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**Pregnancy is the principal reason why students dropped out studying the English
Major in the University of El Salvador during the years 2002, 2003 and 2004.**

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Acknowledgments

“The future belongs to the ones who believe in the beauty of a dream.” This paper is in fact the result of a dream that we finally see coming true and that we now share. We thank God for this achievement in first place, for giving us the necessary strength and hope during our whole career, because he makes this dream to come true. We thank our parents, who believed in our dream and become now part of our joy, because they are our motivation; We also thank the University itself that created not only our academic knowledge but also because it built our attitude and character; to all those teachers we had the opportunity to share a classroom with, because they taught us what make us now professionals. We finally thank our friends who always believed and shared at any moment the same hope... the same dream.

We dedicate this research to all the students who had not the opportunity to finish their career, to all those students that once had our same hope. There will be one day in which each student will see their dreams coming true.

I. INTRODUCTION

“In the majority of Latin American countries during the year 2001, a 43% of students deserted in higher education and a 60% of them had to quit studying because they had to look for a job and support themselves and their families as well” (*Ciudad-Universitaria.com*)

Nowadays, studying a major in higher education is such essential; the majority of people desire to get a Bachelor degree in order to be well-prepared. Unfortunately, not all of the higher education students have the possibility to conclude their majors. Some of these students need to carry out different labour activities for coping with their needs and some others have to forsake the major they are coursing in order to work in a full-time schedule; as a consequence, desertion is as worriedly as those cases in which people who never had the opportunity to start a bachelor degree, since in both cases students do not get the knowledge to develop a profession.

Throughout the country, there exists a certain amount of universities which offer a contingency to have access to them in a determined period of time. Due to such opportunity, during the year 2004, it was counted up about 370.000 new registrations to apply to study in Salvadorian Universities; this number is the same as the 2.31% of the total population of our country. What is alarming is not the low amount of pupils, but the scarce percentage of the schooling rate. According to the MINED only the 4.7% of higher education students attended classes regularly, and the 95.3% of students hardly ever attended classes.

Revista Iberoamericana de Educacion states: *“Actually, if we set back to the 2000 year, the global desertion average of higher education students in many countries like Bolivia, Chile, Dominican Republic, Peru, Argentina, Brazil, Colombia and Panama was around the 20% either in private Universities or State ones. In Countries such as Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Uruguay, Venezuela and El Salvador, higher education is affected in a percentage between 25% and 35%. Nowadays, such percentages are higher than those mentioned before, almost twofold*

According to the study ***“Factores determinantes de la deserción estudiantil en la Universidad Pedagógica Nacional. Comparación entre desertores y no desertores”***, desertion might be called to the fact that a specific number of students registered in a University do not follow a normal process in their careers due to they have to drop it out or delay more the time they had already set to finish their career”

There are many cases in which students are not able to continue with their preparation, on the present paper it is stated the most common reason why students dropped out their education at the Foreign Language Department of the University of El Salvador during the years 2002, 2003 and 2004.

Pregnancy is the principal reason why students dropped out studying the English Major in the University of El Salvador during the years 2002, 2003 and 2004.

During the years 2002, 2003, and 2004 in the Foreign Language Department of the University of El Salvador there were found many cases of students' desertion while coursing the first semester of the English Major. Students' desertion was caused by different factors such as lack of economic resources, Traveling, Irresponsibility, Lack of Encouragement, Family Problems, Changing Major and Low Proficiency in English. However; there was one which was the main cause why students dropped their studies out. Some cultural, social and economic factors caused by premature pregnancy were the main reasons for students to stop their Higher Education level preparation during the years mentioned above.

Chauvinism in premature pregnancy does not allow women to continue studying because men cannot stand the idea of a pregnant woman getting education and trying to be a professional. Due to cultural factors as chauvinism women are known as being the ones who are in charge of the housework and the children care while men are in charge of working and earning the money to support their family. In our culture there are many cases where the man does not allow his wife to work. This problem seems to be also detected in cases when premature pregnancy is being present only if the man is much older than the woman. This same problem happens when women want to continue their studies even if they are not facing a problem like premature pregnancy and the man is part of chauvinism. When a couple faces a problem like chauvinism, women are forced to drop out studying since most of them are relegated to be full-time house keepers and some other duties instead of being supported to get a higher education level that provides them better opportunities in the future. On the contrary, men sometimes might have the opportunity to continue studying; however, not for long, due to they have the need to look for a job to satisfy their future baby's needs and sometimes they also have to drop their studies due to the lack of economic resources or lack of time to handle both activities.

