

A Multiple Case Study of Young Filipino Fathers in Teenage Pregnancy: Lessons and Reflections

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ABSTRACT

This qualitative multiple case study aimed to portray the experiences of five Filipino teenage fathers. They were chosen through maximum variation sampling. The experiences and coping strategies of the five cases were examined using in-depth interviews. *Triangulation* of the gathered data was done in each case by interviewing their family members and their partners. Data were analyzed using thematic analysis resulting to three emergent themes on lived experiences of Filipino teenage fathers: proud and happy to be a father; anxious to provide the needs of children and difficult to find a job. The emergent themes for coping mechanism included working hard to provide for the family and receiving support from parents. Insights shared by teenage fathers presented three emergent themes: focus on study and avoid intimate relationships; practice self-control and seek support from school and government. The five cases were generally similar in their declaration on the lived experiences of Filipino teenage fathers. As regards their coping strategies on the challenges of their experiences, five cases adopted all the approaches.

Keywords: social work, teenage pregnancy, multiple case study, young father, Philippines

INTRODUCTION

A young father may experience a variety of obstacles in creating and maintaining a parenting role and identity. The majority have limited financial resources to contribute to parenting, and being young might lead to poor opinions of their ability to be responsible and trustworthy, to maintain strong adult relationships, or to provide direct care (Weber, 2020). While having a low socioeconomic background causes people to become teen parents, this can also make people financially unable to raise their children. Teen father generally perform worse in school and that a lack of education leads to unemployment, which increases stress related to trying to sustain a family (Madiba & Nsiki, 2017; Maravilla, Betts & Alati, 2018; Cabrera & Quesa, 2020).

There are several factors that lead to recurrent adolescent pregnancies. It includes peer pressure, parental neglect, poverty, cohabitation, and a lack of family planning knowledge are some of its components. In addition to facing financial challenges, the adolescent who becomes pregnant repeatedly also faces stigmatization in her community.

It is essential to conduct research into teenage fathers' perceptions and experiences in a community where teen pregnancy is widespread. (Herzog et al., 2007; Neale et al., 2015; Luz & Berni, 2010; Bay-Cheng, 2015). In addition, teenage pregnancy is a global concern that must be addressed to alleviate the problems of maternal teenage childbearing, especially in third-world countries (Salvador et al., 2016; Mann, Cardona, and Gómez 2015).

Moreover, recent studies stated that, a young father may experience a variety of obstacles in creating and maintaining a parenting role and identity. The majority have limited financial resources to contribute to parenting, and their young might lead to poor opinions of their ability to be responsible and trustworthy, to maintain strong adult relationships, or to provide direct care (Weber, 2020). While having a low socioeconomic background causes people to become teen parents, recent studies claim that it can also make people financially unable to raise their children. Teen father generally perform worse in school and that a lack of education leads to unemployment, which increases stress related to trying to sustain a family (Madiba, & Nsiki, 2017; Maravilla, Betts & Alati, 2018; Cabrera & Quesea, 2020).

This multiple case study's objective is to explore and understand the teenage father's perspective on teen pregnancy in Davao Region. Specifically, the study seeks to answer the following questions.

1. What are the challenges encountered of teenage father when it comes to teenage pregnancy?
2. How do the teenage father cope with these challenges?
3. What insights can they share with fellow teenage fathers about their experiences?
4. What similarities and differences can be drawn from the experiences of each case.

This study is anchored on the Adolescent Development Theory by G. Stanley Hall and it was developed in 1909. It states that each person's psychological development reflects the biological and cultural evolution of the human species. The idea that individual development is a quick recapitulation of phylogeny [i.e. The evolution of humanity. In essence, ontogeny is the progression from childhood to adolescence to adulthood. On the other hand, phylogeny reflects the evolution of man from early man through the traditional primitive man to the modern man (Steinberg & Morris, 2001; White, 2002; Newman & Newman, 2020).

Adolescence, according to Hall, is a time of 'storm and stress' that is full of contradictions and wide swings in mood and emotion. Thoughts, feelings, and actions replace humility and conceit, goodness and temptation, joy and sadness. The adolescent may be rude to a peer one moment and extremely nice to her the next. He may want to be left alone at first, but then he desires the company of others. In summary, G. Stanley Hall views adolescence as a period charged with conflict, a perspective known as the storm and stress view of adolescence (Adams, 2005; Young, 2016; Goossens, 2020).

This study is also anchored on Bandura's Social Learning Theory. It was developed in the 1960s and 1970s, it emphasizes "the mutual relationship between cognitive, behavioral, and environmental determinants of human behavior". People learn new habits by observing others in social situations, absorbing what they see, and then imitating it. The Social Learning Theory is based on four basic assumptions. Differential association, descriptions, differential reinforcements, and imitation are the four basic principles of the Social Learning Theory (Cochran et al., 2017; Sellers & Akers, 2018; Powers et al., 2020). According to differential association, people are exposed to appropriate and inappropriate behaviors as well as several behavioral models by those with whom they come into contact, both directly and indirectly. The immediate social circle of an individual generates behavioral models, which can then be imitated. Family, colleagues, teachers, neighbors, and church groups make up the immediate social network. Individuals may adopt and inculcate behaviors, beliefs, and values from these social classes. They also provide guidelines for proper social activity (O'Rorke, 2006; Edinyang, 2016; Rumjaun & Narod, 2020).

The study addresses UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) No. 4 and 5. Goal no. 4 it ensures inclusive and equitable quality education and promotes lifelong learning opportunities for all. Goal 5: achieve gender equality and empower all women. According to a recent World Bank report, nearly 129

million girls are out of school, primarily due to poverty. Other reasons include conflict, violence, natural disasters, child marriage, and so on. Investing in girls' education has a significant social impact. They not only learn the socioeconomic skills required to navigate the world, but they also gain greater control over their health and nutrition. Educated girls also contribute to a stronger and more stable workforce, which helps to drive economic growth. This will contribute to the achievement of SDG 1 (No Poverty) (Katila et al., 2019).

Additionally, this study will be important to the Department of Education, schools, parents, teachers, teenagers, and potential researchers because it will raise awareness about how to expand and strengthen services related to teen pregnancy (Elfert, 2019; English & Carlsen, 2019; Hanemann, 2019).

Teenage pregnancy is a worldwide problem that affects a large portion of the population. Teenage pregnancy is not a new phenomenon, but it continues to be a major issue around the world, even in the age of sexual literacy and contraception (Webb et al., 2017; Rosa, 2017; Ololube, Onyekwere & Agbor, 2016). Goal 4: Ensure that all students have access to inclusive and equitable quality education, as well as opportunities for lifelong learning. A New Era in Global Health: Nursing and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, 283.). Likewise, the findings of the study will help schools and teachers improve their programs and activities to reduce teen pregnancy among students. The school, especially the teachers, also has a responsibility for the students, they must teach the students to be responsible and to recognize the negative consequences of teenage pregnancy in their lives. This study will provide more knowledge to work with students with regards to teenage pregnancy.

Specially, the study's results would be helpful to parents, as parents are the ones who are most responsible for their children. Parents are responsible for disciplining their children in all aspects of their lives. Parents need to be mindful of everything their children do. Since a parent's inability to raise their children is indeed a parent's failure. This will help them figure out how to deal with their kids with regards to teenage pregnancy. Furthermore, teenagers would benefit greatly from this. The respondents' mutual experiences will serve as a wake-up call for them to prevent teenage pregnancy. This will assist them in comprehending the negative consequences of being pregnant at a young age. This will improve their understanding of how to prevent teenage pregnancy.

Lastly, this study may serve as a basis that can be applied by other researchers for further in-depth studies in the future. The findings of the research would aid them in developing a new concept for a future study on teenage pregnancy not just in Philippines as well as globally.

METHOD

This section includes the methodology, and procedures employed in this qualitative study, this covers description of case units, materials and instrument and design and procedure implemented during the conduct of the study.

Case Units

The research participants in this study were the five selected teenager father from Davao Region. The partici-

pants were identified by case unit. The participants' case units in this study are as follows:

Case Unit 1. Grade 12 Graduate Student with Work

Teenage father who is working. Teenage father A is 18 years old, a senior high school graduate. He became a teenage father at 16 years old. He is focusing now in working because his family needs him. For data triangulation, I interviewed his mother, sister and one of his friends.

Case Unit 2. Grade 12 Graduate Student without Work

Teenage father who is still studying. Teenage father B is 18 years old and an Alternative Learning System student. He became a teenage father when he was 17 years old. Despite of being a teenage father he is still willing to continue his senior high. For data triangulation, I interviewed his mother, sister and one of his friends.

Case Unit 3. Grade 11 ALS Student

Teenage father who does not have work. Teenage father B is 18 years old, a senior high school graduate. He became a teenage father at 16 years old. He did not proceed in college because he needed to work to support his family. For data triangulation, I interviewed his mother, sister and one of his friends.

Case Unit 4. Grade 12 Undergraduate

Teenage father who is feeling pity with her girlfriend. Teenage father D is 18 years old. He became a teenage father at 16 years old. He did not even finish high school because he needed to provide the daily needs of his partner and his child. For data triangulation, I interviewed his mother, sister and one of his friends.

Case Unit 5. Grade 12 student

Teenage father who is working while studying. Teenage father E is 18 years old, a senior high school Alternative Learning System. He became a teenage father at 16 years old. He continues his studies despite of the situation because he believes that education will help him soon. For data triangulation, I interviewed his mother, sister and one of his friends.

This study used maximum variation sampling. Maximum variation sampling identifies key dimensions of variations and then finds cases that vary from each other as much as possible. This would result in high-quality, detailed descriptions of each case, which are useful for documenting uniqueness and produce important shared patterns that cut across cases and derive their significance from having emerged out of heterogeneity (Patton, 2002; Palinkas et al., 2015). Moreover, maximum variation sampling could be utilized to construct a holistic understanding of the phenomenon by synthesizing studies that differ in their study designs on several dimensions. This kind of sampling is right for the stage of analysis because the goal was to find as many key dimensions as possible (Suri, 2011; Benoot, Hannes, & Bilsen, 2016).

The research focused on teens' different perspectives, insights, and coping mechanisms when it came to teenage pregnancy. A teen father from Davao Region, completed the research. Fathers who's aged 17 years and below who became a father was included in this study, while fathers who are of legal age were excluded. This study spans the months of August 2021 and February 2022. The participants in the study area unit are teen fathers who have been identified by the researchers so far.

