

**Relationship between Career Information and Career Choice among Undergraduates of Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba-Akoko, Ondo State, Nigeria**

**Florence O. OJEWOLA, Ph. D.**  
fojewola@gmail.com

**Olufunmilayo TAYO-OLAJUBUTU, Ph. D.**

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

**Abstract**

*The study investigated the relationship between career information and career choice among undergraduates of Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba-Akoko, Ondo State. Descriptive survey research design was adopted for the study. The sample consisted of 420 undergraduates, randomly selected from the six faculties of the University. An instrument titled Career Information and Career Choice Questionnaire was used to collect information from the students. Three hypotheses were formulated and tested at 0.05 alpha level. Data collected were analysed using Pearson Product Moment Correlation and t test. The results revealed that there was significant relationship between career information and career choice among AAUA undergraduates. There was no significant difference in career choice on the basis of gender and there was equally no significant difference in career information on the basis of gender among the students of AAUA. It was concluded that relevant career information is necessary if students would make adequate and worthwhile career choice and career decisions. This information should be made available early for these youths so that they can choose career that is related to their ability, interest and aptitude.*

**Keywords:** Career, information, choice, undergraduates, subject combination

**Introduction**

Information appears to be a key element in any decision making process that one is bound to make in life. However, it is unfortunate that despite the level of technology of today, it seems many students are not adequately informed about their career choice. The issue of career information appears vital for any student to make meaningful and well informed choice. Kochung and Migunde (2011) noted that most students that are in secondary schools do not have accurate information about occupational opportunities that can help them make appropriate career choice. In most secondary schools in Ondo State (Nigeria), there seems to be very few trained practicing counsellors who could be of assistance in helping the students with relevant information on career choice. In places where they seem to be available the volume of teaching load that they tend to be given often does not allow

them to have enough time to interact with the students to enlighten them on the various career opportunities available to them. Kazi and Akhlaq (2017) observed that students have misconception about various profession due to lack of information which often prevent them from choosing appropriate careers.

Guidance and Counselling is an all-embracing profession that can assist students with relevant information in all aspect of their lives especially in helping them with their choice of subjects that are related with their interest, ability and aptitude. This is very crucial if students will make appropriate career choice and decision. It is noted from various studies that new students all over the world are usually faced with the difficulties of making a career decision in their lives (Bandura, Barbaranelli, Caprara & Pastorelli, 2001; Issa & Nwalo, 2008; Watson, McMahon, Foxcroft & Els, 2010). It is noted that the choice of careers, subjects and courses of study and the career paths to follow are often a nightmare for prospective undergraduates (Issa & Nwalo, 2008). Career information involves the provision of accurate and usable facts concerning careers, the entry, training requirements, employment opportunities, salary and benefits, trend and outlook (Zunker, 2006). It has also been asserted that the availability of adequate and appropriate career information enables students to develop their own career aspirations and goals and thus make informed decisions (Patton & McMahon, 2014). Gaffner and Hazler (2002) opined that lack of adequate career information and self-awareness was related to career indecisiveness among students entering universities. Lugulu and Musoga (2013) were of the opinion that the success of students making informed degree programmes choices will depend on the level of career guidance and counselling given in schools and the marketing of degree programmes offered by universities.

The need for relevant and adequate career information among students from the secondary school as they prepare to enter into universities or other higher institutions cannot be overemphasized due to its significance. It is noted that young people need career guidance to be able to discover their abilities, inclinations and to outline their future (Gacohi, Sindabi, & Chepchieng, 2017). Mihaela and Cristina (2015) asserted that the insufficiency of career information and guidance in the pre-university education are the causes of the high rate of disorientation of the potential students in choosing the degree programmes they want to pursue in the university, or determined the rate of school dropout. The need for career information and guidance cannot be underestimated considering the increasing difficulties in career decision making, the underutilization of human resources, job dissatisfaction and perennial and persistent problems of youth unemployment problems (Lenz & Sampson, 2008; Walsh & Osipow, 2014).

