



## **Influence of Gender on Career Choice Among Senior Secondary School Students in Maiduguri Metropolis, Borno State**

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### **Abstract**

*The study was carried out to investigate the influence of gender on career choice among senior secondary school students in Maiduguri Metropolis, Borno State. The study was guided by three objectives, three research questions and one hypothesis. One hundred (100) senior secondary school students (25 from each of the 4 schools) were randomly selected. Questionnaire on career choice based on gender was used to collect data from the students on. Frequency counts, simple percentage and chart were used to answer the research questions while independent sample t-test was used to test the influence of gender on career choice among senior secondary school students. Results revealed that career choice is being influenced by gender. The study recommended that students should choose the career which is according to their capabilities and of their interest.*

### **Introduction**

Gender is an important element of our modern lexicon, and it is clearly defined as the state of being male or female, as well as the set of features that distinguish masculinity from femininity. Gender has an impact on a variety of attitudes, behaviors, and outcomes in the workplace. This encompasses things like profession choice, preference, experiences, occupational health, work attitudes, and other people's perspectives and consequences. A person's career choice has a significant impact on their life. For students, choosing a career is a difficult decision because it decides the type of career they want to pursue in the future.

Students struggle to fit their profession options to their personalities, attitudes, abilities, and academic success when they try to make career decisions. Appropriate career selection is said to have gotten more attention in the workplace (Kulshrestha, 1979). Career choice is a crucial



decision that every human being must make at some point in their lives; it is a decision that no one should make lightly because what a person does for a living affects him both now and in the future. Denga (2001) asserts that choosing an appropriate career is one of the most difficult or serious decision which a man or woman makes.

With the development of information technology, choosing a career has become a difficult task. Indeed, choosing a career is as crucial as choosing a life partner because it is a process that lasts a lifetime. Just as it is difficult to be happy when the wrong marital partner is picked, it is also difficult to be happy if one's job is not adequately planned (Bedu-Addo, 2000). According to Hewitt (2010), most people are influenced by their parents' preferred careers in order to minimize domestic discord. Similarly, according to Taylor (2004), children may pick what their parents want solely to please them. The youth are perplexed as to why their parents still regard them as children incapable of making their own judgments.

In reference to career preferences, lots of advantages are there. An individual's favorite career acts like a stimulus for the better result in that relevant field. By choosing a right career option students get satisfaction in the life and can create new innovation in their selected field. In the above discussion we can conclude if someone does not choose his/her right career then he/she will be in a dilemma that where they should go so it will be the wastage of their money as well as time, therefore preferring a career of their own choice and interest is very essential for students.

Career 'choice' is a complex phenomenon that can be better appreciated through a study of its key components, i.e. career and choice. Dating back to the seminal works of Hughes (1937) and Goffman (1968), career has been the focus of many studies. However, the contemporary formulations of the concept by critical realists embody a layered conception that embraces subjective experiences and objective structures of work in interplay (Layder, 1993).

Career decisions are difficult to make and have far-reaching and long-term repercussions that aren't always clear (Hiebert, 2009). Because the context in which professional decisions are made is complex, many people want support in exploring options and considering the repercussions of various choices (Hiebert, 2009). According to Gordon (2000), there were 190,000 open jobs in the United States, but employers were unable to fill them because they lacked the necessary qualifications. People are being educated for the wrong future, he claims. He went on to say that few young people envision themselves working in the service, craft, or technological industries,



despite government expectations that these industries would be the most productive in terms of producing new jobs. This implies that students do not get well informed guidance in terms of the job market. It is against this background that the study was set out to investigate the influence of gender on career choice among senior secondary school students in Maiduguri Metropolis, Borno State.

### **Objectives of the Study**

The objectives of the study are to determine:

- i. Factors affecting career choice among senior secondary schools students in Maiduguri Metropolis, Borno State.
- ii. Factors influencing career choice among senior secondary schools students in Maiduguri Metropolis, Borno State.
- iii. Influence of gender on career choice among senior secondary schools students in Maiduguri Metropolis, Borno State.

