

Parental Involvement as Correlate of Career Decision-Making Among Secondary School Students in Oyo State, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT: *The decision of choosing a career is a pivotal point in students' life and could significantly impact personal satisfaction, financial stability, and overall well-being students of today face increasingly complex landscape of career options, making the process of career choice more challenging and daunting. It is against this backdrop that the study investigated parental involvement as correlates of career decision-making among secondary school students in Oyo State, Nigeria. Descriptive survey research design of correlational types was adopted in the study and the population of the study included 371, 040 secondary school students in Oyo State. The sample size was 384 secondary school students which was determined using Krejcie and Morgan sample size determination table. Questionnaire was the instrument used in the collection of data and data were analysed using simple percentage, Pearson product moment correlation (PPMC) and simple regression at 0.05 level of significance. Results revealed that there was significant positive relationship between parental involvement and career decision-making ($r = 0.503, p < .05$). There was a significant influence of parental involvement and career decision-making, ($F_{(1, 382)} = 66.484, p < 0.05$), and parental involvement contributed 10.6 to the prediction of career decision-making. It was concluded that parents have a strong influence over the choices of career decision that their children make. It was recommended that giving negative comments about different careers by parents should be avoided. This is because children are susceptible to careless comments parents make about good and bad professions as this could make them to lose interest in their dream careers.*

KEYWORDS: parental involvement, career decision-making, secondary school students, oyo state

INTRODUCTION

Career decision-making is the most important event in an individual's life. Person's success and consequently; satisfaction and happiness depend on how accurately he chooses his

career. Improper selection of the career or frequently changing the career is very harmful for psychological health. Once we invest time, money, and effort in moving along a particular career path it may not be easy to change the path. It is well known that individuals who make career choices based on personal interests and abilities, show significantly higher levels of job satisfaction and are more productive workers (Akosah-twumasi, Emeto, Lindsay, Tsey & Malau-Aduli, 2018). For students who have gone through comprehensive career counselling are disserting in their career choices, while students who make career choices without adequate and accurate counselling and guidance are at risk of being impelled to choose careers that are not suitable for them. Choice of career is not only central to one's lifestyle but is also a vital aspect of the physical and emotional well-being of the individuals and their families. The choice of career is a crucial problem for a student (Brenton Weyi. 2013).

Closer observation in most cases would reveal that these determinants of choice are not at all objectives in nature. Some ambitious parents dictate their own, unfulfilled career decisions on their children and compel them to choose the courses which perhaps they did not like, or they are not able to complete. On the other hand, a few percentages of students have parents who are aware about psychometric testing and career counselling sessions. Such parents help their children to select a proper career for themselves. To eliminate any chances of regret, students should begin the process of career decision making in a rational manner. If help of trained career counsellor is taken at the proper time, much disappointment, wastage of time and energy could be avoided (Durosaro 2010; Akosah-twumasi, Emeto, Lindsay, Tsey & Malau-Aduli, 2018).

Choice is an important concept in the theory of existentialism. Every individual has choice to make in life because there are choices in life available to all. Whatsoever therefore happens to one whether positive or negative is a choice made by any individual among the multiple of choices life throws up. Even when one refuses to make a choice among all choices in life; that act of not making a choice is a choice. Consequently, the ideal of choice less is not possible in existential theory. It is however very vital to note that the process of choice making, its availability and its importance may be a significant factor in the difference between one individual and another (Alliyu, 2002). When making career choice Career, counsellors will look into socioeconomic status, family background; parental attitude; peer group pressure; self-efficacy; personality; interests; aptitude; educational attainments; role models; vocational decision making styles; social class; family environment, cultural identity; globalization and gender as the important determinants of career choice (Chukwu, Ogidi, Akanem & Ilechukwu, 2022). Extant literature reveals that parental involvement could influence career choice among students.

Parental involvement refers to the active participation and engagement of parents or caregivers in their children's education, development, choice of career and well-being. influence by parents on career decision making for their children motivated this study after noticing enormous and complex challenges faced by children and youths of today. Thus, without proper guidance, these children may end up not fulfilling their goals in life. It is a fact that most young people have challenges of choosing an occupation and relating

personal skills, interests, and abilities to careers. Additionally, a sizeable number of school leavers today end up on the streets without being aware of their potentials. There is therefore, need to help them know themselves in terms of abilities, interests, values, beliefs potential. They should also be assisted to acquire skills they need to cope with the different circumstances they may encounter later in life (Morsel, 2009). However, most people are influenced by careers that their parents favour, others follow the careers that their educational choices have 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 (Anike & Famolu, 2022).

