

Parental Characteristics and Career Choice Decision among Senior High School Students' In the Kwahu-East District.

Felix OppusuPaapaAgyiri

Abetifi Presbyterian Senior High School, P.O.Box 14, Abetifi-Kwahu, Ghana,
Co - Author:Asaah Junior Stephen Kwabena
Twifo-Praso Senior High School. P.O.Box 82, Twifo-Praso, Ghana,

Abstract: The purpose of this study was to investigate effects of selected parental characteristics variables on career choice decision among senior high school students in the Kwahu-East District. Picking a profession is a critical choice that impacts a person's whole future. Numerous students graduate from high school and are unacquainted with career processes and choices. These students will in general join up with institutions of higher learning, trusting that time will permit them to settle on a choice and harden their future. Accordingly, these students sit around idly and uncertain of what is in store from life. The correlation and descriptive survey designs were employed to conduct the study. A total sample of 800 was selected using purposive, simple random as well as stratified sampling procedures. Questionnaire and Parental Career Behaviour Checklist were used as data collection instruments. Pearson Product Moment Correlation as well as multiple regression analysis procedures were used to analyze the data for this study. The results of the study show that parents' income level influence students' career choice. The study also established that parents play a significant role in determining the career choice of their children throughout their schooling years. The findings from the study showed that the educational level of parents influence students' career choice pursuit. The findings from the study also confirmed that parents' occupation had a positive impact on students' career choice. Based on the findings of the study, it is recommended that parents ought to intentionally impart their decisions to their children without being excessively convincing. Secondly, parents should set aside efforts to examine distinctive career decisions with their children through depiction of a strong parent-child relationship.

Keywords: Parental Characteristics, Decision Making, Career Choice, and Students.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Choosing a profession is a critical choice that impacts a person's whole future (Rojewski, 2018). The combination of roles played in a sequence by a person during a lifetime constitutes a person's career. Consequently, it is the advancement and activities taken by an individual all through lifetime, particularly those identified with that individual's occupation to achieve top management appointments. This decision alone is an exceptionally overwhelming undertaking among young people and youths which can possibly open the entryway for progress or close the entryway of chance. While frequently perceived to be an individual decision, thorough literature research proposes that a plenty of impacts, for example, family involvement (Palo & Drobot, 2010), school climate, community characteristics, as well as social and economic factors are probably going to control one's definitive career choice (Ferry, 2006). Parental perception assumes an imperative job in the life of young people including their scholarly standing, expert and individual lives (Dietrich & Kracke, 2009; Tillman & Tillman, 2015). Reliably, they fill in as a significant impact in their kids' career improvement and profession dynamics. Guardians need their kids to discover satisfaction and achievement throughout everyday life and one factor which impacts happiness and achievement is profession decision (Shellenbarger, 2006). Then again, individuals who are adversely affected by their folks are more averse to pick a similar career field of their folks (Kumar, 2016). Profession entry is currently occurring at a later stage throughout everyday life. As indicated by Bertelsmann Stiftung (2007), a couple of decade's back young people were accessible to the labour market at 18 years old. Today, the normal age of those entering training is 19 (Baum and Wagner, 2014). Given the more extended time that young people spend in education, guardians likewise put immense budgetary resources in their kids' training (Aley, Levine, & Levine, 2020). From a passionate point of view, guardians are for the most part seen as serious advisors and supporters in key instructive and career related issues (Hurrelmann, 2007). The young person's social situating is additionally a critical factor in their career decision. Scarcely will guardians appear to perceive this effect and still accept that they have little to do with the career decisions of their young people.

Nonetheless, studies keep on revealing that parents have a more noteworthy impact than instructors on career decision and can even impact what programme their children decide to seek after graduating from school (Nawabi, 2019). While parents accept that their immediate profession guidance might be powerful, they might be unconscious that they can likewise apply a solid career impact essentially by filling in as instances of labourers. Since parental standards and qualities are probably going to influence profession decision, it is significant that parents realize the unpretentious ways that they convey their standards and qualities all the time (Nawabi, 2019). Notwithstanding getting mindful of the standards and qualities they depict, parents or guardians likewise need to realize that their kids will probably receive these standards and qualities as their own. It is imperative to state that guardians should prepare for destroying thoughts their young people may have about their future careers (Suryadi, 2020). Guardians ought to subsequently keep the lines of communication open, and urge their children to accumulate much data as could be expected on their career intrigue areas (Aley et al., 2020). In many cases, the appropriation of standards and desires happen secretly, without guardians in any event, understanding that it is occurring. Comfort (2019) posits that even guardians who accept children ought to be allowed to build up their own sprouting abilities and objectives. Guardians do this by exhibiting non-verbal reactions to specific remarks or by demonstrating little enthusiasm for specific activities (Due, 2019). The response and remarks that guardians make about specific careers will be of huge impact. In this way, even circuitous reactions, for example, non-verbal communication, signals, or manner of speaking, will be significant in forming young peoples' view of specific vocations. In the opinion of these children, parents are significant others whose connectedness are very vital for their career progress (Comfort, 2019).

