



CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS OF CAREER CHOICE AMONGST SENIOR SECONDARY THREE (SSIII) STUDENTS IN OBOT AKARA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, AKWA IBOM STATE

Anne Ekerete Ekanem (Ph.D.)¹ and Mfon Effiong Asuquo²

¹Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Faculty of Social Sciences, Akwa Ibom State University.

Email: anneekanem@aksu.edu.ng

²Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Faculty of Social Sciences, Akwa Ibom State University.

Email: mfonasuquo@aksu.edu.ng

Cite this article:

Ekanem, A. E., Asuquo, M. E. (2024), Challenges and Prospects of Career Choice amongst Senior Secondary Three (SSIII) Students in Obot Akara Local Government Area, Akwa Ibom State. British Journal of Education, Learning and Development Psychology 7(3), 102-114. DOI: 10.52589/BJELDP-0GB8Q1AM

Manuscript History

Received: 18 Jun 2024

Accepted: 12 Aug 2024

Published: 19 Aug 2024

Copyright © 2024 The Author(s).

This is an Open Access article distributed under the terms of Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International (CC BY-NC-ND 4.0), which permits anyone to share, use, reproduce and redistribute in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.

ABSTRACT: *This study seeks to explore career choices, challenges and prospects amongst SSIII students in Comprehensive Secondary School Ntoedino, Methodist Secondary School Ntodang and FIDA Secondary School, Ntonguno, all in Obot Akara Local Government Area. Survey research design was adopted for the study. The study population comprised of students from the above named school. A sample size of 150 students was gotten through simple random sampling technique, and data were analysed using simple percentage. Findings from the study revealed that, right career choice is influenced by role models like teachers, parents, educators and guardians as 86% of the study respondents attested to this. It was also deduced that, the child alone, without the adult's guidance/counseling cannot make the right career choice. On the effect of resources/finances on right career choice, 90% being majority agreed to the assertion that most of the poor parents who send their children to public schools, have no proper orientation and are unable to educate their children properly on right career choice; and so, majority accepted the fact that, poverty affects right career choice/course of study. From the analysis it was concluded that, there were a lot of lapses with regards to proper choice of career/course of study by students in senior classes in public schools. However, the study recommended that, proper orientation/sensitization must be done by families, teachers, educators, role models, exposed friends, counselors, parents and relatives. Even at that, children should be given free hands to make their choices based on innate potentialities and not imposing courses of study/career on them. Moreover, to help students from poor background, examination like NECO, WAEC, JAMB should be made free to students in public schools.*

KEYWORDS: Career Choice, Prospects, Students, Public, Guardian, Counselling.



INTRODUCTION

Perfect career choice and making careful and well-thought out decisions based on your God-endowed potentialities increases the chances of a child's success/progress in life. Career choice/determination is a very complicated, sophisticated, baroque and dynamic decision-making process that involves evaluating and assessing your talents, interests, skills, goals, finances, values etc. and toeing the path that corresponds to what you want your life to be like in future.

The word career, means, a job, an occupation, that is undertaken for a major period of a person's life; and so, this occupation also has opportunities for training, progress, advancement and promotion. According to the Cambridge Dictionary, career is the job or series of jobs that you do during your working life, especially if you continue to get better jobs and earn more money. It is the profession for which one is trained and which is undertaken, as a permanent calling. According to an article in the University of Dubuque's Website; career can be defined as the sum total decisions that direct your educational, social, economic, political and spiritual endeavors and reflect your unique personality characteristics and basic life values.

According to Asuquo and Ekanem, (2023), a poorly educated population may be more susceptible to corruption, perpetuating a culture of dishonesty and undermining the foundations of a transparent and accountable society. Hence Career counseling is essential to lead students aright.

Career choice/selection amongst secondary school students with uneducated parents, especially in remote part of the State, has been so arduous, Augean, grueling and challenging over the years. This has contributed greatly to the poor/undeveloped economy of the society. Gaining clarity/precision on what course to study after your secondary school education has been a major challenge amongst these ignorant group; leading to imprecision, confusion, indecision, uncertainty and above all, frustrations. Many encounter serious setbacks because of their choices of careers/courses of study.

