

# American Journal of Education and Practice (AJEP)



**Parental, Peers and Teachers' Factors as Correlates of  
Career Choice among Adekunle Ajasin University  
Undergraduates, Ondo State, Nigeria**

*Ojewola, Florence O. Ph.D*



## Parental, Peers and Teachers' Factors as Correlates of Career Choice among Adekunle Ajasin University Undergraduates, Ondo State, Nigeria

 **Ojewola, Florence O. Ph.D**

Department of Guidance and Counselling, Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba- Akoko, Ondo State, Nigeria

Corresponding Author's Emails: florence.ojewola@aaua.edu.ng, fojewola@gmail.com



*Submitted 16.04.2024 Revised Version Received 21.05.2024 Accepted 28.06.2024*

### Abstract

**Purpose:** The study investigated parental, peers and teachers' factors as correlates of career choice among Adekunle Ajasin University undergraduates in Ondo State, Nigeria.

**Materials and Methods:** Correlational survey research design was adopted for this study. The population of this study consisted of all Adekunle Ajasin University undergraduates. The sample consisted 296 respondents randomly selected from eight faculties in the University. Simple random sampling technique was used to select six faculties while purposive sampling procedure was used to select fifty respondents from each of the six faculties. A total of 296 respondents were used for the study. A self-designed instrument was used to collect Information on parental, peers and teachers' factors as correlates of career choice among AAUA students. Four hypotheses were generated and tested at 0.05 level of significance. Regression and Pearson Product Moment Correlation were the statistical tools employed to test the hypotheses in the study.

**Findings:** The findings indicated that there were joint contributions of Peers', teachers' and parental influence on the career choice of AAUA students. The result indicated that the students of AAUA were influenced by their peers in their career choice. The influence of parents' and teachers' were not prominent in the career choice of AAUA students. Therefore, it is concluded that peers, parental and teachers' factors collectively influenced the career choice of AAUA students.

**Implications to Theory, Practice and Policy:** It was recommended that parents and teachers need to encourage their children in their choice of career and be careful not to force any career on them. Career guidance and counselling should be made available to the young people so as to assist them in choosing correct and proper career that they have passion for.

**Keywords:** *Parents, Peers, Teachers, Career Choice, Undergraduate*

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The choice of career seems to be very crucial to the adolescent's overall development and well-being. What an individual will become in life to a large extent will be predetermined by the choice of career he/she chooses. The career choice that an individual chooses from will determine what he will become in life, where he/she will live, the people he will associate with and the type of life style that individual will invariably live. The ability, interest, aptitude and potentiality of a student will go a long way to showcase the type of career he will definitely choose from. A student who does not have interest and ability in calculation may not choose a career related to engineering or accounting. While a person who is good in literary things may end up choosing career related to such field. There are many undergraduates who are studying the courses that they are current pursuing due either influence of their parents', peers or teachers'.

The role of parents peers and teachers cannot be over emphasised in the adolescents' choice of career. According to Trost and Levin (2000) family influences the behaviour or character of a child. Therefore, parents play an invaluable or considerable role in laying the foundation of their children's career (Tella, 2003). Many parents especially during the formative years of their children, encourage them by laying good foundation for the career they will later pursue in life. The well-educated parents buy toys that their children love to play with so as to enhance their creativity. It is observed that the more intensively parents are involved in their children's learning, the more beneficiary are the achievement of such children (Wikelund, 2006). Thus, parents must not run away from their responsibilities to their children if they will achieve greatly especially in their choice of relevant career which is related to their ability, aptitude, interest and potentiality. Hence students require guidance from their parents but they should not be forced into career that is not their choice or what they desire to study in life. Thus, parental influence either positively or negatively could help to shape their children career choice (Durisic & Bunijevac, 2017; McQueerry, 2017; Akosah-Twumasi et al, 2018).

