



Parental Influence on Career Choice among Students in Public Senior Secondary Schools in Bauchi State, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

The study examined the Impact of parent influence on students' career choice in public secondary schools in Bauchi capital city of Bauchi State, Nigeria. The research formed the background of the study under which the major aim of the study was discussed. In order to achieve this, one specific objective and one research question were raised. The population of the study was 7,084 and the sample size was 400. The questionnaire was adopted using random sampling techniques. The study was carried out on the basis of a survey research design involving the use of the questionnaire as the major instrument for data collection. The data collected were presented and analyzed using percentage, the findings of the study were equally and appropriately discussed in the study.

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INTRODUCTION

The need for career choices is paramount and mandatory to students and individual persons since in the olden days, most especially at this critical period of changing world of science and technology where students' always think of what to become. Career choice is the act of choosing between the series of possibilities that a person has in a particular area of work, usually involving more responsibilities as time passes (Oxford Advanced Learner Dictionary). Career is the sequential set of experiences and attitudes related to work that an individual has over the span of his/her work life (Abbasi & Sarwat, 2014). Career choice has become a complex task among student in the face of ever changing technology in the information sector (Eremie, 2014).

Edwards & Quinter (2011) state that, career choice has become a complex science with the achievement of information technology, the emergence of post industrial revolution and also job competition. Most student does not have accurate information about occupational

opportunities in order to help them make appropriate career choice, but today, one has only to make due career planning but also exhaustive career research before making a career choice to enable them adjust with the evolving social-economic condition (Wattles, 2009).

Hewitt (2010) states that factors influencing career choice are intrinsic, extrinsic or both. According to him, most people are influenced by career that their parent favours; other follows the career that their educational choice is opened for them. Some choose to follow their passion regardless of how much or little it will make them while others choose the careers that give high income. Interest in the course and parental guidance family influence. It has been shown from literature that three areas of students' life affect the career choices they make: environment, opportunity, and personality. Some of the main factors among others in deciding career choice include career opportunities (Pawelczyk & Bielecki, 2007; Edwards & Quinter, 2011; Uyar, Gungormus &



Kuzey, 2011; Reynolds, 2012; Odia & Ogiedu, 2013).

The most dominant single influence on the cause of one's life is the person's work. This also affects one's family structure, social and intellectual activities, economic position, personality and happiness. One's occupational/career choice is mostly influenced by parents, friends, relatives, teachers, printed information, scholarship awards and pressure groups etc. Career decision making, is a process of finding the best possible match of a person with a particular kind of work. Dada (2005) asserts that many youths do not know what to do when they plan to take decisions on occupational choices; these eventually lead many to take on wrong jobs. Also, many graduates presently do uninteresting jobs, which they got into due to lack of career decision-making. Ike (1997) further opined that a lot of students do not know what to do with their lives and where they're going after school. Therefore, to assist such students develop their potentials, the school guidance and counselling programme must be effective to guide them regarding the requirement of specific occupations; the services of the guidance and counsellors are highly required as their efforts assist in placing talents where it is mostly needed.

The word „career“ mean job, occupation or vocation a person has, because their use overlaps. Career is a series of jobs that a person has in a particular area of work, usually involving more responsibilities as time passes (Okonkwo, 2011). It is a work or profession, which occupies one's time from which the adjective occupational was coined. The specific and real meaning of career is the pattern of work and work related activities that develop through a lifetime. It also includes the job or series of jobs a person has until retirement.

Parental influence on students' career choice in secondary schools is riddled with a number of problems which are attitudinal, structural, human and cultural. These include malfunction to engage in careful analysis of organizational problems that parental influence was intended to resolve. There have been lack of sufficient time, facilities and orientation materials for use by parents. It was against this

background that this study was designed to undertake an analysis of effective parental influence on students' career choice in secondary schools to examined their issues and roles in students' career decision making (Okonkwo, 2011).

