



Factors Influencing Career Choice among Junior Secondary School Students in Bauchi Metropolis

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ABSTRACT

This study examined the factors influencing career choice among junior secondary school students in Bauchi metropolis. This study also Find out the extent parent and gender would influence choice of career among junior secondary school students' in Bauchi metropolis , find out the extent gender parity would influence on career choice of junior secondary school students' in Bauchi metropolis, find out the extent parental influence would affect choice of career among junior secondary school students in Bauchi metropolis and find out the extent teachers would influence choice of career among junior secondary school students in Bauchi metropolis. Stratified random sampling was employed. Meanwhile, simple random sampling was used to select 384 secondary schools, one hundred and twenty-eight (128) were selected from each zone. The instrument was given to expert in the Department of Educational Foundations, and expert in Guidance and Counselling for their input. Based on these findings, the study concludes that junior secondary school managements should provide essential resources for guidance service and counselling. These resources include counselling office equipped with orientation materials as well as adequate career resource materials. School guidance workers should be encouraging to frequently interact with the school students so that they may understand the nature and purpose of guidance and their roles in the entire school programme. The result of this study is meant to benefit the authorities and various institutions of learning, teachers and parents, the researchers and so on in understanding the factors influencing career choice among junior secondary school students in Bauchi metropolis with hoped that the recommendations would serve as solutions towards.

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INTRODUCTION

The need to choose career is important and obligatory for students and people from time immemorial, especially in this critical time of changing the world of science and technology where students are constantly wondering what they will be. Career selection is the act of choosing between a series of opportunities in a particular field of work, often involving many responsibilities over time. Work is a consistent set of activity-related experiences and attitudes during one's working life (Abbasi & Sarwat, 2014). Choosing a

career has become a difficult task for students as they face ever-changing technologies in the field of knowledge (Eremie, 2014).

According to Edward & Quinter (2011), job choice has become a complex science of information technology, the emergence of post-industrial change and job competition. Many students do not have an accurate knowledge of job opportunities to help them make the right career choices, but today, one should not only have a well-planned job but also do thorough job

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research before choosing a job to get acquainted on socio-economic development (Wattles, 2019).

Hewitt (2010) states that factors influencing job selection are internal, external or both. According to him, many people are influenced by the activities of their parents; another follows a career open to them in their choice of education. Some prefer to pursue their love no matter how great or small while others choose high-paying jobs. Interest in study and parental guidance influences the family. It has been shown in the literature that three aspects of a student's life influence the choices they make: the environment, the opportunity, and the personality. Some of the key factors in determining job choices include job opportunities (Pawelczyk, & Bielecki, 2017).

One of the most obvious influences on the source of human life is human activity. This also affects the structure of the human family, social activities and intelligence, economic status, personality and happiness. Personal job/career choices are often influenced by parents, friends, relatives, teachers, printed information, academic awards and pressure groups etc. Career decision-making is the process of finding the best match for a person with a particular type of work. Dada (2015) argues that many young people do not know what to do when planning a career; these eventually lead many to do menial jobs. Also, many graduates are currently pursuing unsatisfactory careers, which they have entered into because of a lack of career decisions. Ike (2017) also pointed out that many students do not know what to do with their lives and where they go when they leave school. Therefore, in order to help such students, improve their skills, the school's administrative and counseling system should be effective in guiding them in the direction of specific tasks; mentoring services and mentors are much needed as their efforts help put talents where they are most needed.

Career choice is a critical aspect of human development that determines an individual's professional life, economic status, and social identity. The decision concerning one's career path often begins at an early stage in life and becomes more pronounced during

adolescence when individuals start developing a sense of self and future direction. A career is not merely a job but a lifelong process that integrates one's personality, values, and life experiences.

In Nigeria, the National Policy on Education (2013) emphasizes the importance of equipping learners with the necessary skills, knowledge, and attitudes for self-reliance and societal contribution. However, despite the policy's intention, many students continue to experience difficulties in making informed career decisions. This is particularly evident among junior secondary school students who are at a transitional stage in both academic and personal development.

In Bauchi Metropolis, factors such as parental influence, peer pressure, socio-economic background, and gender differences play significant roles in shaping students' career choices. Some students tend to choose careers based on the prestige associated with certain professions rather than their interests or abilities. Others are influenced by the expectations of parents who wish to see their children in professions that enhance family status. Similarly, limited access to guidance and counseling services in many schools prevent students from obtaining adequate information about various career options available to them. Furthermore, the lack of exposure to vocational education and mentorship opportunities contributes to the growing problem of career indecision. As a result, many students find themselves pursuing careers for which they lack both aptitude and passion, leading to frustration, low productivity, and career dissatisfaction in later life.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Students find it difficult to choose a career in the capital city of Bauchi in Bauchi State, Nigeria. By the time they finished high school, there were such factors as parental influence and peer pressure, economic status, social need, interest, and choices in life. Often, students make poor decisions because of a lack of proper guidance from parents, at school, and because of this, students often change their subject all the time and end up empty-handed.

