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Factor Influencing Career Choice in Technical Education Profession among Colleges of Education Students in Lagos State of Nigeria

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Abstract

The study was carried out to determine the Factors Influencing Career Choice in Technical Education Profession Among Colleges of Education Students in Lagos State of Nigeria. The study was conducted in Lagos state with a total population of 40 lecturers and 60 students from a Federal and State Colleges of Education. The instruments used for data collection was structured questionnaire titled: “Factor Influencing Career Choice in Technical Education Profession Among Colleges of Education Students (FICCTEPACOES)” Three research questions were formulated. Mean and standard deviation were used to analyze the data for answering research questions based on the level of environmental influence, parents or guardians influence and student’s personality influence on Career Choice in Technical Education Profession Among Colleges of Education Students. The findings of the study were: Technical Education students agree that environmental factors and parents/guardians related factors influenced their career choice, while Students personality related factors; peer group related factors and career guidance officer do not influence their career choice. Based on these findings the following recommendations were made: Students should not be forced by parents or guardians to choose any career, but rather be guided according to their ability; Students should be encouraged to liaise and interact among themselves and with their teachers based on their individual personality difference and the suitable career opportunities that suit their abilities and interest when choosing a vocation.

Keyword: Career Choice, Colleges of Education, Influence, Technical Education Profession



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Introduction

Making choice of academic programme in colleges of education as a part of tertiary institutions has been seen by most students as a complex decision-making requirement for students, as the career they intend to pursue in life depends on it. Choosing an appropriate career course has become an important decision to make by the youth of the 21st century. The career choice need is paramount and has been compulsory for all students since the introduction of western education, most especially at this digital world of today. Student selection of right career choice determining the future plans as it impact their lives positively. Career choice according to Hellen, Omari and Mong'Are (2017) is choosing any particular profession over another. Choice making of any career is an act of selecting one from the series of Careers. Career is a progressive set of competences and attitudes associated to work that any student has acquired for work life (Abbasi & Sarwat, 2014). Career choice has been recorded as a complex task faced by many students which in one way or the other affected their future career (Eremie, 2014). Most student lack the exact information relating to occupational opportunities for making a suitable career choice as result of some factors (Wattles, 2009). According to Amani, (2013), social pressures as valuables to the students can be traced to influence by parents, relatives, teachers, friends, peers and the society at large which in one way or the other influences the decision of any student whether to involve in a career or not. Hewitt (2010), pointed out that factors influencing career choice can be seen as either intrinsic, extrinsic or both. Also opined that parent's career and parent's educational choice influences most student's future career choice. Environment, career opportunities, personality, interest in the course and parental guidance and family influence has a great influence on the career choices the students make (Pawelczyk, Pawelczyk, & Bielecki, 2007; Edwards & Quinter, 2011; Uyar, Gungormus, & Kuzey, 2011; Reynolds, 2013; Odiya & Ogiedu, 2013). An investigation also carried out by Onayase and Onayase, (2009) on other factors that may likely affect career choice, shows that some identified religion, peer group and some environmental factors has an effect on student career choice. However, any career is met to have a subject requirement, characteristics of personality and personal abilities. Assessment of all these are required before any student can be verified to be qualified into any particular career (Onayase and Onayase, 2009). Choosing the required subject combination leads to the right profession that promote future career of any student. Student at secondary school level are expected to have knowledge of what to become in future which determine the choice of subjects to offer when taking West African Examination Certificate (WAEC). Most students intending to enter colleges of education do not have exact information about the entering requirement and occupational opportunities associated with the Technical Education profession which has resulted to poor enrolment.

Technical Education comprises of Automobile, Building, Electrical/Electronic Metal Works and Woodwork Department which has vocational and practical oriented courses offered in order to produce craftsmen and technicians in Colleges of Education. College of Education is a vocational



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institution in Nigeria that offers technical and vocational education courses at college level which provides students through training with practical skills and basic adequate scientific knowledge for entry into various occupations and employment. Vocational education offered in vocational institution, with its characteristic comprehensiveness in nature and responsiveness to emerging technologies remains a genuine tool for training appropriate manpower needed for national development (Fakolujo, 2019).

The future of any society is determined by the skillful younger generation. Therefore, making the right career choices should enable them acquire knowledge, skills and attitude required for their future lives as they explore and evaluate a wide range of career options to attain goals in the future. However, factors considered in this study as influencing Technical Education profession among Colleges of Education students are: influence of environment, parents or guardians, student's personality and peer group.

Statement of the Problem

The need for career choice is very important which has been made compulsory for all students preparing to progress in any career since the introduction of western education. But today, making choice of academic programme most especially in the area of Technical Education profession among Colleges of Education students has been seen by most students as a complex decisionmaking requirement for students as a result of some influencing factors, as the career they intend to pursue in life depends on it. The problem of career choice in the area of Technical Education profession among Colleges of Education students has generated a lot of questions and answers among scholars. The problem can be seen as a delicate issue which has resulted to poor enrolment that has to be approached with caution.

