



ABSTRACT

This study investigated parental involvement and career aspirations of senior secondary school students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State, Nigeria. The study adopted correlational research design. The study was guided by three research questions and three null hypotheses. The population of the

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT AND CAREER ASPIRATIONS OF SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN OBIO/AKPOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF RIVERS STATE

CHRISTIANA A. OSARO (PhD)

Department of Educational Psychology, Guidance and
Counselling, Faculty of Education, Ignatius Ajuru
University of Education, Rumuolumeni, Port Harcourt,
Nigeria.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.70382/tijasdr.v06i2.001>

Introduction

Career plays a very fundamental and significant role in the life of the individual not only because it determines the pattern of income but also because it affects the individual's personality and concepts in life. A career, therefore, is a choice pursuit, life work or success in one's profession occupied by a person throughout his/her lifetime. Akanem (2020) noted that a career is the totality of work one does in his/her lifetime and is person-centered, and is of utmost importance to every individual as he/she prepares for the future. A career can be defined as the sequence and variety of occupations undertaken for a significant period of a person's life and with opportunities for progress. More broadly, career includes life roles, leisure activities, learning and work. It includes the sum total of paid and unpaid work, learning and life roles an



study comprised of 35,555 public senior secondary school students in the area. The sample size was 395 senior secondary school students which was determined using Taro Yamane Scientific Method. The study adopted the use of simple random sampling technique for the study. The instrument for data collection was a structured questionnaire, titled: “Parental Involvement and Career Aspiration Questionnaire” (PICAQ). The instrument was validated by experts in the Department of Educational Psychology, Guidance and Counselling. The reliability of the instrument was determined through test re-test reliability method which a reliability index of $r=0.77$. Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) was used to answer the research questions and test the null hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. The study revealed that there was high positive relationship between parental expectation, parental support, parent-child relationship and career aspirations of senior secondary school students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State. It further revealed that there was significant relationship between parental expectation, parental support, parent-child relationship and career aspirations of senior secondary school students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State. It was recommended among others that; career guidance interactions should start in the early years of schooling in order to avert negative parental influences and build proper career aspirations among students.

Keywords: Parental, Career, Students.

individual undertake throughout life (Adeg, 2017). A career of ones interest makes a person to perform job without complaining, goes to work early and would love to work even till late hours because he values his career as more important (Osaro, 2017).

Career decision-making is the most important event in an individual’s life. A person’s success and consequently; satisfaction and happiness depend accurately on chosen career as improper selection of career or frequently changing career may be very harmful for psychological health. Eick (2018)



disclosed that 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 (Tsey, 2018). Senior secondary school students who have gone through comprehensive career counselling may dissent 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 also a vital aspect of the physical and emotional well-being of the individuals and their families as the choice of career is a crucial problem for a student (Weyi, 2023).

Masam (2018) disclosed that one of the important functions of education is to guide the child while still in school for a right career choice as this choice plays a very significant role in the life of the individual child, not only because he or she determines the pattern of income, but also because it affects the individual's personalities, and career in life. Iwu (2021) evinced that career development is the lifelong process of managing learning, work, leisure, and transitions in order to move toward a personally determined and evolving preferred future. It is of utmost importance to every individual as he or she prepares for the future. The family can provide information and guidance directly or indirectly, to influence a young person's career aspiration. Parents offer appropriate support for certain occupational choices which tend to follow their own (Malean, 2022). Malean added that parental involvement also includes the extent to which parents give encouragement, responsiveness, approval and financial support in matters concerned with the career plans of their children.

Hussain (2018) added that every individual has choice/aspirations 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 the individual among the multiple of choices life that exist. Even when one refuses to make a choice among all choices in life; that act of not making a choice is a choice. 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 (Aliyu, 2022). When secondary school students indicate their career aspirations, career, counsellors will look into socioeconomic status, family background; parental attitude; peer group pressure; self-efficacy; personality; interests; aptitude; role models; vocational decision making styles; social class; cultural identity; globalization and gender as the important determinants of career choice (Akanem, 2020). Extant literature reveals that parental involvement may influence career aspirations among secondary school students. It therefore became pertinent to examine parental involvement and career aspirations of senior secondary school students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State.

Statement of the Problem

Parental involvement refers to the active participation and engagement of parents or caregivers in their children's education, development, choice of career and general well-being. It is assumed that without proper guidance, students may end up not fulfilling their goals in life as it is a fact that most students have challenges of choosing an occupation and relating personal skills, interests, and abilities to careers. However, some students may be influenced by careers that their parents favour, others may follow the careers that their educational choices have opened for them, some may choose to follow their passion regardless of how much or how little it will impact on them while others may choose the careers that give high income.

Keen observation by the researcher indicates that students may not be objective in their decision when choosing a career as some ambitious parents may dictate their own unfulfilled career decisions on their children and compel them to choose the courses which perhaps they did not like, or they were not able to complete. Again, some students may have parents who are aware of psychometric testing and career counselling sessions and such parents may be able to help their children select a proper career for themselves. To eliminate any chance of regret, senior secondary school students are in need of proper career guidance and the family atmosphere that would foster the right career choice. The study therefore examined parental involvement and career



aspirations of senior secondary school students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State.

