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PARENT'S SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS ON CAREER ASPIRATION OF SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN NASARAWA WEST EDUCATIONAL ZONE, NASARAWA STATE

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Abstract

Career aspiration is decisive choice of work, it is beyond a mere wishes. Therefore, there is need for students to make a thorough career enquiry and planning before a choice of career. This paper examined parent's socio-economic status on career aspiration of senior secondary school students' in Nasarawa West senatorial district, Nasarawa State. The population of the study comprised all 22,320 SS one students in 96 public senior secondary schools in Nasarawa West Senatorial District. Convenient sampling technique was employed to select the respondents. Krecie and Morgan table was used to get the sample size of 377 students as respondent. Survey research design was adopted for the study which involves the retrieving of data from selected respondents representing the entire population. Two research questions and two hypotheses were formulated to guide the study. The study employed quantitative research strategies in analyzing the data. Data was gathered through questionnaire titled 'Parents Social-Economic status Questionnaire' (PSESQ). Cronbach's alpha coefficient analysis was used to measure the internal consistency of the questionnaire. The Descriptive statistics mean and standard deviation scores were used for answer the research questions while independent t test statistic was used to test the hypotheses at 0.05 alpha level of significance. The result showed high positive correlation between parent's socio-economic status and career aspiration of senior secondary school students' in Nasarawa West Educational Zone Nasarawa State. Base on the findings, among many, it was recommended that School counsellors should interact with parents so as to avoid forcing careers on their children rather encourage their children to pursue careers that align with their wards interests. This can help students to be more productive in their academic work which enhance their total development. Therefore, parents should desist from compelling their children in chosen those careers that they do not possess such capabilities, talents, interests of aptitude.

Introduction

Parents are saddle with the responsibility to take (taking) care of the children or wards' physical and intellectual development till they are fully matured, and independently can face the challenges of the larger society. The influence parents,

care giver and home have on the child's learning is strictly fundamental to the concept of life, Tetteh &Atakora, 2021). This suggests that most of the habits are basically developed at home and thus can be adjusted and established during the early childhood pre-school years. This also spotlights the fact that the home front and parents engross the most significant position in the child's education.

In child training, parents' socio and economic status take crucial stand in career aspiration of their children. Parent's socio and economic can be referred to as those variables which have effect in the child" training. Variable such as social life and economic status, education level as well as experience form part of the home setting with direct and positive charm on the upbringing of children. Thus, parent's social and economic statuses are distinctive features of home setting which can predict healthy development of student and educational attainment. The range of influence of social and economic life of parent as well as the expectation within the family could likely constitute determinant exposure on career aspiration of students. Parent duties toward the training and development of their children; evolve in the children education process to enhance educational outcome and attainment.

Career is fundamental and of a great significant in any life and society at large. Career can be linked to one personality and concepts of life. It is a determinant factor of income distribution pattern in the society. Career is seen as the work an individual has learnt and acquired the wholesome knowledge of being an expertise in the field. Okorodudu & Okobiah (2004) in Owusu et al (2021) opined that career is the totality of experience an individual learns about and prepares to engage in as part of his way of living. Career aspiration can be referred to, as the secular work a child desires to engage with in order to earn a living. It is a chosen pursuit, profession or work of life time (Owusu, et al 2021).

Career decision-making is a challenge to many students, as values and identity do emerge from the career aspirations. Career aspiration does enhance student's perception about themselves and their futures (Dudovitz, Chung, Nelson, and Wong (2017). This is because the choice of career can affect student's lives in several ways. It determines students' educational qualifications and level student could aspire to reach in life time and as determinant factor of income earn. Therefore, there is need for students to make a thorough enquiry and career planning before a choice of career. Salami O. O & Salami O. O (2013), therefore, opined that student needs to think through in order to make a right choice. Career aspiration as decisive choice of work is beyond a mere wishes. It is a pursuit for the entire life span; which relates to a pattern of decisions, adjustments and transactions which do contribute to individual's role of work, education, families and community development. Thus,

career aspiration can be seen as a sensitive issue which needs caution and strong admonition for student not to make a costly mistake in life (Salami et al (2013).

