



INFLUENCE OF FAMILY BACKGROUND ON CAREER ASPIRATION OF SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN ZONE C, BENUE STATE

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Abstract

Career Aspirations implies the way in which an individual expresses himself and relates to society through work. This study examined the Influence of Family Background on Career Aspirations of Secondary School Students in Zone C of Benue State. The study was guided by research questions and hypotheses. The population of this study comprised all senior secondary school students of the 23 local government areas in Zone C of Benue State. The study was guided by research questions and hypotheses and 35 items questionnaire was administered on 377 respondents in 12 schools in the Zone. The data on research questions were analyzed using arithmetic mean and standard deviation. The hypotheses were further tested using chi-square statistical tool at 0.05 level of significance. Leveraging on Anne Roe's theory of Career Aspiration, the study found that parents' socio-economic, parents' location or residential home, parental attitude, parents' level of education and parents' religion has significant influence on the career aspiration of students. The study therefore concludes that students should be appropriately guided in developing their capabilities since family factors have proved to exert influence on students' career aspiration. The study recommends that; parents/school administrators should not prevail over a child's career aspiration and capability rather proper guidance should be given to children. The study also recommends that government through the Ministry of Education should organized career workshop and seminars for both JSS and SS classes every year to enable them match their career aspiration irrespective of whatever family influence.

Keywords: *Influence, Family Background, Career Aspiration, Secondary School Students.*

Introduction

Secondary education occupies a unique position in the educational system of Nigeria, because it is that level that determines the academic and professional career of students. However, at the secondary school level, a student may choose to pursue science based subjects, art based subjects or commercial based subjects. Many students are faced with the problem of realistic career preference hence Aspirations (Kolo, 2019), some students do not know school subjects that are relevant to their future preferred career. Some students make career Aspirations that are in opposition to their interest and personality structure. To some they do not understand the type of careers opened to them in the present Nigeria situation after graduation from secondary school. The future therefore looks very bleak as far as their careers are concerned and this constitutes a problem to motivation for learning among our students.

Career is a bigger term subsuming vocation, occupation and job or work in that descending order (Denga, 2016). He further explained that career Aspirations is one of the most difficult decisions in a person's life. It involves person total life because it determines his income, his choice of friends, his pattern of dress, his influence in society and very often the amount of risk to which he is exposed. Therefore, noting these consequences it is very important for career guidance to be provided so that by the time a student is making a career aspiration to enter into, he/she may likely choose those careers that could give an individual an inner satisfaction.

Generally, there are many factors, which are recognized as influencing career aspirations among students among which are extrinsic factors and intrinsic factors that motivate an individual to enter into certain career. The extrinsic factors includes: Parents, teachers and others who occupied a significant place in the life of a child, while the intrinsic factors are: Sex; gender is an important determinant in career aspirations and planning. Traditionally there are careers that are to be considered feminine such as teaching, nursing, catering, hospitality, hair dressing and

dress-making while others are more suited to males engineering, building, and mining etc. But nowadays the dividing line between masculine and feminine careers is diminishing, in that you can find both sexes in almost all professional fields. Interests; individual's likes and dislikes contribute to his choice and performance in any given career. A person may also possess personal physical abilities required in a particular occupation. Children with high intellectual ability may like jobs that demand high intellectual ability and so on (Denga, 2016).

Students require guidance in order to make the right career aspirations. Maina (2013), states that positive or negative parental influence shapes one's career. Many children grow up idealizing the professions of their parents. If one looked up to their mother and admired her teaching skills that may influence one to pursue a career in education. Parents may also intentionally or unintentionally push a child toward a particular career path, especially in the cases of family-owned businesses, where parents expect their children to take over the company. Still other parents apply pressure on their offspring to strive for particular high profile careers, feeling they are encouraging their children to reach high. Parental support and encouragement are important factors that have been found to influence career choice. Children may choose what their parents desire simply to please them.

Statement of the Problem

Choosing a career is often considered a major turning point in a young adult's life. Career aspiration has been known for long as an individual's choice of lifelong occupation. The problem of career aspiration among secondary school students has drawn the attention of many researchers. Secondary school students should have the opportunity to explore all of the choices available in order to make a logical educated plan when choosing a career.

However, parents occupied a significant place in the life of a child. Some parents may have occupation which themselves could not be fulfilled but want their offspring to fulfil them.

Parents may directly or indirectly dictate to their offspring the careers to pursue. For example, most of the time, the students have problem in terms of career aspiration whereby they don't even know the career to choose; in the choice of subjects combination, they tend to follow crowd. Some of them are either positively or negatively influenced by their parents' career. At times some parents do force their children to go for certain careers which they do not interest in nor have the ability to cope with.

Some parents encourage what is known as family occupation by shaping up the interests of their children to take after their profession. Many parents may not realize that their influence on students' career aspiration may present opportunities or obstacles during their career selection. This study therefore, examined the Influence of Family Background on Career Aspiration of Secondary School Students in Zone C of Benue State.