The National Education Policy (2004) states that education is a tool for national development. This means that the student is expected to acquire the skills and knowledge necessary to qualify for a career in the world of work after graduation. It is the duties of a graduate who is expected to serve the country, contribute and at the same time benefit from economic growth and development. However, if the student is not properly supervised in the decision-making process by a qualified director and advisor, it is unlikely that such a student will contribute to economic/national development after graduation. This therefore defeat the educational objectives as stated in the national education policy of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

The mentoring and mentoring programs in the Nigerian education system have not been given proper attention. And until the attention of this educational system is realized, most-high school students will continue to find it difficult to make career decisions. (Okolie, 2014) states that many students have no idea what subjects they should study at a tertiary institution after leaving school. The reason is because; they do not have the resources and guidance to help them make career decisions. It seems that many students who excel in mathematics and science in high schools end up studying arts or social sciences at the University instead of doing science, technology or engineering courses to further their careers in the relevant fields; this is especially evident in Nigerian educational institutions. After being admitted to the University, such students find it difficult to deal with other students who choose appropriate courses that lead to their chosen career path (Okolie et al, 2014).

Aim and Objective of the study

1. Find out the extent gender parity would influence on career choice of Junior secondary school students in Bauchi metropolis.
2. Find out the extent parental influence would affect choice of career among Junior secondary school students in Bauchi metropolis.

Research Questions

The following research questions were formulated to guide the

1. To what extent does gender parity influence the choice of career among Junior secondary school students in Bauchi Metropolis?
2. To what extent does parental influence affect the choice of career among Junior secondary school students in Bauchi Metropolis?

Research Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses were formulated and tested at the **0.05 level of significance:**

H₀₁: There is no significant influence of gender parity on the choice of career among Junior secondary school students in Bauchi Metropolis.

H₀₂: There is no significant influence of parental background on the choice of career among Junior secondary school students in Bauchi Metropolis.

METHODOLOGY

This study used Descriptive Survey Research Design. This design was employed because it is out to gather quantitative data among the population under study, also, descriptive research design helps to collect opinions from the respondents where the responses are described in detail to satisfy curiosity of readers. A survey conducted by public high schools within Bauchi metropolis with a population of 7,084. It included residential schools and high schools. It also contains male and female students attending these schools. The sample size of the study was determined by the Yamani formula (1967). With this formula, the sample size was calculated approximately as the sample size formed approximately 400 respondents. Questionnaire resources were drawn from research conducted on the influence of guidance and career choice counseling services (Mahmood, 2020).

The researcher compiled a list of research questions: factors that influence career choice among secondary school students'

questions. This research tool enables the researcher to obtain legal information from respondents.

Information about factors influencing career choices among secondary school students was used for data collection because it provides great benefits to managers. In order to ensure the validity of the instrument used for data collection, content validity was established. The face and content validity was ascertained by giving the questionnaire to two (2) experts from educational guidance and counselling department

Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Bauchi. The reliability of the instrument was determined through the Cronbach's Alpha Coefficient approach. The reliability of the instrument was high value of reliability index was generated. The reliability of the instrument was 0.74 indexed which qualified the instrument for administration.

Gender Parity Influence Choice of Career

Question 1 Does Students gender (male/female) had great influence on career.

Table 1. Student's gender (male/female) had great influence on career

		Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
Valid	SD	40	10.0	10.0	10.0
	D	160	40.0	40.0	50.0
	A	120	30.0	30.0	80.0
	SA	80	20.0	20.0	100.0
Total		400	100.0	100.0	

Sources: Extracted from IBM SPSS V.21 Output October, 2025.

Table 1. shows that, 10.0 % of the respondents strongly disagree, 40.0 % disagree, 30.0 % agree, while 20.0 % strongly agree that

Does students' gender (male / female) had great influence on career choice.

Question 2.

My parent does not influence on my career choice.

