

**The Effects of Family Relation and Parental Influence on the Career Choice of Student
(A Case Study of Irepodun/Ifelodun Local Government Ekiti State)**Arowosegbe Christanah Kehinde^[1],Olajide Olufunmilayo^[2], Solomon Ifeoluwa Damilare^[1]Department of Psychology & Behavioural Studies, Ekiti State University, Nigeria^[2]Department of General Studies,
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Abstract. This research work is designed primarily to know the effect of family relation and parental influence on the career choice of student. Parental Influence refers to the amount of participation a parent has when it comes to schooling and a child's life. Career Choice is also a process to be the one involving evaluating individual's abilities, skills and values in the light of the occupations available and how these align with work values of the available alternatives. Family is referred to when two or more persons are related by birth, marriage, or adoption. Findings from this study show that parental sensitive or involvement and response to their children is important to promote higher motivations in school and better with regards to career choices and the secure family and parent-child relationships are associated with progress in career decision making, affirmative career self-efficacy beliefs and career selection. For this purpose Social Cognitive Theory by Albert Bandura (1977, 1986, 1989, 1991, and 2001) for Career Decision Making, Person-Environment Fit (P: E Fit) Theories (John Holland 1985), and Family Systems Theory by Dr. Murray Bowen (1913-1990) for Family were employed in this study. Copies of questionnaire were administered to respondents comprising of both male and female students in Irepodun/Ifelodun local government, Ekiti state precisely, and were analysed using one way ANOVA, correlation and independent t test in order to achieve the objectives of the study. The results reveal that there is no significant relationship between Parental Involvement and Choice of Career ($r(300) = .024$ $p > .05$) and the result however showed that Family Relationship has a significant relationship on Choice of Career ($r(300) = -.078$ $p < .05$). It also showed that Parental Involvement does not have a significant influence on Choice of Career ($t(298) = .531$ $p > .05$), and there is a significant influence of Family Relationship on Choice of Career ($t(298) = 1.58$ $p < .05$). It is also revealed from the table that Parental / Guidance significantly influences Choice of Career ($F(2, 297) = 2.32$ $p < .05$). As several factors affect career choices among high school students. Identifying these factors gives parents, guardians, educators and family an idea as to where students place most of their trust in the career selection process. Based on the result of this study, there should be an expression of parental values and expectations which can be in the form of parental support and guidance on specific career or educational suggestions as well as experiences that indirectly support career development, such as family vacations, provision of resources such as books, and modeling of paid and non-paid work roles.

Key words: Career Choice, Family Relation, Parental Influence

Introduction

Background to the Study

Choosing a career is often considered a major turning point in a young adult's life. This decision has the potential to open the door for success or close the door of opportunity. The decision may affect the student positively if the student can cope with it but negatively when such a student has other things in mind, which he/she wishes to do. The result of this is that the child may not concentrate on the parents needs and so may not adjust positively towards the

career. This sometimes leads to students' waywardness; secrete cult involvement, armed robbery and so on. The child may not cope with the parents continual force against his/her will.

More often, parents owing to personal idiosyncrasies, pressure their wards into taking up family occupations and other careers even when they do not possess requisite abilities, interests, values, preferences, personalities which are very important determinants of career choice. The result of this is that the child may not concentrate on the parents needs and so may not adjust positively towards the career. Career choice tends to be a persistent problem for the students in the contemporary society. That is why it is not uncommon for students to get into occupations that are not suitable to their abilities. Sometimes, they enter the work completely pseudo-aspirations. What usually obtains in the end is job dissatisfaction, consequently, they rapidly become delusional and depressed, which leads to frustration, malfunction and inefficiency all of this translate in the long run to National economic crisis. This study therefore is undertaken to find out the effect of family and parental influence on the career choice of student in Irepodun/Ifelodun local government area of Ekiti State.

Objective of the Study

The main objective of this study is to examine the effect of family and parental influence on the career choice of student in Irepodun/Ifelodun local government area of Ekiti State. However, certain issues that this study intends to focus on include the following:

1. to examine the relationship between the level of education of parents and the career choice of students in secondary schools
2. to determine if the size of a family have any influence on the choice of career of secondary school students.
3. to examine the relationship between living condition at family and choice of career of students.
4. to find out if the ability and temperament of parents affect the choice of career of students.