LITERATURE REVIEW

Career may be defined as the progress and movements taken with the aid of someone at some point of an entire life, particularly associated with that character's occupations. Career is an idea derived from Latin and French words denoting a pathway, racecourse, or a course of motion (Eesley & Wang, 21017). Decisions regarding careers and career choices require significant thought and preparation. Career maturity, career decidedness, decision status, career planning and career expectations have been explored as various aspects of career decision making. Thus, profession embraces a sequence of positions, jobs, or occupations, which a character holds throughout his or her lifetime. Parental involvement artificially tried to create parental attitudes and behaviours which seemed to spontaneously occur in white middle-class families, and which guarantee to a certain extent the school success of their sons and daughters (Rogers, Creed & Praskova, 2018). Desimone (2000) defines parental involvement as a set of group-specific actions, beliefs, and attitudes that serve as an operational factor in defining categorical differences among children and their parents from different racial-ethnic and economic backgrounds.

Many studies have been conducted on the influence of parental involvement on career decision-making among students. Some of these studies were conducted in Africa and Europe. Olaosebikan and Olusakin (2014) conducted a study on the effects of parental influence on adolescents' career choice in Badagry local government area of Lagos State, Nigeria using the descriptive survey design. The findings of the study revealed that 48.36% of the respondents agreed to parents influencing their career choice. It was also found that there was significant relationship between parental influence and career choice of adolescents. The study recommended that parents, generally, should be cautioned against imposing their own goals onto their children, they can act as a guide. This is because adolescents need to discover who they are on their own. Hairston (2000) in his study revealed that students were strongly influenced to teach vocational subjects when parents encouraged pursuits of activities associated with vocational concentrations. From there, students began to discover aptitudes for technical areas within specific vocational concentrations and that parents or parental caretakers helped develop interests in vocational teaching careers and specific vocational concentrations. Parents accomplished this by serving as role models who enhanced the altruistic desires of students, supported respondents' decisions to pursue vocational teaching careers, set high achievement goals.

Wachira (2018) revealed that a significant number of students tend to seek help from parents on career matters. However, parents with limited exposure to knowledge and little experience in higher education may be of little help to their children on career matters. Mbagwu and Ajaegbu (2016) contended that children of parents with high educational background were less likely to have difficulties in making career choices compared with those whose parents had low education background. Njogu, Kibaara & Gichohi (2019) investigated parental aspirations and its influence on career choice among public secondary school students in Meru Country, Kenya using survey design. The results show moderate influence of parental aspirations on careers selected by public secondary school students in Meru County. The findings also revealed the critical role of parents in the selection process of careers of their children in public secondary. It was recommended that Parents should strengthen their role in the provision of moral support, discussing and monitoring academic progress of children at school and at home; and rewarding them when they perform well in school, and should encourage their children to seek information on careers and exposing them to different career options.

Slovacek, Jacob and Flenoury (2015) are of the opinion that the most influencing factors of career choice is social context of family and community. It was reiterated that family financial and education background positively influence students on what career they chose in a specific period of their lifetime (Wachira, 2018; Kazi, Sharif & Ahmad, 2017). From the above submission, Tejedor, Mangas and Sierra (2016) also surmised that students had difficulties in career decision making with those at risk of poverty and social exclusion being highly affected. In another similar study conducted by Nawabi, Javed Shujauulla and Ulfat (2019) on parental influence on career choice of their children in India adopting a narrative literature review. It was found that parental perceptions play dynamic role in children's education with respect to academic performance, vocation choice and eventually influence behavior of their children towards career choice.

Theoretical Framework

The study was anchored on Holland's theory of vocational/personalities. In the past few decades, the theory by Holland (1985, 1997) has guided career interest assessment both in the USA and internationally. The theory by Holland offers a simple and easy-to-understand typology framework on career interest and environments that could be used in career counselling and guidance. Holland postulated that vocational interest is an expression of one's personality, and that vocational interests could be conceptualised into six typologies, which are Realistic (R), Investigative (I), Artistic (A), Social (S), Enterprising (E), and Conventional (C). If a person's degree of resemblance to the six vocational personality and interest types could be assessed, then, it is possible to generate a three-letter code (SIA, RIA) to denote and summaries one's career interest.

