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INFLUENCE OF PARENTAL BACKGROUND ON THE CAREER CHOICE OF SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH HEARING IMPAIRMENT IN SOUTH-WEST NIGERIA

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Abstract

Career choice of students with hearing impairment in secondary is important to their overall future achievement. There are various factors that have been found to affect the career choice of students with hearing impairment. This paper investigated the influence of parental background on the career choice of secondary school students with hearing impairment in South west Nigeria. Three hypotheses were

Keywords: Career Choice, Hearing Impairment, Parental Background, Secondary School Students, South-west.

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formulated to guide the study. This study employed descriptive survey design and was carried out in all the six states in South west Nigeria. The population of the study consisted of 1,657 (873 male and 784 female) senior secondary three (SS3) students of public and private secondary schools for the deaf. The sample for the study was 831(460 male and 371 female) SS3 students selected using proportionate stratified random sampling technique. The instrument used for the study was a self-structured questionnaire tilled "Parental Background and Career Choice Questionnaire (PBCQ)". Z-Test statistical method was used to analyse the research hypotheses. The findings showed that there is no significant difference in the mean response of male and female students with hearing impairment regarding the influence of parental attitude, parents' level of education, and parents' occupation on their career choice in secondary schools for the deaf in South west Nigeria. Based on the findings, it was recommended that guidance counsellors should be used in secondary schools for the deaf to help pupils make career decisions, parents should be made aware of the variety of occupations available for their deaf children through career talks and seminars organised by the deaf school, and that, parents ought to be active in their children's educational pursuits.

Introduction

The current moment of high unemployment will make choosing the right career even more crucial. It is thought that choosing the appropriate career path may increase young teens' future employment opportunities. The career preference of young teenagers has attracted attention since educational planners are now aware of the hazards and difficulties faced by adolescents with hearing impairment who choose the inappropriate profession. One of the most important choices that students with hearing impairment will have to make while deciding on their future plans is their career. This decision could have an effect on them for the rest of their lives. The core of a student's identity will be determined by the goals they have for their life's work (Pfingst, 2015).

During their teenage years, people with hearing impairment make decisions about their careers that could affect their future job, psychological well-being, and even their physical health. The development of the adolescent's psychological well-being depends on their ability to make informed work decisions. While some teenagers with hearing impairment may find it easy to accomplish this, others may find it difficult to make the best choices. (Woodlard, Repucci, & Scott, 2015).

A career is an endeavour that a person chooses to pursue throughout their life, a life of employment, or achievement in the workplace. Stated differently, an individual's career is the culmination of all the work they do in their lifetime (Alika, Egbochukwu, 2015). It is impossible to overestimate the significance of a person's work in their life. It influences not just their earning pattern but also their view on life and personality. A person's advancement through multiple occupations is referred to as their career. Some individuals with hearing impairment work at the same job for their whole lives, while others may work at several different jobs. (Egbochuku, 2014). A career could alternatively be defined as the entirety of one's life experiences, including paid and unpaid work, volunteer work, community service, and family activities (Kinanee, 2014).

One might take professional desire into consideration when making career decisions. The element or types of work that an individual is most likely to be interested in and excel at can be characterised as their preferred career; this might include any kind of employment that they find enjoyable. For example, some individuals with hearing impairment might favour working for themselves as opposed to being hired by others. A person's selected line of work is a reflection of their personality, as explained by Egbochuku (2014). In the sense that a person's preferred line of work has a significant impact on their leisure time activities, friendship choices, attitudes and beliefs, place of residence, and family dynamics.

A person's career is the period of time they dedicate to working or engaging in a particular activity; on the other hand, development is the process by

which something gradually evolves into a more powerful and advanced form. It would not take long to conclude that career development is the evolution, expansion, or enhancement of a job that a person works in for the majority of their life. According to the definitions of careers and development, for the career development process to be successful, the child's personality or area of interest must match the chosen vocation (Agboola, 2013).