Kimiti and Mwova (2012) stated that the dilemma of career choice among school students as revealed in their study was that students chose their career on the basis of the information that they received from the career guidance teachers. They further noted that the students acknowledged the fact that they were more knowledgeable because of the availability of information on careers provided in their schools. Their findings confirmed

the fact that the provision of career guidance services positively influenced students' decision on their career choice. In the same vein the research conducted by Racho, Wambiya, Aloka and Raburu (2014) affirmed that students' career awareness had significant relationship with students' career decisions. Ogunlade and Akeredolu (2012) investigated the influence of counselling on career decision among secondary school students in Ekiti State, Nigeria. They concluded that there was a significant difference in the influence of counselling on career decision of students based on gender. This indicated that gender is a factor in career decision.

Career choice is an important decision that one is bound to make in life. Many times students are confronted with difficulties in making decision concerning the issue of career. Mashige and Oduntan (2011), Olamide and Olawaiye (2013) acknowledged that students often experience problems when deciding on their career choice. The career choice that a student makes can impact on his/her satisfaction and fulfillment or dissatisfaction later in life. Issa and Nwalo (2008) observed that many youths tend to go into unsuitable careers due to ignorance, inexperience and peer pressure. When this happened such youths constitute nuisance to themselves, their employers and thus may not be able to contribute meaningfully to their society. Therefore, the choice of career is one of the major areas of concern for young people that are nearing the end of their schooling (Alberts, Mbalo, & Ackemann, 2003). According to Kazi and Akhlaq (2017) people who are misfits in their workplace tend to be less productive and efficient and therefore are unable to achieve their goals.

In relation to Holland's theory of choosing career, people search for environment that makes use of their skills and abilities and express their attitudes and values. It is suggested that people are attracted to a given career that has similar qualities to their peculiar personalities and other background variables (Holland, 1992). Isa (2013) noted that Holland's perspective accentuates the accuracy of self-knowledge and career decision making. Career choice is one of the greatest issues and challenges in any students' life. It involves many factors which intricately intertwined. It involves serious and difficult decision making process that either make or mar the personality of the individual concern. Bandura, Barbaranelli, Caprar and Pastorelli (2001) stated that an individual environment exerts an influence on career choice. Per adventure, an individual made a wrong choice, it may lead to failure, disappointment and unproductivity. It is observed that homes, schools and the social set-up influence an individual's career choice (Kazi & Akhlaq, 2017). Often times, students make crucial decisions at a stage when they may not be fully informed of their choices, or else unavoidable circumstances prevent them from pursuing their goals. There are some studies that have identified that career choice are being influenced by both intrinsic and extrinsic factors and a combination of both (Hewitt, 2010). It is noted that the main intrinsic factors responsible for influencing career choice include an individual personality, interests, self-concept, attitudes and cultural identities. While the main extrinsic factors include social contacts, role models, availability of resources such as information, finances, globalization, ethnic background, level of educational attainment,

choice of subject of study and differences in job characteristics (Kerka, 2000; Bandura, Barbaranell, Caprara, & Pastorelli, 2001).

According to Hewit (2010), people are heavily influenced either by professions that their parents' favour, or the ones that their educational achievement have opened up for them. Whereas, other individuals are influenced by careers that offer prospects of higher benefits which includes salary, allowances and holidays. While there are also some who choose to pursue careers that they are passionate about regardless of the prospects of the benefits, for the reason that a career is a critical element in determining an individual daily routine, life activities, standard of living and the spiritual and social aspect of life (Nyamwange, 2016).

Alika (2010) examined parents and peer group influence as correlates of career choice in humanities among secondary school students in Nigeria. The result revealed that there was no significant relationship between parental and peer group influence on career choice in humanities among secondary school students. Another study conducted by Igbinedion (2011) investigated the perceived factors that influence students' vocational choice of secretarial studies in tertiary institutions in Edo State, Nigeria. The results indicated that there were variations in the perceived factors that influence students' vocational choice of secretarial studies between males and females. Students from the University and Colleges of Education differed significantly with regard to some of the factors that influence their career choice. In Nigeria, Eremie (2014) conducted a research on factors influencing career choice among senior secondary school students in Rivers State. The findings revealed that there was significant difference between male and female secondary school students in Rivers State. The findings also revealed that there was significant difference in their career choice based on prestige of a profession, gender parity and parental influence.

