Factors Responsible for Career Choice among Secondary School Students in Ogba Egbema Ndoni Local Government Area, Rivers State.

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Abstract

This study sought to investigate factors responsible for career choice among secondary school students in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government Area of Rivers state. Three null hypotheses was used for the study. The population of the study comprised all the secondary school students in the area of the study. A stratified random sampling was used in selecting a sample of two hundred (200) students. Motivation for Occupational Preference Scale (MOPS) by Bakare was used as instrument for data collection. The data was analyzed using mean, standard deviation scores and the hypotheses were tested using independent t-test at 0.05 alpha level of significance. Only socio economic status was observed to have significant influence on students with gender and type of school not been significant.

Introduction.

Despite the fact that certain barriers associated with career choice has been dealt with, choosing a future career is still marked as one of the biggest decisions facing secondary school students (Kolchang & Migunde, 2011). For most people a quality life is of outermost importance, hence, an appropriate career to them is the only means of getting a quality life and a respectable status in the society (Salami & Salami, 2013). With this kind of life in view, most students are being faced with a dilemma in making a career choice decision (Almon & Matsidiso, 2012). Just as one's life will be miserable when a wrong partner is chosen so also one can be unhappy if a wrong career is chosen (Bedu – Addo, 2000), so in a bid of choosing the right career, a lot of factors has been observed to affect students when making this important and life transforming decision. As cited in Kazi and Akhlaq (2017) factors like individuals environment, talents, skills, academic achievement, school, social setup, financial prospect, profession and educational level of parents, interest, environment, country's need, one's culture and socio-economic background has been observed to affect students when making career decisions.

Kazi and Akhlaq (2017) on factors affecting career choice observed that parents had the most significant effect on students when it comes to career choice selection, this in the opinion of Hewitt (2010) is to avoid conflict in the home. Eremie (2014) observed that parental influence were more in male students than female students, with Almon and Matsidiso (2012) observed from their studies mothers having the greater influence in career selection of children than fathers. The socio economic status of parents has also been observed to have a profound effect on career choices of students. In their research Osa-Edoh and Alutu (2011) observed that the socio-economic status of parents affected the education values and career aspirations of

students. Students from high socio economic status group were more optimistic, this was attributed to the fact that finance was available for them to continue their studies in any environment they wished to continue in, while, the students from low socio-economic status groups opted for careers that would be time and financial friendly because of the ignorance of their parents.

The school which one attends has also been observed to affect students career decisions because schools are social institutions that reinforce gender-appropriate behaviour, interests and occupations and teachers also like parents are viewed as key players (or role models) in the career paths that young people eventually pursue ((Almon & Matsidiso, 2012).
Kolchang and Migunde (2011) while carrying out a study of this sort in Kenya was able to come up with a list of factors and their order of influence exerted on students. To them, gender had the greatest effect. But when asked if they had any other factor in mind, it was observed that security was of grave importance to the students because a majority of them were of the opinion that it is easier to succeed in a career where a relative is specializing in. Nyamwange (2016) from her findings concluded that having a prior knowledge about a career is important to developing and nurturing interest in the career. As important as it is, there exist yet no clear process which students have used to make a career choice (Salami & Salami, 2013).

Purpose of the Study
The purpose of the study is to find out how some factors affect career choice of students in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government area of Rivers State. Specifically, the study will try to find out:
1. If gender has any significant influence on career choice of secondary school students
2. If socio-economic factor is responsible for career choice of secondary school students
3. If the type of school is responsible for the career choice of secondary school students

Hypotheses
Based on the research question the following hypotheses are formulated to guide the study
1. Gender does not significantly influence the choice of career among secondary school students
2. Socio-economic status does not significantly influence the choice of career among secondary school students.
3. Type of school does not significantly influence choice of career among secondary school students

Methodology
Research Design
Descriptive survey study was used for the study. Descriptive survey study is that in which the researcher collects data from a large sample drawn from a given population and describes certain features of the sample as they are at the time of the study and which are of interest to the researcher, however without manipulating any independent variables of the study (Nwankwo, 2013).

Population of the Study
The population of the study comprises all the secondary school students in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government Area of Rivers State. This involved all students in both public and private secondary schools in the area.

Sample and Sampling Technique

The sample population of this study consisted of 200 hundred secondary school students, of which one hundred were girls and one hundred were boys resulting to two hundred (200).The stratified random sampling technique was used in selecting the sample size.

