

INFLUENCE OF PARENTAL CAREER ON THE PSYCHOSOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN AWKA SOUTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF ANAMBRA STATE

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ABSTRACT

This study was on the influence of parental career on the psychosocial development of secondary school students in Awka South Local Government Local Government Area of Anambra State. The descriptive survey design was used for the study. The area of study was Awka North Local government Area of Anambra State. The populations of the study were all senior secondary (SSI) year one students in Awka North Local Government Area of Anambra State during the 2024 /2025 academic year. The sample size consisted of 650 students obtained using simple random sampling techniques. The reliability of the instrument was obtained using test-retest method and the data obtained was calculated using Pearson product moment of correlation to obtain a reliability coefficient of (x) 0.75. Three research assistants helped in the distribution and collection of the instrument. All the distributed instruments were retrieved two research questions guided the study and the data obtained were analyzed using mean scores and standard deviation scores. Marks below the expected mean mark of 2.50 were rejected as poor influence. The findings of the study revealed among others that psychosocial adaption comprising of psychological and social adaptations of the school children is greatly influenced by the parental career. The following recommendations among others were made and they include: There is need to train more counsellors to respond to the challenges of students whose parental career influences are negative. Parents having low career status should be privileged in-service programs to beef up their career status.

Keywords: Influence, Parental Career, Psychosocial Development, Secondary School Students, Counsellors.

INTRODUCTION

Parent is defined as the father and mother of an offspring that creates their infant biologically. Parents are the man and woman that beget the individual. (Okudo, Obumse and Nwudu, 2023). Ifejirofor (2018) stated that parents are the man and woman charged with the duty of parenting and socialization of the infant. In order to carry out parenting roles effectively both parents, or either of the two especially the man must engage in a career which enables them make adequate provision for their growing children. Okudo (2022) noted that the provision of temporal and other material needs of every growing child is the responsibility and necessary obligation of the parents.

Based on the above, the term career according to Kolo (2019) is a job an individual takes which at the same time makes them financially buoyant for meeting varying needs. Parental career will therefore imply those jobs parents take in order to carry out effectively and efficiently the acculturation and socialization of their wards. Through such acts such as socialization, parenting and acculturation they influence the development of their wards and one among the significant domain of influence is the psychosocial development of the child.

Psychosocial development according to Okudo and Obumse (2022) is an adaptation that anchors on the psychological and social development of a young child to enhance palpable adjustments that will make these adolescents experience good adaptations. They include the social and psychological aspects of guidance children receive from their parents to enable good adjustment. Arimasatu and Aremu (2015), Ironkwe (2021) noted these social development variables to include things such as encouraging excursion, recreations, holidays trips, celebrations of birthdays/ anniversary, participating in communal activities, organizing communal programs etc. On the other hand, the following has been noted as the psychological adaptation variables impacted on the children by the parents and they include given incentives and motivations, encouraging good image of self, helping you appreciate changes in your body, given affirmation, discussing sex matters, giving of constructive criticism etc. the above and other seeming examples are the duties parents perform in order to support, guide, motivate and or challenge their children towards the achievement of their goals which aids proper development. Very often, the failure or success of parents to encourage their children's psycho-social development is influenced by several factors amongst which are the types of career engaged by the parents. Parental career choices can impact a child's social development in various ways such that parents in certain career may have different social circles. These social circles may create interaction and opportunities to their children. Apart from creating opportunities, parental career expectations and values may influence child socialization and career aspirations. Some children may enter into a career based on the expectations of their parents. Furthermore parental career can shape the identity of the young adult and role model such a person into a possession of very high esteem of self thus affecting the individual's future aspirations. Also students may look up to their parents and decide to follow after their career. It is very common among Nigerians to find parents having children aspiring to their profession. Equally pertinent is the influence of parental career on the educational aspirations and achievement of the young child. It has been discovered that parents of children having high career profile because of their levels of education can also inspire their children/wards to academic excellence and consequently influencing the career aspiration. It is in view of the above that this study is focused on determining the influence of parental career on the psychosocial development of their children.

Statement of the Problem

What parents do and what they are not doing to support adolescent adaptations/.development is replete and topical in most literatures (Okudo & Obumse, 2023). Some of these parents have been noted to show little or no interest in the life adjustments of their growing children. They do not monitor, encourage and support their children's social and psychological development. The attentions of some of these parents tend to concentrate majorly on the pursuit of career (good remunerations, better jobs, conferences and seminars) never spending quality time with their children. Based on the above, the children complain of misplaced priority and neglect by their parents who prefers pursuit of career. Most of these

parents do not have time for the socialization of the children thereby creating gaps in their life adjustment. In view of the above challenges and problems the researcher sets out to determine the influence of parent's career on the psychosocial development of secondary school students in Awka North Local Government Area of Anambra State.

Purpose of the Study

The main purpose of the study is to examine the influence of parental career on the psychosocial development of secondary school students from Awka North Local Government Area. The study sought specifically to determine:

- a. The influence of career of parents on the social development of students.
- b. The influence of career of parents on the psychological development of students.