Statement of the Problem

Parents give the premise on which a student's career planning and decision making develops (Nawabi, 2019). As students continue towards high school, families regularly expect that children and teachers will cooperate to build up a profession and post-secondary education plan, so they accept their job as guardians diminishes (Amatea, Daniels, Bringman, & Vandiver, 2004). Instructors in different schools face the troublesome errand of working with countless students (Suryadi, 2020). Along these lines, numerous students graduate from school and are uninformed to school decision and career procedures and choices. These students will in general join up with schools or colleges, trusting that time will permit them to settle on a choice and set their future. Thus, these students sit around idly and uncertain of what's in store from life (Amatea, Daniels, Bringman, & Vandiver, 2004). As guardians' information on career advancement expands, it will urge kids to stay in school while supporting healthy norms (Lehmann & Konstam, 2011). According to Palo and Drobot (2010), parents who are loving, lenient and performance-oriented get increasingly associated with the young peoples' professional development. Career determination at beginning periods produces beneficial outcomes on student performance, school completion, and professional development (Suryadi, 2020). It has been discovered that grown-ups are taking 5 to 10 years longer to settle on career choices than non-developing grown-ups (Lehmann & Konstam, 2011). People in this age group will in general have sentiments of aimlessness and experience an absence of heading or reasoning making it an overwhelming undertaking in taking informed career decision (Shearer, 2009). A conceivable clarification for their career uncertainty exudes from useless convictions, absence of data about oneself, internal conflicts, and external conflicts. Internal and external conflicts happen through conflicting data from parental or other parent collaborations (Shearer, 2009). Individuals regularly settle on their first career-related decisions during pre-adulthood. Adolescent students need to settle on choices concerning their decision of secondary school and their secondary school elective courses. These decisions influence the students' instructive and professional opportunities (Gati & Saka, 2001).

There are numerous reasons students pick their professions or field of works. There are some with the presumption that having advanced education can give them enormous chances to be in the job fields they want (Kumar, 2016). There are a few majors that get higher consideration, for example, clinical, building, business, and agribusiness and so on. This is a result of high chances, great compensation, and the eminence of that activity. Furthermore, career decision is a champion among the hugest choices that students make in picking future courses of action (Nawabi, 2019). This decision will impact them all through their lives. The focal point of the students' character turns around what the students need to do with their enduring work. Students' career decision is a consistent issue in the present-day world. From the review of the literature, it has been observed that parental characteristics and the impact on career choice decision among high school students have not been fully explored (Due, 2019). There is limited number of studies examining parental characteristics and students' career choice decisions and that of Kwahu-East District is virtually non-existence. Therefore this current study is an attempt to fill the research gap in the literature. The purpose of this study was to investigate effects of selected parental characteristics variables on career choice decision among senior high school students in the Kwahu-East District. The study specifically sought to examine; the relationship between parents' educational level and students' career choice decision, the relationship between parents' occupation and students' career

choice decision, the relationship between parents' income level and students' career choice decision. The findings of the study will provide a springboard to programme developers and implementers, critical issues to reflect on as they make preparations towards students' choice of careers. The research will also serve as a useful tool for parents to adopt variety of approaches to make their children to have informed decision with respect to their future career ambitions.

II. Literature Review

Theoretical Review

Social Cognitive Career Theory

The Social Cognitive Career Theory (Rojewski, 2018) speaks to a place that endeavours to follow a portion of the complex connections among people and their career related setting, among cognitive and interpersonal factors, and between self-coordinated and remotely forced effects on profession conduct. This point of view proceeds to construct applied linkages with other scholars' turn of events. Social Cognitive Career Theory was intended to address the relationship among values, needs, aptitudes, and interests just as help build valuable conceptual bridges and recognize significant factors that may create an increasingly thorough illustrative system. Also, Social Cognitive Career Theory features certain test and inclining or psychological procedures connecting these factors together. Social Cognitive Career Theory attests that individuals form enduring interest for an activity when they consider themselves to be skillful at the errand and when they envision that their inclusion will bring about something advantageous.

Career Construction Theory

Career development theory gives a perspective about how people pick and use work. The theory presents a model for understanding professional conduct all through the lifecycle (Andrew & Holmes, 2019). Instructors use different strategies and materials that assist customers with settling on career decisions and keep up effective and fulfilling work lives. Career Construction theory tries to be extensive by tending to three viewpoints on professional conduct: initially, differential, furthermore, formative, and thirdly dynamic. From the point of view of individual contrasts psychology, it analyzes the content of professional character types and what different individuals like to do (International et al, 2019). The developmental psychology point of view analyzes the procedure of psychosocial adjustment and assesses how people adapt to vocational development tasks, occupational transitions, and work traumas (Hay et al., 2019). Narrative psychology gives a point of view as one inspects the elements by which life topics force significance on professional conduct and why people fit work into their lives in distinct manners.

Empirical Review

Parents' Educational Level and Students' Career Choice Decision

Parents fill in as a significant impact in their young people career improvement and career decision (Qualifax, 2016). Guardians need their children to discover bliss and achievement throughout everyday life and one factor which impacts joy and achievement is career decision. The degree of parent association in a kid's life, regardless of whether positive or negative, can affect how the kid picks his or her future career (Shellenbarger, 2006). Of the considerable number of variables that impact career decision forms, relatives especially guardians, will in general be the most compelling determinant of vocation plans, work related yearnings and desires. Regardless of whether schools have the assets with which to meet young people's career guidance needs, neither instructors nor advisors can supplant the impact guardians have on their children and little girls career plans (Ugwu, 2009). Parents' educational background may impact students' perspectives on whether to proceed with their education and the heading of their career decision (Nwoke, 2007).

Parental education level decides the enhancements and the social degree of the home. Guardians outfitted with sufficient education regularly get profitable work. Accordingly, with their degree of pay and presentation, they are better arranged to obtain educational materials for their kids and talk about opportunities for work with them. Without question, a young people encompassed with great magazines, books, just as canny conversations could be relied upon to create extraordinary, and maybe better, professional interests than a child not exposed to those things (Onyejiaku, 2001). If parents have good educational qualification, they would like their children to have high qualifications too. If parents have a low education level, it can retard adolescent's career choice process. Kohout and Wicherski (2011) attest that the future vocation will of a child is to a great extent controlled continuously by choices made by the guardians who direct the child's development. Guardians continue starting directions that are intended to guide their kids in a favored career developmental path depends on the parent's inclinations. Furthermore, guardians settle on decisions on their kids' career by watching their attributes and academic capacities in school. Authors additionally observed that in developed nations, guardians will in general select their children in schools that open them to skills they want them to secure just as presenting them to individuals and spots that shape their future career goals. Progressively instructed parents are

accepted to make a domain that encourage or stimulate learning and include themselves in their children's school experiences and school condition (Mudibo, 2014). Aside from that, educated guardians for the most part show enthusiasm in their children's academic performance and career choice (Ozoromba, 2007).