Aim and Objectives of the Study

The aim of the study was to investigate parental involvement and career aspirations of senior secondary school students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State. Specifically, the study sought to attain the following objectives;

1. To determine the relationship between parental expectations and career aspirations of senior secondary school students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State
2. To ascertain the relationship between parental support and career aspirations of senior secondary school students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State
3. To find out the relationship between parent-child relationship and career aspirations of senior secondary school students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State

Research Questions

The following research questions guided the study:

1. What is the relationship between parental expectations and career aspirations of senior secondary school students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State?
2. What is the relationship between parental support and career aspirations of senior secondary school students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State?
3. What is the relationship between parent-child relationship and career aspirations of senior secondary school students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State?

Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses further guided the study:

1. There is no significant relationship between parental expectations and career aspirations of senior secondary school students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State



2. There is no significant relationship between parental support and career aspirations of senior secondary school students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State
3. There is no significant relationship between parent-child relationship and career aspirations of senior secondary school students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State

Method

The study employed a Correlational research design. The population of the study comprised of 35,555 public senior secondary school students from Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers state. Simple random sampling technique was used to select a sample of 395 public senior secondary school students for the study which was determined through Taro Yamane Scientific Method. The research instrument was a self-designed instrument titled “Parental Involvement and Career Aspiration Questionnaire” (PICAQ). The PICAQ instrument contained five (5) sections. Section A; contained Bio-data of the respondents, Section B; contained item statements on parental expectation, Section C; contained item statements on parental support, Section D; contained item statements on parent-child relationship, Section E; contained item statements on career aspiration. In all, the PICAQ had a total of 32 item statements. The “Parental Involvement and Career Aspiration Questionnaire” (PICAQ) had 35 items structured on a four point modified Likert Scale of Strongly Agree (SA) = 4, Agree (A) = 3, Disagree (D) = 2, and Strongly Disagree (SD) = 1. To determine the reliability of the instrument, the researcher used test re-test reliability method which yielded a reliability index of $r=0.77$. The Pearson Product Moment Correlation was used in answering the research questions and testing the null hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. The data collected were analyzed with the aid of Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) version 25.0.

Research Question One:

What is the relationship between parental expectations and career aspirations of senior secondary school students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State?



Hypothesis One:

There is no significant relationship between parental expectations and career aspirations of senior secondary school students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State.

Table 1: *Pearson's Product Moment Correlation between Parental Expectation and Career Aspirations of Students*

		Parental Expectation	Career Aspirations
Parental Expectation	Pearson Correlation	1	.601
	Sig. (2-tailed)		0.001
	N	395	395
Career Aspirations	Pearson Correlation	.601	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.001	
	N	395	395

****.** Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Table 1 of Pearson's Product Moment Correlation results reveal that r-value of .601 with its corresponding p-value of $0.001 < 0.05$ (which is less than) the chosen level of significance was gotten. This shows a positive correlation between parental expectations and career aspirations of senior secondary school students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State. Since the p-value is less than the chosen significant level, the null hypothesis **is rejected**. The implication of the result is that there is significant relationship between parental expectations and career aspirations of senior secondary school students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State.

Research Question Two:

What is the relationship between parental support and career aspirations of senior secondary school students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State?



Hypothesis Two:

There is no significant relationship between parental support and career aspirations of senior secondary school students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State.

Table 2: *Pearson's Product Moment Correlation between Parental Support and Career Aspirations of Students*

		Parental Support	Career Aspirations
Parental Support	Pearson Correlation	1	.729
	Sig. (2-tailed)		0.001
	N	395	395
Career Aspirations	Pearson Correlation	.729	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.001	
	N	395	395

****.** Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Table 2 of Pearson's Product Moment Correlation results reveal that r-value of .729 with its corresponding p-value of $0.001 < 0.05$ (which is less than) the chosen level of significance was gotten. This shows a positive correlation between parental support and career aspirations of senior secondary school students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State. Since the p-value is less than the chosen significant level, the null hypothesis **is rejected**. The implication of the result is that there is significant relationship between parental support and career aspirations of senior secondary school students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State.

Research Question Three:

What is the relationship between parent-child relationship and career aspirations of senior secondary school students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State?



Hypothesis Three:

There is no significant relationship between parent-child relationship and career aspirations of senior secondary school students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State.

Table 3: *Pearson's Product Moment Correlation between Parent-Child Relationship and Career Aspirations of Students*

		Parent-Child Relationship	Career Aspirations
Parent-Child Relationship	Pearson Correlation	1	.700
	Sig. (2-tailed)		0.001
	N	395	395
Career Aspirations	Pearson Correlation	.700	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.001	
	N	395	395

****.** Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Table 3 of Pearson's Product Moment Correlation results reveal that r-value of .700 with its corresponding p-value of $0.001 < 0.05$ (which is less than) the chosen level of significance was gotten. This shows a positively strong correlation between parent-child relationship and career aspirations of senior secondary school students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State. Since the p-value is less than the chosen significant level, the null hypothesis **is rejected**. The implication of the result is that there is significant relationship parent-child relationship and career aspirations of senior secondary school students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State.

