Teen Pregnancy at Ruby Lake

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In Riverbend city, the Ruby Lake neighborhood has the highest rate of teenage pregnancies. Teen pregnancy in Ruby Lake neighborhood can get taken as a pandemic. Teen pregnancy rates in the state and Riverbend city within recent years have fallen drastically, Ruby Lake’s rates are still high. For instance, the teen pregnancy rate at Ruby Lake high school was almost double that of the school with the city's second-highest rate. This problem is a pandemic for the ruby lake community that requires intervention. So many teenage girls in Ruby Lake neighborhood face the risk of unplanned teenage pregnancy, which is a significant issue.

There are various interventions such as the ruby lake High school child care center, which cares for the high school's young mothers. However, the teen pregnancy rate in the Ruby Lake community is still the highest within the city. Several factors can get attributed to this high pregnancy rate within this community. Most teenage girls within a community usually get exposed to most risk factors that can result in teen pregnancy (Kane et al., 2008). Among the factors contributing to the high pregnancy rate, poverty can get taken as the most pervasive. Young girls who lack the vision of several future options are not likely to prevent pregnancy.

**Methodological Approach**

There is widespread concern about the high teenage pregnancy rate in Ruby Lake neighborhood requiring the implementation of various intervention programs. Some several methodological approaches or strategies have gotten developed for preventing adolescent pregnancy. Family planning initiatives have gotten utilized for several years by got adapted to target teenagers in schools in the 1980s (Gallagher, 2008). School-based clinic services got designed as a way of serving young populations within schools. An effective way of targeting adolescents is locating clinic services with the schools. Further, community health centers can also get linked to sex education initiatives.

A significant limitation of this approach is the majority of teen pregnancy fathers being older than twenty years of age. There is no single approach that can meet all teen parents and their partners' needs and requirements. However, the closeness of school-based services usually provides teens with greater accessibility to clinic services. Further, this proximity can potentially enhance the chances of clinic use among youths and adolescents in schools (Gallagher, 2008). Also, with this approach, both adolescent girls and boys can get targeted. Similarly, contraceptive service can get provided with clinic services, which will allow for more exceptional rapport and confidentiality with these youths.

**Demographic Characteristics Assessment**

Ruby lake is a neighborhood near the south side of Riverbend city. This neighborhood is southwest of the city’s downtown. This neighborhood’s population at the last census was seven thousand three hundred and twenty-four. Ruby Lake was settled majorly by polish immigrants in the 1920s and 30s. This community had predominantly low pollution of immigrants from Hispanic countries such as Mexico. However, in the past twenty-five years, the population has grown significantly. Within Riverbend city, this neighborhood is the poorest. The poverty rate of Ruby Lake is twenty-eight percent, which is the highest among all city's neighborhoods.

The median household income of Ruby Lake is also the second-lowest at thirty-five thousand eight hundred and twelve dollars. As for race Hispanic population has grown tremendously in recent years. Hispanics at Riverbend now comprise seventy-two percent of the total population. White people in this community are fifteen percent of the total population, while African Americans are eleven percent. Pacific Islanders and other populations only take two percent of this community. In Ruby Lake neighborhood, the highest populations are youth aged twenty-five years and below who take up forty-four percent of the community. Over nineteen percent of the youth in this community are unemployed.

**Problem Analysis**

Ruby Lake neighborhood has the highest rate of teen pregnancy among all communities in the city. Teen pregnancy rates across Riverbend city and the state generally have been decreasing in the last ten years, which is not the case for the Ruby lake community. Several factors can get attributed to this high teen pregnancy rate in this community. Young girls within this community usually get exposed to these risk factors that can lead to unplanned pregnancies. Poverty is a significant risk factor contributing to high teen pregnancy rates (Kane et al., 2008). A major risk factor in this community is the high poverty rate. Ruby lake is one of the most impoverished communities in the Riverbend city.

