

# RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PARENTAL SUPPORT AND CAREER CHOICE AMONG CHIBOK POST PRIMARY SCHOOL YOUTHS IN BORNO STATE, NIGERIA. IMPLICATION FOR CAREER COUNSELLING

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## **Abstract**

*This study investigated the relationship between parental support in terms of financial, material and moral support and career choice among Chibok post primary youths in Borno State, Nigeria. Target population was 1000 youths while the sample size was 300 youths and 100 parents were used for the study. Two research questions and one hypothesis were raised and formulated respectively for the study. Data was analyzed by use of descriptive analysis of simple percentage and inferential statistics of chi-square ( $X^2$ ). Result shows that there is relationship between career choice and parental support among Chibok youths. High number of youths were not given adequate financial and material support. Finding further show that given adequate parental support, Chibok youths would have career choice that covered wide arrears of vocation. The counselling implication is that guidance programmes on career choice and factors related to such be put in place for stakeholders, parents and youths from similar background.*

**Keywords:** Relationship, Parental Support, Career Choice, Career Counselling.

## **Introduction**

A healthy community is that which is properly represented in all walks of life. It is therefore of paramount importance that youths of every community be purposefully guided to make wise career choice, if the community should be vocationally okay.

Career choice is a decision-making process, which includes vocation or job, profession and occupation choice. Career is more than a means of livelihood; it is many years of training and professional ethics. It is described as a sequence of occupation, jobs and positions throughout an individual's working life. One's career determines one's pattern of life generally. Person's social status, income, style of life, choice of friends, his/her mental and physical health are influenced by the job he/she does which are all dependent on his parental support (Mortiner 2012 & Udoh & Sanni, 2012).

Career choice is developmental in nature and it can be influenced by many factors. What is meant here is that, one develops physically, intellectually, emotionally, socially and morally. When he reaches a certain level of educational qualification or achievement, he forms a clear picture of what he is going to do and be in life. These

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processes of development could be seen as career choice and development. The picture the individual forms of himself is said to be influenced by many factors that are both external and internal; self-expression values and people oriented values (Kerka 2010, Alika&Audu 2011, Osa-Edo & Alutu 2011, Stone & Wang 2010 and Keller 2014).

Several literature have revealed that factors like intellectual ability and aptitudes, schooling and education, health or physical well-being, personality, that is self-esteem and gender differences, stereo personality, that is self-concept, self-esteem and gender differences, stereo types and expectation, interest, aspiration, realism, values, needs, family education status and environmental factors or background are closely related to the concept of parental support and could greatly influence gradual career development and choice (Mugenda 2010, Olaitan 2013, & Splaver 2011). Many studies on occupational/career choice among secondary school youths show that the order of career choice runs from business ownership, medical director, company official, lecturer, engineering and accountancy are based on family decision and income (Herbert 2016, Jones & Larke 2011, Orenge 2011 & Clutter, 2010).

In this study, parental support is used to mean the following:-

1. Financial help in forms of payment of school fees and granting of pocket money etc.
2. Material provision like clothing/uniforms, books and other necessities of schooling.
3. Moral support include motivation of different kinds, interest shown in school or academic progress of a child, future dreams and ambition, health and child's well-being, number of visits paid to the students while in school, P.T.A membership etc.

### **Statement of the Problem**

Chibok youths in post primary institutions terminate their educational pursuits during or after post primary studies. Majority of those who choose to continue join either teaching or nursing profession. Since good representation of career choice makes a community rich and prestigious, there is a great need to arrest the eminent problem of career choice among the Chibok youths.

### **Purpose of the Study**

The purpose of this study therefore was to determine the level of parental support given to the Chibok youths and to determine whether inadequate parental support is responsible for their poor choice of career.

### **Research Questions**

1. What are the level of parental supports given to Chibok youths of post primary school in terms of financial, material and moral support?
2. Given significant parental support what could the choice of career among Chibok youths be?

**Hypothesis:** Parental support has no significant effect on career choice among Chibok post-primary youths.

### **Assumption**

The researchers assume that Chibok post primary youths have problems of career choice. There is also the problem of unfavorable parental support given to them while in school.

## Methodology

In investigating the problems, a sample of three hundred (300) students from Government secondary school Damboa, Government Girls' secondary school Chibok and Government Technical College Damboa were randomly selected from a total population of 1000 Chibok youths. One hundred parents from Chibok were also sampled for the study.

The nature of admission and education policy in Borno State, allows about 85% of students to school in their Local Government Areas. This accounts for selection of population and sample of this study from students of the schools selected and 100 parents from Chibok town.

