

INFLUENCE OF PARENTING STYLES ON SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS' CAREER ASPIRATION IN DUTSIN-MA L.G.A, KATSINA STATE

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Abstract

This study examined influence of parenting styles on senior secondary school students' career aspiration in Dutsin-Ma L.G.A, Katsina State. The study adopted descriptive survey research design. The population of the study comprised of 2,776 SS II in all the 9 public senior secondary schools in Dutsin-Ma Local Government, Katsina State. The simple random sampling technique was used to select 5 public senior secondary schools. Purposive random sampling technique was used to select 40 SS II who are between 13 to 22 years of age in each of the 5 public senior secondary schools making 200 respondents for this study. The researcher adapted two research instruments was used for the data collection. The finding revealed that autocratic parenting style had a mean score of 3.78, while democratic parenting style had a mean of 3.69 and Laissez-faire parenting style had mean score of 2.31, respectively. It shows that only two of the three parenting styles were above the acceptance point of 3.00. This implies that autocratic and democratic parenting styles were most commonly adopts as rated by senior secondary school students parents than Laissez-faire parenting style. There was a significant relationship between autocratic parenting style and senior secondary school students' career aspiration (sig-value=0.01 < Cal. -value 0.69). There was a significant relationship between democratic parenting style and senior secondary school students' career aspiration (sig-value=0.00 < Cal. -value 0.66). There was no significant relationship between laissez-faire parenting style and senior secondary school students' career aspiration (Cal. -value= 0.66 > sig-value=0.05). The following recommendations among others were made; the parents or guardians should be enlightened on the significance of their parenting styles on the students' career aspiration. Educational psychologists and school counsellors should intensify their effort to organize seminars on the implications of psychological factors (e.g. parenting styles' influence among others) on students' career aspiration.

Keywords: Autocratic, Democratic, Laissez-Faire, Parenting Styles, Career Aspiration.

Introduction

Parenting styles refers to diverse ways in which parents of junior secondary school students' act in raising their children in the society. This could be authoritarian, authoritative, or permissive parenting styles. Parents have constantly played vital roles in the upbringing of their children. These roles transcend the provision of material and financial needs and are met through varying approaches as have been identified by different psychologists (Bakare, 2014). In the same vein, an individual's career is one of the determinants of the level of success or failure which such an individual attains.

Career aspiration refers to decision made by a student on his / her future work, occupation, career, or profession. Career aspirations can be defined as what an individual wants or prefers to do in terms of work. According to Osa-Edoh and Alutu (2011), one of the greatest problems of a student is decision making and choice of career. A few years ago, career courses were thought to be for people who did not have the aptitude to study in a college and thus, needed skills in a particular field, to gain employment. Adolescents from affluent families tend to choose

careers that they believe are befitting to their family's status even when such a career is against their own personal interest or capabilities while those from less privileged homes tend to grapple with careers that are within the financial capacity of their parents irrespective of their own interest or capability. Due to the changing complexity of the global economy and occupational marketplace, career decision making is an essential matter to be investigated. Career is one of the most crucial facets in one's existential spheres.

It encompasses a set of life chores that an individual is deemed to conduct ranging from educational to career endeavors (Nancy and Teru, 2017). Given that career progress has not been viewed as a single event, but a lifelong process that one undergoes from early childhood to adolescence and into adulthood, making career decisions is a difficult undertaking one can engage in (Savickas, 2012). Studies of career aspiration have typically focused on one or two variables to the relative neglect of others. For example, investigators have examined career aspiration in lieu of social-demographic background variables (Leong and Gupta, 2017), social psychological variables (Goodale and Hall, 2016) and personality variables (Onoyase & Onoyase, 2019).