Career decision-making, particularly among high school students, should be carefully considered since it has ripple effects in student's life (Jeofrey, 2020). Thus, parents' guidance and support to think through in order to make a wise choice is a clarion call in defining student's career aspirations. Schooling of a child start from cradle; many parent get involved as a moderating or retraining factor in the choice of career for their ward. Parental educational background, cultural norms and values, parental occupations, parental expectations and socio-economic status of parents were among the determinants factors in choosing career for their children. Often time the socio -economic status of parent has direct link to the parent's desire and thought pattern on career decision for their wards or children. Many parents do not consider the student or the child's natural abilities and other potentials, likes and dislikes, before forcefully pursuing and choosing selected career. Therefore many students are easily coaxed by their parents in the choice of a life career which may be different from their expectations. This career initiation may likely fail to achieve the goals in the life of so called students while few live to consummate the desires of the parents in terms of career choice.

When students are forcefully or indoctrinated to select a career; the likelihood implication among many are; loss of concentration in class which outcome is examination failure, and likely increase in the rate of dropout from schools, cultists, emotional instability, taking to crime or drugs, and could form political tugs. Thus, the paper examined the impact of parent's socio-economic status on career aspiration of Senior Secondary School Students' in Nasarawa West Educational Zone, Nasarawa State.

Chukwu and Tor-Anyiin (2024) investigated the influence of parents' socioeconomic status on the career aspirations of Senior Secondary School students in Makurdi Township of Benue State. Four research questions and hypotheses were formulated to guide the study. The research design for the study was the descriptive survey design. The population of the study comprised of all Senior Secondary School students in Makurdi Local Government Area of Benue State, which is 5,874. The convenience non-probability sampling technique was used to select a sample size of 588 Senior Secondary School students across 12 secondary schools in Makurdi. A researcher developed questionnaire titled "Students' Career Aspirations Questionnaire (SCAQ)" was administered to gather data on the influence of parents' socioeconomic status on students' career aspirations. The questionnaire was made up of 15 items and followed the four-point scale in which respondents indicated their

levels of agreement with the statements made by ticking any of the four options of Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D), and Strongly Disagree (SD). The options had numerical values of 4, 3, 2 and 1 points respectively. Data were analyzed based on the research questions using descriptive statistics of mean and standard deviation and the hypotheses were tested using the Chi-square(X2) goodness of fit test at .05 level of significance, with 2.50 serving as the criterion mean for decision making on the items to be responded to and below 2.50 was considered negative and disagree. The findings of the study were as follows; parents' income, parents' occupation and parents' educational attainment have significant influence on career aspirations of Senior Secondary School students in Makurdi Township of Benue State.

Akabueze and ogbonney (2021) carried out an investigation on parental socio-economic status and career aspirations of Secondary School Students in Umuahia Education Zone Of Abia State five research objectives, five research questions and five hypotheses were developed for the study. The study adopted correlation research design. The population for the study comprised of 2467 SS2 students in 12 Government owned secondary schools in Umuahia Educational Zone of Abia State. A sample of 400 students was selected for the study. Two instruments namely: parents' socio-economic status questionnaire and career aspirations questionnaire were developed by the researcher for data collection. The instruments were subjected to face and content validity by experts in both educational psychology and measurement and evaluation units, 0.83 and 0.78 validity indices were obtained. The instruments were pilot tested using Cronbach's alpha coefficient analysis for internal consistency of the instrument yield reliability indices of 0.75 and 0.86 respectively for the two instruments. Simple linear regression and ANOVA were employed to answer the research questions and for testing the hypotheses respectively. The study revealed that there is a significant high positive correlation between the Parents' socioeconomic status students career aspiration.

Research Questions

1. What is the impact of parent's social status on senior secondary students' career aspiration in Nasarawa West Educational zone, Nasarawa State, Nigeria?
2. What is the impact of parent economic status on senior secondary students' career aspiration in Nasarawa West Educational zone, Nasarawa State, Nigeria?