Choosing the right career/path that you want to follow in life, sometimes poses unimagined difficulties in the child's life, because being able to make this choice, help you get ahead of even your mates in life. These students encounter numerous setbacks when it comes to choosing the right career. The most difficult phase of a child's/student's life is when he/she reaches the final year in secondary school; his mind wonders from right subject choice/combination, to right choice of career/course of study. Though, career could be changed in future, a child who lacks guidance, proper direction and counseling at the first instance, may end up making the poor/wrong career choice, which may result in future failure. For a child to choose a career that will enhance performance and job satisfaction (Daniel, Ekoriko, Akpan, Nsima, 2024), the student needs to make some decisions; but these decisions must be guided by well-experienced and enlightened counselor/guardian for the child's success.

As cited in Okobiah and Okorodudu, (2004) in English and English, 1971, counseling is a helping relationship in which one person endeavors to help another solve his/her adjustment problems. These students need to be given analysis of what their choices of subjects/courses, and subject combination, and consequently, possibly career choices implications are. According to Okobiah and Okorodudu (2004) counseling is a person to person process, in which the person (the counselee) is helped by another person (the counselor) to develop,



increase in understanding and ability to solve his/her adjustment problems. The possibility of bright, cheery and great future lies on right career choice or selection. The National Career Development Association NCDA (2003), posited that, “career is the totality of work - paid and unpaid – one does in his/her lifetime.

Career counseling by counselors, teachers, parents, guardians, the church, the net and society at large, educate, inculcate and furnish the child with relevant information/knowledge needed to be able to decide or make right choice of career in life. Career counseling starts with the family members; the father, mother, siblings, uncles, aunties etc. They should be able to educate the child with right and gainful information needed, how to go about their subject selection/combination and career choice as decisions impact economic outcomes Chanda, Wisdom, Daniel, Zohaib & Mwila, (2024).

It is always believed that, parents are the first teachers; they should be able to form part of these children’s reasoning/belief system, by inculcating and educating them with the right ideas, values, morals and dictates of the society and making known the implications of certain actions and decisions in life. In career selection, students encounter a lot of issues/challenges; ranging from social, economic, cultural, financial etc. Be that as it may, let us try to look at some major challenges encountered by secondary school students in making choice of career/course of study.

STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

The major challenge/study problem is that Secondary School students in examination class (senior secondary school) finds it very difficult, making right career choice; this ranges from wrong subject choice/selection in their (SSCE) Senior School Certificate Examination, poor subject combination in Jamb, to wrong choice of course of study in the university. By so doing, they end up in wrong choice of career/course of study and consequently, losing the chances of gaining admissions and eventually, failure in future. These children make inapt decisions that in the long run affect their future, due to the fact that they are not properly guided/counseled.

However, there are numbers of factors which impede/affect their career choice/selection; which include; lack of proper counseling, limited resources, poor mentorship, fear of in competency/failure.

This study seeks to establish the interconnectedness between these factors and poor career choices amongst students of Comprehensive Secondary school, Nto Edino, Methodist Secondary School, Ntongang, and FIDA Secondary School, Ntonguno in Obot Akara Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State, and possible, way forward.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To examine if lack of counseling/guidance by parents, teachers, educators etc and other factors affect wrong career choices, by SSIII students in these schools.
2. To find out the challenges, societal support in order to tackle these problems and possible prospects amongst these students.



LITERATURE REVIEW

Career choice, counseling and guidance by guardians/teachers is very paramount and determines the child's success/failure in future. Career counseling is an attempt to identify a student's abilities and interests and then match these to particular occupation (Kerr & Erb; Acheter, et al, 1996). The assessment tools often used for traditional career counseling include; the strong Campbell interest inventory (Acheter, et al, 1996) and the self-directed search (Kerr and Fisher, 1997).