Materials and Instrument

This study used an interview guide. The interview questions were carefully worded in a way that it is easy to understand and framed in a way that allows the research participant to share freely (Morgan & Rubin, 2012; Rubin, 2012; Brinkman & Kvale, 2015). This means that the questions asked were broad enough that they do not limit or bias the research participant's response. Therefore, asked questions that explore what is unknown, rather than leading the course of the interview through the tone or structure of the questions that are posed (Kvale, 2003; Patton, 2002; Seidman, 2013; Roberts, 2020). Questions were free of assumptions, allow for complex answers, and convey that the researcher is open to all aspects of the experience; both positive and negative.

The interview questions were structured to be more focused on the topic of interest, but not framed in a way that limits the ideas to one portion of the experience. They must be worded in a way that allows the

research participant to identify what they feel is important and focus on their personal experience instead of asking them to interpret the thoughts, feelings, experiences, and perspectives of others (Rubin, 2012, Roberts, 2020).

Interview guide instrument used in this study is a researcher made. Researchers first define the purpose of conducting an instrument development study by telling the reader what they are seeking to measure and why measuring the proposed construct is important (Taherdoost, 2022). The researcher should consider different types of questions they need. For example, questions in qualitative studies are open-ended and cover different topics including demographics, feelings, knowledge, opinions, experiences, etc. (Doody, 2013; Taherdoost, 2022). There are general points that should be applied when writing and ordering the interview questions. Although, the order and wording of the questions can be changed during the interview session based on the interviewer's decision by considering levels of the structure which are discussed in detail before.

The interview questions were divided into three main categories. Main questions focus on the main purpose of the research and are often asked directly after the preamble. Planned follow-up questions, also known as probes, are used to get detailed answers about more specific subjects. These questions can also assist the participants to be directed to the main issues of the research. Finally, other follow-up questions which are spontaneous ones are provided after the interviewer listens to the first set of answers. These are applied to get more validity by encouraging the interviewees to prepare more clarifications about what the questions/issues mean to them (Bolderston, 2012; Kallio, 2016; Pedersen et al., 2016; Taherdoost, 2016). Before the collection of data, I made an interview guide with questions that were within the parameters of my research study. The guide questions were validated by experts to ensure the validity of expected output. The average validation rating of the 5 expert validators was 92.2%. After a thorough validation process, this paper was submitted for a thorough review by the University of Mindanao Ethics Review Committee (UMERC). After the friendly suggestions and recommended actions given by the University of Mindanao Ethics Review Committee (UMERC), a final copy of the interview guide was made. Validation of the results with the respondents was undergone.

Design and Procedure

In this study qualitative research design is used, particularly multiple case study. Qualitative research is the study of the nature of phenomena, which includes their quality, different manifestations, the context in which they appear, or the perspectives from which they can be perceived, but excludes their range, frequency, and place in an objectively determined chain of cause and effect. A more practical guideline can be added to this formal definition: qualitative research typically includes data in the form of words instead of numbers (Ugwu & Eze Val, 2023).

A multiple case study approach was the appropriate research design because I wanted to conduct an intensive exploration of a group of people, covering a detailed and in-depth collection of data from multiple sources of information. This design was chosen because it would enable me to do a wider exploration. Through this, I was able to understand the similarities and differences between the cases being studied and able to analyze the data in a situation or across different situations. Multiple case study was a method used to explore real-life, contemporary multiple-bounded systems over time by way of detailed, in-depth data collection involving multiple sources of information and reporting a case description and case themes (Creswell, 2015; Anderson, 2014; Baskarada, 2014). In addition, the goal of a multiple case study was to understand the similarities and differences between the cases. Moreover, in the case of a multiple case study compared to a single case, the more case studies a scientific article has, the less

observation time. The writer has studied case studies. But the more likely that case studies are confident in their representativeness.

Before meeting with my research participants, I made sure first that everything was set. I made sure that I already familiarized/memorized the different steps in doing the interview. After, I already set the in-depth interview and focus group discussion. I asked my students to distribute the permission letter to their teenage male friend who engage in teenage pregnancy in the Barangay. After the date was set, a meeting with all my participants was done. Later, the flow of the interview commenced.

To gather sufficient data for this study, an in-depth interview will be used which are supplemented with a clear description and comprehensive narrations of every aspect of the entire data collection process. A qualitative study relies on the integration of various sources of information from a variety of methods, generally known as triangulation. This strategy reduces the risk that conclusions would reflect only the biases or limitations of a specific method. This also provided me a better understanding and more valid information generated directly from the data gathered. Triangulation is a maker for validity in qualitative research. While validity in qualitative research could not be defined or prescribed in advance of data collection, it must be attended to constantly as the study emerges through the intention of the research (Kaman & Othman 2016; Wamelba et al., 2016; Donkoh & Mensah, 2023).

Before the actual interview, a preliminary meeting was held with the participants and a little chat with them to gain their trust and confidence, as well as develop camaraderie. This was the opportunity for me to explain the purpose of the study, the importance of their role in the outcome of the research study, address their questions, concerns, review some ethical considerations, and complete the consent forms. In this way, they will have time for their experiences before the actual in-depth interview. This is very important in doing qualitative research because the establishment of a good level of rapport and empathy is ethical in developing a positive relationship during in-depth interviews and consequentially, gaining deep information, particularly when investigating issues where the participants had a personal stake (Bachiochi & Weiner, 2004; Lyons, 2015; Wamelba et al, 2016;). The participants were reminded that the results are confidential and can be conducted for the aim of assessing the various perceptions of the teenage father in terms of teenage pregnancy.

The in-depth interview is one of the best approaches to be used to get appropriate information from the research participants. This strategy is unique to create a clearer view and opinion from the participants about the topic of the research study. Listening to everyone's personal experiences and digging deeper into the participant's thoughts and feelings is more than an approach to understanding them better. After the procedure of the interview, listening to the participants' statement will be followed. The researcher will review it thoroughly for transcription. Time and space are essential in this kind of study so that I could be able to create clearer information out from the participants' experiences and insights (DeJonckheere, & Vaughn, 2019; DeJonckheere et al., 2019).

The researcher used an audio recorder as well as notetaking during the actual interview. This strategy could be a big help as a reviewer during the transcription. I asked someone who can assist in audio recording as well as a documenter. After doing the individual interview, I listened again to the audio recorder before I transcribed the relevant information that I gathered from the informants. The researcher will use verbatims language in the transcription, to do probing and scrutinizing very easily. To hide the identities of the research participants, code and aliases are assigned. After the transcription, analyzing the data followed for the final analysis out from the gathered information (Brenner, 2012; Tessier, 2012; Wamelda et al., 2016).

After the information is collected, the consequent move is to analyze the data. The target is to spot any pattern representing ideas to the participants bestowed throughout the information assortment. Analyzing the data is the most complicated and crucial phase in doing the qualitative research study. However, in terms of deep discussion, this receives the smallest amount in relation to literary study. Analyzing the gathered information from the participants is not easy. Answers of the same thought must be logically arranged to summarize all the information (Nassaji, 2015; Sutton & Austin, 2015; Moser, & Korstjens, 2018).

To be able to present the data collected, I listened to the audio recorder repeatedly to understand better the different responses of the respondents and specific codes assigned to them. It is very important for me to point out the same information from the answers of the informants. Thus, the researcher was able to locate themes and make into simpler ones and all information are presented in an orderly manner. Data shows the presentation of inferences and conclusions and represents ways of organizing, summarizing, simplifying, or reworking knowledge. This has been thought of as a very important step throughout the qualitative knowledge analysis or the writing up stages. Knowledge is shown in a graphic in portraying of information compactly and expeditiously (Creswell, 2015; Monaro, Gullick, & West, 2022).

On the other hand, the reduction is the removal of the information out from the transcription, removing information that is not necessary and remodeling it into a clear material, simply understood by several. Thematic analysis is used to pair and sort the information gathered. With information reduction, I asked assistance from an analyst to properly arrange the gathered information (Gustafsson et al., 2021).

The last step is the conclusion drawing. This was necessary to be able to create a concrete conclusion based on the research study. Reviewing and revisiting the information and analyzed data is the best technique to do. Accordingly, there is no standard in creating judgment out from the information gathered however let the gathered data speak for their own using the prescriptive themes. These themes were established in a structure of interconnected concepts that make sense (Creswell, 2015; Tracy, 2024).

Triangulation is employed to confirm the validity of the information by victimization quite one o person to gather the information., thereby increase its responsiveness. If the findings of the various investigators make a constant conclusion, then the man of science would be assured that the results of the analysis study are reliable (Triangulation, 2014; Barrett & Twycross, 2018; Bans-Akutey, & Tiimub, 2021).

Trustworthiness means the setting up of credibility in the 'truth' of the findings; dependability or displaying that the results are steady and could be constant. Credibility is necessary for research. It requires sustained involvement; it includes investing adequate time and determined observation which involves enough interviews and engagement so that participants feel enough confidence and trust in the researcher to allow for sustainable study in the specific contexts and thus correct mis presentation of data. To have dependability, I organized and kept in a large archival envelope all my filed notes, transcripts, translations, and audiotapes of all the in-depth interviews conducted from each participant to ensure the data gathered are true and real.

Ethical consideration is an important and crucial factor in research. It was stated that in attaining ethical consideration in the process of the study. Voluntary participation was obtained from appropriate individuals in this study to ensure that the study was conducted objectively and within the parameters specified. The researcher made certain that no one felt uncomfortable during the interview, and extra care was taken, especially when dealing with sensitive topics (Pietilä, 2020) The researcher will ensure that the privacy and confidentiality of the participants were protected. The researcher secured a receipt of acknowledgement that Turnitin received the paper. The researcher received a digital receipt with the

certificate number UMERC-2023-47 showing that the paper was accepted. After which the grammarian checked the whole manuscript. The researcher asked for certification from the grammarian certifying that the manuscript was already checked. This research showed no trace/evidence of intentional misrepresentation of what has been done, no making of data and/or results, or intentionally putting forward conclusions that are not accurate and no inconsistency with the existing literature among the information included in the manuscript.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Presented in this section are the results and discussions of the lived experiences of teenage fathers, coping mechanism and insights when it comes to teenage pregnancy. Likewise, showed the different perspectives of the 5 teenage fathers based on their experiences.

Case A – Grade-12 Graduate Student with Work

Young Father in Teenage Pregnancy A is a 20-year-old male and a senior high school graduate with work. He became a teenage father when he was 16 years old. Despite his limited educational background, he is still working hard for his own family. His job is a construction worker and some extra jobs on farm for other people to earn money. He did not proceed to college because he needed to work to support his family. He and her teenage partner did not live in the same house. He does not want to live in her partner's house, and her partner also does not want to live in his parents' house. He'll just pay a visit to her partner and the baby after work.