Purpose of the Study

The main purpose of the study was to determine Factor Influencing Career Choice in Technical Education Profession Among Colleges of Education Students in Lagos State of Nigeria. Specifically, the study:

1. Determine the influence of environment on Career Choice in Technical Education Profession Among Colleges of Education Students in Lagos State.
2. Determine the influence of parents or guardians on Career Choice in Technical Education Profession Among Colleges of Education Students in Lagos State
3. Determine the influence of student's personality on Career Choice in Technical Education Profession Among Colleges of Education Students in Lagos State

Research Question

The following research questions were developed to guide the study:



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1. What is the influence of environment on Career Choice in Technical Education Profession Among Colleges of Education Students in Lagos State?
2. What is the influence of parents or guardians on Career Choice in Technical Education Profession Among Colleges of Education Students in Lagos State?
3. What is the influence of student's personality on Career Choice in Technical Education Profession among Colleges of Education Students in Lagos State?
- 4.

Methodology Design of the Study

The study adopted a survey research design with the use of questionnaires titled "Factor Influencing Career Choice in Technical Education Profession Among Colleges of Education Students (FICCTEPACOES)" to get and find out information from responded. The design was suitable or appropriate for the study since information was solicited through questionnaire on issues relating to the objectives of the study.

Area of the Study

The study was conducted in two Colleges of Education in Lagos state at both Federal and State levels that offers Technical Education courses. The study covers 103 students from 2018/2019 academic section in Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 of the Federal College of Education (Technical), Akoka, Yaba and Adeniran Ogunsanya College of Education, Otto-Ijanikin both in Lagos State.

Validation of the Instrument

The instrument was subjected to face-validation by seven experts, three from Federal Science/Technical College, three from Federal College of Education (Technical) and one from University of Lagos all Lagos State. Each valuator was served with a copy of the instrument with a request to read through each item for the purpose of identifying lack of clarity or ambiguous statement and proffer suggestions to improve the instrument in a way to meet the objectives of the study. The comments and inputs of the valutors were used to improve the final draft of the instrument.

Reliability of the Instrument

The test-retest method was used to establish the reliability of the instrument. Thus, to ensure that the instrument was reliable, that is whether it will be able to elicit the same information always from the respondents, the two results were analyzed using the test-retest method to establish the reliability of the instrument.



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Method of Data Collection

The research was done with permission from authority of the two Colleges of Education. The questionnaire was administered personally by the researcher and with the aid of four research assistants. The total questionnaire administered was one hundred and one hundred copies were returned representing a total of 100% was collected. The researcher and the assistants administered the instrument on the respondents at interval of one week and returned for collection of the completed instrument. This interval is necessary in order to give sufficient time to the respondents to respond to the instrument and also to ensure hundred percent return rates.

Method of Data Analysis and Presentation

The data collected from the respondents was analyzed using mean and standard deviation. The Mean and standard deviation was used to answer the research questions. Considering the cut-off, items with Mean score greater than or equal to 2.50 were considered as needed while items below 2.50 were considered as not needed.

What is the influence of environment on Career Choice in Technical Education Profession Among Colleges of Education Students in Lagos State?

The data for answering research question 1 are presented in table 1



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Table 1: Mean Responses of the Respondents on the influence of environment on Career Choice in Technical Education Profession Among Colleges of Education Students in Lagos State. N=103

S/N	Item Statements	X	SD	Remarks
1	My home location/where I live is responsible for my career choice	3.26	0.74	Influential
2	My community culture, religion and belief influence my career choice	3.11	0.92	Influential
3	The availability of Technical Industries, businesses and services in my community influence my career choice	3.03	0.75	Influential
4	The closer my school location to my home motivated my career choice	3.32	0.76	Influential
5	The low or high cost of living influenced my career choice	1.73	0.26	Not Influential
6	I am limited to my career choice because that is what I saw my friends doing	2.90	0.74	Influential
7	My career choice was influenced as the society places high value on Technical Education	3.39	0.73	Influential
8	The employment and socioeconomic variables like Technical workers income influence my career choice	3.21	0.63	Influential
9	I choose my career because I was told by friend that I can make money from it	3.20	0.63	Influential
10	The perception that Technical Education graduates gets white collar jobs upon graduation influenced my career choice	3.08	0.74	Influential
	Grand Mean			Influential

Key: X =Mean, S.D =Standard deviation

The data presented in table1 revealed that 9 item statements have their mean value ranged from 2.90 to 3.39. This showed that the mean value of each item was above the cut-off point of 2.50, indicating that all the 9-item statement influences the career choice of Technical Education students in Colleges of Education. While 1 item statements fell below the cut-off point of 2.50, indicating that low or high cost of living does not influence the career choice of Technical Education students in Colleges of Education. The table also showed that the standard deviations (SD) of the items are within the range of 0.26 to 0.92.