According to Splarer, (1997) it is important for you to have a good understanding of yourself, your personality, if you are to make intelligent career plans. This means the student must be sensitized to realize his potentialities, and the best ways they could be maximized. Also, some careers demand that, you have the personality to match the qualities of the occupation. For example, sales people have to be polite and out spoken (Splarer, 1977) success in career choice and counseling is attributed to counselors. In a chapter titled "Career counseling realities" (Weiler, 1997, P. 50), Weiler discussed what counselors can and cannot do. Counselors can draw career preferences to the forefront, in reflecting student's preferences, classifying career preferences, summarizing and encouraging student's career preferences. Counselors should not be engaged with the evaluation; for examples, telling the student what they should do, what their motives should be, or persuade the student to adopt a different point of view. Career counselors are ineffective if they try to dictate, judge or decide the student's values. Lastly, counselors should not make predictions that go beyond the capability of their training (Weiler, 1977).

However, as cited by Kroll, et al (1570); the decision making processes concerning one's career is not so much a functioning of the information amassed to the individual, but more, the process of maturity and planning Kroll cites Clarke, Gellatt and LeVire in which they stressed that good decision making relied upon adequate information and effective strategies for making choice. This means, students themselves should be able to indicate interest in what they are best suited for; based on inherent skills and potentialities and not necessarily becoming what you are brainwashed into. According to Weiler, 1977 "Too many of us have been taught to suppress what we want, and instead, concentrate on meeting other people's drum".

According to Ekanem and Asuquo (2023), bureaucratic formalities hinder innovativeness in the state civil service, as strict adherence to laid down rules impede/inhibit creativity and development. Be that as it may, SS111 students in Akwa Ibom state should be properly counseled, guided and on how to make right career choices, so as to be able to help combat this menace of inefficiency in the service. As opined by Ekanem, Asuquo, Ogar and Ofuka (2023), poor level of female education is responsible for their low participation in politics. In addition to this, suggests that, the female folk should be properly educated to combat non-inclusion of reasonable number in politics; reduce early mirage and so, career counseling should be reinforced to create awareness on the importance of female education and right career choices for women.

As stated by Ekanem, Udom, Ukommi and Usoro (2022), work-family conflict is a major form of role conflict experienced by women, which occurs as a result of women trying to balance complex aspects of career and Family, which automatically infringe on Women's role of becoming the primary agent of career counseling. Measures should be adopted to alleviate the work-load on woman for proper discharge of their functions. However, Umoh, Ekanem and



Inimfon (2022), analyzed that, though our educational system emphasizes meritocracy and equal opportunities, realistic practice of the myth is far-fetched, as the physically challenged are not accorded equal access/opportunities. In this aspect, career counseling should help stress importance of inclusiveness and right career choices. As stated by (Al-Mahrooqi *et al.*, 2014; Chanda, Sain, Mpolomoka, Akpan & Davy, 2024) there is a challenge in maintaining students' engagement needs to be addressed to maximize benefit.

As opined by Ekanem (2023), most parents, especially the uneducated ones prioritize boy's education to girl's; in other words, when girls experience quality education, they are more likely to contribute positively to societal development. Thus, Career counseling by parents, teachers, elders etc. should be all embracing, emphasizing the importance of both sexes' education. As proposed by Udom, Ukommi and Ekanem (2023), delayed pension payment affects payment of school fees and feeding of family dependents, which automatically affects the type of secondary school these poor students are sent to, in other words, poverty/availability of funds affect right career choice and course of study.

Udonwa, Effiong, Asuquo & Samuel (2022), observed that the implication that poverty is concentrated among persons with no education and those with only primary education is that the less educated the head, the more likely that the household would be poor. Also, Udom, Ekanem and Frank (2023), stated that, Covid-19 lockdown creates family instability and other negative influences on both parents, children and adolescents, and disruptions in most academic activities this infringes and negativity impacted on educational system and right career choices. Wisdom, Edidiong, Anne & Inimfon (2024), stated that self-image formed during adolescent is likely to significantly impact on the individual for his life time; in conjunction with this proper counseling and guidance shapes/ molds a student's perception and what he actually becomes in future

As stated by Samuel, Asuquo, Thompson & Nya (2023), education is very important for the development of our communities, states, nations, and to the achievement of global sustainable development. Kroll has provided models of decision making processes. John Dewey's models (Kroll et al, 1970) describes five noticeable steps described; the reflective state, suggestions, intellectualization, hypothesis and reasoning. In the like Vein, Palaas (cited in Kroll et al, 1970) described four basic areas in the decision making process; (1) Understanding the problem (2) Seeking how various items of the problems are linked in order to formulate a plan (3) Carrying out the plan (4) reviewing and discussing the completed solution.