Lived Experiences of Filipino Teenage Fathers

The lived experience of Filipino teenage father is not easy when it comes to raising child at very young age. He expressed his difficulties in saying that:

“Lisod kaayo kay lisod mangita ug trabado, lisod pajud labi na magsakit akong anak” (TF1_SQ1)

Very difficult because it is very hard to find a living. It is also hard as a father especially when my child is sick. (TF1_SQ1)

From a similar standpoint, the informant stated the difference of having a baby at an early age. He indicated that:

“Proud ko na naa nakoy anak, pero lisod kayo kung magsakit akong anak”.
(TF1_SQ1-2)

I am feeling proud that I already have a kid. However, the difficult part is when my kid will get sick. (TF1_SQ1-2)

On the other hand, I was surprised when I asked him if he regrets having a baby at an early age. He said:

“Wala ko nag mahay nan aa nakoy anak”. (TF1_SQ1-3)

I do not have any regrets that I already have a child. (TF1_SQ1-3)

I interviewed his mother and his teenage partner to get an idea how was the lived experiences of this young father. Here are few of their thoughts:

His mother shares that she is happy for having a grandchild:

“Wala ko nagmahay na nagkaanak na akong anak bisag bata pa si kay na enjoy pud mi sa among apo”. (TF1_SQ2-M)

I don't regret my son becoming a father at such a young age because we're happy and enjoying our grandchild. (TF1_SQ2-M)

Her teenage partner also expresses that she does not any regret that she became a mother already:

*“Wala ko nagmahay na nagkaanak ko tungod kay naga tabangay mi sa pagpadaku sa among anak.
(TF_SQ2-P)*

I don't have any regret that I already have a baby because we are helping each other to raise our baby.
(TF_SQ2-P)

Coping Mechanism of Filipino Teenage Fathers

Working hard to provide for the family, the Filipino teenage father demonstrated how to deal with the obstacles as a young father. The informant stated:

“Magtrabaho ko aron maka hatag ko sa mga paninahanglan sa partner ug sa akong anak. Magtuon ko na i-control ang akong kaugalingon. Mag focus nako sa akong pamilya dilis a barkada. (TF1_SQ2-1)

I will work hard for me to provide the needs of my partner and my child. I will also practice self-control; I will focus on my family not on my friends. (TF1_SQ2-1)

When it comes to the query about if somebody blames him in his situation right now, he clearly responded that:

“Walay nagmahay sa akoa kay ginapakita nako sa akong ginikanan na responsible bisan ug bata pa ko. (TF1_SQ2-2)

Nobody blames me, because I let my parents feel that I can be a responsible one even if I am still young (TF1_SQ2-2)

Certainly, the informant revealed that his parents helped him in his circumstances as a young father. In relation to communication, he positively said:

“Dako jud ug tabang akong partner sa akoa. Ang akong mama ug mama sa akong partner ang nagtabang pud sa akoa aron makalingkawas ko a akong sitwasyon. Duha sila naga advice sa akoa aron maka lingkawas ko sa akong sitwasyon. (TF1_SQ2-3)

My partner really helps me a lot. My mother as well as the mother of my partner help me in my situation right now. Both gave me advice on what to do to survive in my situation. (TF1_SQ2-3)

As our conversation goes by, despite his situation right now he does not have regrets in his circumstances as a young father. He said:

“Wala man pud ko nag mahay, maningkamot na lang ko para maka lingkawas.

I do not have any regrets; I will just strive hard. (TF1_SQ2-4).

In addition, he shared that self-control and focus on family not friends are his strategy to survive in his circumstances right now. He revealed:

“Pag pugong sa kaugalingon, dapat unahon ang pamilya ug likayan na ang barkada. Makatabang ni aron maka focus ko sa akong trabaho ug sa akong pamilya”. (TF1_SQ2-5)

Self-control, family first always and avoid ‘BARKADAS’. These are very helpful because I can focus to my work and my family (TF1_SQ2-5).

From the information that obtained from talking with his mother and her young partner, as gathered from the triangulation. His mother stated:

“Isip usa ka tambag gikan sa ginikanan nga naa anak na bata pa pero papana, palihog unaha sa ang pag eskwela. Likayan sa ang uyab uyab kay maka daut na sa pag eskwela. Eskwela labi na ug Makaya sa ginikanan”. (TF1_SQ2-M)

As an advised from a mother, who has a young son who became a father, please prioritize your studies. Avoid intimate relationships because they can distract your studies. Go to school if your parents can afford it. (TF1_SQ2-M).

His young partner also added:

“Mag concentrate lang sa jud sap ag eskwela. Likayan sa jud ang pag uyab uyab ug sayo. Dili sa jud mag minyo pag bata pa kay lisod jud kayo. Makalipay nan aa nay anak, pero daghan kaayo ang panghitabo na makaingon jud ka na mali akong desisyon”. (TF1_SQ2-P).

Concentrate first on your studies. Avoid intimate relationships. Never marry at a young age because it is too difficult. Although having a baby is a happy experience, there are numerous circumstances in which you will regret your decision. (TF1_SQ2-P).

Insights shared by Filipino Teenage Fathers

The informants were asked to give a suggestion to avoid teenage pregnancy. He directly to the point stated:

“Pag concentrate sa una sap ag eskwela; pag wala pay uyab likayan lang sa jud. Pag naa nay uyab unya gusto mo sulay ug sex sa iyaha, mag gamit ug ug contraceptive para dili siya mabuntis.” (TF1_Q3-1)

Focus first on your studies; if you haven't already, please avoid having a girlfriend. If you have a girlfriend and want to try sex with her, please use a conceptive so she does not become pregnant. (TF1_Q3-1)

The informants also asked for suggestions or insights to become a better teenage father. He eagerly shared his personal experience for him to be a better teenage father. He shared:

“Unahon jud permi ang pamilya. Maglikay sa barkada. Dili sa mag anak usab hangtud dili pa makakita ug permenting trabaho”. (TF1_Q3-2)

Always put your family first. Stay away from the Barkadas. Do not have any more children until you can find a stable job. (TF1_Q3-2)

In addition, he also added suggestions on how to avoid or minimize the teenage pregnancy. He added:

“Ipasabot sa mga studyante ang kalisod kung magkaanak na sila tapos bata pa sila. Tudluan ang mga batan-on about family planning para malikayan ang pagka buntis. Kay daghan na karon ang bata pa nabuntis na.” (TF1_Q3-3)

Let the students understand the difficulties of having a baby at such a young age. Teach teenagers about family planning to avoid teenage pregnancy, as there are now teenagers who become pregnant. (TF1_Q3-3)

As parent of teenage father, I asked her mother for suggestions or advice for the teenagers to avoid teenage pregnancy. Her mother stated:

“Para sa mga kabatan-unan, palihog focus sa inyong pag skwela ug likayan sa ang pag uyab uyab kay bata pa kaayo mo”. (TF1_Q3-M)

To teenagers, please focus first on your studies and please avoid having a girlfriend/boyfriend at a very young age. (TF1_Q3-M)

Her young partner also agreed with the statement of the mother. Her aggregable statement:

“Ang mga kabatan-unan dapat mag likay sa ug uyab uyab para makalikay sa pagkabuntis. Maminaw sa ginikan kay ang gusto lang sa mga ginikanan ang kaayuhan sa ilang mga anak”. (TF1_Q3-P)

Teenagers must avoid first having girlfriend/boyfriend to avoid teenage pregnancy. Listen to your parents because parents only wanted what is good for their children. (TF1_Q3-P)

Case B – Grade-11 ALS Student

Young Father in Teenage Pregnancy B is a 19-year-old male student in grade 11 at Alternative Learning System (ALS). He decides to become an ALS student because he needs to provide for his partner and baby. He works during the week and attends school on Saturdays. He was 17 years old when he became a father. Her partner is older than him. His partner became pregnant when she was 22 years old. He wanted to finish senior high so he could get a better job in the future. He and his partner are not currently living together because they are both working hard for their baby.

Lived Experiences of Filipino Teenage Fathers

The lived experience of a young father is very hard. He indicated that:

“Lisod kaayo mangita ug trabaho. Kailangan jud nako motarabaho kay naan man ni. Pag wala koy clase mangita ko ug extra na trabaho para maka hatag ko paninanghanganon sa akong partner ug sa akong anak, mao ng lisod jud kaayo”. (TF2_SQ1-1)

Very hard to find a job. I really need to work because I am now in this situation. If I don't have class, I am doing a part time job. I am now supporting all the needs of my partner and my child, that is why it is very difficult. (TF2_SQ1-1)

When I asked him if what is the difference of having a baby at early age, he said:

“Nagpasalamat ug nalipay ko kay naa nakoy anak. Kay naa naman ni akona na lang jud ning atubangon”. (TF2_SQ1-2)

Thankful that I already have a child. Happy that I have baby already. Since I am now in this situation, I will face it. (TF2_SQ1-2)

When I asked him if he had any regrets of being a teenager father? He indicated that:

“Wala ko nag mahay nga naa na koy anak bisan bata pa ko, atubangon na lang jud nak oni kay naa na man ko diri na sitwasyon”. (TF2_SQ1-3)

I do not have any regrets having a baby at a young age, I will just face it because I am now in this situation. (TF2_SQ1-3)

I conducted some interviews with some of his family members and his partner to triangulate the information I had. I asked them about the experiences of having a baby at a young age. The following is a selection of their comments, among others:

According to his mother that she is happy having a grandchild:

“Kabalo ko na ang pagkaroon ug anak sa akong edad karon kay dili tama, pero ang usa ka bata kay blessing, dapat akong dawaton. Nalipay ko nga naa na koy apo”. (TF2_SQ1-M)

I know that having a baby at such a young age is wrong, but a baby is a blessing, so I must accept it. I am happy of having a grandchild. (TF2_SQ1-M)

His partner is also happy for having a baby:

“Nalipay ko nga naa na mi baby, pero ang mamahimong amahan nga bata pa kay lisod, labi na kay wala pa ni graduate sa senior high maglisod jud ug pangita ug permenenteng trabaho”. (TF2_SQ1-P)

I am glad we already have a baby, but having a young father is difficult, especially since he has not yet graduated from senior high. He cannot find yet a stable job. (TF2_SQ1-P)

Coping Mechanism of Filipino Teenage Fathers

Perseverance and trust in God are the coping mechanism of the young father to support the needs of his partner and his child.

The informant stated:

“Maningkamot na lang jud ko na makasurvive. Salig ko sa ginoo nga iyaha ming tabangan uban sa pagpaningkamot”. . (TF2_Q2-1)

I will do my best for us to survive. I trust in God that He will help us together with the perseverance. (TF2_Q2-1)

In addition, he was just happy because nobody blames him in his situation right now.

