

## Parental Counselling in Guiding Children Towards Career in Yenagoa Local Government Area of Bayelsa State Nigeria

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### Abstract

*The study was on parental counselling in guiding children towards career in Yenagoa Local Government Area of Bayelsa State. The study adopted the correlation research design. Six thousand two hundred and ninety three (6,293 comprising 728 parents and 5,565 children) found in 60 Yenagoa Local Government area formed the population of the study. Out of the 6,293 subjects, 633 (comprising 557 children and 76 parents) formed the sample size for the study. Two instruments titled "Parental Counselling Questionnaire (PCQ)" and "Guiding children towards careers (GCC)" were used in the study. The instruments were validated by experts in the department of early childhood/primary Education, faculty of Education, University of Port Harcourt. Test-retest method was employed to obtain a reliability index of 0.71 for the PCQ and 0.68 for the GCC. Data analysis was done using Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC). Result of the study revealed that parental counselling has significant relationship with children home learning ( $p=0.024<0.05$ ) and career communication ( $p=0.033<0.05$ ). On the other hand, there was no relationship between parental counselling and career decision ( $p=0.093>0.05$ ). Based on this, it was recommended among others that educators should encourage parents to participate in their child's career guiding, such as attending parent-teacher conferences, volunteering in the classroom, and helping with homework.*

**Keywords:** Career guidance, Home Learning, Decision- Making, Communication.

### Introduction

Parents' presence in their children's life has a enormous significance in the sense that every child needs their parents in almost every aspect. Children need the care, protection and guidance of their parents. This care, protection and guidance includes counselling, career guidance can be seen as direction given to children of any age and at any point throughout their lives in order to assist them make, the right educational and career choice effectively. Career guidance helps young people to reflect on their interest and abilities. It is the advice and information about careers that help children decide a career and also teaches them how to pursue their chosen career with valuable information and resources (Watts & Fret, 2024).

UNESCO (2021) posits that effective career guidance helps to reach their potentials, become fairer, and efficient in the society. Career guiding highlights the importance of discerning young people's talent and maximizing human potentials. Career is made up of the combination of roles, experiences education and path ways you take to achieve your goals. Career guidance is the guidance given to individuals (including primary school pupils) to help them acquire the knowledge, information, skills and experience necessary to identify career options and narrow them down to make a good career choice, this career guiding results in their social, financial and emotional well-being throughout their life.

Parental counselling in career guidance of their children is valuable, considering the way in which parents influence their children. This parental counseling may mar or make their children's career decision in life. Parents' lay the foundation of career guidance in childhood Watson *et. al.*, (2015), Schutheiss *et. al.*, (2002) suggest that parents influence children's careers outcomes such as vocational aspiration and achievement; career decisiveness; and career exploration parents should listen actively to their children's interests, passions and strengths to help them identify the potential career path that align with their talents and values. Kgabo (2023) posits that children should be encouraged by their parents to explore different career options by providing them with

opportunities to shadow professionals, attend career fairs and workshops and engage in internships.

Kgabo (2023), further asserts that parents must motivate and encourage their children to pursue education and training to help them achieve their goals, such as attending vocational school, provide guidance by offering information about various career paths that require education and training. Parents must provide emotional support by being there for their children during decision-making, offering encouragement and helping them cope with setbacks or failure. Parents may play a significant role in guiding their children towards choosing a successful and fulfilling career that align with strengths, interests and values.

Bysshe *et. al.*, (2002) state that parents' counselling in career guidance may helps children to reflect on their interests, ambitions, abilities, and qualifications. It may help them to understand the product market and education system and relate this on how children know about themselves.

Overall, parents' counselling in career guidance of their children helps to inform about the product market and about educational opportunities more accessible by organizing it, systematizing it, and making it available when and where we need it. In its contemporary forms, career guidance elicited upon a number of disciplines, like education, sociology, psychology and labour economics. Roy (2020) further mentioned that career guidance provides quality life planning education and proper career service which are classified without developmental needs of different stages of growth as follows:

- i. It helps to create good career decision making that go in line with their abilities, interest, and orientation, among others.
- ii. It empowers children to make responsible and informatics guiding on their education, career goals and others aspects leading to a meaningful life.
- iii. It helps learners in adapting and managing the transition of life from school to the workplace
- iv. Parental counselling in career guidance prepares children for the actualization of life potentials through the pursuit of their personal and career goals.
- v. It will assist the children to understand their academic aspirations and develops positive attitude towards learning and works.