When parents monitor home-work and assignment, encourage participation in extracurricular activities and are active in parents-teachers association and often assist their children to plan and develop their future life such children are likely to respond positively academically. It is also asserted that parental influence exerts a lot of impact on the educational attainment of the adolescent most especially the socioeconomic status of the parents. It is reported that when the girl-child drops out of school the possibility of re-entry into school could be enhanced if the adolescent girl is from the high socioeconomic status family (Alika & Egbochuku, 2009).

Research effort have attempted to find if there is relationship between career preference of students and parental involvement. Alika (2010) researched on whether school, students, parents and peer groups have any influence on the adolescents' career choices among 12<sup>th</sup> grade students. Brown (2014) investigated the influence of parents on their children professional choices in several selected schools in Ondo State (Ondo West Local Government Area). The findings revealed that parents did not encourage their children to study a course other than the one they had selected and they simply gave their children advice on what subjects to offer. Olaosebikan and Olusakin (2014) researched on the impact of parents on secondary school students' professional choices in Lagos State Badagry Local Government Area. The result revealed that adolescents in secondary schools

in Badagry Local Government Area of Lagos State have some degree of professional choice independence.

Mwaa (2016) investigated the impact of parental influences on high school students' career choices in Nairobi County. The findings revealed that a high parental educational level has a considerable impact on students' professional choices. Udoh and Sanni (2012) investigated on the influence of parental background variables on the career choice of secondary school students in Uyo Local Government Area of Nigeria. Descriptive research design was adopted for the study. The findings revealed that parents' level of formal education exert a significant influence on the career choices of the secondary school students.

The peer group that an individual belongs to can influence his/her career decision in life. Some students at times choose subjects based on the fact that it is what their friends are doing. Pummel, Harwood and Lavalley (2018) reiterated that external influences tend to help to shape individual career choice all these are influenced by significant individual especially the peer group and other people that the adolescents relate with. Njeri (2013) researched on factor that influence career aspiration among undergraduate students in public Universities in Kenya. He determined the influence of peer groups on students' career aspiration, 500 students were used as samples in the study. The result indicated that 14.4% of the female students were influenced by their peers in their career choice while 35.6% of them did choose their career based on personal interest. The result further showed that 20% of the males were influenced by their peer, while 30% choose out of their personal interest. The result indicated that the males were influenced more by their peers than females. Issa and Nwalo (2008) concluded that boys and girls are positively influenced unequal measure by their friends' interest in computer science. Whereas, boys seem not to be affected negatively by their friends' lack of interest in the discipline as much as girls do. Peer influence in career choice cannot be under estimated and it was found that many adolescents are found to be influenced in varieties of ways, through peer counselling, peer interaction, peer advice and peer relationship (Faiter & Faiter, 2013; Abbasi & Sarwat, 2014; Kimiti & Mwova, 2012; Alika, 2010).

Ugoji and Ihegbu (2000) investigated on the influence of peer group and sex on career choice of secondary school students. The study is a correlational survey research design among secondary school students in Delta Central Senatorial District. The sample consisted of 500 senior secondary school students 3 selected from eight Local Government Area. The result revealed that there is a significant relationship between peer group influence and the career choice of secondary school students. A study by low, Ng, Hul and Cai (2017) in Australia found that 38.4 % of students who want to choose teaching as a career were influenced by their school teachers or family members who are teachers. This suggest that both teachers and parents have potential possibility to influence their learners on the type of career to choose. The study by Igere (2014) in Nigeria found that 43.9 % students agreed that they were influenced by their teachers towards their career choice. Therefore, teachers and parents have significant role to play toward the career choice of their students. The study by Koech *et al* (2016) in Kenya found that High school teachers advice, mentor and role model, have influence on career choice of students.

