

P3.15 Constructing and Reconstructing the Single Mother: A Critical review of the Social Support System for Young Single Mothers in Nigeria. - **Oluwatosin Omole**, Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria; **Oluwatosin Ogunwale**, Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria; **Akinloluwa Orioke**, Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria; **Babatunde Adediran**, Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria
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Background/Significance: With the high rate of premarital and unprotected sex among young people, the incidence of young unwed mothers is increasing in many parts of the world. However, In Nigeria like in many traditional African societies, the issue of single motherhood remains stigmatized and very little is known about the state of social support for the group.

Research: This paper aims to review the social support system for young unwed mothers and their impact, It also provides suggestions on how the social systems can be made more effective.

Methodology: Drawing on primary and secondary data, the paper examines the various societal responses to the issue of the young unwed mother. It examines the programs, services and facilities that have been provided by the government, religious organizations, NGOs and foundations.

Findings: Based on the findings, we offer a perspective on the ideological undertones of the assistance given to these single mothers and outlines how these institutions 1) Construct single motherhood 2) Reconstruct the single mother – what role she should play after birth and how she integrates back fully into the society.

Conclusion: A vigorous social support system can help in rehabilitation of the young unwed mother and give her a second chance at life. This paper advocates a more holistic and realistic approach of addressing the issue