- vi. It helps the children utilize the acquired knowledge, attitude and skills whenever necessary.
- vii. Parental counselling in children's career guidance promotes academic growth and development
- viii. Its, helps children to develop their own ability to solve problem and take decision
- ix. Career guidance helps children to understand vocational maturity, vocational adjustments, and vocational choices, social and personal adjustment for better life.

Career guidance helps not only learners and teachers in an educational institution but it also helps the parents, administrators, planners and community members for doing well and be good in life.

The general features of career self-management skills like decision making, self support, motivation and quality instruction. Parental support in the education of their children extends beyond the school building. It seems that parental counselling is researched in the topic of domestic and foreign studies, there is still concern regarding parental counselling and what constitutes effective parental counselling in the education of their children. Epstein (2009) suggests that parental counselling in the education of children begins at home with the parents providing a safe and healthy environment, appropriate learning experiences, support and positive attitude about school. Several studies have shown that effective success of children involve parents counselling.

Epstein, (2009) reaffirms that parents should have a better understanding of effective parental counselling in promoting their children's career. Henderson and Mapp (2007) revealed that parental counselling has its effects on the educational process of their children over the years. Hill and Taylor (2004) assert that parental counselling in the school support of students' achievement could be achieved by increasing their social capital. Epstein (2009) identified a framework which contains six important factors with regards to parental counselling. This framework is based on findings from many studies of what factors are most effective with regards to children's education. Those six factors are parenting, communicating, volunteering, learning at home, decision-making and collaborating with the community.

Parenting involves all the activities that parents engage into raise happy,

healthy children who become capable learners. Unlike teachers, whose influence on children is relatively limited, parents maintain a life-long commitment to their children. Activities that support this type of counselling provide information to parents about their child's development, health, safety, or home condition that can support children's learning. It also includes parents' education and other courses or training for parents, family support programmes to assist families with health, nutrition and other services, home visit at transition points to elementary, middle and secondary school.

Communicating involves families and schools communicating and interesting with each other in multiple ways. Schools send home note and flyers about important events and activities, parents give teachers information about their child's health and educational history. A school website is an additional mode of communication with parents and families, including: conferences with every parent at least once a year, language translator to assist families as needed, regular schedule of useful notices, phone calls, newsletters and other communication.

Volunteering applies to recruiting and organizing help and support from parents for school programmes and learners' activities. There are three basic ways that individuals volunteer in education. First, they may volunteer in the school or classroom by helping teachers and administrators as tutors or assistants. They may volunteer for the school; for instance, fund raising for an event or promoting a school in the community. They may volunteer as a member of an audience, attending school programmes or performances.

Volunteering includes: school/classroom volunteer programmes to help teachers, administrator, students and other parents, parent body or family centre for volunteer work, meetings and resources for family, annual postcard survey to identify all available talents, time and location of volunteers.

Learning at home pertains to providing ideas and information to parents about how they can best assist their children with homework and curricular – related decision and activities. Parents helping their children with homework or taking them to a museum are examples of this type of counselling. These activities produce a school-oriented family and encourage parents to interact with the school curriculum. Activities to

encourage learning at home provides parents with information on what children are doing in the classroom and how to help to monitor and discuss school work at home, as well as family participation in setting learners goals each year and in planning for college work.

Decision-making refers to including parents in school decisions and to developing parent leader and representative. Parents participate in school decision-making when they become part of school governance committees or join organization, such as the parent/teacher's association. Other decision-making activities it includes taking on leadership role that involve disseminating information to other parents. Include active PTA or other parent organization advisory councils, or committee for parent leadership and participation, independent advocacy group to lobby for school reform and improvements, networks to link all family with parent representatives.

Collaborating with the community pertains to identifying and integrating community services and resource to support and strengthen school, learners, and their families. This includes information for the learners and community, health, cultural, recreation, social support and other programmes services, information on community activities that link to learning skills and talents, including summer programmes for children.

### **Objectives of the study**

The general objectives of the study is to investigate how parental counselling in guidance children towards career in YENAG0A local government area in BAYELSA, STATE Nigeria. Specifically, the objectives of the study are to:

- i. Find out the relationship between learning at home with parents counselling and guiding children towards career in Yenagoa local government area of Bayelsa state.
- ii. Determine the relationship between parental counselling in guiding children and decision making concerning their career in Yenagoa local government area of Bayelsa State.
- iii. Ascertain the relationship between parental counselling and children career communication choice to Yenagoa local government area of Bayelsa State.

