

Lived Experiences of Teenage Fathers. A Descriptive Qualitative Study of Adolescent Fathers in a Community in Quezon City.

Ralph C. Tan, MD

Liah Ann G. Cruz, MD, Moses C. de Guzman III, MD, Rosa Maria H. Nancho, MD

**Adolescent Medicine Division
Philippine Children's Medical Center**

INTRODUCTION

There have been numerous studies in the Philippines on teenage parenthood, but these are from the perspective of the mothers. Adolescent fathers are subjects that are untapped and their lived experiences would provide vital insights that will benefit future programs on adolescent parenthood.



METHODS

Six teenage fathers were interviewed until saturation of information was met using a phenomenological approach. Interviews were transcribed verbatim and subjected to line by line coding. The themes were extracted via investigator triangulation from thematic data analysis.



CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

It was concluded that the initial negative reactions evoked by the idea of being adolescent fathers transitioned to acceptance of the responsibility, with the child as the main catalyst for the change in their priorities and be the provider for the family. Spirituality plays a vital role among the lives of Filipino adolescent fathers and they report that are happy with their lives despite the difficulties and challenges they face.

We recommend that the themes be used to pivot future studies on adolescent fathers for utilization in programs on teenage parenthood.

OBJECTIVES

To explore and describe the experiences of parenthood among teenage fathers. It is also our aim to elicit and highlight emerging themes that arise from their experiences.

RESULTS

Six common themes emerged. These are:

- 1.) **INITIAL FEAR TO BECOMING A FATHER**
- 2.) **ACCEPTANCE OF RESPONSIBILITY**
- 3.) **CHANGES IN PRIORITIES UPON BECOMING A FATHER**
- 4.) **FAMILY AS SOURCE OF INSPIRATION AND PERSEVERANCE**
- 5.) **SPIRITUALITY**
- 6.) **HAPPINESS DESPITE THE DIFFICULTIES.**

KEYWORDS: Adolescent, Fatherhood, Teenage Fatherhood, Adolescent Father, Qualitative Study, Phenomenological Study