

Parents' Influences and the Entrepreneurship Occupational Aspirations of Wards in Technical Schools in Akwa Ibom State

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Abstract

Choice of career is sometimes influenced by parents. Parents tend to chose career based on employment opportunities of their time against making their wards self sufficient as getting involve in entrepreneurship. This study investigated parents influence especially as it concerns career aspiration. The study was a survey of 300 the population of the Senior Technical two students in the States using a questionnaire of reliability of 0.78. Data was analyzed using the Analysis of variance. The result obtained shows that parents' influenced the entrepreneurship occupational aspirations of wards in technical schools in Akwa Ibom State. Hence it was recommended that stakeholders including parents should encourage entrepreneurship among their wards.

Keywords: Career choice, Parents influence, Technical students, Entrepreneurship

Introduction

Entrepreneurship is now one of the general courses in Nigerian Universities. It has also been introduced into the Universal Basic Education especially in the basic science and the basic Technology curricula. This is really a big transformation of the formal education curriculum to produce job creators not job seekers. This will assist in curbing the menace of unemployment. Incidentally this was the suggestion of experts in the 1980 when Nigeria still in the process of nation building contacted experts on how to get out of the economic problems she found herself.

Entrepreneurship education is the inculcation of skills in business start up, business development and business expansion in individuals such that they have more opportunities to exercise creative freedom, higher self esteem and greater sense of control over life (Utopia, 2000). Wealth and a high majority of jobs are created by small business started by entrepreneurially minded individuals, many of whom go on to create big business. On the other hand in Siamatocre (2008) entrepreneurship education is made up of all kinds of experiences that give students the ability and vision of how to access and transform opportunities of different kinds. It goes beyond business creation. It is about increasing students' ability to anticipate and respond to societal changes.

Entrepreneurship education is education and training which allows students to develop and use their creativity, and to take initiatives, responsibility and risks. The definition was an attempt not to make it enterprise education but to involve the entire attempt by the individual to exercise his freedom of creativity and turn it to wealth. Wikipedia (2011) define entrepreneurship education as seeking to provide students with the knowledge, skills and motivation to encourage entrepreneurial success in a variety of settings.

According to the Consortium entrepreneurial education (2001)Entrepreneurship includes :

- Awareness of career and entrepreneurial options, steps in business startup
- Improved financial literacy
- workplace literacy
- Entrepreneurship process/business plan literacy, opportunity cost literacy financial literacy and wealth creation.

It involves creatively in:

- Assessing opportunities
- Evaluating the feasibility of ideas
- Identifying legitimate sources of capital
- Evaluating ownership structures
- Translating problems into opportunities
- Applying principles of Acquire skills in business startup
- business management/operation skills financial management ethical business practices accounting principles

However poverty is a matter of choice. It ceases to be an opportunity cost if it is out of ignorance. Poverty, disease and death in our own case are a result of absence of entrepreneurial literacy. The present and future generation should avoid these. It requires producing a person who is can partner with other sectors especially the economic sector and has acquire true political freedom which is freedom from economic bondage.

It also involves creation of businesses developers' human relations manager. Managers of risk entrepreneurial thinkers who also have the skills and tools to start their own. It means increasing ones horizon in terms of starting with a micro scale through a small scale through a middle scale to a large scale industries total dependent on self for existence. Actually the richest people globally are the entrepreneurs not the workers. This is more important now since the shift in the world is to a private sector driven economy.

Apart from creating the opportunity to create entrepreneurship bring corporate entrepreneurship promotion of innovation or introduction of new products or services or markets in existing firms. Another is the social entrepreneurship which is creating charitable organizations (or portions of existing charities). Another is the public entrepreneurship which is designed to be self-supporting in addition to doing their good works (Wikipedia, 2011).

