**Influence of Parents attitude on the career choice of secondary school students in Delta south senatorial District of Delta State.**

**CHAPTER ONE**

**INTRODUCATION**

Background to the study

The effect of parenting on children’s career development and education has been a subject of concern for a long time. Parents had always been in the center of their children’s life. As parents are the first role model of them, young children can be able to learn basic skills by the help of their parents and can become healthy adults. Parental attitude towards career selection of their children’s plays an important role in cultivating attitudes towards education. Due to so many problems faced by students, change is found in their parent’s behavior and attitudes. Good or bad effect of behavior of each person of society, parents, friends and other family members, relatives, neighbors and social environment is found on students. Beside this, customs and traditions of society, dishonesty, bad customs, and moral conduct, and corruption also influence student’s behavior directly or indirectly.

Positive parental attitude towards child’s education is important in determining the career aspiration of their children, the school attendance and academic achievement of the child. Favorable attitude towards schooling and education enhances parental involvement in children’s present and the future studies and also in their career choice. Parent’s attitude towards their children’s career choice is affected adversely by low social-economic status. Parent with low socio-economic status will have lower expectations for the career of their children other than parents with high socio-economic status which will have higher choice of career path for their children (Shah, 2016)

Parental attitude is a measure or an index of parental involvement. A child, brought up with affection and care and care in the least restrictive environment would be able to cope up better with the sighted would. Therefore, the family the family shapes the social integration of the child more than a formal school. It is the parents who exert the major influence on the development of the child from birth to maturity. One of the most important attitudes of parental attitude is consistency. As children mature into adolescence, family involvement in their learning remains important. Family involvement practices at home and at school have been found to influence secondary school students’ academic achievement, school attendance, and graduation and college matriculation rates. The term attitude refers to a favorable or unfavorable evaluative reaction towards some or someone exhibited in ones beliefs, feelings, or intended behavior. It is a social orientation- 9an underlying inclination to respond to something either favorably or unfavorably. Parental attitude towards education influences their involvement in education matters. Parental attitude towards education of their children and their involvement in education is the participation of parents in regular meaningful communication that involves student academic learning and other school activities including ensuring that parents play an integral role in assisting their children’s learning at home and at school which goes a long way in guiding them in a better career path (Starkey & Kleir, 2010).

Career choice is a very significant aspect of national development in any nation. In every society, the quality of workers as well as their degree of job satisfaction contributes directly or indirectly to economic stability and the smooth running of the affairs of the nation. If workers are unable to derive satisfaction from their job frustration sets in with accompanying decline in productivity and civil unrest due to the workers thwarted goals. Therefore, the career choices of students is a major decision making exercise with a lifetime repercussion. A career is a lifelong process which in other words is a day to day affair. To make a choice of career is not an easy process (Ipaye, 2016). Career choice is perhaps the major decision leading to a sense of identity. In choosing a particular career, the students have profound influence in shaping his are her life. The choice of career influences almost every aspect of a person’s life.it changes the individual’s values, ideas and standards such as socio-economic status. The choice of career therefore determines satisfaction and success in life. Career plays a very fundamental and significant role in the life of an individual not only because they determine the pattern of income but also because they affect the individual personality and concepts in life, career therefore is a chosen pursuit, life work or success in one’s profession occupied by a person throughout his/her life.

Egbego (2023) posited that career is the totality of experience through which one learns about and prepares to engage in work as part of his way of living. Career therefore can be defined as the progress and actions taking by a person throughout a lifetime, specially related to his occupation. Choosing a career is an extremely important decision that impacts an individual entire future. Choosing a career is not a trial and exercise, it is a deliberate effort made at once.

Adelusi (2013) observes that the impact the home has on a child’s learning is the fundamental concepts of life. He also posited that parents could be a motivating or inhibiting factor to the career choice of their children, especially when it is clear that the home is the first social group which the child comes in contact. It is here that children learn to interpret realities. Choosing a career is a lifelong process that demands accurate perceptions of ability, potential and achievement. Many career choice are made which requires much taught and reflection. Career development is the balancing, recognizing and meeting of needs of individuals while at the same time responding to the outer forces and realities of life. In the view of Osuala (2010) career guidance before now use to be the prerogative of the parents which is no longer as influential as it used to be. The family decides not only the individuals’ personality, even the vocational interests to a great extent because of its social group status (Hayes, &Hopson, 2013). Children are brought up with respect to values of the family and as they grow, they learn, internalize and concretize such behavior patterns which they are exposed for. The pattern of behavior and training the children acquire from the family normally determines their job perception and eventually occupation decision (Osuala, 2010). Parents convey their influence to children through interactions such as conversations and through their reactions (both verbal and nonverbal). This then affects what children say and perceive about various careers. Often there is a contradiction between what parents say to children and what they ask of them, for instance, a parent may comment what it is acceptable to pursue a particular career in a nonprofit agency, but then counter such statements with comment about low pay and long hours.

