

## Occupational Information: As Panacea for Career Decision Making.

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### **Abstract**

*It is an indisputable fact that, if you are not informed, you will be deformed. Occupational information plays a significant role in career decision making. It provides students with current and valid information about existing careers in the field of work. These information helps students to have sound knowledge and understanding about different careers in the work field, their entry requirements, nature of job, job benefits etc.*

*Therefore, Guidance counsellors in schools should ensure that, students are adequately provided with current and valid occupational information so as to make right career decision. Thus in view of this context, this paper x-ray the concept of occupational information, the importance of occupational information in career decision making and the need for occupational information in schools. Among others the paper recommended that, the government should allocate special fund in the budget to sponsor career day and field trips in schools every term and Guidance Counsellors should provide students with current and valid occupational information.*

**Key words:** Occupational information, career decision

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### **Introduction**

Occupational Information plays a significant role in career decision making. An individual requires accurate occupational Information about careers, their entry requirements, nature of job, job hazards and benefits to make realistic career preference. Based on this assertion, it is important that, we have professional Guidance counsellors in our schools that can use their wealth of knowledge to disseminate occupational information to students who are totally ignorant and are in urgent need of these vital services in order to make realistic career preference that can enable them to have job happiness. The fact remains clear that, an individual's ability to make realistic career preference depends on the level of occupational information he has received over a period of time.

### **Conceptual Clarification**

#### **Concept of Occupational Information:**

Occupational Information plays an important role in career decision making. Occupational Information as the name implies, help students to be aware of existing careers in the world of work, both old and new. The society we are living is large and everyday there is the introduction of new careers in the occupational world. Most students lack full knowledge about existence of old and

new careers or occupations in their locality but through occupational information, students are able to have full awareness of the existence of different occupations.

Caplow as cited in Bright, Pryor and Harpharm (2005), asserted that, most student's makes preference in career without having full awareness of existing careers in the occupational world. Thus occupational information is very vital if one must make right career decision. Myres (2006), opined that, career guidance is made possible when there is proper occupational information. Also Anyaduba as cited in Welson (2017), affirm that, when youths are provided with occupational information, they will be in a better position to access their characteristic and what is required by their preferred career.

Chakma (2023), asserted that, occupational information is information about the world of work. It covers reliable information relating to different occupations which include, training, preparation, working conditions and benefits.

Encyclopedia of Networked and Virtual Organization (2008), defines occupational information as data about different occupations.

Nwamuo (2001), affirm that, occupational information is assisting individuals to obtain realistic information concerning different occupation in the occupational world.

Also Hoppock (1976), opined that, occupational information is all kinds of information about jobs. Based on this assertion, it is important that, we have Professional Guidance Counsellors in our schools that can use their wealth of knowledge to disseminate occupational information to students who are totally ignorant and are in urgent need of this vital service in order to make realistic career preference that can enable them to have job happiness.

#### **Importance of Occupational Information in Career Decision Making**

1. Occupational Information is very important because, it provide students with valid and current information about all kinds of occupation in the world of work.
2. Occupational information provides the opportunity for students to be aware of the required job characteristics that must be possessed by workers in different occupations in the occupational world, with these information students are able to make career decision that will be in a perfect match with their personal characteristics so as to have job happiness.
3. Occupational information helps individuals in their career development and growth. Thus from early age individuals through occupational information are able to explore the occupational world and make their occupational choice.
4. Occupational information provide the opportunity for students to be aware of different institution of training with their respective courses. Most students lack valid information about different training institution and the courses they offer but through occupational information, students are able to know the right institution of training to enroll for their course of study. For instance, most students do not have idea of the courses offered by university of Petroleum in Effurun, Delta State but through valid occupational information, students will be aware of different courses offered by the university.
5. Occupational information help students to make their subject selection based on their chosen career so that they can acquire the necessary skills and knowledge.
6. Occupational information is an important tool for career planning, career adjustment, career development and career advancement.

### **The Need for Occupational Information in Schools**

It is very necessary for Guidance Counsellors in schools to provide students with valid occupational information due to the following reasons.

1. Occupational information is very useful to assist students to make their career decision based on their interest, intelligent, aptitude, skills and personality.
2. Occupational information is needful because it provides students with full details about different occupations in the world of work. These include nature of Job, entry requirements, job benefits, values, abilities, skills, job hazard, training packages, salary etc.
3. Occupational information is necessary in schools because it helps students to have knowledge and idea concerning their future occupation.
4. Occupational information is very useful to students because it provides them with information about internship and training facilities based on their area of occupational interest or choice.
5. Occupational information is very necessary in schools because it enables students to get first-hand information from workers in their career interest area through participation in field trip and career day.

### **Techniques in Disseminating Occupational Information**

The Professional Guidance Counsellor in well-establish school make use of different techniques in disseminating occupational information to students so that they can have valid information about the existence of different occupations in the world of work and be able to make their own choices. These techniques include the following:

- **Field Trip or Industrial Visit:** This is an organized programme for students to visit selected industries, establishments, institutions or other work places for the primary purpose of gaining valid first-hand information from the workers which include: entry requirements, condition of services, tools and machines used by workers, job benefits and hazards etc.
- **Career Day:** Career day is a day set apart for career orientation, when students are given the opportunity to hear valid information from specialist in various occupations.
- **Guidance Display:** This involves the display of occupational information on the bulletin board at strategic positions in the school to attract the attention of the students.
- **Group Guidance:** This is another effective means of disseminating occupational information. In group guidance, the Guidance Counsellor organized students in groups with similar occupational interest and specifically disseminate to them comprehensive occupational information concerning the job, entry requirement, condition of services, job benefits, job hazards, training packages etc.
- **Mass Media:** The Television, radio and overhead projectors are used to record information about different occupations for students to watch or sometimes listen. Asma as cited in Idris (2011), asserted that, Mass Media plays an essential part in the decision students makes in terms of career.

- **Publications:** Some publications in magazines, newspapers, career journals and business papers have special page where occupational information is being provided for the general public. Guidance Counsellors also make use of this medium to provide occupational information to students.

### **Conclusion**

This paper examined occupational information as a panacea for career decision making. It highlighted the fact that, an individual need to be provided adequately with valid and current occupational information to be able to make right career decision. Therefore having gone through this paper, one can rightly conclude that, the importance of occupational information as a panacea for career decision making cannot be over emphasized. In that, an individual's ability to make right career decision depends on the level of current and valid occupational information he has acquired. Based on this fact, it becomes necessary that, students should be provided with current and valid occupational information while in school.

### **Suggestions**

Occupational information is a tool for realistic career preference, therefore the following were recommended.

- The Government should allocate special fund in the budget to sponsor career day and field trips in schools every term
- Guidance counsellors should construct good bulletin boards to display different careers in the field of work at strategic locations in the school compound. This will help students to be aware of existing careers in the world of work.
- Guidance Counsellors should organize guidance classes for students based on their career preference and adequately provide students with current and valid occupational information
- The Government should ensure that, there is a resident professional Guidance Counsellors in all schools because they are the right personnel qualified to facilitate guidance and counselling programmes in schools.

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