

## THE STORY BEHIND: A LOOK INTO THE LIFE CIRCUMSTANCES DRIVING TOWARDS ADOLESCENT FATHERHOOD

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**Abstract:** The rise in the cases of adolescent pregnancy in the local state college prompted the study of this phenomenon. Records revealed that 50% of the time, the partners of the pregnant adolescents was also adolescents themselves. The qualitative research design, specifically the phenomenological approach, was used for this research. No probability sampling method was used to identify adolescent fathers who were enrolled in the AY 2016-2017, and who have become fathers by the time they were in college. Starting from the referrals of the guidance counselor, snowball sampling ensued to identify the eight participants. Their demographical characteristics were gathered. The researcher also discovered the circumstances in the lives of the adolescent fathers which, in their own perspective, were also the reasons why they have become fathers early. From their responses, two main themes were generated: Nature vs. Nurture. Nature includes the reasons which are innate in man; this includes their aggressive sexual impulses. Nurture is the reasons which involve the environmental influences, such as: family dynamics, peer pressure, technology, alcohol Intoxication, being deemed needed and opportunity. The results of this study will serve as a baseline data and will be utilized in designing a preventive intervention program for adolescent fatherhood.

**Keywords:** adolescent, adolescent fatherhood, phenomenology, Psychology

### INTRODUCTION

The incidence of adolescent pregnancy has long been recognized as a global concern due to its continuing effects to the society. Several physical as well as social concerns are associated with early pregnancy, including preterm delivery, maternal complications and therefore are at more risk for maternal deaths (Dubey and Dixit, 2014).

According to the World Health Organization, adolescent pregnancy from developing countries consist of one-third of those women who give birth (Parungao, C., Bautista, L., Mariano, R., Bonifacio, V. and Aguinaldo, M., 2014). Considering this data, the incidence of adolescent pregnancy is indeed alarming.

Since the social role of parenthood is not considered as part of the adolescence stage, adolescents are not developmentally prepared to handle roles as a parent. Therefore, adolescent parents are more prone to experience social problems, such as economic instability (Luz and Berni, 2010).

According to researches, adolescents engage in intimate relationships with partners near their age bracket (Senn and Carey, 2011). Mol born and Love grove (2011) further asserted that 30% to 50% of the time, children are born to both adolescent parents. Therefore, in many instances of adolescent pregnancy, it is not only the mother who is an adolescent but their partners are, as well.

Records reveal that in the local state college in Negros Occidental, in the 15 adolescent pregnancy cases recorded in the academic year 2015-2016, 11 in these cases also involved adolescent fathers. Interventions focus on the experiences of the mothers, but the adolescent fathers' roles in the adolescent pregnancy phenomenon is not highlighted (Pascal, et al, 2011). In understanding the phenomenon of adolescent pregnancy, the fathers' experiences should also be understood.

Answers to the questions regarding the circumstances which have influenced the adolescent fathers is important to be sought, hence, the conduct of this study.

## THEORETICAL BACKGROUND AND RELATED STUDIES

The Psychosocial theory of Erik H. Erikson provides a strong theoretical framework for this study. Erikson claimed that the fifth psychosocial crisis, coinciding with the developmental stage of adolescence, is the stage of Identity vs. Role Confusion (Corpuz et al., 2010). Erikson affirmed that in this fifth stage, the adolescent inquires, "Who am I?" The adolescent explores himself, his roles, and his own "niche under the sun." When he achieves an understanding of his roles, he achieves a sense of identity; he acquires a sense of individuality. When this kind of understanding is not achieved, the individual may experience role confusion.

Rice (2010) states that if one successfully negotiates this stage, he will develop a strong sense of self. Fatherhood during the stage of adolescence may not be an appropriate role to engage in, but understanding himself during this stage may set the stage for self-understanding and successfully negotiating his role in the society.

