

***Adolescent paternity and transition to adulthood: a quantitative glance in a context of social marginalization***

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***Abstract:***

*The objective of this investigation was to reveal the experiences and meanings that male teen agers grant to early paternity in a context of urban marginalization in the State of Nuevo León, Mexico. The investigation was qualitative, under the theoretical line of social constructionism. The target population was integrated by men under 19 years old that have at least one baby attended at the Clinic of Health of the State. The interviews were made in groups of 4, at first, and later in depth to 12 teen agers. The analysis of the information was inductive. The findings revealed that the meanings of paternity to adolescent men are related to their personal experiences referring to the ideas of responsibility and rupture. The social construction of responsibility refer to the performance as good fathers, and the care (as economic protection and affective care) the young males give to their couples and children. On the other hand, the rupture makes reference to the split from their adolescence, where the paternity allows them to enter in the adulthood.*

***Key words:*** *adolescence, paternity, sexuality and reproduction, social marginalization.*

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