Factors Influencing Students’ Choice of Career in Business Teacher Education in Delta State Colleges of Education

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ABSTRACT
The purpose of this study was to find out the factors influencing students’ choice of career in Business Teacher Education in Delta State Colleges of Education. A structured questionnaire was used in the collection of Data. The sample comprised one hundred and forty (140) Final Year Business Education Students drawn from the four Colleges of Education in Delta State which was selected randomly. Two research questions guided the study which were analysed using mean and standard deviation. The findings of the research revealed that finance, ignorance, parental influence, family size, the type of school attended; gender, culture, social and economic conditions and students’ ability and interest were the factors that influenced students’ choice of career in Business Teacher Education. On the basis of the findings, it was recommended that intelligent and indigent students should be assisted through the award of scholarships by government, individuals, corporate organisations and non-governmental organisations to enable them achieve their aspirations.

Keywords: choice of career, Colleges of Education, Business Education, Students

INTRODUCTION
The selection of a career is one of the many important choices students make in determining future plans. The decision to take on the type of career they choose today will impact on the students either positively or negatively throughout their lives (Ushurhe, 2015).

When we talk about career choice several things come to mind-job description, training and education required, career outlook and employment opportunities - but there are a number of salient factors that may influence your decisions. One of such factors is education. Education is recognised as the answer to our social economic problems. Nations of the world and individuals look up to education to provide cure for poverty, ignorance, drought, excessive rainfall, mental deficiency, joblessness, bad government, poor communication system, hunger and inadequate shelter (Olamide & Olawaiye, 2013). Every individual and nations aspire towards quality of life and social status in the society.

Career choice is one of such important decisions students make in determining future plans. This decision will affect them throughout their lives. The choice of career has been a serious problem among secondary school students the world over and Nigeria in particular. The choice of career irrespective of our age is an important question for everyone to answer. Many students believe that they are bound to succeed in future. They equally believe that as soon as they finish secondary school education, they would be able to work in the public or private establishments. Others have planned to become engineers, doctors, lawyers, accountants, businessmen, pilots, among other professions. The thought of what the student wants to
become has always been a problem, especially what they will do with their lives. The success of what they make of tomorrow depends on the choice and planning they make today. Planning for tomorrow today, is primarily the responsibilities of many persons - parents, teachers, school counsellors, organisations and foundations, general orientation and the school curriculum. The choice of career that the student goes into at the end of the day is a delicate issue that requires caution and serious consideration.

The type of career you go into tomorrow determines where the individual lives, how much education one has, amount of money one earns, standard of living, and the type of friends one keeps. Every student carries the unique history of their past in what they become tomorrow. The past may either be hereditary, environmental, personality or opportunity or a combination of two or more of the above factors. The influence of these factors will determine the career choice students make. Students need to be knowledgeable about the path they will be taking to help them prepare for their future career. However, career choice has become a complex issue with the advent of information technology, industrialisation and job competition.

A career can be defined as a pattern of work experiences comprising the entire life span of an individual, which is generally seen with regard to number of stages reflecting the transition from one stage of life to the next (Weinert, 2001). Similarly, Collin (1998) explains that the term career arises from the interaction of individuals with organisation and society. This interaction involves a sequence of activities from learning to counselling and eventually building a career. However, Bojuwoye & Mbanjiva (2006) postulate that the career of the 21st century will be driven by the individual. This implies that the individual has the sole right to choose a career for himself or herself. Clarke (2009) explains that ideally, to succeed in choosing a career, individuals will either possess a proactive personality or be able to adopt proactive behaviours to sustain their choice. While pressures from influential sources beckon, Collin (1998) warns that individuals sometimes do not embrace this high pressure impact.

The term career can therefore be defined as the sequence of interaction of individual with society throughout their lifespan. It is necessary however, to emphasise that the majority of the responsibility now rests on the students for their own career choice. It should be noted that careers are built through brick by brick throughout life through series of choices about learning and work (Ezeani, 2013).