Chauvinism is a common cultural problem in Latin America that makes men to believe they are superior to women. This thought can sometimes reach some levels where women are forced to stop their preparation. Men think that since they take care of the economic responsibilities, they are not responsible for taking care of the kid or doing any other housework; that is a woman's job. Men think they do not have the responsibility to spend time doing anything at home but affording the expenses they now have. In these cases women are relegated to be housekeepers and there is no other choice for them but to drop out their studies or any other preparation than can make them professionals because they have to do the housework and take care of some other responsibilities. This situation does not give women enough time to set a schedule between education and the rest of activities they might have at home. Furthermore, women do not have any economic or mental support from their husbands, support that could provide them the opportunity to get any education at the university, and since they do not work, they do not have any chance to even think about education. In addition, women that are also facing parents' abandonment do not even have enough time to dedicate to education even if they can have the economic resources to afford education by themselves. Women living chauvinism in their family do not have any other option but dropping out their education and becoming part of the statistics for desertion. It is then, due to chauvinism, that many women are being deprived of their rights to have education.

Besides motherhood and other duties that women have at home, they also have to serve their husbands. Chauvinism is not only relegating women to take care of the kid or kids, there were some extreme cases in which women were even relegated to act as a servant with their husbands, besides taking care of the child or children at home and the general housework they did every day. After taking care of everything at home, women have to pay the attention that their husbands deserve, since they are the ones who afford every single expense they have at home. Women have to cook, wash, iron, and buy or do everything necessary at home to take care of their husbands. These activities take lot of their time and they could not have any space for other activities as education or any other chance for self improvement.

Chauvinism creates an attitude in which men do not permit women to improve themselves even when they might have the capacity or ability to do it because they are not provided without any support that can help them out to reach their goals. Women that face this problem are not brave and prepared enough to be independent and try to continue with their studies. Chauvinism in these cases makes women to change their studies to be now a wife, a mother and a housekeeper. Even though this problem is not very common nowadays, there were found some cases in which women left their studies aside due this cultural factor.

Nowadays many women are being supported to continue their careers even when they face premature pregnancy. There are many cases in which women that face premature pregnancy while studying Higher Education achieve to reach their goals in life. Nowadays in our society we can even find some associations that can help women find a way out from their problem and try to become a professional. Though, there are still some cases that women are afraid of saying what it is going on in their lives and they are just forced to stop their preparation because they are still being affected by chauvinism. There are still quiet a few cases in which women that were students had to stop their academic preparation not only at university levels but also at any other academic levels, There were found some cases like the ones mentioned above during the years 2002, 2003, and 2004 at the FLD of the UES; even now, when we think that chauvinism is not as common as it was years ago.

There is another cultural problem besides chauvinism, which is commonly found when a teen couple faces a problem such as premature pregnancy and it can affect either the couple or one specific member of it. Abandonment is a very common reason for students to drop out their studies and it is most likely to happen than chauvinism in the teen couple when they are facing premature pregnancy. There are two kinds of abandonment: Parents' abandonment over the couple that faces the problem and man's abandonment over women facing premature pregnancy. Abandonment, in a low rate, makes students drop their careers out due to economic effects and some other reasons.