Congruence is the professional development topic that receives the most research attention. The degree to which a person's interests and career goals align is known as congruence. The relationship between a person's personality—more specifically, their level of interest in realistic, investigative, social, traditional, business-minded, or artistic realms—and their professional ambitions is known as congruence, according to Holland's theory. Holland went on to say that, in cases where an individual's personality aligns with their professional goal, there is minimal to no effect over their career choice; in the event that this is not the case, career responsibilities may be performed with a lack of commitment (Udoh & Sanni, 2014).

Another factor that might help a child build their career development effectively is their parent. Parents have a significant impact on the career development of their children with hearing impairment, but the majority of parents are not well-versed in providing support. In addition to supporting their children's exploration, encouraging the development of their interests and skills, and battling stereotypes against their children, parents need to know how to use career-related resources (Alphones, 2016).

Accurate assessments of aptitude, potential, and accomplishment are necessary for the life-long process of career growth. A lot of consideration and introspection go into the many career decisions that are made (Kelly, 2014). The topic of career development for people with hearing impairment joining the workforce has an impact on the advancement of the country. According to Okorie and Ezeji (2014), a person's occupation shapes their character, influences their way of life, social status, income, style of life, friends they choose, and their physical and mental health. Hummel and

McDaniels (2014) also suggest that a person's choice of occupation is strongly linked to their entire way of life.

Students with hearing impairment may have different opinions about whether or not to pursue a specific career depending on their parents' educational backgrounds. Occasionally, a student's career decision may be influenced by someone they saw on television or in media presentations, or their parents may have insisted that they take over the family business (Williams, 2016). The student's career development is impacted by these many contextual influences (Wert, 2013). The decisions that members of the family made about their careers used to be under their control. According to Osuala (2013), career counselling used to be the parents' responsibility and is no longer as significant as it once was. The country's changing and dynamic social-economic conditions are to blame for this, even if families still have a significant impact on their children's career paths—either directly or indirectly. Because of its social group status, the family has a significant role in determining not just the individual's personality but also their career interests (Hayes & Hopson, 2015).

Children with hearing impairment are raised with the family's values in mind, and as they mature, they pick up, absorb, and solidify the behavioural patterns they are exposed to. Children's perspective of their career and eventual choice of employment are typically influenced by the behaviour patterns and instruction they receive from their families (Osuala, 2013). Parents can affect their children through verbal and nonverbal cues in their interactions, such as talks. This then influences what children say and believe about different professions. There is frequently a discrepancy between what parents ask of their children with hearing impairment and what they say to them. For example, a parent may say that pursuing a certain career in a non-profit organisation is acceptable, but then counter that statement with remarks about the job's low pay and long hours. According to these kinds of references, pursuing a fulfilling career is less vital than earning a large pay (Mbagwu & Ajaegbu, 2016; Toby, 2015).

Statement of the Problem

Many parents, regardless of social class, have developed the practice of selecting a career for their children. Upon closer examination, it was discovered that some of those individuals experience a decline in performance, dedication, and seriousness to work over time, ultimately leading to a depressing state. Adolescents with hearing impairment may experience vocational underachievement, a loss of life satisfaction, and failure to accomplish personal goals if the issue of picking the wrong job is not sufficiently addressed.

In today's world, selecting a career seems to be a major issue for students with hearing impairment. As a result, it happens frequently that students with hearing impairment enter fields of work that are not necessarily suited to their skills. Regarding the profession choice of students with hearing impairment, parental background is generally the most influencing aspect. Most of the time, parents push their children into family jobs and other careers even when they lack the necessary skills because of personal interests. In the end, what they typically get is job dissatisfaction, poor performance, if not outright malfunction, frustration, and inefficiency, all of which eventually contribute to a national economic disaster. Thus, the purpose of this study is to investigate the influence of parental background on the career choice of secondary school students with hearing impairment in South west Nigeria.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study was to investigate the influence of parental background on the career choice of secondary school students with hearing impairment in South west Nigeria.

Aims and Objectives of the Study

In specific terms, the study intended to ascertain:

1. The influence of parental attitude towards occupations on the career choice of male and female students with hearing impairment in Ibadan and Oyo metropolis.
2. The influence of parents' level of education on the career choice of male and female students with hearing impairment in Ibadan and Oyo metropolis.
3. The influence of parents' occupation on the career choice of male and female students with hearing impairment in Ibadan and Oyo metropolis.