### **Research Questions**

The following research questions guided this study:

- i. What is the relationship between parental counselling and children leaning at home in Yenagoa local government area of Bayelsa State?
- ii. To what extent is the relationship between parental counselling and children career decision making in Yenagoa local government area of Bayelsa state?
- iii. How does parental counselling relate to children career in communication in Yenagoa local government area of Bayelsa state?

### Hypotheses

The following hypotheses are tested based on the objectives of the study and research questions.

- H<sub>0</sub>1:** There is no significant relationship between parental counselling in learning at home and guiding children towards career in Yenagoa local government area of Bayelsa State.
- H<sub>0</sub>2:** Significant relationship does not exist between parental counselling and guiding children career in decision making in Yenagoa local government area of Bayelsa state.
- H<sub>0</sub>3:** Parental counselling does not significant relate in guiding children towards career communication in Yenagoa local government area of Bayelsa State.

### Methodology

The study adopted the correlation research design. Six thousand two hundred and ninety three (6,293 comprising 728 parents and 5,565 children) found in Yenagoa local government of Bayelsa state formed the population of the study. Out of the 6,293 subjects, 633 (comprising 557 children and 76 parents) formed the sample size for the study. This sample size represents 10% of the total population. Two instruments were used to elicit responses from the respondents. They were "Parental counselling and guiding children Career Questionnaire (PCQ)" and a 6-items checklist titled "guiding children career (GCC). The PCQ contains 9 items divided into two sections A and B. Section A dealt with the demographic data of the respondents while section B contained 15 items (5 each) divided into 3 sub

sections, measuring pupils learning at home with parents decision-making and communication. Also the PCQ was a 10 items responded to on a 4-point Likert scale which measured the level of children career guide through parental counselling. The instruments were validated by experts in the department of early childhood/primary Education, faculty of Education, University of Port Harcourt. Test-retest method was employed to obtain a reliability indexes of 0.71 for the PCQ and 0.68 for the GCC out of the 9 item questionnaire administered, there was 100% retrieval, meaning that none got lost. The exercise lasted for 8 working days.

### Result

**Research Question One:** What is the relationship between parental counselling and children learning at home in Yenagoa Local Government area of Bayelsa State.

**Hypothesis One:** There is no significant relationship between parental counselling and children learning at home in Yenagoa Local Government area of Bayelsa state.

**Table 1:** Person Product Moment Correlation of relationship between is the relationship between parental counselling and children learning at home in Yenagoa Local Government area of Bayelsa State.

| Variables          | N   | R     | r <sup>2</sup> | Alpha | Sig   | Result      |
|--------------------|-----|-------|----------------|-------|-------|-------------|
| Parental counsel . | 633 | 0.468 | 0.210          | 0.05  | 0.024 | Significant |
| Learning at Home   | 633 |       |                |       |       |             |

The analysis in table 1 show that calculated r is 0.468. The r value shows that parental counselling as a positive relationship with pupil's learning at home in Yenagoa Local Government area of Bayelsa state meaning that as parents engage more in counselling more involved in home work of their children, there will be a corresponding increase in children ability to learning at home in Yenagoa Local Government area of Bayelsa State. The r<sup>2</sup> value is 0.210. This means that parental counselling account for 21% of children learning at home. Calculated sig value is 0.024. Since the sig value (0.024 < 0.05) is less than the alpha of 0.05, the null hypothesis is rejected meaning that there is a significant relationship between parental



counselling and children learning at home in Yenagoa Local Government area of Bayelsa State.

**Research Question Two:** What extent is the relationship between parental counseling and guiding children career in decision making in Yenagoa Local Government area of Bayelsa state.

**Hypothesis Two:** There is no significant relationship between parental counselling and career communication in Yenagoa local government area of Bayelsa state.

