Influence Of Home Economics And Family Environment On Career Choice Of Students In Calabar Municiplaity, Cross River State, Nigeria

Section A-Research paper

Influence Of Home Economics And Family Environment On Career Choice Of Students In Calabar Municiplaity, Cross River State, Nigeria

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ABTRACT

This study investigated "The Influence of Home management practices and Family Environment on the Career Choices of Students in Calabar Municipality, Cross River State, Nigeria". Indicators of Family Environment such as absence of parents, domestic violence in family, family disharmony and physical and mental illness and Home economics (home management practices) were used to test the relationships between home economics, family environment and Career Choices of Students. The descriptive survey research design was used and the sample was made up of 140 students who were selected from ten secondary schools owned by government and privately owned Calabar municipality of Cross River State. The instrument used for data collection was a questionnaire. The overall reliability of the instrument stood at 0.712 which implied that majority of the students were consistent in their responses. In data analysis, a pre-designed PAST 3 software database with in-built consistency and validation checks were used to enter the data. Further consistency, data range and validation checks were also performed in SPSS version 27 to identify invalid codes. The data were analyzed using frequency counts, percentages and Pearson test to establish the relationship between family environment and career choices of student. The findings indicated that: there was a significant and positive relationship between parental absence and students career choices. Findings equally affirmed that there was a significant and positive relationship between domestic violence in family and career choices of students. Similarly, the findings equally revealed that there was a significant and positive relationship between physical and mental illness and career choices of secondary school students as well as a significant and positive relationship between family disharmony and career choices among secondary school students in Calabar Municipality. Based on the findings, it was recorded that school Counselors should guide students so that they can choose careers base on their personality trait and interest. This will help students to gain career satisfaction.

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Keywords: Home management, domestic violence, family disharmony, career choice, students

INTRODUCTION

Background of the study

Career choices are a complex decision for students since it determines the kind of profession that they intend to pursue in life. As students try to make choices while in secondary school, they face problems in matching their career choices with their abilities and school performance. Family Environments are among some of the problems students face on career choices. However, family environments with all its variants and types like any other factors have a great influence on the career choices of secondary school students.
A number of factors can shape and influence the career paths a student choose, starting with how the family shapes the perceptions of different employment options. Whether such students were raised with ideals of certain professions, or looking for a job that fits the adult family life, these issues need to be carefully considered. In making a career choice, it is important to come up with a sound decision that family can support.

These family environments can have a positive or negative impact on the choices of career of secondary school students], thereby affecting them in future if not properly taken care of. Talking about the environment, we have the social, natural and the biological environment and there are factors among this three that influence the career choices of students in secondary schools. Olatunji (2003) argues that we have three types of environments which include: Natural, Biological and social environment. He holds on the point that, the Natural environment is made up of man's surroundings which is the product if natural process which consist of natural phenomenon such as air, water, land as well as climate and its elements. The natural environment has some influences on man as Holland (1992) postulates that people project self-and world-of-work views onto occupational titles and make career decisions that satisfy their preferred personal orientations.

The theory incorporates several constructs from personality psychology, vocational behavior, and social psychology, including self-perception theory and social stereotyping. Applications of Holland's theory of Career choice involve assessing individuals in terms of two or three prominent personality types and then matching the respective types with the environmental aspects of potential careers. The theory predicts that the higher the degree of congruence between individual and occupational characteristics, the better the potential for positive career-related outcomes, including satisfaction, persistence, and achievement.

According to Brown (2002), he opined that matching personality to compatible environments will lead to job satisfaction. To him choosing work or an education program that matches, or is

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similar to individual personality, will most likely lead to success and satisfaction. This good match is called "congruent" (meaning compatible, in agreement or harmony). Looking at a compatible work environment by Holland and Gottfredson (1976), they argued that most people, in reality, are a combination of types–like Realistic-Investigative, or Artistic-Social. Therefore, people will probably want to consider occupations in more than one category, individuals are most likely to choose a satisfying work if they choose to do something that fits their personality type. Krumboltz (1976), developed the social learning theory of career decision making based on the idea that the development of career interests is the result of an infinite number of learning experiences. What individuals observe in the environment in which they are from these experiences develops into their general observations and personal beliefs. Abilities and emotions (along with environmental and cultural factors) either positively or negatively reinforce certain activities. Individuals will naturally gravitate toward areas that they feel are emotionally positive or are rewarded by their parents, peers and society (Krumboltz, 1993).