The most common reaction from parents before a situation like premature pregnancy is to stop every kind of help provided to the daughter or the son creating then lack of economic resources and other factors that can cause students desertion. Students affected by premature pregnancy are sometimes commanded to leave the house and they have then to be responsible for their acts by their own. We need to recall that these are 16 or 17 year old students that do not have any experience or any other preparation that provides them good chances of getting a good job where they can get enough economic resources as well as the time that is necessary to continue the career. They both have to work sometimes even when the girl is pregnant in order to have as much economic incomes as they can get for affording all the new needs they will have or that they already have. Many of these students get time-consuming jobs that do not let enough time continue their studies any longer and they decide to drop out their preparation to dedicate their salary and time to their families. In other cases, students can find good jobs or at least jobs that can give them enough economic resources to continue affording their careers by themselves, they feel capable of affording their family and their academic expenses, but then again there is not enough time to perform both activities. If one member in the couple works, he or she needs to work more than 8 hours per day in order to have enough economic resources; this fact, of course, creates lack of time to perform all the activities that working and studying implies. Due to parents' abandonment, students do not have any support to continue their career, they need economic resources and that takes most of their time, giving as a result students that drop their careers to work and supply their family needs.

Besides parents' abandonment, there is another abandonment that we need to take into account. Men's abandonment when women are facing premature pregnancy makes them drop out their studies. In cases where women are abandoned by the couple, they need to dedicate full time to the new responsibilities they now have. If women are supported by the parents they need to work in order to help with the new responsibilities. In most of these cases, women are not older than twenty years old, and this means that they do not have the necessary experience and they have to face the lack of opportunities to find a good job that provides a suitable schedule and enough economic resources to study and work simultaneously. Once more, women face the situation where they can only find not well- paid jobs or time consuming jobs that in short term will not be scheduled flexible enough.

When neither parents nor the couple is helping or supporting with this responsibility, women have to work and pay for someone to take care of the kid while they are not home. This puts education for women in a second place because they are not able to dedicate time or economic resources to their studies and the responsibilities they have at home at the same time. Besides that, they do not have any other economic support than not well paid jobs to afford and continue their career. They do not have any other choice than dropping out their studies to afford the expenses they have.

It is very difficult for a teen couple or a member of the couple to set a schedule between job, education and family since they all have many other responsibilities students need to take care of. Home responsibilities, consuming time jobs, multiple part-time jobs create an environment in their lives where there is not time for education any longer. Education is a second objective since new activities that cannot be delayed make part of their every day routine and these activities demand economic resources that do not leave much for affording education expenses. When there is parents' abandonment or men's abandonment over women facing premature pregnancy, the couple or the member affected in the couple loses a very important support that can make the difference between becoming a professional and being part of the desertion statistics.

There is one last cultural factor caused due to the premature pregnancy cases found during the first academic year of the career Lic en Idioma Ingles Opcion Enseñanza at the University of EL Salvador during the years 2002, 2003, and 2004. Youth is a stage where commonly people set their goals for the future and start thinking about what it is wanted to be later on. Parents and students themselves have important expectations and it is very important to reach those goals. In low rate when a problem like premature pregnancy is present, parents and students feel embarrassed or ashamed about this situation. In some cases it is thought of this situation as an error and failure that interrupt all the previous plans they had made for their lives. They feel uncomfortable about the environment they can find at the university, and others' opinion about what they are facing. There were some cases in when embarrassment was so strong that parents or students were bound to drop out their careers during the date before mentioned.

In many cases, students leave their studies due to premature pregnancy and because of the rest of responsibilities this implies. There are some other cases where students might have the possibility to continue their academic preparation and reach their goals, but they are afraid about someone else's opinion. Gossips among students are a very strong cultural factor that affects students facing premature pregnancy, and make them drop out their studies. When students are young, as it has been mentioned, they are really affected by people's opinion, this cultural factor creates a complex in students that makes them believe everybody will be gossiping about them and they feel uncomfortable in an environment like this. Through observation, it has been found that students' opinion really affects the decision some others might take. This can create lack of self-confidence and lack of independence in students which at the same time can make them become a person that is always tied to someone else's opinion in order to make an own decision. This kind of students is the one that decides to drop out their studies due to what the others can say about their failure in life.