Table 2. Parents normally choose children career choice based on gender

		Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
Valid	SD	40	10.0	10.0	10.0
	D	54	13.5	13.5	23.5
	A	285	71.3	71.3	94.8
	SA	21	5.3	15.3	100.0
Total		400	100.0	100.0	

Sources: Extracted from IBM SPSS V.21 Output October, 2025

The data in table 2. shows that, 10.0 % of the respondents strongly disagree 13.5 % disagree, 71.3 % agree, while 5.3 % strongly agree parent do not influence on my career choice.

Hypotheses One

H₀₁: Parental background has no significant influence on career among junior secondary school students in Bauchi metropolis.

Table 3: Parental background influence on career among junior secondary school students in Bauchi metropolis

S/No	Questionnaire	SD	D	N	A	NA	MEAN	REMARK
1.	Parent do not influence on career choice	40	160	0	160	40	3.0 0	Not accepted

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S/No	Questionnaire	SD	D	N	A	NA	MEAN	REMARK
2.	Socio - economic status of do not influence career choice	0	120	0	280	0	3.40	Accepted
3.	Parents choose secondary school subject for student	40	40	0	240	80	3.70	Accepted
4.	Educational statuses of parents influence career choice	80	180	0	180	80	3.00	Accepted
5.	The occupation of parents does not determine career choice	143	40	0	53	146	3.14	Accepted
6.	Parent attitude influences career choice	40	54	0	285	21	3.48	Accepted
7.	Father dictates what student would do	3	14	0	343	40	4.01	Accepted
8.	Parent family career preference do not	11	40	0	229	120	4.02	Accepted
9.	Mother always want student to agree with what she tells him to do	80	80	0	150	90	3.23	Accepted
10.	Career choice is about student life student's parent cannot decide for him	80	120	0	120	80	3.00	Accepted
Total Mean							33.98	
Grand Mean							3.39	

Sources: Extracted from IBM SPSS V 21 Output October, 2025

From the table 3, the respondents on the item number 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 with the mean scores of 3.00, 3.14, 3.70, 3.00, 3.14, 3.48, 4.0, 4.02, 3.23 and 3.00 respectively. The grand mean also accepts with the mean score of 3.39. This implies that the above analysis the respondents agreed that parental influence has

significant influence on career among junior secondary school students in Bauchi metropolis.

Hypotheses two

H₀₂: There is no significant influence of gender parity on the choice of career among junior secondary school students in Bauchi Metropolis.

Table 4. significant influence of gender parity on the choice of career among junior secondary school students in Bauchi Metropolis

S/No	Questions	SD	D	N	A	NA	MEAN	REMARK
1	Gender restricted student to the career I choose	3	60	0	254	83	3.89	Accepted
2.	Gender is the major factor influencing student career choice	40	43	0	254	63	3.64	Accepted
3.	Career student choose is the only one Gender can support	23	83	0	0	294	3.41	Accepted
4.	Gender influences career choice	0	80	0	120	200	4.10	Accepted
5.	Parents always advise students to choose a particular career	40	40	0	237	83	3.71	Accepted
Grand Mean							3.75	

Sources: Extracted from IBM SPSS V.21 Output October, 2019.

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From Table 1, the respondents accept the items number 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, with the mean scores of 3.89, 3.64, 3.41, 4.10 and 3.71 respectively. The grand mean also accepts with a mean score of 3.75. This implies that the above analysis the respondents agreed that gender has no significant influence on career choice among junior secondary school students in Bauchi metropolis.

CONCLUSION

The study found that school management resources and counseling programs were designed to help students overcome many challenges at home and at school. But because of extreme pressure in the family, parents tend to spend less time with their children and give them needed guidance. Parents expect the school to provide solutions to the high school misunderstandings caused by their children and to help them choose careers.

The study also identified inadequate resources and administrative resources, lack of motivation to receive guidance and guidance from students and head teachers, lack of adequate stakeholder support and education policy makers on mentoring and mentoring programs, inadequate training of teacher advisors on counseling and counseling services and the burden on teachers with a heavy responsibility in the teaching profession has had a significant impact on the development and management of Nigerian school counseling services. The study emphasizes that in order for Nigeria to meet the goals and objectives of mainstream education, namely to train people who will participate in economic growth and development, the administrative and advisory service should be given the attention it deserves in schools.

RECOMMENDATIONS

For Nigeria to benefit from the factors influencing career choices among Bauchi primary school students and to enjoy the expected roles in schools, it requires hard work based on all school principals and policy makers in the education system. Based on this, the following recommendations are given;

1. Secondary school administrators should provide essential Guidance and counseling services. These resources include a counseling office with learning resources and adequate resources.
2. School administrators should be encouraged to keep in touch with school students to understand the nature and purpose of teaching and their roles throughout the school system.

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