The theory of Albert Bandura relates to the process by which the adolescent learns from events and instances in his community. Learning occurs within the context of the adolescent's participation in his society (Lucas & Corpuz, 2013). The theory proposes that people learn from observing one another, and it is by this interaction that the adolescent must have observed and modeled behaviors from other people. Social learning theory believes that experience is not necessary in the learning process, but learning could occur by observation of other people, as in the case of adolescent fatherhood. The adolescent learns from other people in aspects of being a father and being a partner in an intimate relationship. Desired behaviors are modeled and imitated from significant persons in the life of the adolescent, such as behaviors observed from parents, relatives, older siblings or peers. Therefore, becoming a father at an early age could be a result of an observed behavior from the aforementioned significant people.

According to the research conducted by the Department of Child Psychiatry (2014) in Turkey, the adolescent mothers have been studied in different perspectives, but there is very little focus on the experiences of adolescent fathers. Science suggests that the reasoning and decision-making of adolescents are influenced by the still developing frontal lobes of the brain, which becomes fully mature by the time they reach 26. This physiological fact suggests that it is not surprising why at-risk males tend to view women as anything other than a sexual object (Mc Bride, 2013).

Several circumstances place the male adolescents to become at-risk for becoming fathers at an early age. Delinquency, substance abuse, parental education and early sexual initiation are conditions which may set the stage for teen fatherhood (Sipsma, 2011). In a similar study conducted by Shade, et al. (2011), it has been found that poverty, school failure, alcohol and/or drug use, gang involvement, early sexual activity and lack of male role models are common risk factors for adolescent fatherhood. In fact, the National Fatherhood Initiative (2010) claimed that it has been found that incarcerated teen fathers constitute 30% of the total juvenile incarcerated population.

Several studies show that some factors play a protective role on the males for adolescent fatherhood. Weinman et al. (2008) said parental communication, peer influence; positive attitudes towards condoms and self-efficacy had significant positive impact on the male adolescents. These conditions, when present, may form a protective layer and keep them from experiencing early fatherhood.

In understanding the phenomenon of adolescent fatherhood, therefore, it is essential that the individual be evaluated as he is integrated into the broader social context of his social relationships.

### STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:

This research will discover the lived experiences of the adolescent fathers who have become fathers within the last three (3) years, while they are already in college. Specifically, this research will answer:

1. What are the demographical characteristics of the adolescent fathers, their partners and their parents; and
2. What are the circumstances which have influenced why they have become fathers at an early age.

## METHODOLOGY

This research tried to uncover the different circumstances in the life of the participants which they believed has led to their becoming adolescent fathers. The researcher chose the qualitative research design, specifically the phenomenological approach, as the most appropriate method for this research.

Since there is no available data for their population, the researcher utilized no probability sampling method. The researcher acquired the referral of the Guidance Counselor as to the partners of the pregnant adolescents within the last three (3) years who are still enrolled. Snowball sampling ensued from there, as the participants themselves also referred those who they know are adolescent fathers while they are enrolled in college.

The researcher came up to eight participants who provided rich data for this research. Provided below is the Table 1 on the distribution of participants.

**Table 1 Distribution of Participants by Course**

Course	Frequency	Percentage (%)
BSBA	2	25
BSCriminology	3	38
BSEd/BEEEd	2	25
BS Industrial Technology	1	12
TOTAL	8	100

From the eight participants were utilized in this research, the highest percentage comes from the BS Criminology comprising of 38%. The BS Industrial Technology is the least number, only 12 % of the total respondents made use in this research.

The researcher explained the conditions of the research, and requested the participants to sign a consent form when they agreed.

A semi-structured interview guide was utilized for the research. Foremost, the researcher gathered the demographical characteristics of the participants. Second, the researcher made one (1) overarching question regarding the circumstances in their lives which the participants believed have led to their becoming adolescent fathers. From the participants' responses, the researcher asked probing questions to delve into their reasons for adolescent fatherhood.

