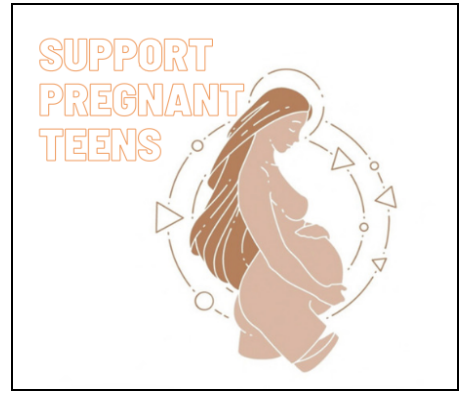


Support Pregnant Teenagers

We are a student-organized group from **Chadwick International School** in South Korea that aims to **support pregnant teenagers** who struggle to gain help and care from their environment. We hope to ensure that they receive the social, medical, and emotional support they need to build her and her baby's future.



Aim of Support Pregnant Teenagers

1. To **support** pregnant teenagers who are not able to receive the help they require
2. To **raise awareness** of the issue surrounding pregnant teenagers to change society
3. To **inspire** others to support the pregnant teenagers in their own ways

Support Pregnant Teenagers (SPT_CI) aims to provide **guidance** and **assistance** to pregnant teenagers. Due to the **stigma from society**, pregnant teenagers struggle to seek or receive the help they require from their environment. SPT hoped to **raise awareness** of the issue through various methods such as campaigns, social media, and seminars. In hopes of having an **actual change** in the real world and not just within the school boundaries, we worked to spread our message and mission outside to the public by lobbying and contacting NGOs about issues surrounding the care of pregnant teenagers (e.g., misogynistic sex education in South Korea). Our mission was to **fight the negative perception of pregnant teenagers**, especially in South Korea. Finally, accounting for the **sustainability** of the project, we sought to **inspire others** to contribute to the mission of our project and join in making a difference for pregnant teenagers.

The Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs)

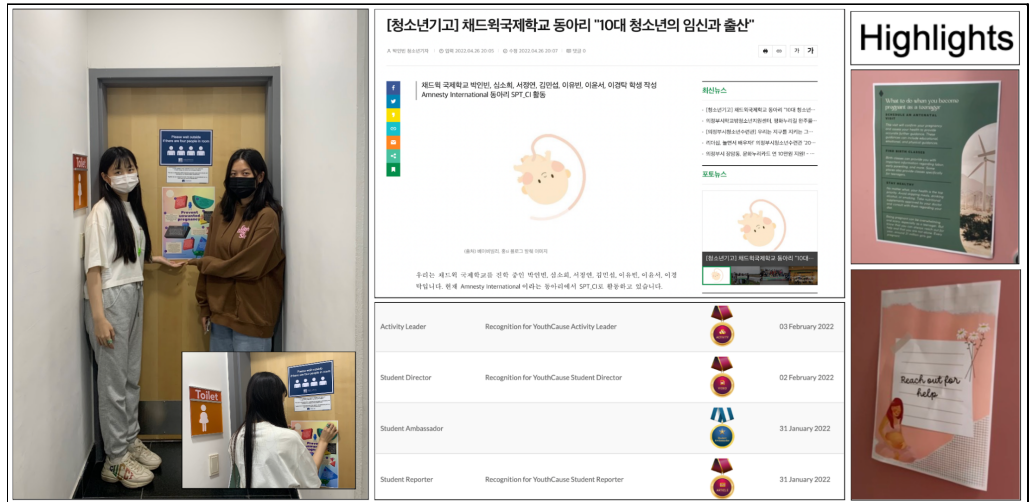


The two UNSDGs our project aims to tackle are **#10 Reduced Inequalities** and **#16 Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions**. The first UN SDG is #10 Reduced Inequalities which calls for reducing inequalities in income as well as those based on age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic, or other status within an individual. Pregnant teenagers often face social inequalities, including a lack of bodily autonomy and social exclusion due to their position in society. Therefore, we chose to focus on the goal #10 to get rid of these complications and challenges people face. The second UN SDG our project aims is #16 Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions. This goal is dedicated to *"the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, the provision of access to justice for all, and building effective, accountable institutions at all levels"* (UN). This goal

connects to our project since this goal strives to promote justice and strong institutions for pregnant teenagers who aren't getting enough support they deserve. In order to help the pregnant teenagers who lack support, our team decided that these two goals are essential to address through our project.