The consequences of these experiences and observations create an inner belief (whether realistic or not) that individuals then use as their template for making further career decisions. This potentially false belief in one's abilities (or non-abilities) is why Krumboltz believed parents or counselors, who only provide assessments during sessions, are missing a major function of their role. Fouad and Byars-Winston (2005) argue that, when intra individual factors such as interest or decision making are focused on exclusively, other factors that could affect a person's career decision making may be lost sight of. Factors located outside these intra-individual factors include inter alia environmental factors that should also be taken into account.

Betz (1989) refers to the external environmental factors (such as family, peer group, religious and social support system) that influence the pursuit of career objectives. Internal (micro systems) and external (meso and macro systems) factors affect the career choices that individuals make.

Similarly, the objectivist theory identified a scientific and logical match between a persons' traits and the demands of the work environment (Chen, 2003). The objectivists believe that occupational matches can be measured and predicted (mainly through scientific assessments) and will logically state what type of career choice best fits that person. This type of thinking was dominant in the early 20thcentury. Frank Parsons, the designated founder of the career guidance movement (Baker, 2009 & Parsons, 1909), opened the doors to the practice of matching one's self to one's job traits, a process that continues to this day (Niles, 2001).

In this study, our focus will be on the influence of home management style and family environment on the career choices of secondary school students in the Calabar Municipality LGA. It will be looking at the environment, as a term that has many connotations such as physical, economic, social and cultural dimensions.

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1.2 Statement of Problem

Calabar Municipality is rapidly developing its technological education which makes society more complex than it was in the past. The number of occupations has increased greatly and as there are many careers within one occupation. For instance, farming which was a simple occupation some years back is now a very complex occupation with many careers to choose from. These include poultry farming, vegetable farming, etc. This is why the home economics, family environment, domestic violence, peer group, school environment and even the large society make in choosing a life career. This constitutes a problem as students often make wrong choices. Hence there is scanty research on the influence of home ecomomics and family environmental on the career choices of secondary school students.

1.3 The objective of the Study

The research was focused on investigating the influence of home management practices and family environment on the career choices of secondary school students in Calabar Municipality.

1.4 Specific Objectives

1. To evaluate the influence of home management practices on career choice of secondary students in Calabar Municipality
2. To examine the influence of loss of parents on career choices of secondary school students in Calabar Municipality.
3. To investigate the influence of domestic violence in family on career choices of secondary school students in Calabar Municipality.
4. To examine the influence of physical and mental illness on career choices of students in Calabar Municipality.
5. To examine the influence of family disharmony on career choices of secondary school students in Calabar Municipality.

1.4 Research Hypothesis

The following null hypotheses were tested and verified in the study for their validity.

H01: Home management style does not affect students choice of career
HO2: Loss of parents have no Significant effect on Students Career Choices
HO3: Domestic violence in family have no Significant effect on Students Career Choices
HO4: physical and mental illness have no Significant effect on Students Career Choices
HO5: Family disharmony have no Significant effect on Students Career Choices

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RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

2.1 Study sites

The study on the influence of family environment on the choice of career was conducted in Calabar municipal Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria. The study was carried out from March to April, 2023.