The transcriptions were made after the interview process. The researcher also took notes of the behaviors of the participants during the interview. The transcriptions were made to undergo data analysis through the method proposed by Creswell (2009), which are: a. Data collection, b. Data preparation: prepare data for analysis, transcribe verbatim, c. Open coding: identify meaningful segments from the material, d. Axial coding (analytical coding): analyze and group segments into categories, e. Repeat the above process, obtain more categories from more data sets and f. Simultaneously combine categories into themes. The outcome of this research will provide baseline data for the Guidance Office, as well as to be utilized to identify the program which will be beneficial not only to the adolescent fathers' population but to the entire population of male students, to serve as a form of prevention program.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The following are the discussion of the results of information which were gathered from the participants.

The current age of the participants mostly belong to the beyond 20's group, comprising 75% of the population used in this research. Only 25% constituted the below 20's group. As for their partners, the same trend has been observed, as the beyond 20's group was composed of 62%.

At the onset of pregnancy, the trend is reversed, since during their partner’s pregnancy, 88% of the adolescent fathers were below 20 in age, comprising 88% of the participants. The same is true of their partners, since 88% of their partners were also below 20 years old when they first became pregnant.

The participants’ estimated family income reveals that majority of them, comprising of 63%, belong to those with the lower income level. The adolescent fathers do not have the knowledge of their partners’ family income level, the reason why their partners’ income was not reflected in the table.

**Table 2. Demographic Profile of the Participants and Their Partners**

	Adolescent Father			Partner		
	N	n	%	N	n	%
<b>Age</b>	<b>8</b>			<b>8</b>		
Younger (20 y.o. And below)		2	25		3	38
Older (21 y.o. To 24 y.o.)		6	75		4	62
<b>Age When Pregnancy Occured</b>	<b>8</b>			<b>8</b>		
Younger (20 y.o. And below)		7	88		7	88
Older (21 y.o. To 24 y.o.)		1	12		1	12
<b>Estimated Family Income</b>	<b>8</b>					
Lower		5	63			
Higher		3	37			
<b>Home Address</b>	<b>8</b>			<b>8</b>		
Rural		7	88		7	88
Urban		1	12		1	12
Legend: N= population      n= sample      %= percentage						

88% of the participants reside in the rural area, and the same is true of their partners, comprising of 88% also.

**Table3. Demographic Profile of the Participants and Their Partners**

	Adolescent Father			Partner		
	N	n	%	N	n	%
<b>Marital Status</b>	<b>8</b>			<b>8</b>		
Married		0	0			
Single		7	100			
<b>Number of Siblings</b>	<b>8</b>			<b>8</b>		
Few		3	37		3	37
Many		5	63		5	63
<b>Ordinal Position</b>	<b>8</b>			<b>8</b>		
Eldest		2	25		1	12.5
Middle		4	50		6	75
Youngest		1	12.5		0	0

Only Child	1	12.5	1	12.5
<b>Religion</b>	<b>8</b>		<b>8</b>	
Baptist	1	13	2	25
Roman Catholic	7	87	6	75
Legend: N= population		n= sample	% = percentage	

None of the participants were married to their partners, all 100% of them are single. Majority of them, 63% belong to the group with many siblings, and the same for their partners, having the same 63% belonging to those with many siblings. Majority of the respondents and their partners belong to the middle ordinal position in their family, comprising of 50% and 75%, respectively. None among the female partners are youngest children.

**Table 3. Marital Status of the Participants' Parents**

	N	n	%
<b>Marital Status</b>	<b>8</b>		
Married		8	100
Not Married/Seperated		0	0
Legend: N= population		n= sample	% = percentage

All parents of the participants are married with each other and are living together, except for 13% of which the father is deceased; therefore the category “living together” could not be applied.