According to Asuquo and Ekanem, (2023). The incessant strikes by labour, professional groups and demonstrations by civil society groups are mainly due to pervasive material inequalities and unfairness. And it has a way of delaying students in school, as such career counseling is important. According to Weiler, (1977) most students have built career plans on the myths of what we think should be rather on the reality of what is.

Joann Deml, career adviser for the university of Wisconsin-stout and Lia Reich (2001), graduate students in counseling, discussed the factors that enrich students' potential for career success. Splarer (1977) stated that, it is important for students to have good understanding of themselves, their personality, if they are to make intelligent career plans, what they would like to be, and what they are like, are determining factors in their career. The personality factors to be considered include, their mental abilities, special abilities and interests. Splarer (1977, p 13). Akpan, Ekoriko, Ekanem & Ottong (2024), argue that Secondary school students are generally



adolescent, a stage of life where lasting self-image is likely to be formed and carried along for a lifetime, as such it is pertinent for career choice to be carefully handled.

The essence of career counseling is to give relevant and essential, information to ignorant students with regards to the intricacies of different careers. Career counseling helps the students to select their careers according to their choices/interests and inherent potentialities. career counseling is now being increasingly stressed as an integral part of education. As posited by Francis, (2010) career counseling involves 3 steps which are; self-analysis, occupation analysis and true reasoning or counseling to relate personal and occupational information. According to Essien & Ekoriko (2020), there is time constraint to make a decision, on that note, the decision of career choice shouldn't be left only in the hands of these vulnerable ones.

The National Career Development Association NCDAA (2003) advocates that, the family/home is a workplace and all members of the family as workers, and that within the home and family structure, pre-school age children can first be exposed to true work experience as family members try to do something that will be helpful to other members of the family. Asuquo and Ekanem, argue that there is a change attributed to gender equality in education and even in career progression. Akpan, (2023), stated that women are considered empowered if they are able to make decisions, so decision making in regards to career choice will empower the students for the future. According to Ajaero, (2010), many secondary schools now offer career week to address personal career development issues.

PROBLEMS/ CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED BY SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN CHOOSING A CAREER

The feelings confusion and indecisive when overwhelmed by varied and multiple options available at student's disposal could be sorted out with the availability/presence and willingness of counselors, parents, teachers and educators who are ready to get involved to fine-tune the decisions or choices of these children to suit their skills, talents and potentialities and for a greater future. These students must be guided to narrow down their choices/decisions based on criteria like interests, skills, values and best of all, the needed goals/objectives. Consider the merits and demerits of their choices, feasibility and implications/consequences that accompany them.

Lack of finances/Resources

Most students from poor parental backgrounds do not only lack the resources/finances, but the necessary exposure for good/right career choices. Given the economic situation, most students will confess, the major obstacle/hurdle they are facing, is how to get through financially. Some parents cannot even pay their children's tuition fee without raising funds from cooperative, in some communities, capital gain through cooperatives are what parents use to pay the school fee of their children (Mboho, Akpan, Daniel & Ekoriko, 2024).

Education, in the state, though, made to believe, it is free, is expensive; because, the students need to register for WAEC, JAMB, buy books and even uniforms; all of these, involves money; and where the parents/guardians cannot afford; the child suffers psychologically and this might even affect his/her performances in school. There are a lot of bills/expenses a student would have to settle in his final class, before allowed to take the exams. With this poor financial background/condition; the child already sees his/herself as a defeat and the future being bleak.



Lack of Qualifications/Right Subject Combinations – Most students who lack proper guidance/tutorship on the basic requirements/criteria needed for a particular course, end up registering for courses they do not qualify for or do not have the basic requirements. Consequently, admissions to these courses are declined by respective institutions and the student in question will end up writing WAEC and jamb for so many times without gaining Admission.

Psychological Rush to Study Science Courses: - Most students, even though they are art-inclined, rush to study science courses with the hope of becoming medical doctors, Engineers or Pharmacists. Wrong choice of career, which is not based on endowed potentialities, increases a child's chances of failure in future.