Denga (2012) postulated various positive relationship between children’s early rearing experiences and their occupational choice, since children spend most of their years at home and they normally regard this as their reference group with parent as important figures. In this regard, Carter (2009) classified parental work attitudes into four namely; silent attitude, as where parents rather discuss their own work and less of other peoples’ work. There is no vocational plan for children hence leaving their children’s occupational aspirations to chance. The resentful attitude is expressed by parents who only make incidental remarks about work. They leave their children’s occupational choice to fate and schooling and never attempt to consciously discuss vocation with their children. The participating attitude is exhibited by parents who are interested on their jobs and discuss them freely with their children thus exposing their children to these occupations.

Lastly, the candid attitude is children centered, which describes parents that openly and courteously discuss all aspect of work, the advantages and the disadvantages thereof, with their children (carter,2009). In analyses of the various attitude exhibited by parents regarding occupational issues with their families, it is glaring that children from these levels of home will have differences in regarding work. Invariably children from the participating and candid attitude parental environment could be vocationally mature much earlier than children from the other two categories.

According to ALika and Egbochuku (2009) parental influence exerts a lot of influence on the educational attainment of the adolescent especially the socio-economic status of parents. This revealed that the need for good salary, attractive financial package which will determine his social class, attractive working conditions and a secured future are very important factors influencing students’ career choice or aspiration. Educationally, some factors like status of parents, peers, skills, experience, knowledge and lack of information and other factors that could be product of teaching and learning influence students career choice. This is because parent’s educational background may influence the students view to or not to continue his or her education (Obiunu and Ebunu, 2013). Sometimes someone they saw on television or media presentation may influence the student’s career choice, or parents may have demanded that they assume a family business. These various environmental factors impact on the student’s choice of choice of career. It is therefore important to explore these issues regarding career choice of career, it is therefore important to explore these issues regarding career choice and the role that parents play in this decision. This is essential because parents may not realize the major impact their norms, values and roles have on career choice, and yet parental influence on students’ career selection may present opportunities or obstacles for students during the career exploration process.

**Statement of the problem**

The researcher has observed that parental variables such as parents’ attitude occupation, socio-economic background and level of education has been the most influential factor in students’ career choice. More often than not, parents owing to personal idiosyncrasies pressure their children into taking up family occupations and other careers even when they do not possess requisite abilities. And when these children follow these career path they usually end up with job dissatisfaction, underperformance and sometimes malfunction, frustration and inefficiency all of which translate in the long run to national economic crisis. This tends to be a persistent problem for the students in the contemporary society. That is why it is not uncommon for students to get into occupations that are not suitable to their abilities. Sometimes, they enter the work completely pseudo- aspirations. It is becoming worrisome as many parent often try to get involved in monitoring the subject combination and course of study of their children in secondary and tertiary institutions respective; in other to increase their likelihood of getting a job in the Labour market rather than allow the children to follow the career path that they enjoy and aspire. In Delta state, it has been observed that this concern makes many parents do all within their means to put their children in particular class divisions such as science or commercial classes as against the children intention, or school’s recommendation. Hence, the problem of career choice among secondary school student becomes more persistent. Based on the aforementioned challenges, this study therefore seeks to investigate parents’ attitude in the career choice of secondary school students.

**Purpose of the study**

The main purpose of the study is to determine the influence of parent attitude on the career choice of secondary school student in Delta South Senatorial District of Delta State. Specifically, the study seeks to determine;

1. The influence of parent attitude in the career choice of secondary school students in Delta South senatorial District of Delta State.
2. The influence of parent socio-economic background on the career choice of secondary school student Delta South Senatorial District of Delta State.
3. The influence of parent occupation on the career choice of secondary school students in Delta South Senatorial District of Delta State.
4. The influence of parent level of education on the career choice of secondary school students Delta South Senatorial District of Delta State.

**Research questions**

The following research questions were raised to guide the study:

1. To what extent does parent attitude influence the career choice of secondary school students in Delta South Senatorial District of Delta State?
2. To what extent does parent socio-economic background influence the career choice of secondary school students in Delta South Senatorial District of Delta State?
3. To what extent does parent occupation influence the career choice of secondary school students in Delta South Senatorial District of Delta State?
4. To what extent does parent level of education influence the career choice of secondary school students in Delta South Senatorial District of Delta State?