Heaps of studies keep on providing details regarding the connection between parental education and students' career decision choices. For instance, a correlational report by Huesmann (2009) to decide the job of parent's education level in forming their children's future through profession yearnings and decisions announced that guardians' education was the most grounded of the family financial status indicators of instructive and professional accomplishment in adulthood. As per the study, parental education anticipated both instructive and word related yearnings just as instructive accomplishment during late youthful. Increasingly taught guardians are accepted to make a situation that encourage or stimulate learning and include themselves in their children's school encounters and school condition (Mudibo, 2014). As indicated by Grohol (2013) youthful grown-ups who decided to consider medicine, engineering, economy, pharmacy and business studies originate from families where guardians have finished secondary school education. Thus, Udohand Sanni (2012) researched the impact of parental background factors on the career decision of high school students in Uyo Local Government Area of Nigeria. Their discoveries suggested that guardians' degree of formal education apply a critical effect on the career decisions of high school students. This infers parental degree of instruction fundamentally impacts their children accomplishment in school and thusly their future professions. In a study to research the natural factors that impact instructive and occupational goals of standard eight students, Aswani (2012) noticed that parental degree of education had critical positive effect on the students' educational and occupational aspirations. The discoveries adjust to that of past studies whose review set up that the mother's degree of education contributes more to young ladies' desires for advanced education than young men. Different studies uncovered that, students whose guardians were from high educational background were increasingly steady and don't have a lot of challenges in settling on career decision, when contrasted and those whose guardians have low educational background.

Parents' Occupation and Students' Career Choice Decision

Parental occupation is one of the key factors that decide a child's profession decision. Picking a profession can be satisfying particularly on the off chance that you have settled on the correct decision, and can be upsetting on the off chance that you settled on the decision wrongly (Hay et al., 2019). Guaranteeing your kids is set up for a fruitful career, future money related security and a decent personal satisfaction (Suryadi, 2020). Guardians have embraced convictions about progress, how to be effective and what comprises a 'great job' or 'perfect life' (Suryadi, 2020). Anything we input to our kids depends on these convictions and our own experiences. Also, everybody has a one of a kind set of abilities and aptitudes. Every kid is unique in their own specific manner, thus may have various aptitudes and capacities to their folks. In view of this, receiving a comparable profession job to either parent may not be the correct game-plan (William, 2016). On a regular premise, the basic sharing of working environment stories and displaying work practices permits guardians to fill in as a setting for deciphering the real factors of work while the protected and close family condition encourages risk-taking and exploration which are all required in development of a professional character (Batshaw, 2003). The guardians' occupations quite often impact the vocations their children will take up later on. William (2016) is of the assessment that it's nothing unexpected that numerous individuals are the third or fourth ages of their families to work in a similar calling. They have an insider's brief look into their folks' occupations, making it simpler for them to break in to the business. In the event that their folks' employments give them incredible fulfillment or give an agreeable way of life, kids see the advantages at an opportune time, and may support these vocations over others. Interestingly, if guardians grumble about their occupations or battle to help the family on the salary their employments give, kids are bound to look for additionally satisfying or more generously compensated jobs (Suryadi, 2020).

As per literature, greater part of the kids' career decisions is affected by the guardians deliberately and unintentionally. Children will in general quest for a vocation by seeking their folks for profession exhortation or as good examples particularly when they move to the youthful stage (William, 2016). A successful parental way to deal with this is to inspire the student to investigate a different set of potential profession ways or stay with what they figure the guardians will support of as a good career. It has been sealed that guardians whose occupations offer incredible fulfillment or give an agreeable way of life pull in their children to take after their careers without any problem (Suryadi, 2020). Then again, a parent whose activity is disappointing and brimming with whines and battles repulse their kids from taking after their careers along these lines look for all the more satisfying jobs (Ferry, 2006). Various studies have kept up that parental occupation is an immediate capacity of students' career decisions (William, 2016; Suryadi, 2020). They place that the control of guardians predicts the future employment determination of children. A study done by Nwanchukwu (2003) in Nigeria sees that parent's occupation has impact on the children's career decision. Nwanchukwu gave discoveries from students who revealed that guardians transparently communicated their supposition about their occupation decision and a

level of up to 46.9% said they got occupational data from their folks. For instance, if the child's dad is a specialist and the mother is a drug specialist, the kid's degree of occupational inclination is probably going to be affected by the parental weight as the two guardians will in all probability rouse the kid to seek after traditional careers or whatever other career that is renowned.