**Table 3. Typology of Parents**

	Father			Mother		
	N	n	%	N	n	%
<b>Highest Educational Attainment</b>	<b>8</b>			<b>8</b>		
Elementary Level		1	12.5		1	12.5
High School Level		2	25		1	12.5
College Level		4	50		6	75
No info. (deceased)		1	12.5			
<b>Employment of Parents</b>	<b>8</b>			<b>8</b>		
Employed		7	87		1	13
Unemployed					7	87
No info. (deceased)		1	13			
<b>Religion</b>	<b>8</b>			<b>8</b>		
Baptist		1	13		1	13
Roman Catholic		7	87		7	87
Legend: N= population		n= sample	% = percentage			

For both of the parents of the participants, majority have achieved the college level, revealing 50% among their fathers and 75% among their mothers. One father among the participants is deceased. Among their fathers, 87% is employed while among their mothers, 87% is unemployed.

88% of the time, adolescent pregnancy is also manifested in the family. Some have parents, siblings or cousins on either side of the family who has experienced the phenomenon.

## THE STORY BEHIND ADOLESCENT FATHERHOOD: NATURE VS. NURTURE

After determining the demographic profiles of the participants, the researcher delved into an in-depth interview to determine the participants' life circumstances which they believe have influenced their fatherhood at adolescence.

The participants' responses revealed their personal view of the reasons why they have become adolescent fathers. The researcher divided these responses into two categories, which are: Nature vs. Nurture.

Nature is the one end of the spectrum of reasons why, according to the adolescent father, they have become fathers at an early age. These is their reason which is innate, intrinsic, and basic to the human being, even to the extent of being necessary for the survival of the human race. The nature reasons also involve the innate need for sex, that which is basically a part of their unaltered human side.

Nurture, on the other hand, is the opposite side of the spectrum of reasons for the adolescent father. Nurture reasons, suggestive of the term, are those which are dependent on the milieu, in other terms, on the times and situation on which the adolescent fathers are born into. These are environmental influences which, the adolescent father believes, have exerted influence over their becoming fathers at an early age.

### **NATURE: Aggressively Engaged in Sex**

Basically, the adolescent father claims that primarily, the reason why they have become fathers at an early age is that because they feel that they have become "aggressively" engaged in premarital sex at an early age. Bibo said, "ano guro maam... aggressive sa sex maam. wala ko kabalo maam basta kay amo na. Indi ka man kahambal kung ara na." (Aggressive in terms of sex ma'am. I don't know any other reasons. I think you could not decide when in the situation.) Bogie also had the same stream of thoughts, as he said, "ano e, ara bala nga aggressive sa sex e. ara bala nga pagka nobya mo amo na dayon sa pamensaron mo." (Aggressive in terms of sex. It is what you think about whenever you have a new girlfriend). This rationale for early fatherhood had also been affirmed by Jimmy, when he said, "early nga naka kilala sa natawag nga sex maam. Napangita ko maam." (Early introduction to sex, ma'am. I yearn for it.) In conformity to what Bogie said, Jimmy also added that whenever he gains a girlfriend, "gusto ko sya tilawan maam. Sa sex. Kung ano sya mag sex." (I wanted to try how she is in bed.) JJ in terse language explained that he has become a father because, "premarital sex maam e." (Due to premarital sex, ma'am).

Ken explained her engagement in sex in an arbitrary perspective, "Ara bala ang... sa pagiging teenage bala haw... ara bala ang sa pagtubo sang isa ka lalaki. Amo lang man na ang... daw hampang-hampang lang ah! Daw... indi man siling nga daw ginatuod-tuod. Hampang-hampang lang gid siguro." (It goes with the male's growing up. It seemed just like a game. It was not intentional. Truly, it seemed just like a game). Leovy also tells of the same kind of arbitrary indecision in his statement, "Bale daw disgrasya lang bala maam haw. Kay amo to nga time daw nagsala ko. Sala nga desisyon. Kay syempre maam ga eskwela pa kami. Daw indi gid... wala na planuhan. Natabo lang." (It just happened. During that time, I made a wrong decision. Since we are still into school. It was not planned.)

Boys have different needs than girls. In a study conducted by Lehti, et al. (2012), he claimed that boys score high on sensation-seeking. Activities which involve utilizing the senses stimulate them higher, which explain their involvement in pleasure-seeking activities like engaging in sexual activities. Further, Olievera, et al. (2010) stated that in the society, males earn the social approval to express their sexual desires early, since experience in sex is a requirement for his masculinity. Males, upon marriage in adulthood, are expected to have multiple sexual experience pre marital.