Students' are in dilemma of choosing career in Bauchi capital city of Bauchi State, Nigeria. Once they finish their junior secondary school, factors like parental influence and pressure, peer group, economic status, societal need, prestige of the interest, came into play that makes them to choose what they want to be in life. Normally, students' make wrong choice due to lack of proper guidance from parents, and otherwise as a result of that, students' tend to change subjects of their choices all times and finally end up nowhere (Okonkwo, 2011).

The National Policy on Education (2004) states that education is an instrument for effective national development. This means that a student is expected to acquire skills and experiences required to be fit in the world of work after graduation. It is through the graduate's occupation that she/he is expected to serve the country, contribute and at the same time benefit from the economic growth and national development. But, if the student is not properly guided on career decision-making by experienced parents, it would not be possible for such students to contribute to economic/national development after graduation. This therefore has defeated the objectives of education as stated in the national policy on education of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Okolie (2014) asserts that many institutions lack ideas on which course to study in the higher education institution after leaving the schools. The reason is because; they lack services of parents who'll assist them in career decision-making. It has been observed that many students who perform well in related subjects in secondary schools or otherwise end up studying arts or social science related courses in the University instead of studying science, technology or engineering related courses to pursue their careers in the relevant fields; this is mostly seen in Nigerian education institutions. After been admitted into the University, such students find it difficult coping with other



students who choose the right courses leading to their chosen career path (Okolie *et al*, 2014).

Surveys by North Carolina State University (2003) found out that parental involvement played a major role on the character and person of the learners. The study which sampled parents from the low and middle income segments of the economy found out that most of the parents who dedicated their time to attend to the academic activities as dictated by demands in the learners' schools always had the learners have good character and a disciplined mien as compared to the parents who did not engage in the day to day lives of their children. This confirms previous works by Koinange (2016) who said that the present day rat chases as regards the day to day rigours of life had made many learners alienated from their parents due to lack of attention leading to high incidences of indiscipline cases and truancy in schools.

Studies by Kavuludi, (2008) showed that incidences of discipline cases in learners whose parents made a regular follow up of their academic activities in school were very minimal in comparison to those who had a disconnect to the learners. The study found out that most of the parents who were in high end of life rarely attended school functions like academic clinics which gave avenues for interaction with teachers thus exposing the learners to a risk of irresponsibility owing to the fact that drivers and personal assistants carried out the role of parents to them.

Situations whereby absentee parents made up for the lost time buy way of pampering the children and giving them pocket money were a serious problem to many secondary schools. Many cases of indiscipline stem from the fact that the learners demand parental attention and engage in mischief with an aim of slighting the parents. This was confirmed in a study carried out by Kenya Institute of Professional Counseling (2008) which found out that incidences of indiscipline from children whose parents led a fast life who are mainly politicians and members of the clergy were on the rise. The report vouched for a closer interaction between the parents and the learners to help stem the tide. It calls for greater parental involvement in the lives of the

learners with a view of helping salvage the situation and change it for the better.

Objectives of the Study

The researcher was concerned about establishing the attitude of secondary school students and parents towards effective career decision- making and how this impact on the quality of career choice provided to secondary school students. The specific objectives were to:

- i. Examined the extent to which parental influence would affect choice of career among senior secondary school students in Bauchi capital city.

Research Questions

Based on the aforementioned objectives the following research questions were formulated to guide the study:

- i. To what extent does parental influence affect choice of career among secondary school students in Bauchi capital city?

Research Hypothesis

The following research hypothesis was formulated for the study:

H0: Parental influence choice has not significant impact on career among secondary school students in Bauchi capital city.

METHODOLOGY

This study adopted cross-sectional survey design as used by Engida and Baisa (2014), Marti (2010) among others. This is a process whereby data to enable the researcher test hypothesis are collected from the population through the used of questionnaires. Under this research design, data relating to the variables were collected to basically describe the relationship between the variables under study. This research decided to use questionnaires method while, the population used for this study consists of selected students in various secondary schools in Bauchi capital city, the total population of the study is 7,084. Students were shared with the questionnaire using random sampling techniques selected for the



filling of questionnaire from the given secondary schools within the study area. The sample size of the study was determined with Yamani's (1967) formula. By this formula, the sample size was computed approximately as sample size constituted approximately 400 respondents. The main instrument used questionnaire. The researcher carries out a series of test in order to validate the research instruments. These tests involve checking the validity and reliability of the instrument of the study. However validity of the instrument was measured with the use of exploratory Factor Analysis using principal Axis Factoring with the aid of IBM SPSS V. 20. To test the construct validity, the measurement items for each variable is set in line with the operational definitions. To test the reliability of the data instrument, the Cronbach's Coefficient Alpha (RC) was used to determine the internal consistency for items in the questionnaire justify.