Peace (2017) found that in Uganda 11% of male students identified the influence of teachers as a factor that contributed to students' selection of a career. Another study in Nigeria by Akinjide and Sehinde (2011) found that teachers' role in motivating and influencing student toward career

choice preparedness can be realized in different way like the quality of teaching, social interaction with students, punctuality to school and classes, teachers' conduct and behaviour in school. Therefore, in career choice preparedness, teachers have a role to collaborate with parents in making clear and valuable decisions for future career choice of the adolescents. Therefore, parents and teachers are mostly significant and play great roles in helping students through effective career education because they spend most of their time with students' at school and home. It is observed that the issue of parental, peers and teachers' factors are very crucial in the career choice of most adolescents the students of AAUA are equally not exempted. Thus, there is the need to study and investigate parental, peers and teachers' factors as correlates of career choice among Adekunle Ajasin University undergraduates, Ondo State, Nigeria.

### **Statement of the Problem**

The career that an individual choose will determine a lot of things concerning the life of an individual. The type of life one will live, the kind of people one will relate with the environment and society that they will live in. Thus, the importance of career choice in the life of an individual cannot be overemphasized. The impact of parents', peers and teachers' in the choice of career that an individual is involved in choosing from is crucial and essential to the individual. Often parents tend to force their career desires on their children without considering the fact that children also have their own desired career choice. Many times parents do not think about the interest, aptitude and ability of their children before deciding on the kind of career that they force on them. At other times adolescents' choice of career is being sponsored by the peer group that they belong to. Thus, the type of peer group that the adolescents' have determined so many things about what becomes of their future.

The teachers' influence in the choice of adolescent career cannot be underestimated through adequate teaching and learning that the school expose them to. Many times the advice giving by teachers and creation of awareness on the available jobs and the requirement to study such courses serve as eye opener to many students' in their choice of vocation. Since there seems to be many students that are already in the university especially those in AAUA who are currently studying some courses not necessarily because of their interest or ability but were influenced due to either their parents, peers or teachers. Against this background this research seeks to examine parental, peers and teachers' influence as correlates of career choice among Adekunle Ajasin University Students.

### **Research Hypotheses**

The following null hypotheses were tested at 0.05 level of significance

- i. There is no significant relationship between the joint contributions of parental, peers and teachers' on career choice among AAUA students'.
- ii. There is no significant relationship between peers influence and the career choice of Adekunle Ajasin University Students.
- iii. There is no significant relationship between teachers' influence and the career choice of Adekunle Ajasin University Students.
- iv. There is no significant relationship between parental influence and the career choice of Adekunle Ajasin University students.

## 2.0 MATERIALS AND METHODS

The researcher adopted a correlational survey research design. The correlational survey research design is adopted because the researcher was interested in studying the relationship between parental, peer group and teachers' influence on career choice among the undergraduate of Adekunle Ajasin University Students. The population consisted of all the undergraduate students of Adekunle Ajasin University. Simple random sampling technique was adopted to select six faculties from the eight. Purposive sampling techniques was adopted to select 50 respondents each from the six faculties, thus a total of 296 respondents were used for the research study.

The instrument that was used in this study is a self-developed questionnaire it contains five subsections which involves, the section for demography information about the respondents, Career Choice Questionnaire, Parental Influence Questionnaire, Peers' Influence Questionnaire and Teachers Influence Questionnaire. The items in the questionnaire contains 10 items in each subsection, totaling 30 items. The item was on four Likert scale rating of- Very much true of me-4, generally true of me-3, Rarely true of me-2, Never true of me-1. The instrument used was subjected to both content and face validities by given it to experts in Guidance and Counselling and Test and Measurement to examine the suitability. To establish the reliability of the instrument it was administered to students of Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, Ogbomoso, who will not participate in the study. The instrument was administered twice to the same group of people at an interval of two weeks. Pearson Product Moment Correlation was used to analyse the two scores. The correlation coefficient value of 0.76, 0.72, 0.68 and 0.74 were obtained for each of the subsections. The value was considered high enough to confirm that the instrument is reliable.

The questionnaire was administered to the students by the researcher and with the help of some research assistance. The students were assured of confidentiality in all the information given and that it was needed for the purpose of research only. The data collected were analysed using inferential statistics, which include Pearson Product Moment Correlation and Regression statistics at 0.05 level of significance.