He explained to me:

“Nalipay ko nga walay nagmahay sa akoo nga naa ko ani nga sitwasyon”. (TF2_Q2-2)

I am glad that nobody blames me in my situation right now. (TF2_Q2-2)

The informant feels glad because his parents are with him in dealing with his situation right now. He happily shared:

“Ginatabangan ko sa akong mama sa akong sitwasyon karon, ginahatagan ko niya ug mga advise kung unsa ang tamang buhaton para sa akong kaugalingog pamilya”. (TF2_Q2-3)

My mother helps me in my situation right now, he gave me an advice what is the right to for my own family. (TF2_Q2-3)

The informant also emphasized the importance of working a part-time job while attending school to support his family. He shared to me:

“Dapat naa koy part time na trabaho para maka hatag ko sa panginanghla sa akong kaugalingog pamilya, labi na jud para sa akong anak. Makatabang ni sa akoo aron maka hatag ko sa panginahanglanon sa akong kaugalingog pamilya”. (TF2_Q2-4)

I must have a part time job for me to provide the needs of my own family, especially my child. This helps me a lot because I can provide for my own family. (TF2_Q2-4)

In addition, the informant is willing to do anything for him to survive I his situation right now. He stated:

“Maningkamot ko ug trabaho, moeskwela ko ug kung wala koy clase mangita ko ug part time na trabaho”. (TF2_Q2-5)

I will work hard, go to school and if I don't have class, I will do a part time job. (TF2_Q2-5)

His mother is willing to guide the informant all the way, she will do everything as she could to help his young child.

“Naa nman ng bata, motabang na lang jud ko sa ilaha hangtud sa akong Makaya. Tudluan sila, labi na akong anak para mamahimong resposableng amahan maskin pa bata pa siya”. (TPO2_CQ2-M)

The baby is there already, all I can do is help them as long as I could. Guide them, especially my child to become a better father despite his young age. (TPO2_CQ2-M)

Lastly, his partner stated the difficulties of having a very young partner. She explained:

“Ang akong partner kay responsa ble, pero kay bata pman siya maglisod siya ug pangita ug permanenting trabaho, importante na maka panarbaho siya para sa panginahanglon sa among anak. Magtinabangay na lang mi para sa among kaugalingog pamilya”. (TPO2_CQ2-P)

My young partner is responsible, but because he is too young, he is unable to find a permanent job, which is essential especially given our child's needs. All we must do is help each other for our own family. (TPO2_CQ2-P)

Insights shared by Filipino Teenage Fathers

The informants shared his suggestions and advice to avoid teenage pregnancy. He said:

“Likayan sa jud ang pagpanguyab kung bata pa. Dapat unahon sa jud ang pag eskwela. Permi jud maminaw sa ginikana”. (TF2_Q3-1)

Avoid getting a girlfriend at a young age. Priority should be given to studies. Always listen to your parents. (TF2_Q3-1)

He shared his suggestions or advice to the teenage father like him. He shared:

“Unahon ju d ang panginahanglan sa pamilya. Tungod kay lisod mangita kwarta karon, dili lang sa jud manganak usad”. (TF2_Q3-2)

Pay attention to your family's needs. Because it is too difficult to find money right now, do not have any more children. (TF2_Q3-2)

In addition, he also added a suggestion on how to avoid or minimize teenage pregnancy based on his own experience. He added:

‘Ipasabot jud samga studyante kung unsa ka lisod ang magkaanak ug sayo labi na kung bata pa. Para malikayan and pagkabuntis ug sayo, tudluan ang mga bata ug family planning’. (TF2_Q3-3)

Let the students understand how difficult it is to have a baby when you are still young. To avoid teenage pregnancy, teach students about family planning. (TF2_Q3-3)

To get more information and suggestions from a parent of a teenage father, I asked a statement from his mother. She suggested:

“Ang mga kabatan-unan dapat unahon sa jud ang pag eskwela, and dapat maminaw judsa ilang ginikinan kay kung magkaroon ug problema ginikinan ang una na maapektuha”. (TF2_Q3-M)

Teenagers must prioritize their studies, and they must listen to their parents because any problems that arise will affect their parents first. (TF2_Q3-M)

Her young partner also gave a suggestion and advice based on her personal experience. She affirmed:

“Ang ga bata dapat dilis a jud mag uyab-uyab ug sayo para malikayan ang tentasyon ug maikayan pud ang pagkabuntis ug sayo”. (TF2_Q3-P)

Teenagers must not have a girlfriend/boyfriend at an early age to avoid temptation and avoid teenage pregnancy. (TF2_Q3-P)

Case C – Grade-12 Graduate Student without Work

Young Father in Teenage Pregnancy C is a 19-year-old male a grade 12 graduate without work. He did not attend college because his girlfriend was pregnant while he was still in grade 12. He was in the 12th grade, and his girlfriend was in grade 10. He was 17 years old at the time, and her girlfriend was 15 years old. Accordingly, both parents were aware that they were having an intimate relationship. However, their parents constantly remind them not to do anything that could ruin their childhood. However, because they were so passionate, he made his girlfriend pregnant.

Lived Experience of Filipino Teenage Fathers

The young father expresses his difficulties of having a baby at young age. He affirmed honestly that:

“Lisod kaayo kay maglisod ko ug pangita ug trabaho, ang pinaka lisod paju kung mag sakit akong anak wala ko kabalo asa ko mokuha ug kwarta”. (TF3_Q1-1)

Very difficult because I cannot easily find a job, the more difficult situation is when my child gets sick, I do not know where to get money. (TF3_Q1-1)

Regarding the differences of having a baby at young age. He conveyed that:

“Lisod kaayo labi na ug magsakit ang akong anak”. (TF3_Q1-2)

Very difficult, especially when my child gets sick. (TF3_Q1-2)

When I asked him if he has regrets of having baby at early age, he gave me an answer:

“Wala man koy mg apagmahay nga naa nakoy anak kay akong paap pud nalipay nga naa na koy anak”. (TF3_Q1-3)

I do not have any regrets that I am now having a baby, my father is also happy that I already have a baby. (TF3_Q1-3)

To verify the accuracy of the material I had, I conducted interviews with her mother as well as his young partner.

I asked his mother what is her opinion that her young son became a father already. She answered me:

“Lisod kaayo para sa akong inahan kay naa pa koy plano para sa akong anak kay bata pa siya, pero unsaon ma na nga naa nman jud siyay anak, supportahan na lag jud nako siya unsaon mamahimong maayong mahan maskin bata pa siya”. (TF3_Q1-M)

It's difficult for me as a mother because I still have plans for him also, he's too young, but the baby is already here; all I can do is support and help my son become a better father, even though he is young. (TF3_Q1-M)

In addition, his young partner also added. She revealed that:

“Pareho mi na nalipay nan aa na mi anak pati among ginikanan, pero lisod lang kaayo pag ang among anak magsakit, wala mi kabalo asa mi mangita ug kwarta”. (TF3_Q1-P)

We are both happy that we already have a baby, as well as our parents. The difficult part is that when our baby becomes sick, we both know how and where to find money to buy medicine. (TF3_Q1-P)

Coping Mechanism of Filipino Teenage Fathers

The teenage father revealed different strategies that he did for him to survive his situation right now.

The informant stated the following coping mechanism:

“Paningkamot na lang jud ko para makahatag ko sa mga panginahanglanon sa akong pamilya”. (TF3_SQ2-1)

I will do my very best to provide for the daily needs of my family. (TF3_SQ2-1)

The informant, on the other hand, described the disappointment of his mother, he revealed:

“Gimahay ko sa akong mama sa akong sitwasyon karon kay naa pa siyay plano para sa akona, pero wala siyay mabuhay gidawat na lang jud niya”. (TF3_SQ2-2)

My mother blames me in my situation right now because she still has plans for me. But she still accepts my situation right now. (TF3_SQ2-2)

Despite his mother's disappointments, the informant stated that his mother and his partner's mother help each other for us.

“Akong mama ug ang mama sa akong partner nagtabang sa akong sitwasyon karon, duha sila naga advise sa akona para mahimong maayong amahan”. (TF3_SQ2-3)

My mother and my partner's mother help me to face my situation right now, both are guiding me to be a better young father. (TF3_SQ2-3)

The informant mentioned that he does not have any regrets that he had a baby at a young age. He mentioned:

“Wala man ko nag mahay nga naa na koy anak”. (TF3_SQ2-4)

I don't have any regrets because I have a child already. (TF3_SQ2-4)

I asked the informants how his coping mechanism help him to solve his situation right now. He stated:

“Maningkamot na lang jud ko kay naa na man koy anak. Mao na lang jud na akong ginaisip aron makasurvive sa akong sitwasyon”. (TF3_SQ2-5)

Strive hard, work hard because I already have my child. This helps me to survive in every difficult situation. (TF3_SQ2-5)

From the information I obtained from talking to some of her family members and his young partner, they are unanimous in saying despite that they were happy of having a baby, but they are still concern for the future of the baby considering that the father is too young. She stated:

“Maskin ug lisod dawaton, dili nako gusto mag mag antos ang akong apo tungod sa nabuhay sa iyang mga ginikanan. Supportahan na lang nako ang akong anak sa pagpadaku sa iyang anak”. (TF3_SQ2-M)

Although it is difficult to accept, I cannot afford to let my grandchild suffer as due to her parents' mistake. I'll just support and assist my young son in raising his child. (TF3_SQ2-M)

In addition, her young partner disclosed that having a baby at a young age is very hard. However, she is willing to help her young partner to find a living for their child.

