



RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FACTORS INFLUENCING CAREER CHOICES AMONG SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN BAUCHI STATE

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Abstract

The main purpose of the study was to assess the Relationship between Factors Influencing Career Choices among Senior Secondary School Students in Bauchi State. The study was guided by two objectives, two research questions and two hypotheses. Literatures relevant to the work were reviewed under twelve subheadings. The study adopted Correlation research design. The population of the study was 102,112 which comprised students of public senior secondary schools in Bauchi state. Cluster sampling technique was used to draw the sample for this study. A 60 items structured questionnaire was developed by the researcher and used for data collection for the study. The instrument was validated by three experts in different field of Education. Cronbach Alpha coefficient of reliability was used in determining the internal consistency of the instrument, which gave a coefficient value of 0.85, which indicated that it is reliable. The data collected was analyzed, the research questions were answered using mean and standard deviation with the help of Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) version 21 and Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPCM) was used for testing hypotheses. From the result obtained from this study it was revealed that Student` interest and Peer factor have positively influenced the career choices of senior secondary school students in Bauchi state. The study recommended that Students should be given proper guidance on how to make subjects selections that lead to their Career Choices. Also Peer relationship among students in schools should be monitored by school authorities to ensure wrong perception about certain careers is not injected to students. Therefore if the result of this study will be implemented the problem of wrong career choices will reduce to least amount.

Introduction

Career choice is one of many important selection students make in determining future plans. This decision will impact them throughout their lives because; the essence of who the student is revolves around what the student wants to do with their life-long work. At secondary school level, a student is expected to have knowledge of what he or she intends to do in the future, this in turn guides the choice of subjects in the West African Certificate (WAEC) or National Examination Council (NECO). This decision-making is very important and students must be allowed to choose their careers because it

will create awareness in the students mind for the challenges ahead. The younger generation is the future of any society. Therefore, their career choices should help them develop the knowledge, skills and attitude needed to successfully examine their lives, while exploring and evaluating a wide range of career options to attain goals in the future.

Each individual responsibility is influenced by numerous factors such as the perspective in which they live, their personal ability, and educational accomplishment. Career choice is determined by understanding of the entirety traits and the



satisfaction that results out of a career. All these depend on the well matched of a person's employment situation including character (Durosaro and Nuhu, 2016).

Monica and Kate (2017) identified the motivating impact of parental education on their children career choice. Edwards and Quinter (2016) state that, gender, area of residence, school attended, attitude, self employment, prestige of the profession, employment security, financial support, career specialization, career flexibility, personal interest, availability of job, advancement, applied knowledge and learning experience are all regarded as factors influencing career choice among students' In view of the prior, the need to find out the relationship between factors influencing students career choices in senior secondary schools in Bauchi State.

Statement of the Problem

Secondary school students' perceptions of various school subjects make the students delay to make the correct subject choices before them finally their career decisions. They become nervous worried and anxious.

Normally, students' make wrong choice due to lack of proper guidance from school, parents and otherwise as a result of that, students tend to change subjects of their choices all times and finally end up nowhere. Some parents do channel their children towards the career that only agree with their culture, religion and tradition, sometimes students choose career like their parents occupations, meanwhile some individual students prefer to take-up certain jobs mainly because it is sex determined, that is to say female tend to prefer and pursue feminine type of jobs like teaching, nursing and several jobs, while male are for masculine jobs such as engineering, armed forces, agriculture and the like.

This results the students not having interest in

career and may not perform credibly in class and even in work place, which reveal a retard in the development of capacity building in the society and the nation at large. In view of the above mentioned challenges and problems, the researcher intent to find out the relationship between factors influencing career choices among secondary school students in Bauchi state.

Purpose of the Study

The main purpose of the study was to find out the relationship between factors influencing career choices among secondary school students in Bauchi state. Specifically the study intends to:

1. Find out the relationship between parental influence and career choices among secondary school students in Bauchi state
2. Find out the relationship between peer group influence and career choices among secondary school students in Bauchi state.
3. Find out the relationship between students' interest influence and career choices among secondary school students in Bauchi state.
- 4.

Research Questions

To achieve the objectives, the study answered the following five research questions:

1. What is the relationship between parents influence and career choice of senior secondary school students in Bauchi State?
2. What is the relationship between peers group influence and career choice of senior secondary school students in Bauchi State?
3. What is the relationship between interest influence and career choice of senior secondary school students in Bauchi State?