Rush to Toe Colleagues' Path: Many students make decisions without proper guidance and right information to give them sense of direction. Most of them do not understand the implications surrounding their choice of actions; and so, they end up rush to join the queue with their friends/colleagues without necessarily considering the implications of their actions. They fail to understand, the course they study in school, determines what they become in future; and that failure in school is failure in life. However, because, a lot of children are not receiving the career guidance and counseling they require/need, they end up making wrong choices which affects them throughout life. In this case, the student joins his friends to make wrong decisions.

Fear of Incompetency/Failure: Most students rush to offer Art subjects/courses due to fear of failure; and more so, cut off points for Art courses are lesser than those of sciences. The student considers science courses to be meant for students that are so intelligent or with high intelligent quotient and as such, average students would not want to offer such courses. In that case, they make some wrong decisions, in the hope of dodging failures.

Lack of Good Mentorship: In most parts of Akwa Ibom State, especially in the villages, these children lack good mentors/role models they can imitate; this is why most of them lack sense of direction to make right choices.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This study adopted the social exchange theory by George Homans, which dates back to 1958, when an American sociologist published an article titled "Social Behavior as Exchange. Social Exchange theory is grounded in the economic model of human behavior, whereby interactional processes is backed up or inspired by external/noticeable outcomes/gains. Thus, people are motivated towards behavior or by transactions that will maximize profits and minimize loss. Comparing this with the subject of study, students are motivated to choose courses/career that would be more beneficial in future, or yield more gainful outcomes. The core assumptions of this theory are; [a] Human tends to seek out rewards and avoid punishments. [b]. people engage in interactive processes that will maximize gains. [c] individuals tend to calculate gains/losses before engaging in a particular transaction. Be that as it may, students will want to study prestigious courses, that will fetch them good money in future.



METHODOLOGY

Survey research design was adopted with copies of questionnaires distributed to respondents for their responses. The study population comprised of all the SSIII students in Comprehensive Sec. Sch. Ntoedino, Fida Sec. school Ntong Uno, and Methodist Secondary School, Ntongang, all in Obot Akara Local Government Area. A sample size of 150 students was gotten through simple random sampling technique. Data collected through administration of semi-structured questionnaire were analyzed using simple percentages. The instrument was divided into 2 sections; section A comprised of questions pertaining to the demographic data of respondents, while B comprised of a 4 point Likert scale of strongly agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D) and Strongly (D) validity and reliability was ensured through internal experts.

RESULTS

PERCENTAGE ANALYSIS OF THE EFFECTS OF COUNSELING ON RIGHT CAREER CHOICE/COURSE OF STUDY.

Table 1

S/N	ITEM	POSITIVE RESPONSE	NEGATIVE RESPONSE
1	Is right career choice affected/influenced by role models like teachers, parents, educators, guardians etc.	86%	14%
2	Can the child alone, without the adult's counseling make good/right career choice.	20%	80%
3	Is the family/home, the first place for building of values, ideals, ideas and belief system that is obtainable in the larger society.	90%	10%
4	Is career choice, the combination of both the child's potentialities/God endowed skills and the molding/counseling of the educators and career counselors.	92%	8%
5	The school authority should take up career counseling as a course, so to help these students in proper choice of career.	85%	15%
6	Career day should be organized, resource persons paid to educate these children on the intricacies of each career.	92%	8%
7	Government should make career counseling a compulsory subject in the senior secondary school curriculum	80%	20%
8	Career choice should not be imposed on students by their parents	85%	15%
9	Is career counseling necessary for building better/brighter future for SSIII students	92%	8%
10	Wrong career choice can lead to failure in life	90%	10%



Analysis of responses in table 1, on the effects of counseling on right career choice/course of study

Analyzing the responses of respondents on the effects of counseling on right career choice/course of study in the University, it was deduced that, 86% reacted positively to the fact that, right career choice is affected/influenced by role models like, teachers, parents, educator's guardians etc. while only 14% (minority) were negative. In answering question 2 in table 1, only 20% reacted positively to the fact that, the child alone, without the adult's counseling can make good/right career choice while majority being 80% debunked the assertion.