Statement of the Problem

The decision of choosing a career is a pivotal point in students' life and could significantly impact personal satisfaction, financial stability, and overall well-being students of today face increasingly complex landscape of career options, making the process of career choice more

challenging and daunting. However, failure by students to make the right choices may lead to unhappiness and disapproval by society. Failure by students to get career guidance at this stage leads to unhappiness which could hinder their career and educational aspirations. Most students pass this stage without having chosen their careers because most of the students are confused and apply for tertiary education without knowledge of what they want to pursue. Despite parents being the first teachers of their children, how parents influence career decision of their children is still a thing of worry to children, stakeholders, and educational researchers. This study therefore seeks to fill up the knowledge gap by investigating parental involvement as correlate of career decision making among secondary school students in Oyo state, Nigeria.

Objective of the Study

The general purpose of this study was to investigate parental involvement, peer influence and gender as correlate of career decision-making among secondary school students in Oyo state.

Specifically, the study:

- i. examined the relationship that exists between parental involvement and career decision-making among secondary school students in Oyo State.
- ii. investigated the influence of parental involvement and career decision-making among secondary school students in Oyo State

Research Questions

One research question was asked and answered at 0.05 level of significance.

1. Is there any significant relationship between parental involvement and career decision making among secondary school students in Oyo State?

Hypothesis

H₀₁: There is no significant influence of parental involvement on career decision-making among secondary school students in Oyo State.

METHODOLOGY

The study adopted the descriptive research design of correlational type. The design was appropriate because the researcher did not manipulate any variables of interest that occurred prior to the beginning of the study. The design enabled the researcher to measure relationship among the variables. The population for this study comprised all the 371, 040 secondary school students from the thirty-three local government in Oyo State. The research advisors sampling table by Krejcie and Morgan (1970) was used to determine the sample size. The sample size for the study was 384. Questionnaire was used for data collection because of the high literacy level of the respondents. The questionnaires were divided into five sections: A, B, C, D. section 'A' taps information on the socio-demographic characteristics of the participants like gender, class, and age. Section 'B' taps information on career decision making, section 'C' elicits information on parental involvement. The career decision making scale was adapted from Gati and Osipow (1996) to measure the decision on choice on career among students. It consists of 15 items and each item was rated using 4-point Likert scoring

scale which include Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagreed and Strongly Disagree. While the parental involvement scale was adapted from Patton (1999) to measure how parent influence decision on choice on career of their children. It consists of 12 items with a 4-point Likert scoring scale which included Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagreed and Strongly Disagree. Copies of the questionnaire were administered on the respondents in their various schools with the help of five research assistants. Data were analysed using Pearson product moment correlation and simple linear regression at 0.05 level of significance.

RESULTS

Table 1: Demographic information of Respondents

Variables		Frequency	Percentage
Gender	Male	168	43.8
	Female	216	56.2
Class	JSS1-JSS3	133	34.6
	SS1-SS3	251	65.4
Age	9-12 years	73	19.0
	13-16 years	284	74.0
	17 years and above	27	7.0

Source: *Field Survey, 2023*

Result from Table 1 revealed that 43.8% of the students were male while 56.2% were female. This means that there were more female students than the males in Oyo State. It was also revealed that 34.6% were in JSS1-JSS3 and the rest 65.4% were in SS1-SS3. This means that students who were in SS1-SS3 were more represented in the study. Also, 19.0% were between 9-12 years, 74.0% were between 13-16 years while 7.0% were between 17 years and above. This means that respondents whose age fell between 13-16 years were more represented in the study.

Research question 1: Is there any significant relationship between parental involvement and career decision-making among secondary school students in Oyo State?

Table 2: Significant relationship between parental involvement and career decision-making

Variable	Mean	SD	N	Df	R	Sig	Remark
Parental involvement	27.36	4.29	384	382	503**	0.000	Sig.
Career decision making	44.12	7.51					

*Significant at $p < 0.05$

Pearson's product moment correlation was used, and the results indicated that there is significant positive correlation between parental involvement and career decision making ($r = 0.503^{**}$; $p < 0.05$). This means that parents are at the art of ensuring that their children and

wards go into the career they choose for them. Also, most of the students do go for the type of career that their parents want them to do.

