

## **EFFECT OF PARENTAL AND PEER GROUP INFLUENCE ON CAREER CHOICE AMONG SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENT IN OYO EAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT, NIGERIA**

Okunade Joseph Boluwatife  
M.Tech Programme, Atbu, Bauchi  
EMAIL: OKUNADE1995@GMAIL.COM

Anyanwu George  
M.Tech Programme, Atbu, Bauchi  
EMAIL: GEORGETWINGTA@GMAIL.COM

### **ABSTRACT**

The purpose of this study is directed at finding the effects of parental and peer group influence on career choice among secondary school students in Oyo west local government area of Oyo State. The researchers used a descriptive survey design method. Two hundred students who were randomly selected using simple random sampling procedure were used as respondent for the purpose of the study. The instrument used for the collection of data for this study was a structured questionnaire (PIPQ) and the data collected were analyzed using t-test statistics. Two null research hypotheses were raised and tested for in the body of the work. The findings revealed that parents do influence the career choice of students. Some recommendations were made among which was that counselling programme opportunities should be made available to students.

**Keywords:** Parents, Parental Pressure, Peer Pressure, Career choice.

### **BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY**

Guidance and counseling as a distinct academic and professional discipline is evolved to assist people with decision-making and to facilitate their growth. Makinde (2005) maintained that assisting client in their vocational decision-making concerns has always been one of the major functions of counselors within and outside the school system.

Career play a very fundamental and significant role in the life of the individual not only because they determine the pattern of income but also because they affect the individual personality and concepts in life, career therefore is a choose pursuit, life work or success in one's profession occupied by a person throughout his/her lifetime. In a nutshell career is the totally of work one does in his life time and is person centred it is of utmost importance to every individual as he or she prepares for the future.

James (2004) observed that the influence home has on the child's learning is the fundamental concepts of life. This cause and most of the habits and basic adjustment were established during pre-school years. Then highlights the fact that home and parent occupy the most important position in the child's education. It should be stressed that work experience is not an attempt to find job for the students but an attempt to widen the horizons of students and ease the ultimate transition from school to work. This is usually based on the information given to the school by the parents, such guidance and information are necessary because most standards, truancy, materialism, dishonesty, hypocrisy etc.

Consequently, many adolescents have made wrong choice, some have been found to be maladjusted, frustrated and some do not put in their whole self since they do not enjoy what they are doing. Thus many youths have been found changing from one job to the other and some are just doing what they are doing so as to be able to get their daily bread. This attitude to work leads to inefficiency and low productivity which eventually affects the economy of the country.

### **STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

This research is based on parental influence on the choice of career among secondary school students in Oyo west Local Government Area of Oyo state. The parents may desire what they think is good or best for their ward. This may affect the child positively if the child can cope with it but negatively when such a child 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 student's way wardness, secrete cult, armed robbery and so on. The child may not cope with the continual force against his/her will. It is therefore necessary to educate parents not to force any career on their children and also to discourage students not to follow their friends in making choice of career. Hence the justification for this study.

### **RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

The research question which the study attempt to verify, to assist the researcher in the formulation of his null hypotheses of the study are as follows:

1. Does parental occupation have any influence on the career choice of their children?
2. Do you always desire most things your friends do?
3. Is there any peer group influence on the career choice of the students?
4. Does an illiterate parent have no influence on their children's choice of career?
5. Does parental influence have any significance on the gender choice of career?

### **RESEARCH HYPOTHESES**

The following hypotheses are to be tested in this study.

1. There is no significant difference in the influence of parents on the choice of career among secondary school students on the bases of gender.
2. There is no significant difference on the peer group influence on the choice of career among secondary school students on the bases of gender.
3. There is no significant difference in the choice of career among secondary school students on the bases of gender.

### **METHODOLOGY**

Descriptive aid survey methods of research were adopted for the collection of data used for the study.

The target population for this study were secondary school students of both sexes who were randomly selected among Senior Secondary School classes is some selected Secondary School in Oyo West Local Government area of Oyo state. (A total of 200 students were use and randomly selected from secondary

school areal of Oyo West local government. The number of parents used was 100 and that of peer was 100)

The research instrument used for this study was a questionnaire which was developed by the researcher and name parental and peer group influence on career choice Questionnaire (PPGICC)

T–test statistical method was used to their confirm or reject the hypotheses.

## DATA ANALYSIS

**Hypothesis one:** there is no significant difference in the influence of parents on the choice of career among secondary school students on the bases of gender.

Variables	Total no of respondents	X	Sd	Df	T.cal	Crit.v	Level of significance
Male	100	142.88	31.62	198	4.63	1.96	0.05
female	100	172.82	12.30				

The result in table 1 shows that there is significant difference in the influence of parents on choice of career of secondary school students. This is because the calculated value is 4.63 while the table value is 1.96 at 0.05 alpha level using degree of freedom of 198.

**Hypothesis 2:** there is no significant difference on the peer group influence on the choice of career among the secondary school students on the bases of gender.

Table 2: T. test analysis on peer group influence on the choice of career among students.

Variables	Total no of respondent	X	Sd	Df	T.cal	Tab.v	Level of significance
Male	100	127.82	21.62	198	-1.75	1.96	0.05
female	100	158.9	37.69				

The result in the table 2 shows that there is no significant difference on the peer group influence and choice of career among senior secondary school students on the bases of gender. The calculated value is -1.75 while the table value is 1.96 at 0.05 alpha level using degrees of freedom of 198. Since the calculated T.test value is less than the table value, the null hypothesis is therefore accepted.

**Hypothesis 3:** there is no significant difference in the choice of career among secondary school students on the bases of gender.

Variable	No of respondents	X	SD	Cal.v	Df	Tab.v	Level of significance
Male	104	7.68	32.40	0.38	198	1.96	0.05
Female	96	32.8					

The result in table 3 shows that there is no significant difference between male and female students perception on the choice of career. The calculated value is 0.38 while the table is 1.96 at the 0.05 alpha level using Df of 198. Since the calculated value is less than the table value, the null hypothesis is therefore accepted

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

1. There is no significant difference between parental occupation and choice of career of secondary school students. In other words many students are not influenced in their choice of career by the occupation of their parents.
2. There is no significant difference in the peer group influence and choice of career among the secondary school students. This shows that students influence each other on choice of career.
3. There is really no significant difference between male and female secondary school students on parental influence on choice of career.
4. There is no significant difference between male and female secondary school students on peer group influence on the choice of career.

## CONCLUSION

From the analysis of data and interpretation of results, the following conclusions were made;

1. There was significant difference in the influence of parental occupation and choice of career of the respondents.
2. There was significant difference in the peer group influence and choice of career of the respondents.
3. There was no significant difference between male and female on parental influence on choice of career of the respondents.
4. There was no significant difference between male and female secondary school students on peer group influence on choice of career.

## RECOMMENDATION

Based on the results obtained from this study, the following recommendations are made;

- i. Career development programme should be developed and encouraged in secondary schools. This programme should include sex fair programme such as excursions, field trips, and career visit / career talks.
- ii. Professionally trained counselors should be appointed and deployed to schools in Nigeria. This innovation in the school system is in accordance with the National Policy on Education
- iii. Career guidance bureau should be established in all local government headquarters and the main function should be to advise students before their final selection of courses.
- iv. The counselors should guide the students in the selection of their career and students' subject combinations should be monitored.

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