



**PERSONALITY VARIABLES AND CAREER IN EDUCATION AMONG SENIOR
SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN AKWA IBOM STATE**

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ABSTRACT

The study examined personality variables and career in education among senior secondary school students in Akwa Ibom State. The study was conducted using a survey research design on a population of 1050 SSII students in 14 public secondary schools in Uyo local government area. A simple random sampling technique was used to select a sample size of 200 from the population. A structured questionnaire titled Personality Variables and Career in education Questionnaire (PVCILGQ) was used as instrument for data collection. The instrument was subjected to a face validation and reliability test. A reliability coefficient index of 0.82 was obtained through Chronbach Alpha statistics. Pearson Product Moment Correlation was used in answering research questions as well as testing the null hypotheses at .05 level of significance. The results revealed that there is a significant relationship between extrovert personality and career in education among senior secondary school students in Uyo Local Government Area. The results also revealed that there a significant relationship between openness to experience personality, ambitious personality and career in education among senior secondary school students in Uyo Local Government Area. It was recommended among others that families and educational institutions should create home and school environment where students can develop suitable personality traits that would facilitate career choices.

KEYWORDS: Personality, Career in Education, Extrovert, Openness, Ambitious

INTRODUCTION

Investigation of the factors basic to career choice and achievement has been at the centre of most researches in education and psychology. The trend has become notable especially considering their implications for the teaching and learning process. Although, the characteristics of career decidedness are described as the products of the dynamic interaction of a hierarchy of factors, Ion and Vitalia (2018) noted that, career and career development are linked to personality factors, motivational aspects and



vocational interests. Accordingly, career decision is influenced by multiple factors including personality, interest, self-concept, cultural identity, globalization, socialization, role model, social support and available resources such as information and finance (Anake, et al. 2017).

The Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (7th edition) (2005) defines personality as the various aspects of a person's character that combine to make them different from other people. Ekpenyong (2003) postulates that personality refers to the persisting products of learning that show the nature and consistency of an individual's responses to particular kinds of situation. In other words, personality is the individual's unique personal organization and internal states of readiness to respond or behave in patterned ways. It includes a person's attitude, values, beliefs about the world, conceptions of self and various kinds of skills for coping with physical objects and social life.

Ambreen and Jan (2015) posited that "the greatest degree of connection between personality, career development and academic achievement has been around the big five personality traits. The big Five Factor Model (FFM) of personality traits are consistently studied because, they are believed to encompass the entire domain of more narrow personality traits that fall at lower levels of the hierarchy (Moyosola, 2013). Moreover, Ambreen and Jan (2015) argue that in order to portray the personality factors, they are commonly refer to as neuroticism, extraversion, openness, agreeableness and conscientiousness.

Moyosola (2013) identified extraversion personality as characterized by sociability, assertiveness, emotional expressions and excitability. Those who are high in this trait are often described as being outgoing and talkative. While those who are low are described as quiet and reserved. People with neuroticism tend to have more depressed moods, anxious, angry and vulnerable. On the other hand, people with agreeableness personality tend to be pleasant, compassionate, cooperative and accommodating in social situations rather than being antagonistic and suspicious of others. People with conscientiousness tend to show self-discipline, act dutifully and aim for achievement amidst various challenges while, people with openness personality reflect degree of intellectual curiosity, creativity and a reference for novelty and variety (Moyosola, 2013). Although many studies have been conducted on personality, most of these studies (Helena, 2014; Ekanem and Willie, 2018) focused on the influence of personality traits on academic performance with little study on career interest among senior secondary school students. Thus, this present study examines personality variables and career in education in senior secondary school students in Uyo local government area.