Hypothesis 1: There is no significant influence of parental involvement on career decision-making among secondary school students in Oyo State.

Table 3: Showing the influence of parental involvement on career decision-making among secondary school students

R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate			
0.318 ^a	0.110	0.106	2.72750			
ANOVA						
Model	Sum of Squares	DF	Mean Square	F	Sig.	Remark
Regression	2104.620	1	2104.620	66.484	.000 ^b	Sig.
Residual	10946.455	382	31.656			
Total	13051.075	383				

Table 3 revealed the significant influence of parental involvement on career decision-making among secondary school students in Oyo State. The result yielded a coefficient regressions $R = 0.318$ and $R\text{-square} = 0.110$. This suggests that parental involvement accounted for 10.6% ($\text{Adj.}R^2 = .593$) variance in the prediction of career decision-making. The other factors accounting for the remaining variance are beyond the scope of this study. The result from the regression analysis shows that there was a significant influence of parental involvement on career decision-making, ($F_{(1, 382)} = 66.484, p < 0.05$). This implies that parents have positive involvement in the choice and decision of career of their children and wards. Therefore, H_0 is rejected.

DISCUSSION

Result from research question one revealed that there was significant relationship between parental involvement and career decision-making. This means that parents are at the art of ensuring that their children and wards go into the career they choose for them. Also, most of the students do go for the type of career that their parents want them to do. The finding corroborates a study of Olaosebikan and Olusakin (2014) who examined the effects of parental influence on adolescents' career choice in Badagry local government area of Lagos State, Nigeria using the descriptive survey design. The findings of the study revealed that 48.36% of the respondents agreed to parents influencing their career choice. It was also found that there was significant relationship between parental influence and career choice of adolescents. The study recommended that parents should be cautioned against imposing their own goals onto their children, they can function as a guide. This is because adolescents need to discover who they are on their own.

Result from hypothesis one showed that there was significant influence of parental involvement on career decision-making among secondary school students in Oyo State. This means that parent in one way or the other influenced their children and wards' choice of career. The finding lends credence to that of Njogu, Kibaara and Gichohi (2019) who investigated parental aspirations and its influence on career choice among public secondary school students in Meru Country, Kenya using survey design. The results showed moderate influence of parental aspirations on careers selected by public secondary school students in Meru County. The findings also revealed the critical role of parents in the selection process of careers of their children in public secondary. The finding also validates that of Nawaobi, Javed Shujaulla & Ulfat (2019) who investigated parental influence on career choice of their children in India adopting a narrative literature review and reported that parental perceptions plays dynamic role in children's education with respect to academic performance, vocation choice and eventually influence behavior of their children towards career choice.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Overtime, it has been revealed that most parents do have a say in the choice of career for their children. This study also revealed that parents have the authority in making decision from their children and wards in the choice of career. One the one hand, students have choices for their own career while sometimes, parents may not key into the choices as they would want their children and wards to accept the type of career they chose for them. It could be concluded that parents have a strong influence over the choices of career decision that their children make. This influence could depend on the moral values, educational level and financial status of the parents which could turn out positive or negative on the lives of the students. It was recommended that:

1. Parents should not impose their own goals onto their children as they are expected to guide their children and wards in choosing the appropriate career that would suit their future aspiration. It is expected that parents should just guide their children so that they can discover who they are on their own.
2. Parents should study their children and wards right from childhood this is because often times, the ability and the future career of a child could be discovered at their early stages of life. This could make the parents not to force the choice of career on the children.
3. Parents should respect the differences of their children this is because family environment that shows differences and independence would immensely be helpful to the child's career development.
4. Parents should try as much as possible to show support and genuine interest for their children and wards' career plans.
5. Students should be encouraged by their parents to explore for more career options as this could be done by researching on viable careers, speaking to people in their chosen fields, volunteering, job shadowing among others.
6. Giving negative comments about different careers by parents should be avoided. This is because children are susceptible to careless comments parents make about good and bad professions as this could make them to lose interest in their dream careers.

7. School counsellors in accompany with parents should provide opportunities that would nurture interests in vocational subject matter, and create an enabling environments for students that would nurture the discovery of aptitudes for vocational content and choice.

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