

**ANALYSIS OF FACTORS THAT DETERMINE CAREER CHOICE AMONG  
FEMALE STUDENTS IN SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS OF KANO  
METROPOLIS**

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**ABSTRACT**

*Career guidance is a planned assistance to students, in developing goals and choices related to their educational and vocational future. It creates understanding of the many problems that confront students in their immediate and long term planning and also helps them to determine means of overcoming them. This survey investigates the factors, like career counseling, family background and environment that influence career aspiration among female students in senior secondary schools within SabonGari, Kano metropolis. Four (4) research questions guided the study. Data were obtained through questionnaire distributed to 100 female students selected randomly from five (5) schools within the study area. It was observed that the greatest influencer of female students' career choices is guidance and counseling services in their schools (56%) while parental influence is second with 37%. Environmental and peer factors is third with 7%. It was also discovered that literate parents tend to impose particular career on their children for various reasons, while less literate parents attach values to other areas of life which invariably prevent their children from aspiring for certain occupation. It is therefore recommended among others that the role of professional counselors in schools should be strengthened. Also parents, through the instrumentality of Parents Teachers' Associations, should be enlightened in order to enable them positively influence their children career choices.*

**Key words: Career guidance, Career choice, career decisions, occupational stereotype**

**INTRODUCTION**

Career guidance is the process of helping individuals (school/college students or professionals) in making adequate educational and occupational choices and in taking career decisions based on the demand and requirements of the future of work. For most people a quality life is of outmost importance, hence, an appropriate career to them is the only means of getting a quality life and a respectable status in the society (salami & salami, 2013). Education is the process of providing information to an inexperienced person to help him/her develop physically, mentally, socially, emotionally, spiritually, politically and economically (Ocho, 2005). He further stated that education is the process through which individuals are made functional members of their society. Deduced from the above, the researcher implies that to educate means to train the mind, character and abilities of individuals generally and female child in particular.

It has been established by researchers (Ayo-sobowale, 2006) and (Ofodile, 2009) that enabling female education is crucial for national development, and the role of women

cannot be underestimated as against the native traditional philosophy which states that a woman's place is in the kitchen and her primary role centers on her home. The girl child needs to be educated to acquire knowledge and skills needed to advance her social interactions and self-improvement. The girl child education prepares her to face the reality in society and teaches her to be a good wife and mother (Ayosobowale 2006). When she is educated, she realizes the full potentials endowed on her and this cannot be actualized without a proper guidance or counseling. Educational guidance and counseling is aimed at helping the secondary school students to choose further course of study. A number of related subjects must be studied at the secondary school level to provide the basic knowledge on which mastery of a chosen field is built (Edo- Olutu, 2006). Edo- Olutu, (2006) also claimed that students in secondary schools today still gamble with subjects to choose, more so the level of career awareness among these students also determine to a large extent their choice of relevant subjects which will eventually give them a career in future (Okeke, 2003). Career counselors offer a wide range of career related programs to students which is expected to guide them into right vocations so as to make students enjoy their work (Zunker, 2002; Collins 2007). Okon (2005), Kazi and Akhlaq (2017) respectively reported that a number of factors like intellectual ability, individual's environment, skills, interest, professional and educational level of parents, gender, financial prospect, school and counseling, expectations and prestige, country's need, one's culture and socio-economic background has observed effect on students when making career decisions.

Kazi and Akhlaq, (2017) on factors affecting career choice observed that parents had the most significant effect on students when it comes to career selections. Osa-Edoh and Alutu, (2011) in their research, observed that the socio-economic status of parents affects the educational values and career aspirations of students. Students from high socio-economic status were more optimistic, because finance was available for them to continue their studies in any environment they wished to continue while students from low socio-economic status groups opt for career that would be time and financial friendly because of the ignorance of their parents. Okonkwo, (1980) in Nwune, (2006), found sex difference to be a dominant factor in determining career choice among secondary school students in Nigeria. Sosanya (1980) in Nwune, (2006), also showed that boys were significantly more interested in artistic, literary, clerical activities and music. Kochung and Migunde, (2011) in their research, came up with list of factors and their order of influence on students, gender had the greatest effect. Students in Enugu South and Nigeria are faced with problem of vocational or career choice towards the end of their secondary school education due to poor form of guidance programs being run in secondary schools (Egbo, 2017).

Nyamwange, (2016) from her findings concluded that having a prior knowledge about a career is important to developing and nurturing interest in the career.

This study therefore investigates the factors, like career counseling, family background and environment that influences career aspiration among female students in senior secondary schools within Sabon-Gari, Kano metropolis.

## STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

Many children born into low-income families have relatively little prospect for maximizing their occupational goals. Some parents with little formal education hold values that tend to prevent their children from aspiring for certain occupations. Occupational stereotype by sex has led to discrimination in the world of work against

women. Some religious practices and beliefs often restrict women from expressing their aptitude and inclinations as some are not to be seen in the public or wear certain cloths. The concern of this paper is therefore to analyze these factors with a view to determining the extent to which each of them can be considered to be affecting female students' career choice and consequently proffer the needed solutions to the situation. Specifically, the study seeks to investigate:

- i. The career aspiration and development of female student.
- ii. How career counseling affect/influence career aspiration and development among female students in secondary school.
- iii. The influence of family background on the vocational aspirations of female students in secondary schools in Kano metropolis.
- iv. The influence of environmental and peer groups on career aspiration among female students in secondary school.

### RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What is the career aspiration of female student?
2. What is the influence of career counseling on aspiration and development among female secondary school students in Kano metropolis?
3. What is the influence of family background on vocational aspirations of female secondary school students in Kano metropolis?
4. What is the influence of environmental and peer group on career aspiration among female secondary school students in Kano metropolis?

### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study adopted a descriptive survey research design. The basis for choosing this research design method was contingent upon the fact that survey research enables the collection of detail and factual information which describes existing phenomena.

The study population comprised of 627 SS1 female secondary school students of 14 co-educational secondary schools in Sabon-gari area Kano metropolis, Kano State. These schools were selected using stratified sampling technique. Five (5) schools were randomly selected out of the 14 co-educational secondary schools in Sabon-gari Kano metropolis. Furthermore, 100 female SS1 secondary school students were selected using balloting. 20 female SS1 students were selected from each of the five (5) co-educational secondary schools in sabon-gari Kano metropolis.

A fourteen (14) Likert scale structured item questionnaire was constructed in order to collect data for the study. This is deemed to be good enough for this study as recommended in Adelaye, (2005). The items in the questionnaire were designed to allow respondents to indicate their choices by ticking their choice in the options provided and some other questions required them to supply short answers by filling in the blank spaces.

The questionnaire was validated by three experts. One of the validators from test and measurement unit, and the rest from Integrated Science department all from F.C.E(T). Bichi. The instrument was tested to establish the reliability using 20 students who were not used in the main study. The Cronbach Alpha approach was used to establish the reliability coefficient of the instrument. The value obtained was 0.78.

All completed questionnaires were collected from the students and checked to ensure that the instructions given were properly followed. A 100% return of the questionnaires

distributed was recorded. Data collected were analyzed using simple percentage. For the purpose of this study, parents with primary and below primary education are considered illiterate while those with above primary education are considered literate.

## PRESENTATION OF RESULTS

The following tables show the information as gathered from the respondents.

**Table 1:** Frequency table of parents' occupation

Parent's occupation	Frequency	Percentage
Trading/Business	59	59%
Civil service	17	17%
Trading and civil service	24	24%

From the table above, parents who are both traders and business men have the frequency of 59, those who are civil servant had 17 while those who either the fathers are traders and mothers civil service or vice versa had 24.

**Table 2:** Frequency table of parents' educational statuses

Parent Educational Statues	Frequency	Percentage
Both Literate	65	65%
Both Illiterate	15	15%
Father Literate/Mother Illiterate	9	9%
Father Illiterate/Mother Literate	11	11%

From the table above; parents with primary and below primary education are considered illiterate while those with above primary education are considered literate. Parents who are both literate have frequency of 65, both illiterate had 15, father literate and mother illiterate had 9 while father illiterate and mother literate had 11.

**Table 3:** Frequency table of student's subject choice

Students Subject Choice	Frequency	Percentage
Sciences	63	63%
Arts	31	31%
Commercial	6	6%

From the table above, students aspiring for science related career had frequency of 63; arts 31 while commercial had 6.

**Table 4:** Parents educational statues and percentage influence on students

Parent's Educational Statues	Frequency	Percentage Influence On Career Choice
Both Literate	65	65%
Both Illiterate	15	15%
Father Literate/Mother Illiterate	9	9%
Father Illiterate/Mother Literate	11	11%

From table above, literate parents tend to influence their children's career choice more than other parents, most students tends to aspire towards their parents career.

**Table 5:** Frequency table of student's response to factors influencing career choice and aspiration.

Factor influencing career choice	Y es	N o	% Yes	of % of No
Career counseling helps students to improve in their career choice and aspiration.	100	0	100%	0%
Parents' educational status/interest affects student's career choice and aspiration.	66	34	66%	34%
Peer influence and environment factor affects students' career aspiration and choice.	13	87	13%	87%

From the table above, all the 100 students agreed to the fact that career counseling helps the students to improve in career choice and aspiration, 66 says yes to parents educational level while 13 to peer influence and environment factor.

Factors	Percentage
Career awareness through guidance and counseling	56%
Parental educational level and career	37%
Environment factor	7%

**Table 6:** Percentage influence of factor influencing career choice and aspiration.

From the table above, need for career awareness through guidance and counseling had the highest influence on the career choice and aspiration of the students followed by parental educational level and career, while environment factor had virtually no effect on the career aspiration and choice.

## DISCUSSION

The result obtained from this study attributed career choice decisions to be affected most by career awareness through guidance and counseling which agrees with findings of (Nyamwange, (2016) and Egbo,(2017). Also, parental educational level and career also influence carrier choice among students, this agrees with the work of Kazi and Aklaq (2017) and not on gender or environmental factor which disagrees with Okonkwo(1980) in Nwune (2006), Sosanya(1980)in Nwune (2006), and Kochung and Migunde (2011).

Career aspiration among female students in senior secondary school within sabon gari Kano metropolis is most affected by parental influence and career awareness through guidance and counseling, as most literate parents dictate career choice for their children while less literate parents makes less impact on the career aspiration and choice of their children. From table 6, it is discovered that the influence of career awareness through guidance and counseling had the most effect as majority of the students attested to the fact that they were not fully exposed to career education through guidance and counseling in their schools and the students used for the research believed that career guidance and counseling will help them to improve in their career aspiration and choice. The popular saying that “what a man can do, a woman can do as well better” holds. In Nigeria today, virtually in all occupational sectors, women are found; sports, politics, business, engineering, legal practice, medical and even ministries, women are found.

## CONCLUSION

From the result obtained in this study, it was concluded that the major determinates of career aspiration among the female students within the designated environment remains the issue of career awareness through guidance and counseling and parental influences.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

In the light of the above findings, it is recommended that,

1. a planned and implementable career programs be introduced in the schools.
2. a trained career teachers (counselor) be employed to assist the students.
3. the role of professional counselors in schools should be strengthened.
4. there is need to educate parents on the possible negative impact of their influence on the future career of their children through PTA meetings.
5. further study to be carried out to determine the problems that militates against the provision of career guidance in secondary schools in Kano state.

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