Statement of Problem

Over the years, students' career interest in learning has become worrisome not because, there are acute lacks of learning materials or inadequate and unqualified teachers but the negative attitude and perception of students which may have been



resulted from lack of academic self-efficacy, fear and anxiety. Observations have shown that students are often anxious and afraid of Government examinations and tests. This lack of self-confidence and learning curiosity has contributed to the low academic outcomes and the falling standard of education in public secondary school in the area. This problem may be further compounded by the lack of counselling programmes and professional counsellors in schools to guide students in the career path that aligns with their unique personality quality. This situation has also resulted in the inability of students to identified career interest that suits them. From the aforementioned problems, the study examines the relationship between personality variables and career in education among senior secondary school students in Akwa Ibom State.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the study is to examine personality variables and career in education among senior secondary school students in Akwa Ibom State. Specific objectives of the study are:

- 1 To determine the relationship between extrovert personality and career in education among senior secondary school students in Akwa Ibom State.
- 2 To determine the relationship between openness to experience personality and career in education among senior secondary school students in Akwa Ibom State.
- 3 To determine the relationship between ambitious personality and career in education among senior secondary school students in Akwa Ibom State.

Research Questions

The following research questions are formulated to guide the study

- 1 To what extent does extrovert personality relate with career in education among senior secondary school students in Akwa Ibom State?
- 2 To what extent does openness to experience personality relate with career in education among senior secondary school students in Akwa Ibom State?
- 3 To what extent does ambitious personality relate with career in education among senior secondary school students in Akwa Ibom State?

Research Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses are formulated to guide the study

- 1 There is no significant relationship between extrovert personality and career in education among senior secondary school students in Akwa Ibom State.
- 2 There is no significant relationship between openness to experience personality and career in education among senior secondary school students in Akwa Ibom State.
- 3 There is no significant relationship between ambitious personality and career in education among senior secondary school students in Akwa Ibom State.

Research Method

A survey research design was used in conducting this study. A survey research design according to Amajuoyi and Joseph (2016) is one in which a group of people or items is studied by collecting and analyzing data from only a few people or item



considered to be representative of the entire group. The design allowed the researcher to examine the opinion of students through sample and the use of questionnaire to generate information from the respondents.

The area of this study was Uyo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State. Uyo Local Government Area is one of the local government areas in Akwa Ibom State. Uyo Local Government Area occupies a landmass of approximately 362 km (140sq mi) and is bounded by Abak, Itu, Uruan, Ibesikpo Asutan and Etinan Local Government Areas. Uyo Local Government Area is populated about 309,573 people. Out of this, 153,113 are male and 156,460 are female (2006 National Census). The area is rich in both natural and mineral resources such as fine sand, limestone, salt, gravel and clay. There are about 14 public secondary schools in Uyo Local Government Area.

The population of the study comprised all SSII students in public senior secondary schools in Akwa Ibom State that offer Government in the 2020/2021 academic session. According to the Akwa Ibom State Secondary Education Board (AKSSEB, 2021) the total number of students in the 2020/2021 academic session that offer government are 1050. Therefore 1050 students in 14 public secondary schools constitute the population of the study.

A simple random sampling technique was used to select a sample size of 200 from the population. 10 schools from Uyo local government area were randomly selected and in each school, 20 students were picked using simple random technique. The logic behind the adoption of these techniques was to give equal chance to the members of the population to be selected across the different schools.

The study made use of questionnaire as the instrument for data collection. The instrument was tagged Personality Variables and Career in education Questionnaire (PVCILGQ). It was developed by the researchers on a four point scale. The instrument consisted of section A and B. Section A contained items on student bio-data while, section B contained items on Personality variables and career in education. There were 25 items in all.

In order to ascertain the validity of the instrument used in the study, a face validity method is adopted. Two experts in Test and Measurement and Guidance and Counselling were requested to examine the instrument in terms of its clarity and appropriateness. Suggestions and corrections made were incorporated into the final production of the instrument. The reliability of the instrument was ascertained using the test retest method where 35 copies of the instrument were administered to 35 respondents from the area of the study that was not part of the main sample. Chronbach Alpha reliability statistics will be used to determine the reliability of the instrument. Internal consistency index of 0.82 was obtained. The null hypotheses were tested using path analysis at .05 level of significance.

Results

There is no significant relationship between extrovert personality and career in education among senior secondary school students in Akwa Ibom State.



