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INFLUENCE OF PARENTING STYLES ON CAREER CHIOCE OF THE ADOLESCENTS FROM ANAMBRA CENTRAL SENATORIAL DISTRICT OF ANAMBRA STATE

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ABSTRACT

This study was on the influence of parenting styles on career choice of the adolescents from Anambra Central Senatorial District of Anambra State. The design adopted a descriptive survey design. The area of study was Anambra central senatorial district. The population of the study was all the senior secondary year II (SS II) students from government owned secondary schools in Anambra central senatorial district during the 2025/25 academic year. The sample size consisted of 700 students selected using multi stage sampling technique. The reliability of the instrument was established using split half method and result obtained was analyzed using Pearson product moment of correlation and the reliability was found to be 0.71. Three briefed assistants helped in administering and collection of the questionnaire. All the distributed questionnaires were returned. The questionnaire was a researcher developed instrument consisting of three clusters and titled influence of parents on career choice (IPOCC). The data collected were analyzed using mean and standard deviation scores for research questions 1, 2 and 3. The findings revealed an average mean score of (2.22) for permissive style of parenting (2.52) for authoritarian styles of parenting and (3.12) for democratic styles of parenting. Implying that parents from Anambra central senatorial district seems to apply more of democratic style of parenting in the career choice of their young adolescents over the other styles. The following recommendations among others were made and they include: democratic style of parenting seems best in child

acculturation therefore should be encouraged. Seminars, workshops and conferences are to be organized for parents that are yet to adapt to the best parenting practice. Counsellors through the use of on-line and social networks should enhance grass root counselling encounter on healthy influence of career choice by parents.

Keywords: Influence, Parents, Parenting Styles, Adolescents, Career Choice.

INTRODUCTION

In recent times, what parents do and are not doing to support the development of their adolescents is topical in most literatures (Okudo and Obumse, 2023), (Amadi 2018, Mallika and Radha 2015). According to Okudo, Obumse and Nwudu (2023). Parent is defined as the father and mother of an offspring that creates their infant biologically. According to them, the term parents refer to the man and woman that beget the individual. In view of the above Ifejiofor (2018) noted that parent is the anchor of every family setting and are charged with the duty of parenting through socialization.

Okudo and Obumse (2022) defined parenting as series of activities and decision about the socialization of the child. This definition was collaborated by Santruck (2021) who sees parenting as implementation of decisions. The implementation of these decisions (parenting) carried out by one of the foremost agent of socialization occurs in various pattern called parenting styles. Okudo and Obumse further noted that parenting styles had several classifications. According to them, great theorist like Anne Roe, Baumrind and Melgosa made various categorization of parenting styles to include; permissive/negligent authoritarian and democratic styles of parenting. The permissive parents are projected as non-punitive, acceptable and affirmative towards a child's impulse (Stehlik, 2018).. The permissive parents rarely gets involved in the activities and affairs of their children.

Furthermore, Santruck (2018), noted that democratic parents consults with him/her about policies, decisions and gives explanations for family rules. The authoritarian parent attempts to shape, control and evaluate the behaviors and attitudes of the child in accordance with set standard of conduct, usually in absolute standard motivated and formulated by higher authority. Authoritarian parents value obedience as a virtue and favors punitive, forceful measures to curb self will at points where the child's action or belief conflicts with right conduct. On the other hand, the democratic parents however attempt to direct the child's activities but in a rational issue oriented manner, they affirm child's presents qualities, but also set standard for future conducts. They use reason as power to achieve objectives and set goals; consult with him/her about policies, decisions and gives explanations for family rules.
Based on the above, parenting styles enables parents play significant impacts in the life adjustments of their adolescents including influencing their career choice. Kolo (2019) stated that career choice is the selection or choosing of a career which the individual has the potential to enter. It considers competency, capacity, and preference. Competency and capacity underscores the individual's ability to meet up with the required standards and bench mark stipulated for entrance into the discipline while preference connotes the individual's likeness of the career over the Millard's of jobs available in the market force. Furthermore, Okudo, Okwunalu and Nwankwo (2023) explicitly stated that career choice is made cognizant of the following three factors, namely choice, incentive and freedom to choose. Incentive deals with the benefit or motivation, choice entails the availability of more than one course of action, and

finally there must be no restriction. It is on this platform that parents prevail in the "what" and "who" their adolescent's child becomes.

