

Creating Opportunities Through Awareness and Prevention

According to the 2024-2025 Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), the Philippines has one of the highest rates of teenage pregnancy in Southeast Asia. Cases among girls aged 10-14 increased by 58%, rising from 2,113 in 2020 to 3,433 in 2023. Additionally, nearly 60% of young women who leave school early identify motherhood as the primary reason for discontinuing their education. These statistics highlight the urgent need for awareness, guidance, and support for young people.

At Pearl S. Buck Foundation Philippines (PSBP), the impact of teenage pregnancy has been seen firsthand, with some scholars forced to pause or end their education due to early pregnancy. To address this challenge, PSBP included a Teenage Pregnancy Awareness Seminar in its 2025 Summer Program, reaching 200 participants, 121 junior and senior high school students and 79 parents, from Bulacan, Pampanga, Olongapo City, and Ormoc City.



Led by PSBP staff members Carren D. Komicho, RSW, Supervising Social Worker, and Teresita R. Latoza, RGC, Executive Director, the seminar focused on decision making-skills, the physical and emotional consequences of teenage pregnancy, and the opportunities that can be lost when education is interrupted. Parents were also encouraged to play an active role in guiding their children and monitoring their online and social activities.

The success of the seminar is measured not only by attendance but by the futures it helped protect. By providing young people and their families with knowledge and practical guidance, the program empowered participants to make informed choices about their education and future goals.

The seminar was part of PSBP's broader Summer Program, which maximizes the school break by engaging sponsored children and youth in meaningful, educational activities. These programs help keep young people focused on personal growth while reducing exposure to the negative influences of excessive social media use, online gaming, and gambling.

Through initiatives like this, PSBP continues to reinforce its commitment to helping children and youth embrace brighter futures through education, guidance, and informed decision making.

Help Fund a Project in the Philippines

Please consider funding one of these important overseas projects benefiting the education, healthcare, and nutrition of children in need. The success of these projects is only possible with the generosity of donors like you.



Many families in the Philippines do not have the means to purchase any kinds of vitamins.

Help impoverished families of sponsored children be able to afford vitamins to boost their immune systems and help improve their overall health and ability to fight illness.

https://pearlsbuck.org/bbwp_projects/vitamins-for-filipino-children-philippines/



Children who are victims of sexual abuse experience psychological trauma that affects their well-being and self-understanding. Providing interventions that include stress management, trauma-informed care, and art therapy such as music and dance help these children to heal and regain their confidence and self-worth.

https://pearlsbuck.org/bbwp_projects/psychological-intervention-for-girls-who-have-been-victims-of-sexual-abuse-philippines/



Provide the opportunity for 50 ALS graduates to pursue vocational courses for one year. Studying health care, IT and technology, trades and construction, business and office administration, hospitality and culinary arts and other trade avenues can change their lives and give them a brighter future.

https://pearlsbuck.org/bbwp_projects/vocational-training-for-alternative-learning-system-students-philippines/



This Disaster Preparedness Project has two components. First, it intends to conduct a seminar that will teach the sponsored children and their parents the importance of environmental protection, disaster preparedness, and disease prevention. Second, the beneficiaries will receive boots, raincoats, umbrellas, and disaster kits which they can use during the rainy season and at times when strong typhoons or earthquakes hit their communities. This rain gear will also protect them from certain water-borne diseases that are widespread during the rainy season and excessive flooding.

https://pearlsbuck.org/bbwp_projects/disaster/