Hypotheses

The following hypotheses were generated to aid the conduct of the study:

1. There is no significant difference in the mean response of male and female students with hearing impairment regarding the influence of parental attitude towards occupations on their career choice in secondary schools in Ibadan and Oyo metropolis.
2. There is no significant difference in the mean response of male and female students with hearing impairment regarding the influence of parents' level of education on their career choice in secondary schools in Ibadan and Oyo metropolis.
3. There is no significant difference in the mean response of male and female students with hearing impairment regarding the influence of parents' occupation on their career choice in secondary schools in Ibadan and Oyo metropolis.

Methodology

This study employed descriptive survey design and was carried out in all the six states in South west Nigeria. The population of the study consisted of 1,657 (873 male and 784 female) senior secondary three (SS3) students of public and private secondary schools for the deaf. The sample for the study was 831(460 male and 371 female) SS3 students selected using proportionate

stratified random sampling technique. The instrument used for the study was a self-structured questionnaire tilled "Parental Background and Career Choice Questionnaire (PBCQ)". The PBCQ was patterned to elicit information from the respondents in four point rating scale of Strongly Agree (SA) with 4 point; Agree (A) with 3 point; Disagree (D) with 2 point and Strongly Disagree (SD) with 1 point.

The instrument was faced and content validated by three experts; one in measurement and evaluation, one in special education, and one in guidance and counselling from Federal College of Education (Special), Oyo and Lead City University, Ibadan, Nigeria. The instrument was distributed to 20 students outside the sample twice within two weeks interval and the results were correlated using Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) to obtain a reliability coefficient of 0.75. A total of 831 copies of the instrument were administered to the 831 respondents. All the copies administered were completely filled and retuned and used for analysis. Z-Test statistical method was used to analyse the research hypotheses. If the calculated value of t (tcal) is less than the critical value of t (tcrit), the null hypothesis was accepted otherwise, rejected.

Results

Hypothesis 1: There is no significant difference in the mean response of male and female students with hearing impairment regarding the influence of parental attitude towards occupations on their career choice in secondary schools for the deaf in South west Nigeria.

Table 1: Z-Test for Influence of Parental Attitude on Students' Career Choice.

Group	N	X_1	SD	Df	α	Z-cal	Z-crit	Decision
Male	307	2.85	1.07	871	0.05	1.02	1.960	Accepted
Female	566	2.76	1.11					

The result in Table 1 shows that the calculated value of z is 1.02 and the critical value of z is 1.96. Since the calculated value is less than the critical value, the hypothesis is accepted. This implies that male students did not differ from their female counterparts in their opinion regarding the influence of parental attitude towards occupations on their career choice in secondary schools for the deaf in South west Nigeria.

Hypothesis 2: There is no significant difference in the mean response of male and female students with hearing impairment regarding the influence of parents' level of education on their career choice in secondary schools for the deaf in South west Nigeria.

Table 2: Z-Test for Influence of Parents' Level of Education on Students' Career Choice.

Group	N	X_1	SD	Df	α	Z-cal	Z-crit	Decision
Male	307	2.52	1.10	871	0.05	-0.82	1.960	Accepted
Female	566	2.57	1.11					

As shown in Table 2, calculated value of z is 0.82 and the critical value of z is 1.96. Since the calculated value is less than the critical value, the hypothesis is accepted. This implies that male students did not differ from their female counterparts in their opinion regarding the influence of parent's level of education on their career choice in secondary schools for the deaf in South west Nigeria.

Hypothesis 3: There is no significant difference in the mean response of male and female students with hearing impairment regarding the influence of parents' occupation on their career choice in secondary schools for the deaf in South west Nigeria.

Table 3: Z-Test for Influence of Parents' Occupation on Students' Career Choice.

Group	N	X_1	SD	Df	α	Z-cal	Z-crit	Decision
Male	307	2.26	1.04	871	0.05	1.42	1.960	Accepted

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Female	566	2.36	0.99					

As shown in Table 3, the calculated value of z is 1.42 and is less than the critical value of z which is 1.96; hence, the null hypothesis is accepted. This implies that male students did not differ from their female counterparts in their opinion regarding the influence of parental occupation on their career choice in secondary schools for the deaf in South west Nigeria.