The guardians will do this with the goal that the child might be in the same class as themselves or even have a more renowned career than they do. On the off chance that the kid picks a non-renowned career like untalented work, the guardians will be in conflict with the child. For instance, children who originate from low economic families may go for any course which is for the most part the less renowned one, for instance, educating and nursing. It is hard for guardians with a low financial status to inspire their children regardless of whether their kids have high learned capacity. These guardians acquaint their kids with low-income careers for they search for a career that they can stand to pay for or pick professions concerning their class or status. In a comparable vein, Saleem, Hanan, Saleem, Rao and Shad (2015) directed an online descriptive study in Pakistan on 444 Lahore University students. The study investigated the impacts of guardians' profession, massmedia and individual decision on career choice. The study found that guardians' professions or occupations assumed significant jobs in career improvement and the determination of vocations for their children. In this manner, the study approves that parents' profession have solid and direct impact on their kids. So did Mwaa (2016). Mwaa (2016) led an overview on factors impacting career decisions among secondary school students in Nairobi County, Kenya. From the number of inhabitants in 27, 614 structure four students, the study purposively tested 400 students. Simple random sampling was used to select 10 schools. Discoveries demonstrate that parental occupation is one of the components that impact career selections of students. The study suggested that guardians and career guidance counselors should take into insight the impact of parental factors as they control students' career decisions based on their education accomplishment and level of training. Munyingi (2012) led a study using cross sectional research structure on the components that impact career decisions among youthful females in tertiary institutions in Kenya. The study uncovered that occupational status of guardians significantly affected the profession desires and career decisions of female young people. The above discoveries are upheld by those of Udoh and Sanni (2012), who noticed that guardians' occupations applied a noteworthy effect on the career decision of high school students in Uyo district of Nigeria. This finding is like that of Aswani (2012) who discovered that guardians' occupation and particularly that of the mother impacted standard eight students' educational and occupational desires in Kenya. Then again, Mugenda et al. (2010) discovered that young men were bound to follow on the strides of their dads and older brothers. All the above attestations suggest that guardians' occupation is probably going to decide the line of professions that students select.

Parents' Income Level and Students' Career Choice

Career choices are challenging yet important since the decision an individual makes affect all the aspects of later life. The career decisions made by students at this stage are of great significance in directing them in the career path that can either open or close opportunities for them (William, 2016). Parent's financial concerns and desires likewise have an impact in their immediate or indirect effect on their children's career decision by including their own inclinations and attitudes into specific occupational fields (Eccles, 2005). Literature has classified the types of parents' income as money income, real income and psychic income (Duncan, Morris, & Rodrigues, 2011; Brooks-Gunn, Linver, & Fauth, 2005; Jimerson, Egeland, & Teo, 1999). According to William (2016) it is the purchasing power expressed in rupees during a given period of time. It is one of the important material resources of the family.

Money income is influenced by variables, for example, the capacities and ability of the breadwinner, individual attitude towards the work, and great connection with the management and collaborators (Duncan, Morris, & Rodrigues, 2011). The manner in which families use all types of income is significant. As indicated by Denga (1990), young people from low income homes neglect to create enthusiasm for and obtain professional training in light of the instructive insufficiencies of the guardians. A report by Nwanchukwu (2003) shows that young men from high-income families are progressively roused and have higher career goals; they expect early that they will go for advanced education and have word related decision that is confined to an official sort of calling. Then again, young men from low-income families will in general incline toward talented occupations that offer brisk monetary returns which have shorter times of training. Stinebrickner and Stinebrickner's (2003) found that students from high-income families had an 18% higher likelihood of effectively finishing in excess of six semesters than students from low income families which is probably going to impact their decision of future livelihoods.

This was upheld by Nam and Huang (2009) discoveries that family income and liquid assets significantly affected school participation and graduation rates. Likewise, people from higher income family backgrounds additionally profited by proceeded with introduction to the social associations that guardians have with others outside the family group, for example, neighbors, school faculty, or work partners. For instance, young people with all around associated guardians and educators will in general have options in choosing

vocation yet in the event that a person's family members are jobless and their instructors need work contacts, their decisions are confined to different sorts of contacts, (for example, peers) that don't prompt long haul benefits. These improve the career decision making limit of people from guardians with higher salary levels in this manner decreasing their decision making troubles. Then again, students with guardians of low degrees of income are likewise indicated to be more probable than others to encounter estrangement from advanced education communities, to need trust in their capacities and to experience issues in observing the pertinence of their study to future career opportunities (William, 2016). Research keeps on demonstrating that students from low Socio-Economic Status (as measure in parental income) are occupied with less purposeful career development activities, get less direction in school and from home in regards to career (Duncan, Morris, & Rodrigues, 2011). Therefore, the joined impacts of having less financial resources combined with lesser predictable career direction from the less taught just as lower occupational degree of guardians and lesser social associations of the developing grown-ups with lower income levels may impact career choice of school-going children.

III. METHODOLOGY

The research designs for this study were descriptive and correlation research survey designs with quantitative approach. A descriptive design is a procedure of gathering information so as to respond to questions concerning the present status of the subjects in the study. Kumar (2005) contends that the objective of descriptive research is to depict the attributes of a chose marvel and includes the collection of data without control of factors. Clear study explore is useful in showing patterns in attitudes and practices, and empowers speculation of the discoveries of the study to be done (Creswell, 2012). This design was fitting for this study since it will improve the measure of value data yielded. In any case, there are numerous challenges related with unmistakable study structure and one of them is that it isn't in itself sufficiently complete to give answers to questions and can't set up any circumstances and logical results relationship (Babbie, 2010). Despite its disadvantage identified, the descriptive survey will be used on the grounds that it has the benefit of delivering great reactions from wide scope of individuals. It likewise gives a significant image of occasions and looks to clarify people groups' sentiment and conduct based on information at a specific time. Also, the researchers studied the relationship between the predictor variables in the study and career choice decisions of senior high school students. They study specifically sought to find out whether there was a strong, moderate or weak relationship among the predictor variables and the criterion variable.

Population

The population for the study was all senior high school students in the Kwahu-East District. The target population for the study included public senior high school students in the Kwahu-East District. A target population is the group that a researcher intends to make generalization to. The Accessible population was SHS 2 students in some selected public senior high schools in the Kwahu-East District which was 2,600. The choice of SHS2 students as the accessible population was based assumption that they have been in the schools and have experienced life in senior high school for a year and it was subsequently assumed that they can provide useful information as well as ensuring maximum commitment and cooperation. The SHS3 students were seriously preparing for their West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE). The SHS 1 students who were currently under the double-track system (Green and Gold) were not included in this study because one track was available in school at a moment and consequently, they have only one semester of experience in school and are unlikely to provide accurate responses.