Research Hypotheses

1. There will be a significant relationship between choice of career, parental involvement and family relationship.
2. There will be a significant influence of parental involvement on choice of career of students.
3. There will be a significant influence offamily relationship on choice of career.
4. There will be a significant influence of parental/guidance influence on choice of career.

Operational Definition of Terms

Parental Influence

Parental influence refers to the amount of participation a parent has when it comes to schooling and her child's life (Althoff, 2010). Parental Involvement Rating Scale (PIRS) by Naseema and Abdul Gafoor (2001) was developed for this study to assess respondents' perceptions of parental influence on career choice of students. This is a scale meant for rating the extent to which parents involve in matters related to your education.

Career Choice

Career choice process to be the one involving evaluating individual's abilities, skills and values in the light of the occupations available and how these align with work values of the available alternatives (Brown, 2002). Career Decision Self-Efficacy Scale–Short Form (CDSE-SF) (Betz, Klein, & Taylor, 1996) was used to measure the career choice of students. The scale is comprised of five subscales which measure self-appraisal, occupational information, goal selection, planning, and problem solving.

Family

Family is when two or more persons related by birth, marriage, or adoption (Ooms & Preister, 1988). Brief Family Relationship Scale (BFRS) is adapted from the 27-item Relationship dimension of the FES (Moos & Moos, 1994), consisting of Cohesion, Expressiveness, and Conflict subscales (9 items each). These subscales measure support, expression of opinions, and angry conflict within a family.

Methods

Research Design

The research design for this study was a survey design.

Research Participants

Participants in this study were the student of some secondary schools in Irepodun/Ifelodun local government in Ekiti state; they comprises senior secondary students.

Sampling Technique

The random sampling technique was employed to select four secondary school (two private and two public) in Irepodun/Ifelodun local government. Afterward, some students were randomly picked from each of the selected secondary school to give an estimated sample size of 300 secondary school students.

Research Instruments

Parental Involvement Rating Scale (PIRS) 2001 by Naseema and Abdul Gafoor

It was developed for this study to assess respondents' perceptions of parental influence on career choice of students. This is a scale meant for rating the extent to which parents involve in matters related to your education. There are 92 statements in this scale. The questions on the PIRS were scored on a three-point Likert scale ranging from 1 ("Always true") to 3 ("Never true"). The items from the PIRS were then analyzed for reliability and produced a Cronbach's alpha reliability of .91.

Brief Family Relationship Scale (BFRS)

The BFRS is adapted from the 27-item Relationship dimension of the FES (Moos & Moos, 1994), consisting of Cohesion, Expressiveness, and Conflict subscales (9 items each). These subscales measure support, expression of opinions, and angry conflict within a family. With validity measures Communal Mastery Family scale (CMFS; $\alpha = .76$).

Career Decision Self-Efficacy Scale-Short Form (CDSE)

Career Decision Self-Efficacy Scale – Short Form (CDSE-SF) (Betz, Klein, & Taylor, 1996). This questionnaire consisted of twenty-five items assessing the students' career self-efficacy (e.g., "Select one major from a list of majors that you are considering"). The scale is comprised of five subscales which measure self-appraisal, occupational information, goal selection, planning, and problem solving. Participants responded on a 5-point Likert-type scale measuring the level of confidence participants felt about these different aspects of their career (1 = No Confidence At All, 5 = Much Complete Confidence). The scale originally used a 10-level response continuum (Betz, Klein, & Taylor, 1996; Betz, & Voyten, 1997). However, reliability and validity were found to be as good or better for a 5-level response continuum (Betz, Hammond, & Multon, 2005). Consistent high internal reliability coefficients have been found for the entire scale and the five subscales. The five subscales for the short form of the Career Decision Self-Efficacy Scale using a 5-level response continuum had coefficient alphas ranging from .78 to .87 and .93 to .95 for the total score (Betz, Hammond, & Multon, 2005). Correlations of the CDSE-SF five subscales with career indecision ranged from -.30 to -.63 for

the 5-level response continuum suggesting criterion-related validity (Betz, Hammond, & Multon, 2005).

