

Situational Factors as Correlates of Secondary School Adolescents Students Career Choice in Ethiope East Local Government Area of Delta State

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Abstract

This study examined situational factors as correlates of secondary school adolescent students career choice in Ethiope East Local Government Area of Delta State. The process of making a career choice continues to pose some challenges to the secondary school adolescent student in Nigeria. This has become even more difficult today as the Nigerian nation continues to face economic challenges which has manifested in mass unemployment of graduates from institutions of higher learning. To examine the above problem, five research hypotheses were developed as guide for the study. The correlation design was used for the study. The population of this study is made up 867 SS 2 students in 24 public senior secondary schools in Ethiope East Local Government Area of Delta State. From the 867 senior secondary school adolescent students in the 24 secondary schools, 5 secondary schools were randomly selected using the multistage sampling technique. 12 students were selected from each of the 5 schools using the same technique which gave a total sample size of 60 students. A questionnaire was developed to elicit response from the subjects for the study. The multiple regression statistics was used to test for significant relationship between situational factors on career choice of secondary school Adolescent students, while ANOVA was used for coefficient at .05 level of significance. The analysis revealed that there was significant relationship between environmental factors and secondary school adolescent career choice. The implication was that counsellors, teachers and parents should be mindful of such situational factors like environmental and personality in order to assist secondary school adolescent student in making appropriate career choice. From the findings, some recommendations were made for further studies.

Keywords: Situation, Factors, Adolescents, Career, Choice.

1. Introduction

Career is the totality of work-paid and unpaid an individual embarks upon in his or her life time. Thus, career embraces a sequence of positions, jobs, or occupations which an individual holds during his or her lifetime. It is the totality of the work an individual carries out through a life time. It defines the individual because it describes who the person is. No other human activity satisfies as many needs as does one's occupation. Choosing an appropriate career is therefore of great importance to the individual.(NCDA 2003) Career selection is one of many important choice students will make that determines future plans. The decision is so significant because it has the capacity of affecting the entire life of the individual. If the choice is properly made, it will guarantee some level of career success or satisfaction. However, if the opposite becomes the case, there will be no career satisfaction, and this will ultimately affect the entire life of the individual in a negative way. Such situations abound today among adults and young adults who do not find fulfilment in what they are doing at the moment. The implication is that a student, who understands himself or her self in relation to what they will want to do in life, will make a career choice that revolves around their personality. Basavage (1996). In an individuals work therefore, we can understand the personality and values of such a person.

From the foregoing, it is apparent that that a major problem facing adolescent students in Nigerian secondary schools is that of choosing an appropriate and relevant choice of subjects in schools, securing admission into higher institutions and finding a satisfactory job after university education. This is the first and major challenge that confronts young people. In fact, Super (1957), Salami (2000) and Ogunsanwo (2000) contended that no other decision a young person makes, is so crucial for happiness in life as his or her choice of an appropriate career and the relevant educational preparation for it. Many reasons or factors could be advanced for the above.

Among the possible factors that may be responsible for the above problems associated with career decision making, is the presence of situational factors which interact with the choice process. These factors are categorized as personality, environmental, economic, and educational factors. Also, in making appropriate career choice, individuals (students and counsellors) need to consider some situational factors like personality factors such as interest, prestige, norms, self-esteem, physique, aptitude which could be responsible for the success or failure in their career choice.

Personality is a characteristic way of thinking, feeling and behaving Britannica (2002). It is also a collection of impressions in the appearance of the student's body and the impressions believed to have been made on others, good or bad. It also implies that one's personality may embrace attitudes and opinions that affect the way we deal with interactions of people and in particular to this study, the situations of choosing the career.

Splaver (1977), stated that it is important for students to have a good understanding of themselves and their personality if they are to make intelligent career plans. This include what they would like to be and what they like which are determining factors in their career choices. She further explained that students should be familiar with their personality in order to guide their career choices.

Another situational factor in career choice is environmental factor. This environmental factor is made up of some variables which include peer groups, role models, mentors, social groups, socio-economic status, type of family which determines the nature of career choice of secondary school adolescents. Environment is the complex physical factors that make up our surrounding and in turn act upon us (Britannica 2002).