Research Objectives

This study was guided by the following objectives that specifically intended to:

- Determine the influence of parents' level of education and career aspiration of students in senior secondary schools in Zone C of Benue State.
- Determine the influence of parents' occupation and career aspiration of students in senior secondary schools in Zone C of Benue State.
- Determine the influence of parents' socio-economic status and career aspiration of students in senior secondary schools in Zone C of Benue State.
- Find out the difference between students' gender and their career aspiration in senior secondary schools in Zone C of Benue State.
- Find out the difference between career aspiration of students' in public and private senior secondary schools in Zone C of Benue State.

Results

Research Hypothesis One: There is no significant influence between parents' level of education and career aspiration of students in senior secondary school in Zone C of Benue State.

Research Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses were tested at 0.05 level of significance:

- H₀₁:** There is no significant relationship between parents' level of education and career aspiration of students in senior secondary schools in Zone C of Benue State.
- H₀₂:** There is no significant relationship between parents' occupation and career aspiration of students in senior secondary schools in Zone C of Benue State.
- H₀₃:** There is no significant relationship between parents' socio-economic status and career aspiration of students in senior secondary schools in Zone C of Benue State.
- H₀₄:** There is no significant difference between students' gender and their career aspiration in senior secondary schools in Zone C of Benue State.
- H₀₅:** There is no significant difference between career aspiration of students' in public and private senior secondary schools in Zone C of Benue State.

Methodology

This study adopted correlational survey research design. The population of this study consists of all senior secondary schools students within Zone C of Benue State with the total number of one thousand seven hundred and sixty-six (1766) SS II students out of which 306 students were sampled. The instruments used for data collection of this study, were two instruments namely: Students' career Aspiration Questionnaire and Socio-economic Status Scale. The instruments were validated by experts and considered reliable for use with a Cronbach alpha coefficient of internal consistency of 0.739 for (SCAQ) and 0.913 for (SSS). The data was collected by the researcher and research assistants. The statistical tools used to analyse the data were Spearman's rank correlation coefficient was used to test the hypotheses 1, 2 and 3 while independent sample t-test was used to test hypotheses 4 and 5.

Table 1: Results of Spearman Rank Correlation of influence between parents' level of education and students' career aspiration.

Variable	N	X	S.D.	Rho.	sig.	Decision
Parents level of education	306	3.31	1.77	.044	.438	Accepted
Career aspiration	306	28.16	4.00			

Result in Table 1, shows that there is no significant influence between parents' level of education and students career aspiration. Spearman rank order correlation was used in testing the hypothesis. From table 1, the correlation value of $Rho = .044$ represents the correlation between parents level of education and students career aspiration while the sig-value

of .438 represents the significance level. Based on the obtained correlation value ($Rho = .044$, $sig. = .438$, $? 0.05$), a statistically not significant influence exist between parents level of education and students' career aspiration. This is because the obtained sig-value is $? .05$ level of significance. Based on the obtained result, the stated null hypothesis was accepted.

Research Hypothesis Two: There is no influence between parents' occupation and career aspiration of students in senior secondary schools in Zone C of Benue State.

Table 2: Results of Spearman Rank Correlation of the influence between parents' occupation and students' career aspiration

Variable	N	X	S.D.	Rho.	sig.	Decision
Parents occupation	306	1.98	1.25	.080	.163	Accepted
Career aspiration	306	28.16	4.00			

Result in Table 2, shows that there is no significant influence between parents occupation and students career aspiration. Spearman rank order correlation was used in testing the hypothesis. From table 2, the correlation value of $Rho = .080$ represents the correlation between parents occupation and students career aspiration while the sig-value of .163 represents the

significance level. Based on the obtained correlation value ($Rho = .080$, $sig. = .163$, $? 0.05$), a statistically not significant influence exist between parents occupation and students' career aspiration. This is because the obtained sig-value is $? .05$ level of significance. Based on the obtained result, the stated null hypothesis was accepted.

Research Hypothesis Three: There is no significant influence between parents' socioeconomic status and career aspiration of students in senior secondary schools in Zone C of Benue State.

Table 3: Result of the Spearman Rank Correlation of the influence between parents' socioeconomic status of education and students' career aspiration

Variable	N	X	S.D.	r.	sig.	Decision
Parents socioeconomic status	306	2.12	1.48	.129	.024	Rejected
Career aspiration	306	28.16	4.00			

Result in Table 3, revealed that there is significant influence between parents' socio-economic status and students' career aspiration. Spearman rank order correlation was used in testing the hypothesis. From Table 3, the correlation value of $Rho = .129$ represents the correlation between parents socio-economic status and students career aspiration while the sig-value of .024 represents

the significance level. Based on the obtained correlation value ($Rho = .129$, sig. = .024, < 0.05), a statistically significant influence exist between parents socio-economic status and students' career aspiration. This is because the obtained sig-value is $< .05$ level of significance. Based on the obtained result, the stated null hypothesis was rejected.