Variables

The independent variable are family relation and parental influence and the dependent variable is career choice.

Procedure for Data Collection

Respondents intentions were duly seek and copies of questionnaire were distributed to them and their responses were scored for interpretation.

Data Analysis

Data collected from this study were analysed based on the postulated hypothesis to be tested. The four hypotheses were analysed using correlation, independent t test for hypotheses two and three and one way ANOVA method respectively.

Results

Table 1. Descriptive statistics

	Mean	Std. Deviation	N
Career Decision Making	76.7367	14.01721	300
Parental Involvement	20.7467	2.76550	300
Family Relationship	17.8033	3.25062	300

Table 2. Correlation summary table showing the relationship between choice of career, parental involvement and family relationship

Source		1	2	3
Choice of Career	r	1		
	p			
Parental Involvement	r	.024	1	
	p	.677		
Family Relationship	r	-.078*	-.023	1
	p	.028	.696	
Mean		76.7	20.7	17.3
N		300	300	300

Note: *= $p < .05$

Table 2 revealed that there is no significant relationship between Parental Involvement and Choice of Career ($r(300) = .024$ $p > .05$) and the result however showed that Family Relationship has a significant relationship on Choice of Career ($r(300) = -.078$ $p < .05$).

Table 3. Independent t-test summary table showing the influence of parental involvement on choice of career

DV	IV	N	Mean	df	t
Choice of Career	Parental Involvement				
	High	150	77.2		
				298	.531 ^{ns}
	Low	150	76.3		

Note: ns=not significant($p > .05$)

Table 3 showed that Parental Involvement does not have a significant influence on Choice of Career ($t(298) = .531$ $p > .05$). Nonetheless, the comparison of mean scores revealed that respondents with high Parental Involvement ($N = 150$).

Table 4. Independent t-test summary table showing the influence of family relationship on choice of career

DV	IV	N	Mean	df	t
Choice of Career	Family Relationship				
	High	156	77.9		
				298	1.58*
	Low	144	75.4		

Note: $*=p < .05$

Table 4 showed that there is a significant influence of Family Relationship on Choice of Career ($t(298) = 1.58$ $p < .05$).

Table 5. One way ANOVA showing the influence of parental/guidance influence on choice of career

ANOVA					
Career Decision Making					
	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	128.445	2	64.223	2.325	.023
Within Groups	58619.751	297	197.373		
Total	58748.197	299			

Table 5 showed that Parental / Guidance significantly influence Choice of Career ($F(2, 297) = 2.32$ $p < .05$)

Discussion

The study is focused to examine the influence of family relation and parental influence on the career choice of student in Irepodun/Ifelodun local government area of Ekiti State. This study is aimed to find out the relationship between family relation, parental influence and career choice of the student.

The study assumed four hypotheses on family relation and parental influence on the career choice of the student. First hypotheses states that, there will be a significant relationship between choice of career and parental involvement and family relationship, the result shows that there is nosignificant relationship between Parental Involvement and Choice of Career ($r(300) = .024$ $p > .05$). This result is similar to the Jungen (2008) whonoted in her research paper that choosing a career is often considered a major turning point in a young adult's life. This decision alone has the potential to open the door for success or close the door of opportunity. While often perceived to be an individual choice, research suggests that a variety of influences such as family, school, community, social and economic factors are likely to manipulate one's ultimate career decision. Thus parental influence is one of the factors which affect career choice and selection of students and it is often perceived to be an individual choice (Clutter, 2010).

However, it is has been observed that over-involvement of parents in their children's educational or career plans and unusual concern by the parents may negatively affect the career selection process for the child. The pressure for career success or the support for only a narrow range of occupations could inhibit the adolescent's ability to explore alternative careers that would be of greater fit to the individual (Middleton & Loughhead, 1993).