### **Research Questions**

The following research questions were answered:

- i. What are the factors affecting career choice among senior secondary schools students in Maiduguri Metropolis, Borno State?
- ii. What are the factors influencing career choice among senior secondary schools students in Maiduguri Metropolis, Borno State?
- iii. Does gender has influence on career choice among senior secondary schools students in Maiduguri Metropolis, Borno State?

### **Research Hypothesis**

$H_0$ : Gender has no significant influence on career choice among senior secondary schools students in Maiduguri Metropolis, Borno State.

### **Materials and Methods**

The research design adopted was a survey research design. According to Ngworgu (1991), a survey research design is generally conceived as one which a group of people or terms is studying by collecting and analyzing data from a few people or item considered been a representative of the entire groups. The population of the study covers all secondary school students in Maiduguri



Metropolitan Council, Borno State. This research considered the entire students in those schools as target of this research. Four schools were selected by simple randomization. The sample schools cut across both Government (public) secondary schools and private secondary schools. Senior secondary school students (SSII) served as the subject of the study. Twenty five (25) students were randomly selected from each school making a total sample of one-hundred students across the four schools.

A self-developed questionnaire was used for data collection. The research design adopted was a survey research design. According to Ngworgu (1991), a survey research design is generally conceived as one which a group of people or terms is studying by collecting and analyzing data from a few people or item considered been a representative of the entire groups. The research is designed to obtain information concerning the current status or phenomena, this research method implies seeking for information from a group or selected individual about issues, events and relationship concerning a large group.

The population of the study covers all secondary school students in Maiduguri Metropolitan Council, Borno State. This research considered the entire students in those schools as target of this research. Four schools were selected by simple randomization. The sample schools cut across both Government (public) secondary schools and private secondary schools. Senior secondary school students (SSII) served as the subject of the study. Twenty five (25) students were randomly selected from each school making a total sample of one-hundred students across the four schools. The research instrument used in collecting relevant data was structured questionnaire. The questionnaire was designed by the researcher and verified by the supervisor. A total number of twenty-five (25) questionnaires were administered to each of the four (4) randomly selected secondary schools. The researcher visited all the sampled schools to administer the instrument with the authority letter signed by the head of department and address to the principal. The questionnaires were then received back after completion by the students of the four secondary schools in Maiduguri Metropolitan Council for further statistical analysis.

Data collected from the questionnaire were analyzed using tables, frequency counts, multiple bar-chart, pie-chart and simple percentages to answer the research questions. The items of the questionnaire were scored from positive to negative and the frequencies of the positive and



negative were noted and tabulated. A total number of twenty-five (25) questionnaires were administered to each of the four (4) schools under study.

Data collected from the questionnaire were analyzed using tables, frequency counts, multiple bar-chart, pie-chart and simple percentages to answer the research questions. The research hypothesis was tested using Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient to determine the influence of gender on career choice among senior secondary school students.

## Results

**Research Question One:** What are the factors affecting career choice among secondary schools in Maiduguri Metropolis?

**Table 1: Factors affecting career choice among senior secondary school students in Maiduguri Metropolis, Borno State**

| S/N | STATEMENT  | RESPONSES   |             |             |             |
|-----|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|     |  | SA          | AG          | DA          | SD          |
| 1   | I chose this field because I am confident that I will give my best here.                     | 16<br>(16%) | 47<br>(47%) | 21<br>(21%) | 16<br>(16%) |
| 2   | I chose this course because I fulfilled the merit requirement.                               | 17<br>(17%) | 48<br>(48%) | 23<br>(23%) | 12<br>(12%) |
| 3   | I chose this field because I was inspired /advised by my teachers.                           | 22<br>(22%) | 37<br>(37%) | 27<br>(27%) | 14<br>(14%) |
| 4   | I chose this field because my teachers made me feel that I could succeed in this occupation. | 26<br>(26%) | 48<br>(48%) | 17<br>(17%) | 9<br>(9%)   |
| 5   | I chose this field because its working conditions suit me well.                              | 19<br>(19%) | 38<br>(38%) | 25<br>(25%) | 18<br>(18%) |