There is another kind of embarrassment caused by the premature pregnancy which was found as a reason why students could not continue with their preparation in the university during the first semester. Parents' embarrassment is one of the sub problems caused by premature pregnancy and made in some cases students drop out their preparation. There were some cases where the mother or father was really worried about what others say. This is a common cultural problem in our environment and makes parents feel ashamed about what others can say about the problem their son or daughter is now facing, this thought makes them take the students out of the university and have him or her lose the opportunity to work harder for a better future. This cultural problem even though it is very common for some families, has caused in low rate that some students at the University of El Salvador had to drop out their studies during the first semester of the career: Lic. En Idioma Ingles Opcion: Ensenanza at the FLD of the UES during the years 2002, 2003, and 2004. Due to parents' embarrassment and students' complex caused by premature pregnancy, there are some other cases where students that had the opportunity to travel abroad and start all over again they made that decision and dropped out their career here at the country. This happened in a very low rate during the years 2002, 2003, and 2004.

Students travel to the United States because they want the "American dream" to become true, and sometimes this choice also comes as a result of a cultural problem such as embarrassment, result of premature pregnancy, which makes them think they cannot continue with their normal life. Even when students have the economic opportunity or enough time to dedicate to both activities here at the University of El Salvador or any other university of the country, they or their parents decide that the best solution for this situation (premature pregnancy) is to travel to another country and of course quit their studies and become part of the desertion statistics of surveys like this one. Even though there might be the remote possibility that some of these students who moved to another country continued with their academic preparation they did certainly become part of the statistics.

Even though cultural problems like the ones mentioned above and some others are being overcome these days, there are still some cases in which students themselves and sometimes parents are involved. These problems as explained above can lead students to drop out their academic preparation. Indeed, cultural problems like chauvinism, embarrassment from others' opinions were the most common cultural problems why students left their academic preparation when they were coursing the first semester at the FLD of the UES. These cultural problems were a result of the premature pregnancy students were through during the years 2002, 2003, and 2004.

Premature pregnancy is a very common situation that students at higher education and even in high school are going through nowadays. This situation creates some other problems besides cultural aspects that lead the majority of students facing premature pregnancy to drop out their academic preparation at different academic levels. Cultural factors as chauvinism and people's gossip are examples of premature pregnancy cultural consequences that make students to finish their education before the time they have planned to. There is another side besides the cultural one which is much related and more likely to happen and make students become part of desertion statistics at higher education level when they are facing premature pregnancy; this is the economic situation.

There have been many cases at the University of El Salvador and many other universities as well, where students cannot continue their academic preparation due to low economic resources they face because of premature pregnancy. Students who do not have any other economic support than the one from their parents and are facing this problem are punished to leave their education in a second option due to their low economic resources they have to afford all the new expenses.

A low economic resource is one of the main causes why students leave their academic preparation at a university level. It is necessary in any case to find the source why sometimes the lack of economic resources is the factor that makes students drop out their studies. In this particular case, why is it that students that coursed the first semester of the Lic en Idioma Ingles at the FLD of the UES left their preparation?

For the ones that were included in this statistic, it was found that the 83 % of the students that could not continue with their career due to lack of economic resources were facing premature pregnancy. Some of these students were facing premature pregnancy before getting to the university. These last mentioned students got indeed graduated from high school but they could not continue affording their higher education due to the low economic incomes they had at that time. It is then, very important to say that when we talk about low economic resources as a factor for students to desert their academic preparation we need to verify the main cause that is making this factor to take place. There are some other sources like lack of job opportunities, not well paid jobs when there is one that works in the family and maybe some other sources. In the end, students that deserted the career during the previous date mentioned and that were affected by a lack of economic resources; it was found that this situation was caused by a bigger problem such a premature pregnancy.

Education involves many expenses such as: transportation, extra material for exams and some other assignments, food, etc. Parents sometimes are willing to make an effort and they support their son or daughter in an economic way because they want him/her to become a professional in the future.

Education by itself is very expensive and even sometimes there are families in where there is the case that they do not have enough economic resources to continue affording all the expenses students have when they are coursing any career at the university. If students are facing premature pregnancy when they do not have enough economic resources in the family even just for their academic preparation, parents are not able to afford academic expenses anymore since, besides academic expenses, parents at that point have to help with the new couple's expenses as well. This situation took place mostly with the boy's family when parents decided to accept the responsibility for taking care of the new couple. The boy anyway had to work in order to give his new family all the economic support he can give. In this way, students were not able to continue their studies because they had to work to support and afford the new family expenses and the economic resources they had were not enough to afford their education at the same time.

