



## A COMPARATIVE STUDY ON KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDE REGARDING TEENAGE PREGNANCY AMONG PRE DEGREE STUDENTS IN SELECTED COLLEGES OF MANGALURU

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**ABSTRACT** Descriptive comparative design was used to compare the knowledge and attitude regarding teenage pregnancy among 120 students studying in 1st and 2nd year P.U.C. The mean percentage of knowledge on teenage pregnancy was higher among girls (71%) than the boys (58.3%) and attitude on teenage pregnancy was higher among girls (81.97%) than the boys (78.54%). There was a weak positive correlation ( $r=+0.19$ ) between knowledge and attitude on teenage pregnancy among the boys and moderate positive correlation ( $r=+0.37$ ) between knowledge and attitude on teenage pregnancy among girls. The present study shows that boys and girls had a good knowledge and most unfavorable attitude towards teenage pregnancy.

**KEYWORDS :** Knowledge, attitude, teenage pregnancy, pre-degree students.

### Introduction

“Teenage” or “Adolescence” is the transition from childhood to adulthood. It is defined by the World Health Organization as period between 10 and 19 years. Teenage pregnancy is a common public health and social problem with adverse medical consequences worldwide (Rudra S et al., 2013).

However, there is a distinct difference between developed countries and the rest of the world in various aspects of teenage pregnancy. In western countries most of the teenage mothers are either unmarried or from socially deprived section. In India, incidence of teenage pregnancy varies from 3.2% to 18.6%. Early marriages are a long established custom in India resulting in the high incidence of teenage pregnancy. The rate is higher in the rural than in urbanized despite the law; India the birth rate per 1000 females (15–19) is 107. According to the UNICEF 2011 report, the adolescent population in India is 20% of the total population i.e. almost 243 million. 27% of girls aged 15 to 19 years are married with a birth rate of 45 per 1000 girls in this age group (Rudra S et al., 2013).

The latest international estimates indicate that worldwide more than 60 million women aged 20-24 years were married before the age of 18 years and about 16 million women 15-19 years old give birth each year, representing 11.0% of all births worldwide. Ironically, half of all adolescent births occur in just seven countries: Bangladesh, Brazil, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, India, and Nigeria and the United States (Sen S, 2004)

### Objectives of the study

1. To determine the level of knowledge and attitude of pre-degree boys and girls regarding teenage pregnancy.
2. To compare the knowledge and attitude between pre-degree boys and girls regarding teenage pregnancy.
3. To find the correlation between knowledge and attitude of pre-degree boys and girls regarding teenage pregnancy.
4. To associate knowledge and attitude of pre-degree boys and girls with selected demographic variable

### Materials and Method

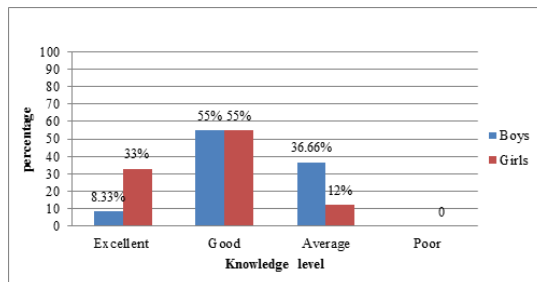
A descriptive comparative design was used to compare the knowledge and attitude regarding teenage pregnancy among pre-degree boys and girls. The sample size was 120 boys and girls of first and second year Pre-degree who were recruited by lottery method sampling technique. The investigator explained the purpose of the study to the students to win their cooperation. Confidentiality was assured and informed consent was taken from each student. The tool was administered to the participants with proper explanation. The data collected was compiled for analysis.

### Results

#### Section I: Baseline data

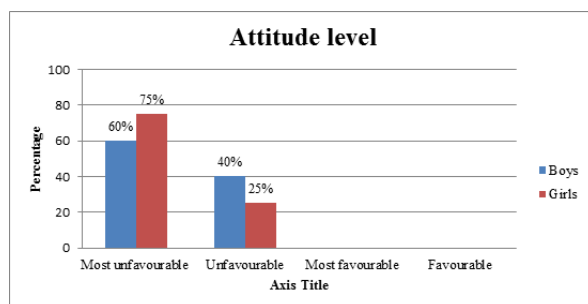
The present study comprised of 120 (60 boys + 60 girls) pre-degree students in the age group of 16 – 19 years. There were equal number of students, sixty (50%) among the 1<sup>st</sup> year PUC and sixty (50%) among the 2<sup>nd</sup> year PUC. Majority of boys (76.66%) and girls (88.33%) were staying with parents but a very few boys and girls lived with their single parent (5%). Majority of boys (73.33%) and girls (86.66%) were exposed to information on teenage pregnancy and 46.66% of the boys received information through classroom teaching and 46.66% of girls through the newspapers.

#### Section II: Level of knowledge and attitude of pre - degree boys and girls regarding teenage pregnancy



**Figure 1: Bar diagram showing distribution of knowledge level of subjects according to the grading**

The data presented in Figure 1 shows that 55% of boys and girls had good knowledge. Almost 33% of girls had excellent knowledge and only very few (8.33%) of boys had excellent knowledge.



**Figure 2: Bar diagram showing the distribution of attitude level of the subjects according to the grading of attitude score.**

Data shows figure 2 shows that majority of the boys (60%) and girls (75%) had most unfavourable attitude towards teenage pregnancy.