### **NURTURE**

The participants' nurture reasons are those reasons which are dependent on the milieu, or the times, situation or locale as experienced by the participants. Simply put, these are the environmental influences to their dynamic way of life which they believed have influenced them in great ways and have shaped situations to lead them to adolescent fatherhood.



## Family Dynamics

The participants' relationship patterns with their family members have influenced them to become fathers in adolescence. Toby related that, "Temprano pa maam ya, first time ko naka contact mong, Namanol-manol lang ko sa palibot mong. Kay syempre didto bala sa amon maam, indi kami pwede ka gwa gina istriktohan kami ya mong. Syempre sang naka eskwela ko di, naka board ko mong, didto ko nabal-an ang mga... kung sa mga tambay pa nga istorya, mga ginago." (*I had sex at an early age. In our home, you could not get out for we are not allowed. When I came here, I stayed in the boarding house, It was when I learned how to, in slang language, to do stupid things.*) His story led eventually to the recognition that his family's insufficiency in certain areas have led him to adolescent fatherhood as he tells, "kay sa amon to maam indi pwede tanan. Halin sang elementary asta high school dapat puli ka temprano. Dapat indi ka makapalapaw amo ni nga oras. Kaagi pa na gani sang una maam nga gaka-lab-utan ko alas 9 puli tungod sa practice sa CAT (Citizen's Army Training). Kay CAT officer man ko maam tapos naga compete man kami na te gaka-gab-ihan ko puli. Naagikan pa ko na maam ya." (In our home everything is not allowed. Since elementary to high school you should go home early. You could not stay out beyond a certain time. There was a time I came home nine in the evening since we had practice in the CAT. I was a CAT officer and we compete so we go home late. I was being scolded). His relationship with his eldest brother is reflected in his words, "bale ang pinakamagulang namon maam e kay grabe ka istrikto sang amon pinaka magulang kay maestro daan. Gamay lang nga diperensya mangakig dayon. Ambot na sa iya maam a kay laon daan. Daw sya na ang nagtindog nga tatay sa amon. Indi man sya namon mabasol maam kay syempre para sa kaayuhan man namon bala haw. Pero amo lang na galing kay kis-a bala... para tuod sa amon kaayuhan pero may limitasyon man bala maam haw. Indi kay stress lang tanan amon. Pressure bala nga natawag maam haw. Kalain man na guro nga gapangabuhì ka sa pressure. Dapat chill kalang tani bala maam haw. May tyempo man sa pag relax." (Our eldest brother, he was so strict, since he is a teacher. With just a little fault he would get angry. He is a spinster. I could not blame him for I believe it is for our own good. But sometimes, though it could be for our good, but there should be a limit to it. It should not be all stressful and pressure. It's difficult if you live in pure pressure. You should also be "chill." There is also a time to relax).

Adolescents who live in homes where parents (or, in this case, guardians) offer negative means of control are more likely to develop negative ego identity (Rice, 2010). According to Erikson (Corpuz, et al. 2010) the development of ego identity in adolescence is necessary so that the adolescent may be able to successfully negotiate his role in the society. Therefore, if the adolescent does not fully understand his role in the society and in the family at this time of life, a sense of confusion will develop and a sense of indecision would ensue. The confusion and indecision is reflected in his impulsivity in decision-making (Lehti, et al. , 2012), leading to adolescent fatherhood.

