



## Correlates of Unintended Pregnancy Among Senior Secondary School Students in Rivers South-East Senatorial District, Rivers State, Nigeria

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### Abstract

This study examined the correlates of unintended pregnancy among senior secondary school students in Rivers South-East Senatorial District. A cross-sectional research design was adopted. The population for the study consisted of eight thousand, and eighty-four (8,084) girls in public senior secondary schools in South-East Senatorial District. The sample size for this study was 1,143. A multi-stage sampling procedure was adopted. The instrument for data collection in this study was a structured questionnaire titled “Correlates of Unintended Pregnancy Questionnaire (CoUP-Q)” with a reliability coefficient of 0.79. The data analysis was done with the aid of the Statistical Product for Service Solution (SPSS) version 27.0, using Biserial correlation at 0.05 level of significance. The finding of the study revealed that, there was a significant positive relationship between unintended pregnancy and peer pressure ( $N = 1127$ ,  $r = 0.17$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ); parent-child communication ( $N = 1127$ ,  $r = 0.54$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ), and social media use ( $N = 1127$ ,  $r = 0.21$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ). It was concluded that, the correlates of both unintended pregnancy are deeply rooted in multifaceted social factors. It was recommended among others that parents should closely monitor and get acquainted with the peers of their adolescent children and be ready to share sexual information with them.

**Keywords:** Correlates, Pregnancy, Unintended, Students, South-East

### Introduction

Unintended pregnancy is a contemporary public health concerns in the world. It continues to occupy the front burner of national and international discuss because of its link to unsafe abortion and other consequences. About 16 million girls between the ages of 15 and 19 and about 2 million girls younger than 15 years give birth every year (WHO, 2014). According to World Health Organization (2023), globally, the adolescent birth rate for girls in 2022 was estimated at 1.5 per 1000 women with higher rates in sub-Saharan Africa (4.6) and Latin America and the Caribbean (2.4). In Africa, unintended pregnancy has also been identified as a major health problem. Sub-Saharan Africa has one of the world’s highest level of adolescent childbearing: 99.6 births per 1000 women aged 15-19 (Faria, 2021). As of 2019, adolescents aged 15–19 years in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) had an estimated 21 million pregnancies each year, of which approximately 50% were unintended and which resulted in an estimated 12 million births and unsafe abortion (Sully et al., 2020). Nigeria, has been implicated as having one of the highest rate of adolescent fertility. Considering the population of about 23 million girls aged 10 – 19 an estimated 1.6 million births occur each year in Nigeria within that age group (Kunnuji, 2020). Specifically, the Nigerian Demographic Health Survey show that the adolescent birth rate was 106 births per 1,000 women (NPC, 2019). Nigeria, has been implicated as having one of the highest rate of adolescent fertility. Considering the population of about 23 million girls aged 10 – 19 an estimated 1.6 million births occur each year in Nigeria within that age group (Kunnuji, 2020). Specifically, the Nigerian Demographic Health Survey show that the adolescent birth rate was 106 births per 1,000 women (NPC, 2019). South–South Nigeria where the study was carried out, is one of the regions in Nigeria with the highest rate (31.1%) of unintended pregnancy (CDC, 2022). Suggesting that some factors could be implicated, including parent-child communication, social media use, sexual behaviour and peer pressure. Peer pressure is the influence on members of a group to change a behaviour or conform to the norms of a group to which they belong. During adolescent years, adolescents naturally seek and cherish affirmation from peers. Thus, they tend to yield to pressure to engage in sexual intercourse to earn affirmation from peers. Teenagers engage in unhealthy sexual behaviours characterized by early and unsafe sexual experiences, as a result of peer pressure, curiosity and pleasure (Ali et

al., 2022). Harmful sexual behaviour among teenagers might include: tricking, forcing, coercing or threatening others to engage in sexual activities; sending sexual threats or unwanted sexual images to other people; using online pornography several times a day. Studies conducted by Isuku (2015) and Badaki and Adeola (2017) show that peer pressure has significant influence on unintended pregnancy among secondary school students.