Furthermore, majority being 90% affirmed that, the family/home is the first place for building values, ideals, ideas and belief systems that are obtainable in the larger society, while only 10% said no to it. In the like manner, 92% attested to the fact that, career choice is the combination of both the child's potentialities/God endowed skills and the molding/counseling by the educator's/career counselors, while only 8% refuted that.

In the same vein, reacting to question 5 in table 1, 85%, being majority maintained that, the school authority should take up career counseling as a course, so as to help these students in their proper choice of career, only 15% did not agree to this. 92% affirmed that making provisions for career day and inviting resource persons to educate the students, on the intricacies of each career will help the students a lot, only 20% did not believe this.

Furthermore, 85% agreed/affirmed, career choice should not be imposed on students by their parents, while 15% believed it is right to do so. 92% agreed career counseling is necessary for building a better/brighter future for SSIII students; while only 8% did not believe this. Finally, in table I, majority being 90% testified that wrong career choice can lead to failure in life, while only 10% disregarded this.

ANALYSIS ON THE EFFECTS OF AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES/ FINANCES ON CHOICE OF CAREER

Table 2

S/N	ITEM	POSITIVE RESPONSE	NEGATIVE RESPONSE
1	Most poor parents who send their children to public schools, have no proper orientation on right career choices and as such, cannot educate the children.	90%	10%
2	Most students in public schools do not even understand what is meant by career choice, no good knowledge of right subject combination and choice of course of study in the university.	92%	8%
3	Poverty affects right career choices as most professional courses of study takes up to five years to graduate and needs a lot of money	82%	18%
4	Challenges faced by poor students in respect to registration for GCE, SSCE, JAMB and NECO with regards to finances is more than those encountered by children from well to do homes	95%	5%



5	Poverty leads to wrong career choices or opting to learn trade, rather than furthering education	95%	5%
6	Children from poor homes are mostly school dropouts, because of lack of resources	80%	20%
7	Mostly, children from poor background face challenges of passing their jamb at a sitting, because they lack good education/mentorship	82%	18%
8	Fear of availability of resources/finances make poor students choose 4 year courses	85%	15%
9	There are fewer teachers in public schools with so many students. Sometimes, they are not paid their salary on time, and thus, they do not come to school every day, and more so, may not give the children, the needed attention.	79%	21%
10	Even when they are not owed, the take home is very meager, coupled with the present economy.	90%	10%

ANALYSIS OF RESPONSES ON THE EFFECTS OF AVAILABILITY OF FINANCES/ RESOURCES ON CHOICE OF CAREER

Analyzing responses of respondents on the effects of availability of finances/resources on right choice of career, it was obtained that, majority, being 90% agreed to the assertion that, most poor parents who send their children to public schools, have no proper orientation on right career choices, and as such, are unable to educate their children properly, while only 10% disagreed to this. The responses of respondents to question (2) in table II, shows that, majority affirmed the fact that, most students in public schools do not even understand what is meant by career choice, lack good knowledge of right subject combination and choice of course of study in the university; only 8% disagreed. Furthermore, 82% of the respondents accepted the fact that poverty, affects right career choice as most professional courses of study takes up to five years to graduate, and needs a lot of money. Only 18% protested.

Also, 95% testified that, challenges faced by poor students in respect to registration of GCE, SSCE, JAMB and NECO with regards to availability of resources is more than those encountered by children from rich parents; only 5% disagreed; meaning that, majority affirmed the stands. However, 95% agreed that, poverty leads to diversion to learn trade, rather than furthering university education; only 5% disagreed. In the like manner, 80% testified that, children from poor homes are mostly school dropouts because of lack of income and only 20% disagreed.

In the same vein, 82% agreed that most students from poor background face challenges of passing their JAMB at a sitting because they lack good education/mentorship and extra moral classes, only 18 percent disagreed. 85% agreed to the assertion that, fear of availability of resources/finances make poor students choose 4-year courses; 15% refuted it. Reacting to question (9) in Table (2) 79% testified to the fact that there are fewer teachers in public schools to handle so many students, and sometimes these teachers are not paid their salary on time, and so, may not attend school every day and would not give the children, the needed attention; only



21% did not agree to this. Again, majority, being 90% agreed to the fact that, even when they are not owed, the take home is very meager, coupled with the present economy and more so, the population of students in public schools is in the increase; only 10% debunked this.