## 3.0 FINDINGS

H<sub>01</sub>: There is no significant joint contributions of parental, peers and teachers' factor on career choice among AAUA students.

The result in table 1 is showing the joint contributions of peers' parental and teachers influence on career choice among AAUA students.

**Table 1: Summary of Regression Analysis Showing the Significant Relationship between Peers, Parental and Teachers’ Influence on Career Choice among AAUA Students’**

	Coefficients		Beta	T	Sig	R	R <sup>2</sup>	F	P value
	B	Std. Error							
(Constant)	2.738	.665		4.115	.000				
TEACHERS’	.009	.018	.036	.514	.607				
PEERS’	.030	.015	.139	2.005	.046	.149 <sup>a</sup>	.022	2.219	0.06
PARENTAL	-.011	.016	-.045	-.703	.483				

a. Dependent Variable: Career choice

b. Predictors: (Constant), Teachers’ Peers, Parental

\* Significant at 05 alpha (P>0.05, df 295)

The regression analysis at a significance level of 0.05 reveals a statistically significant relationship between peers, parental, teachers’ influence on career choices among the AAUA students’. The model summary indicates an overall R-squared value of 0.149, suggesting that approximately 2.2% of the variability in career choices (dependent variable) can be explained by the combination of peers, parental, and teachers’ influence (independent variables) in the model (R= .149, R<sup>2</sup>= .022, P= .22 <0.05).

H<sub>02</sub>: There is no significant relationship between peers influence and the career choice of Adekunle Ajasin University Students.

To test this hypothesis data collected on peers’ influence on career choice among AAUA students were analysed using PPMC and tested at 0.05 level of significance.

**Table 2: Summary of Pearson Product Moment Correlation on the Relationship between Peers’ Influence and Career Choice of AAUA Students’**

	N	df	r	P
Peer Influence	296			
Career Choice	296	294	0.142	0.014

The Pearson Product Moment Correlation coefficient was employed to examine the association between peer influence and career choice among AAUA students. The sample size (N) for both variables was 296. The Pearson correlation coefficient (r) was determined to be 0.142. The findings demonstrate a positive yet low relationship between peer influence and career choice, implying that as peer influence intensifies, there is a little inclination for career choice to correspondingly increase. However, despite its low relationship, the observed correlation holds statistical significance due to the p-value of 0.014, which falls below the standard threshold of 0.05 level of significance. Thus, there is a significant relationship between peer influence and career choice among AAUA students’.

H<sub>03</sub>: There is no significant relationship between teachers' influence and the career choice of Adekunle Ajasin University Students.

To test this hypothesis data collected on teachers' influence on career choice of AAUA students were subjected to PPMC and tested at 0.05 alpha level of significance.

**Table 3: Summary of Pearson Product Moment Correlation on the Relationship between Teachers' Influence and Career Choice**

	N	Df	r	P
School Influence	296	294	.092	0.115
Career Choice	296			

The Pearson Product Moment Correlation was used to analyze the relationship between teachers' influence and career choice. The sample size (N) for both variables was 296. The Pearson Correlation Coefficient (r) was calculated to be 0.092. This represents a positive but very weak correlation between teachers' influence and career choice, suggesting that as the teachers' influence increases, there's a slight tendency for career choice to also increase, though the relationship is not strong. The p-value is 0.115, which is greater than the commonly accepted threshold of 0.05 for statistical significance. This indicates that the correlation is not statistically significant. There is no relationship between teachers' influence and career choice among AAUA students.

H<sub>04</sub>: There is no significant relationship between parental influence and the career choice of Adekunle Ajasin University students.

To test this result the data collected were analysed using PPMC.