Career aspiration especially among diverse options is usually a heroic task and is very important to life of senior secondary school students (Osipow, 2013). This therefore underscores the need to guide the adolescents in planning for careers and making mature decisions. The school system has the responsibility of assisting the youths in making competent career decisions that are appropriate to their abilities, aptitudes, interests, and other personality characteristics (Animasahun, 2007). Several studies have indicated that most secondary school leavers in Nigeria made poor career decisions because of unrealistic career aspirations. It had been reported that students with learning disabilities select occupations mainly because of the salaries, positions, glamour, and prestige attached to them (Ikeme, 2011). The problems of making unrealistic occupational choices and subsequent maladjustment on the job have been identified among the people already in the labour force by policy maker (Ogunsanwo, 2018). In view of these points the researcher intends to examine the determinants of career aspiration among junior secondary school students.

Cole and Hall (2017) found that parenting styles influence career aspiration of adolescents. Olayinka (2013) equally highlighted the fact that some children take certain careers because of strong parental motivation. Issues relating to the effects of such types of rearing patterns as autocratic, democratic, and laissez-faire patterns on career aspiration are yet to be fully investigated. Alegre (2018), found that among the three parenting styles autocratic and democratic parenting styles were most commonly adopted by the parents of in-school adolescents than Laissez-faire parenting style which were above the acceptance mean score. In contrast Dilorio and Dudley (2012), found many parents do adopt different parenting style as situation may arise on need for their children. Denga, (2014), found that autocratic parents insist on complete obedience and close supervision of the child's choice of activities and career aspiration. It further found that a child who is exposed to such parenting style will feel to comply with parental orders and devoid from all such deviant behaviour. In contrast Aunola (2010), found autocratic parents insistence do help complete obedience and close supervision of the child's choice of activities. It further found that a child who is exposed to such parenting style will feel to comply with parental orders and devoid from all such deviant behaviour.

Democratic parenting shows high level of support and has effective communication with their children while autocratic parents are over-protective and believe in harsh punishment. Dustman (2014), found that democratic style is favourable where parents listen to their children and their career aspiration but do not base their decision solely on their children's decision to correct them for unwanted behaviour. The facts that children are allowed to contribute to matters that affect them influence their attitude towards events, situations and objects. In contrast Miller, Dilorio and Dudley (2012) found no single parenting style is the best why nurturing the children and career aspiration. Therefore parents or guardians should adopt different parenting styles. Dustman (2014) found that laissez-faire parents give a child high level of independence, which result in low level of parental guidance and their children career aspiration. The study looked into the negative behaviour of parenting, which

includes behaviours such as abuse, neglect, over control and harsh punishment. In contrast Spera (2015), found that *laissez-faire* parents give a child high level of independence, which result in allow their children to take personal choice on career aspiration. However, it is as a result of the above assertion that study intends to investigate Influence of parenting styles on senior secondary school students' career aspiration in Dutsin-Ma L.G.A, Katsina State.

Statement of the Problem

It has been noticed that many secondary school students are confronted with the problem of choosing a suitable career. This is evident in the reported poor academic performance, lack of interest in schooling and incessant dropout in their academic pursuit among others. The paucity of career information by such social settings of the student's upbringing is expected to facilitate the student's conscientious career decision needed for survival in the world. Consequently, students are bereft of alternatives to career choices that are not consistent with their inherent capacities and invariably turn to uninformed channels, like their friends, family, to make the very important decision of choosing suitable career paths. This leads to a large number of students falling into careers by happenstance instead of via an objective and holistic analysis to find a fit that takes all aspects of their personality and skills into consideration.

Despite the activities of the guidance counsellors posted to secondary schools by both the Federal and State governments in Nigeria, to conduct career, educational and personal-social counselling, most secondary school students and junior secondary school students were usually not vocationally mature by the time they leave school (Muraina, 2018). There is evidence that certain students leave secondary schools quite deficient in occupational information. The system of education in Nigeria has failed abysmally to launch the nation to technologically advancement as envisioned by the Education policy makers. Many Nigeria students leaving secondary schools have neither the awareness of the diversity of occupation available nor the one to develop interest in. In most schools, there are insufficient counsellors to assist the students make appropriate career decisions based on their interest (Owoyele & Muraina, 2015). Therefore, this study seeks to examine the influence of parenting styles on senior secondary school students' career aspiration in Dutsin-Ma L.G.A, Katsina State.