Good parent-child communication about every issue including sexual health within the family is one of the factors that influences adolescents' sexual practices. It is the process of giving and receiving information benefits not only the children but every member of the family. According to Bell and Condren (2016), open and effective communication gives children a sense of security and willingness to do what they are expected to do. Parent-child communication is one of the ways family members influence teenagers risk taking behaviours. Frequent communication and expression of clear values about sexual intercourse are consequently associated with decreased adolescent risk taking to avert both unintended pregnancy and unsafe abortion. Those children who perceive less parent monitoring like scolding, which is a form of communication, are more likely to engage in risk-taking behaviours which include premarital sexual intercourse, unintended pregnancy (GetuMelese et al., 2016). Media influence results from the common means of communication in vogue like handsets. Young people are bombarded with sexual content in telephones and they may be more inclined to engage in sexual activities as a result of improvement in media and technology with massive usage (Chemutai et al., 2022). Increasing number of researches are finding association between exposure to media and unintended pregnancy. Social media has become an integrated part of daily life, with an estimated 3 billion social media users worldwide. In Rivers South-East Senatorial District, senior secondary is the last level of the two tier post primary schooling before tertiary education. Senior secondary school students are in late adolescent years, mostly between the ages 15 and 19 years. They are also subjected to psychological and physiological changes due to attendant hormonal changes. The resultant rapid changes bring about secondary sexual characteristics and the urge to experiment sexual intercourse (NPC, 2013). Unintended pregnancies among secondary school students pose a clear public health challenge, as it is associated with adverse health outcomes such as: sepsis, perforation of the uterus or intestines, hemorrhage, chronic pelvic infection, infertility, death, emotional harm, school dropout, and social disapproval and loss of economic prospects in their developmental years. Many eventually become economic burden on families and the society, while some even die in the process of unsafe abortion. Yet, in the study area, pregnancy among teenagers is now celebrated, as more and more children who are supposed to be in school are pregnant, and celebrated even by their parents, undermining the effects of the pregnancy. Hence this study investigated the correlates of unintended pregnancy among senior secondary school students in Rivers South-East Senatorial District. The following research questions guided the study:

1. What is the relationship between peer pressure and unintended pregnancy among senior secondary school students in Rivers South-East Senatorial District of Rivers State?
2. What is the relationship between parent-child communication and unintended pregnancy among senior secondary school students in Rivers South-East Senatorial District of Rivers State?
3. What is the relationship between social media use and unintended pregnancy among senior secondary school students in Rivers South-East Senatorial District of Rivers State?
4. What is the relationship between contraceptive use and unintended pregnancy among senior secondary school students in Rivers South-East Senatorial District of Rivers State?

### Hypotheses:

The following null hypotheses were formulated and tested at 0.05 level of significance to guide the study.

1. There is no significant relationship between peer pressure and unintended pregnancy among senior secondary school students in Rivers South-East Senatorial District of Rivers State.
2. There is no significant relationship between parent-child communication and unintended pregnancy among senior secondary school students in Rivers South-East Senatorial District of Rivers State.
3. There is no significant relationship between social media use and unintended pregnancy among senior secondary school students in Rivers South-East Senatorial District of Rivers State.
4. There is no significant relationship between contraceptive use and unintended pregnancy among senior secondary school students in Rivers South-East Senatorial District of Rivers State.