Table 1: Path Analysis of Extrovert Personality and Career in education

| Variables | mean | Sd. | n | r | df | β | p-value | r-crit. | Decision |
|---------------------------|-------|------|-----|------|-----|---------|---------|---------|-----------------------|
| Extrovert Personality | 12.02 | 1.10 | 200 | .771 | 198 | .746 | .000 | .138 | Reject H ₀ |
| Career in education | 12.22 | .94 | 200 | | | | | | |

Table 1 showed path coefficient of .862 and a responding p-value of .009 at .05 level of significance with 198 degree of freedom. Since the path coefficient of .746 and a responding p-value of .000 were found to be significant at .05 level of significance, the null hypothesis was rejected. This implies that, there is a significant relationship between extrovert personality and career in education among senior secondary school students in Akwa Ibom State.

Hypothesis Two:

There is no significant relationship between openness to experience personality and career in education among senior secondary school students in Akwa Ibom State.

Table 2: Path Analysis of Openness to Experience Personality and Career in education

| Variables | mean | Sd. | N | R | Df | β | p-value | r-crit. | Decision |
|--|-------|-----|-----|------|-----|---------|---------|---------|-----------------------|
| Openness to Experience Personality | 12.13 | .95 | 200 | .713 | 198 | .692 | .004 | .138 | Reject H ₀ |
| Career in education | 12.22 | .94 | 200 | | | | | | |

Table 2 showed path coefficient of .692 and a responding p-value of .004 at .05 level of significance with 198 degree of freedom. Since the path coefficient of .692 and a responding p-value of .004 were found to be significant at .05 level of significance, the null hypothesis was rejected. This implies that, there is a significant relationship between openness to experience personality and career in education among senior secondary school students in Akwa Ibom State.

Hypothesis Three:

There is no significant relationship between ambitious personality and career in education among senior secondary school students in Uyo Local Government Area.



Table 3: Path Analysis of Ambitious Personality and Career in education

| Variables | mean | Sd. | N | R | df | β | p-value | r-crit. | Decision |
|-----------------------|-------|-----|-----|------|-----|---------|---------|---------|-----------------------|
| Ambitious Personality | 12.25 | .97 | 200 | .753 | 198 | .778 | .000 | .138 | Reject H ₀ |
| Career in education | 12.22 | .94 | 200 | | | | | | |

Table 3 showed path coefficient of .778 and a responding p-value of .004 at .05 level of significance with 198 degree of freedom. Since the path coefficient of .778 and a responding p-value of .004 were found to be significant at .05 level of significance, the null hypothesis was rejected. This implies that, there is a significant relationship between openness to experience personality and career in education among senior secondary school students in Akwa Ibom State.

Discussion of Findings

The findings of the study reveals that there a significant relationship between extrovert personality and career in education among senior secondary school students in Akwa Ibom State. This finding aligns with the finding of Mohammed (2006) who found that, extrovert personality has been significantly related to career interest in learning and academic success. Equally, Ambreen and Jan (2015) found that extrovert students are likely to have interest in career that increase their sociability.

The findings of the study reveals that there a significant relationship between openness personality and career in education among senior secondary school students in Akwa Ibom State. This finding is in line with Mohammed (2006) found a positive relationship between openness to experience personality quality and career interest. Helena (2014) also found a significant correlation between energetic and decisive personality and academic achievement. For Helena (2014) students with these personality qualities tend to take control of their career desires.

The findings of the study reveal that there is a significant relationship between ambitious personality and career in education among senior secondary school students in Akwa Ibom State. This finding is supported by the findings of Mohammed (2006) who found that, since ambitious students are good at organizing their work, managing their time and studying hand with clear goals, they are more likely to have career interest in learning school subjects relating to politics and humanity.

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of the study, it was concluded that: extrovert personality trait is a significant factor that relate with career in education among senior secondary school students in Akwa Ibom State. It was also concluded that, openness and ambitious personality traits have significant relationship with career in education among senior secondary school students in Akwa Ibom State.



RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of the study, it was recommended that:

- i) The family and educational institutions should create home and school environment where students can develop suitable personality traits that would facilitate career choices.
- ii) Students should look inward to identify their unique personality qualities and use same as basis for selecting career interest.
- iii) School counsellors should conduct sensitization programmes for secondary school students to help them in identifying their personality traits and how to match it with career interest.



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