Purpose of the Study

The main purpose of this study is to determine the influence of parenting styles on senior secondary school students' career aspiration in Dutsin-Ma L.G.A, Katsina State.

Specifically, this study seeks to:

1. Find out which parenting style is the most commonly used by parents as perceived by senior secondary school students in Dutsin-Ma LGA, Katsina State?
2. Examine the relationship between autocratic parenting style and senior secondary school students' career aspiration in Dutsin-Ma LGA, Katsina State.
3. Investigate out the relationship between democratic parenting style and senior secondary school students' career aspiration in Dutsin-Ma LGA, Katsina State.
4. Determine out the relationship between *laissez-faire* parenting style and senior secondary school students' career aspiration in Dutsin-Ma LGA, Katsina State.

Research Questions

The following research questions were raised to guide the conduct of this study:

1. Which parenting style is the most commonly used by parents as perceived by senior secondary school students in Dutsin-Ma LGA, Katsina State?

2. What is the relationship between autocratic parenting style and senior secondary school students' career aspiration in Dutsin-Ma LGA, Katsina State?
3. What is the relationship between democratic parenting style and senior secondary school students' career aspiration in Dutsin-Ma LGA, Katsina State?
4. What is the relationship between laissez-faire parenting style and senior secondary school students' career aspiration in Dutsin-Ma LGA, Katsina State?

Research Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses were formulated and tested in the study.

H₀₁: There is no significant relationship between relationship between autocratic parenting style and senior secondary school students' career aspiration in Dutsin-Ma LGA, Katsina State

H₀₂: There is no significant relationship between democratic parenting style and senior secondary school students' career aspiration in Dutsin-Ma LGA, Katsina State

H₀₃: There is no significant relationship between laissez-faire parenting style and senior secondary school students' career aspiration in Dutsin-Ma LGA, Katsina State

Methodology

This study adopted descriptive survey research design. According to Nworgu (2006), this type of study seeks to establish what relationship exists between two or more variables. Usually such studies indicate the direction and magnitude of the relationship between the variables. The population of the study comprised of 2,776 SS II in all the 9 public senior secondary schools in Dutsin-Ma Local Government, Katsina State. (*Source: Dutsin-Ma Zonal Education Quality Assurance, 2021*). The simple random sampling technique was used to select 5 public senior secondary schools. Purposive random sampling technique was used to select 40 SS II who are between 13 to 22 years of age in each of the 5 public senior secondary schools making 200 respondents for this study. The researcher adopted two research instruments one has three clusters (Autocratic, Democratic, and Laissez-faire Parenting Styles Questionnaire) was used for the data collection on senior secondary school students' career aspiration. Autocratic Parenting Style Questionnaire (APSQ) with the reliability coefficient 0.82, Democratic Parenting Style Questionnaire (DPSQ) with the reliability coefficient 0.70 and Laissez-faire Parenting Style Questionnaire (LPSQ) with the reliability coefficient 0.68.

Second instrument is Career Aspiration Questionnaire (CAQ) with the reliability coefficient 0.70. Each of the three clusters of parenting styles instrument has 10 items with 4 points scale ranging from Strongly Disagree (1), to Disagree (2), Agree (3) and Strongly Agree (4). All the research hypotheses were tested using Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) Statistic all at 0.05 level of significance.

Results

Answering of Research Question

Research Question 1: Which parenting style is the most commonly used by parents as perceived by senior secondary school students in Dutsin-Ma LGA, Katsina State?