## Methodology

Cross sectional study design. The population for this study consisted of eight thousand, and eighty-four (8,084) girls in public senior secondary schools in South-East Senatorial District of Rivers State in 2022/2023 school year (Rivers State Senior Secondary Schools Board, Port Harcourt, 2023). The sample size for this study was 1,143 which was determined using Taro Yemane (1967) cited in Elendu (2010) formula calculated thus:  $n = N / 1 + N(e)^2$ . Where:  $n$  = Sample size,  $N$  = Population, 1 = Constant, and  $e$  = Tolerable error margin = 5% or 0.05.  $n = 381$ . This was multiplied by three represent each of the three LGAs chosen for the study, that is  $381 \times 3 = 1143$ . The study adopted a multistage sampling procedure in four stages. At stage 1, the simple random sampling technique was used to select three LGAs in the Senatorial District. At stage 2, the proportionate stratified sampling technique was used to determine the number of students to be sample in each LGA. At stage 3, simple random sampling (balloting without replacement) was conducted to select specific schools in accordance with the number of schools in the Local Government Areas. The instrument for data collection in this study was a structured questionnaire titled "Correlates of Unintended Pregnancy Questionnaire (CoUP-Q)". The questionnaire composed of 5 parts labeled A, B, C, D, and E. Part A was on demographic profile of respondents such as class of study, age and location while Section B focused on sexual behaviour, prevalence of unintended pregnancy on a Yes or No response format. Section C, D, and E focused on peer pressure, parent-child communication and social media use respectively on a modified four-point Likert Scale of very high extent, high extent, low extent and very low extent. A reliability coefficient of 0.79 was found. Data collected was analyzed with the aid of the Statistical Product for Service Solution (SPSS V-25). The Point Biserial Correlation was used to answer all the research questions and test all the hypotheses. The guide for answering the research questions is as follow: 0.00-0.19 is very low, 0.20-0.39 is low, 0.40-0.59 moderate, 0.60-0.79 high and 0.80 above is very high. The decision to accept or reject a hypothesis was based on the p-value. P-value lesser than 0.05 indicates that the finding is significant and as such the null hypothesis reject and vis visa.

## Results

**Table 1: Biserial Correlations analysis showing relationship between peer pressure and unintended pregnancy among senior secondary school students in Rivers South-East Senatorial District**

| Variables                   |                         | Unintended pregnancy | Peer pressure | Decision              |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Unintended pregnancy</b> | Correlation coefficient | 1                    | 0.17          | Very low relationship |
|                             | N                       | 1127                 | 1127          |                       |
| <b>Peer pressure</b>        | Correlation coefficient | 0.17                 | 1             |                       |
|                             | Sig                     | 1127                 | 1127          |                       |

Guide: 0.00-0.19 = very low, 0.20-0.39 = low, 0.40-0.59 = moderate, 0.60-0.79 = high and 0.80 above is very high relationship

Table 1 presents the Biserial Correlations analysis on relationship between peer pressure and unintended pregnancy among senior secondary school students. The result revealed a correlation coefficient,  $r = 0.17$  indicating a very low relationship ( $N = 1127$ ,  $r = 0.17$ ). Thus, the null hypothesis which stated that there is no significant relationship between peer pressure and unintended pregnancy among senior secondary school students in Rivers South-East Senatorial District of Rivers State was very low.

**Table 2: Biserial Correlations analysis showing relationship between parent-child communication and unintended pregnancy among senior secondary school students in Rivers South-East Senatorial District**

| Variables                         |                         | Unintended pregnancy | Parent-child communication | Decision              |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Unintended pregnancy</b>       | Correlation coefficient | 1                    | 0.54                       | Moderate relationship |
|                                   | N                       | 1127                 | 1127                       |                       |
| <b>Parent-child communication</b> | Correlation coefficient | 0.54                 | 1                          |                       |
|                                   | Sig                     | 1127                 | 1127                       |                       |

Guide: 0.00-0.19 = very low, 0.20-0.39 = low, 0.40-0.59 = moderate, 0.60-0.79 = high and 0.80 above is very high relationship

Table 2 presents the Biserial Correlations analysis on relationship between parent-child communication and unintended pregnancy among senior secondary school students. The result revealed a correlation coefficient,  $r = 0.54$  indicating a moderate relationship ( $N = 1127$ ,  $r = 0.54$ ). Thus, the null hypothesis which stated that there is no significant relationship between parent-child communication and unintended pregnancy among senior secondary school students in Rivers South-East Senatorial District of Rivers State was moderate.