National Career Development Association (NCDA 2003), recognized this fact hence it advocates the home as where positive societal contributions should first be communicated to children. This group behaviour affects career choice to a great extent. Also her policy advocates the family as a work place and all members of the family as workers and that within the home and family structure, pre-school age children can first be exposed to true work experiences as family members try to do something that will be helpful to other members of the family. It also means that a solid foundation of career choice at the family level is a good start off in career decision making process.

Economically, factors that serve as correlates of secondary school adolescents' student career choice include poverty, needs, wants, demands, and other factors that could be products of economic activities in the Community. This is because an individual may choose a career because of the needs of the society or his own personal needs. The issue of poverty has played an important determining role in the opportunities available to all. The income level of secondary school families may determine what career a student chooses during a specific time in the student's life: choices that will determine a large part of that student's future. Crites (1969), Gambari (1990) and salami (1997), states that people enter into occupation because of economic reasons with the aim that such occupations will provide them with adequate materials and financial rewards necessary to meet ones social needs Ogunsanwo (2000), and Salami (2004), revealed that the need for good salary, attractive financial package which will determine his social class, attractive working conditions and a secured future are very important factors influencing students career choice. Educationally, some factors like status of parents, peers, skills, experience, knowledge and lack of information and other factors that could be product of teaching and learning, influence students career choice. This is because parent's educational background may influence the students view to or not to continue his or her education. The educational experiences that influence career choice could be formal or informal, that is within or outside the school setting.

This means that for teachers and counsellors to continue career development of the individual, some activities maybe appropriate and vital; this include, making the classroom a workplace; teaching/reinforcing productive work habit, helping students understand career applications of subject matter; using resource persons to emphasize both work and occupations, career awareness but not specific occupational choices so as to reduce bias in career awareness.

1.1 Research Hypotheses:

1. There is no significant relationship between situational factors and secondary school adolescent student's career choice .
2. There is no significant relationship between personality factors and secondary school adolescent student career choice.
3. There is no significant relationship between environmental factors and secondary school adolescent student career choice.
4. There is no significant relationship between economic factors and secondary school adolescent student career choice.
5. There is no significant relationship between educational factors and secondary school adolescent student career choice.

2. Methodology

The research design adopted for this study was descriptive survey. The population of this study is comprised of 867 senior secondary school 2 students from 24 public secondary schools in Ethiopie East Local Government Area of Delta State. Out of this number, a sample of 60 was randomly selected which comprised of 12 student each from 5 secondary school. The instrument used was the questionnaire titled Situational Factors of Career Choice

(SFCC). The questionnaire was divided into two sections. Section one sought demographic information of respondent. Section two had 42 items designed with the likert scale format. The items covered examined factors of career counselling, personality, environmental, economic and educational factors.

3. Presentation and Discussion of Results

Hypothesis 1

There is no significant relationship between situational factors and secondary school adolescence student career choice.

Table 1: Multiple regression analysis of situational factors and secondary school adolescence student career choice

R	r^2	Adjusted r^2	Std Error of the Estimate		
0.318	0.101	0.086	3.830		
Anova					
Model	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	95.744	1	95.744	6.527	0.013
Residual	850.856	58	14.670		
Total	946.600	59			
Co- efficient					
Model	Unstandardised Coefficient Std. Error		Standardized Co-coefficient Beta	t	Sign
(Constant)	21.845	2.729		8.006	0.000
Situational Factors	0.247	0.097	0.318	2.555	0.013

As shown in table 1, the combination of all the variables in predicting student career choice yielded a multiple Regression of 0.318, a multiple R square of 0.086. The interpretation of this is that 8.6% of the variance in student career choice can be explained by the combined Influence of the situational factors. The table also shows that the analysis of variance for the multiple regression data produced and F-ratio of 6.527 which is significant at 0.05 level. This indicates that there was significant relationship between situational factors and secondary school adolescent student career choice in Ethiopie East.

Result as shown under the parameter estimate indicates that situational factors have positive correlation on adolescence student career choice. The value of t-ratio associated with situational factors and adolescence student career choice was significant at 0.05 level.