“Naa na man mi aning lisod na sitwasyon nga bata pa mi, magtinabangay na lang jud mi para maka hatag sa panginahanglanon sa among anak”. (TF3_SQ2-P)

We are now in a difficult situation because we are both young, however we will help each other for to provide for the needs of our child. (TF3_SQ2-P)

Insights shared by Filipino Teenage Fathers

The informant was very delighted in sharing his suggestion and advice based on his personal experience to avoid teenage pregnancy. He proclaimed:

“Huna hunaon jud na pagkaroon ug baby na bata pa kay lisod kaayo. Likayan lang sa jud ang pag uyab uyab ug sayo na bata pa. Pag naa nay uyab ug magpatintal jud na makig sex sa iyaha gamit na lang jud ug contraceptives para dili siya mabuntis. Ayaw ko sunduga na nahimog papa na bata pa”. (TF3_Q3-1)

Always think that having a baby at a young age is difficult. Please avoid getting a girlfriend at a young age. If you already have a girlfriend and are tempted to have sex with her, please use contraception to prevent her from becoming pregnant. Do not follow in my footsteps as a young father. (TF3_Q3-1)

He is pleased to share his thoughts with the teenage father like him. He stated:

“Dili na lang sa jud mag dungag ug anak para dili mag lisod ug samot”. (TF3_Q3-2)

Do not have any more children so that you are unable to feel the more difficulties of life. (TF3_Q3-2)

Based on his opinion and based on his personal experience he wanted to advice the teachers to avoid having girlfriend/boyfriend while still studying. He added:

“Dapat ang mga teachers mag advise sa mga studyante na dili lang sa jud mag uyab uyab kay bata pa sila. Pero tungod sa kagahi sa ulo sa mga bata karon studyante gihapo nag masunod. Mag tainings about teenage pregnancy makatabang aron malikayan ang teenage pregnancy”. (TF3_Q3-3)

eachers should advise students not to have girlfriends at a young age. However, it is the responsibility of the students to follow the advice of the teachers, as students nowadays are very hardheaded. Provide trainings to help prevent teenage pregnancy. (TF3_Q3-3)

His mother gave some advice to the teenagers. She recommended:

“Dili jud mayo na gahi ug ulo, dapat ang mga bata maminaw jud sa ginikanan kay gusto lang sa ginikanan ang kaayuhan para sa ilang anak”. (TF3_Q3-M)

Being a stubborn child is not advantageous. Children should listen to their parents because they only want what is best for them. (TF3_Q3-M)

His young partner agreed with the statement of the mother. She stated.

“Gahi jud ko ug ulo. Ingon akong mama na dilis a ko mag uyab uyab dapat mag concentrate sa ko sa akong pag eskwela. Kay gahi man ko ug ulo ma oni ang nahitabo karon”. (TF3_Q3-P)

I am extremely stubborn. My mother told me that I should not have a boyfriend and should instead focus on my studies. And because I am stubborn, this is what has happened to me. (TF3_Q3-P)

Case D – Grade 12 Graduate Undergraduate

The Filipino teenage father D is 18 years old and became a father at the age of 17. He did not complete senior high school because he needed to work and provide for his young partner and the baby. He cannot find a stable job because of his age and did not complete high school. However, he remained determined to find any kind of work that would allow him to support his own family. He describes it as difficult, but he believes he must make sacrifices because he already has a baby. He explained that his parents had

always reminded him not to enter intimate relationships, but he was so stubborn, resulting that he needed to face the consequences right now.

Lived Experiences of Filipino Teenage Fathers

This participant told me that he found difficulties in raising his child and he cannot find a stable job due to his young age. He said:

“Dili sayon ang pagpadaku ug anak kay bata pa ko. Wala ko kabalo unsa akong buhaton labi na ug magsakit akong anak”. (TF4_SQ1-1)

It is not easy to raise a child because I am still young. I don't know what to do, especially if my child gets sick. (TF4_SQ1-1)

She also mentioned that he does not know how to deal with his baby. He stated:

“Dili sayon ang mag atiman ug anak. Wal ko kablo unsa akong buhaton pag mohilak ang bata, labi najud kung magkasakit siya”. (TF4_SQ1-2)

It is not easy dealing with a child. I do not know what to do if the child is crying, especially if my child gets sick. (TF4_SQ1-2)

During our conversation, I asked him if he has regret of what had happened to him right now. He told me:

“Nagmahay ko gamay kay wala koy kwarta para I suporta sa akog anak”. (TF4_SQ1-3)

I have a little regret because I don't have enough financials to support my child. (TF4_SQ1-3)

I conducted interviews with her family as well as his young partner to check the authenticity of the information I had. I inquired about his situation right now. The following are only a few of the statements they made:

His mother replied that, she is disappointed of what had happened, however she said:

“Dako jud kaayo ang akong kalain sa nahitabo sa sinugdanan, murag dili nako madawat. Pero inahana man ko dili nako kaya na dili matabangan ang akong anak ug ang akong apo”. (TF4_SQ1-M)

I'm extremely disappointed with what happened; at first, it appeared that I couldn't accept it. However, as a mother, I cannot afford not to help and support my young son and grandchild. (TF4_SQ1-M)

His young partner shares the difficulties of having a baby at a very young age. She said:

“Ang mga bata dapat jud mamiminaw sa ginikanan kay kaayuhan ra jud sa anak ang gusto sa ginikanan. Kung naan a kay anak na bata pa ka pwerti jung lisura”. (TF4_SQ1-P)

Children should listen to their parents because they only want what is best for us. Having a baby at such a young age is extremely challenging. (TF4_SQ1-P)

Coping Mechanism of Filipino Teenage Fathers

This teenage father described several techniques he must employ to become a responsible teenage father. However, he stated that things are not as simple as that, but he will do his best.

“Una magtrabaho jud ko ug taman para maka suporta ko sa kaong anak ug sa akong partner”. (TF4_SQ2-1)

First, I will work hard for me to provide the needs of my child and my partner. (TF4_SQ2-1)

The informant narrated some of the difficulties and issues he encountered with his family, especially his mother. He shared:

“Gimahay jud ko sa akong ginikanan kay bata pa kaayo ko ug gusto pa kaayo sila nga makahuman ko sa akong pas eskwela”. (TF4_SQ2-2)

My parents blame me, because I am still young, and they wanted me to finish my studies. (TF4_SQ2-2)

The informant revealed that despite that his mother being disappointed to him, his mother still helped him. He said:

“Akong mama naa permi para sa akong, gina suportahan ko niya sa kalisod na akong maagiaan”. (TF4_SQ2-3)

My mother is always there for me, she supports me in every difficult situation that I encounter. (TF4_SQ2-3)

Furthermore, he also mentioned that even though I did not regret my decision, I should work hard for my own family. He said:

“Maningkamot na lang jud ko aron maka suporta ko sa akong anak ug sa akong partner”. (TF4_SQ2-4)

I will just work hard for me to provide for my child and my partner. (TF4_SQ2-4)

He added that despite the challenges that he encountered right now he can still survive with it.

“Bisag lisod makasurvive gihapon mi ani maskin ug lisod”. (TF4_SQ2-5)

Despite all of this we will survive every day even if it is difficult. (TF4_SQ2-5)

From the information I obtained from talking to some of her family members and his young partner, it can be ascertained that the informant found difficulties in providing the needs of own family. His mother pronounced:

“Tungod kay bata pa siya ug wala pa nakabalo sat ama ug mali naglisod jud siya ug suporta sa iyang kaugalingong pamilya. Mao na maskin ug naglagot ko sa iyaha kinahanglan gihapon nako siya na tabangan para sa kaayuhan sa akong apo”. (TF4_SQ2-M)

Because he is still young and does not know what is right, he has struggled to provide for his own family's needs. That is why even if I am so disappointed in him; I still need to help him for my grandchildren's well-being. (TF4_SQ2-M)

His young partner also declared that the informants hard to find a permanent job due to his young age. She said:

“Naningskamot man pud siya nga mangita ug trabaho maskin asa kay kinahanglan niya na suportahan ang iyang pamilya labi para sa iyang anak”. (TF4_SQ2-P)

He is doing his best to find work anywhere because he needs to provide for our daily needs, particularly those of our baby. (TF4_SQ2-P)

Insights shared by Filipino Teenage Fathers

The five informants have the same suggestions and advice to avoid teenage pregnancy. He stated:

“Ang mga ginikan kabalo jud ug unsay mayo para sa ilang anak mao ng maminaw jud. Para dili matintal dili lang sa jud mag uyab uyab”. (TF4_Q3-1)

Parents know what is best for their children, so listen to their advice. To avoid temptation, do not get a girlfriend at a young age. (TF4_Q3-1)

As a teenager father he also wanted to share an insight into teenagers like him. He added:

“Maningkamot jud pag ayo aron maka suporta sa panginahanglan sa akong pamilya”. (TF4_Q3-2)

Work hard so that you can provide for your own family's daily needs. (TF4_Q3-2)

Based on his experience he was unable to attend a seminar regarding the difficulties and hardships of being a teenage pregnant. He suggested:

“Tudluan ang mga batan-on nga pwerti jung lisuda kung magkaanak na bata pa. Mga pag tigum tigum basin sa pag likay sa tentation makatabang pud na”. (TF4_Q3-3)

Teach teenagers about the difficulties of having a baby at such a young age. A forum demonstrating how to avoid temptation could be a big help. (TF4_Q3-3)

His mother recommended to his teenage father son that he should be responsible father to his child. She recommended:

Himuon ang tanan para sa pamilya. Kay gisudlan man nak oni atubangon na lang jud”. (TF4_Q3-M)

Do your best, strive hard for your own family. You enter it then you must face it. (TF4_Q3-M)

His young partner shared her advice based on her personal experience. She suggested.

“Likayan lang sa jud ang pag uyab uyab kay dili na mayo labi na kay bata kaayo. (TF4_Q3-P)

Avoid having a girlfriend or boyfriend; they are not good for you, especially when you are young. (TF4_Q3-P)

Case E – Grade 12 student

Teenage Father E is 19 years old. He became a teenage father at the age of 17. His girlfriend was 15 years old when she became pregnant. The same with other informants were similarly stubborn and ignored their parents' advice not to engage in an intimate relationship. Despite their current situation, he is still determined to graduate from senior high school, not just for himself as well as for his own family. Her young partner lives with her parents, but the informant's parents assisted him in meeting the needs of his baby.

Lived Experiences of Filipino Teenage Fathers

The lived experience of this informant in terms of raising his child was challenging. He expressed by saying that:

“Dili lalim na naga eskwela sabay trabaho labi na kay bata pa ko”. (TF5_Q1-1)

It is not easy working while going to school, especially since I already have a child. (TF5_Q1-1)

He also added that he needs to look after his baby when his young partner is sick. He said:

“Nalipay pero lisod kaayo, tungod kay kailangan nako bantayan akong anak labi na kung ang akong partner mag sakit”. (TF5_Q1-2)

Happy at the same time difficult, because I need to look after my baby when my partner is not in good condition. (TF5_Q1-2)

The informant was happy about having a baby; however, he is afraid for the future of his baby. He stated:

“Nalipay ko pero hadlok pud ko para sa kaugmaon sa akong anak kay wala koy permanenting trabaho”. (TF5_Q1-3)

I am happy at the same time, afraid for the future of my child, because I don't have a stable job yet. (TF5_Q1-3)

To verify the accuracy of the information I had, I conducted interviews with his family as well as his young partner. I inquired how was the experiences of the informant. They made the following statements, to name a few:

His mother cannot believe that his young son is a father already. As she said:

“Dili ko makatuo na sa iyang ka bata nahimo na siyang amahan. Pero dapat Nakong dawaton kay blessing ma na”. (TF5_Q1-M)

I can't believe he is already a young father. I have plans for him, but he destroys them. However, I must accept the baby because it is a blessing. (TF5_Q1-M)

Additionally, his young partner added that she should listen to her mother. She mentioned:

“Nalipay ko na naa na mi anak, pero dili lalim kay pareho mi bata pa, dili mi sigurado sa kaugmaon sa amomg anak”. (TF5_Q1-P)

I am glad that we already have a baby, but it is challenging because we are both too young. We are unsure of our baby's future.(TF5_Q1-P)

Coping Mechanism of Filipino Teenage Fathers

This teenage father employs different strategies for him to provide his own family's needs. He stated:

“Maningkamot ko pag ayo aron maka suporta ko sa akong kaugalingong pamilya”. (TF5_Q2-1)

I will strive hard as long I can for me to support my own family. (TF5_Q2-1)

On the other hand, his parents blamed him for his situation right now. He said:

“Gi mahay ko sa akong mama kay bata pa ko ug gusto nil ana mag human pa ko ug eskwela”. (TF5_Q2-2)

My parents blame me, because I am still young, and they wanted me to finish my studies. (TF5_Q2-2)

However, the informant revealed that his parents and her partner's parent helped each other to support the needs of his baby.