Table 1: parenting styles mostly used by parents as perceived by senior secondary school students in Dutsin-Ma LGA, Katsina State

S/N	Parenting styles	Mean	Ranking order
1	Autocratic	3.78	1 st
2	Democratic	3.69	2 nd
3	Laissez-faire	2.31	3 rd

Weighted Mean Score **3.26**

Table 1 revealed that autocratic parenting style had a mean score of 3.78, while democratic parenting style had a mean of 3.69 and Laissez-faire parenting style had mean of 2.31 respectively. It shows that only two of the three parenting styles were above the acceptance point of 3.00. This implies that autocratic and democratic parenting styles were most commonly adopted as rated by senior secondary school students' parents than Laissez-faire parenting style which was above the acceptance mean score.

Testing of Hypotheses

H01: There is no significant relationship between autocratic parenting style and senior secondary school students' career aspiration in Dutsin-Ma LGA, Katsina State.

Table 2: Correlation between autocratic parenting style and senior secondary school students' career aspiration in Dutsin-Ma LGA, Katsina State

Variables	N	Mean	SD	Df	Cal. r- Value	Sig. (2-Tailed)	Decision
Autocratic Parenting Style	200	61.96	7.10	198	0.69	0.01	Rejected
Students' career aspiration	200	51.50	3.54				

P<0.05

Table 2 shows the summary of the comparison of autocratic parenting style and senior secondary school students' career aspiration. The sig (2-tailed) of 0.01 is lower than 0.05 significant level at which the hypothesis was tested. This implies, therefore, that the null hypothesis is rejected, which means that, there was a significant relationship between autocratic parenting style and senior secondary school students' career aspiration in Dutsin-Ma LGA, Katsina State. This implies that autocratic parenting style encourages senior secondary school students' career aspiration.

H02: There is no significant relationship between democratic parenting style and senior secondary school students' career aspiration in Dutsin-Ma LGA, Katsina State.

Table 3: Correlation between democratic parenting style and senior secondary school students' career aspiration in Dutsin-Ma LGA, Katsina State

Variables	N	Mean	SD	Df	Cal. r- Value	Sig. (2-Tailed)	Decision
Democratic Parenting Style	200	61.75	6.10	198	0.66	0.00	Rejected
Students' career aspiration	200	51.50	3.51				

P<0.05

Table 3 shows the summary of the comparison of democratic parenting style and senior secondary school students' career aspiration. The sig (2-tailed) of 0.00 is lower than 0.05 significant level at which the hypothesis

was tested. This implies, therefore, that the null hypothesis is rejected, which means that, there is a significant relationship between democratic parenting style and senior secondary school students' career aspiration in Dutsin-Ma LGA, Katsina State. This implies that democratic parenting style encourages senior secondary school students' career aspiration.

H0₃: There is no significant relationship between laissez-faire parenting style and senior secondary school students' career aspiration in Dutsin-Ma LGA, Katsina State.

Table 4: Correlation between laissez-faire parenting style and senior secondary school students' career aspiration in Dutsin-Ma LGA, Katsina State

Variables	N	Mean	SD	Df	Cal. r- Value	Sig. (2- Tailed)	Decision
Laissez-faire Parenting Style	200	61.65	5.10	198	0.57	0.07	Not rejected
Students' career aspiration	200	51.50	3.41				
P>0.05							

Table 4 shows the summary of the comparison of laissez-faire parenting style and senior secondary school students' career aspiration. The sig (2-tailed) of 0.07 is greater than 0.05 significant level at which the hypothesis was tested. This implies, therefore, that the null hypothesis is not rejected, which means that, there is no significant relationship between laissez-faire parenting style and senior secondary school students' career aspiration in Dutsin-Ma LGA, Katsina State. This implies that laissez-faire parenting style does not encourage senior secondary school students' career aspiration because parents do not show any concern about their children career aspirations.