Discussion of Findings

Parental Expectation and Career Aspirations of Senior Secondary School Students

Data in table 1 of Pearson Product Moment Correlation results revealed that r-value of .601 with its corresponding p-value of $0.001 < 0.05$ (which is less than)



the chosen level of significance was gotten. This shows a positively strong correlation between parental expectations and career aspirations of senior secondary school students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State. The finding is in line with the study of Watsone (2018) who revealed that parents or family members influence the career decision paths of their wards as some may choose careers for the wards in areas they themselves have passion in or failed to do while growing up.

Parental Support and Career Aspirations of Senior Secondary School Students

Data in table 2 of Pearson Product Moment Correlation results revealed that r-value of .729 with its corresponding p-value of $0.001 < 0.05$ (which is less than) the chosen level of significance was gotten. This shows a negatively weak correlation between parental support and career aspirations of senior secondary school students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State. The finding is in tandem with the study of Osmann (2021) who revealed that parents who are socially, academically and economically supportive are able to help foster as sense of career interest in the children than parents who are socially, academically and economically absent.

Parent-Child Relationship and Career Aspirations of Senior Secondary School Students

Data in table 3 of Pearson Product Moment Correlation results revealed that r-value of .700 with its corresponding p-value of $0.001 < 0.05$ (which is less than) the chosen level of significance was gotten. This shows a positively strong correlation between parent-child relationship and career aspirations of senior secondary school students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State. The finding is in agreement with the study of Rander (2018) who revealed that children's career aspiration are shaped when parents provide a protective shield for their children, offering guidance, encouragement, and reassurance in times of need as the support empowers the children to face obstacles with resilience and determination even in the field of work.



Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study, the researcher concluded that there was high positive relationship between parental expectation, parental support, parent-child relationship and career aspirations of senior secondary school students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State. It further revealed that there was significant relationship between parental expectation, parental support, parent-child relationship and career aspirations of senior secondary school students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study the researcher made the following recommendations:

1. Career guidance interactions should start in the early years of schooling in order to avert negative parental influences and build proper career aspirations among students;
2. Employment of professionally qualified guidance counsellors to join effort with parents in helping students develop the best career aspirations;
3. Formulation of a career guidance policy that guarantees interrelationship between counsellors and parents in helping the students make informed career choice;
4. Government through various agencies of the Ministry of Education should endeavour to organize periodic conferences, seminars and workshops for members of the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) for them to realize their influence on the career aspiration of their children.

References

- Adeg, K. N. (2017). Technical and career education and training stigma in developing countries. The case of furniture sector in Ghana. *International Knowledge Sharing Platform*, 4(26), 67-80.
- Akanem, I. (2020). Counseling for sustainable career development. The influence of peers and parents on adolescent's career choice. *Journal of the Counselling Association of Nigeria*, 30(2), 21-30.



- Eick, C. (2018). Non-science majors' perceptions on the use of youtube video to support learning in an integrated science lecture. *Journal of College Science Teaching*, 42(1), 26-30.
- Hussain, M. (2018). Role of information technologies in teaching/learning process: perception of the faculty. *Turkish Online Journal of Distance Education*, 9(2), 9 – 18.
- Iwu, U. (2021). Teaching aids: A panacea for effective instructional delivery in biology. *Researcher*, 3(2), 62-66.
- Karue, N. (2020). Analysis of factors that lead to poor performance in Kenya certificate of secondary examination in Embu district in Kenya. *The international Journal of Social Sciences*, 13(1), 92- 108.
- Malean, J. M. (2022). Working conditions of teachers of students with behaviour disorders: A national survey. *Behavioural Disorders*, 16(5), 247-259.
- Masam, D. (2015). The role of work and cultural values in occupational choice satisfaction and success, a theoretical statement. *Journal of counselling and Development*, 80(6), 48-56.
- Osaro, C, A. (2017). Career type, attitude to work, work hazards and job satisfaction among public servants in Rivers State, Nigeria. Unpublished Dissertation Submitted to University of Calabar, Calabar.
- Osmann, C. (2021). The advantages and limitation of qualitative research in psychology and education. *Scientific Annals of the Psychological Society of Northern Greece*, 78(7), 3-15.
- Rander, S. (2018). Role of aids on the cognition of students at secondary level. *International Journal of Innovation and Applied Studies*, 9(3), 1140-1147.
- Tsey, R. A. (2018). Parental involvement with adolescents' education: Do daughters or sons get more help? *Adolescence*, 35(137), 29-45.
- Watson, C. (2018). Enhancing learning during lecture notetaking using outlines and illustrative diagrams. *Journal of Applied Research in Memory and Cognition*, 4 (2), 121-129.
- Weyi, R. F. (2023). Early predictors of career development; a ten - year follow – up study. *Journal of Vocational Behaviour*, 70(4), 61-71.