Highlights from the Experiences

- 1) **Poster display:** We **created posters with information, tips, and images** regarding unwanted teenage pregnancy to display around our school so that students could easily access the information and naturally become more aware of our project.
- 2) **Email:** We **reached out to the government and other NGOs** in South Korea working for a similar cause to receive support for more significant tasks and broaden our impact. The government official responded that they will carefully review our suggestions regarding the subsidy to pregnant teenagers. It was a meaningful experience as we were able to learn and be aware of the current support the government official provides to pregnant teenagers.
- 3) **Awareness:** To target a larger audience and raise awareness, we **shared our activities** on a platform called *YouthCause* and published an article on the research that we have done for a newspaper called *Gosan* (고산신문).
- 4) **Website:** We **created a website** containing information about who we are, our aim, and the activities that we have conducted to inform others about our actions. The website includes a google form where students can share their input on ways to support our project.



The Outcomes and Impacts of the Project

To achieve the aims of our project that we have identified above, we planned and followed through with **several initiatives** to make small and substantial changes within our school community and further. Due to the ongoing **pandemic**, we did have **difficulties** such as having limited

time to meet as a team or making direct change by, for example, visiting teenage pregnancy centers near us and volunteering. Therefore, we tried to **utilize easily accessible online resources** such as creating Instagram accounts and websites to raise awareness of our project and, most importantly, **reaching out to the government**. While planning our initiatives, we thought that the organization that could create the most practical and effective change was the government. So through the national people participation portal system, we **submitted a proposal to Korea's ministry of gender inequality and family**. The proposal included information about the current lack of human rights such as education and care for teenage mothers in Korea and how the negative perception surrounding them starts with the absence of education regarding adolescent pregnancy. We **urged for a more reasonable system that can guarantee a stable and happy life for teenage mothers** and gave examples of other countries, such as the US, who have proper support systems. Fortunately, we **received a response from the government that they will review our proposal**, bringing us one step closer to making a stable, long-term change. In addition, we **created posters** raising awareness on teenage pregnancy and hung them throughout the whole school and created Instagram posts which a lot of our Chadwick community members have seen. Therefore, through our project, we were **able to reach the community** near us and make a change by informing them of the current situation regarding teenage pregnancy. Although not everyone in our community needs help regarding pregnancy, we believe that our posters were able to raise awareness on it and maybe even make some people interested in the issue.

The knowledge/learning you gained through the project

Research was a huge part of our project as we **made various posters, wrote articles, and recorded videos** that required detailed information on teenage pregnancy. Something that surprised all of us is **how pregnant teens are treated in society**. We've learned that pregnant teens usually face **critical social issues** like poverty and poor education. Most countries don't have an organized system that aims to support pregnant teenagers to return to society after giving birth. We've learned that this is highly **unfair** and **unfortunate** as most pregnant teenagers didn't become pregnant of their own will. Some were sexually abused, and some even became pregnant due to having sex without much knowledge about it. After pregnant teens give birth, they **fail to receive proper education** as most schools don't allow them to return. We also learned that pregnancy for teenagers suddenly **limits their opportunities** and changes their life significantly. This is mainly because most teenagers have to care for their born child, making it impossible for them to return to their role as students. Additionally, they don't have the money to afford any opportunities as they have to spend most on raising their child, which eventually leads them to poverty. By learning how severe this issue is, we've learned that we should act to help pregnant teens by raising awareness.

“The students involved with SPT_CI are a compassionate group and have worked hard to provide a service for those identified as having an important need.”
 - Mr. Hawkes, SPT_CI Supervisor

The skills you gained through the project

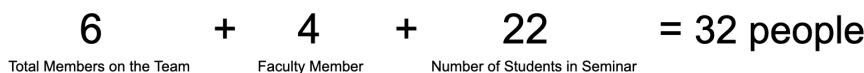
Through this project, we were able to gain **knowledge** about issues regarding teenage pregnancy around the world and realize how important it is to support and help these people. In order to take action on this issue, our team **brainstormed** many different ideas and ways in which we can approach these teenagers and make a change in the world. In the processing of brainstorming, communication skills played a significant role; our team had to effectively **communicate** with one another through various methods due to the limitations caused by the pandemic. With continuous communication with the group during our weekly meetings, our group was able to develop and improve our communication skills. In addition to the communication skills, our team was also able to gain **cooperative skills** and **thinking skills**. By having every member involved in this project with their own roles, we were able to work efficiently and cooperatively as a group with ultimate success in our project. We also had to do some **research** about issues and current laws regarding teenage pregnancy, which also helped our group gain thinking skills.

How Many People Have Been Impacted by Your Project?

Indirect Impact:



Direct Impact:



How Many Hours has your Team (Collectively) Spent on the Project?

130 hours

1-hour bi-weekly meetings since the start of the school year + individual working period

