

## Relationship between Technical Student Choice of Trades and Career Aspirations

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### Abstract

This study was designed to find out the relationship between technical students choice of trades and career preparation or aspired vocation. The random sampling technique was used to select 100 final year students who were preparing to take the NABTEB examination. The analysis show that Electrical/Electronics career ranked first, while carpentry and joinery (5%) ranked last. A total 20 students choose to be auto-mechanics of this number were unrealistic in the choice of trade. All those who carpentry and joinery as career, choose appropriate subjects. 75 students agreed that they were guided when they were selecting the trades they offered in NABTEB. It was therefore recommended among others that students should always be guided by qualified guidance counselors in order to achieve that vocational aspiration.

### Introduction

Students' choice of trade in Technical Colleges can go along way to determining their future career. Those of them who make uncoordinated and wrong choice of trades in Technical colleges are in danger of making unrealistic career choices. College subjects are intended to help prepare student's for this future work.

Career preferences and career aspiration had occupied many researchers' minds. These research effort in career aspirations and the career choice range from identifying the students career aspirations and the career the factor influencing career preferences of career aspirations.

Onwuka (1985) examined the choice of subject by students that have relevance to their vocations. He discovered that only 43.5% of the respondents choose subjects related to the aspired vocations. It mean that a greater number of students choose subjects that were least related to the vocations they aspires to tread.

The Federal Government has determined to make Nigeria Education to better the life of individual. That means that the courses offered in Technical College will be accordance with the needs and aspirations of both the individuals and the society. That is why the services of the guidance counselor are very much needed in our schools and colleges. The counselor

will help the individual students to offer those courses that are in keeping with their abilities, interests and aptitudes.

The problem facing the present study is to discover how related the students' aspired careers are to the subject they offer in NABTEB/ Examination.

### Statement of the Problem

It is a fact that has been confirmed by research findings that Nigerian Students take subjects in the schools that are at variance with their aspired or preferred vocations. This kind of wrong choice of courses that are unrelated to aspired future career has both National and individual implications (Odiegwu, 1974, Aruwa, 1979, and Onwuku, 1985). When the individual gets in a wrong occupations he is ever unfulfilled and the consequent evil attendant on his situation is very low productivity. For the choice of trade by students to be in line with their career aspirations guidance counselor should be able to counsel the students on how to make choice of vocations that are related to the subjects they have done in the school. Therefore, it will be pertinent to ask.

### Research Questions

What is the relationship between student choice of trade and their career aspiration in future achievement?

### Methodology

The questionnaire was the instrument used for the collection of data.

The population for the study comprised of all the final year students already in the process of choosing trade in their National Business and technical Examination Board (NABTEB). A distributive survey research design was adopted to collect data from stratified randomly sampled 100 students covering the two Technical College in Kontagora and New-Bussa local government Area of Niger State. Percentage was used to analyze the data to

determine whether the choice of trades by the students were based on their vocational aspiration or not, those with high percent suggest respondents positions.

**Result**

Frequency count, percentage and rank order were used to analyze the data collected from the field. Table 1 shows rank order of trades as selected by the students.

**Table 1: Rank order to trades in Technical colleges.**

S/No	Career	Frequency	Rank Order
1	Electrical/Electronics	40	1
2	Auto-mechanics	30	2
3	Building Tech Career	15	3
4	Furniture	10	4
5	Carpentry and Joinery	5	5

Table I shows that 40 students preferred Electrical/Electronics profession to any other profession to any other profession. This was first in the rank other. Auto-Mechanics career which is next to

Electrical/Electronics was preferred by 30 students. The list in the rank other is Carpentry and Joinery. Only 5 students preferred that profession.

**Table 2 – Rank order and the percentage of trades choice of students for NABTEB Examination:**

S/No	Careers	Related	%	Unrelated	%
1	Electrical / Electronics	32	80	8	20
2	Auto-mechanics Career	20	66.7	10	33.3
3	Building Tech Career	12	80	3	20
4	Furniture	5	100	0	00
		75	75.0	25	25.0

Out of the 40 students who preferred Electrical /Electronics trade of them did not choose the trade voluntarily. 32 of students on the other hand made realistic choice of the trade those who preferred Auto-mechanic had 66.7% realistic choice of the trade in NABTEB Examination. 10 (33.3%) students made un realistic choice of the trade. All those who preferred Carpentry and Joinery trade voluntarily chose the trade a total of 75

(75%) students choose subjects related to their preferred trades.

**Discussions of the Findings:**

This study aimed finding out if Technical College students made realistic choice of their various trades they offered in NABTEB Examination in the choice of trade. It was discovered that 75 (75%) students had realistic choice of options. 25% of the students made unrealistic choice. These findings support Tennyson's (1964) findings it however, tends to



contradict Odiegwu (1974). These researchers found that Nigerian students tend to make unrealistic subject combination that would not lead to the careers that the student aspired to.

Judging from the rank order of the student career aspirations in school (Table 1 and 2) it can be observed that students who aspired to Electrical/Electronics profession in the two tables ranked first. For table 1 and 2 Auto-mechanics ranked second. The building profession comes third. This rank order of vocational aspiration manifested a stereotyping attitude, which Nigeria have towards career aspirations.

It has been National aspiration that Nigerian students used the school education to solve both personal and social problems. This can only be done when students are able to choose those subjects that will lead to their area of interest, ability and aptitude. This cannot be fully done without the guidance counselor exposing students to their (Counseling) services. The students will thus be assisted to concentrate more in their area of interest, ability and aptitude. Its therefore, necessary that both the school authorities and the guidance counselors should make all effort to get students realize the importance of the services of the counselor and insist on their making use of these services. In that way students should be able to choose the right type of careers and corresponding options that will lead to those career aspirations.

### Conclusion

It is a known fact that of students are not guided, correctly their pushed to choose trades that are not in line with their career aspirations. This is mostly achieved through poor pressure and parental influence. This work has shown that

guidance counselor has a lot to do in order for students to choose related trades to their career aspirations.

### Recommendation

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are adjudged important, that:

1. Qualified guidance counselors should be engaged in guiding the students for order to achieve vocational aspirations.
2. There should be orientation for students before the choice of trades
3. Peer group and parents should be discouraged from making choice for their peers and children.
4. Students should be encouraged to aspired to other trades too, in order to have a balanced skilled workers.
5. Government should provide enough funds for training of more guidance counselors.

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