**Table 3: Biserial Correlations analysis showing relationship between social media use and unintended pregnancy among senior secondary school students in Rivers South-East Senatorial District**

| Variables                   |                         | Unintended pregnancy | Social media use | Decision         |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <b>Unintended pregnancy</b> | Correlation coefficient | 1                    | 0.21             | Low relationship |
|                             | N                       | 1127                 | 1127             |                  |
| <b>Social media use</b>     | Correlation coefficient | 0.21                 | 1                |                  |
|                             | Sig                     | 1127                 | 1127             |                  |

Guide: 0.00-0.19 = very low, 0.20-0.39 = low, 0.40-0.59 = moderate, 0.60-0.79 = high and 0.80 above is very high relationship

Table 3 presents the Biserial Correlations analysis on relationship between social media use and unintended pregnancy among senior secondary school students. The result revealed a correlation coefficient,  $r = 0.21$  indicating a low relationship ( $N = 1127$ ,  $r = 0.21$ ). Thus, the null hypothesis which stated that there is no significant relationship between social media use and unintended pregnancy among senior secondary school students in Rivers South-East Senatorial District of Rivers State was low.

**Table 4: Biserial Correlations analysis showing relationship between contraceptive use and unintended pregnancy among senior secondary school students in Rivers South-East Senatorial District**

| Variables                   |                         | Unintended pregnancy | Contraceptive use | Decision                       |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Unintended pregnancy</b> | Correlation coefficient | 1                    | -0.19             | Very low negative relationship |
|                             | N                       | 1127                 | 1127              |                                |
| <b>Contraceptive use</b>    | Correlation coefficient | -0.19                | 1                 |                                |
|                             | Sig                     | 1127                 | 1127              |                                |

Guide: 0.00-0.19 = very low, 0.20-0.39 = low, 0.40-0.59 = moderate, 0.60-0.79 = high and 0.80 above is very high relationship

Table 4 presents the Biserial Correlations analysis on relationship between contraceptive use and unintended pregnancy among senior secondary school students. The result revealed a correlation coefficient,  $r = -0.19$  indicating a very low negative relationship ( $N = 1127$ ,  $r = -0.19$ ). Thus, the null hypothesis which stated that there is no significant relationship between contraceptive use and unintended pregnancy among senior secondary school students in Rivers South-East Senatorial District of Rivers State was negatively low.

**Table 5 Biserial Correlations analysis showing relationship between peer pressure and unintended pregnancy among senior secondary school students in Rivers South-East Senatorial District**

| Variables                   |                         | Unintended pregnancy | Peer pressure | Decision       |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------|----------------|
| <b>Unintended pregnancy</b> | Correlation coefficient | 1                    | 0.17          | $H_0$ rejected |
|                             | Sig.                    |                      | 0.00*         |                |
|                             | N                       | 1127                 | 1127          |                |
| <b>Peer pressure</b>        | Correlation coefficient | 0.17                 | 1             |                |
|                             | Sig                     | 0.00*                |               |                |
|                             | N                       | 1127                 | 1127          |                |

**\*Significant;  $p < 0.05$** 

Table 5 presents the Biserial Correlations analysis on relationship between peer pressure and unintended pregnancy among senior secondary school students. The result revealed that there was a statistically significant relationship between peer pressure and unintended pregnancy as  $p < 0.05$  ( $N = 1127$ ,  $r = 0.17$ ,  $p = 0.00$ ). Thus, the null hypothesis which stated that there is no significant relationship between peer pressure and unintended pregnancy among senior secondary school students in Rivers South-East Senatorial District of Rivers State was rejected.

**Table 6: Biserial Correlations analysis showing relationship between parent-child communication and unintended pregnancy among senior secondary school students in Rivers South-East Senatorial District**

| Variables                         |                         | Unintended pregnancy | Parent-child communication | Decision       |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Unintended pregnancy</b>       | Correlation coefficient | 1                    | 0.54                       | $H_0$ rejected |
|                                   | Sig.                    |                      | 0.00*                      |                |
|                                   | N                       | 1127                 | 1127                       |                |
| <b>Parent-child communication</b> | Correlation coefficient | 0.54                 | 1                          |                |
|                                   | Sig                     | 0.00*                |                            |                |
|                                   | N                       | 1127                 | 1127                       |                |

**\*Significant;  $p < 0.05$** 

Table 6 presents the Biserial Correlations analysis on relationship between parent-child communication and unintended pregnancy among senior secondary school students. The result revealed that there was a statistically significant relationship between parent-child communication and unintended pregnancy as  $p < 0.05$  ( $N = 1127$ ,  $r = 0.54$ ,  $p = 0.00$ ). Thus, the null hypothesis which stated that there is no significant relationship between parent-child communication and unintended pregnancy among senior secondary school students in Rivers South-East Senatorial District of Rivers State was rejected.