Adolescent according to Stehlik (2018) is defined biologically as the physical transition marked by onset of puberty and termination of physical growth, cognitively as change in the ability to think abstractly and multi-dimensionally or socially as a period of preparation for adult roles. Similarly Fletcher (2016) views adolescent as a dynamically evolving theoretical construct informed through physiological, psychosocial, temporal and cultural lenses. It is a phase these young children prepare for adult roles and the encounter the society.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

The low productivity and disinterestedness visibly seen in the society of our time has been traced to certain roots. Significant among these are problems of wrong career choice probably resulting from improper guidance during the emerging era of the individual's formation Stages. The emerging era of one's life are those phase when the socialization agents play vital roles and at the cradle of such impact is the parents styles of child acculturation knowing as parenting styles. Many parents are seen to allow their adolescents child wade against the tides of career choice. The consequences of such actions tend very often to resemble a ship the sailor allowed at the mercy of the ocean tides. Such ship is seen not to have a realistic direction because the sailing was determined by an extraneous variable. The same seems to apply to young children whose styles of parenting are laisse-faire, non-chalant and perhaps imposing. The motivation of this research is therefore to investigate how parenting styles influences the career choice of their adolescents. The study will specifically examine the following

The influence of permissive parenting styles on the career choice of the adolescent, the influence of authoritarian style of parenting on adolescent career choice, and finally the influence of democratic styles of parenting on adolescent's career choice.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

(1) What are the influences of permissive styles of parenting on the career choice of their adolescents?
(2) What are the influences of authoritarian styles of parenting on the career choice of their adolescents?
(3) What are the influences of democratic styles of parenting on the career choice of their adolescents?

METHOD

The design adopted a descriptive survey. The area of study was Anambra central senatorial district. The population of the study was all the senior secondary year II (SS II) students from government owned secondary schools in Anambra central senatorial district during the 2025/25 academic year. The sample size consisted of 700 students selected using multi stage sampling technique. The reliability of the instrument was established using split half method and result obtained was analyzed using Pearson's product moment of correlation and the reliability was found to be 0.71. Three briefed assistants helped in administering and collection of the questionnaire. All the distributed questionnaire were returned. The questionnaire was a researcher developed instrument consisting of three clusters and titled influence of parents on career choice (IPOCC). The data collected were analyzed using mean scores for research

questions 1, 2 and 3. Mean scores below 2.50 range were rejected and scores above the mean mark of 2.50 were accepted.

RESULTS

The data collected from the study were analyzed and the summaries presented as follows;

Research question one: what are the influences of permissive styles of parenting on the career choice of adolescents from Anambra central senatorial district?

Table one: mean and standard deviation scores of adolescents rating of influence of permissive parenting style on their career choice.

S/N	Items on styles of parenting	$\bar{x}$	SD	Decision
1	Helps me discover careers/skills	2.40	0.71	
2	Sponsors excursion and trips to industries	2.39	0.69	
3	Encourages me to participate in career workshops	2.09	0.64	
4	Encourages me to visit counselors	2.32	0.73	
5	Make available journals and career magazines	2.02	0.67	
6	Discusses with me about my future career	2.04	0.75	
7	Gives explanations for making subject choice	2.21	0.63	
8	Allows me to solve problems concerning my future	2.67	0.63	
9	Shows interest on my career aspiration	2.13	0.68	
10	Available to clarify my doubts	2.27	0.68	
11	Insists on choosing a career for me	2.19	0.67	
12	Demands absolute obedience and compliance on his choice	2.34	0.65	
13	Choose my subject combinations	2.09	0.66	
14	Insists I maintain this choice	2.03	0.76	
15	Issues threat on deviation	2.17	0.67	

The table one above reveals that among all the fifteen items measuring the influence of permissive styles of parenting on career choice of adolescents, only one item (allows me to solve problems concerning my future) was rated above the acceptable mean score of 2.50. implying that some parents from Anambra central senatorial district engage in permissive style of parenting. The table has an average mean score value of 2.22.

Research question two: what are the influences of authoritarian styles of parenting among adolescents from Anambra central senatorial district of Anambra State

Table two: mean and standard deviation scores of authoritarian styles of parenting on adolescent's career choice.