Research Questions

1. What is the influence of parent's career on social development of the students?
2. What is the influence of the parent's career on the psychological development of the students?

Method

The descriptive survey design was used for the study. The area of study was Awka North Local government Area of Anambra State. The populations of the study were all senior secondary (SSI) year one students in Awka North Local Government Area of Anambra State during the 2024 /2025 academic year. The sample size consisted of 650 students obtained using simple random sampling techniques. The reliability of the instrument was obtained using test-retest method and the data obtained was calculated using Pearson product moment of correlation to obtain a reliability co-efficient of (x) 0.75. Three research assistants helped in the distribution and collection of the instrument. All the distributed instruments were retrieved two research questions guided the study and the data obtained were analyzed using mean scores and standard derivation scores. Marks below the expected mean mark of 2.50 were rejected as poor influence.

Results

The data obtained from the study were analyzed and summaries presented in the table format as follows:

Research Question One: What is the influence of parent's career on the social development of the children?

Table one: Mean and standard deviation scores on the influence of parental career on the social development of the children

S/N	Items on Parental Career on Social Development	$\bar{x}$	SD	$\sum \frac{\bar{x}}{n}$	Decision
1	My parents job positions have significant influences on my interaction with peers	2.72	0.68		
2	My parents job positions affectively influences my communication	2.89	0.71		
3	My parents job position elicit interest on how I feel meeting people	2.69	0.74		

4	My parents job positions impacts heavily on my social experience	2.70	0.67
5	Job positions of my parents influence my social interaction	3.01	0.73
6	Job positions of my parents affects my relationship with them	2.96	0.69
7	Job positions of my parents help me to be of good service to others	3.12	0.65
8	My parents job position helps me participate in family dialogue	2.87	0.73
9	Job position of my parents grant me ability to organize social ceremony	2.69	0.65
10	Job position of my parents encourages recreations and holiday trips	3.90	0.76
		2.87	

n = 650

The table above revealed the adolescents opinion rating on the influence of parental career towards their social development. The table also revealed that all the items were rated above the mean score with an average mean mark of 2.87

Research question two: What is the influence of parental career on the social development of the students?

Table Two: Mean and standard deviation scores on the influence of parental career and psychological development.

S/N	Items on Parental Career on Psychological Development	$\bar{x}$	SD	$\sum \frac{\bar{x}}{n}$	Decision
1	Job Status have positive influence on my self esteem	2.78	0.73		
2	Job status have positive influence on my level of self confidence	2.92	0.71		
3	Job status of parents encourages my feeling of security	2.89	0.68		
4	Impacts greatly on my concern about the future	2.75	0.74		
5	Enables me exhibit positive behaviors	2.93	0.69		
6	Shows me enough emotional support in difficult times	2.84	0.75		
7	Job positions influences my desired career	2.97	0.72		
8	Influences my personal interest	2.89	0.67		
9	Enables them give incentives	2.76	0.72		
10	Job status motivates me to work hard	3.01	0.76		
					2.87

n = 650

The results from table two above revealed that all the items used to measure the influence of parental career on the psychological development of students were scores above the mean score. It also recorded an average mean score of 2.87.

Discussion of Findings

The study was on the influence of parental career on the psychosocial (psychological and social) development of secondary school children from Awka North Local Government Area of Anambra State. The findings of the study were discussed in line with the themes under the purpose of study which sought to determine the influence of parental career on the social and psychological development of the school children.

Concerning the influence of parental career on the social development of school children from Awka North Local Government Area of Anambra State, the table one which sought to determine such influence revealed the school children's ratings of items in the parental career influence to social development to be above the acceptable mean score (2.50). The table further revealed an average mean score of 2.87. items such as, have significant influence on my interactions with peers (2.72), effectively influences communication (2.89) influences social interaction (3.01) helps me to be of good service to others (3.12) participate in family dialogue (2.87).

On the influence of parental career on the school children's psychological development, the table two revealed the adolescents rating of the items to be above the acceptable mean score with an average mean of 2.87. Thus indicating that parental career has influence on the school children's psychosocial development. This is in line with the views of Okudo and Obumse (2022), Ironkwe (2021) Arimasatu and Aremu (2015). These all noted that parental career can impact on the lives their young children in various ways among which is their psychosocial development.

Conclusion

The study was on the influence of parental career on the psychosocial development of secondary school children. Parental career is any financially empowering job engaged by parents to enable family sustenance. Psychosocial development is the psychological and social adaptations that facilitate good adjustment. The findings of the study revealed that psychosocial adaption of the school children is greatly influenced by the parental career.

Recommendations

1. Seminars and conferences are necessary especially for low income earning parents to custom-up their career influences on dependants.
2. There is need to train more counsellors to respond to the challenges of students whose parental career influences are negative.
3. Parents having low career status should be privileged in-service programs to beef up their career status.

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