Results from table 1 revealed that 63% of the respondents agreed that they chose their field because they are confident that they will give their best in the field while 37% of the respondents disagreed. 65% of the respondents agreed that they chose their course of study because they had the requirements while 35% of the respondents disagreed. 59% of the respondents agreed that the choice of their field was based on the advice of their teachers while 41% of the respondents disagreed. Majority (74%) of the respondents agreed that they chose their course because their teachers made them feel that they can succeed in the occupation and finally, 57% of the respondents agreed that the choice of their course was because of the working condition of that occupation suits them while 43% of the respondents disagreed.



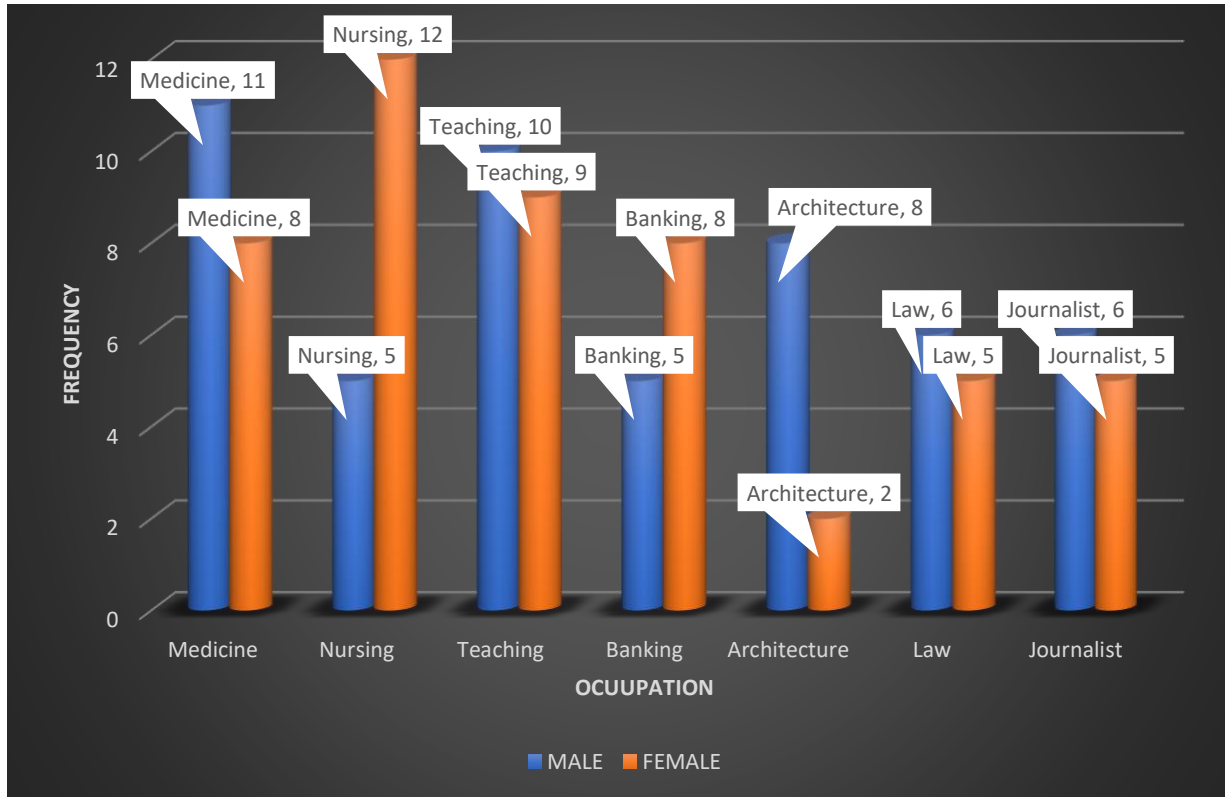
**Research Question Two:** What are the factors influencing career choice among secondary schools in Maiduguri Metropolis?