Research Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses were postulated and tested at 0.05 level of significance

Ho₁: There is no significant relationship between parental influence and choice of career among senior secondary school students in Bauchi State.

Ho₃: There is no significant relationship between peer influence and choice of career among senior secondary school students in Bauchi State.

Ho₅: There is no significant relationship between student's interest and choice of career among senior secondary school students in Bauchi State.

Research Methodology

Population of the Study

The total population for this study was 102,112 (as in Table one) which comprise all the public senior secondary school students from the three senatorial districts of Bauchi state Nigeria.

Table 1: Population Distribution of number of Students, of senior secondary schools in Bauchi state with respects to three zonal education offices.

Zone	Number of schools	Number of students
Bauchi	103	59,419
Central	41	17,096
Katagum	46	25,597
Total	190	102,112

Sample and Sampling Technique

The sample size for this study was 384 which was drawn out of the total population of 102,112 following Krejcie and Morgan (1970) table of determining sample size

The sampling technique for the study was Cluster sampling. To obtain a representative sample from the population, 8 schools were randomly selected from each three zone cluster, then 16 participants were also randomly selected from each of 8 selected schools from three zone.

Instruments for Data Collection

The instruments for data collection was structured questionnaire titled Factors Influencing Career Choices (FICC) Questionnaire, which was developed by the researcher based on review of related literature. The FICC Questionnaire was made of five sections A, B, C, D, and E respectively. After introduction part which was a request letter to respondent for filling

the questionnaire and indications on how to fill the questionnaire, while the subsequent (A, B, C, D, and E)Section was the questionnaire which was cover 50 items that was comprised of 10 items sought information based on the five research questions guiding this study. The respondents were asked to indicate their opinion to the best of their knowledge on each item of the questionnaire, which was based on a five point Likert response scale with numerical value as follows: Strongly Agree (SA) =5, Agree (A) =4, Undecided (UN) = 3, Disagree (D) =2, Strongly disagree (SD) =1 The criterion mean for accepting result was 2.50. Therefore from 2.50 – 3.99 and above would be accepted and from 0 – 2.49 would be rejected.

Validity and Reliability of the Instrument

The instruments were validated by three experts in research, statistics, measurement and evaluation and finally guidance and



counselling experts from Department of Educational Foundations from Faculty of Technology Education Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Bauchi to ensure the face and content validity of all the instruments.

To determine the reliability, the instrument was administered to a small sample of respondents which Was selected outside the population of the study. The instrument was subjected to reliability using The Cronbach Alpha at 0.08.

Method of Data Collection

The questionnaire was administered to the respondents by the researcher with the help of two research assistant, for them to tick on their own. The completed copies of the questionnaires were collected on the spot to ensure a high return rate.

Method of Data Analysis

The procedure used in the analysis of the data collected was Descriptive statistics to

answer research questions, i.e. mean, and standard deviation, were used, While the null hypotheses 1-3 were tested using independent sample t test all at 0.05 level of significance.

Results and Discussion

Answering of Research Questions

To answer research questions stated in this study, mean score of a five-point Likert scale was used and calculated mathematically thus; $\text{mean} = (5+4+3+2+1)/5 = 15/5 = 3.00$. In essence, the criteria for categorizing whether an item statement has high influence low influence is based on its resultant mean value. Therefore, if a computed mean is higher or equal to 3.00, an item statement has high influence otherwise, it has low influence.

Research Question One

To what extent do parents influence career choice of senior secondary school students in Bauchi State?

Table 1: Means and Standard Deviations ratings of respondents on extent of parent influence on career choice of senior secondary school students in Bauchi State

S/N	Item Statement	N= 379	Mean	SD	Remark
1	Parents influence on children affect career guidance at school		2.20	1.31	LI
2	Students come to school with predetermined careers		2.86	1.36	LI
3	Parental education has an impact on children's choice of careers		2.12	1.35	LI
4	Parental actions have an impact on their children's careers		2.67	1.39	LI
5	The quality of parental offspring relationship is influential to children's choice of careers		2.01	1.46	LI
6	Adolescents who cannot separate effectively from their parents are not free to make independent career decisions		2.75	1.54	LI
7	Children choose certain careers to please their parents		2.12	1.30	LI
8	Parental values and beliefs influence children on career choice		2.41	1.39	LI
9	Parents can create interest of certain careers in their children		2.22	1.22	LI
10	Family members can be identified as models by children		2.52	1.48	LI
	Overall		2.39	1.38	LI

KEY: N = Number of respondents, SD = Standard Deviation, LI = Low Influence

Source: Fieldwork, 2025

Information in Table 1 revealed Mean and Standard Deviation ratings of respondents on extent of parent influence on career choice of senior secondary school students in Bauchi

State. It showed that all the ten item statements contributed low parental influence on student's career choice. This is true as mean value obtained for each item statement



was less than 5-point scale cut-off (3.00) used in this study. Besides, from the computed overall mean score (2.39), which was also less than the used cut-off of five-point scale (3.00).