If Toby resents the stringent decisions of her brother, Bibo, on the other hand, resents the apparent lack of involvement of his family in setting his clear behavior limits. Bibo narrates, "daw napabay-an lang ko sa balay maam. Mapuli. Makaon. Mapuli-makaon naman. Kaon-tulog. Kaon-tulog. Amo lang na. Daw dira lang ko bala haw, tambay lang." (I am left to my own at home. I go home, eat, go home, eat again. Eat-sleep. Eat-sleep. That is all I do. I am just there.) When asked whether why he does not like the mentioned set-up, he said, "nakalainan maam e galing kay kis-a daw tam-an na ko ka pabay-an daw balewala nalang man sa imo kay hambal ko, "kay napabay-an na lang man ko nila, te sige na lang, mapabaya naman ko e." (I do not like it and sometimes I am left alone too much I take everything for granted. I tell myself, "They take me for granted, then I will also take everything for granted.") He said he should have wanted that, "tagaan man ko limitasyon nga daw pareho nga... daw babae man ko bala mag 6 dapat puli na. Amo na akon manghod mong dapat alas 6 puli na. Ako ya si papa wala ya ko ginapangita. Nabinlan lang ko sud-an sa lamesa kag pagkaon. Aga na ko kis-a puli. Kay daw gapa sober ka na lang maam sa imo batasan. Daw ga lain nga ga lain naman imo batasan. Lain gid man kung gina atipan ka bala haw. Indi man tanto nga halog indi man tanto nga strikto." (Give me limits just like a girl, by six in the evening I should be required to go home. That is what they require from my sister, by six in the evening she should be home. Papa does not look for me. They just leave me food on the table. My behaviors change. I should be taken cared. They should not be too lax, not too strict.)

Bogie also asserts that a lack of clear limitation from the parents could be as detrimental as an authoritarian kind of parenting. He said, daw ano maam, daw kulang sa guidance sang ginikanan. Kay syempre ang naga guide lang sa amon ang nanay lang namon daw waay lang. Daw kis-a daw maka istorya man sa amon amon si tatay pero talagsa lang gid sya maka istorya maam. Ang nanay lang namon. Kay sako sya pirme sa ubra maam. Ang iya napa

mensar ang kalan-on lang pirme bala sa balay haw.” (I lack parental guidance. It is only our mother who guides us. Sometime tatay also talks to us but it is very seldom. It always is our nanay. He always is busy with his work. He only thinks of the food to be placed in our table.) He added further, “Dapat tani maghalin gid sa tatay bala haw nga pagka nobya respetuhon. Mas nami pa gid kung maka advise ang tatay sa bata nya nga lalalki. Na pyaran ko na halin sa magulang ko. Te waay sya gahatag advice. Te sa akon pa ayhan? Dapat ginhambalan nya kami nga, “ang magulang nyo nangasawa temprano dapat kamo indi kamo mangasawa temprano.” (It should come from the father the advise that when you have a girlfriend you should respect her. It is better when the father could advise to his son. I noticed he does not do that to my older brother, how much more to me? He should have told us, ‘your older brother married early, and you should not follow him.’)

Sipsma, et al. (2010) stated that a lack of social control in the family could result to early fatherhood. In some instances, the lack of social control could be coupled with financial and marital instability which could be positively associated with becoming an adolescent father.

The parents’ lack of participation in their children’s everyday dealings are interpreted by the adolescent as a form of rejection, as Bibo said, “daw napabay-an lang ko sa balay maam” (I am left to my own in the house), and Bogie, “kulang sa guidance sang ginikanan” (I lack the guidance of my parents). Parents who reject their children, according to Rice (2010) contribute to the development of a negative self-concept and low self-esteem, all contributory to their decision-making process.

