

Teenage Pregnancy

Jane Fonda once said, “If we as a nation are to break the cycle of poverty, crime and the growing underclass of young people ill equipped to be productive citizens, we need to not only implement effective programs to prevent teen pregnancy, but we must also help those who have already given birth so that they become effective, nurturing, bonding parents.” Being a good mother has nothing to do with age, but more to the size of your heart. If you can love enough to know that you will do anything to protect and care for your children, little else matters. Young African American females encounter many challenges when getting pregnant at a young age, some of these challenges are neglect, depression and rape.

Abandonment is one of many reasons pregnant teenagers feel like it's at the end of the world if / when they get pregnant. Eighteen year old Christian Anderson stated that he thinks it's really unnecessary how young girls are being looked at and talked about when they become pregnant. He also when on to say that he too have been abandoned before and the feeling really made him feel betrayed. He said, “Many of young girls are getting pregnant these days but I'm never quick to degrade or jump to conclusions." When asked why he continued to say that their pregnancy might not have been intentional and rape is still very much happening around the world.

When you research the statistics for teenage pregnancy you might be amazed by what you find. According to The New York Times, June 13, 2001 National Briefing Science and Health written by Philip J. Hilts teenage pregnancy dropped 19 percent from its peak in 1990, to 94.3 pregnancies per thousand teenagers from 116.5. The decline was attributed to increased use of condoms and implantable contraceptives, as well as a leveling-off in sexual activity. The figures

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cover 1990 to 1997, the latest years for which complete data is available. Although this might have been the case in the earlier 2000’s teenage pregnancy decreased in every state for young African American females ages 13-17 but increased rapidly to female’s ages 18-19.

A fear of being judged and degraded is one of the leading cases of abortions in pregnant teenagers. For Tanesha McClean a twenty-six year old young woman of God finding out that she was pregnant at the age of 19 couldn't have come at a worst time. She said one of the most difficult challenges she had to face was being judged by everyone around her. “I was also in school at the time. I had to find a job as a single parent", when I asked her how'd you cope with what was going on at the time she replied saying “I would meditate and learn my baby". Tenisha ended the interview saying that most people were disappointed because she having a baby they talked about her behind her back but smiled in her face. They treated her like she destroyed her life. Their treatment made her feel like she really messed up in life and she was extremely disappointed in herself.

Abortion rates on the other hand has increased over the years. The American Journal of Nursing, 2014 believe that more states should limit the access to abortion. I strongly disagree with this statement. Most young women talk with at least one parent when facing an unintended pregnancy. But some young women feel for various reasons—including abuse, rape, or incest—that they cannot. Further, placing restrictions on a young woman’s access to abortion can delay her from seeking earlier, safer care, thus putting her health at risk. Of course, most parents hope their daughters will seek out their advice and support, but responsible parents want, above all, for their daughters to be safe.

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Alan J. Zametkin from the American Medical Association believes that adolescents who kill themselves invariably have an underlying psychiatric disorder. Biological markers are not yet clinically useful for identifying adolescents at risk, and there is a paucity of research data on the effectiveness of behavioral intervention for suicidal teenagers. A case of a 16-year-old scholar and athlete is presented to illustrate how multiple risk factors and a family diathesis often go undetected, resulting in tragic consequences. Psychiatric, familial, genetic, and social risk factors of adolescent suicide are reviewed, and the efficacy of lithium and antidepressant pharmacotherapy in reducing suicide rates is discussed. The importance of screening adolescent patients for depression is emphasized. Although teenage suicide is rare and hard to predict, identifying and treating adolescents at risk is essential to further reduce teenage suicide.

“In any given 1-year period, 9.5 percent of the population, or about 18.8 million American teenagers, suffer from a depressive illness” says writer of “Depression” Margaret Strock. The economic cost for this disorder is high, but the cost in human suffering cannot be estimated. Depressive illnesses often interfere with normal functioning and cause pain and suffering not only to those who have a disorder, but also to those who care about them. Serious depression can destroy family life as well as the life of the ill person. But much of this suffering is unnecessary.

Most people with a depressive illness do not seek treatment, although the great majority even those whose depression is extremely severe can be helped. Thanks to years of fruitful research, there are now medications and psychosocial therapies such as cognitive/behavioral, “talk,” or interpersonal that ease the pain of depression. Unfortunately, many people do not recognize that depression is a treatable illness. If you feel that you or someone you care about is one of the

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many undiagnosed depressed people in this country, the information presented here may help you take the steps that may save your own or someone else's life.

Young African American females encounter many challenges when getting pregnant at a young age, some of these challenges are neglect, depression and rape. “Show me a man or a woman alone and I'll show you a saint. Give me two and they'll fall in love. Give me three and they'll invent the charming thing we call 'society'. Give me four and they'll build a pyramid. Give me five and they'll make one an outcast. Give me six and they'll reinvent prejudice. Give me seven and in seven years they'll reinvent warfare. Man may have been made in the image of God, but human society was made in the image of His opposite number, and is always trying to get back home.” Stephen King, The Stand.