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RESEARCH ARTICLE

SOCIAL VARIABLES AS DETERMINANTS OF CARREER CHOICE OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION AMONG SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS' IN ONDO STATE, NIGERIA

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Corresponding Author*DanjumaMoudu****Abstract**

Finding success and achieving a career in human endeavor is not an easy task, but in reality it is a tough decision that cannot be taken lightly. This entails a lot of determination and discipline endeavor to achieve this. It is evident that many students are in the continued existence in such discipline lead to poor performance and high dropout rate. Most of the adolescents coming into the university to study do not have flair for physical education as a chosen course to be studied. There is also the feeling that physical education is meant for teachers. The understanding of people is that those who offer physical education are academically inferior with low intelligent quotient. Descriptive survey research design using validated and structured questionnaire, was adopted. Simple random sampling technique was used to pick the schools, students both male and female. One thousand four hundred and forty participants were involved in the study. Reliable coefficient of $r=0.75$ was obtained for the instruments using Cronbach Alpha. Data were analyzed using multiple regressions to test the hypotheses at 00.5 significant levels. It was discovered that the relative contributions of social variables among students: parental influence ($\beta=1.211$), peer influence ($\beta=1.141$), gender differences ($\beta=1.055$) made relative contributions to the dependent variable.

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INTRODUCTION

Career has been the focus of many studies, however, the contemporary formulations of the concepts by critical realistic embody a layer that embraces subjective experiences and objective structures of work or inter play (Momoh, 2014). Nwezeh(2013) stated that career as used in the field of counseling is the sequence of occupation that one engages in, some people may engage in the same occupation throughout their life time while others may have a series of different occupations. He went further to state that career is the totality of work one does continually from cradle to grave and from one educational level to another. Career path begins with an entry into a job market.

The choice of occupation which is an aspect of one's career is influenced by so many factors. According to Salami (2000), a list of common factors was cited and these include age, intelligence, course of study pursued, school marks, favorable subject studied, self-knowledge, sex and others. Physical education represents an area of middle school curriculum that has the potentials to impact adolescent developing knowledge, attitudes, beliefs and behaviors in positive and meaningful ways that may endure across the life span (Asagba, 2004)

Awosika(2005) stated that in most African countries, about half a century past, full academic training was not available to physical educators. A few physical educators pursued degree programmes in foreign universities, but most of them were trained in Teachers' Colleges in certificate or diploma courses. These academic experts were posted to various ministries of education in the region where physical education inspectorates were established to formulate policies on physical education syllabus or curriculum, inspection of schools and organization of seminars for untrained teachers. Emphasis on the country's physical education programme was to make physical education practical and theory compulsory in teachers training colleges.

Vocational development has often been a matter of intense interest to parents, teachers and to some extent man power planners. Adeyemo (2011) remarked that the factors moving an individual towards an occupation are of varying importance, depending on age, sex, and social class, nationalist and even chance. He also presented two principal themes upon which carrier behavior can be analyzed thus:

- a. self-concept theory
- b. development psychology theory

On self-concept theory, he posited that vocational self-concepts develop on the basis of children observation and identifications with adult in work. Self-concept theory requires a person to recognize himself as an individual and to realize his similarities with others.

On development psychology theory, he postulated that an individual passes through life stages, each of which calls for different vocational behaviors appropriate to each phase of his or her development. He then concluded that a person's mode of adjustment at one period of his life is likely to be predictive of his ability to adjust at a later period. Parents and families have greater opportunities to interact with positive adult role models. This is based on the empirical evident that parents involvement in their children academic success tends to develop a good linkage which is highly essential for the students' success in school work and sporting activities. Whatever a youth intends doing there is a need for parental or guardian approval. It is also pertinent that for successful participation and accomplishment of task by youths, there is need for positive supports from parents and guardians. Parental support is a factor which has been found to affect the secondary school students' participation in most school subjects and activities (Bali, 1997)

Economic incentives, peer groups, parental influence and gender influence are sometimes used as pressures to induce the young adolescent into predetermined carriers, regardless of the potentials, actual needs and ego of the child. The glamour associated with some carriers often turn out to be an illusion. Empirical findings have confirmed to a greater extent, the impact of the family in which a person lives and the family goals and objectives on his or her own choice of career. Marshal (2001) opined that the family influences the behavior or character of a child. They also found that parents play an invaluable role in laying the foundation of their children's' career.

Peers and friends are said to have a lot of influences on adolescents' career aspiration which invariably leads to choice of occupation, so that occupation chosen by most of them are the opinion of their class mates and friends. An adolescent that goes with drop outs and drug addicts is most likely to be negatively motivated because this would have a domineering influence on him. Coleman (1991) opined that there is a great influence on the academic performance and subsequently on the career aspirations of the youths. There are beliefs that peer aspirations might go hand in hand with parents' aspirations to influence the aspiration of the child.

Objectives of the Study

The specific objective of the study were stated and accomplished. However, the specific objectives were to:

1. Find out if there is relative effect of independent variables (parental influence, peer influence, and gender influence) on career choice of students in physical education.