### Peer Pressure

The role of peers, in the face of boardmates, classmates, cousins and others have contributed to exerting pressure on the adolescents to engage into sex early. Toby asserted, “for example bi mga boardmate namon, amo na ara bala ang mga suya-suya. “agay ikaw ya wala pa uyab.” (Our boardmates, for example they would tease us, ‘you do not have a girlfriend yet.’) Bogie also affirmed, “bale na impluwensyahan ko sang mga upod ko maam. Kay ang mga upod ko maam sa boarding house, nahambalan ko nila nga dal-on ko akon nobya sa boarding house. Amo na maam, kay ila nobya na dala dala man nila sa boarding house. Te nahambalan ko nila nga dal-on ko kuno. Te ang akon buot daw wala pa man nag mature, daw bata pa ko maam. Te hambal ko man, “dal-on ko man ang akon nobya e. Amo na daw nadala ko sa ila maam.” (I was influenced by my boardmates. They prod me to bring my girlfriend to our boarding house. I was still immature. I told myself, ‘I will bring my girlfriend.’ I was swayed by them). He said he feels that when he could not yield into his boardmates’ prodding, “pamatyagan ko maam daw indi ko lalaki bala haw. Nasuyaan ko nila maam, na kutya bala haw. Nahambalan ko nila nga agi ko kuno.” (I feel like I am not a man anymore. They tease me, they mock me. They tell me I am gay.)

Older cousins could also influence the younger ones, as JJ recalls, “kay amo to nga tyempo para sa amon daw natural lang mag sex bala miss haw. Syempre namulat man kami sa mga pakaisa namon nga magulang pa sang sa amon nga nagahambal nga, “okay lang na, natural lang sa magnobyahanay nga wala pa nakasal nga maghimo sex.” (During that time I thought sex was natural. I was exposed to my older cousins who tell us, ‘it is just natural to engage in premarital sex.’)

During adolescence, children desire emotional independence and emancipation from parents and emotional fulfillment from friends (Rice, 2010). Early adolescent friendships are sometime upsetting if expectations are not fulfilled.

### Technology

Easy access to technology could become a great influence to the adolescents, Bogie said, “galantaw kami maam “scandal.” Indi man na tani dapat himuon pero basta lalaki galantaw gid na ya. Sa youtube maam. Dira gakuha ang pagka aggressive mo. Halin sa cellphone sang mga upod ko maam. Galantaw sila te galantaw man ko. Mga pornography.” (We watch “scandals.” I know it should not be done but all males do it, from youtube, it is how you become aggressive. It is downloaded from my boardmates’ cellphones. They watch so I follow suit. Pornography.) Jimmy also added, “sa gadgets maam. Sa youtube, mga palagwaon. Mga porn sites. Gainit ang lawas ko. Internet gid maam e, #1 gid na.” (From gadgets ma’am, from youtube, shows. From porn sites, and I feel hot. Internet, that is the # 1 reason.)



Hecker-Luz and Berni (2010) asserted that the mass media could be one great influence to the adolescent fathers. Things that they see on the social networking sites could open their eyes to something for which they are not yet ready for to emotionally, and cognitively process.

### Alcohol Intoxication

From the participants' narratives, alcohol intoxication has also been found to influence their early sex engagement. Leovy said, "sa mga barkada bala maam haw, mga classmates nya. Kay syempre BSBA ko BSFi sya, nobyahanay kami indi malikawan nga mag upod ko sa ila. Ga bonding kami sa balay balay sang iya mga classmates. Syempre may time man nga mag updanay kami bala maam haw sa grupo, kay ang iban upod man nila ila nobya kag nobyo. Ga inom inom sila. Kung matam-an sila ang paminsaron sang isa ka tao ga lain." (From friends, her classmates. For I am BSBA, she is in BSFi, it could not be denied that we could go together with her friends. They drink alcohol. When intoxicated, a person's thoughts changes.). He added that, "sang amo to nga time maam syempre sa mga okasyon kung kis-a indi gid malikawan nga maka inom. Te sang amo to nga time ang nobya ko, ahead sya sa akon maam mong. Sya lang naga initiate. Wala ko kabalo sya lang naga dala sa akon. Pero amo to nga time wala pa gid ko experience." (During that time, you could not refuse drinking alcohol during important occasions. During that time my girlfriend was older than me, so it was she who initiates sex. I don't know how to do it, she just leads me. That time I was still inexperienced.). JJ also confirmed the affect of alcohol, when he said, "Tipon tipon kami sang mga friends ko, inom inom. Tapos amo to natabo. Amo to ang last nga nadumduman ko nga natabo kami." (My friends and I get together, and we drink alcohol. And then it happened. It was the last time I remembered when something happened to us.).