Research Objectives

The following research questions guided the study:

1. To examine parent social status on senior secondary students' career aspiration in Nasarawa West Educational zone, Nasarawa State, Nigeria.
2. To examine parent economic status on senior secondary students' career aspiration in Nasarawa West Educational zone, Nasarawa State, Nigeria.

1.4. Statement of Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses were formulated and tested at 0.5 level of significance

1. There is no significant impact of parent social status on senior secondary students' career aspiration in Nasarawa West Educational zone, Nasarawa State, Nigeria?
2. There is no significant impact of parent economic status on senior secondary students' career aspiration in Nasarawa West Educational zone, Nasarawa State, Nigeria.

Method

Survey research design was adopted for the study which involves the retrieving of data from selected respondents representing the entire population. The population of the study consist 22,320 senior students from the 96 public senior secondary schools Nasarawa West senior Secondary School Students. Krejcie and Morgan table was used to get the sample size of 377 students. Two research questions and two hypotheses were formulated guided the study. The study employed both qualitative and quantitative research strategies in analyzing the data. Data was gathered through questionnaire titled 'Parents Social-Economic status Questionnaire' (PSESQ). Cronbach's alpha coefficient analysis was used to measure the internal consistency of the questionnaire. The Descriptive statistics mean and standard deviation scores were used to research questions while independent t test statistic was used to test the hypotheses at 0.05 alpha level of significance.

Results

Research Question 1: What is the impact of parents' social status on senior secondary student career aspiration in Nasarawa West Educational zone, Nasarawa State, Nigeria?

Table 1: Mean and Standard Deviation on Parents' Social Status on Students' Career Aspiration in Nasarawa West Educational zone, Nasarawa State, Nigeria

S/N	ITEM	SA	A	SD	D	MEAN	STD DEV
1	Our family friends have played a major role in my choice of	55	119	12	201	2.60	0.74

	career						
2	My parents attend social events and occasions that has affected my choice of career	93	42	240	2	2.60	0.86
3	My parents are well known in the neighborhood and community and for this reason I am so careful about my choice of career.	39	72	262	4	2.39	0.68
4	My family relate with friends who value certain professions and this has affected my career aspirations	66	117	192	2	2.66	0.77
5	The social life of my family has not in any way determined my career aspirations.	79	121	177	0	2.74	0.78
	Average Mean					2.60	0.77

Table 1 indicates the results of mean response of respondents regarding the parent social status on senior secondary student career aspiration in Nasarawa West Educational zone, Nasarawa State, Nigeria. Results indicate that the average mean obtained was 2.60. This value is above the cut-off mean value of 2.50 for a four point Likert scaled questionnaire. Hence, parents' social status has a high influence on senior secondary student career aspiration in Nasarawa West Educational zone Nasarawa State, Nigeria.

Research Question 2: What is the impact of parent social status on senior secondary student career aspiration in Nasarawa West Educational zone, Nasarawa State, Nigeria?

Table 2: Mean and Standard Deviation on Parents' Economic Status on Students' Career Aspiration in Nasarawa West Educational zone, Nasarawa State, Nigeria

S/N	ITEM	SA	A	SD	D	Mean	Standard Deviation
6	My parents take good care of me and this explains why I would love to practice their career	294	66	17	0	3.82	0.47
7	I feel my parents have the financial resources to sponsor my career aspirations	66	74	235	2	3.73	0.54
8	I hardly feed well and this makes it difficult for me to have high career aspirations	60	68	247	2	2.54	0.78
9	My parents provide adequate learning materials that can help attain my career aspirations	323	40	14	0	3.82	0.47
10	My parents' economic status has not in any way affected my choice of career	70	109	108	0	2.66	0.77
	Average Mean					**3.31**	**0.61**

Table 2 indicates the results of mean response of respondents regarding the parent economic status on senior secondary student career aspiration in Nasarawa West Educational zone, Nasarawa State, Nigeria. Results indicate that the average mean obtained was 2.92. This value is above the cut-off mean value of 2.50 for a four point Likert scaled questionnaire. Hence, parents' economic status has a high influence on senior secondary student career aspiration in Nasarawa West Educational zone, Nasarawa State, Nigeria.