Also Young et al. (1997) found a reconstruction of the relationship between the parent and the adolescent through some aspect of career exploration. The research demonstrates how relationships and family functioning are embedded in career conversations and how the construction of career occurs.

Hypotheses two states that there will be a significant influence of parental involvement on choice of career of students, the result shows that Parental Involvement does not have a significant influence on Choice of Career ($t(298) = .531$ $p > .05$). The result of the study revealed that Parental involvement does not have significant influence on choice of career. Parents whose work shift and busy schedule doesn't enable them to be involved in enhancing, educating, parenting and supporting their children on choice of career. This is against the Theory of Blustein (1995) for Parental Influence which premised on the fact that parental influence is importance to secure career exploration. The theory further defines the importance in parents' sensitive and response to their children in order to promote higher motivations in schools and better decisions with regards to career choices. By so doing, may involve them more in decisions, choices and listen to their opinions as they seek their advice.

This is similar to the findings of Ketterson and Blustein (1997) who noted that secure parent-child relationships are associated with progress in career decision making, affirmative career self-efficacy beliefs, and career selection. Their study found that students who have secure attachments to parents engage in greater levels of environmental and self-exploratory activity enabling them to take the risks necessary in exploring new settings and roles (*ibid.*).

Hypotheses three states that there is a significant influence of family relationship on choice of career, the result shows there is a significant influence of Family Relationship on Choice of Career ($t(298) = 1.58$ $p < .05$). According to the result of the research. The findings revealed that family relationship has a significant influence on the choice of career of student. Contribution and involvement Of extended member of the family Enhance choice of career of student. Also relationship of family Helps student gain adequate knowledge about choice of career. This is in accordance to Family Systems Theory by Dr. Murray Bowen (1913-1990) suggests that individuals cannot be understood in isolation from one another, but rather as a part of their family, as the family is an emotional unit. Families are systems of interconnected and interdependent individuals, none of whom can be understood in isolation from the system. It is the nature of a family that its members are intensely connected emotionally. Families so profoundly affect their members' thoughts, feelings, and actions that it often seems as if people are living under the same "emotional skin." People solicit each other's attention, approval, and support and react to each other's needs, expectations, and upsets.

Walter Bratcher was one of the original authors to discuss how family theory could be used to gain insight into career decision-making by young people (1982). He subscribed to the notion that the family is the most powerful system to which human beings can belong and that the family is constantly fabricating the direction and choices of one's individual life, as well as relentlessly feeding back information over one's lifetime (Bratcher, 1982). Young people, who find a healthy independence from the family during adolescence and young adulthood, may give rise to a more confident career search and experimentation that is needed by individuals to examine possible occupations. However, family dysfunction (relationships that are either enmeshed or severely disengaged (Minuchin, 1974) may hinder an individual's self-efficacy (belief in one's ability to succeed) in vocational searching or decision making (Ryan, Solberg, & Brown, 1996). Families that are enmeshed are ones in which members are excessively dependent on each other (i.e., have trouble making decisions on their own and/or relating to others outside their family) and families that are disengaged where members are much more isolated and typically lack of affection and guidance (Bowen, 1985; Kinnier, Brigman, & Noble, 1990; Nichols & Schwartz, 1995).

The last hypotheses which state that there will be a significant influence of parental/guidance influence on choice of career. The result shows that Parental / Guidance significantly influence Choice of Career ($F(2, 297) = 2.32$ $p < .05$). In accordance to the result of the study parental/guidance has significant influence on the choice of career. Highly expectant parent/guidance ensure and build good relationship and gives support, value on career decision making. This finding is similar to that of Ketterson and Blustein (1997) who noted that secure guardian or parent-child relationships are associated with progress in career decision making, affirmative career self-efficacy beliefs, and career selection. Also Jungen (2008), expresses that it is likely that parental/guidance values and expectations are conveyed within each household, the strength of their influence may be reliant upon the relationship. Keller (2004) noted that guardian or parents enhance the career development of their young adolescents by expressing interest in various teenage issues that are important to their children, Telling their children they have high expectations for their career, Encourage their children to make their own decisions, Telling their children they are proud of them and help their children understand the results from career tests or interest assessments they have taken.

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