Further, in this community, more than eleven percent are unemployed, while nineteen percent of the youths do not have jobs. The city was once a major manufacturing hub, and most of these jobs had gotten moved into other locations. The community also gets probed by high incidences of adolescent mothers from older generations. This issue is a cyclical one, as young girls are in an environment where their mothers had babies when young, and most of their friends and age mates also have children early, making teen pregnancy normalized (Basch, 2011). Additionally, the lack of contraceptive care readily available for teenagers is also a significant risk factor.

The high teen pregnancy rate at Ruby Lake neighborhood can also get attributed to the lacking sex education curriculum at the high school. Although this high school has the highest teen pregnancy rate, there is little investment and effort in sex education. Sex education in schools can get taken as a very controversial issue. Numerous attempts to expand the sex education program at the school have, in the past, proved unfruitful with most parents against the program. As most individuals here are Catholics, contraceptives, and sexual education for adolescents get heavily opposed. With shallow sex education programs added with various risk factors facing young girls in the community, teen pregnancy rates can only get expected to increase (Basch, 2011). Most girls in this neighborhood usually face various issues that can get associated with low socioeconomic status.

**Existing Treatment and Service Providers**

Within the ruby lake community, there are several small clinics already set up. However, this neighborhood lacks a dedicated women’s clinic. Most youth and adolescents have experienced unreliable access to healthcare services. Guidance and counseling services also get offered for young mothers and pregnant teens. The Ruby Lake high school daycare center is another institution offering services to young mothers within the community high school. The program usually helps girls manage parenting while still at school, helping prevent dropping out. However, this daycare center is currently overrun and has a long waiting list of young mothers wanting to go back to school.

**Needs Identification**

There is a pressing need to address the high teen pregnancy rate at Ruby Lake neighborhood. Although the city’s teen pregnancy rate has gone down drastically in recent years, the rate at Ruby Lake is still high. The Ruby Lake high school daycare center is a program aiming at helping the young mothers within the school. This daycare center is, however, getting overwhelming and having to turn down young mothers. Teens in this community usually get introduced to contraceptives in their junior high school’s sex education curriculum. The sex education implemented at Ruby Lake is also lacking as it is just a little step from total abstinence.

**Assets Inventory**

This community has several health clinics. The community also has a daycare center for school going children at the ruby Lake high school. These clinics can collaborate with schools to provide contraceptive services to youths. Young girls within a community usually face several risk factors such as poverty and limited access to services, which leaves them hopeless and do not see a future for themselves (Basch, 2011). Further, there is a weak sex education established at Ruby Lake high school. There is a need to expand this curriculum. However, most residents within the community are conservative Catholics who do not support these programs.

**Ethical and Cultural Considerations**

Several cultural and ethical considerations will guide this program. The privacy of youths involved in the program is a significant concern. There is a need to ensure and maintain the confidentiality and privacy of involved individuals, establishing stronger trust and rapport. A significant consideration is religious differences in the community. Catholics tend to be conservative and, therefore, against contraceptive use and sex education in schools. There is a need for consideration of everyone’s cultural and religious views when designing this program. There is also a need for informed consent of youth and their voluntary participation (Connelly, 2014). The program should also get limited to assessing only components related to the issue while maintaining participants' anonymity. Anonymity usually helps in building trust and enhancing the participation of youths and adolescents.

When providing effective evidence-based reproductive healthcare services to teens, there is a need to understand the ethical and legal issues of confidentiality and informed consent. Understanding these issues usually presents several challenges to care providers. Informed consent can get defined as the active process between care providers and patients (Connelly, 2014). However, varying federal and state laws bring ambiguity and uncertainty around management options and practice policies. Within the reproductive health area, adolescent sexuality can get taken as the most ethnically and culturally charged issue. Care providers should get ready for various arising ethical dilemmas and cultural issues related to teenage reproductive and sexual health issues, including abortion and contraception. There is also a need to ensure the confidentiality, anonymity, and privacy of participants. Adolescents are more likely to participate in the program with trust that their identity gets protected.

References

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