In a study conducted by Colmar, et al. (2009), social ills like substance use, which categorically includes alcohol use, is associated with young fatherhood.

### Being Deemed Needed

The male adolescents' natural feeling of compassion to a girl in need is manifested in the statements of the participants. They feel for a partner who is experiencing difficulties in their own family dynamics, as when Bibo recalled, "daw ano maam e... sya nga daan family broken. naluoy maam e. naintyendihan ko sya bala maam haw." (She came from a broken family. I pity her. I understand what she goes through). Jimmy also said, "longing for daddy sya maam. Sa manila ga stay may kerida na nga iban. Kay broken family sila, gapangita sya pagpalangga." (She is longing for a daddy ma'am. Her father is staying in Manila and has a mistress. Since she came from a broken family, she is searching for love.). He said that when his partner expresses her concerns over her family malady, "gusto ko indi ko sya pagbayaan maam. Naluoy ko sa iya. Wala sya father. Grade 2 pa lang wala na si daddy nya. Ga tawag tawag man sya maam. Daw layo gid ang buot nya kay daddy nya. Gapangita sya pagpalangga." (I wanted to take care of her. I pity her. She does not have a father. She was in Grade two when her father left. He calls him, but her feelings bring her far from him. She is looking for love.)

Aside from scoring high in sensation-seeking, Lehti, et al. (2012) stated that boys engage in impulsive decision-making. More comparative to the old adage of "the damsel in distress," boys are more stimulated psychologically and physiologically when they are touched, when they are made to become involved in the girl's life dynamics.

### Opportunity

The participants related that aside from their innate desire to make sex, the opportunities they found themselves in also made having sex possible for them and their girlfriends. Leovy said, "daw napilitan lang bala maam haw sang amo to nga time, nga maghimo sang sex. Kay syempre kung sa amon nga maam magkitaay kami, indi man sya gusto nga maglagaw kami. Te amo to natabo. (We were forced to make sex. When we see each other, we do not like to get out. So it happened.) Nonoy also added that, "sa temptasyon maam. Ara bala nga ginahagad ka nila bala maam haw, sa tropa bala sang akon napa busong haw. Na hagad hagad ko nila malagaw, te kung magab-ihan, didto ko sa ila boarding house matulog." (Temptation ma'am. They, my girlfriend's friends, invite me to go somewhere, and if we return home late, I sleep in their boarding house).

When asked regarding their earliest engagement in sex, the participants related that they have initially engaged in sex as early as high school, "high school pa lang ko maam. Mga 3<sup>rd</sup> year high school" according to Leovy, and

“mga 16 maam,” according to Bibo. Bogie said, mga 1<sup>st</sup> year college ko maam, 17 ko.”

In a study conducted by Olievera, et al., he said early sexual debut is a strong predictor of adolescent fatherhood. According to the study conducted by Thornberry, Smith and Howard (1997), 5.5-17% of men become fathers below the age of 20 in the USA and 20% of men in the United Kingdom become fathers under the age of 22. These phenomena around the world manifest the occurrence of early fatherhood on a global level.

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In light of the findings of this research, the following recommendations are advanced:

1. The Guidance Office may conduct a seminar program to adolescent males to discuss: the nature of their hormones which influence the surge of their so-called aggressive sexual tendencies; the consequences on the use of intoxicating alcohol; and responsible use of technology among others.
2. The Guidance Office may call the attention of the parents to nurture love, respect and support their adolescent children, and ensure that they do not be too strict nor to lax in their parenting. As such, the family members may also affirm their love and concern for the adolescent fathers, despite the experience which may influence the dynamics of the entire family.
3. Initiate a forum for discussion of the male “macho culture” prevalent among the males, to abolish the notion that one has to become initiated with sex in order to be called a “man.”
4. The Student Services Division may initiate a program to ensure that the owners of boarding houses maintain supervising authority over the events which occur in their boarding houses.

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