CONCLUSION/RECOMMENDATION

From the foregone, it could be observed that, there is a lot of lapses in respect to right career choices by students of SSIII in Comprehensive Secondary School, Ntoedino, FIDA Secondary School, Ntonguno and Methodist Secondary School, Ntodang.

Most of these students are from very poor/illiterate parents who do not really understand the essence/importance of right choices of career/course of study. To help solve this problem, proper orientation/sensitization and awareness must be created by families, teachers, educators, role models, exposed friends, counselors, parents and relatives. It is an indisputable fact that, career counseling/modeling is the only cure to this problem and meanwhile, children should also be given free hands to make their choice without imposing on them, by mostly, parents. Government on their part should provide scholarships to students in final classes. Examination like NECO, WAEC and others should be made free to students in public schools.

REFERENCES

- Akpan, W. M. (2023). Spousal Age Differences and Marital Relations in Nigeria.
- Akpan, W. M. Ekoriko, E. A., Ekanem A.E. & Ottong, I. J. (2024). Attitude and Perception as Associated Risk Factors of Sexual Harassment of Secondary School Girls in Abak L.G.A, Akwa Ibom State. *African Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities Research* 7(1), 174-184. DOI: 10.52589/AJSSHR-BFL1J7YK
- Asuquo, M. E., & Ekanem, A. E. (2023). Corruption in Education Sector and Economic Development of Akwa Ibom State. *Annals of Sustainable Development*, 1(1), 39-49.
- Asuquo, M. E., and Ekanem, A. E. (2023). Implications of violence on Ini Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. *International journal of Culture and Society*, 1(2), 105-117.
- Cavanagh, S. (2002) CA district: Talk Career talk or no gradation walk. *Education week*, 21 (36), 3, Retrieved June 77, 2002, from EBScohost AN 6728703
- Chanda, C. T., Sain, Z. H., Mpolomoka. D. L., Akpan, W. M., & Davy, M. (2024). Curriculum Design for Digital Age: Strategies for Effective Technology Integration in Higher Education. *International Journal of Research (IJR)* 11(7). DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.13123899>
- Chanda, C. T., Wisdom, M. A., Daniel, M. M., Zohaib, H. S., & Mwila, M. G. (2024) Analyzing the Interplay Between Politics and Economic Development: An African Perspective. *International Journal for Social Studies* Volume 10 (07) DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.12786630>
- Daniel, U., Ekoriko, E., Akpan W. & Nsima, R. (2024). Analysis of Stress and Workers' Performance in Semek Waters Nigeria Limited. *INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CULTURE AND SOCIETY* 3(1). DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.12788889>
- Ekanem, A. E., & Asuquo, M. E.(2023), Effective bureaucracy and productivity in Akwa ibom state civil service. *Annals of sustainable development*,1(1), 111-121.ISSN:3027-0499.