**Table 7: Biserial Correlations analysis showing relationship between social media use and unintended pregnancy among senior secondary school students in Rivers South-East Senatorial District**

| Variables                   |                         | Unintended pregnancy | Social media use | Decision       |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|------------------|----------------|
| <b>Unintended pregnancy</b> | Correlation coefficient | 1                    | 0.21             | $H_0$ rejected |
|                             | Sig.                    |                      | 0.00*            |                |
|                             | N                       | 1127                 | 1127             |                |
| <b>Social media use</b>     | Correlation coefficient | 0.21                 | 1                |                |
|                             | Sig                     | 0.00*                |                  |                |
|                             | N                       | 1127                 | 1127             |                |

**\*Significant;  $p < 0.05$** 

Table 7 presents the Biserial Correlations analysis on relationship between social media use and unintended pregnancy among senior secondary school students. The result revealed that there was a statistically significant relationship between social media use and unintended pregnancy as  $p < 0.05$  ( $N = 1127$ ,  $r = 0.21$ ,  $p = 0.00$ ). Thus, the null hypothesis which stated that there is no significant relationship between social media use and unintended pregnancy among senior secondary school students in Rivers South-East Senatorial District of Rivers State was rejected.

**Table 8: Biserial Correlations analysis showing relationship between contraceptive use and unintended pregnancy among senior secondary school students in Rivers South-East Senatorial District**

| Variables            |                         | Unintended pregnancy | Contraceptive use | Decision       |
|----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Unintended pregnancy | Correlation coefficient | 1                    | -0.19             | $H_0$ rejected |
|                      | Sig.                    |                      | 0.00*             |                |
|                      | N                       | 1127                 | 1127              |                |
| Contraceptive use    | Correlation coefficient | -0.19                | 1                 |                |
|                      | Sig.                    | 0.00*                |                   |                |
|                      | N                       | 1127                 | 1127              |                |

\*Significant;  $p < 0.05$

Table 8 presents the Biserial Correlations analysis on relationship between contraceptive use and unintended pregnancy among senior secondary school students. The result revealed that there was a statistically significant relationship between contraceptive use and unintended pregnancy as  $p < 0.05$  ( $N = 1127$ ,  $r = -0.19$ ,  $p = 0.00$ ). Thus, the null hypothesis which stated that there is no significant relationship between contraceptive use and unintended pregnancy among senior secondary school students in Rivers South-East Senatorial District of Rivers State was rejected.

### Discussion

The result in Table 1 revealed that there was a very low relationship between peer pressure and unintended pregnancy but that relationship was significant. This finding was expected because the respondents who are secondary school students are majorly adolescents, who mainly depend on their peers for free conversations about sexual and reproductive health in a society such as this, where discussion about sexual matters among young people is discouraged by adults. This implies that peer pressure to some extent is a correlate of unintended pregnancy as it still plays a role in unintended pregnancy. Thus addressing peer pressure could be a useful addition in comprehensive preventive strategies. Underrating the influence of peer pressure on unintended pregnancy is tantamount to insincerity in adolescent sexual and reproductive health programmes and programming. The finding of this study corroborates that of Mathewos and Mekuri (2018) study on unintended pregnancy and its associated factors among school adolescents of Arba Minch Town, Southern Ethiopia, which showed a significant relationship between peer pressure and unintended pregnancy. The finding of this study is in line with that of Samuel and Aleme (2018) study on unintended pregnancy and its associated factors (correlates) among school adolescents of Arba Minch Town in Southern Ethiopia, which showed a significant relationship between peer pressure and unintended pregnancy. The finding of this study gives credence to that of Yohannes et al. (2020) also carried out a study on unintended pregnancy in Woged, Northeast Ethiopia, which showed a significant relationship between peer pressure and unintended pregnancy. The result of this study gives credence to that of Peter-Kio (2021) whose study on the prevalence, determinants and complications of adolescent pregnancy in Port-Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria revealed that peer pressure was significantly associated with adolescent pregnancy. The finding of this study corroborates that of Hernandez et al. (2022) studied the factors associated with unintended pregnancy among junior high school students in the Talensi District of the Upper East Region of Ghana, which showed a significant relationship between peer pressure and unintended pregnancy. The similarity found might be due to the homogeneity of the study population as they were both focused adolescents or secondary school students.