Staple has gone from 500 to 600 dollars per month approximately during the last 5 years. Nowadays in El Salvador the minimum wage goes to 152 dollars approximately and the 90% of the people involved in this inquiry had parents under the previous salary rate. This minimum salary has not changed a lot during the last 5 years being almost the same during the date being researched. Parents with basic or minimum salary that afforded academic expenses did not have enough possibilities to afford other responsibilities but education. Education is very expensive because it includes many expenses as transportation, food, etc. With low economic incomes, it is very hard for parents to afford a higher education level to their sons or daughters, and when this situation comes out, the only thing parents can do is to give their son or daughter economic support for just one responsibility. Even though parents would be willing to support them economically in both responsibilities, they are not able to do it due to the low economic incomes they have.

Despite the fact that the University of El Salvador is a public entity, parents do not have enough opportunities to continue helping students when they have become part of the premature pregnancy statistics. Parents then cannot continue paying for student's higher education and students are forced to work in order to give themselves a preparation which sometimes is not possible since they cannot find jobs that can give them good economic resources to afford academic expenses. As a result we had some students dropping out their careers during the years this research is based on.

When parents cannot afford education anymore students are put in the obligation or need to find a job to fulfil such expenses but they are not able to find a good job that can give them enough incomes to continue their preparation. This usually ends in students dropping out their studies due to low incomes they have. Students as it has been said are not well prepared when they leave the university at the first semester of their careers; students only have their high school preparation that does not prepare them well to permit them to find a good job. This makes them look for part-time jobs, which are not well-paid, and even when these part time jobs provide them with enough time to schedule the university and the jobs activities students are not provided with enough economic resources to afford all the expenses found at the university and the expenses the students have at home with their new family.

Sometimes it can be found that students may have the opportunity to find a job that can provide enough economic resources, but that means for them to work in time-consuming jobs where they are not provisioned with the required time to dedicate to the academic duties. In either situation students are forced to stop their preparation when they have to work to afford new expenses because they cannot find a job that can supply their economic needs to continue affording education and home responsibilities.

There were cases as mentioned above where students had the opportunity to work and study at the same time, they had enough economic resources to afford both responsibilities but at last there was lack of time for one of the two responsibilities. Students that had the opportunity to work and study at the same time could not continue with the career because there were some classes that could not be attended and either they had a very demanding job or they had two part time jobs in order to cover all their expenses. Some students had the opportunity to find good jobs that can permit good or enough economic resources to afford academic expenses and the rest of responsibilities a person can have.

Mostly for a teenager student of the first semester of any university these jobs are the kind of jobs where there is extra work that has to be done at home or that sometimes takes more time from the one it was expected to take in order to be done. That means that a person must have schedule flexibility in order to do a job like this one and pretending to study at the same time. At the university there is not such a possibility to take classes that do not correspond to a specific course or semester, there is not such possibility to take classes at the FLD of the UES later than 6 pm, because the university does not count with enough teachers to supply this schedule. Besides that there are some other internal factors that could not permit this schedule flexibility. In these cases where there was not opportunity to set a schedule between the university and the job students could find, there were some affected students that ended dropping their studies due to the lack of time they had because of their consuming jobs and the need of suitable schedules at the University of El Salvador.

Of course there are some other cases where parents can help and support the new couple by taking care of the newborn kid while they or one of the couple, depending on the case, work in multiple part time jobs or in a single one that can provide economic resources that are enough at least for their basic needs. It is important to recall that in premature pregnancy cases where students are punished to drop out their studies, finding a job is not really easy for these students because they do not have enough experience that can provide them with a good background in order to find a job than can supply the needs they have to study and work at the same time.

Students that work in different part time jobs are definitely out of time to study while they are not working because the only possible time to dedicate to education is the one they need to recover their strength to get up the next day and go to work once more. Besides this fact, students cannot leave everything on their parents' hands; they have as well to take care of some responsibilities at home by the time they get there. It is then very improbable and difficult for these students to work hard the whole day while their parents take care of the kid to study after getting out of their jobs, because there is not such a time to dedicate to all the academic duties the university level implies.