### SECTION III: Comparison of knowledge and attitude between pre-degree boys and girls.

**Table 1.a: Comparison of knowledge on teenage pregnancy among boys and girls**

	Boys	Girls	't' value	p value
	Mean ± SD	Mean ± SD		
Knowledge	11.66±2.86	14.20 ±2.93	4.788	.001*

( $t_{98}=1.98$ ) (P value=0.05) \* Significant

The data presented in table 1.a depicts that the computed value of knowledge between boys and girls is significantly higher than the 't' value. Thus, there is significant difference in knowledge between pre degree boys and girls.

**Table 1.b: Comparison of attitude on teenage pregnancy among boys and girls**

	Boys	Girls	't' value	P Value
	Mean ± SD	Mean ± SD		
Attitude	58.91±6.56	61.48± 6.65	2.127	.036*

( $t_{98}=1.98$ ) (p value=0.05) \* Significant

The data presented in table 1.b depicts that the computed value of attitude between boys and girls is significantly higher than the 't' value. Thus, there is significant difference attitude between pre degree student boys and girls.

### Section IV: Correlation between knowledge and attitude of pre-degree boys and girls regarding teenage pregnancy.

**Table 2.a: Correlation of knowledge and attitude of pre-degree boys regarding teenage pregnancy N=60+60**

	Mean ±SD	r value
Knowledge	11.66±2.86	.198
Attitude	58.91± 6.56	

The data presented in table 2.a shows that there is weak positive correlation between knowledge and attitude on teenage pregnancy among the boys.

**Table 2.b: Correlation between knowledge and attitudes of pre-degree girls regarding teenage pregnancy**

N=60 +60

	Mean ±SD	r value
Knowledge	14.20 ± 2.927	.369
Attitude	61.48 ± 6.65	

The data presented in table 2.b shows that there is a moderate positive correlation between knowledge and attitude on teenage pregnancy among girls.

### Section V: Association of knowledge and attitude of pre-degree boys and girls and demographic variables

The study showed that the knowledge and attitude scores of pre degree boys and girls and the demographic variables is higher than tabled value ( $p>0.05$ ). Thus states that there is no significant association between knowledge and attitude with demographic variables of boys and girls. Hence the null hypothesis is accepted and research hypothesis is rejected.

### DISCUSSION

The present study comprises of 120 (60 boys + 60 girls) pre-degree students in the age group of 16 – 19 years. Similarly, Lebesse RT et al., (2015) in their study showed that among 110 participants, 52 (47%) were males and 58 (53%) were females and Tabansi PN et al., (2012) in their study showed that out of 1050 students, 486 were males and 564 females whose age ranged from 10 -19 years.

Majority of boys (76.66%) and girls (88.33%) were staying with parents but a very few boys and girls lived with their single parent (5%). The study findings were congruent with the study conducted by Tabansi PN et al., (2012) which revealed that 66.1% students lived with both parents and 16% students lived with their single parent.

Majority of boys (73.33%) and girls (86.66%) were exposed to information on teenage pregnancy. The study showed that 46.66% of the boys received information through classroom teaching and 46.66% girls through the newspapers. These study findings were supported by the study conducted by P. V. Kotecha et al., (2009) which showed that adolescents got information from school books (64.4%) and newspaper (47.8%) respectively.

The present study revealed that majority (55%) of boys and girls had good knowledge and only 33% of girls and very few of boys (8.33%) had excellent knowledge on teen pregnancy. The mean percentage of knowledge on teenage pregnancy was higher among girls (71%) than the boys (58.3%). The study was congruent with the study conducted by Rahman A et al., study revealed that the mean knowledge score was significantly higher among females than males. The present study showed that majority of the boys (60%) and girls (75%) had most unfavourable attitude towards teenage pregnancy with the mean percentage higher among girls (81.97 %) than the boys (78.54%). The present study was supported with the study conducted by Christian C et al which revealed over 92% (44) of the respondent's disapproval to teenage pregnancy, while 4.4% (21) were indifferent and 3.5 (17) consider teenage pregnancy acceptable which was also congruent with the study conducted by James A Osaikhuwuomwan that showed majority of the participants held a negative attitude about adolescent pregnancy with over 85% regarding it as wrong.

The present study depicted that the computed value of knowledge between boys and girls is significantly higher than the 't' ( $t=4.788$ ,  $P<0.05$ ) value. There is significant difference in knowledge between pre degree student boys and girls. The present study depicts that the computed value of attitude between boys and girls is significantly higher than the 't' ( $t=2.127$ ,  $P<0.05$ ) value. There is significant difference attitude between pre degree student boys and girls which is supported by the findings of Awopetu R et al., that indicated a significant difference in the attitude between male and female adolescents regarding teenage pregnancy ( $t_{281}=1.90$ ,  $p<0.05$ ) and their perception of teenage pregnancy ( $t_{275}=-1.99$ ,  $p<0.05$ ).

### Conclusion

The researcher confirmed that boys and girls had a good knowledge and most unfavourable attitude towards teenage pregnancy. There was a significant difference in knowledge and attitude between pre degree student boys and girls. Further study needs to be conducted with a larger sample size so that findings can be generalized.

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