The result in Table 2 revealed that there was a moderately significant relationship between parent-child communication and unintended pregnancy. This finding is not surprising considering the current economic challenges, more parents are occupied with money-making adventures than spending time to discuss with their children. This in turn could make some of them to depend on peers for sexual information which may mislead them to risky sexual behaviour, resulting to unintended pregnancy. On the other hand, parents having frequent communication and expression of clear values about sexual intercourse are consequently associated with decreased adolescent risk taking to avert both unintended pregnancy. However, it is important to note that parent-child communication matters. Improved parent-child communication could lead to decrease in unintended pregnancy rate making it a valuable target for intervention. The finding of this study is in tandem with that of

Habitu et al. (2018) study on the prevalence and associated factors of unintended pregnancy in Wogedi, Northeast Ethiopia, which showed a significant relationship between parent-child communication and unintended pregnancy. The finding of this study is akin to that of Ajayi et al. (2017) study on the prevalence and determinants of unintended pregnancy in Africa, which showed a significant relationship between parent-child communication on sexual matters and unintended pregnancy. The finding of this study is in consonance with that of Alene et al. (2020) study on determinants of unintended pregnancy among adolescents in Northern Ethiopia, which showed a significant relationship between parent-child communication on sexual matters and unintended pregnancy. The finding of this study gives credence to that of Mathewos and Mekuri (2018) study on unintended pregnancy and its associated factors among school adolescents of Arba Minch Town, Southern Ethiopia, which showed a significant relationship between parent-child communication on sexual matters and unintended pregnancy. The finding of this study is in keeping with that of Kassa et al. (2018) study on the prevalence and determinants of adolescent pregnancy in Africa which showed a significant relationship between parent-child communication on sexual matters and unintended pregnancy. The finding of this study is in line with that of Samuel and Aleme (2018) study on unintended pregnancy and its associated factors (correlates) among school adolescents of Arba Minch Town in Southern Ethiopia, which showed a significant relationship between parent-child communication and unintended pregnancy. The result of this study gives credence to that of Peter-Kio (2021) whose study on the prevalence, determinants and complications of adolescent pregnancy in Port-Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria revealed that ever-discussed sexual life with parents was significantly associated with adolescent pregnancy. The result of this study gives credence to that of Chemutai et al. (2022) whose study on the prevalence and factors associated with unintended pregnancy among patients in Mbale Regional Referral Hospital in Eastern Uganda revealed that a significant relationship between parent-child communication and adolescent pregnancy. The similarity found might be due to the homogeneity of the study population as they were both focused adolescents or secondary school students.