“Ang akong mama ug mama sa akong partner. Silang duha ang naga tambag sa akoo kung unsay maayong buhaton”. (TF5_Q2-3)

My mother and my partner's mother. Both are guiding me to what is the right thing to do. (TF5_Q2-3)

In a similar vein, the informant stated that she is eager to work hard for his own family. He said:

“Maningkamot na lang jud ug dawaton ang akong sitwasyon. Akong atubangon tungod ka akoo ning desisyon”. (TF5_Q2-4)

Work hard and accept my real situation, I will face this because I made this decision. (TF5_Q2-4)

Lastly, he is determined that despite the challenges they could still survive. He said:

“Maski ug lisod maka survive gihapon mi sa pang adlaw adlaw na panginahanglan. (TF5_Q2-5)

Despite the difficulties we still survive our daily needs. (TF5_Q2-5)

As a result of my interactions with various members of his family and his young partner, I was able to learn about the challenges they encountered. The parent should always guide them for the benefit of the baby.

His mother expresses that the informant should be good in his studies for him to graduate even senior high school. She said:

“Dapat mag tarong siya sa iyang pag eskwela, dapat maka graduate siya maskin senior high man lang para maka suporta siya sa iyang pamilya”. (TF5_Q2-M)

He should be good in his studies. He should graduate even in senior high school for him to provide for his own family. (TF5_Q2-M)

As a matter of confirmation, his young partner stated that the informant must be responsible for his all decisions. As she said:

“Dapat mag eskwela jud siya ug tarong aron maka graduate. Dapat maging responsible na siya sa iyang mga desisyon kay papa na siya karon”. (TF5_Q2-P)

He should study hard for him to graduate. He must be responsible for his decisions in life because he now a father. (TF5_Q2-P)

Insights shared by Filipino Teenage Fathers

The informant agreed that avoiding romantic relationships is one key to avoid teenage pregnancy. He expressed:

“Likayan lang sa ang pag uyab uyab ug sayo kay bata pa sila. Pag naa nay uyab, likayan lang sa jud ang sobra ka lambig”. (TF5_Q3-1)

Avoid having a girlfriend when you are very young. If you already have a girlfriend, please avoid temptation and be less passionate. (TF5_Q3-1)

He strongly suggested to the teenage father, like him the good thing that they should do. He conveyed:

“Likayan na ang barkada ug dapat mag focus na sa kaugalingog pamilya labi na sa mga panginahanglan. Mag trabaho dili mag tinapula”. (TF5_Q3-2)

Avoid the Barkadas and concentrate on your own family's needs. Work hard and avoid laziness. (TF5_Q3-2)

He expresses a desire that the students or teenagers must be provided a forum or seminar about teenage pregnancy. He expressed:

“Maghatag ug trainingnug seminars para malikayan ang teenage pregnancy kay karon ang mga bata sweet na kaayo sa mga uyab and wal giisip ang mahimong resulta sa ilang mga ginahimo”. (TF5_Q3-3)

Provide training or seminars on how to avoid teenage pregnancy, because today's teenagers are very passionate and do not consider the consequences of their actions. (TF5_Q3-3)

His mother mentioned a curfew. A curfew for teenagers may help to reduce teenage pregnancy because teenagers are unable to go out during the night. She recommended:

“Himuon ang tana, maningkamot para sa kaugalingog pamilya, Kay gisudlan man atubangon na lang jud”. (TF5_Q3-M)

Do your best, strive hard for your own family. You enter it then you must face it. (TF5_Q3-M)

His young partner agreed to the mother's suggestion. She said she was one before going anywhere, even at night. She agreed.

“Molakaw ko maskin asa, dili ko naga paminaw sa akong maam. Gina buhat nako ang tanan na gusto nako buhato”. (TF5_Q3-P)

I used to go anywhere. I'm always not listening to my mother. I've always wanted to do whatever I want. (TF5_Q3-P)

Cross-Case Analysis

This study focuses on the personal experiences of teenage fathers in relation to the lived experiences. Case A to E contain the with-in-case analysis of each of the five participants who qualified as the informants in accordance with the inclusion criteria set in this study.

The cross analysis of the five study cases revealed three common themes: *proud and happy to be a father, anxious to provide needs of child and partner and difficult to find a job*. As shown in Table 1, there are three to five core ideas underscoring each of the themes. Core ideas sometimes termed as thematic statements are condensed overview of the common meanings that recur throughout the data where patterns are identified in coming up with themes. These themes are as follows:

Table 1. Lived Experiences of Filipino Teenage Fathers

Essential Themes	Significant Statements
Proud and Happy to be a father	Feeling proud that I already have a kid (TF1)
	Thankful that I already have a child (TF2)
	Happy at the same time difficult because I need to look after my baby (TF5)
Anxious To Provide Needs of Child and Partner	Have a little regret because I don't have enough financials to support my child (TF4)
	The difficult part is when my kid will get sick (TF3)
	Very difficult especially when my child will get sick (TF4)
Difficult To Find a Job	Very hard to find for a living (TF1)
	Very difficult because I cannot easily find a job (TF3)
	Afraid for the future of my child because I don't have stable job yet (TF5)

Proud and Happy to be a Father. For this theme, five core ideas were gathered as shown in the table. In some cases, the participant presented more than one statement connected with being proud of having a baby. Cases A, B, C, D, E had their own stories to tell that they are happy about having a baby. In fact, Case B had this to say:

“Nagpasalamat ko nga naa na koy anak. Nalipay ko naan a koy baby. Naa naman ko ani na sitwasyon ako na lang jud ning atubangon”, (TF2_Q1- 2).

Thankful that I already have a child. Happy that I have a baby already. Since I am now in this situation, I will face it. (TF2_Q1- 2)

Proud and happy to be a father refers to being happy that they already have a baby. This specific finding supports the findings of Arlyn (2022) stated that some young fathers described parenthood as an accomplishment, a source of pride and responsibility, and a potential source of giving and receiving love, and many described it as an accomplishment, a source of pride and responsibility, and a potential source of giving and receiving love. Even though many of them were non-resident parents, over 75% of young fathers visited their children every day, showing that they wish to be part in activities such as meal preparation, feeding, diaper changes, play time, and doctor visits when illnesses occur (Shirani, 2015; Lau, 2016; Chideya & Williams, 2013).

Anxious To Provide Needs. As a general this is the worrying part for the teenage fathers. Three core ideas were obtained for this theme as reflected in Table 2. They are uncertain if they will be able to provide the daily needs of their own family. On this regard, Case A stated:

“Proud ko nga naaa koy anak, pero ang lisod pag mag sakit na ang baby”. (TF1_Q1-2)

Feeling proud that I already have a kid. However, the difficult part is when my kid will get sick. (TF1_Q1-2)

It means even though they are happy about having a baby, still, they are afraid of the responsibilities of being a father. This finding is a significant factor because teen fathers most frequently reported feeling afraid about how their parents would respond to the news regarding the pregnancy. They also worried that they wouldn't be able to support their kids because they were young, enrolled in school, and jobless. They were anxious since they continued to rely on their own parents for financial assistance (Paschal et al., 2011; Paschal, 2013; Madiba & Nsiki, 2017).

In addition, a young father may experience a variety of obstacles in creating and maintaining a parenting role and identity. The majority have limited financial resources to contribute to parenting, and their young might lead to poor opinions of their ability to be responsible and trustworthy, to maintain strong adult relationships, or to provide direct care. While having a low socioeconomic background causes people to become teen parents, it was claimed that it can also make people financially unable to raise their children (Madiba & Nsiki, 2017; Weber, 2020).

Difficult To Find a Job. This theme surfaced from five core ideas, and all the informants had the same sentiments regarding the difficulties in finding a permanent job. All five informants, Cases A, B, C, D, and E expressed the negative effects of not having a permanent job. Case C demonstrated this by emphasizing:

“Nahadlok para sa kaugmaon sa akong anak kay wala pa koy permanenting trabaho”. (TF3_Q1-3)

I am afraid for the future of my child because I don't have a stable job yet. (TF3_Q1-3)

According to the participants, due to their age, and having not yet completed their education, especially in college, most of them have difficulties finding a job. These findings bear out the findings of various authors stated, when taking consideration of employment, teenage fathers typically earn less money. One explanation for this is that a teenager who has gotten his girlfriend pregnant frequently makes the same mistake twice: he drops out of school. It was stated that when a teenager fathers leave school, they head right for a low-paying job, according to Amy Williams, executive director of the Teenage Pregnancy and Parenting Project in San Francisco (Stengel, 2005; Briones, 2013; Ward, Makusha & Bray, 2015).

Coping Mechanisms of Filipino Teenage Fathers

As for the coping strategies of Filipino teenage father for every challenge that they encountered, as shown in the last column of Table 2, two themes are presented: *working hard to provide for the family and receiving support from parents*. Being a teenage father is a very challenging situation. However, each one of them has been trying in overcoming the challenges they have encountered There was a wide range of responses from the five informants regarding their experiences and methods of coping, which were converted into core ideas as shown in Column 2 of Table 3. These core ideas resulted to two themes as earlier mentioned.