Occupational aspiration is a person's or a group of person's orientation towards a goal. Goals are varied in kinds and are usually described with reference to a particular social status. Aspirations are goal statements concerning future levels of achievement (Ryclen & Salgmuk 2003). They refer to the future prospect of the individual. It is ones occupational aspiration that drives one toward his choice of occupation, which is one of the most important decisions one makes in life. Choice of occupation is one of the determiners of the satisfaction one gets from life, his work and the opportunities he has for advancement. According to Dex (2009)) one's choice of occupation determines the people with whom he will associate and where he will live. The choice one makes may also affect his health, attitudes, interests and sense of values. Arganawu and Ukpong (2009) lent support to this statement when he said that occupation is a source of need satisfaction.

Parental influence has been found to be a factor affecting occupational aspirations along with socio-economic status. Ifeakor and Enemuo (2009) stated that the key ingredient in a family's orientation toward achievement is a supportive home environment, regardless of socioeconomic status. Parental encouragement of higher education was found to be the primary predictor of career aspirations for African American and white, male and female tenth grades. In this study socioeconomic status was found to have a greater negative impact on males than females. Piwuna and Osasebor (2009)) found that from a group of high ability, 11-year-old boys, only the boys from disadvantaged backgrounds did not plan on going on to college. More specifically, Wasagu & Mohammed (2009) found that socio-economically disadvantaged families in rural Appalachia do not have access to resources that middle class parents have. Also, they find the following characteristics of lower income families more evidence of broken homes, friction due to one family member in jail, less frequent travel, less access to educational materials, and parents often enrolled in basic literacy or GED courses.

Parents from different groups have different types of influence on the educational and occupational decisions of both boys and girls in the family Ajewole (2004). Parents who believe that their own role is important for their children's achievement tend to be more controlling and to be keener in developing the child's interest (Georgiou, 1999). The overall success of the Entrepreneurship education will depend on not only on the inculcation of the relevant skills but also on the ability of the student to take on the appropriate career will enhance the manifestation of these skills. That is where the problem of parents comes into play.

Certainly, one of the most important issues in Nigeria today is the development and proper distribution of trained manpower that can meet the critical needs of the country which can only be possible if the occupational aspirations of the children are in line with that of the country. Research indicates that parents have influence, perhaps the single most important influence, on the career and job choices that their children make. National Planning Commission (2004) found that while parents' roles are unrecognized by some school officials, parental influence is permanent in children's career decisions.

On the other hand the socioeconomic status of parents influences their ability to guide their children in their occupational aspiration and their choice of occupation. Socioeconomic variables such as parent occupation income, professional status, educational status, and marriage status have been found to influence the occupational choice of students. The questions could this socioeconomic variables influence their occupational aspirations equally? How will these variables influence the occupational aspiration of senior technical two (ST. 2) students of

State Technical School especially those in Akwa Ibom State? Following from this, the problem of the study is to investigate into the role of socio-economic background of parents on technical school students' occupational aspiration in Akwa Ibom State.

Research Questions

Based on the above problem the following research questions are asked:

1. Parents' occupations influence entrepreneurship occupational aspirations of wards in technical schools in Akwa Ibom State.
2. Parents' counselling influences the entrepreneurship occupational aspirations of wards in technical schools in Akwa Ibom State.
3. Parents' educational status influences entrepreneurship occupational aspiration of wards in technical schools in Akwa Ibom State.
4. Parents' tribes also influence entrepreneurship occupational aspiration of wards in technical schools in Akwa Ibom State.
5. Parents' socioeconomic status influences entrepreneurship occupational aspiration of wards in technical schools in Akwa Ibom State.

Research Hypotheses

The following hypotheses are formulated to guide the researcher:

1. Parents' occupation has no significant influence on the entrepreneurship occupational aspirations of wards in technical schools in Akwa Ibom State.
2. Parents' counselling has no significant influence on the entrepreneurship occupational aspirations of wards in technical schools in Akwa Ibom State.
3. Parents' educational status has no significant influence on the entrepreneurship occupational aspiration of wards in technical schools in Akwa Ibom State.
4. Parents' tribe has no significant influence on the entrepreneurship occupational aspiration of wards in technical schools in Akwa Ibom State
5. Parents' socioeconomic status has no significant influence on the entrepreneurship occupational aspiration of wards in technical schools in Akwa Ibom State.