All the students were randomly sampled from JSS 3 and SS3 of each school. JSS 3 and SS 3 were chosen for the study because the Nigerian system of education (9-6-3), makes it clear that the crucial stage for career decision among youths are at the end of JSS 3 and SS 3. So the most likely group of students that think about career choice with degree of seriousness are those in JSS3 and SS3

The second sample of the study was one hundred randomly selected Chibok parents who had their children in any of the post primary schools i.e. the three selected Colleges. Though the educating of the children in Chibok community is the responsibility of the male parents, a significant number of female parents play some roles of educating their children especially in polygamous families. Based on this fact, the researcher selected thirty female parents and seventy male parents as the second sample for the study. The students sampled were labeled sample A while parents were labeled as sample B.

The instrument used for the study was two different sets of questionnaires; one for the students and one for the parents. The questionnaires were designed in such a way that financial, material help or assistance and moral support were tested. Under the financial help of the levels sample A (students' questionnaire) there were ten (10) items while sample B had four (4) Under material help sample A and B had (3) items each and under moral support/concern sample A had ten (10) items while sample B had eleven (11) items.

Data was analyzed under the three major items that formed the concept of parental support that was financial help material provision and moral support/concern. All responses were either positive or negative which were interpreted as maximum or minimum support respectably. Proportional measure that was simple percentage and statistical measure of relationship that is chi-squares ( $X^2$ ) were used to analyze the data.

## Analysis of Result and Discussion

**Question 1:** What are the level of parental supports given to Chibok youths of post primary school in terms of financial, material and moral support?

Data gathered from sample A (students from the three different schools) and sample B parental support in areas of financial help, material provision and moral support gave the result in the following tables below:

**Table A: Proportional Analysis of Support Given to Chibok Youths in Relation to Career Choice.**

**A1, Financial Support**

	No of Students	Maximum support	Minimum Support
GSS Damboa	170	48	122
GSS Chibok	100	23	77
GTC Damboa	30	8	22
Total	306	79=26.3%	221=73.7%

**Table A2: Material Provision**

	No of Students	Maximum support	Minimum Support
GSS Damboa	170	38	132
GSS Chibok	100	22	78
GTC Damboa	30	8	22
Total	300	68=22.7%	232=77.3%

**Table A3 Moral Support/Concern**

	No of Students	Maximum support	Minimum Support
GSS Damboa	170	95	75
GSS Chibok	100	52	48
GTC Damboa	30	14	16
Total	300	61=53.7%	139=46.3%

Table A1, A2, and A3 above show the results obtained from the questionnaire administered to sample A (Chibok youths selected from three different schools for the study). The tables show that the number of youths who are given average or maximum parental support is less compared to those that are given little or no parental support. Under the financial help only seventy-nine (79) i.e 26.3% out of three hundred students were given average/maximum material support while the remaining two hundred and thirty two (232) i.e 77.3% students were given little moral support. One hundred and sixty one (161) i.e 53.7% were given average or maximum support while one hundred and thirty-nine (139) i.e 46.3% were given just little help.

When all the results in table A are therefore summarized, it is evidently clear that more than 70% of the Chibok youths in post primary institutions were not given the desired support that could motivate them for good career choice.

**Table B: Parents' Responses to Questions on Financial Material and Moral Support Given to their Children**

	No of Students	Maximum support	Minimum Support
Financial	100	28	72
Material	100	43	57
Moral	100	42	58
Total	300	114=37	187=62.3%

The summary of data collected from table B above shows that in the area of financial help, only twenty-eight (28) out of the one hundred parents gave help to their children: while the remaining seventy two parents (72) gave little help. Forty three parents (43) of the parents provided adequate material assistance while fifty seven parents (57) gave little financial support. Moral support was given adequately by forty two parents (42) while about fifty eight parents (58) gave little support.

**Question 2.** Given significant parental support, what could the choice of career among Chibok youths be?

**TABLE C: Career Choice among Chibok Youth Given Significant Parent Support**

PROFESSION	NO. OF YOUTHS	PERCENTAGE
Accountancy	1	0.3
Administration	5	1.7
Agriculture	4	1.3
Architecture	32	10.7
Army	2	0.7
Business	3	1.0
Engineering	21	7.0
Journalism	1	0.3
Law	6	2.0
Medicine	70	23.3
Nursing	16	5.3
Pharmacy	3	1.3
Pilot	10	3.3
Sciences	6	2.0
Teaching	94	31.3
Typist	1	0.3
Undecided	21	7.0
Total	300	100%

Table C above shows that given significant parental support, Chibok youths could have gone into various areas of work or career as shown in the table above. Teaching, Medicine, Architecture, are more preferred with 23.3, 31.3 and 10.7 percent respectively. Out of the three hundred youths, only seven could not decide which career they could go for given adequate parental support.