Test of Hypotheses

Hypothesis 1: There is no significant impact of parent social status on senior secondary students' career aspiration in Nasarawa West Educational zone, Nasarawa State, Nigeria

Table 3: t-test Statistic of Parent Social Status on Senior Secondary Student Career Aspiration in Nasarawa West Educational zone, Nasarawa State, Nigeria

Variables	N	t-cal	p-value	Df	Decision	Conclusion
Parents' Social Status	377	77.05	0.000	99	Reject $H0_1$	Significant
Career Aspirations	377					

Table 3 above shows the t-test statistics on the impact of parent social status on senior secondary students' career aspiration in Nasarawa West Educational zone, Nasarawa State, Nigeria.it is observed from the table that the calculated value of t-test was given as 77.05 while the p-value was 0.000. The p-value was therefore found to be less than 0.05. The hypothesis 1 is therefore rejected. Hence, there is a significant of parent social status on senior secondary student career aspiration in Nasarawa West Educational zone, Nasarawa State, Nigeria

Hypothesis 2: There is no significant impact of parent Economic status on senior secondary student career aspiration in Nasarawa West Educational zone, Nasarawa State, Nigeria

Table 4: t-test Statistic of Parent Economic Status on Senior Secondary Student Career Aspiration in Nasarawa West Educational zone, Nasarawa State, Nigeria

Variables	N	t-cal	p-value	Df	Decision	Conclusion
Parents' Economic Status	377	52.81	0.000	99	Reject $H0_1$	Significant
Career Aspirations	377					

Table 4 above shows the t-test statistics of parents' economic status on senior secondary students' career aspiration in Nasarawa West educational zone Nasarawa State, Nigeria.it is observed from the table that the calculated value of t-test was given as 52.81 while the p-value was 0.000. The p-value was therefore found to be less than 0.05. The hypothesis 1 is therefore rejected. Hence, there is a

significant of parent economic status on senior secondary student career aspiration in Nasarawa West Educational zone, Nasarawa State, Nigeria

Discussion

1. Findings from the study on hypothesis one reveal there is a significant impact of parent social status on senior secondary student career aspiration in Nasarawa West Educational zone, Nasarawa State, Nigeria. This finding is in agreement with the findings from the study of Chukwu & Tor-Anyiin (2024) which investigated the influence of parents' socioeconomic status on the career aspirations of Senior Secondary School students in Makurdi Township of Benue State. The findings from the study revealed that parents' socioeconomic status had a significant influence on the career aspirations of Senior Secondary School students in Makurdi Township of Benue State. Parents should therefore make efforts to enhance their social status by cultivating and building social relationships that will impact positively on the career aspirations of their children

2. Findings from the study on hypothesis two reveal there is a significant of parent economic status on senior secondary student career aspiration in Nasarawa West Educational zone, Nasarawa State, Nigeria. This finding is in agreement with the findings from the study of Akabueze and ogbonney (2021) which carried out an investigation on parental socio-economic status and career aspirations of Secondary School Students in Umuahia Education Zone of Abia State. The findings from the study revealed that there is a significant high positive correlation between the Parents' socioeconomic status and the career aspirations of students. Therefore parents should endeavour to improve on their economic status by diversifying means within their disposal to enhance their economic status, which could have greater positive impact in their children career aspiration. Parents would be able to guide appropriately and give support for specific career aspiration.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of this study, the following conclusions were made:

1. There is a significant of parent social status on senior secondary student career aspiration in Nasarawa West Educational zone, Nasarawa State, Nigeria
2. There is a significant of parent economic status on senior secondary student career aspiration in Nasarawa West Educational zone, Nasarawa State, Nigeria

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study and conclusion, the following recommended were made:

3. Parents should enhance their social status by cultivating and building social relationships that will impact positively on the career aspirations of their children
4. Parents should desist from compelling their children in chosen those careers that they do not possess such capabilities, talents, interests of aptitude.

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