Table 2. Coping Mechanisms of Filipino Teenage Fathers

Essential Themes	Significant Statements
Working Hard to provide for the Family	Work hard for me to provide the needs of my partner and my child (TF1)
	Do my very best to provide the daily needs of my family (TF3)
	Strive hard as long I can for me to support my own family (TF5)
Receiving Support from Parents	My mother as well as the mother of my partner help me in my situation (TF2)
	My mother is always there for me, supports me in every difficult situation that I encountered (TF4)
	Both parents gave me an advice what to do to survive my situation (TF1)

Working Hard to Provide for the Family. As reflected in table 3, five fundamental ideas compose this theme. In some circumstances, the participant offered many statements related to coping on difficulty in finding a stable job and how to provide the needs of their own family. Cases A, B, C, D, and E each used their unique coping mechanisms to overcome this obstacle while still enjoying as father. Case E, for instance, stated:

“Maningkamot pag ayo para maka suporta sa akong pamilya”.
(TF5_Q2-1)

Strive hard if I can for me to support my own family. (TF5_Q2-1)

The father should work to support the family. It is their responsibility to provide the needs of his own family. This theme underscores the studies of Weber (2020) the teen fathers' perceptions of themselves as fathers led them to conclude that a good father provides financial support for their children. They connected the ability to meet the material needs of the kids with the provider role of fatherhood.

The teen fathers prioritized their financial security over the emotional and physical bond that fathers must have with their children. However, a few authors (Quinlivan & Condon, 2005; Briones, 2013; Chideya & Williams, 2014; Weber, 2012; Ward, Makusha & Bray, 2015) illustrated the lives of young fathers, it is complex, full of harsh realities, and face a variety of various obstacles. Before and after they father a child, teen fathers deal with a variety of issues. Teenage fathers typically earn lower grades, and that low

educational attainment leads to unemployment, which raises the stress level associated with having to provide for a child when one is unemployed.

Receiving Support from Parents. This was effectively utilized by all the participants as one of the themes. Table 3 shows that five key ideas were composed of this theme to solve challenges related to having a permanent job to support the needs of their own family. While the teenage fathers are still hunting for a job, their parents are there to support their child. Case C enthusiastically conveyed:

“Akong mama ug mama sa akong partner ginatabangan ko para atubangon ang akong sitwasyon karon, duha sila naga tudlo nako unsaon mamahimong maayong papa”. (TF3_Q2-4)

My mother and my partner’s mother help me to face my situation right now, both are guiding me to be a better young father. (TF3_Q2-4)

Teenage fathers deal with their circumstances with the support of their parents. This finding is underlined in the studies of (Sheldrake, 2010; Parra-Cardona, Wampler, & Sharp, 2006) stating, teenagers receive care from their parents, who also teach them about social norms. There are teenage fathers who have a great deal of parental support including offering financial and social support. Because of parental social support, those teenager fathers can transact from teenagers and take on parental duties. Obviously, the teenage father needs to find a reliable and well-paying job to support his family. They continued to look to their families for support. Living with their respective families is already a significant part of the respondents' coping strategy because they are unable to pay for a place of their own (Jors, 2012; Briones, 2013; Uengwongsapat, 2022).).

Insights shared by Filipino Teenage Fathers

As for the insights gained from the experiences of Filipino teenage fathers as shown in Table 3, three themes are presented: *focus on study & avoid intimate relationships; practice self-control and seek support from school and government.* Teenage fathers' experiences are extremely challenging, that is why they wanted to share their insights to teach teenagers a moral lesson. Each one of the informants imparts their insights. There was a wide range of responses from the five informants regarding their insights, which were converted into core ideas as shown in Column 1 of Table 3. These core ideas resulted to three themes as earlier mentioned.

Table 3. Insights shared by Experiences of Filipino Teenage Fathers

Essential Themes	Significant Statements
Focus on Study & Avoid Intimate Relationships	Priority should be given to studies. Always listen to your parents (TF2)
	Avoid getting a girlfriend at a young age. Priority should be given to studies (TF3)
	To avoid temptation, do not get a girlfriend at a young age (TF4)
Practice Self-Control	If you already have a girlfriend, please avoid temptation and be less passionate (TF5)

	Because it is too difficult to find money right now, do not have any more children (TF3)
	Self-control, family first always and avoid hanging up always with friends (TF1)
Seek Support from School and Government	Provide training or seminars on how to avoid teenage pregnancy (TF5)
	Teach teenagers about the difficulties of having a baby at such a young age (TF5)
	Teach teenagers about family planning to avoid teenage pregnancy (TF2)

Focus on Study and Avoid Intimate Relationships. As reflected in table 3, five fundamental ideas compose this theme. In some circumstances, the participants offered many statements related to insights into teenage pregnancy. Cases A, B, C, D, and E shared their insights. Case C, for instance, stated:

“Dili lang sa jud mag uyab uyab kay mga bata pa. Dapat unahon sa ang pag eskwela”. (TF2_Q3-1)

Avoid getting a girlfriend at a young age. Priority should be given to studies. (TF2_Q3-1)

An overview of the physiological, emotional, cognitive, and social development of adolescents can be found in adolescents and romantic relationships. Their development is supported by the unique cultural and social setting in which this development is situated (Connolly & McIsaac, 2011; Van Eck, 2015). Adolescents associate with their peer group and look for outside support because of their transition from childhood to adulthood. Individuals are increasingly being influenced by their peer groups. Teenagers could experiment with intimate relationships through peer groups as well (Collins, 2003; Collins & Laursen, 2004; Smetana, Campione-Barr, & Metzger, 2006).

Thus, parents who were unable to control their kids' dating habits and social lives thought that romantic relationships were bad for their kids, which made them more likely to engage in risky behaviors like having sex before marriage (Arnold et al., 2008; Barnard, 2004; Hemmerich et al., 2021; McWayne et al., 2012; Norheim & Moser, 2020; Paz-Albo Prieto, 2018). In addition, focusing on the impact of parental involvement in early education found positive outcomes for children's cognitive development while identified a significant impact of parent involvement on children's cooperative behaviors but also positive parenting styles (Sollars, 2021).

Practice Self-Control. This theme surfaced from five core ideas, and all the informants had numerous sentiments regarding how to become a better young father. All five informants, Cases A, B, C, D, and E expressed their own insights. Case C demonstrated this by emphasizing:

“Pag pugong sa kaugalingon, unahon jud ang pamilya ug likayan na ang barkada”. (TF1_Q3-1)

Self-control, family first always and avoid ‘BARKADAS (friends). (TF1_Q3-1)

Having a child inspired them to strive for personal growth. They also desired to serve as positive role models for their children. It was discovered that teen fathers changed their behavior for the benefit of their child after becoming fathers. It was discovered that becoming a father inspired African American teen

fathers to become more self-motivated individuals (Langa & Smith, 2012; Maiden, 2013; Swartz et al., 2013; Chideya & Williams, 2014).

Thus, the earlier research stated, to satisfy the provider role of fatherhood, young fathers looked for job to earn money so they can support their children. Teen fatherhood causes the teen father to realize that they are no longer in control of their own lives, they are responsible for their children's upbringing, that is why they are looking for job so they can support their kids financially (Swartz et al., 2013; Chideya & Williams, 2014; Madiba & Nsiki, 2017).

Seek Support from School and Government. For this theme, four core ideas were gathered as shown in the table. In some cases, the participant suggested how to educate the teenager about teenage pregnancy. Cases A, B, C, D, E had their own suggestions in dealing with teenage pregnancy. In fact, Case E had this to say: *Maghatag ug seminars unsaon malikayan ang teenage pregnancy*". (TF5_Q3-3)

Provide training or seminars on how to avoid teenage pregnancy. (TF5_Q3-3)

Parents are the primary source of health education, but to enhance reproductive health education and facilitate the supervision of youth in the school area, health education must be in schools. School counselors or psychologists who can interact with teenagers in a suitable manner can facilitate school-based reproductive health education (Johnson-Motoyama et al., 2016; Cahyaningtyasa, Astutib, & Hanic, 2020).

Furthermore, attempts to address teenage pregnancy caused by a shortage of infrastructure and health workforce resources by training all parties involved and hiring more personnel to assist with relevant prevention initiatives. Therefore, to prevent teenage pregnancy, government stakeholders must provide funding, training, and technical assistance in the form of training on evidence-based sexual health education curricula, training on adolescent pregnancy prevention programs, and guidelines for choosing and implementing curriculum in accordance with culture (Das et.al., 2017; Sychareun et al., 2018).

Similarities and Differences between Cases

Highlighted in Table 4 are the similarities and differences of the five cases in the context of lived experiences of Filipino teenage fathers.

Lived Experiences of Filipino Teenage Fathers. In terms of being proud of having a baby as reflected in the table, A, B, C, D, and E have similar sentiments. They were all happy about having a baby. Among the five cases, Case A expresses the difficulty of being a teenage father. He is always worried, especially when his baby will get sick.

"Proud ko nga naan a koy anak, pero ang lisod na kung magkasakit na ang akong anak". (TF1_Q1-2)

Table 4. Similarities and Differences on Experiences of Filipino Teenage Fathers

.	Case Unit		Remarks
	Similar	Different	
Lived Experiences:			
Proud and Happy to be a father	A, B, C, D, E		-All the FTFs of the 5 case units are Feeling proud of having a baby
Anxious To Provide Needs of Child and Partner	A, B, C, D, E		-All the FTFs are anxious to provide the needs of child and their partner, because they cannot find a permanent job.
Difficult To Find a Job	A, B, C, D, E		-All the 5 FTFs are having difficulties in finding a stable job

Coping Mechanism:			
Working Hard to provide for the Family	A, B, C, D, E		-All the FTFs are working hard for their own family. All the informants need to strive hard because they have, they own family to feed
Receiving Support from Parents	A, B, C, D, E		- All FTFs receive support from both of their parents. Although their parents may not accept at first, being a grandparent still wins
Insights shared:			
Focus on Study & Avoid Intimate Relationships	A, B, C, D, E		-All FTFs suggest avoiding having girlfriend/boyfriend when you are still in high school. Focus first your studies because it is important
Practice Self-Control	A, B, C, E		-4 of the FTFs stated that teenage fathers should prioritize their own families. A teenage father should avoid his friends who cannot help him in his current situation.
		D	- D stated that a teenage father should not force his young partner to become pregnant again, unless he already has a stable job
Seek Support from School and Government	A, B, D, E		-4 of the FTFs suggested that the student receive training or seminars on teen pregnancy. Students should understand the difficulties of teen pregnancy
		C	-C suggested that the teachers should advise students not to have girlfriends at a young age.

Feeling proud that I already have a kid. However, the difficult part is when my kid will get sick. (TF1_Q1-2)

The five informants, A, B, C, D, and E were anxious to provide the needs of the child and his partner. They are worried because they don't have a permanent job. They are worried especially when their baby will get sick. Informant A has proclaimed: *"Lisod manita ug panginabuhian. Ang pinaka lisod sa isa ka papa ang mag sakit ang anak"*. (TF1_Q1-1)

Very difficult because it is very hard to find a living. It is also hard as a father especially when my child is sick. (TF1_Q1-1)

In relation to the difficulty of finding a job, the five informants (A, B, C, D, and E) have the same sentiments, because all of them find difficulties in finding a permanent job. Case C had a remarkable sentiment in relation to difficulty in finding a job. Below are some of his answers.