Discussion of Fining

Hypothesis one stated that there is no significant difference in the mean response of male and female students with hearing impairment regarding the influence of parental attitude towards occupations on their career choice in secondary schools for the deaf in South west Nigeria. Table 1 showed that the calculated value of z is 1.02 and the critical value of z is 1.96. Since the calculated value is less than the critical value, the hypothesis was accepted. This means that male students did not differ from their female counterparts in their opinion regarding the influence of parental attitude towards occupations on their career choice in secondary schools for the deaf in South west Nigeria.

This suggests that deaf students concur that their parents' interest in their career choice encouraged them to pursue it; that parents' willingness to let them pursue their career choice piqued interest in them for the course; and that parents' distaste for their career choice deterred them from pursuing the course. This finding supports the findings of Udoh and Sanni (2014), who discovered that parents' attitudes towards their respective professions, parents' educational attainment, and parents' occupation exert influence on the career choice of secondary school students.

The second hypothesis maintained that there is no significant difference in the mean response of male and female students with hearing impairment regarding the influence of parents' level of education on their career choice in secondary schools for the deaf in South west Nigeria. As shown in Table 2,

calculated value of z is 0.82 and the critical value of z is 1.96. Since the calculated value is less than the critical value, the hypothesis was accepted. This indicates that male students did not differ from their female counterparts in their opinion regarding the influence of parent's level of education on their career choice in secondary schools for the deaf in South west Nigeria.

This suggests that students with hearing impairment of both sexes concur that their parents' education helped them choose their careers; their parents' education helped them by giving them access to the educational resources they needed to make the best career decision; parents' education gave them the exposure they needed to choose the correct career.

This finding is consistent with a study by Pfingst (2015) that looked into the relationship between girls' career aspirations and their parents' socioeconomic level. According to Pfingst's research, students whose fathers had attained the highest degree of education were more likely to want to go to the university rather than start working full- or part-time.

Additionally, the results of this study align with those of Mbagwu and Ajaegbu (2016), who investigated the impact of parents' educational backgrounds on career choices of teenagers among senior secondary school students. Mbagwu and Ajaegbu discovered that, in contrast to teens whose parents had low educational backgrounds, those whose parents had strong educational backgrounds were more consistent and did not experience significant difficulty in choosing a career.

The third and last hypothesis stated that there is no significant difference in the mean response of male and female students with hearing impairment regarding the influence of parents' occupation on their career choice in secondary schools for the deaf in South west Nigeria. As shown in Table 3, the calculated value of z is 1.42 and is less than the critical value of z which is 1.96; hence, the null hypothesis was accepted. This implies that male students did not differ from their female counterparts in their opinion regarding the

influence of parental occupation on their career choice in secondary schools for the deaf in South west Nigeria.

The analysis of the third hypothesis showed that, with regard to the impact of parental occupation on career choice, male and female students' opinions were same. The results suggest that male and female students both concur that they choose their course because one or both of their parents read it in school and did exceptionally well. This result is consistent with the research done by Alphonse (2016), who looked into how much parental influences had an impact on students' career choices. Alphonse discovered that children's career choices were influenced by their parents' occupations, socioeconomic status, values and expectations.

Conclusion

The findings of this study led to the conclusion that deaf pupils in secondary schools in South-West Nigerian make career decisions based on the attitudes of their parents. The degree of education and occupation of their parents also has an impact on their career decision. Therefore, it is necessary to implement career-sensitisation programmes for parents and deaf students in secondary schools in South-West Nigerian. A programme like this could lessen the amount of unfavourable influence parents have over their wards' career decisions.

Recommendations

The following recommendations were made based on the findings from this study:

1. Guidance counsellors should be used in secondary schools for the deaf to help pupils make career decisions. They will become more aware of the different career options and their potential as a result.
2. Parents should be made aware of the variety of occupations available for their deaf children through career talks and seminars organised by the deaf school. This will greatly aid parents—particularly those with limited education—in determining the career paths their children can take.

3. Parents ought to be active in their children's educational pursuits. In this manner, they may identify their wards' strengths and weaknesses and thus provide appropriate counsel regarding career choices.

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