S/N	Items on the influence of authoritarian style of parenting on career choice of adolescents	$\bar{x}$	SD	Decision
1	Insists on choosing a career for me	2.87	0.62	
2	Demands absolute obedience and compliance on his choice	2.69	0.71	
3	Chooses my subject combination	2.84	0.65	
4	Issues threat on deviation	2.79	0.72	
5	Helps me discover career/skills	2.50	0.63	
6	Encourages me to participate in career workshop	2.60	0.67	
7	Allows me to solve problems concerning my future	2.01	0.70	
8	Available to clarify my doubts	2.32	0.74	
9	Dialogues with me about my future career	2.19	0.72	
10	Discusses with me about my future career	2.41	0.71	

n = 700

The table two above indicated that six items were found to be rated above the acceptable mean mark; choosing a career for me (2.87) demands absolute obedience and compliance on his choice (2.64), chooses subject combination (2.84), issues threat on deviation (2.79), helps discover career/skills (2.50) and encourages in the participation of workshop (2.60). the rest were rated below the acceptable mean score, the table further revealed an average mean score of (2.62) thus implying that some parents from Anambra central senatorial district of Anambra State.

Table three: mean and standard deviation table scores on the influence of democratic style of parenting on career choice.

S/N	Items on influence of Democratic style of parenting on career choice	$\bar{x}$	SD	Decision
1	Available to clarify doubts on career choice	3.02	0.69	
2	Dialogues with me on career choice	3.42	0.68	
3	Reasons with me on subject combination	3.01	0.71	
4	Sponsors excursion trips	3.36	0.74	
5	Encourages visitation to counsellor	3.45	0.67	
6	Helps to discover skills and career opportunities	3.03	0.74	
7	Make available journals and career magazines	2.90	0.63	
8	Gives explanation for career choice	3.04	0.76	
9	Discusses with me about my future	3.49	0.68	
10	Encourages participation in career workshop	3.05	0.71	

n = 700

The table three above revealed the adolescents' ratings of the influence of democratic styles of parenting on their career choice. Interestingly, all the items were rated above the acceptable mean mark of 2.5 with an average mean score of (3.177). this could perhaps reveal that majority of parents in Anambra central senatorial district practices democratic style of parenting.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The findings of this study were discussed in line with the purpose of the study which sought to determine the influence of parenting styles on the career choice of their adolescents. It specifically dealt with the various parenting styles such as permissive, authoritarian, and democratic styles of parenting. With respect to the permissive styles of parenting, the adolescents rated all items except one below the acceptable mean scores. The indicated that their parents allow them to solve their problems with a score of (2.67). This is in line with views of Santruck (2021) who opined that permissive parents allow things to happen anyhow in the lives of the children. They allow their wards to wade against problems of life especially adjustment.

Furthermore, the research question two answered by table two determined the influence of authoritarian style of parenting on career choice of adolescents from Anambra central senatorial district. The table revealed a rating which indicated that some parents from that senatorial district practice authoritarian style of parenting. The table revealed that these parents insist on choosing career for adolescents (2.87), chooses subject combination (2.84), issues threat on deviation (2.79) etc. The above rating is in consonance with the views of Baumrid and Anne Roe who maintained that authoritarian parents value obedience, favors punitive and forceful measures to the point of curbing self-will.

Concerning the influence of Democratic style of parenting answered by the research question three and presented by table three. The adolescents rated the parenting style involvement very high with an average mean score of 3.12. indicating that parents in the senatorial district seems to favor democratic style of parenting on facilitating the career choice of their adolescents over other styles.

The parents were rated highly in availability to clarify doubts on career choice (3.02), dialogue on career choice (3.42), reasons with adolescent on subject combination (3.01), discusses the future (3.49), gives explanation for career choice (3.04) etc. The above findings collaborate the views of Okudo and Obumse (2022), Santruk (2018), Santruck (2021), and great authors such as Baumrid, Anne Roe etc. these maintain that parents that practice democratic style of parenting consult about policies and decision, gives explanations for rules, uses reason as means to achieve goal etc.

CONCLUSION

The above study investigated the influence of parenting styles on the career choice of adolescents from Anambra central senatorial district of Anambra State. The influence of the three styles of parenting (permissive, authoritarian and democratic) on career choice of adolescents were examined. The findings revealed an average mean score of (2.22) for permissive style of parenting (2.52) for authoritarian styles of parenting and (3.12) democratic styles of parenting. Implying that parents from Anambra central senatorial district seems to apply democratic style of parenting in the career choice of their young adolescents.

RECOMMENDATIONS

(1) Democratic style of parenting seem best in child acculturation therefore should be encouraged.

(2) Seminars, workshops and conferences are to be organized for parents that are yet to adapt to the best parenting practice
(3) Counsellors through the use of on-line and social networks should enhance grass root counselling encounter on healthy influence of career choice by parents.

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