**Null Hypothesis:** - Parental support has no significance effect on career choice or aspiration among Chibok youths in post primary schools in Borno State, Nigeria.

**Table E: Summary Table of Responses to Financial, Martials and Moral Support/Concern and Test of Hypothesis Using Chi-Square (X<sup>2</sup>) Test Statistical Measure.**

ASPIRATION	LEVELS OF SUPPORT GIVEN TO THE YOUTHS			
	FINANCIAL	MATERIAL	MORAL	
High	79(102.7)	68 (102.7)	161 (102.7)	308
Low	221(197.3)	139 (197.3)	692	692
<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>900</b>

The summary of results of the data collected in table A1, A2 and A3 were further used to test the hypothesis so as to determine the level of significance between the Chibok youths' choice of career and parental support given. Table E above show the null hypothesis test using chi-square ( $X^2$ ) test with two degrees of freedom at 05 and 01 levels of significance. The calculated value was 75.57, the critical value at .05 level is 5.99 and at .01 level is 9.21. In both cases, the calculated value was more than the critical or table values. So, the null hypothesis was rejected because the result tells us that parental support has relationship i.e significant effect on career choice among the Chibok youths in post primary schools.

## **Discussion**

The main concern of this study was to investigate the problems that seem to affect the Chibok youths in the area of career choice. When youth just decide not to make progress academically, especially during this period of economic down turn and security challenges, then it is not an unfounded assumption to say that there is a problem of career choice. The findings show that though the Chibok youths had significant moral support, the level of financial and material support were insignificant. This agrees with findings of Clutter (2010) and Kella (2014), that family behaviour and influence affected career choice of youths.

The response to the general question posted to all the students as to what type of career or profession Chibok youths will choose given the adequate parental support shows that there could have been a good representation of career choice provided as adequate parental support were given. The study further confirmed the assumption that poor career choice and decision making are responsible for the great number of drop-out among Chibok youths. This study has also revealed that there is relationship between the types of parental support given to youths and poor career choice. This is not to say that every Chibok parents have neglected their children since morally they give adequate moral support to their children. Financially and materially, Chibok youths are given adequate support. There could be some reasons for the inadequate support. Perhaps other studies should be carried out to find out the relationship between parents' level of income and the amount of support they can actually give to their children in schools.

## **Implications for Career Counselling**

Career choice is a term which embrace a cluster of services including testing, personal data collection, vocational information service all aimed at helping a person to understand "self" and to take appropriate steps in educational, occupational and life planning generally.

Career counselling is one of the three important services given by Guidance Counsellors. In giving career counselling to an individual client, the counsellors consider nearly everything about the client like intellectual ability, physical, social, emotional and individual's interest and needs. This is what is supposed to be done, but more often than not most of the para-counsellors in many secondary schools do not know or tend to forget that all actions have motivating factors, so also career choice. It is worth noting by career counsellors that it is not enough to look at the individual client's intellectual, social and physical disposition, so as to guide him towards career choice, but also to establish the factor behind this individual's disposition especially the families' affluence (Keller 2014).

The counsellors can therefore in addition to the normal group/individual counselling do, embark on the following activities that could facilitate career choice and development among youths.-

1. Organization of seminars and workshops to different classes of students depending on their needs and standard in relation to career is essential. They could invite some resource persons to give lectures on areas like the type of education or information students coming into the school freshly need in relation to career choice and support needed in building career etc. This should be part of orientation, which can give a good guideline on how youths take their studies seriously. Besides, the counsellor should be aware of the fact that not all students that come to school are from rich parents nor are they all from parents that value education. So, entrepreneurial skill could be given to all youths regardless of their background on issues related to development of independence and self-support programmes. This will enable to continue with their studies, especially for those whose parents cannot or do not support them.
2. Government school Counsellors should organize advocacy stating the importance of counsellors at all levels of development. This gives the counsellor the opportunity to forward some kind of memoranda to the government concerning giving scholarships to considerable number of intelligent secondary school students that are in danger of stopping their education pursuits due to lack of parental support. In this case, the counsellors are expected to submit the criteria for such sponsorship.
3. Guidance programmes for parents with the aim of making them realize the importance of adequate parental support to their children should be in place. Counsellors can make this possible through stake-holders like community leaders and Local Government assistance and Parent Teachers Association (PTA).
4. Counsellors should be able to liaise with the rich individuals of the community and companies so as to develop some kind of 'helping scheme' for disadvantaged students to have equal opportunity for successful career choice.

## Conclusion

If the Chibok youths are to choose professions or careers that are worthwhile and that which will make them reasonable citizens of the nation, and if the community is to be saved from the embarrassment of becoming a professionally homogeneous society, (a trend to occur in the near future due to unwise career choice) then the entire community need a change of attitude towards helping the youths.

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