Sample and Sampling Procedures

The sample for the study was 800 SHS2 students from the selected public senior high schools. It is appropriate to sample 5 - 30% of the accessible population for a study (Saunders, Lewis & Thornhill, 2007). Thus, 500 (62.5%) male students and 300 (37.5%) female students. The purposive sampling technique was used in selecting four public senior high schools in the Kwahu-East District. In purposive sampling, the cases to be used in the example are handpicked based on their judgment of their regularity or especially learned about the issues under study. The influence of purposive sampling lies in choosing data rich-cases for in-depth analysis identified with the focal issues being considered. The stratified sampling technique was used to group students into strata, thus male and female. Robson (1996) described stratified sampling as the ideal decision as the methods are probably going to be nearness to the mean of the general populace. Stratified sampling accomplishes more prominent exactness given that the layers have been picked with the goal that individuals from a similar layer are as comparable as conceivable in regard of the qualities of interest. Simple random sampling technique was finally used in selecting students from each stratum. The lottery method was specifically used. The researchers wrote all the names of students listed in the sample frame on a sheet of paper and mixed

them in a container and removed one paper at a time without looking into it. The researchers recorded the names of students on the paper and threw it back into the container.

The researchers ignored already drawn names. The process continued until the required number of respondents was selected.

Name of School	Males		Females	
	Freq.	Percent	Freq.	Percent
Abetifi Presbyterian Senior High	100	20.0	100	33.3
Nkwatia Senior High	100	20.0	100	33.3
St. Dominics Senior High Tech.	100	20.0	100	33.3
St. Peters Boys Senior High	200	40.0	----	
Total	500		300	

Source: Author's Construct, 2020.

Instrument

Two instruments were used in collecting data for this study. They are questionnaire and Parent Career Behaviour Checklist (Keller & Whiston, 2008). A questionnaire is widely used for collection of data in educational research if developed to answer research questions; it is very effective for securing factual information about practices, enquiring into opinions and attitude of the subject. The questionnaire was developed based on the research questions derived from the related literature. The questions were the Likert type of scales. The researchers used questionnaires because the entire population was literate. The questionnaire was made up of closed-ended items. The items provided fixed-alternatives from which the respondents selected the most appropriate responses. The various items were well phrased to prevent ambiguity and technical jargons. Questions that were too personal and likely to elicit reactions of suspicions or hostility from the respondents were all avoided. The questionnaire had two sections. Section 'A' contained items that were used to collect data on the background of respondents. Section 'B' contained twenty-one (21) items designed on a 4 point Likert scale. These were used to source for information on the various variables under investigation.

The second questionnaire was adapted from the Parent Career Behaviour Checklist (PCBC) developed by Keller and Whiston (2008). This questionnaire comprised of twenty-three items surveying respondents' view of general parenting behaviors (Support scale) and career-specific parenting behaviors (Action scale). Respondents' reacted on a 5-point Likert-type scale estimating the degree to which every statement applies to the parent/guardian selected (1 = Never, 5 = Very Often). The first assessment tool was used on a sample of middle school-matured students (Keller, and Whiston, 2008). The survey was altered to have more significance among a senior high student-aged sample (e.g, "My parent expresses interest in various teenage issues that are important to me" was changed to "My parent expresses interest in various issues that are important to me"). The first PCBC measure had a coefficient alpha of .93 and the coefficient alphas for the subscales were .90 (Support) and .89 (Action). Both subscales were strongly identified with the general measure with the Support subscale, $r = .93$ and Action subscale, $r = .92$ (Keller, & Whiston, 2008).

Validity

The instruments for data collection were vetted by experts in the field research methodology. This was to determine the face and content validity of the instruments. However, all corrections and modifications made by the experts and supervisors were effected and research statements or items reconstructed based on the satisfactory comments of the supervisors and experts. This enabled the researchers to develop instruments that yielded valid information.

Data Collection Procedure

Before going to the field, the researchers obtained permission from the Institutional Review Board, University of Cape Coast, authorizing them to carry out the research. The researchers will then visit the sampled schools to establish rapport, get permission from the school headmasters and mistresses and arrange with subject teachers when to give out the questionnaires. Once permission is granted, the researcher will meet the teachers and explain the purpose of the research and reassured them of confidentiality.

IV. DATA ANALYSIS AND PROCESSING

Data collected was edited by carefully inspecting it in order to identify the mistakes and questions wrongly answered and responded to items. Data was analyzed using the Statistical Package for Service Solutions programme. Data collected from the respondents was analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. Data for research questions were answered using the Pearson bivariate correlation. The Pearson zero-order correlation is used when you want to investigate the strength of the relationship between two continuous

variables. This gives an indication of the direction whether positive or negative as well as the strength of the relationship (weak, moderate or strong).

Again, the hypothesis of the study was tested by means of multiple regression procedures. Multiple regression method is a multivariate technique used to test the predictive power of a set of predictor variables and to assess the relative contribution of each individual variable on the criterion variable.

Ethical Consideration

An undertaking was signed to establish a bond agreement between the researcher and respondents. The students were given a detailed letter of Assent and letter of information that provided a thorough explanation of the study. This implies that the researchers have an obligation to respect the rights, needs, values and desires of the respondents (Creswell, 2003). The respondents shall be assured of confidentiality and anonymity.

V. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Demographic and Descriptive Statistics

Gender of the respondents was the first demographic variable on the questionnaire intended to ascertain the total number of respondents for the study. The distribution of respondents by gender is presented in Table 2.