**Table 2: Factors influencing career choice among senior secondary school students in Maiduguri Metropolis, Borno State**

| S/N | STATEMENT   | RESPONSES   |             |             |             |
|-----|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|     |   | SA          | AG          | DA          | SD          |
| 6   | I chose this field due to influence of print media.                   | 9<br>(9%)   | 11<br>(11%) | 49<br>(49%) | 31<br>(31%) |
| 7   | I chose this field because my parents are/are in the same profession. | 24<br>(24%) | 51<br>(51%) | 16<br>(16%) | 9<br>(9%)   |
| 8   | I chose this field as it is part of my family business.               | 14<br>(14%) | 28<br>(28%) | 36<br>(36%) | 22<br>(22%) |
| 9   | I chose this career because I was inspired by one of my relatives.    | 21<br>(21%) | 48<br>(48%) | 20<br>(20%) | 11<br>(11%) |
| 10  | I chose this field after getting information from internet.           | 6<br>(6%)   | 13<br>(13%) | 49<br>(49%) | 32<br>(32%) |

Results from table 2 revealed that 20% of the respondents agreed that they were influenced by print media in choosing their field while majority (80%) of the respondents' disagreed. 75% of the respondents agreed that their parents profession influenced them in making choice of their field while 25% of the respondents disagreed. 42% of the respondents agreed that their choice of field of study was because of their family business while 58% of the respondents disagreed. 69% of the respondents agreed that their choice of field of study was influenced by their relatives while 31% of the respondents disagreed and finally majority (81%) of the respondents disagreed that their choice of area of study was as a result of getting information from the internet.

**Research Question Three:** Does gender has influence on career choice among secondary schools in Maiduguri Metropolis?



**Figure 4: Multiple Bar-chart showing the career choice of the students based on gender**

Figure four revealed that male students are more inclined to courses like medicines, architecture and law while female students were more inclined to profession such as nursing and banking while profession such as teaching and journalism are common to both male and female students.

**Research Hypothesis:** There was no significant difference in career choice among secondary school students based on gender

**Table 3: Summary of the independent sample t-test on the difference in career choice based on gender**

| Gender | N  | Mean | SD   | df | t    | p-value |
|--------|----|------|------|----|------|---------|
| Male   | 57 | 23.4 | 2.34 | 48 | 4.70 | 0.00    |
| Female | 43 | 18.7 | 3.12 |    |      |         |

Results from table 3 revealed that there was significant difference in career choice among senior secondary school students based on gender because the p-value of 0.00 is less than the level of



significant  $\alpha = 0.05$ . The result further revealed that male students' had mean score of 23.4 which is higher than the female students whose mean score was 18.7.

### **Conclusion and Recommendation**

A career decision is undoubtedly on the most crucial choice in any students' life. New and emerging careers and existing prestigious preferences pose a challenge in making these decisions. Moreover, it requires a balance between the freedom given to the pupil to make an independent decision, and counselling on behalf of the parents and teachers, to share their insight and experience. Exerting pressure and dictatorial attitude may demotivate the students and also lower their performance. The types of jobs that might be relevant to their interests, skills or aspirations should be discussed in a democratic way to avoid problems.

Based on the findings of the study, it was concluded that parents influence and working conditions are some of the factors affecting career choice include among secondary school students, parents' profession, relative advice and peer influence are some of the factors influencing career choice among secondary school students. There was significant difference in career choice among secondary school students base on gender in favour of male students and also professions such as teaching and journalism are common to both male and female students.

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations were made: Students should choose the career which is according to their capabilities and of their interest. The school management/teachers should help the student by making centres of counselling for students thereby making the students to easily understand which career is best for them and also student interest should never be undermined in choosing a career path.

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