**Table 4: Summary of Pearson Product Moment Correlation on the Relationship between Parental Influence and Career Choice**

	N	Df	r	P
Parental Influence	296	294	.017	0.772
Career Choice	296			

The Pearson Product Moment Correlation was utilised to investigate the relationship between parental influence and career choice. The Pearson Correlation Coefficient (r) was calculated to be .017. This value represents a very weak positive correlation between parental influence and career choice, suggesting that as parental influence increases, there is a very slight tendency for career choice to also increase. However, the strength of this relationship is negligible. However, the p-value is 0.772, which is significantly greater than the conventional threshold of 0.05 for statistical significance. This means that the observed correlation is not statistically significant, hence, the results suggest a very weak and non-statistically significant positive relationship between parental influence and career choice. This implies that, within this sample, parental influence does not have a significant impact on career choice.



## Discussion

The result showed that there was a significant joint contribution between peers, teachers' and parental influence on career choice of Adekunle Ajasin students. This could probably be due to the fact that the influence of these group of people on the adolescents' career choice cannot be overemphasized in the lives of these young people. It was also found that relationship existed between peers influence and career choice among AAUA students'. This lend credence to the findings of Njeri (2013) that observed that 20% males and 14.4% females were influenced by their peers in their choice of career. Issa and Nwalo (2008); Faiter and Faiter (2013) all asserted that adolescents are often influence by their peers through counsel, advice, peer relationship and peer interaction. The result is probably like this because adolescents' tend to trust and rely on the advice and counsel from people of their age.

The result also indicated no relationship between the influence of teachers' and career choice of AAUA students. Some teachers teach, counsel and instruct their students, but some students may not be willing and ready to accept what they are being told. These students may want to take the crucial decision of choosing their career by themselves. This result is contrary to the findings of Low et al (2017) that found that 38.45% of students who want to study teaching as a career were influenced by their school teachers. The findings of Igere (2014) also agreed that 43.9% students agreed that they were influenced by their teachers towards their career choice.

It was also found that there was no relationship between the parental influence and career choice among AAUA students'. This is could be due to the fact that many parents like forcing their ideas and desires on their children. But most children now want to be independent and to be able to personally take decision that has to do with their lives. This is supported by the findings of Olaosebikan and Olusakin (2014) that found that adolescents in Lagos State had some degree of professional choice independence. Brown (2014) also affirmed that parents did not force their children to choose any course except for those ones that they chose by themselves.

## 4.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### Conclusion

The following conclusion were drawn from the study.

- i. Peers, parental and teachers' collectively influenced career choice of AAUA students.
- ii. There was relationship between peer group influence and career choice among AAUA students.
- iii. There was no relationship between teachers' influence and career choice of AAUA students.
- iv. There was no relationship between parental influence and career choice. Of AAUA students.

### Recommendations

The importance that peers, teachers' and parents' play in the career choice of the adolescents is very significant to the future of these young ones. There is the great tendency that help and assistance provided by these group can enhance the adolescents' career choice in life. Why on the

other hand bad counsel can equally make the adolescents choose wrongly. Thus, adolescents should be wise in decision making. Peers are very relevant in the lives of these young people, this is probably why it is expedient for adolescents to have good and reliable friends that will help them to make inform decision about their career choice in life.

Teachers are significant in assisting the adolescents' in making well inform decision about their career choice. Some students may not be able to attain much in life without the support and encouragement from their teachers. Although there are bad teachers who are not efficient in their work, who are not ready to motivate their students to achieve greatness in life. But students should not neglect the counsel and support from the good teachers. Parental influence is equally very important in career choice of the adolescents. Parents should only encourage, advice and assist their children in their career choice, but not force them to do courses against their wish and desire.