Research Question Two

To what extent does peers group influence career choice of senior secondary school students in Bauchi State?

Table 3: Means and Standard Deviations ratings of respondents on extent does peers group influence on career choice of senior secondary school students in Bauchi State

S/N	Item Statement N= 379	Mean	SD	Remark
1	Peer advice on careers is essential to fellow students	3.16	1.46	HI
2	The interaction of students is a powerful tool for children to choose certain careers	2.78	1.52	LI
3	Entrepreneurship information is more influential if it comes from peers	3.33	1.43	HI
4	Validation of careers is provided by peers	3.72	1.27	HI
5	Information given by the peers is always reliable	3.79	1.30	HI
6	Peer group pressure influence is sometimes used as pressure to induce young adolescents into predetermined careers	3.25	1.39	HI
7	Female students are more likely to be influenced by peers to choose careers	2.65	1.48	HI
8	Male students are more likely to be influenced by fellow male students to choose careers	3.38	1.19	HI
9	Students in peer groups are likely to choose similar careers	3.35	1.40	HI
10	Peer groups are more likely to accept career advice from members whom they value most	3.62	1.23	HI
	Overall	3.30	1.37	HI

KEY: N = Number of respondents, SD = Standard Deviation, LI = Low Influence, HI = High Influence, Source: Fieldwork, 2025

Table presented Mean and Standard Deviation ratings of respondents on extent of peer group influence on career choice of senior secondary school students in Bauchi State. To Critical look at the computed standard deviation of each item statement and their overall value showed that the value was less than computed mean value which is an

indication that there was no wide gap in respondents' ratings and there's high influence.

Research Question Three

To what extent does interest influence career choice of senior secondary school students in Bauchi State?

**Table 4: Means and Standard Deviations ratings of respondents on extent at which interest influence career choice of senior secondary school students in Bauchi State**

S/N	Item Statement	N= 379	Mean	SD	Remark
1	Have definitely make a career choice		2.56	1.50	LI
2	Have no career plans at present		3.59	1.32	HI
3	I did/ have done career choice on my own		2.65	1.45	LI
4	I made the decision choosing my secondary school subjects		3.21	1.37	HI
5	I will choose my career choice based on my interest in a particular occupation		3.38	1.45	HI
6	My parents' occupations determine my choice of career		3.52	1.43	HI
7	Thinking about career choice now is a waste of time		3.65	1.43	HI
8	My academic ability will determine my career choice		2.97	1.62	LI
9	Once I have my WASCE/ NECO results, then I can make a decision on my career choice		4.01	1.10	HI
10	Teachers' characteristics do influence students' motivation in choosing a career		4.42	1.07	HI
	Overall		3.40	1.37	HI

KEY: N = Number of respondents, SD = Standard Deviation, LI = Low Influence
 HI = High Influence, Source: Fieldwork, 2025

Information in Table 3 presented Mean and Standard Deviation ratings of respondents on extent of interest influence on career choice of senior secondary school students in Bauchi State. Critical observations at the computed standard deviation of each item statement and their overall value showed that the value was less than computed mean value which is an indication that there was no wide gap in respondents' ratings.

Research Hypotheses

Before Three postulated null hypotheses were tested at 0.05 level of significance, the major basic assumptions of regression statistics analysis (e.g, continuous data/scale, normality curve, etc) were scrutinized and then after finding the data suitable, it was then subjected to the analyses. Besides, before presenting results of relationship between career choice and three variables one after the other, the results overall three variables together with career choice are presented as follows

Table 5: Summary of Regression Model Analysis of Career Choice and Other five Variables (parental, gender, peer group, teachers' and student's influence)

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	α	F	Sig.
1	Regression	5867.896	5	1173.579	0.05	70.266	.000 ^b
	Residual	6229.861	373	16.702			
	Total	12097.757	378				

Key: a. Dependent Variable: Career Choice, b. Predictors: (Constant), Student Interest Influence, Parental Influence, Peer Group Influence, Teacher's Influence, Gender Influence, df = degree of freedom, F = critical F table value, Sig. = Probability value, α = significance level, Source: Fieldwork, 2025

H₀₁: There is no significant relationship between parental influence and choice of career among senior secondary school students in Bauchi State.