2.2 Sample size

The study was a descriptive survey and was made up of 140 student participants who were secondary schools' students purposively and randomly selected from Government owned and private owned secondary schools in Calabar Municipality

2.3 Sampling

Table 1: Sampling schools for the study

Name of Secondary School	No. of students sampled
1. Margaret Ekpo secondary school	14
2. FAAN secondary school	14
3. Hope Wadell training institute	14
4. Unical Model secondary school	14
5. Access school Calabar	14
6. Uncle Effiong Academy	14
7. Florence Obi Academy	14
8. Saint Patrick colleges	14
9. West African People institute	14
10. Technical College Ikot Ansa	14
Total	**140**

2.4 Sampling technique

Purposive sampling enabled the researcher to include participants who demonstrated a range of characteristics of different series; meanwhile random sampling was further used to select a number that was demographically representative and also sizable enough for the study.

2.5 Research instrument

The instrument used was a questionnaire which was designed to collect data on environmental factor and student career choices which was self-constructed.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Results

Table 2: Reliability analysis Conceptual Components/variables Cronbach's Alpha Coefficient

Conceptual Components/variables	Cronbach's Alpha Coefficient	Variance	Number of valid Cases	Number of valid items

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Loss of parents	0.612	0.049	15	10
Domestic violence	0.568	0.062	15	10
Physical and mental illness	0.517	0.040	14	10
Family disharmony	0.492	0.057	15	10
Integrated Value mapping	**0.732**	**0.066**	**15**	**50**

The overall reliability analysis of the instrument was 0.732. Generally, when the Cronbach's Alpha Coefficient value is above 0.5 especially in a context where the test items to some extent are directly related to one another as it was the case in the context of this study, the instrument is considered valid and reliable for analysis.

Findings

Verification of Hypothesis One: (HO₁): Home management style in family has no Significant Influence on Career Choices of Students.

Table 3: Relationship between home management style in family and Career Choices of Secondary School Students   Test statistics Religious Groups Career Choices of Students

Test statistics		Home management style	Career Choices of Students
Pearson Test	R – Value	1.000	.234**
	P – value	-	.007
	N	140	140
** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2 –tailed)			

Statistically, findings show that there is a very significant and positive relationship between loss of parent or absence of parent in the family and students career choices (P =0.007, far less than 0.05). The positive sign of the correlation value (R = 0.234**) implies that most of the students choose their careers base on the home management style adopted in their homes which they feel is sustainable for their future security. Therefore, the null hypothesis that state that home management style of parents has no significant influence on students' career choice was rejected and the alternative hypothesis that state the way and manner the parents manage their homes (financially, availability of food, good diet planning, good economies of food and money) by parents has a significant influence on student career choice was accepted.

Verification of Hypothesis Two: (HO₂): Absence of parents in family has no Significant Influence on Career Choices of Students.

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Table 4: Relationship between Loss of Parents in Family and Student Career Choices Test statistics Peer Group Influence Student Career Choices

	Test statistics	Absence of parents Loss of parents	Career Choices of students
Pearson Test	R – Value	1.000	.234**
	P – value	-	.007
	N	140	140
** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2 –tailed)			

Statistically, findings show that there is a very significant and positive relationship between loss of parent or absence of parent in the family and students career choices (P =0.007, far less than 0.05). The positive sign of the correlation value (R = 0.234**) implies that most of the students choose their careers base on what can sustain them at the moment due to absence of parents or sponsor. Therefore, the null hypothesis that state that loss of parents/absence of parents has no significant influence on students' career choice was rejected and the alternative hypothesis that state loss of parents/absence of parents has a significant influence on student career choice was accepted.

Verification of Hypothesis Three (HO₃): Domestic violence in family has no Significant effect on Students Career Choices

Table 5: Relationship between domestic violence in family and Career Choices of Students

	Test statistics	Domestic Violence In Family	Career Choices of Students
Pearson Test	R – Value	1.000	.278**
	P – value	-	.001
	N	140	140
** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2 –tailed)			

Statistically, findings show that there is a very significant and positive relationship between domestic violence in family and career choices of students (P= 0.001, far less than 0.05). The positive sign of the correlation value (R = 0.278**) implies that students choose their career choices based on their on the pressure and experience from domestic violence. No serious career is chosen by students from these families as most of them drop out due to violence in the family. Therefore, the null hypothesis that domestic violence in family has no significant influence on students choose their career choices was rejected and the alternative hypothesis that state that school environment has a significant influence on career choices of students was accepted.