Instrument for Data Collection

The instrument for data collection was Motivation for Occupational Preference Scale (MOPS) developed by Bakare of the University of Ibadan. The instrument is divided into three sections; A, B and C. Section A contains "Personal Information" which are: name of respondent, father's occupation, age, class or year, mother's occupation, sex, date and school or university. Section B contains "Occupational Preference" which are; occupation or profession you would like most to engage in when you complete your education and which is the next best occupation you prefer? and Section C contains "Reasons for occupational preference".

The scale is divided into four sections: Section A is external influence: Section B extrinsic-reward, values while Section C is self-expression values and Section D people- oriented values.

Validation of the Instrument

The instrument was developed by Prof. C.G.M. Bakare and it has passed through the process of validation.

Method of Data Analysis

The researcher used mean, standard deviation scores independent t-test to test the three null hypotheses for statistical significance at 0.05 alpha level.

Results and Discussion

Results

Hypothesis One: Gender does not significantly influence the choice of career among secondary school students.

Table 1: The T – test analysis of the mean and standard deviation of the Gender factors responsible for career choice among secondary school students

Gender	N	$\bar{x}$	SD	DF	standard error	Calculated t-value	Critical t-value	Remark
Male	100	3.12	1.04	198	0.141	1.284	1.960	Not significant
Female	100	3.08	1.02					

Table 1 shows that standard error is 0.141, calculated t-value is 1.284, and critical t-value is 1.960 at 0.05 level of significance. Since the calculated t-value (1.284) is less than the critical t-value (196O) at 0.05 level of significance and 198 degree of freedom, the null hypothesis that "Gender does not significantly influence the choice of career among secondary school students is accepted. The result is that similar factors are responsible for choice of career among male and female secondary school students in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government Area.

Hypothesis Two: Socio-economic status does not significantly influence the choice of career among secondary school students.

Table 2: The T – test analysis of the mean and standard deviation of the socio-economic factors responsible for career choice among secondary school students:

Socio economic status	N	$\overline{x}$	SD	DF	standard error	Calculated t-value	Critical t-value	Remark
High SES	73	3.24	1.07	198	0.148	3.716	1.960	significant
Low SES	127	2.69	0.87					

Table 2 shows that standard error is 0.148, calculated t-value is 3.716, and critical t-value is 1.960 at 0.05 level of significance. Since the calculated t-value 3.716) is greater than the critical t-value (1.960) at 0.05 level of significance, the null hypothesis that "socio-economic status does not significantly influence the choice of career among secondary school students is rejected. This mean that the alternate hypothesis is accepted. The result is that the alternate hypothesis is accepted. The result is that the factors responsible for choice of career among students from high and low socio-economic status significantly differ in the area.

Hypothesis Three: Type of school does not significantly influence choice of career among secondary school students.

Table 3: The T – test analysis of the mean and standard deviation of the type of school and factors responsible for career choice among secondary school students.

Type of school	N	$\overline{x}$	SD	DF	standard error	Calculated t-value	Critical t-value	Remark
Public	100	2.98	0.98	198	0.153	1.418	1.960	Not significant
Private	100	3.05	1.01					

Table 3 shows that standard error is 0.153 calculated t-value is 1.418, critical t-value is 1.960 at 0.05 level of significance. Since the calculated t-value (1.418) is greater than the critical t-value (1.960) at 0.05 level of significance, the null hypothesis that type of school does not significantly influence choice of career among secondary school students is accepted. This means that the alternate hypothesis is rejected. The result is that the factors responsible for choice of career among secondary school students from public and private secondary schools does not significantly differ in the area.

Discussions
The study focused on how gender, type of school and socio-economic status of students affects their career choice. The result obtained from this study attributed career choice decisions to be affected only by socio-economic status of individuals which agrees with those of other researchers (Nwachukwu, 2003; Onyia, 2000) and not dependent on gender and type of school attended which disagrees with those of other researchers (Eremie, 2014; Moro, 2000; Okafor & Ugwuebulan, 2000; Onyejiaku,1998).

Career choice of students in this Local Government is environmentally driven. Ogba Egbema Ndoni Local Goverenment Area plays host to a lot of companies, so a lot of students select career options that makes them feel secured i.e makes it possible for them to be absorbed easily into the companies in this area and this dream according to this students can be halted by lack of finance. So opting for time and economic friendly courses to them is the only option they have left (Osa – Edoh & Alutu, 2011)

Conclusion

From the result obtained from this study it was concluded that only socio economics factors affect the career choice of secondary school students in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government Area of Rivers State. This is because only finance could serve as a hindrance to them in studying the courses they need to get the kind of life they want

Recommendations

In the light of the above findings, the researcher recommends that career choice be included in the school curriculum to enable students make the right decisions and the exposure of students to other opportunities of life outside their present environment.

Acknowledgements

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