

The Effects of Watching Teen Pregnant Girl Movies on Shaping Iranian Teen Girls' Tendency to Get Pregnant

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Abstract— The current survey aims to conduct the effects of watching teen pregnant girl movies on shaping Iranian teen girls' tendency to get pregnant during the teenage years. The target population in this study comprised of Tehran high school teenage girls between the ages of 15–18, and in grade 10–12. The study utilized a static group comparison pre-experimental design and data collection is not randomized. A sample of 143 teenage girls divided into two control and experimental groups. Then teenage girls in the experimental group watched 'I am Taraneh, 15 years old' film. And girls in the control group did not watch any film. All the participants, subsequently, answered the BSRI questionnaire and they were asked if they are willing to have a child. The assessment instruments are Bem Sex Role Inventory (BSRI) and 'I am Taraneh, 15 years old' movie. BSRI was created by Sandra Bem based on Gender role stereotypes theory and is a measure of masculinity-femininity and gender roles. The movie is a 2002 Iranian film directed by Rasul Sadrameli. Based on its content, Taraneh, has very and many things in common with Juno; of course with respect to Iranian native culture. The findings of the survey showed that there is no significant relationship between watching teen pregnant girl movies and tendency to get pregnant in Iranian teen girls. However, in both control and experimental group, teenage girls are having a great tendency to get pregnant (58.74 percentage of all the participants). This tendency in teenage girls with higher feminine traits is higher than teenage girls with lower feminine traits. It means teenage girls will be on the edge of getting pregnant by the slightest stimulation from media (audio, video, written); regardless of the consequences of it. As it occurred in realizing Juno.

Keywords— teen pregnancy, teen pregnant girl movies, Gender role stereotypes theory

I. INTRODUCTION

Teen pregnancy (ages 15-19 years)

Today addressing issues of adolescent (teen) girls health, Today addressing issues of adolescent (teen) girls health, has a significant importance. Based on National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), three in 10 young women give birth before the age of 20 years, and one in five of those women will go on to have a subsequent birth while still in their teens (Martin et al, 2013). In particular, preventing teen pregnancy should rank as a major priority, due to the pressing emotional, social, health, and financial consequences for both parents and their children (Howard, 2014).

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For example, researchers found teen mothers who have birth are less likely to complete school, work or maintain economic self sufficiency (Olds, 1988).

The whole government effort is that, by using Teen Pregnancy Prevention Programs, to postpone teen pregnancy between young girls. But Teen girls are affected by the political, social, local and even media discourses around teenage pregnancy (Greene, 2006).

In the following, one of the examples of media impact is discussed.

An example of media impact: Juno, A film that broke all the equations

Juno is a 2007 Canadian-American comedy-drama film, directed by Jason Reitman and written by Diablo Cody. Ellen Page stars as the title character, an independent-minded teenager confronting an unplanned pregnancy and the subsequent events that put pressures of adult life onto her. It premiered on September 8 at the 2007 Toronto International Film Festival, receiving a standing ovation.

The interesting social point about this film is, in 2008, after 17 students under sixteen years of age at a Gloucester, Massachusetts high school became pregnant, *Time* magazine called it the "Juno Effect".^[86] *Time* stated that some adults dismissed the statistic as an outlier while others accused films such as *Juno* for glamorizing teenage pregnancy. Kristelle Miller, an Adolescent Psychology Professor at University of Minnesota-Duluth stated that "[t]he 'Juno effect' is how media glamorizes pregnancy and how it's also... pregnancy is also redemptive of any past problems".^[87] Although it still has its proponents and critics; this research is to study the role of films such as Juno in changing teen girls' point of view about their own gender and also getting pregnant during adolescent. Regarding the fore mentioned issue, this research is to find answer to the following question:

1. Do Watching teen pregnant girl movies increase tendency to get pregnant during the teenage years, between Iranian teen girls?

II. METHODOLOGY

The study utilized a *static group comparison* pre-experimental *design*. In the static group comparison study, two groups are chosen, one of which receives the treatment and the other does not. A posttest score is then determined to measure

the difference, after treatment, between the two groups. In this design, data collection is not randomized.

III. POPULATION AND SAMPLING

The target population in this study comprised of Tehran high school teenage girls between the ages of 15–18, and in grade 10–12. A sample of 143 teenage girls divided into two control and experimental groups. Then teenage girls in the experimental group watched “I am taraneh, 15 years old” film. And girls in the control group did not watch any film. All the participants, subsequently, were asked if they are willing to have a child.

IV. INSTRUMENTS

Bem Sex Role Inventory (BSRI)

The Bem Sex-Role Inventory (BSRI) was created by Sandra Bem based on *Gender role stereotypes theory* and is a measure of masculinity-femininity and gender roles. It assesses how people identify themselves psychologically. The test is formatted with 60 different personality traits which participants rate themselves based on a 7-point Likert scale. Traits are evenly dispersed, 20 masculine, 20 feminine, and 20 filler traits thought to be gender neutral.^[2] All traits in the BSRI are positively valued personality aspects. This inventory, based on many research, has an appropriate reliability and validity in Iran (Khamseh, 1383).

"I am taraneh, 15 years old" " movie

This movie is a 2002 Iranian film directed by Rasul Sadrameli. The film was selected as the Iranian entry for the Best Foreign Language Film at the 75th Academy Awards, but it did not make the final shortlist. Fifteen-year-old Taraneh, whose widowed father is in jail, refuses the unwanted attentions of carpet salesman Amir - until Amir's mother talks Taraneh into accepting Amir's marriage proposal. Within four months the couple realizes that they are incompatible, they divorce and Amir emigrates back to Germany. When Taraneh discovers she is pregnant, she decides against all advice and intense social pressure, to keep the baby.

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V. FINDINGS

Results from independent T test analyses, in this study, showed that there is no significant relationship between watching teen pregnant girl movies and tendency to get pregnant in Iranian teen girls. This insignificant relationship can be defined by different reasons; in today's world of media, the content and form of media is *changing* at an ever-increasing pace and all the people, including adolescents, are influenced by these changes daily and even hourly. And as a result, it may has been very different impact on teenage girls watched Taraneh this year and who watched it 14 years ago (2002 Iranian film). It would be the best, if another movie with the same content produced in 2015 can be used in this study.

In that case, teenage girls would make more identification with the main character.

However, in both control and experimental group, teenage girls are having a great tendency to get pregnant (58.74 percentage of all the participants). This tendency in teenage girls with higher feminine traits is higher than teenage girls with lower feminine traits. It means teenage girls will be on the edge of getting pregnant by the slightest stimulation from media (audio, video, written); regardless of the consequences of it. As it occurred in realizing Juno.

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