In addition to ensuring the reliability of the instrument, the questionnaire was pre-tested on some respondents in Bauchi capital city. The representation of the collected data using table and percentage for testing of the research hypothesis chi-square was used to test whether the obtained frequency is different from significant from expected frequency. The items on the questionnaire were summarized and subsequently computed into percentages.

RESULTS

The result presentation is based on the questionnaires administered collected from the responses in various secondary schools in Bauchi metropolis. A total of four hundred (400) copies of questionnaires were administered and all the questionnaires were successfully field and returned.

Table 1: Determinant of Questionnaire Distribution

Administered questionnaire	Frequency	Percentage %
Distribute	400	100
Returned	400	100
Total	400	400

Sources: Extracted from IBM SPSS V.21 Output October, 2019

A total of four hundred (400) questionnaires were administered and (400) copies representing 100% of the questionnaires were properly completed and retrieved.

4.1.2 Demographic Information of Respondents
Below are tables developed to represent categories of respondents with their percentage.

Table 1: Gender of the Respondents

		Gender			
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Female	234	58.5	58.5	58.5
	Male	166	41.5	41.5	100.0
Total		400	100.0	100.0	

Sources: Extracted from IBM SPSS V.21 Output 2021

Table 1 above shows the gender of the respondents. The rate of response shows that 234 out of the total respondents constituting 58.5% were female, while 166 out of the total

respondents constituting 41.5% of the respondents were male. The difference between the male and female representative is a reflection of the fact that many female are involved in guidance services than male.



Table 2: Age of the Respondents

		Age			
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Below 25 Years	100	25.0	25.0	25.0
	26 - 30 Years	140	35.0	35.0	60.0
	31 - 35 Years	60	15.0	15.0	75.0
	36 - 40 Years	100	25.0	25.0	100.0
Total		400	100.0	100.0	

Sources: Extracted from IBM SPSS V.21 Output 2021

The result from table 2 represents the age distribution of the respondents. It shows that 25.0% of the respondents were within below-25 years, 35.0% were within 26-30 years, 15% were within 31-35 years, and 2.5% were within 36 – 40 years.

The descriptive statistic of this study involves the use of frequency tables and percentages to present the views of the

respondents to questions in the administered questionnaire. Below are the summarized information obtained from the interview;

Influence of Parents Affect Choice of Career among Secondary School Students

Question 1: My parent do not influence on my career choice.

Table 3: Influence of Parents on Career Choice

		My parent do not influence on my career choice			
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	SD	40	10.0	10.0	10.0
	D	54	13.5	13.5	23.5
	A	285	71.3	71.3	94.8
	SA	21	5.3	5.3	100.0
Total		400	100.0	100.0	

Sources: Extracted from IBM SPSS V.21 Output 2021

The data in table 4 shows that, 10.0% of the respondents strongly disagree 13.5% disagree, 71.3% agree, while 5.3% strongly

agree parent do not influence on my career choice.

Question 2: Socio-economic status of do not influence my career choice.

Table 4: Influence of Socio-Economic Status on Career Choice

		Socio-economic status of do not influence my career choice			
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	SD	3	.8	.8	.8
	D	14	3.5	3.5	4.3
	A	343	85.8	85.8	90.0
	SA	40	10.0	10.0	100.0
Total		400	100.0	100.0	

Sources: Extracted from IBM SPSS V.21 Output 2021



The data in table 5 shows that, 0.8% of the respondents strongly disagree, 3.5% disagree, 85.8% agree while 10.0% strongly

agree that the socio-economic status of do not influence my career choice
Question 3: My parents choose my secondary school subject for me.

