

## Determinants of Career Preference of Students of Technical and Vocational Education in Colleges of Education in North-East, Nigeria.

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### Abstract:

This study assessed the career preference among Technical and Vocational Education students in Colleges of Education in North-East Nigeria. Three purposes and three research questions were formulated to guide the study. The target population was one hundred and ninety-three (193) respondents out of which one hundred and sixty-three (163) respondents were sampled. The research instrument was a structured questionnaire with a four Likert response scale. The procedure for data collection was a structured questionnaire. The method of data analysis was descriptive (mean). The findings of the Study reveal that parental influence highly affects career preference among Technical and Vocational Education students of colleges of education. It suggests that there is highly influence of peers on career preference among Technical and Vocational Education students of colleges of education. It also revealed that societies have a significant influence on the careers reference among Technical and Vocational Education students of colleges of education. Based on the findings of the study, the study recommends that: Government and non-governmental organizations should map out

a strategy for career information exposure and effective dissemination to students. Government should ensure institutions and government agencies have been engaged in career preference counseling among Technical and Vocational Education students of Colleges of Education in North-East Nigeria. Government should increase more support in the area of capacity building in terms of enlightening, training youth, and providing loans to students in subsidizing the interest career rate of Technical and Vocational Education students of Colleges of Education in North-East Nigeria.

**Keywords:** Career Preference, Technical and Vocational Education.

### Introduction:

Government agencies, many students encounter difficulties in the transition from the world of school to that work (Atchoarena, 2012). Investigating and better understanding the myriad factors that contribute to career choice is a topic of recurring interest in our schools today. To guide students in their career decision-making, socio-demographic factors play a central role in this file-long process. These factors include parental influence, peer group, and societal influence. Therefore, career preference is one of the many important choices students will make in determining plans. This decision will impact them throughout their lives. Brown (2012) describes the process of choosing a career as that which estimates one's ability and values, estimating the skills and abilities required for success in a given Technical and Vocational Education reported that regardless of the great effort put forth by families, government agencies and non-occupation, and estimating the work values that will be satisfied by the various occupational alternatives available.

One of the objectives of the Technical and Vocational Education program is to produce graduates who are equipped with knowledge and skills to be productive citizens to promote economic

development even after high school. Several studies show that students of Technical and Vocational Education are usually faced with a dilemma in making a career choice decision in their lives (Issa and Nwalo 2013; Macgregor 2014). In this regard, the study sought to investigate the effects of career preference among Technical and Vocational Education students in Colleges of Education in North-East Nigeria.

The factors that affect this decision include family, passion, salary, and past experiences. Another thing that plays a big role in a student's decision of what field to study is the people or role models in his or her life. Students may like one aspect of a certain job and not understand what other aspects come with that profession. For example, some students may want to be veterinarians because they enjoy being around animals, but students may not realize how much schoolwork is required to become a veterinarian. reer fairs, job shadowing, or internships. These tools can expose students to more career fields or areas within a certain field that a student did not know about. Choosing a career path is a huge part of a young man's or woman's life. The career path students choose will affect how they will live the rest of

their life. A lot of students go through college without knowing what career path they want. Before students can pick a career path they need to experience what that career is like and what it involves.

Career can be conceptualized more broadly in terms of individual development in learning and work throughout life and this includes voluntary work and other life experience (Taylor, 2008). Popoola (2004) refers to a career as a job or profession for which one undergoes regulated education and training over a while and which one intends to follow for the whole of one's life

A career decision is the act of a person in choosing or selecting one of the two or more alternatives of career available at a given time. A career decision is one of the major decisions which are inevitable in life. Everybody makes decisions, for instance, students make decisions on which to study, where to study, what type of work or job to do in 'life, etc. Decisions are generally made to achieve set goals. If one makes a decision one should be ready for its outcome and vice versa. It is therefore important to be aware of the context in which decision-making occurs.

When experts talk about career preference, they are usually referring to someone deciding what he/she wants to do to make a living (Dawn, Lemanne, Barrie, Cassileth, and Gubili, 2013). certificate or degree attesting to your accomplishment (Valentine and Powers, 2013) Career preference choice has therefore become a complex task today as one has not only to make the career planning but also to do exhaustive career research before making career choice to adjust to the evolving social-economic conditions (Edwards and Quinter 2011). According to Kerka (2000), career Preference choice is influenced by multiple factors including personality, interest, self-concept, cultural identity, globalization, socialization, role model, social support, and available resources such as information and financial. Bandura, Bandura, Barbaranelli, Caprara, and Pastorelli, (2001) states that each undertaking the process is influenced by several factors including the context in which they live, their aptitudes, social contacts, and educational attainment.