## REFERENCES

- Abbasi, M.N. & Sarwat N. (2014). Factors inducing career choice: comparative study of five leading professions in Pakistan. *Pakistan Journal of Commerce and Social Sciences* 8 (3) 830-845.
- Akosah- Iwumasi, P.; Emeto, T.; Lindsay, D. Isey, K. & Malau- Aduli, Bunmi S. (2018). A systematic review of factors that influence youth career choices-the role of culture front *Edu Sec. Educational Psychology* 3, 58
- Alika, H.I & Egbochuku, E.o. (2009). Vocational interest, counselling, socioeconomic status and age as correlates of the re-entry of girls into school. *Edo Journal of Counselling* 2 (1), 9-15.
- Alike, H. (2010). Parental and peer group influence as correlates of career choice in Humanities among Secondary School Students in Edo State, Nigeria. *Journal of Research in Education and Society* (111, 178-185).
- Brown, M. (2014). Parental Influence on Career Choice on Secondary School Children in Ondo. West Local Government Area of Ondo State *Journal of Hydro-Environment Research* 20 (1), 89-99.
- Duric, M. & Bunijevac, M. (2017) Parental involvement as an important factor for successful education. *CEPS Journal* 7 (3) 137-152
- Faitar, G. M & Faiter S.L (2013). Teachers influence on students' science career choices. *American international Journal of Social Science* 2 (5), 10-16.
- Igere, M.A (2017). Career choice and its influence on academic performance of Library and Information Science Students in a Nigerian University. *Journal of information & Knowledge Management* 8 (2), 90-98.
- Issa, A.O & Nwalo, D. (2008). Factors affecting career choice of Undergraduates in Nigerian Library Information Science Schools. *African Journal of Library Archives and Information Science* 18 (1), 23-31.
- Kimiti, R. & Mwova, M.M (2012). The dilemma of career choice: A case study of Kenyan Secondary School Students. *Scholarly Research Journal for Interdisciplinary Studies* 1 (111). 357-368.
- Koech, J. (2016), Bitok, J.; Rutto, D.; Koech, S.; Okoth, J.O.; Korir, B. & Ngala, H. (2016). Factors influencing career choices among undergraduate students in public universities in Kenya: A case study of university of Eldoret. *International Journal of Contemporary Applied Sciences* 3 (2), 50-63.
- Low, E.LNg, P.T. Hui C. & Cai, L. (2017). Teaching as a career choice: Triggers and divers. *Australian Journal of Teacher Education*, 42 (2), 28-46.
- MCQuerry, L. (2017). Influences on career path decisions. Available online at: <https://work.chron.com/Influences-career-path-decisions12307.html> (accessed in Osogbo, Nigeria: November 10, 2019)

- Mwaa, A.M. (2016). *Parental Factors Influencing Career Choice among high School Students in Nairobi Country*. (Mater's Tesis) <http://erepository.uonbi.ac.ke>
- Njeri, M.B. (2013). *A study of factors influence career choices among undergraduate students' in public Universities in Kenya- A case of compassion International Sponsored Students unpublished (MBA) Research project, school of Business, University of Nairobi*.
- Olaosebikan, O.I & Olusakin, A. (2014). Effect of Parental Influence on Adolescents, Career choice in Badagry Local Government Area of Lagos State, Nigeria. *IOSR Journal of Research and Method in Education 4* (4), 44-57.
- Peace, T.A. (2017). Determinants of students' career choices in Secondary School from SouthWestern Uganda: Insight from a domestic chores perspective. *International Journal of Science and Research, 6* (19), 1810- 1816.
- Pummel, B.C. Harwood, C. & Lavallee, D. (2018). Jumping to the next level: A qualitative examination of within career transition in the adolescents' event rider. *Psychology of Sport and Exercise 9*(4), 427-447.
- Trust J. & Levin, J. (2000). Step family as direct and indirect relationship. *Journal of Comparative Family Studies 31* (2) 137-154.
- Udoh, A. & Sanni, B. (2012). Parental background variables and the career choice of secondary school students in Uyo Local Government Area, Nigeria. *Mediterranean Journal of Social Sciences. 497-504*.
- Wikelund, K. (2005). *Parental involvement in Education*. Available at <http://www.nwrel.org>.

### License

Copyright (c) 2024 Ojewola, Florence O. Ph.D



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). Authors retain copyright and grant the journal right of first publication with the work simultaneously licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution \(CC-BY\) 4.0 License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/) that allows others to share the work with an acknowledgment of the work's authorship and initial publication in this journal.