- Ekanem, A. E., Udom, C.A., Ukommi, A., & Usoro, N., (2022), Family Structure and Career Advancement of women (A Case Study of Akwa Ibom State Civil Service. Pan-African social Review (PASSR) No.15
- Ekanem, A.E, Asuquo, M.E, Ogar, O.W, & Ofuka, V.K (2023). Gender, Politics and their Effects on Socio-sietal Development. Social Sciences and Management International Journal, 4(3), 57-69.
- Ekanem, A.E. (2023), Girl Child and sexual harassment ;A Study of Catholic Parishes in Uyo Diocese of Akwa Ibom State. Journal of Humanities and Social policy; E-ISSN 2545-5729.vol(9)3
- Essien, B. S., & Ekoriko, E. A. (2020). Do leadership styles impact on organizational commitment of workers? Evidence from Champion Breweries PLC, Nigeria. Journal of social sciences, 6(1), 193-206. <https://www.ijhumas.com/ojs/index.php/kiujoss/article/view/748>
- Harris, B, & Jones, S. (1997). The parent's crash course in career planning Lincolnwood, IL; VGM career Horizons
- Hyde, M, & Jordan, J (1979) vocational maturity during the high school years. New York: NY: Teachers College Press, Columbia University
- Kerr, B. A & Colangelo, N. (1988). The college plans of academically talented students. Journal of Counseling and Development.
- Kerr, B. A (1993) Career assessment for gifted girls and women. Journal of Career Assessment.
- Kerr, B. A (1995) Smart girls too: A new psychology of girls, women and giftedness. Scottsdale, AZ: Gifted psychology press
- Kerr, B. A. & Erb, C (1991) Career Counseling with academically talented students; Effects of a value based Intervention. Journal of counseling psychology
- Kerr, B. A. & Fisher, T (1997) Career assessment with gifted and talented students. Journal of career assessment.
- Kerr, B. A. (1991). A handbook for counseling and gifted and talented. Alexandrai, VA: American Association for Counseling and Development.
- Kroll, A, Dinklage, L. Lee, J, Morley, E, & Wilson, E (1970) Career development. New York, NY: John Wiley & Sons Inc.
- Lankard/Brown, B (1996a) Acquiring self knowledge for career development (ERIC Digest No. 175).
- Mboho, K. S., Akpan, W. M., Daniel, U. S., Ekoriko, E. A. (2024), Rural Communities and Cooperative Societies: A Community-based Alternative for Sustainable Socio Economic Development in Nigeria. African Journal of Economics and Sustainable Development 7(3), 57-70. DOI: 10.52589/AJESD-RSHWM3CL
- Milgram (Ed) Counseling gifted and talented children: a guide for teachers, counselors and parents
- Milgram, R. M. (1991b) counseling gifted and talented children and youth: who, where, what and how? In R.M Milgram (Ed), counseling gifted and talented children: A guide for teachers, counselors, and parents. Norwood, WJ: Ablex
- Miller, J (1992). National career development guidelines (ERIC Document Reproduction) No. ED 347 493
- Olszewski-kubilius, P.M. & Scott, J.M (1992) An investigation of the College and Career counseling needs of economically disadvantaged, minority gifted students. Roespo Review.
- Samuel, M. E., Asuquo, M. E., Thompson, H. O., & Nya, A. (2023). Women in Education and Community Development in Oron Federal Constituency, Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria.



- International Journal of Culture and Society, 1(1), 83-92 DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10201986>
- Schwartz, L.L (1991) Guiding gifted girls. In R.M Milgram (Ed), counseling gifted and talented children: A guide for teachers, counselors and parents. Norwood, WJ Ablex
- Silvermanm L.K (1989) career counseling for the gifted in J.L Vantassel – Baska & P. Olszewski-kubulus (Eds), patterns of influence on gifted learners: The home the self and the school. Newyork: Teachers college.
- Spangler, P. (2000) Identifying the root cause of Mukwongo High School graduates inability to make a career choice and form a career plan.
- Splarer, S. (1977) your personality and your career. New York. NY: Julian Messner.
- Super, D. (1957). The psychology of careers. New York, NY: Harper and brothers.
- Udom, C.A., Ekanem,A.E.,& Frank,N. G.,(2023),Covid-19 Lockdown and Family Stability in Nigeria. Global Journal of Communication and Humanities.vol.2, ISSN4,Eleviv Publishing group, USA.
- Udom,C.A., Ukommi,A.,& Ekanem,A. E.,(2022), Savings for Retirement Days;A cure or a curse?A study of universal Basics Education Board Retirees, Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. Ibom Journal of Social issues. Vol (11)2
- Udonwa, U. E., Effiong, U. E., Asuquo, M. E & Samuel, M. E (2022). Poverty in Nigeria: The Political Economy Perspective. International Journal of Research (IJR), 9(10), 155-176.
- Umoh, U. E., Ekanem, A.E., & Ottong, I . J., (2023). Inclusive Education and sustainable learning opportunities for persons with disabilities (PWDs) In Akwa Ibom State. Academic practitioner’s Research for sustainable Development Goals in Africa, pages 1-14
- Weiler, N. (1977) Reality and career planning. Reading, MA: Addison – Wesley Publishing Company, Inc.