Career preference plays 'a very fundamental and significant role in the life of the individual not only because they determine the pattern of income but also because they affect the individual personality and concepts in life. A career, therefore, is a chosen pursuit, lifework, or success in one's profession, it is the sequence of the major position occupied by a person throughout his lifetime. In a nutshell, a career is the totality of work one does in his lifetime and is a person concerned.

Parents are the primary authority<sup>1</sup> in influencing sex role, socialization, providing social skills training, promoting character development, and developing a sense of responsibility. According to Kniveton (2004), the family can provide information and guidance directly or indirectly, to influence a young person's career choice.

Parents' expectations and support are important factors in influencing career decisions, maturation and future

educational/occupational attainment (Guerra and Braungart-Rieker, 1999). Parents can have an influence on their child's career development by positively reinforcing or punishing certain behaviors that can encourage or discourage certain interests or siblings-can be a source of challenge and competition and a basis for comparison of abilities, thus providing a context for identity formation (Altman and Royston, 2006). According to Pastorelli, Caprara, Barbaranelli, Rola, Rozsa, and Bandura, 2008), studies in Nigeria show that rural students tend to seek help from parents more than urban students and that. In research conducted by Cassar and Cutajar, 2004). "Parents perceive that their influence is important, and they make it a point to exert their influence in one way or another".

than that of their parents. On the other hand, parents may also become overly involved in career decisions because they want their children to be more content in a career than they are in their jobs. Children may begin to identify and accept their parents' views and neglect to challenge them or assess their validity, with negative consequences on their own career choices (Dharsee 2009).

Parental involvement was found to be the most significant predictor of career preference in gender dominated occupations (Salami, 2006). Parental involvement refers to the extent to which parents or family members are involved in the career plans of children (Salami, 2006). According to Kniveton (2004), the parents can 'provide information and guidance directly or indirectly, to influence a young person's career choice.

Supportive friends or peers have a crucial influence on the career planning of students and making key life decisions (Farmer, 2001; Mojgan, Kadir, Noah, and Hassan, 2013). Students' career planning is not only influenced by the overall supportive mindset of their peers but also by the opportunity to learn from them (Mayland, Mertens, Taylor, Burns, Fisher, Gregorini, and Griggs, (2005). The ability of peers to influence the behaviors and attitudes of the adolescents is magnified when adolescents perceive that their parental relationship is negative or deficient in support and guidance Alike, (2012).

#### **Statement of the problem**

Despite all aims and objectives of Technical and Vocational Education at the college level, many students encounter difficulties in the transition from the world of school to that of work. Government spends a lot of resources on education, there should be a well-known link between education and progression into the career and the world of work.

Students in the modern and fast-changing world are trying to seek those careers which would ultimately lead them to achieve fairly in life. Every individual is coping with a dynamic world and its demands. Therefore, to choose a career that provides them with a fair chance in life, success, satisfaction, and approval from both family and society is his prime focus. However, the choice of career by an individual is influenced by various factors, and among them parental, peers, and social influence are very important. Each undertaking the process is influenced by many factors, including

the context in which they live, their aptitude, and educational attainment.

However, in becoming an entrepreneur certain factors need to be considered, people may have a different intention. This and many more is what prompted the researcher to investigate particularly on the Factors Affecting Career Preference of Students of Technical and Vocational Education in Colleges of Education in North-East Nigeria.

The main purpose of the study is to investigate the Factors Affecting Career Preference of Students of Technical and Vocational Education in Colleges of Education in North-East Nigeria. Specifically, the study sought to:

To assess how parental influence affects career preference among Technical and Vocational Education students in Colleges of Education in North-East Nigeria.

To examine the influence of peers on career preference among Technical and Vocational Education students in Colleges of Education in North-East Nigeria.

To determine how society influences career preference among Technical and Vocational Education students in Colleges of Education in North-East Nigeria.

**Research questions**

The research sought to answer the following research question:

To what extent does parental influence affect career preference among Technical and Vocational Education students in Colleges of Education in North-East Nigeria?

What is the influence of peers on career preference among Technical and Vocational Education students in Colleges of Education in North-East Nigeria?

How does society influence career preference among Technical and Vocational Education students in Colleges of Education in North-East Nigeria?

**Methodology**

The survey design will be adopted in the study. In survey research, data are collected from the population or its sample and analyzed. Thus, it uses either the entire population or a selected sample from the entire for intensive study of the characteristics of the population (Jen, 2003). Thus, the survey design is considered appropriate for the study.

The population of this research work as of (2019) is seven hundred and seventy-five (775) students (Exam officer, department of Technical and Vocational Education, 2021) which is made up of all

the students in the Technical and Vocational Education section in Colleges of Education in North-East Nigeria.

Based on the size of the population, a random sampling technique is used to select the respondents from the population of the study. According to Abdullahi (1995) sample is a selected group that gives a fair representation of the entire population.