Table 6: Summary of Relationship between Career Choice and Parental Influence among senior secondary school students in Bauchi State

Variable	N	Mean	SD	df	α	rvalue	p-value	Remark
Career Choice	379	20.39	5.66	377	0.05	0.55	0.001	Significant
Parental Influence	379	26.09	9.29					

KEY: N = Number of respondents, SD = Standard Deviation, df = degree of freedom, α = significance level,

Revalue = computed r value, p-value. = Probability value,

Source: Fieldwork, 2025

H₀₃: There is no significant relationship between peer group influence and choice of career among senior secondary school students in Bauchi State.

Table 7: Summary of Relationship between Career Choice and Peer Group Influence among senior secondary school students in Bauchi State

Variable	N	Mean	SD	df	α	rvalue	p-value	Remark
Career Choice	379	20.39	5.66	377	0.05	0.21	0.001	Significant
Peer Group Influence	379	33.02	5.97					

KEY: N = Number of respondents, SD = Standard Deviation, df = degree of freedom, α = significance level,

Revalue = computed r value, p-value. = Probability value,

Source: Fieldwork, 2025

H₀₅: There is no significant relationship between student's interest and choice of career among senior secondary school students in Bauchi State.

Table 8 Summary of Relationship between Career Choice and Students' Interest among senior secondary school students in Bauchi State

Variable	N	Mean	SD	df	α	rvalue	p-value	Remark
Career Choice	379	20.39	5.66	377	0.05	0.23	0.001	Significant
Students' Interest	379	33.96	5.22					

KEY: N = Number of respondents, SD = Standard Deviation, df = degree of freedom, α = significance level,

rvalue = computed r value, p-value. = Probability value,

Source: Fieldwork, 2025

Summary of Major Research Findings

Based on the results obtained from the analyses, the followings are the summary of major research findings:

1. There was positive strong relationship, statistically significant between parental influence and choice of career among senior

secondary school students in Bauchi State.

2. There was positive low relationship and statistically significant between peer group influences and choice of career among senior secondary school students in Bauchi State.
3. There was positive fairly relationship and statistically significant between



students' interest and choice of career among senior secondary school students in Bauchi State.

Discussion of the Research Findings

The study revealed that parents influence students' career choices. Most of the students were viewed as coming to school with predetermined careers which may be a result of interacting with the immediate environment and their parents' help in choosing their careers. The current study on the parents influence on students' careers choice is consistent with previous literature. For example, Ohewerei (2019) in study revealed that parents are influential on their children's career choices. The current study also revealed that parental education has a positive influence on children's choices of careers in several ways. This is consistent with a study carried out by Justice (2017) in Ghana who purported that parental education has a positive influence on children's careers.

The current study revealed that career education which comes from peers and friends was influential in students' choices of careers. As students interact with peers and friends, they share important information on career choices. From the responses, it shows that students who thought about career early on in life are higher than those who also waited until a decision was required. This finding is not different from that of Samuel, Isaac & Margaret (2015) which indicated that a great number of students indicated their interest for prestigious career like Medicine, Law and Engineering instead of those that match their personality type.

Conclusion

The study concludes that the factors influencing career are very important to developing and nurturing interest in the career. It has been observed that while students aim at such prestigious occupations when still in secondary school, it has not been

possible for many to achieve their aims for one reason or the other. Such reasons often include among others; poor academic performance, poor choice of subjects for the school certificate examination, lack of financial support to pursue their education which makes it impossible for such boys and girls to get their required training that would qualify them for the jobs of their choice

Recommendations

The following are the recommendations of the study based on the major finding

1. Government should carry out sensitisation programme to ensure that parents are not responsible for determining career choice for their children but the students' interest and capability.
2. Counselling should be given to teachers on how to improve their instructions this would help students not to rely on teachers' area of specialisation.
3. Peer relationship among students in school should be monitored by school authorities to ensure wrong perceptions about certain career are not injected to students.

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