Ogunkola and Olatoye (2005) observed that there is gender imbalance in science, technology and mathematics education. Evidence abound that there are more males' undergraduates in the non-person centred courses like science, mathematics, engineering, technology and vocational programmes. Whereas, a significant number of female undergraduates are found in person centred courses, these are arts/humanity based, while some are also found in the vocational training programmes in Nigeria. (Ologun, 2002; Yoloye, 2004; Ogunkoya & Olatoye, 2005). The effect of this is the low percentage of women in science, mathematics, engineering and technology related profession. Generally, women are found in low paying traditional jobs such as social work, teaching, nursing, sales and administrative support position. Research effort of Brown and Lent (2000) suggested that men and women differed in their career patterns especially the occupational level attained, the sequence, frequency, duration of trial and stable jobs. Betz (2005) found that girls and boys learn early about which occupation that are suitable for them and which ones are not. He further supported the contention that general barriers and opportunities in the world of work were possibly internalized through socialization as sex role stereotypes

### **Statement of the Problem**

There seems to be greater number of students who are entering the universities without proper information on career choice. Hence many choose career ignorantly without being aware of what the career they are choosing entails. Due to lack of proper information concerning the issue of career, there seems to be many students who are studying courses in which they are not interested in, while some are not performing well academically due to lack of interest in the courses they are offering.

These researchers are interested in this study so as to assist many of these youths to guide against the psychological and traumatic experiences that students could be confronted with while studying courses they are not interested in or do not have ability for. Many promising and brilliant students have not been able to excel in their career due to lack of proper information, guidance and counselling concerning career. Knowledge is key and being aware of career that a student desired to pursue can help the student to achieve success and become distinguished in life. Whereas, as student with inadequate information about his/her chosen career may live a frustrated and an unfulfilled life. Thus, this research is embarked upon to see the relationship between career information and career choice among undergraduates of Adekunle Ajasin University in Ondo State. Therefore, the following question and hypotheses were raised to guide the study:

**Research Question:** What is the mean difference in the career information and career choice of Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba-Akoko (AAUA) undergraduates?

### **Hypotheses**

1. There is no significant relationship between career information and career choice among undergraduates of AAUA?
2. There is no significant difference in the career choice of male and female undergraduates of AAUA?
3. There is no significant difference in the career information of male and female undergraduates of AAUA?

### **Methodology**

The study employed a descriptive research design of the survey type in which a questionnaire was adopted to obtain the respondents' opinion on their knowledge of career information and career choice. The population of the study consisted of all the Adekunle Ajasin University students. This include all students in the six faculties in the University. Stratified random sampling technique was used to select 35 male and 35 female students from each of the six faculties thus a total of four hundred and twenty (420) students were used for the research. An instrument titled Career Information and Career Choice Questionnaire was used to collect data for the study. The instrument was divided into sections, A, B and C. **Section A:** Seeks information on the respondents' demographic data such as gender, age, faculty, religion, family type and residence. **Section B:** Consisted of fifteen items dealing with career information. The respondents were to respond to each of

the item with a four point Likert Scale response which include- Very Much True of Me, True of Me, Rarely True of Me and Never True of Me. **Section C:** Consisted of fifteen items seeking information on career choice. The respondents were to respond to each of the item with a four point Likert Scale response of 4 -1.

The researchers consulted experts' opinions to ascertain the face and content validities of the instrument used. The test-retest method of estimating reliability was employed to ascertain the reliability of the instrument. The reliability of the instrument was established by giving the questionnaire to students from another university who were not part of the sample respondents for the study. The instrument was administered to the same set of students twice after the interval of two weeks. The data were subjected to Pearson Product Moment Correlation and the reliability coefficient obtained was 0.72, which is high enough to indicate that the instrument is reliable for use in this study.

## **Results**

**Table 1**

Descriptive statistics showing mean difference between career information and career choice of AAUA undergraduates.

<b>Variables</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>N</b>
Career information	33.49	7.77	420
Career Choice	30.46	6.21	420

Table 1 showed that the mean values for career information and career choice of the undergraduates were 33.49 and 30.46 respectively while the standard deviation were 7.77 and 6.21.

**HO1:** There is no significant relationship between career information and career choice of undergraduates of AAUA?

In testing this hypothesis, data collected on career information and career choice were subjected to Pearson Product Moment Correlation and tested at 0.05 alpha level.