University implies many responsibilities inside as outside the building the same as their jobs and that plenty of duties and lack of time leads students to make the decision of attending their jobs in order to afford their needs and then to continue with some of the responsibilities they have at home. In this case they are not longer focused on studying and they drop out their preparation.

On the other hand, there were some cases where parents did not help the new couple at all and then they had to take care of every single responsibility by themselves creating a complete lack of time that drove them to drop out their studies. Some students that dropped out their studies during the years 2002, 2003, and 2004 did it because they did not have time to study and take care of the new family.

For women that did not work, they had to stay home to take care of the kid since parents did not support them in any way besides that they had to work in the house. Men had to work all day or maybe part of it in order to have enough resources to afford the family needs. They did not have time to study, to work, and to take care of responsibilities at home. This situation for both, men and women, created lack of time since they could not dedicate time to many responsibilities. Students that faced this situation did not have other alternative but dropping their studies.

Parents' economic help is then very important for students to continue studying at a higher education level. If parents could help students to continue their academic preparation even when they have to afford some other expenses as medical cares, food, clothing, etc for the new family, students could finish their preparation and they would not drop their studies at a very early age due to premature pregnancy. When parents do not have enough economic resources students are forced to work and due to they do not have any previous experience, they cannot find good jobs; it is even difficult to find a not well paid job that can help them with family expenses only. When students find a job, they are not able to continue with their preparation any more due to the lack of time or lack of money to afford the university expenses. Parents' low economic resources make them stop helping students and as a result students that have to work do not have enough time or money to pay their studies.

Then they have to drop out their careers to find better jobs that can give them more economic incomes to afford a descent lifestyle for them and their new family. During the years 2002, 2003, and 2004 at the University of El Salvador there were found cases that students during the first semester of the respective years previously mentioned had to drop out their careers due to the low economic resources they faced as a result of premature pregnancy. Lack of economic resources is due to many other factors that premature pregnancy creates. At the same time lack of economic resources can create, as described above, some other factors that at the end make students drop their preparation.

There is another problem that goes beyond the lack of opportunities students face to find a job that fits with a suitable Schedule at the university. There are some cases as explained above in which students can have the opportunity to schedule all the activities they have and try to perform them the best way they can. Despite the fact that they can have the suitable time for all the activities we need to recall that there are some other extra activities as homework, time to study for exams and some extra job for researches outside the classroom. Even when students might have the time to study or at least to attend their classes at the university and then go to work; they do not have time to study or perform some other duties that are included for their academic preparation. This creates low proficiency in students that in short term leads them to drop out their studies.

When students work and study at the same time they have time only to attend their job and then their classes or vice versa. Students do not have extra time to study at home or at their work places because of the extra responsibilities from their jobs. There are many cases in which students have a job that can fulfill all their expenses, but sometimes this kind of jobs demand more from students than they expected. There are some cases in which students have to finish their work duties and besides that they need to do some extra job for the next day; so they can have the time they need to go to the university. There are some other cases when students have to take some extra work like work paper to do at home because there was no time to finish it at their jobs. This of course creates lack of time in their schedule to dedicate to their studies because they use that time to do the extra work they have from their jobs. They spend time at their work places or at home doing all the necessary duties their work demand in order to have time next day to attend their classes. This means that if students do not have time to study they are not well prepared for any evaluation they might have at the university. This makes them fail their courses and as a result they cannot continue with their education at the university. They decide that they do not have the necessary time to overcome all the duties that education and work imply. Some of the students that experienced premature pregnancy during the date this research is based on were through this issue and they dropped out their studies due to this situation.

There are some other academic activities that students are not able to perform due to the job responsibilities that they have and the lack of time they experience due to those responsibilities. There are some other duties besides just studying for an exam in order to be ready to answer the questions a professor might ask the next day in the classroom. There are activities like doing some homework assignments that definitely require part of their time outside the classroom, because students need some time to find useful information. Besides that, there are some researches that take even more time to be done and certain amount of economic resources to perform them. Students that work and study do not have enough time to perform all those activities that their academic education demands. Sometimes they do not have enough resources to afford a research at a higher education level because they can be expensive. Students face a very serious problem because while they are working they do not have the opportunity to dedicate time to continue performing or continuing any activity they might have from the university. Consuming jobs do not provide any space for students to study because they are really demanding. Students then lower they performance and as a result they finish dropping out their studies because they fail some courses or they leave those courses before they fail them.