"Lisod kaayo kay dili ko dayon maka pangita ug trabaho, ang pinaka lisod jud pag ,agsakit na akong anak and wala ko kabalo kung asa mag kuha ug kwarta." (TF3_Q1-1)

Very difficult because I cannot easily find a job, the more difficult situation is when my child gets sick, I do not know where to get money. (TF3_Q1-1)

Coping Mechanism. The Filipino teenage fathers were confronted with different challenges in dealing for being a teenage father. One of the dilemmas that they face is not having a permanent job to support their own family.

In relation to working hard to provide for the family, was the strategies that they knew. This technique is the only way for Case A, B, C, D and E to provide the needs of their own family. Case E teenage father mentioned:

“Maningkamot ko pag ayo aron maka suporta ko sa akong pamilya.” (TF5_Q2-1)

I will strive hard as long I can for me to support my own family. (TF5_Q2-1)

In the context of receiving support from parents, all five informants (A, B, C, D, and E) happily shared that their parent helps in supporting the needs of the baby. Case A has an overwhelming sentiment. He shared:

“Ginatabangan jud ko sa akong partner. Akong mama ug mama sa akong partner ginatabangan ko sa akong sitwasyon karon. Silang duha nagahatag sa akong advice para maka survive sa akong sitwasyon”. (TF1_Q2-3)

My partner really helps me a lot. My mother as well as the mother of my partner help me in my situation right now. Both gave me advice on what to do to survive in my situation. (TF1_Q2-3)

Insights shared by Filipino Teenage Fathers. They were asked to give an insight and advice to avoid teenage pregnancy. In the context of focus on study & avoid intimate relationships all five informants (A, B, C, D, and E) insisted of not having a girlfriend/boyfriend when the students are still in high school. Focus first on the studies to avoid teenage pregnancy. The advice of Case B was remarkable. He said:

“Likayan sa ang pag uyab uyab ug sayo. Unahon sa ang pag eskwela ug dapat maminaw sa ginikanan”. (TF2_Q3-1)

Avoid getting a girlfriend at a young age. Priority should be given to studies. Always listen to your parents. (TF2_Q3-1)

In relation to practice self-control, was one of the suggestions that they gave to become a better young father. All five informants (A, B, C, D, and E) has the same sentiments in this matter. Case A and D has incredible advice. Both shared the following advice:

“Unahon jud ang pamilya mag likay sa barkada. Dili sa mag dungag ug anak hangtud dili pa makapangita ug perming trabaho”. (TF1_Q3-1)

Always put your family first. Stay away from the Barkadas. Do not have any more children until you can find a stable job. (TF1_Q3-1)

“Likayan na ang barkada ug mag focus na sa panginahanglon sa pamilya mag trabaho dili mag tinapulan”. (TF5_Q3-1)

Avoid the Barkadas and concentrate on your own family's needs. Work hard and avoid laziness. (TF5_Q3-1)

In the context of seeking support from school and government Case A, B, D, E has a similar suggestion. According to them that the student receives training or seminars on teen pregnancy. Students should understand the difficulties of teen pregnancy. They believed that could help to avoid teenage pregnancy. Case C has his different suggestions or insights. Case C suggested:

“Ang mga teachers dapat mag hatag ug advice sa mga studyante na dilis a jud mag uyab uyab ug sayo”. (TF3_Q3-3)

Teachers should advise students not to have girlfriends at a young age. (TF3_Q3-3) Proud and Happy to be a father. All the teenage fathers (A, B, C, D, & E) teenage fathers were happy to have a child of their

own. This specific finding is in parallelism with the findings of Arlyn (2022) that some young fathers described parenthood as an accomplishment, a source of pride and responsibility, and a potential source of giving and receiving love, and many described it as an accomplishment, a source of pride and responsibility, and a potential source of giving and receiving love. Even though many of them were non-resident parents, over 75% of young fathers visited their children every day, showing that they wish to be part in activities such as meal preparation, feeding, diaper changes, play time, and doctor visits when illnesses occur (Shirani, 2015; Lau Clayton, 2016; Parra-Cardona, Wampler, & Sharp, 2006).

In relation to anxious to provide needs of child and partner All the teenage fathers (A, B, C, D, & E) are all anxious to provide the needs of their own family because they don't have a stable job due to their young and they are still relying on their parent for financial support. This finding is parallel to the study of the following authors (Deave & Johnson, 2008; Paschal, Lewis-Moss & Hsiao, 2011; Madiba & Nsiki, 2017) stated that the teen fathers most frequently reported feeling afraid about how their parents would respond to the news regarding the pregnancy. They also worried that they wouldn't be able to support their kids because they were young, enrolled in school, and jobless. They were anxious since they continued to rely on their own parents for financial assistance

All the five teenage fathers (A, B, C, D, & E) faced similar experiences in relation to difficulty finding a job since all the teenage fathers are still young and because of lack of education. This finding is contextually like the results of the study of few authors (Stengel, 2005; Briones, 2013; Ward, Makusha, Bray, 2015) that teenage fathers typically earn less money. One explanation for this is that a teenager who has gotten his girlfriend pregnant frequently makes the same mistake twice: he drops out of school. It was stated that when a teenager fathers leave school, they head right for a low-paying job, according to Amy Williams, executive director of the Teenage Pregnancy and Parenting Project in San Francisco.

Coping Strategies. Differences were not found on the working hard to provide for the family. Due to the reason that all informants need to work hard for them to support the needs of their own family. The findings support the study of (Madiba & Nsiki, 2017; Arlyn, 2022) stated a good father, the teen fathers' perceptions of themselves as fathers led them to conclude that a good father provides financial support for their children. They connected the ability to meet the material needs of the kids with the provider role of fatherhood. The teen fathers prioritized their financial security over the emotional and physical bond that fathers must have with their children.

The theme receiving support from parents has no difference between the five respondents. They all receive support from their parent. Teenagers receive care from their parents, who also teach them about social norms. This finding aligned with the study (Sheldrake, 2010; Maiden, 2013; Arlyn, 2022) stating that there are teenage fathers who have a great deal of parental support including offering financial and social support. Because of parental social support, those teenager fathers can transact from teenagers and take on parental duties. Obviously, the teenage father needs to find a reliable and well-paying job to support his family. They continued to look to their families for support. Living with their respective families is already a significant part of the respondents' coping strategy because they are unable to pay for a place of their own (Barnes, 2007; Briones, 2013; Matlakala, Makhubele & Mashilo, 2018).

The findings of the study support the Adolescent Development Theory by G. Stanley Hall, it states that each person's psychological development recaps both the biological and cultural evolution of the human species. The perception that individual development is a brief and rapid recapitulation of evolution. The development from childhood through adolescence to adulthood. On the other hand, phylogeny reflects the

evolution of man from early man through the traditional simple man to the modern man (White, 2002; Arnett, 2006; Bahn, 2020).

Working hard to provide for the family is the first strategies for the teenage father overcome the challenges that teenage fathers face. Despite of their young age, they are eager to become mature to face their challenges. The father should work to support the family. It is their responsibility to provide the needs of his own family. The teen fathers' perceptions of themselves as fathers led them to conclude that a good father provides financial support for their children (Madiba & Nsiki, 2017; Arlyn, 2022).

These findings of the study are also aligned with study Bandura's Social Learning Theory, it emphasizes "the mutual relationship between cognitive, behavioral, and environmental determinants of human behavior". According to differential association, people are exposed to appropriate and inappropriate behaviors as well as several behavioral models by those with whom they come into contact, both directly and indirectly (Nabavi, 2012; Edinyang, 2016; Bandura & Hall, 2018). Individuals may adopt and inculcate behaviors, beliefs, and values from these social classes (O'Rorke, 2006; Rumjaun & Narod, 2020). Teenagers engage in an intimate relationship due to peer pressure. Adolescents associate with their peer group and look for outside support because of their transition from childhood to adulthood. Individuals are increasingly being influenced by their peer groups. Teenagers could experiment with intimate relationships through peer groups as well (Collins, 2003; Collins & Laursen, 2004; Smetana, Campione-Barr, & Metzger, 2006).

IMPLICATION FOR PRACTICE

There are three essential themes that emerged from the experiences of Filipino teenage fathers. These are proud and happy to be a father, anxious to provide for the needs of child and partner and difficult to find a job. The results of the study from among the five teenage fathers imply that teenage fathers were happy of having a baby, however they were anxious to provide needs of child and partner. It means even though they are happy about having a baby, still, they are afraid of the responsibilities of being a father.

Coping strategies highlighted in this study are essential for those teenage fathers. Working hard to provide for the family is the first essential theme of coping strategies to overcome the challenges that teenage fathers face. The father should work to support the family. It is their responsibility to provide for the needs of his own family. Parents have a huge responsibility for their children. To understand the various concerns that their children have, parents should make time for conversations with their children as well. Teens and parents can trust each other's decision-making when there is open communication, which allows teens to ask questions and share problems. How parents can make their home comfortable. Talking to their teenagers in a gentle tone and on a sensitive subject is how parents should communicate with them.

As educators, it is our responsibility to constantly remind our students about the consequences of teenage pregnancy. Students should be educated about the consequences of teenage pregnancy.

Implication for Future Research

Giving considerations on the respondents' insights, focusing on study and avoiding intimate relationships is one of the causes of teenage pregnancy. I would like to recommend qualitative research on how high school students can avoid intimate relationships with the participation of parents. The findings of this study could be useful to lessen teenage pregnancy.

Concluding Remarks

The experiences of five teenage fathers are not simple, considering their young age they are not yet capable enough to decide the desirable and undesirable decisions. Teenagers need the supervision of their parents.

Parents have a huge responsibility to their children's lives. To understand the various concerns that their children have, parents should make time for conversations with their children as well. Confidence and honest expression are necessary for healthy communication. Teens and parents can trust each other's decision-making when there is open communication, which allows teens to ask questions and share problems.

Further, parents who were unable to control their kids' dating habits and social lives thought that romantic relationships were bad for their kids, which made them more likely to engage in risky behaviors like having sex before marriage. In addition, focusing on the impact of parental involvement in early education found positive outcomes for children's cognitive development while identified a significant impact of parent involvement on children's cooperative behaviors but also positive parenting styles. Lastly, as a parent I gained an information on how parent children communication is necessary

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