Table 2–Distribution of Respondents by Sex

Gender	Frequency	Percent
Male	500	62.5
Female	300	37.5
Total	800	100

Source Author's Construct, 2020

Table 2 shows that out of the total of 800 respondents, the male respondents were 500 representing 62.5% whilst the female respondents were 37.5% representing 300. This implies that from the senior high schools selected, majority of respondents are males. The academic qualification of parents was of importance to the researchers. This variable was measured on a 5 point Likert scale. Table 3 presents the distribution of respondents' parents' academic qualification.

Table 3–Distribution of Respondents Academic Qualification

Qualification	Frequency	Percent
Basic (BECE)	101	12.5
Secondary (WASSCE)	202	25.5
Diploma	100	12.5
Bachelors' Degree	570	71.3
Masters' Degree	100	12.5
Total	800	100

Source Author's Construct, 2020

Table 3 indicates that majority of the respondent's parents had attained some level of formal education. It is interesting to note that majority of the parents had Bachelors' Degree thus 570 representing 71.3%; this gives us prima facie evidence that parents of the respondent had a considerable level of formal education.

The researchers also sought to ascertain whether parents of the respondents were currently working or not. The distribution of respondents is presented in Table 4.

Table 4–Distribution of respondents by parents current job status

Rank	Frequency	Percent
Yes	800	100.0
No	--	--
Total	800	100

Source Author's Construct, 2020

Table 4 indicates that parents of the respondents are actively working and employed. Thus all 800 respondents representing 100.0% confirmed that parents are actively working.

Another demographic variable was to determine if the respondents had made a choice of career they wanted to pursue in future. This demographic variable was measured on a 2 point Likert scale. The results are presented in Table 5 below.

Table 5–Distribution of respondents by choice of career path in future

Rank	Frequency	Percent
Yes	700	87.5
No	100	12.5
Total	800	100

Source Author’s Construct, 2020

Table 5 clearly indicates that majority of the respondents had made a choice they want to pursue thereafter their senior high education. Out of the total respondents of 800, 700(87.5%) maintained that they had made a choice of career they want to pursue. Only 100(12.5%) out of the total respondents of 800 are still considering making a career choice to pursue or they will consider one soon.

The last demographic variable of equal importance was to find out who influences the respondents most when it comes to career choice. This demographic variable was measured on 4 point Likert scale. The result is presented in Table 6.

Table 6–Distribution of respondents by influencing agents

Influence	Frequency	Percent
Parents	600	75.0
Teachers	150	18.8
Peers	50	6.2
Total	800	100

Source Author’s Construct, 2020

Table 6 clearly indicates that when it comes to the person who influences students most when it comes to career choice is the parent. Out of the total respondents of 800, 600(75.0%) confirmed that parents influence them the most when they are choosing a particular career path. Only 150(18.8%) and 50(6.2%) teachers and peers influence their choice of various careers.

The relationship between parents’ educational level and students’ career choice decision was of interest to this research. This variable was measured in terms of the contributions parental education play in the career choice of students. In all, eight separate items were used to gather information using a 4 point Likert scale. Table 7 provides a summary on how the pupils responded to those items.

Table 7–parents’ educational level and pupils career choice

Statement	Freq.	Mean	Std. Dt.
Educational level of my parents has influenced my career choice	800	3.40	.870
Parents have given me written materials about specific careers	800	3.26	.923
Parents have expressed interest in various school issues that important to me	800	3.66	.777
Parents have understood my thoughts, feelings and opinions about various career avenues	800	3.05	1.245
Parents’ educational qualification has placed me in a better position over my peers in choosing a career	800	3.50	1.576
parents encourage me to consider varying career options	800	3.90	.888
Parents’ educational attainments has determined the kind of assistance needed in choosing a career	800	3.55	1.843

Type of sch. my parents attended influenced my career choice	800	3.77	0.655
Total	800		

Source Author's Construct, 2020

The means of the various items as presented in Table 7 imply that parents' educational level matter a lot in the career choice decision of their children. The magnitude of the standard deviations further confirms this. Majority of the respondent strongly agree that their parents' educational attainments have determined the kind of assistance needed in choosing a career. Also majority of the respondents agree that their parents understood their thoughts, feelings and opinions about various career avenues.

Parental occupation and its associated impacts were also of interest to this study. Seven different items were designed to elicit the respondents' views on the subject matter. This was also measured on a 4 point Likert scale. Table 8 gives the distribution of the respondents regarding the extent to which their parents' occupation influences their career choice decision.

Table 8—parents' occupation and students' career choice decision

Statement	Freq.	Mean	Std. Dt.
My career choice has been influenced by the occupation of my parents	800	3.19	1.257
I have access to employment in a family business	800	3.45	1.335
I will never take after my parents occupation because	800	3.48	1.014
I will go for a better one I would like to take after my parents' occupation because I admire it	800	3.32	1.667
I developed an early understanding and desire of my career choice through observation of my parents	800	3.16	1.222
I have chosen the career to pursue because my parents always speak favourably about it	800	3.11	1.763
My parent tells me he or she is proud of me and encourages me to ask questions about diff. careers	800	2.94	1.543
Total	800		

Source Author's Construct, 2020

Table (8) indicates that the means of the various items suggest that parental occupation on students' career choice decision was quite high. Majority of the respondents strongly agree that they will take after their parents' occupation because they admired their occupation. This is further supported by the standard deviation figures which do not show much variation in the students' observations. This suggests that the respondents' career choice decision and parental occupation was significant.

Parent's budgetary concerns and desires likewise have an influence legitimately or in a roundabout way on their children's career decision by including their own predispositions and attitudes into specific occupational fields (Tillman & Tillman, 2015). Six separate items were measured on a 4 point Likert scale. The items were assessed by means of frequency and percentage. The results are presented in Table 9.