Research Design

The inferential survey design is adopted for the study. The survey designed is appropriate for the study as the opinions of the respondents are used to take decision in the study. Expost factor designs are mostly suitable for survey studies because the aim is to observe the effects or influences of what has already occurred.

All the 300 T2 students from Technical schools in Akwa Ibom State will be used for the study. There was no sampling, the population was studied. The researcher developed Parental Socio-Economic variables and Occupational Aspirations of Students Questionnaire (PSEVOASQ for the study. The questionnaires consist of 31 items self developed and submitted to the experts for correction and approval. The questionnaire is made up of three parts: Part I, II and III. Part I is designed to contain personal information. Part II is designed to contain the general information about student's socio-economic status; and section III deals with questions concerning students' occupational choice and sources of job information.

Each item measured on a 4 point scale summated like the Likert Scale. The scale has: Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D), and Strongly Disagree (SD). The respondents are asked to indicate the level of agreement on each of the items. The instrument will be validated 6 Experts. The researcher will administer the questionnaire individually to the respondents to make for conducting the study at the same time research assistants were trained and used form the conduct of the study. The questionnaires were distributed and collect same day.

Results**Table 1:** ANOVA of Parents' occupation and the entrepreneurship occupational aspirations of wards in technical schools

Sources of variation	SS	df	MS	F-ratio
Between groups	8895.61	2	4442.81	21.81*
Within groups	42171.63	207	203.73	
Total	51057.24	209		

*p< 0.05, critical F_(2, 207) = 3.04

From Table 1, the calculated f-value is 21.81 which is greater than the critical f –value of 3.04 and is therefore significant at the alpha level of .05 hence, the null hypothesis is rejected. This implies that this implies that Parents' occupation has significant influence on the entrepreneurship occupational aspirations of wards in technical schools in Akwa Ibom State.

Table 2: ANOVA of Parents' counselling and the entrepreneurship occupational aspirations of wards in technical schools

Sources of variation	SS	df	MS	F-ratio
Between groups	8768.75	2	4384.38	21.52*
Within groups	42171.63	207	203.73	
Total	51057.24	209		

*p< 0.05, critical F_(2, 207) = 3.04

From Table 2, the calculated f-value is 21.52 which is greater than the critical F–value of 3.04 and is therefore significant at the alpha level of .05 hence, the null hypothesis is rejected. This implies that Parents' counselling has significant influence on the entrepreneurship occupational aspirations of wards in technical schools in Akwa Ibom State.

Table 3: ANOVA of Parents' educational status and the entrepreneurship occupational aspirations of wards in technical schools

Sources of variation	SS	df	MS	F-ratio
Between groups	8895.61	2	8034.98	19.72*
Within groups	42171.63	207	203.73	
Total	51067.24	209		

*p< 0.05, critical F_(2, 207) = 3.04

From Table 3, the calculated F-value is 19.72 which is greater than the critical f –value of 3.04 and is therefore significant at .042 at the alpha level of .05 hence, the null hypothesis is rejected. This implies that Parents' educational status has significant influence on the entrepreneurship occupational aspiration of wards in technical schools in Akwa Ibom State.

Table 4: ANOVA of Parents' tribe and the entrepreneurship occupational aspirations of wards in technical schools

Sources of variation	SS	df	MS	F-ratio
Between groups	1064.69	2	4032.35	19.79*
Within groups	42171.63	207	203.73	
Total	43236.32	209		

*p< 0.05, critical $F_{(2, 207)}$ =3.04

From Table 2, the calculated f-value is 19.79 which is greater than the critical f –value of 3.04 and is therefore significant at .042 at the alpha level of .05 hence, the null hypothesis is rejected. This implies that Parents' tribe has significant influence on the entrepreneurship occupational aspiration of wards in technical schools in Akwa Ibom State

Table 5: ANOVA of Parents' socioeconomic status and the entrepreneurship occupational aspirations of wards in technical schools