Hypothesis 2

There is no significant relationship between personality factors and secondary school adolescence student career choice.

Table 2: Multiple regression analysis of personality factors and secondary school adolescence student career choice

R	r ²	Adjusted r ²		Std. Error of estimate	
0.109	0.012	0.005		4.016	
Anova					
Model	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sign
Regression	11.348	1	11.348	0.704	0.405
Residual	935.252	58	16.125		
Total	946.600	59			
Co- efficient					
	Unstandardised. Coefficient B	Std. Error	Standardized Coefficient Beta	T	Sign
(constant)	26.656	2.491		10.700	0.000
Personality factors	0.097	0.116	0.109	0.839	0.405

Table 2 shows that the combination of all the variables in predicting adolescence student career choice yielded a multiple regression of 0.109. A multiple r² of 0.012 and adjusted r² of 0.05. The interpretation of this is that 0.05% of the variance in student career choice can be explained by the personality factor. Table 2 also shows that the analysis of variance for multiple regression data produce an F-ratio of 0.704 which is not significant at 0.05 level. This indicates that there was no significant relationship between personality factors and secondary school adolescence student career choice in Ethiopia East L.G.A.

Result in table 2, also shows the parameter estimate that personality factors have a positive correlation on adolescence student career choice. The value of t-ratio associated with personality factors and adolescence student career choice was not significant at 0.05 level.

Hypothesis 3

There is no significant relationship between environmental factors and secondary school adolescence student career choice.

Table 3: Multiple regression analysis of environmental factors and secondary school adolescence career choice

R	R Square	Adjusted R square		Std. Error of Estimate	
0.442	0.195	0.181		3.624	
ANOVA					
Model	Sum of Square	Df	Mean Square	F	Sign
Regression	184.689	1	184.689	14.059	0.000
Residual Total	761.911	58			
	946.600	59			

Co-efficient					
	Unstandardized coefficient		Standardized Coefficient	T	sign
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(constant)	22.035	1.838		11.989	0.000
Environmental factors	0.240	0.064	0.442	3.750	0.000

Table 3 shows that the combination of all the variables in predicting adolescence student career choice yielded a multiple regression of 0.442, a multiple r^2 of 0.195 and adjusted r^2 of 0.181. The interpretation of this is that 18.1% of the variance in student career choice can be explained by the environmental factors.

The Table also shows the analysis of variance for multiple regression data produced an F-ratio of 14.059 which is significant at 0.05 level. This indicates that there was significant relationship between environmental factors and secondary school adolescence student career choice in Ethiope East L.G.A.

Result in table 3 also shows the parameter estimate, that environmental factors has a positive correlation on adolescence career choice. The value of t ratio associated with environmental factor and adolescence student career choice was significant at 0.05 level.

Hypothesis 4

There is no significant relationship between economic factors and secondary school adolescent students career choice.

Table 4: Multiple Regression Analysis of Economic factors and secondary adolescent student career choice

R	r^2		Adjusted r^2		Standard Error of Estimate
0.038	0.001		0.016		4.037
Anova					
Model	Sum of square	Df	Mean square	F	Sign
Regression	1.367	1	1.367	0.084	0.773
Residual	945.233	58	16.297		
Total	946.600	59			
Coefficients					
	Unstandardised Coefficient		Standardised Coefficient		
	B	Std Error	Beta	T	sign
(constant)	28.036	2.351		11.927	0.000
Economic factor	0.042	0.146	0.038	0.290	0.773

Table 4 shows that the combination of all the variables in predicting adolescent student career choice yielded a multiple regression of 0.038, a multiple r^2 of 0.001 and adjusted r^2 of 0.016. The interpretation of this is that 1.6% of the variance in student career choice can be explained by economic factors.

The table 4 also shows the analysis of variance for multiple regression data produced an F-ratio of 0.084 which is not significant at 0.005 level, this shows that there was no significant relationship between economic factors of secondary school adolescent student career choice in Ethiope East L.G.A.

Result in table 3 also shows that the parameter estimate of economic factors has a positive correlation on adolescent student career choice. The value of t-ratio associated with economic factors and adolescent student career choice was not significant at 0.05 level.