Table 9—parents' income and students career choice decision

Statement	Freq.	Mean	Std. Dt.
Money has been an issue in choosing a career	800	3.28	.888
My parents are able to finance my vocational aspirations or whichever career I choose	800	3.15	.876
My parents say they will not			

be able to finance my career aspirations and pay fees for my siblings at the same time	800	3.68	.920
My parents always warned me never to choose certain careers due to its financial status and that is why I am careful not to pick the one they won't like	800	3.02	.777
Parents' financial status determines the kind of career opportunities available for selection	800	3.55	.888
Parents' financial status determines the level of provision made in order to be successful in a chosen career	800	3.56	.765
Total	800		

Source Author's Construct, 2020

The means of the various items in Table 9 indicate that the income level of parents and its impact on career choice was relatively high. This is confirmed by the various standard deviation figures which show little variations in the respondents' observations. Students strongly agree that parents' financial status determine the level of provision made in order to be successful in a chosen career. They however agree that parents always warned them never to choose certain careers due to its financial status and that is why they are careful not to choose careers parents cannot afford.

Inferential Statistics

In this subsection, attempts have been made to seek answers to the various research questions guiding the study. The findings were discussed and linked to the relevant literature reviewed.

Research Question One

To what extent does parents' educational level relate to students' career choice decision?

Guardians fill in as a significant impact in their children's career improvement and career decision making (Qualifax, 2016). The purpose of this research question was to find out the extent to which the educational level of parents related to students' career choice decision. Eight separate items were designed to ascertain the extent to which parents' educational level relate to students' career choice decision. The Pearson bivariate correlation test was used to run to ascertain the extent to which parents' level of education relate to students' career choice decision.

Table 10: Parental Educational Level and Students' Career Choice Decision

	PCBC Checklist
Educational Level Pearson Correlation	.633**
Sig. (2-tailed)	.000
N	800

** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

From the results in Table 10 we find that the Pearson bivariate correlation coefficient obtained was $r = 0.633$. It is positive with significance or $p\text{-value} = 0.000$ which is less than the alpha value $= 0.05$, implying that parents' level of education was significantly related to students' career choice decision. The findings suggest that the higher the level of parental education, the more likely students will be informed positively to make adequate career choice decision. These findings are in line with the study by Udoh and Sanni (2012). The study investigated the impact of parental background factors on the career decision of high school students in Uyo Local Government Area of Nigeria. Their discoveries suggested that guardians' degree of formal education apply a huge effect on the career decisions of high school students. This infers parental degree of education fundamentally impacts their children accomplishment in school and thus their future professions. The study investigated the impact of parental background factors on the career decision of high school students in Uyo Local Government Area of Nigeria. Their discoveries suggested that guardians' degree of formal education apply a huge effect on the career decisions of high school students. This infers parental degree of education fundamentally impacts their children accomplishment in school and thus their future professions. The study investigated the impact of parental background factors on the career decision of high school students in Uyo

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Research Question Two

To what extent does parents' occupation relate to students' career choice decision?

On a regular premise, the simple sharing of work environment stories and modeling work practices permits guardians to fill in as a setting for deciphering the real factors of work while the safe and close family condition encourages risk-taking and investigation which are all required in arrangement of a professional personality (Batshaw, 2003). Seven separate items were designed to measure parents' occupation and its relationship with students' career choice decision. The Pearson bivariate correlation test was used to run to ascertain the extent to which parents' occupation relate to students' career choice decision.

Table 11: Parents' occupation and Students' Career Choice Decision

	PCBC Checklist
Parents' Occupation Pearson Correlation	.728**
Sig. (2-tailed)	.000
N	800

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

With reference to the result in Table 11, the Pearson bivariate correlation coefficient obtained is $r = 0.728$. The coefficient is positive with significance or $p\text{-value} = 0.000$ which is less than $\alpha = 0.05$ denoting that parents' occupation related students' career choice decision. The study averred that majority of the children's career decisions are affected by the parents intentionally and inadvertently. The study noticed that young people will in general quest for career implies by seeking their folks for career counsel as career decisions are affected particularly when they move to the pre-adult's stage. The discoveries of this study are additionally in with the study by Mwaa (2016). Mwaa (2016) conducted a review on factors affecting career decisions among high school students in Nairobi County, Kenya. From the number of inhabitants in 27, 614 structure four students, the study purposively sampled 400 students. Simple random sampling was used to test 10 schools. Findings demonstrate that parental occupation is one of the variables that impact career selections of students. The study suggested that guardians and career guidance advocates should take into perception the impact of parental factors as they control the students settle on sound career decisions dependent on their education accomplishment and level of education. The discoveries of this study again validate the perspectives shared by Saleem et.al, (2015). They led an online descriptive survey in Pakistan on 444 Lahore University students. The study looked to decide the impacts of guardians' profession, mass media and individual decision on career determination. The study found that guardians' professions or occupations assumed significant jobs in career advancement and the choice of careers for their children. Along these lines, the study approves that parent's profession have solid and direct impact on their children.

Research Question Three

To what extent does parents' income level relate to students' career choice decision?

Parent's financial concerns and desires additionally have an impact in their immediate or indirect effect on their children's career decision by including their own predispositions and attitudes into specific occupational fields. Six separate items were designed to find out the extent to which parents' income level related to students' career choice decision. The Pearson bivariate correlation coefficient was used. The results are shown in Table 12.