What is the influence of parents or guardians on Career Choice in Technical Education Profession among Colleges of Education Students in Lagos State?

The data for answering research question 2 are presented in table 2



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Table 2: Mean Responses of the Respondents on the influence of parents or guardians on Career Choice in Technical Education Profession Among Colleges of Education Students in Lagos State. N=103

S/N	Item Statements	X	SD	Remarks
1	My parents/guardian's passion for Technical Education Profession and their educational status influenced my career choice	3.26	0.65	Influential
2	My parents/guardians made me choose the choice of study base on their interest	3.11	0.62	Influential
3	My parents/guardian's income strength made me decide on the choice of study	2.51	0.49	Influential
4	The regular advice by my parents/guardians affected my career choice	2.65	0.54	Influential
5	A film I watched made me choose the choice of study	2.33	0.46	Not Influential
6	The quality of my parents/guardian's offspring relationship influences my choice of careers	2.60	0.52	Influential
7	Adolescents who cannot separate effectively from their parents are not free to make independent career decisions	2.52	0.50	Influential
8	My parents/guardian's values and beliefs influence my career choice	2.75	0.55	Influential
9	Parental connectedness and expectations are influential in children's choice of careers	2.83	0.57	Influential
10	Parents/guardians can create interest of certain careers in their children	3.08	0.62	Influential
	Grand Mean			Influential

Key: X =Mean, S.D =Standard deviation

The data presented in table2 revealed that 9 item statements have their mean value ranged from 2.251 to 3.26. This showed that the mean value of each item was above the cut-off point of 2.50, indicating that all the 9-item statement influences the career choice of Technical Education students in Colleges of Education. While 1 item statements fell below the cut-off point of 2.50, indicating that watching of films does not influence the career choice of Technical Education students in Colleges of Education. The table also showed that the standard deviations (SD) of the items are within the range of 0.26 to 0.83.

What is the influence of students personality on Career Choice in Technical Education Profession Among Colleges of Education Students in Lagos State?

The data for answering research question 3 are presented in table 3



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Table 3: Mean Responses of the Respondents on the influence of student's personality on Career Choice in Technical Education Profession Among Colleges of Education Students in Lagos State.

S/N	Item Statements	Mean	SD	Remarks
1	I chose this choice of study because I believe it is what my friends studied	2.41	0.49	Not Influential
2	Programme for those who can never do well academically in the society.	2.11	0.30	Not Influential
3	I made my career choice because I had no career plan	2.41	0.49	Not Influential
4	I made the decision choosing the career myself	2.35	0.34	Not Influential
5	A film I watched made me choose the choice of study	2.33	0.46	Not Influential
6	Programme that prepare one to teach but is not competent to work in the office	2.40	0.42	Not Influential
7	Moving with students of tertiary institutions influenced my vocational choice	2.12	0.28	Not Influential
8	Deviant behavior of technical education students in vocational choice are influenced by peer groups	2.15	0.29	Not Influential
9	I will choose my career choice based on my interest in a particular occupation	2.33	0.46	Not Influential
10	I chose this field because its working conditions suit me well.	2.08	0.25	Not Influential
	Grand Mean			Not Influential

Key: X =Mean, S.D =Standard deviation

The data presented in table3 revealed that all item statements have their mean value ranged from 2.08 to 2.41. This showed that the mean value of each item was below the cut-off point of 2.50, indicating that all the item statement does not influences the career choice of Technical Education students in Colleges of Education. The table also showed that the standard deviations (SD) of the items are within the range of 0.25 to 0.49.

Discussion of Findings

The findings of this study revealed that Technical Education students agree that environmental factors and parents/guardians related factors influenced their career choice, while Students personality related factors; peer group related factors and career guidance officer do not influence their career choice.



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These findings were in line with the opinion of Fakolujo (2019) stating that technical education, with its characteristic comprehensiveness in nature and responsiveness to emerging technologies remains a genuine tool for training appropriate manpower needed for national development.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study, the following conclusions were drawn:

Choosing an appropriate career course has become an important decision to make by the youth of the 21st century. The career choice need is paramount and has been compulsory for all students since the introduction of western education, most especially at this digital world of today. Student selection of right career choice determining the future plans as it impact their lives positively.

Indication from the study pointed out that environment and parents/guardians are the most influential among other factors that was discussed for this study. However, future of any society is determined by the skillful younger generation. Therefore, making the right career choices should enable them acquire knowledge, skills and attitude required for their future lives as they explore and evaluate a wide range of career options to attain goals in the future.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations were made:

1. Students should be cautious of environmental factors that could hinder their career choices.



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2. At early age, parents or guardians should encourage, promote and prepare students for career awareness.
3. Students should be allowed to make their career choice that is in line with their interest and capabilities.
4. Dictating and applying pressure may likely affect the students' performance, parents or guardians should only work closely in career choice making process with their children.
5. Professional career counselor should always be consulted for assistance in planning and career choice making by students.

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