**Table 2:** Person Product Moment Correlation of relationship between parental counselling and children career decision in Yenagoa local government area of Bayelsa state.

| Variables          | N   | R     | r <sup>2</sup> | Alpha | Sig   | Result        |
|--------------------|-----|-------|----------------|-------|-------|---------------|
| Parental counsel . | 633 | 0.157 | 0.022          | 0.05  | 0.093 | Insignificant |
| Career Choice      | 633 |       |                |       |       |               |

The analysis in table 2 show that calculated r is 0.157. The r value shows that parental counselling has a positive relationship with children career decision making in Yenagoa Local Government area of Bayelsa state. This mean that as parents get more involved in home work of their children, there will be a corresponding increase in children's ability to have good guiding career decision. The r<sup>2</sup> value is 0.022. This means that parental counseling account for only 0.2% of children in career decision. Calculated sig value is 0.093. Since the sig value (0.093>0.05) is greater than the alpha of 0.05, the null hypothesis is retained meaning that there is no significant relationship between parental counselling and children in career decision in Yenagoa local government area of Bayelsa state.

**Research Question Three:** To what extent does parental inv relate to children career communication in Yenagoa Local Government area of Bayelsa state?

**Hypothesis Three:** Parental counselling does not have any significant relationship with children career communication in Yenagoa Local government Area of Bayelsa state.

**Table 3:** Person Product Moment Correlation of relationship between

parental counselling and children career communication in Yenagoa local government area of Bayelsa state.

| Variables        | N   | R     | r <sup>2</sup> | Alpha | Sig   | Result        |
|------------------|-----|-------|----------------|-------|-------|---------------|
| Parental counsel | 633 | 0.357 | 0.127          | 0.05  | 0.033 | Insignificant |
| Career Comm.     | 633 |       |                |       |       |               |

The analysis in table 3 show that calculated r is 0.357. The r value shows that parental counseling has a positive relationship with children career communication in Yenagoa Local Government area of Bayelsa state. This means that as parents get more involved in home work of their children, there will be a corresponding increase in children ability to communicate their career decision. The r<sup>2</sup> value is 0.127. This means that parental counselling in learning for about 12.7% of children career communication. Calculated sig value is 0.033. Since the sig value (0.033<0.05) is less than the alpha of 0.05, the null hypothesis is rejected meaning that parental involvement has significant relationship with children career communication in Yenagoa Local government Area of Bayelsa state.

### Discussion of Findings

From findings one, it is revealed that there is significantly relationship between parental counselling and children ability to learn at home. This finding means that parental counselling has a direct impact on children learning outcomes. Also, when parents are engaged and supportive, children are more likely to learn effectively at home as parental counselling can enhance children motivation, understanding, and retention of academic material. This means that children whose parents are involved in their learning tend to perform better academically more compare to those whose parents do not get involved in their academic activities. This implies that parental counselling can help bridge the gap between home and school, creating a more cohesive learning environment. The finding of the study is expected by the researcher because as a teacher and mother she is aware of the impact of parental

counselling on the progress of children. The findings of the study are in line with as reported earlier by Kgabo (2023) who reported significant impact of parents counselling and students' academic ability.

Research findings two revealed that there is no significantly relationship between parental counselling and children career decision. This means that parental counselling does not directly impact children career choices. It also means that children career decisions are influenced by other factors beyond parental counselling. Hence, parents' efforts to guide their children's career paths may not be as effective as previously thought. This could be so as children may be more influenced by other factors such as personal interests, teen influence etc. The finding of this study is somehow surprising to the researcher because she is aware that most time, parents do influence the career decision of the children. However, the study is in disagreement with that reported earlier by Epstein (2005) and Hul and Taylor (2004) who all reported significant relation between parent's engagement and children career guide.

Finally, finding five revealed that there is significantly relationship between parental counselling and children career communication. This means that parental counselling has a direct impact on students' ability to communicate their career goals and aspirations. It also means that parents play a significant role in shaping their children's career communication skills. In other words, children whose parents are involved in their education and career development tend to have better career communication skills compared to those whose parents are not much involved. The finding of the study is in line with the findings of Schutheisset'al (2002).

### Recommendations

Schools and educators should encourage parents to participate in their children education, such as attending parent-teacher conferences, volunteering in the classroom, and helping with homework.

1. Teachers and counselors should provide parents with resources and support to help them address specific learning challenges their child may face, such as tutoring or counseling.
2. Career guidance programs should be implemented in schools,

providing children with resources and support to explore their interests and career options

### Conclusion

In conclusion, the findings highlight the significance of parental counselling in children educational outcomes. While parental counselling is positively related to children ability to learn and career communication skills, it has no significant impact on children career decisions. This suggests that parents play a crucial role in supporting their children's academic development and career communication, but children ultimately make their own career choices. To optimize parental counsellor's educators and policymakers should focus on:

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