Verification of Hypothesis Four (HO₄): Physical and mental illness in family have no Significant effect on Students Career Choices

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Table 6: Relationship between physical and mental illness in family and Career Choices of Secondary School Students   Test statistics Religious Groups Career Choices of Students

	Test statistics	Physical and mental illness	Career Choices of Students
Pearson Test	R – Value	1.000	.259**
	P – value	-	.002
	N	140	140
** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2 –tailed)			

Statistically, findings show that there is a very significant and positive relationship between physical and mental illness and career choices of secondary school students (P= 0.002, far less than 0.05). The positive sign of the correlation value (R = 0.259**) implies that students choose their career choices based on their physical and mental illness prevailing in the family.

Therefore, the null hypothesis that state that physical and mental illness in the family has no significant influence on career choices of secondary school students was rejected and the alternative hypothesis that state that physical and mental illness has a significant influence on career choices of secondary school students was accepted.

Verification of Hypothesis four (HO$_5$): Family disharmony have no Significant effect on Students Career Choices

Table 7: Relationship between family disharmony and Career Choices of Secondary School Students   Test statistics Religious Groups Career Choices of Students

	Test statistics	Family Disharmony	Career Choices of Students
Pearson Test	R – Value	1.000	.234**
	P – value	-	.007
	N	140	140
** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2 –tailed)			

Statistically, findings show that there is a very significant and positive relationship between family disharmony and career choices of secondary school students (P= 0.002, far less than 0.05). The positive sign of the correlation value (R = 0.259**) implies that students choose their career choices based on their religious beliefs.

Therefore, the null hypothesis that state that family disharmony has no significant influence on career choices of secondary school students was rejected and the alternative hypothesis that state that family disharmony has a significant influence on career choices of secondary school students was accepted.

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3.2 **Discussion**

Absence of parents/loss of parents and Students' Career Choice

Findings showed that there is a very significant and positive relationship between peer group and students career choices. This was confirmed by Osa-Edoh and Alutu, (2011) who pointed out that, vocational and career interest of secondary school students are strongly influenced by the socio-economic inheritance may have a direct and greater effect upon the occupations open to him or which he finds attractive. Omrod, (2004) reported that students' choices of careers are influenced by parental care and acceptance of careers that have high pays. Wentzel, (1991) observed that having friends who serve as academic and social resources can have a direct influence on achievement outcomes in school and career plans for the future. In addition Zellman and Quigley, (1999) showed that many parents have high hopes for their wards and shared the same academic and career orientation characterized by high academic standards and career plans for the future as wanting to have the same career aspiration. In contrast, Oyebode (1980) and Alika and Osa Edo (2009) found that irrespective of parental and peer group influences, children choose jobs or careers that are highly rated in the society. Moreover, Rowe, Woulbroun and Gulley (1994) reported that the uniformity of behavior and attitudes seen among students who belong to the same peer group cannot be attributed entirely to peers' influences.

Home management style adopted by parents at home and student's career choice

Home management style of parents was found in this study to significantly influence students choice of career. Parents who are good managers of homes in terms of good food provision, financially prudent, simple combinations of recipe to make delicious meals, good combinations of food to provide balance diet, good allocation of available resources to always manage the home without violence. Good financial management which ensures prompt payments of school fees, provision of basic home needs to students certainly will influence the students choice of career due to a positive mindset developed over time.

Domestic violence in family and Students' Career Choices;

Findings showed that there was a significant and positive relationship between school environment and career choices of students. The results obtained from the students showed that school environment greatly influence their career choices as they said, they want to be like some of their teachers, school environment causes them to like what they wants to become, their teachers tells them careers that could suit them better and not what they want, school Counselors are/ have been the greatest influence in their career choice.