Sources of variation	SS	df	MS	F-ratio
Between groups	1064.69	2	4216.27	
Within groups	42171.63	207	203.73	20.70*
Total	43236.32	209		

*p< 0.05, critical $F_{(2, 207)}$ =3.04

From Table 2, the calculated f-value is 20.70 which is greater than the critical f –value of 3.04 and is therefore significant at alpha level of .05 hence, the null hypothesis is rejected. This implies that Parents' socioeconomic status has significant influence on the entrepreneurship occupational aspiration of wards in technical schools in Akwa Ibom State

Discussion of Findings

From the Results Parents' occupations, Parents' counseling, Parents' educational status, Parents' tribe, and Parents' socioeconomic status significantly influence entrepreneurship occupational aspiration of wards in technical schools in Akwa Ibom State. This is because most parents want their wards to take to prestigious occupations like medicine, law and engineering even when such a child does not have the aptitude(Foreword ,2009).. The problem is that many end up graduating in various fields and come to stay at home looking for employment in the government sector which is the only viable source of employment now ever since the economic challenges of the 1980s. These people would have been better engaged in entrepreneurial activities if their parents have so directed them such that instead of being employees of labour they are groom to become employers of labour (Ajewole (2004) & Akpan 2008).. Parents from different groups have different types of influence on the educational and occupational decisions of both boys and girls in the family (Arganawu & Ukpong ,2009), Parents who believe that their own role is important for their children's achievement tend to be more controlling and to be keener in developing the child's interest (Dex (2009). Family processes of instruction and communication, as well as beliefs and attitudes, influence what child learns about work and work experiences. Youth aspiration is influenced by parental aspirations. In all of the studies (Ifeakor & Enemuo, 2009)reviewed relating youth aspirations to attainment, family background was found to be an important determinant. High parental aspiration and expectations have been found to have an impact on children's school achievement (Lawal,2009) .There is also indication that school achievement may be more strongly related to parental aspirations and expectation than to parents socioeconomic status (Piwuna & Osasebor,

Piwuna and Osasebor (2009) had also discovered that students' apparent lack of information about the occupations they choose may be due to the fact that their major source of job information is not the school, but the family. Opportunity for career success will depend on the vocational stimulation of the child. Most brilliant children may not even have the opportunity for successful career. It is the type of parental background an individual has that structure his vocational aspirations. A child who comes from an environment where he has no model to copy, or

where he is not familiar with various jobs, will not be able to consider prestigious jobs while formulating his occupational goals. Thus, poor background may limit an individual's success in life.

According to Siamatocre (2008) another point to consider in choosing a career is the financial implications of the choice. She found that apart from parental views, the parental financial backing has a great part to play in the choice of individual's job. There are some courses that are very expensive to train in. Socioeconomic background of parents has a high positive correlation with the type of information available. This unawareness could create possibilities of students choosing subjects that may not lead to profitable occupations.

Differences in career aspirations between students of varying abilities occur due to socioeconomic factors. More able students were found to aspire to higher-level jobs, though the higher social class children had the higher aspirations within all ability groups (Elechi, 2009 & Udoфia, 2000). Students of higher abilities and higher social class levels were more likely to actually plan to go to college whether encouraged or not. They are much more likely to aspire to college if they are encouraged. Similarly, several studies have shown that, overall, Canadian youth have high occupational aspirations and that most view their careers in line with their family socioeconomic status.

Conclusion

From the Result it can be concluded that Parents' occupations, Parents' counseling, and Parents' educational status, Parents' tribe, and Parents' socioeconomic status significantly influence entrepreneurship occupational aspiration of wards in technical schools in Akwa Ibom State.

Recommendation

1. Parents should be properly sensitized on the need for entrepreneurship skills to be inculcated in their wards.
2. Society and stakeholders in the youth sector should advocate, mobilize, sensitize, and train the youth at various levels on entrepreneurship skills.
3. The different tiers of government should create enabling environment for investment especially in the area of infrastructure, financing, and security of life and properties.
4. School counselors should become more involved in entrepreneurship counseling.

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