



# Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women

(Deemed to be University under Category A by MHRD, Estd. u/s 3 of UGC Act 1956)  
Re-accredited with A+ Grade by NAAC. Recognised by UGC Under Section 12 B  
Coimbatore - 641 043, Tamil Nadu, India



**Proceedings of  
33<sup>rd</sup> Biennial Conference of  
Home Science Association of India (HSAI)  
on  
Trends for Futuristic Development in  
Home Science: Research and Innovation**

**22<sup>nd</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> January 2020**



*Organized by*

**School of Home Science**

*Venue*

**Thiruchitrambalam Auditorium**

*Paper submitted for the category of Mid-Career Award  
This research paper is the post-doctoral research work carried out by Dr. Ramya Bhaskar  
(Presenting author) awarded by UGC-DSRPDFHS*

### **Physical, Cognitive and Behavioural outcomes of Children Born to Teenage Mothers**

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#### **ABSTRACT**

Teenage pregnancy is one of the most important social and public health concern both in developed and developing world. WHO (2004) defines ‘Adolescent Pregnancy’ as pregnancy in a women aged 10-19 years. Globally 15 million teenage girls under the age of 20 give birth, representing up to one-fifth of all births. South Asian countries including India have high proportions of teenage pregnancies as teenage pregnancy is a result of the traditional values of early marriage and a social expectation to have a child soon after marriage. The incidence of teenage pregnancy is also increasing due to early onset of puberty, early sexual activity in girls and relatively lack of education on contraceptive methods. Children born to mothers who begin childbearing at a teen age experience a variety of negative outcomes due to mediating variables such as mother’s age, maternal education, maternal health habits, ineffective parenting and supervision. Children of teen mothers displayed a significantly lower mean of height and weight; they are more vulnerable to malnutrition and more maladjusted in terms of physical growth, intellectual functioning and behavior problems. The deleterious effect of being born as children to young teens remained statistically significant on children’s cognitive achievement scores. The present cross sectional study based on retrospective-prospective cohort design using record linkage revealed that maternal age was a definite predictor of physical, cognitive and behavioural outcomes of children. There was an interplay between the mother’s age and physical, cognitive, behavior outcomes of children in influencing the development. The study concluded that maternal age and the coexisting factors like socio economic status, mother’s education, occupation and family background influences children’s development. A systematic and planned education intervention programmes for the teenage girls and their parents may avoid the risk of teenage pregnancy and its adverse outcome on children as well as mothers.



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### Award Certificate

This is to certify that *Dr. Ramya Bhaskar*, Assistant Professor.....  
*Dept. of Human Development, Avinashilingam Institute, Coimbatore*.....  
has won Mid Career Award for the Paper entitled *Physical, Cognitive and Behavioural*.....  
*Outcomes of Children born to Teen mothers*..... in the  
33<sup>rd</sup> Biennial Conference of Home Science Association of India (HSAI) on "Trends for Futuristic Development in  
Home Science: Research and Innovation" held from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

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