Table 5: Parent Choice on Subjects

My parents choose my secondary school subject for me					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	SD	11	2.8	2.8	2.8
	D	40	10.0	10.0	12.8
	A	229	57.3	57.3	70.0
	SA	120	30.0	30.0	100.0
Total		400	100.0	100.0	

Sources: Extracted from IBM SPSS V.21 Output 2021

The above data in table 5 shows that, 2.8% of the respondents strongly disagree, 10.0% disagree, 57.3% agree 30.0% strongly

disagree that the parents choose my secondary school subject for me.
Question 4: Educational statuses of my parents influence my career choice

Table 6: Educational Statuses of Parents Influenced Career Choice

Educational statuses of my parents influence my career choice					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	SD	80	20.0	20.0	20.0
	D	80	20.0	20.0	40.0
	A	150	37.5	37.5	77.5
	SA	90	22.5	22.5	100.0
Total		400	100.0	100.0	

Sources: Extracted from IBM SPSS V.21 Output 2021

The above data in table 6 shows that, 20.0% of the respondents strongly disagree, 20.0% disagree, 37.5% agree, while 22.5%

strongly agree that educational statuses of my parents influence my career choice.
Question 5: The occupation of my parents does not determine my career choice.

Table 7: Occupation of Parents determined Students' Career Choice

The occupation of my parents does not determine my career choice					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	SD	80	20.0	20.0	20.0
	D	120	30.0	30.0	50.0
	A	120	30.0	30.0	80.0
	SA	80	20.0	20.0	100.0
Total		400	100.0	100.0	

Sources: Extracted from IBM SPSS V.21 Output 2021



The data in table 7 shows that, 20.0% of the respondents strongly disagree, 30.0% disagree, 30.0% agree, while 20.0% strongly

agree that the occupation of my parents does not determine my career choice
Question 6: My parent family career preference do not affects my career choice.

Table 8: Parent Family Affect Students' Career Choice

My parent family career preference do not affects my career choice					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	SD	40	10.0	10.0	10.0
	D	160	40.0	40.0	50.0
	A	160	40.0	40.0	90.0
	SA	40	10.0	10.0	100.0
Total		400	100.0	100.0	

Sources: Extracted from IBM SPSS V.21 Output 2021

The data in table 8 shows that, 10.0% of the respondents strongly disagree, 40.0% disagree, 40.0% agree, while 10.0 % strongly

disagree that the parent family career preference do not affects my career choice.
Question 7: My parent attitude influences my career choice.

Table 9: Parent Attitude Influenced Students' Career Choice

My parent attitude influences my career choice					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	D	120	30.0	30.0	30.0
	A	280	70.0	70.0	100.0
Total		400	100.0	100.0	

Sources: Extracted from IBM SPSS V.21 Output 2021

The above data in table 9 shows that, 30.0% of the respondents disagree, while 70.0%

disagree that the parent attitude influences my career choice.
Question 8: father dictates what I would do

Table 10: Head of the Family dictate Students' Career Choice

Father dictates what I would do					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	SD	40	10.0	10.0	10.0
	D	40	10.0	10.0	20.0
	A	240	60.0	60.0	80.0
	SA	80	20.0	20.0	100.0
Total		400	100.0	100.0	

Sources: Extracted from IBM SPSS V.21 Output 2021

The above data in table 10 shows that, 10.0% of the respondents strongly disagree, 10.0%

disagree, 60.0% agree, while 20.0% strongly agree that the father dictates what I would do.



Question 9: Mother always wants me to agree with what she tells me to do.

Table 11: Mother's Influence on Career Choice

Mother always want me to agree with what she tells me to do					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	SD	80	20.0	20.0	20.0
	D	120	30.0	30.0	50.0
	A	120	30.0	30.0	80.0
	SA	80	20.0	20.0	100.0
Total		400	100.0	100.0	

Sources: Extracted from IBM SPSS V.21 Output 2021

The data in table 11 shows that, 20.0% of the respondents strongly disagree, 30.0% disagree, 30.0% agree, while 20.0%

strongly agree that the mother always want me to agree with what she tells me to do.