Table 12: Parents' income level and Students' Career Choice Decision

		PCBC Checklist
Parents' income	Pearson Correlation	.684**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000
N		800

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

From Table 12, the Pearson bivariate correlation coefficient obtained is $r = 0.684$. The coefficient is positive with significance or p -value = 0.000 which is less than $\alpha = 0.05$. This implies that, there is a positive and strong relationship between parents' income level and students' career choice decision. The findings of their study likewise uncovered that, students who revealed more noteworthy economic resources, social power, and social notoriety additionally announced more noteworthy trust in their capacities to finish career decision- making errands and are increasingly sure and OK with their career choice. The finding of the present is also in agreement with views shared by Nwachukwu (2003). The study uncovered that young men from high-income families are increasingly roused and have higher career goals; they accept early that they will go for advanced education and have occupational decision that is confined to an official kind of profession. Then again, young men from low-income families will in general lean toward skilled employments that offer snappy financial returns which have shorter times of training.

Moreover, the finding of the present study is in line with views shared by Nam and Huang (2009). They opined that family income and liquid resources significantly affected school participation and graduation rates. What's more, people from higher income family background additionally profited by proceeded with exposure to the social associations that guardians have with others outside the family group, for example, neighbors, school faculty, or work partners. For instance, adolescents with very much associated guardians and educators will in general have options in choosing career however on the off chance that a person's family members are jobless and their instructors need work contacts, their decisions are limited to different sorts of contacts, (for example, peers) that don't prompt long haul benefits. These improve the career decision making limit of people from guardians with higher income levels subsequently diminishing their career decision making challenges.

Testing the Hypothesis

In this section, attempts are made to test the hypothesis that guided the study. In view of this, multiple regression procedures were run to test the hypothesis. The null hypothesis therefore states that...

H_0 : Parental characteristics (education, occupation and income level) will not directly predict students' career choice decision.

Table 13: Multiple Regression of the Parents' Career Behaviour Checklist on the independent variables

Predictors	PCBC
	β
Parental Educational	.600 (.000)*
Parental Occupation	.576(.000)*
Parental Income Level	.500(.000)*
Constant	-.387
R	.608
R ²	.707
AR ²	.360

* $p < 0.05$.

Table 13 shows that results of the multiple regression analysis. The model gives the coefficients of the predictor variables, the standard error, the level of significance, the correlation (R), the R-square (R²) and the adjusted R² (AR²). In the model, when the PCBC was regressed on the independent variables, all the three

predictor variables were found to be significant predictors of students' career choice decision. The results from Table 13 reveal that parents' level of education, parents' occupation and parents' level of income are all significant and major predictors of students' career choice decision.

The findings from this study are consistent with Kohout and Wicherski (2011) who affirm that the future career will of a child's is to a great extent dictated constantly to-day choices made by the guardians who control the child's development. Guardians continue starting directions that are intended to guide their children in a favored career developmental path dependent on the parent's inclinations. Progressively instructed guardians are accepted to make a domain that encourage or invigorate learning and include themselves in their children's school encounters and school environment (Mudibo, 2014). From the literature surveyed and the analysis of the data in Table 13, the researchers rejected the null hypothesis which states that "Parental characteristics (education, occupation and income level) will not directly predict students' career choice decision".

VI. SUMMARY

Choosing a career is a critical choice that impacts a person's whole future. This choice alone can possibly open the entryway for progress or close the entryway of chance. There are numerous reasons students pick their career or field of works. There are some with the suspicion that having advanced education can give them large chances to be in the job fields they need. There are some significant occupations that get higher consideration, for example, medicine, engineering, business, agriculture and etc. This is a result of high chances, great pay, and the esteem of that job. Student's career decision is a consistent issue in the present-day world. From the review of the literature, it has been observed the parental characteristics and students' career choice decision have not been fully explored. There is limited number of studies examining parental characteristics and students' career choices that of Kwahu-East District is virtually non-existence. Therefore this current study is an attempt to fill the research gap in the literature. The study was grounded on the social cognitive career theory and career construction theory. The descriptive and correlation research designs were employed to answer the research questions. The target population for the study included public senior high school students in the Kwahu-East District. The accessible population was SHS 2 students in some selected public senior high schools in the Kwahu-East District which was 2,600. Multi-stage sampling procedures were used in selecting schools and the number of respondents. A questionnaire and Parents Career Behaviour Checklist which served as a structured interview guides were used to collect data from 800 respondents. The Pearson Moment Correlation Coefficient was used in answering the research questions. The multiple regression analysis was employed to test the research hypothesis.

Key Findings

In this section, answers to the various research questions and conclusions drawn from the research questions are presented.

1. The study established that parents play a significant role in determining the career choice of their children throughout their school years.
2. The findings from the study showed that the educational level of parents influence students career choice pursuit.
3. The findings from the study confirmed that parents occupation had an effect on students career choice
4. The study pointed out that parents' income level influence pupils career choice

VII. CONCLUSIONS

From the study it was observed that:

1. Parents continue to serve as a major influence in their children's career development and future career decision making
2. The educational level of parents cannot be compromised when it comes to career decision making among students.
3. Income levels and expectations also play a part in their direct or indirect influence on their children's career choice.

VIII. RECOMMENDATIONS

In line with the findings and conclusions drawn from the study, the following recommendations are made.

1. Parents ought to understand that their qualities and desires impact the career decision as it were. In this regard it is suggested that guardians ought to intentionally impart their desires to their kids without being excessively convincing.
2. A strong parent-child relationship is basic in molding the student's career decision. In such manner, it is prescribed that guardians should set aside effort to examine distinctive career decisions with their children. At whatever point vital, the guardians should communicate fulfillment with the child's choice.
3. Parents ought not to drive students to seek after professions like their own without wanting to. This is on the grounds that greater part of the students showed they would not pick careers like those of their beneficiary guardians.

Suggestion for further research

Though the study has achieved its purpose, there are a number of related aspects that warrant additional research. They include the following:

1. Parental power as a potential influence on pupils career choice.
2. Parents' expectations and pupils gender-typed occupational choices.

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