Dick and Rallis, (1991) supported the above facts by saying teachers have a strong influence on students' choices of career in mathematics. Teachers tell students careers that could suit the student better and not what the student want. Other empirical evidence has not been as encouraging. Teacher or counselor advising tends to reflect a gender bias when directing girls towards traditional careers and boys to non-traditional careers (Gates, 2002). Women in Information Technology (IT) are most discouraged by teachers, guidance counselors, and male professors. That students' grades will determine their career choice (Turner, 2002), although

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women who moved from non-IT to IT careers often indicated male professors to be a strong influence in that move (Canes & Rosen, 1995).

Also, in line with their grades as a determines to their career choice, Arudo (2008) found that students believe that their certificate can greatly influence the type of career they find themselves in and the environment does not provide facilities that promote interested career choices. So even though they have their choice of career made already, they believe their certificate has the potential of changing their choice of career. Lavallee (2008) explain that external influences that helps to shape an individual's career choice are also influenced by significant others through social support from peers.

Physical and mental illness and Student Career Choices;

Findings showed that there was a significant and positive relationship between religious groups and career choices of secondary school students. This is supported by Gostein (2003) who says religious institutions insist on the choice of school and even the students' courses they concentrate on. This is in itself a setting off on a predetermined career. Most often this happens regardless of the child's talents, interests and desires. Where the youth have no strong objection to the choice being made for him/her, he/she gets condemned to a life's work to which he is not suited.

One of the motives of religious institutions action is to get the children to take up the career, that the religious institutions are always interested in (Gostein, 2000). Thus, religious institutions live vicandously through children. Also, Bassey et al., (2012) and Sigalow et al., (2012) says religious institutions has a significant influence on the career choices of students. As religious leader advice student to choose careers that don't interfere with religious programmers and the church expects children to choose a career relating to the activities they promote.

Family disharmony and Student Career Choices;

Findings showed that there was a significant and positive relationship between family disharmony and career choices of secondary school students. This is supported by Gostein (2003) who says religious institutions insist on the choice of school and even the students' courses they concentrate on. This is in itself a setting off on a predetermined career. Most often this happens regardless of the child's talents, interests and desires. Where the youth have no strong objection to the choice being made for him/her, he/she gets condemned to a life's work to which he is not suited.

One of the motives of family disharmony action is to get the children to take up the career, that the religious institutions are always interested in (Gostein, 2000). Thus, religious institutions live vicandously through children. Also, Bassey et al., (2012) and Sigalow et al., (2012) says religious institutions has a significant influence on the career choices of students. As religious leader advice student to choose careers that don't interfere with religious programmers and the church expects children to choose a career relating to the activities they promote.

Conclusion

The study evaluated the influence of home management and family environment on the career choices of students in Calabar Municipality, Cross River State, Nigeria". Indicators of family

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environment such as absence of parents, domestic violence in family, family disharmony and physical and mental illness were used to test the relationships between family environment and career choices of Students. The descriptive survey research design was used and the sample was made up of 140 students who were selected from ten secondary schools owned by government and privately owned Calabar municipality of Cross River State. The instrument used for data collection was a questionnaire. The overall reliability of the instrument stood at 0.712 which implied that majority of the students were consistent in their responses.

The research indicated that there was a significant and positive relationship between parental absence and students career choices. Findings equally affirmed that there was a significant and positive relationship between domestic violence in family and career choices of students. Similarly, the findings equally revealed that there was a significant and positive relationship between physical and mental illness and career choices of secondary school students as well as a significant and positive relationship between family disharmony and career choices among secondary school students in Calabar Municipality. In conclusion, it is a well- known fact that education is the only road to economic growth and development and in achieving these, the influence of family environment in choosing a career should be seriously considered and taken into consideration.

Recommendations

Based on the findings, it was recommended that school Counselors should guide students so that they can choose careers base on their personality trait and interest. This will help students to gain career satisfaction rather than dependent on home management and family environment.

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