Methodology

Subjects

The respondents were all students of public secondary schools in Ondo State, Nigeria. They were mainly taken from the Senior Secondary Schools one to three (SSS I-III). Those who actually participated in the study were both male 763(53%) and female 677 (47%).

Research Instrument

The main instrument used for data collection was a self-structured questionnaire of the closed-ended type designed in line with the modified Likert (4 scales) instrument, weight was allotted to questionnaire items so as to enable respondents indicate the extent of agreement and disagreement with the supplied statements. Feedback received from 30 respondents from Federal University of Technology Secondary School Akure, Ondo State that was not part of the study helped to established content validity of the questionnaire and reliability coefficient of $r=0.82$. After incorporating the changes recommended, ambiguities were removed from the instrument and were then used for the study.

Procedure for Data Collection

The questionnaire was administered on the students of public secondary schools in Ondo State, Nigeria. Due to the number of respondents, 10 trained research assistants were used in the administration and collection of the questionnaire. The method revealed a hundred percent returns of the questionnaire, since the 1440 copies distributed were retrieved.

Findings

Table 1 Relative contribution of Parental influence to the determinant of career choice

Hypothesis 1: Parental influence will not be a significant determinant of career choice among physical education students in secondary schools in Ondo State Nigeria.

B	SE .B	Beta (β)	T	Sig. T	Remark
1.211	.012	.258	104.708	.000	Sig.

Hypothesis – Rejected – Significant

Table 1 revealed the B- value (1.211) which indicates the amount of contribution of parental influence to the determinant of choice while the standard regression weight of parental influence is .258 which is a reflection of the level of relationship between the independent variable and career choice. The $t= 104.708$ and this is statistically significant at $\alpha= 0.000$, since $0.000 < 0.05$, the null hypothesis which stated that parental influence will not be a significant determinant of career choice among physical education students in secondary schools in Ondo State was rejected.

This result is in line with the findings of Meremi (2010) which stated that some parents influence their children into choosing certain career so as to keep the family line while some do it because of the name they will gain from such occupations.

Table 2 Relative contribution of Peer influence to the determinant of career choice

Hypothesis 2: Peer influence will not be a significant determinant of career choice among physical education students in secondary schools in Ondo State Nigeria.

B	SE .B	Beta (β)	T	Sig. T	Remark
1.141	.020	.147	57.849	.000	Sig.

Hypothesis – Rejected – Significant

Table 2 revealed the B- value (1.141) which indicates the amount of contribution of peer influence to the determinant of choice while the standard regression weight of peer influence is .147 which is a reflection of the level of relationship between the independent variable and career choice. The $t= 57.849$ and this is statistically significant at $\alpha= 0.000$, since $0.000 < 0.05$, the null hypothesis which stated that peer influence will not be a significant determinant of career choice among physical education students in secondary schools in Ondo State was rejected.

Table 3 Relative contribution of Gender influence to the determinant of career choice

Hypothesis 3: Gender influence will not be a significant determinant of career choice among physical education students in secondary schools in Ondo State Nigeria.

B	SE .B	Beta (β)	T	Sig. T	Remark
1.055	.016	.174	65.376	.000	Sig.

Hypothesis – Rejected – Significant

Table 3 revealed the B- value (1.055) which indicates the amount of contribution of gender influence to the determinant of choice while the standard regression weight of gender influence is .174 which is a reflection of the level of relationship between the independent variable and career choice. The $t = 65.376$ and this is statistically significant at $\alpha = 0.000$, since $0.000 < 0.05$, the null hypothesis which stated that gender influence will not be a significant determinant of career choice among physical education students in secondary schools in Ondo State was rejected.

Durojaiye (2009) observed that Nigerian boys and girls wanted to be medical practitioners and university teachers. However, he noticed that only very few male respondents choose nursery, primary and secondary school teaching jobs. Similarly, nursing profession was chosen by girls. It was clear that the society expected the male child adolescent to be more involved in the world of work than the female. Many boys tend to choose work within a wider range than girls whose conventional choices include office work and working with people.

Conclusion

This study has focused on social variables as determinants of career choice of physical education among secondary schools in Ondo state, Nigeria. It was discovered that career is a complex phenomenon, which is very difficult to get involved in what you don't really understand. With the analysis, parental influence had the highest amongst all other variables analyzed. It was observed that parents have powerful influence on their children when it comes to, decision making in the area of choice of career or occupational preference of their children. Peer influence also has a very high input as most peers want to have influence on the decision making of their friends. It was also observed that gender differences have less importance in the occupational choice of individual. Nowadays, female counterparts took to domestic work while the male took to vocational jobs that entail machine work, inspection and testing. The study found out that all variables tested have significant influence on determinants of career choice among physical education students in schools.

Recommendations

1. Parents should encourage their children in whatever career they choose to do and not forcing them to do what they did as their own career in order to keep the family name alive.
2. Physical education activities should be generally encouraged in our society as this will transmit values in our general life.
3. Positive interaction within peer group will encourage them to choose a very good career that is in vogue in the labour market at the point in time.
4. Physical education specialist should be of good behaviour at all times within the society.
5. Government should make teachers' salaries and remunerations to be attractive and at the same time create avenue for training

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