**Hypothesis**

The following null hypothesis will be formulated based on the research questions.

1. There is no significant relationship between parent attitude and career choice of secondary school students in Warri South Local Government Area.
2. There is no significant relationship between parent socio-economic background and the career choice of secondary school students in Warri South Local Government Area.
3. There is no significant relationship between parent occupation and career choice of secondary school students in Warri South Local Government Area.
4. There is no significant relationship between parent level of education and career choice of secondary school students in Warri South Local Government Area.

**Significance of the study**

The findings of the study would be of benefit to students, parents, teachers, curriculum planners, researchers, government, and the general public.

This study will enable students understand the important role their parent plays in assisting them to choose a particular career that would help in shaping their future and academic performance. It will also allow them make appropriate career choices that they are confident about not withstanding their parents influence.

This study will benefit parents, to understand their role in assisting their children to follow a particular career that is suitable for them. The findings will also enlighten the understanding of parents to know when they compelling their children toward a disparaging career path based on their own obligations and how they can deviate and assist their children in actualizing their dream and purpose. This study will also benefit the teachers as it will guide and prepare them in their dual instructional and advisory roles as career guidance counsellors.

Counsellors will also benefit from this study as it will provide relevant information, data and concepts on students’ career guidance. This will help them play their traditional roles of counselling students on their choice of career. It will also serve as a basis for making appropriate recommendation to policy makers, curriculum designers and its operators in the secondary schools with a view to improving the planning, designing, execution and evaluation of secondary school programmes on career guidance and counselling in Federal Government colleges. The findings of this study would be beneficial to future researchers, as it would serve as a pointer from which other studies could be carried out to determine the factors that influence the career aspiration and academic achievements of students in secondary schools.

**Scope of the study**

The study generally covers parent attitude in the career choice of secondary school student in Delta South Senatorial District of Delta State specifically, the study covers the extent to which parent attitude, parent socio-economic background, parent occupation and parent level of education influence career choice of secondary school students. Geographically, the study covers all the senior secondary schools in Warri South Local Government Area of Delta State.

**Definition of Terms**

Career choice: The broad opportunities that exist for lifelong vocations. These vocations are set out in a frame work of strategies moving towards personal goals.

Parents Attitude: Parent attitude are the career behavior of their children based on the hopes and aspirations that parents might have for their children in terms of educational attainment or occupational status.

**Parent Socio- Economic Background:**  This is a multidimensional **concept of special importance of parents for the growth, development, health outcomes and education of children. Its definition generally refers to the amount of parents’ income, their employment status and level of education.**

Chapter two

Literature review

This chapter deals with the review of related literatures which are organized under the following subheadings: Conceptual framework, theoretical framework, empirical review and summary of literature review.

Conceptual Framework

The conceptual framework of this study relates the relationship between the variables and depict factors such as parents attitude, parent socio-economic background, Parent occupation, Parent level of education, and how they influence the career choice of secondary school students in Delta South Senatorial district.

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| Parent Attitude |

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| Career Choice of Students |

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| --- |
| Parent Socio-economic  Background |

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| Parent Occupation |

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| Parent level of Education |

Figure 1: The hypothesized model of the study

Source: Developed by the researcher

Parent Attitude and career choice parents play vital roles in the career choice of their children. Olayinka (2015) Stresses and this parent sometimes censoriously set up standard worthy of emulation for their children and this motivated them to be successfully oriented. For a child, the most influential people in life are parents. Right from the beginning of childhood they have a persistent and robust influence on their children’s personality and career development. Parents with different demographic and psychographic characteristics have different expectations from the education of their children which eventually effect behavior of their children towards career choice. The common insight of parents about their children’s education is to earn more respect and money rather than as a source to bring positive change in the society. A number of other researchers have also explored influence of parents on their children’s career paths, and parents views about children’s career education. One of the studies concluded that parent’s influence on career choice of their children was strong enough to be utilized as effective career counselling technique. Many other studies examined in depth parent’s behavior and influence on their children’s career development process, as well as perception of students about parental influence on career choice. Results of these studies illustrated that children also perceived their parents as having high expectations about their studies as well as influencing choice of their future career. Roe (2014) Stated that choice of career among students is partly influence by the behaviours of their parent towards the particular child and the condition of the home environment. Margaret (2015) Opined that on first admission to school, parent are seen taking their children to school only to come back to school at the age of about thirteen. Yet such parents have guts to make choice for their children about their future course and subjects and then around sixteen when it is a question of activities and choice of occupation might determine whether one will be employed or unemployed in some occupations employment is irregular while in others, its more stable and secure by choosing an occupation in which employment is known to be relatively stable, one may increase the probability of having a job.