There are some other activities as researches out of the classrooms that can not be properly finished because of the lack of time that students face when they work and study at the same time. Many times when students have to work they go home and try to finish the assignments they have. During the day, after work, they have to look for a period of time when they can research information that can contribute with assignments that they have from the university. Sometimes they take their lunch hour to do this activity, sometimes they try to do their assignments after their shift. Students that face this problem might have the opportunity to finish a paper or assignment or to do a research. The problem with this situation is that they do not receive the same results as that of a paper presented by students who have all the time for doing researches that provide the knowledge and the information that support their assignments.

This problem makes students to get low grades and as a result students fail courses or subjects that they are taking at that moment. Even though they try to overcome this situation there is not enough time to perform academic activities when they work. When they do not have the time to perform academic duties and they fail courses they drop their studies due to the low level of proficiency they face.

On the other hand, there might be the case that one member of the couple does not work but there are other responsibilities that do not leave time to perform all the academic demands they have at the university. There are some cases in which students that do not work have to stay at home taking care not only of the child but also for the rest of the house duties they now have. This case is mostly seen in girls, because when they do not work they have to stay home, cleaning, cooking, taking care of the kid, etc. This is almost the same as if they were working because a responsibility as a baby is not as cleaning the house. They need to be in constant supervision and does not leave time to study. There are cases where students cannot be at the university because there is no one who can take care of the kids while they are not home and they have to stay home.

When parents do not help with these responsibilities, students that do not work but take care of the house responsibilities and are responsible for the children as well are not able to perform academic activities as studying at home or researching outside home. This problem comes as a result of the busy schedule they find at home. Not all the students that face premature pregnancy while studying at the university are lucky to have parents that help them out with the new responsibility. Besides that, they do not have enough economic resources that help them get someone who can take care of the kid while they attend their classes or their jobs. Students then face a lack of time created by the responsibilities they have at home. A new born is a very delicate responsibility and students who do not work because they have to take care of the kid do not even have time to attend their classes. This creates of course a low proficiency level in students because they lose very important information, explanations, and even evaluations that they cannot re-take any more.

As a result once again they fail their courses and they decide to drop out their studies because they do not have time to dedicate their academic duties, they know despite the effort, that it will come the time when they will not be able to perform all of the academic duties they have because there some others that are more necessary at that time.

Some students left their education aside because they could not attend their classes after they had the new born child. Some girls have to wait to recover from the labors and this means to lose very important time at the University. In these cases, girls have to wait until they are completely recovered to continue their studies. This waiting time is really harmful for their preparation because they do not attend their classes, they do not present assignments and sometimes they even lose important evaluation that cannot retake later on. When this situation happens, students decide not to continue with their studies because there are no opportunities for them to recover the time that they have lost. They decide to stop their academic to start later on. There are cases in which students do restart their preparation but unfortunately most of the cases are different; they never start again becoming then, part of statistics of students that drop out their preparation at a higher education level.

The lack of time created by studying and working, taking care of the new member of the family and even in some cases for physical problems after the labors; creates a low proficiency level in students that leads them to fail very important courses. Even when they decide to wait for the next year to retake those failed courses they realize that there is not possible way to take them back because there are even more responsibilities that require more time than the one they can have to handle both studying and family at the same time. Students' performance at the university is directly affected by the lack of time they have to dedicate to their academic preparation and this makes them drop it out. Due to these problems, some students dropped their preparation at the F.L.D. in the U.E.S. during the years 2002, 2003, 2004

Many are the causes why students dropped their career out during the first semester of the academic years of 2002, 2003, and 2004 at the Foreign Language Department of the University of El Salvador. There are causes we might find as low economic resources, low proficiency level, lack of time to dedicate to education, etc. that indeed affect students in order to make them stop their academic preparation, but going beyond these causes, there was found that all of them happen when students face premature pregnancy.

Premature pregnancy was the most common reason why students left their preparation because it creates other sub problems that in short term made students drop out their studies and take care of other responsibilities.