

Issues and Challenges Influencing Career Choice Among Senior High School Students in Ghana: The Case of The New Juaben Municipality

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Abstract

The study examined the influence of career information and its determinants on career choice among senior high school (SHS) students in the New Juaben Municipality of the Eastern Region, Ghana. The paper addresses the issue that most learners are not adequately exposed to career-related information, which affects their career choices and could, in turn, help address the life and socio-economic problems affecting Ghana. The study is framed within Bandura's Social Cognitive Career Theory, which posits that environmental, gender, and family background factors influence career choices. The study employs a qualitative research approach and involves 10 participants selected through purposive and convenience sampling from senior high schools in the New Juaben Municipality. Semi-structured individual interviews were conducted to gather data, focusing on two main questions, namely: What challenges do students face in career choice? How can the process of career choice be enhanced, and how can it be done among senior secondary school students? The data was analysed using a thematic approach. The study revealed that parents were the most influential determinants of students' career choices. The results further revealed that students lacked career-related knowledge, hindering informed decision-making. Based on the findings, the study suggests increased student access to career guidance and counselling to support informed career choices, promote personal sustainability, and contribute to Ghana's development drive and global engagement.

Keywords: Career Counselling, Vocational Guidance, Social Cognitive Career Theory, The Systems Theory Framework of Career Development, Socio-Cultural Theory of Career Choice