Discussion

Research question one revealed that autocratic parenting style had a mean score of 3.78, while democratic parenting style had a mean of 3.69 and Laissez-faire parenting style had mean of 2.31 respectively. This implies that autocratic and democratic parenting styles were most commonly adopted as rated by senior secondary school students parents than Laissez-faire parenting style. The finding of this study corroborate with Alegre (2018), found that among the three parenting styles autocratic and democratic parenting styles were most commonly adopted by the parents of in-school adolescents than Laissez-faire parenting style which were above the acceptance mean score. In contrast Dilorio and Dudley (2012), found many parents do adopt different parenting style as situation may arise on need for their children

The result of hypothesis one showed that there was a significant relationship between autocratic parenting style and senior secondary school students' career aspiration in Dutsin-Ma LGA, Katsina State. This implies that autocratic parenting style encourages senior secondary school students' career aspiration. The finding of this study agrees with Denga, (2014), found that autocratic parents insist on complete obedience and close supervision of the child's choice of activities and career aspiration. It further found that a child who is exposed to such parenting style will feel to comply with parental orders and devoid from all such deviant behaviour. In contrast Aunola (2010), found autocratic parents insistence do help complete obedience and close supervision

of the child's choice of activities. It further found that a child who is exposed to such parenting style will feel to comply with parental orders and devoid from all such deviant behaviour.

The result of hypothesis two revealed that there exists significant relationship between democratic parenting style and senior secondary school students' career aspiration in Dutsin-Ma LGA, Katsina State. This implies that democratic parenting style encourages senior secondary school students' career aspiration. The finding of this study corroborate with Dustman (2014), found that democratic style is favourable where parents listen to their children and their career aspiration but do not base their decision solely on their children's decision to correct them for unwanted behaviour. The facts that children are allowed to contribute to matters that affect them influence their attitude towards events, situations and objects. In contrast Miller, Dilorio and Dudley (2012) found no single parenting style is the best why nurturing the children and career aspiration. Therefore parents or guardians should adopt different parenting styles

The result of hypothesis three revealed that there exist no significant relationship between laissez-faire parenting style and senior secondary school students' career aspiration in Dutsin-Ma LGA, Katsina State. This implies that laissez-faire parenting style does not encourage senior secondary school students' career aspiration because parents do not show any concern about their children career aspirations. The finding of this study corroborate Dustman (2014) found that laissez-faire parents give a child high level of independence, which result in low level of parental guidance and their children career aspiration. The study looked into the negative behaviour of parenting, which includes behaviours such as abuse, neglect, over control and harsh punishment. In contrast Spera (2015), found that laissez-faire parents give a child high level of independence, which result in allow their children to take personal choice on career aspiration.

Conclusions

Based on the findings of this study the followings were the conclusion. Autocratic and democratic parenting styles were most commonly adopts as rated by senior secondary school students parents than Laissez-faire parenting style which were above the acceptance mean score. There was a significant relationship between autocratic parenting style and senior secondary school students' career aspiration. Autocratic parenting style influence and encourages senior secondary school students' career aspiration. There was a significant relationship between democratic parenting style and senior secondary school students' career aspiration. This implies that democratic parenting style encourages senior secondary school students' career aspiration. There was no significant relationship between laissez-faire parenting style and senior secondary school students' career aspiration. This implies that laissez-faire parenting style does not encourage senior secondary school students' career aspiration because parents do not show any concern about their children career aspirations.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations were made.

1. The parents or guardians should be enlightened on the significance of their parenting styles on the students' career aspiration. This will help in the earlier discovery of the students' career aspiration and work towards appropriate ways of achieving it.
2. Educational psychologists and school counselors should intensify their effort to organize seminars on the implications of psychological factors (e.g. parenting styles' influence among others) on students' career aspiration.
3. Secondary school students should be encouraged to choose the career based on their interest and ability rather than being influenced by the parents' decision.
4. Educational psychologists and school counsellors should focus on developing assertiveness skills in students to enable them take career decisions that are in line with their own interests.

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