Statement of the Problem
A person career choice plays an important role in his/her life. Career choice decision making is not an easy task, yet at one point or the other, individuals are faced with the issue of career choice. Preparing for it, starting it and nurturing it to a successful end. This choice is undoubtedly the most critical stage in an individual’s life. This is because making a wrong career choice can destroy one’s happiness in life; spell doom not only to the individual but to the entire community (Ushurhe, 2015; Ezeani, 2013; korir, 2012). It is on this basis that the study seek to examine the factors influencing students’ choice of career in Business Teacher Education in Delta State Colleges of Education

Purpose of the study
The purpose of this study was to find out factors influencing students’ choice of career in Business Teacher Education in Delta State Colleges of Education

Research Questions
The Study was specifically designed to provide answers to the following research questions
1. What are the factors influencing students’ choice of career in Business Teacher Education?
2. What are the challenges facing students’ choice of career in Business Teacher Education?
Scope of the study
The study focuses mainly on the factors influencing students’ choice of career in Business Teacher Education in Delta State Colleges of Education.

RESEARCH METHODS
Research Design
The design used for the study was the descriptive research design as it gives the factors influencing students’ choice of career in Business Teacher Education in Delta State Colleges of Education.

Table 1: Population and Sample size of Final Year Business Education Students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Names of Colleges of Education</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Sample Size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 College of Education, Asaba</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 College of Education, Agbor</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 College of Physical Education, Mosogar</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 College of Education, Warri</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>433</strong></td>
<td><strong>140</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field Survey, 2015

The population of this study consisted of 140 final year Business Education Students in the four Colleges of Education in Delta State where business education programme is run.

Instrumentation
The instrument used for data collection was a structured questionnaire that was based on two main research questions that guided the study. It was based on five point scale of Strongly Agreed, Agreed, Moderately Agreed, Disagreed and Strongly Disagreed.

Data Collection/Analysis Technique
The data collected were analysed using mean and standard deviation in answering the research questions. A mean score of 3.00 and above was accepted while any less than 3.00 are unaccepted.

RESULTS
Research Question 1: What are the factors influencing students’ choice of career in Business Teacher Education?

Table 2. Factors Influencing Students’ Choice of Career in Business Teacher Education (N = 140)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S/NO</th>
<th>Items</th>
<th>X</th>
<th>SD</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Financial base of my parents</td>
<td>3.13</td>
<td>1.769</td>
<td>Accepted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Pressure from my peers</td>
<td>3.23</td>
<td>1.797</td>
<td>Accepted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>The level of parental education personality and social-economic status</td>
<td>3.11</td>
<td>1.764</td>
<td>Accepted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Family size influences my career aspirations</td>
<td>3.15</td>
<td>1.775</td>
<td>Accepted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>The school where one is educated plays a significant influence on one’s career choice</td>
<td>3.22</td>
<td>1.794</td>
<td>Accepted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Both male and female experience career related stereotypes in one way or the other</td>
<td>3.23</td>
<td>1.797</td>
<td>Accepted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>The culture of the individual as well as family system may influence career decisions</td>
<td>3.27</td>
<td>1.808</td>
<td>Accepted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>All the career choice we make today takes place within the context of society and the economy.</td>
<td>3.31</td>
<td>1.819</td>
<td>Accepted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>The element of interest and ability are the basic factors influencing students in their choice of subjects and career</td>
<td>3.01</td>
<td>1.734</td>
<td>Accepted</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The data in Table 2 shows that the respondents accepted all the statement of items 1-9 with mean scores ranging from 3.01 – 3.31. Respondents’ responses to these items showed the factors influencing student’s choice of Career in Business Teacher Education.

Research Question 2: What are the challenges facing students’ choice of career in Business Teacher Education.