**Table 2**

Test of relationship between career information and Career choice among AAUA undergraduates.

<b>Variables</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>r.cal</b>	<b>r. tab</b>
Career information	420	0.595	0.195
Career Choice	420		

The result in Table 2 showed that r-calculated value was 0.595 while the r-table value was 0.195. Since the value of r calculated is greater than r table, the hypothesis is rejected, this indicated that significant relationship existed between career information and career choice.

**HO2:** There is no significant difference between the male career choice and female career choice of AAUA undergraduates?

**Table 3**

Test of significant difference of career choice of male and female of AAUA undergraduates

Gender	N	Mean	SD	DF	t.cal	t.cri
Male	210	30.24	6.919	418	-0.723	1.980
Female	210	30.68	5.405			

Table 3 indicated that t- calculated value -0.723 is lesser than the table value of 1.980 hence, the hypothesis was not rejected. This means that there was no significant difference between the career choice of male and female undergraduates of Adekunle Ajasin University Akungba-Akoko.

**HO3:** There no significant difference between male career information and female career information of undergraduates of AAUA.

**Table 4**

Test of significant difference between male and female undergraduates on career Information.

Gender	N	Mean	SD	DF	t.cal	t.cri
Male	210	33.98	7.92	418	1.288	1.980
Female	210	33.00	7.61			

The result in Table 4 showed that the t-calculated value of 1.288 is lesser that the table value of 1.980 hence, the hypothesis was not rejected. This means that there was no significant difference between the career information of male and career information of female undergraduates of AAUA.

### **Discussion**

The result of the study has shown that relationship between career information and career choice existed among students of Adekunle Ajasin University. It then means that the proper information that these students were exposed to while in the secondary school probably helped them to choose the career that they are currently pursuing in the University. The result of this findings corroborated Lugulu and Musoga (2013) that success of students' making informed degree programmes choices will depend on the level of career guidance and counselling given in schools and marketing of degree programmes offered by universities. The findings from this result also supported the assertion of Racho, Wambiya, Aloka and Raburu(2014) that students' career awareness had significant relationship with students' career decisions. The result of the study carried out by Nyamwange (2016) revealed that 272 (91.9%) of all respondents indicated that having prior knowledge of what a career entails is important in developing interest in a career. The issue of prior knowledge prepares an individual for what one is about to enter into and therefore a decision will have to be made and being aware of what is to expect, the type of work habits expected of them and the potential earnings. Thus, the essence of career information cannot be over emphasized in the choice of career among growing adolescents, because it will help them to make useful and worthwhile career decisions.

The result of second hypothesis also indicated gender was not a significant factor influencing career choice among students of Adekunle Ajasin University. The students were able to make adequate career choice despite gender differences. This is also in line with the finding of Kazi and Akhlaq (2017) that showed no significant gender differences in the career choice among the respondents.

The third hypothesis also indicated that there was no significant difference between career information and gender. This showed that both male and female students of Adekunle Ajasin University had equal access to career information. This gave the students adequate access to the necessary information that they required in their choice of career even the course they are currently studying in the university.

### **Conclusion**

The study showed that information is necessary for proper and informed career choice among students. This is an information age thus the youths must be properly informed and be assisted to make accurate career choice. The career that a person choose can help one to live meaningfully or otherwise. A wrong career choice may lead to frustration and unfulfilment in life. Thus, adequate and appropriate exposure is necessary to make good and correct career decision.

On the basis of the study and conclusions that were drawn, it is recommended that:

(1) Adequate career guidance and career counselling should be made available in all secondary schools in Nigeria. Counsellors should be provided in all secondary schools to

help the students to be aware of their potentials and to be able to channel such to appropriate areas of interest. There are many students that are in the university studying courses they are not good at or interested in, thus such students may not be performing well because of these challenges.

(2) Students should be encouraged to study courses that they have interest, aptitude and ability for and not directing them to courses that they are not competent enough to study. Parents and teachers should avoid misleading these students. Students should be allowed to study courses that they want, like and that which their ability can cope with. This will make them to turn out being the best in their field of endeavour and to have a fulfilled career later in life.

(3) Government and other non-governmental agencies should help schools by providing adequate career programmes for secondary school students so as to give them enough exposure concerning different careers available and the demands of such.

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