The questionnaire is divided into two sections (A and B); “A” contains the bio-data of the respondents while section “B” consists of questions drawn to collect information on the topic under study. The structured questioner was administered to the sampled Technical and Vocational Education students in Colleges of Education in North-East Nigeria. To facilitate statistical analysis of the responses, a 4-point rating scale was used in rating the responses.

Rating scale: Strongly agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D), and Strongly disagree (SD) The researcher with the help of research assistance will distribute the one hundred and ninety-three (193) copies of the questionnaire among the randomly selected respondents from the department of Technical and Vocational Education in Colleges of Education North-East Nigeria.

Means were used for data analysis. In the study, the researcher classified Strongly Agreed and Agreed as Agreed while Disagreed and Strongly Disagreed classified as disagreed; the researcher then concluded that any value less than 2.50% will be considered ineffective for the study.  $\sum fx$  was the summation of the frequency and the variable (x), and  $\sum f$  was also the summation of frequency.

$$\frac{4+3+2+1}{4} = \frac{10}{4} = 2.5$$

This means that all scores greater than (>) 2.5 were considered as strongly agreed on responses while scores less than (<) 2.5 were considered disagreed responses. In case, where respondents did not tick as appropriate, the questionnaire was discarded.

**Result and Analysis**

This study examined the factors affecting career preference among Technical and Vocational Education students in Colleges of Education North-East Nigeria. Descriptive statistics was employed for data analysis. Descriptive statistics were used to analyze the demographic data of the respondents and the other three objectives. One hundred and ninety-three (193) copies of questionnaires were administered but only one hundred and sixty-three (163) copies were retrieved, making an 84.4% return rate. The results were presented in tables and discussed according to the research objective

**Table 1: Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents**

Variables	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Age		
20-25 years	80	49.1

26-30 years	55	33.7
31-35 years	21	12.1
40 years and above	7	4.20
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	98	60.1
Female	65	39.9
<b>Level</b>		
NCE I	60	36.8
NCE II	49	30.0
NCE III	54	33.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>100</b>

Sources: Field Survey, 2020

Table 1 described the demographic characteristics of the respondents. 163 respondents participated in this study out of which 49.1% were between the ges of 20-25 years, 33.7% were between the ges of 26-30 years, 12.1% were between 31-35 years, and 4.2% were 40 years and above respectively. It can be deduced that the majority of the respondents (49.1%) were between the ages of 20-25 years.

Table 1 also shows that 60.1% of the respondents were males while 39.9% were female making a total number of 163 (100%) respondents. It can be inferred that more than half percentages (60.1%) of the respondents were male.

Table 1 shows that 36.8% of the respondents are NCE I students, 30.0% are NCE II students and 33.1% are NCE III students. It deduces that the majority of the respondents are NCE I students.

**Table 2 Extent of parental influence affect career preference among Technical and Vocational Education students of Colleges of Education in North-East Nigeria**

Items	Strongly Agree	Agreed	Disagreed	Strongly Disagree	Mean	Remark
Parental occupation influence the choice of career reference among Technical and Vocational Education students.	69	45	20	29	3.5	Accepted
Relative advice has an impact on career preference among Technical and Vocational Education students	70	42	21	30	3.4	Accepted
My parent's advice influence my career preference	80	45	28	10	3.8	Accepted
My parent's income influence the choice of my career	50	50	43	20	3.0	Accepted
Pressure from family members may influence the choice of career among Technical and	30	10	98	25	1.2	Rejected

Vocational Education students						
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Table 2 shows the extent of parental influence affecting career preference among Technical and Vocational Education students of Colleges of Education in North-East Nigeria. Item one shows the 3.5 mean of the respondents which suggest that parental occupation influencing the choice of career reference among Technical and Vocational Education students. Item two suggests 3.4 mean of the respondents which means that relative advice has an impact on career preference among Technical and Vocational Education students. Item three shows 3.8 mean of the respondent's parents advice influence students career preference. Item four reveal a 3.0 mean of the respondents which means that parents' income influence students' choice of career. Item five deduce 1.2 mean of the respondents which reveal that pressure from family members may not influence the choice of career among Technical and Vocational Education students.

