

## REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-53119

Date: 05.08.2025

**Title:** The Impact of Teenage Pregnancy on Educational Attainment: Perspectives from Educators and Health Professionals in Pujehun District, Sierra Leone

### Recommendation:

Accept as it is .....

**Accept after minor revision ✓**

Accept after major revision .....

Do not accept (*Reasons below*) .....

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		✓		
Techn. Quality			✓	
Clarity			✓	
Significance			✓	

Reviewer Name: Dr P Karthikeyan

**Date:** 05.08.2025

### Reviewer's Comment for Publication.

This paper highlights the detrimental impact of teenage pregnancy on school attendance and academic performance from a local stakeholder perspective. Its qualitative insights are valuable for shaping responsive policies and support mechanisms in adolescent education. However, the analysis section lacks clarity—particularly in how themes were derived and interpreted. Thematic procedures are mentioned, but the process of coding and data interpretation is not sufficiently explained. Minor revisions are needed to enhance methodological transparency and conclusion depth.

# International Journal of Advanced Research

Publisher's Name: Jana Publication and Research LLP

*www.journalijar.com*

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### Detailed Reviewer's Report

#### 1. Originality – Good

The topic of teenage pregnancy and its effects on school attendance is socially and academically significant, particularly in underrepresented communities. The focus on stakeholder perceptions (teachers, parents, health workers, and school heads) provides a multifaceted lens that adds to the originality of the research.

#### 2. Methodology – Fair

The study adopts a qualitative descriptive design using semi-structured interviews. While the participant selection is clearly justified through purposive sampling, there are gaps in the methodology section. For instance, details about the interview protocol (e.g., number of questions, sample questions, duration), ethical clearance, and trustworthiness criteria (such as triangulation, peer debriefing, or member checking) are missing.

#### 3. Structure and Clarity – Good

The manuscript is generally well-structured with sections such as Introduction, Methodology, Results, and Conclusion. However, transitions between sections can be improved, and paragraph alignment should be checked for consistency. Minor grammatical corrections would also enhance clarity.

#### 4. Data Presentation and Interpretation – Fair

While the authors state that thematic analysis (Braun & Clarke, 2006) was used, the process is insufficiently elaborated. It is unclear **how codes were derived, how themes emerged, and what steps were followed** in line with Braun & Clarke's six-phase framework. Additionally, sample quotes from participants are missing, which weakens the evidence base. The analysis section needs significant enhancement for better clarity and rigor.

#### 5. Citations and References – Good

The references cited are mostly appropriate and relevant. However, some formatting inconsistencies (such as APA citation details and year alignment) were observed. A closer adherence to APA 7th edition will improve the professionalism of the paper.