The result in Table 3 revealed that there was a low but significant relationship between social media use and unintended pregnancy. This finding may not be argued against because in recent time, social media has become an integral part of daily life and has gained high usage among adolescents due to technological advancement. Having a lower rate of regulation, young people are bombarded with sexual content in social media and they may be more inclined to engage in sexual activities, which if not checked can lead to unintended pregnancy. The finding of this study corroborates that of Kiarie and Mercy (2016) whose study on social media and unintended pregnancy among students in secondary schools in Meru County, Kenya showed a significant relationship between social media use and unintended pregnancy among the secondary school students. The finding of this study is in tandem with that of Kearney and Levine (2014) study on media influences on social outcomes and on teen childbearing in the United States which showed a significant relationship between social media use and unintended pregnancy among the secondary school students. The result revealed that there was a low negative but significant relationship between contraceptive use and unintended pregnancy. This finding is expected thus not surprising because contraceptive use is a key strategy to prevent unintended pregnant thus, failure to use it increases the chances of unintended pregnancy. Consequently, more adolescents who fail to use contraceptive will become victims of unintended pregnancy while those who use it consistently and appropriately will successfully prevent themselves from unintended pregnancy.

The finding of this study is in tandem with that of Habitu et al. (2017) study on the prevalence and associated factors of unintended pregnancy in Wogedi, Northeast Ethiopia, which showed a significant relationship between non-use of contraceptives and unintended pregnancy. The finding of this study is in tandem with that of Donatus et al. (2018) study on factors associated with adolescent school girl's pregnancy in Kumbo, which showed a significant relationship between non-use of contraceptives and unintended pregnancy. The finding of this study is in line with that of Samuel and Aleme (2018) study on unintended pregnancy and its associated factors (correlates) among school adolescents of Arba Minch Town in Southern Ethiopia, which showed a significant relationship between contraceptive use and unintended pregnancy. The finding of this study gives credence to that of Yohannes et al. (2018) also carried out a study on unintended pregnancy in Woged, Northeast Ethiopia, which showed a significant relationship between contraceptive use and unintended pregnancy. The result of this study gives credence to that of Peter-Kio (2021) whose study on the prevalence, determinants and complications of adolescent pregnancy in Port-Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria revealed that contraceptive use was significantly associated with adolescent pregnancy. The result of this study gives credence to that of Ahinkorah et al. (2021) study on the prevalence of first adolescent pregnancy and its associated factors in sub-Saharan Africa revealed that contraceptive use was significantly associated with adolescent pregnancy. The result of this study gives credence to that of Chemutai et al. (2022) whose study on the prevalence and factors associated with unintended pregnancy among patients in Mbale Regional Referral Hospital in Eastern Uganda revealed that a significant relationship between contraceptive use and adolescent pregnancy.

The result in Table 4 revealed that there was a high significant relationship between peer pressure and unsafe abortion. This finding was expected because the respondents who are secondary school students are majorly adolescents, who mainly depend on their peers for free conversations about sexual and reproductive health in a society such as this, where discussion about sexual matters among young people is discouraged by adults. The implication of this is that, more adolescents will have higher chances of being misinformed by their peers and myths about sexual activities continue to prevail, leading to higher rates of unintended pregnancy and consequently, unsafe abortion. The finding of this study is in similar to that of Dhar (2017) study on the associated factors towards safe abortion among female students of Kebribayah town of Somali region, Ethiopia which showed a significant relationship between peer pressure and unsafe abortion. The finding of this study is in line with that of Rasch et al. (2014) study on unsafe abortion in Tanzania which showed a relationship between peer pressure and unsafe abortion as a consequence of unintended pregnancy. The similarity found might be due to the homogeneity of the study population as they were both focused adolescents or secondary school students.

### Conclusion

In conclusion the correlates of both unintended pregnancy and unsafe abortion are deeply rooted in multifaceted social factors. Based on the findings of the study, the positive correlates of unintended pregnancy and unsafe abortion are peer pressure, parent-child communication, and social media use; whereas, contraceptive use was negatively correlated with both variables.

### Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations were made:

1. Peer pressure was a significant correlate, thus, parents should closely monitor and get acquainted with the peers of their adolescent children and be ready to share sexual information with them.
2. Parents, both mother and father should make themselves available and be open to their adolescents for discussion about sex.
3. The Ministry of Education should ensure that topics on influence of social media are integrated into the syllabus through appropriate carrier subjects.
4. The Planned Parenthood Federation of Nigeria should intensify their effort to curb unintended pregnancy by making the distribution of contraceptive like condom, a continuous exercise in the secondary schools in Rivers South-East.

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