**Table 3 Influence of peers on career preference among Technical and Vocational Education students of Colleges of Education in North-East Nigeria**

Items	Strongly Agree	Agreed	Disagreed	Strongly Disagree	Mean	Remark
Having the same career as peers will influence Technical and Vocational Education students' career choices.	90	40	20	13	3.9	Accepted
The preference of peers influences the choice my career.	40	51	52	20	2.7	Accepted
A friend's approval of a future career affects the choice of my career preference.	91	39	25	8	3.9	Accepted
Mentorship by a peer will influence the choice of my career preference.	94	50	10	9	4.0	Accepted
Peers initiative influences career preference among Technical and Vocational Education students of Colleges of Education in North-East Nigeria.	30	40	33	60	2.1	Rejected

Table 3 shows the influence of peers on career preference among Technical and Vocational Education students of Colleges of Education in North-East Nigeria. Item one shows 3.9 mean of the respondents which suggest that having the same career as peers will influence Technical and Vocational Education student's career choice. Item two shows 2.7 mean of the respondents which means that the preference of peers influences the choice my career. Item three reveal 3.9 mean of the respondents which deduce that the preference of peers influences the choice of student's career. Item three reveals 3.9 mean of the respondents which means that friend's approval of future career affects the choice of student's career preference. Item four shows 4.0 mean of the respondents it suggests that mentorship by a peer will influence the choice of my career preference. Item five shows 2.1 mean of the respondents which reveal that peers initiative are not influencing career preference among Technical and Vocational Education students of Colleges of Education in North-East Nigeria.

**Table 4 Societies influence of the career preference among Technical and Vocational Education students of Colleges of Education in North-East Nigeria**

Items	Strongly Agree	Agreed	Disagreed	Strongly Disagree	Mean	Remark
Availability of job opportunities in society can influence preference.	67	71	14	11	4.0	Accepted
Living in a highly influencing economic development can influence career preference among Technical and Vocational Education students of Colleges of Education in North-East	32	51	61	19	2.5	Accepted

Nigeria						
Opportunities and societal privileges can influence career preference among Technical and Vocational Education students of Colleges of Education in North-East Nigeria.	44	51	41	27	2.9	Accepted
Entrepreneurial benefits in some business ventures can influence a business student in career preference among Technical and Vocational Education in Colleges of Education in North-East Nigeria.	22	29	49	63	1.5	Rejected
Economic stability in the country can influence career preference among Technical and Vocational Education students of Colleges of Education in North-East Nigeria.	19	10	62	72	0.8	Rejected

Table 4 shows societies’ influence of the career preference among Technical and Vocational Education students Colleges of Education in North-East Nigeria. Item one shows 4.0 mean of the respondents which reveals that availability of the job opportunities in society are strongly influences preference. Item two shows 2.5 mean of the respondents it means that living in a highly influencing economic development can influence career preference among Technical and Vocational Education students Colleges of Education in North-East Nigeria. Item three shows 2.9 mean of the respondents which suggests that opportunities and societal **Findings of the Study**

Research reveals that parental influence are highly affects career preference among Technical and Vocational Education students Colleges of Education in North-East Nigeria. It suggests that there is highly influence of peers on career preference among Technical and Vocational Education students Colleges of Education in North-East Nigeria.

It also suggests that societies has a significant influence on the careers reference among Technical and Vocational Education students Colleges of Education in North-East Nigeria.

**Discussion of Findings**

The first finding revealed that parental influence are highly affect career preference among Technical and Vocational Education students at Colleges of Education in North-East Nigeria. This finding agrees with the finding of Kniveton, (2014), who examined the influences and motivations on which students base their choice of career, research conducted on Students seek help from parents more than anything in their career choice, by Oyamo and Amoth(2008). The data were analyzed using the mean of the respondents.

The second finding revealed that there is highly influence of peers on career preference among Technical and Vocational Education students Colleges of Education in North-East Nigeria. The data was analyzed using the mean. This finding aligns with the studies

privileges influence career preference among Technical and Vocational Education students at Colleges of Education in North-East Nigeria. Item four shows 1.5 mean of the respondents which means that entrepreneurial benefits in some business ventures do not influence a business student in career preference among Technical and Vocational Education students at Colleges of Education in North-East Nigeria. Item five shows 0.8 mean of the respondents which means that economic stability in the country do not influence career preference among Technical and Vocational Education students Colleges of Education in North-East Nigeria.

tagged “supportive friends or peers have a crucial influence on the career planning of students and making key life decision” By Farmer and Felsman, (2009). Other studies done by Blustein (2009) examined the role of peer relationships in career development in individuals.

The third finding revealed societies have a significant influence on the careers reference among Technical and Vocational Education students Colleges of Education in North-East Nigeria, The data was analyzed using mean. This finding is in line with a study conducted by Cavanagh, (2002) that examined the society's role plays in the career position of students.

**Conclusion**

It can be concluded that parent peers and society has a significant influence on career preference among Technical and Vocational Education students at Colleges of Education in North-East Nigeria.

**Recommendations**

It is recommended that:  
 Government and non-governmental organizations should map out a strategy for career information exposure and effective dissemination to students.  
 Government should ensure institutions and government agencies have been engaged in career preference counseling among Technical and Vocational Education students of Colleges of Education in North-East Nigeria.

Government should increase more support in the area of capacity building in terms of enlightening, training youth, and providing loans to students in subsidizing the interest career rate of Technical and Vocational Education students of Colleges of Education in North-East Nigeria.

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