Research Hypothesis Four: There is no significant difference between gender and career aspiration of students in senior secondary school in Zone C of Benue State.

Table 4: Result of the independent sample t-test showing gender difference on students' career aspiration

Career aspiration	N	Mean	S.D	df	T	Sig.	Decision
Male	149	27.59	3.92	304	2.492	.013	Rejected
Female	157	28.73	3.99				

Table 4, presents the results of the independent t-test on whether there is a significant gender difference in the career aspiration of senior secondary school students. The result showed that $t(304) = 2.492$ and $p = 0.013$. Since the p-value (0.013) is less than the alpha value (0.05), the

hypothesis was therefore rejected. Thus, there was significant gender difference in the career aspiration of secondary school students in Zone C of Benue State. It means female students have higher mean score than their male counterparts in terms of career aspiration.

Research Hypothesis Five: There is no significant difference between school type and career aspiration choice of students in senior secondary schools in Zone C of Benue State.

Table 5: Result of the independent sample t-test on difference between school types on students' career aspiration

Career aspiration	N	Mean	S.D	df	t	p.	Decision
Private schools	52	27.37	3.86	304	1.563	.119	Accepted
Public schools	254	28.33	4.02				

Table 5, presents the results of the independent t-test on whether there is a significant difference between school type and career aspiration of senior secondary school students. The result showed that $t(304) = 1.563$ and $p = 0.119$. Since the p-value (0.119) is greater than the alpha value (0.05), the hypothesis was therefore accepted. Thus, there was no significant difference between private and public school in terms of career

aspiration of secondary school students in Zone C of Benue State. It means both private and public schools were the same in terms of career aspiration.

Discussion of findings

The study revealed that there is no significant influence between parents level of education and students career aspiration. This result is in line

with that of Clutter (2010), who sought to find out the relationship between parents' highest level of education and the career aspiration of the students. This was achieved by carrying out a correlation between students' career choice and parents' educational level. Results of this correlation indicated that the father's education level is insignificantly and negatively correlated with the students' career choice while that of the mother's was both positively and significantly correlated. This is an indication that the mother's level of education significantly influences the students' future careers.

The result of this study revealed that there is no significant influence between parents' occupation and students' career aspiration. The negative correlation means that the students would choose careers different from those of their parents. This result is in line with that of Olaosebikan and Olusakin (2014), whose findings indicated that parental influence could not have significant effect on adolescents' career aspiration, and that perceptions of parental occupational satisfaction will not have effect on career choice of adolescents' students in Badagry Local Government based on the following intervening variables such as sex, and type of school.

The result of this study revealed that there is a significant influence between parents' socio-economic status and students' career aspiration. This result is in line with that of Jungen (2008), who supported the view that parents' socio-economic status has influenced on their children's career aspiration. They noted that many parents due to certain personal likeness and social economic conditions of certain career persuade their children to study certain subjects that would lead to particular. Ferry (2013), identified schooling as one of the cultural and socio-economic factors affecting the choice of a career. Davis (2009), found that parents that are very wealthy and rich would have programmed the kind of discipline or professions they want their children take to. For instance, they tend to have influence in students' career aspiration for.

The result of this study revealed that there is significant difference between male and female in

terms of career aspiration. This result is in line with that of Adamu (2013), in his study found a remarkable gender difference in occupational choice of students. Males were found to have preferred courses in social, science, persuasive and artistic while females favoured courses in social, clerical and science. Males were found to have preferred courses in engineering, environmental studies, veterinary medicine and agriculture while female favoured courses in education, arts and administration. The result is also in line with the previous literatures reviewed in Nigeria (Akinboye, 1997), and those of western studies on gender differences in (Betz, 2005).

The result of this study reveals that there is no significant difference between private and public school in terms of career aspiration. This result is in line with that of Okwelle and Amakiri (2020), who conducted a research on Parental Background and the Career aspiration of Secondary School Students and found that there was no significant difference in the mean response of students' career aspiration from public and private secondary schools in Ahoada East Local Government Area.

Conclusion

The study concludes that there is no significant influence between parents' level of education, parents' occupation and students' career aspiration but there is significant influence between parents' socio-economic status and students' career aspiration. It also concluded that there is significance difference between male and female students in terms of career aspiration but no significant difference exist between private and public school in terms of career aspiration.

Recommendations

The following recommendations were made based on the findings of the study:

- ❖ Parents should not force students to pursue careers similar to their own against their will. This is because majority of the students indicated they would not choose careers similar to those of their parents. A strong parent-child influence is essential in shaping the students' career aspiration. In this regard, it is recommended that parents should take

time to discuss different kinds of careers with their children. Whenever necessary, the parents should guide their children in choosing a career and express satisfaction with the child's decision.

- ❖ School counsellors should educate the students to be aware of various environmental factors that might be influencing their career aspiration. They should also advice teachers and parents on how to prepare students at an earlier stage by choosing the right career.
- ❖ Government should intensify efforts to send trained Counsellors to secondary schools and primary schools to provide vocational, educational and persona-social services to the students.

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