Hypothesis 5

There is no significant relationship between educational factors and secondary adolescent student career choice in adolescent student career choice.

R	r^2	Adjusted r^2	Std. Error of Estimate		
0.304	0.092	0.077	3.847		
Anova					
Model	Sum of squares	Df	Mean square	F	Sign
Regression	87.560	1	87.560	5.912	0.018
Residual	856.040	58	14.811		
Total	946.600	59			
Coefficient					
	Unstandardised coefficient		Standardised coefficient		
Model	B	Std. Error	Beta	T	Sign
(constant)	24.439	1.821		13.418	0.000
Educational factors	0.247	0.102	0.304	2.431	0.018

Table 5 shows that the combination of all the variables in predicting adolescent student career choice yielded a multiple regression of 0.304, a multiple r^2 of 0.092 and adjusted r^2 of 0.077. The interpretation of this is that 7.7% of the variance in students career choice can be explained by the educational factors. The table also shows the analysis of variance for multiple regression data produced an F-ratio of 5.912 which is significant at 0.05 level. This shows that there was no significant relationship between educational factors and secondary school adolescent students career choice in Ethiope East L.G.A.

Result in table 5, shows that the parameter estimate of educational factors has a positive correlation on adolescent students career choice. The value of t-ratio associated with environmental factors and adolescent students' career choice was significant at 0.05 level.

3.1 Discussion

The findings from research hypothesis one states that situational factors play an important role in the career choice of secondary school adolescent students. This was supported by Salami (2000) and Ogunsanwo (2000) where they contended that no other decision a young person makes is so crucial for happiness in life as his or her choice of appropriate career and the relevant educational preparation for it as utmost caution must be taken so as to avoid these effect of situational factors in relation to their career selection process.

Research hypothesis two states that there was no significant relation between personality factors and secondary school adolescent student career choice. A possible explanation to the

above is that student should have a good understanding of themselves and their personality so that they can make intelligent career plans.

Also, they should be familiar with their personality in order to guide their career choice and also to avoid the effect of these factors, Splaver (1977).

Research hypothesis three states that there was no significant relationship between environmental factors and secondary adolescent student career choice. The study of NCDA (2003) and Ajaero (2010) supports the position that environmental factors of peer group, role models, mentors, social groups, socio-economic status and family are also important determinant of career choice of secondary school adolescent students.

Research hypothesis four states that there was no significant relationship between economic and secondary school adolescent student career choice. The study of Ogunsanwo (2000) and Salami (2004) contended to these findings.

According to them, there are some important factors influencing secondary school adolescent student career choice. These include good salary package, social class, attractive working conditions and a secured future.

Research hypothesis five states that there was no significant relationship between educational factors of peers, skills, experience, knowledge, lack of information and other factors that could be product of teaching and learning and secondary school adolescent student career choice.

The study of Tuckman (1974) contended to these findings. According to him, a student position skills experience, knowledge acquired affects his or her career choice. He also said that career choice is in processes which enhances a person ability to develop and become aware of concept about himself and his environment including occupation and make career choice.

4. Conclusion

From all that has been discussed it has become obvious that there are some situational factors which are correlates of secondary school adolescent student career choice. Some of these factor includes personality factors, (interest, prestige, norms, self esteem, physique, aptitude) environmental factors (peer groups, role models, mentors, social groups, socio-economic status, family) economic factors (statues of parents, peers, skills, experience, knowledge, lack of information). Guidance counselors therefore should be conscious of these factors as they provide vocational counseling for secondary school adolescent student in order to enhance their career choice.

Beside the above, it was also observed that environmental factors play important role in the career choice of secondary school adolescent student, so appropriate counseling should be given to them for future stability.

Recommendations

Base on the findings of this study, it could be therefore be recommended that:

1. Career selection process should be done accordingly and appropriately to enhance its process.
2. Career counselors should be conscious of situational factors like environmental factors when guiding the students in order for them to make appropriate choice as regards to their career and future stability.

3. Professional counsellors should harness discriminately the situational factors highlighted in this study for counseling with respect to appropriate career choice for secondary school adolescent students.

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