Question 10: Career choice is about my life, so my parents cannot decide for me.

Table 13: Career Choice Decision

Career choice is about my life, so my parents cannot decide for me					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	SD	143	35.8	35.8	35.8
	D	40	10.0	10.0	45.8
	A	53	13.3	13.3	59.0
	SA	164	41.0	41.0	100.0
Total		400	100.0	100.0	

Sources: Extracted from IBM SPSS V.21 Output 2021.

The above data in table 13 shows that, 35.8% of the respondents strongly disagree, 10.0% disagree, 13.3% agree, while 41% strongly agree that the Career choice is about my life, so my parents cannot decide for me.

Test of Hypothesis

H₀: Parental influence choice has not significant impact on career among public secondary school students in Bauchi capital city.

Table 14: Parent Influence Career Choice

N/S	Questionnaire	SA	A	U	D	SD	Mean	Remark
1	My parent do not influence on my career choice	40	160	0	160	40	3.00	Not accepted
2	Socio-economic status of do not influence my career choice	0	120	0	280	0	3.40	Accepted
3	Parents choose my secondary school subject for me	40	40	0	240	80	3.70	Accepted
4	Educational statuses of my parents influence my career choice	80	180	0	180	80	3.00	Accepted
5	The occupation of my parents does not determine my career choice	143	40	0	53	146	3.14	Accepted



N/S	Questionnaire	SA	A	U	D	SD	Mean	Remark
6	My parent family career preference do not affects my career choice	40	54	0	285	21	3.48	Accepted
7	My parent attitude influences my career choice	3	14	0	343	40	4.01	Accepted
8	Father dictates what I would do	11	40	0	229	120	4.02	Accepted
9	Mother always want me to agree with what she tells me to do	80	80	0	150	90	3.23	Accepted
10	Career choice is about my life, so my parents cannot decide for me	80	120	0	120	80	3.00	Accepted
Total Mean							33.98	
Grand mean							3.39	

Sources: *Extracted from IBM SPSS V.21 Output 2021.*

From the table 14, the respondents on the item number 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 with the mean scores of 3.00, 3.14, 3.70, 3.00, 3.14, 3.48, 4.01, 4.02, 3.23 and 3.00 respectively. The grand mean also accept with the mean score of 3.39.

This implies that the above analysis the respondents agreed that parental influence choice has significant impact on career among secondary school students in Bauchi metropolis.

FINDINGS

The findings of this research work were based on the analyzed data. Each research question came up with its own result. Based on the test of hypothesis result of the analysis, the findings were as follows:

The respondents agreed that Parental influence choice has not significant impact on career among secondary school students in Bauchi metropolis, the calculated mean is 3.39, which above the bench mark mean of 2.5. Since the calculated mean is 3.39, which above the bench mark mean of 2.5 then accept the Null Hypothesis (H₀) which state that "Parental influence choice has not significant impact on career among secondary school students in Bauchi capital city".

CONCLUSION

This study has established that parental influence is a total development of students are enthused in areas relating to their personal, social, career, emotional and academic concerns. Parental influence have therefore been considered to assist students

overcome the number of challenges they experience at home and at school. But because of many pressures imposed on the family, parents tend to have little time with their children to give them the necessary advice. The parents expect the school to provide solutions to the indiscipline in secondary schools caused by their children and as well assist them to make career choices. This study still maintains that for Nigeria to meet the goals and objectives of the general education, which is to train people who'll contribute to economic growth and national development, parental influence must be given the attention it deserves in secondary schools for effective students' career choice.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations have been offered;

- i. Parents should be encourage to frequently interact with the school students so that they may understand the nature of their school children.
- ii. The parents should endeavour to assemble their school children to assist in creating wakefulness and advising students on the significance of parental influence on students' career choice.
- iii. Parents are supposed to attend conferences and seminars to equip themselves with latest literatures, theories and techniques of career choice in schools. Parents should be responsible the financial implication of such conferences and workshops.



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