Table 3: Challenges Facing Students’ Choice of Career in Business Teacher Education(N =140)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S/NO</th>
<th>Items</th>
<th>X</th>
<th>SD</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Unsatisfactory career counselling services</td>
<td>3.24</td>
<td>1.800</td>
<td>Accepted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Marriage plays a large part in student’s career decision</td>
<td>3.45</td>
<td>1.857</td>
<td>Accepted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Inability of students to discover themselves</td>
<td>3.19</td>
<td>1.786</td>
<td>Accepted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>The problem of career choice by student is compounded by the present state of Nigerian economy</td>
<td>3.21</td>
<td>1.792</td>
<td>Accepted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Children of high income families attend good colleges for their studies while those of low income group aspire to own small scale businesses</td>
<td>3.45</td>
<td>1.857</td>
<td>Accepted</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The data in table 3 indicates that the respondents accepted all the statement of items 1-5 with mean scores ranging from 3.17 – 3.45. Respondents’ responses to these items indicated the challenges facing student’s choice of career in Business Teacher Education.

DISCUSSION

On factors influencing students’ choice of career in Business Teacher Education in Delta State Colleges of Education, it was found that finance, ignorance, parental influence, family size, the type of school attended, gender, culture, social and interest. All these variables can be summed to be environmental factors. Deng (2000) found out that the factors influencing career choice can either be intrinsic, extrinsic or both. He further stated that most people are influenced by careers that their parents favoured, others follow careers that their educational choices have opened for them, some choose to follow their passion regardless of how much or little it will make them, while others choose the careers that give high income as evident in the work of Korir (2012) that students perception of being suitable for a particular career has also been found to be influenced by a number of factors, such as genetic factors.

On the challenges facing students choice of career in Business Teacher Education it was found that unsatisfactory career counselling services, early marriage, inability of students to discover themselves, lack of qualified teachers/lecturers and lack of finance are problems/challenges faced by them. Shane (2010) found that careers counsellors become ineffective when they try to dictate, judge or decide the student’s values. Ushurhe (2015) found that many students cannot identify their weakness. You can never be exactly like the other person for no two persons are the same. You should know who you are and what you can do. Discover yourself and be firm in your decisions.

CONCLUSION

Based on the finding of this study, it can be concluded that genes are just one factor- not the only factor- in career choice. Our fate is not predetermined by our heredity. It is not as if we are destined from birth to be limited to a career. But we are more likely to be successful in certain fields/careers than in others- due to our genes. Thus, we are more likely to be successful and feel comfortable in certain careers than others. We are more likely to choose certain career paths than others due to our genes. That’s partly due to our personality traits, physical attributes intelligence levels and outlook on life; some of which are inherited through our genes.

Environment plays significant role in the career choice that students make in many ways. The environment as used here nurtures decisions in career choice of students. These environmental factors
which aided student career processes are as follows: finance, ignorance, parental influence, family size, types of school attended, gender, social and economic conditions, as well as student ability and interest. The genetic factors and environmental factors all combined to influence students’ choice of career in Business Teacher Education in Delta State Colleges of Education.

RECOMMENDATIONS
1. Guidance counsellors should not tell students what they should do, what their motives should be or persuade the student to adopt a different point of view
2. Parents should not force their children into career. However, with parental guidance and support, children are able to make the right career choice
3. Teachers should guide their students in their career choice and aspirations in their performances in various subjects etc.
4. Students should be educated on an equal basis by career counsellors on the requirements of the career they intend to go into. Consequently, professionals in such field should be invited from time to time to give career talks on their profession to the students.
5. Career should be initiated as early as the nursery school years through the primary, secondary and to the tertiary school levels
6. Schools and business should partner to provide real life scenario and problem solving situations from which students could benefit, both for practice and experience, which could affect their career choice.
7. Intelligent and indigent students should be assisted through the award of scholarships by government, individuals, corporate organisations and non-governmental organisations to enable them achieve their life aspirations.
8. Be computer literate: The world today is a global village. It is a challenge to survive in a fast moving train. The world is advancing technologically on a daily basis. The money you spend on recharge cards to play games and unnecessary calls should be invested on computer studies. Today, UME exams are computer-based. Are we going to be left behind? Make haste while the sun shines
9. Career seminars and talks should be organised regularly in schools to help students gather information on their intended field of study and occupation.
10. Schools should be equipped with audio and audio-visual aids with occupational films for a more effective career counselling of the students.

REFERENCES


