

SCIENTIFIC TECHNOLOGICAL INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION SERVICES IN CAREER CHOICE AMONG NIGERIAN SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

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Abstract

The study investigated the role of scientific technological information and communication in career choice among students in Nigeria. It was openly discovered that these services have positive impact on career choice. Besides scientific technological information and communication services facilitate at the same time effective decision-making and entry into the world of works through a good subject combination in secondary schools. The study found out that the Government at different levels was employing the services of Counsellors as a result of which the students were aware of their dos and don'ts. The career counsellors equally provided the students with occupational information and all the necessary directives for their betterment. Through school counsellors' efforts periodicals containing advertisements of educational and vocational literatures had been provided in the schools and these sources may be added to files and made available to students, the information gained from the sources can be of greater value if properly selected and utilized. Audio-visual aids, films and libraries constitute a source of materials and given opportunity for direct contact with the company representatives. Through this, the students would be able to develop themselves, have self-knowledge and identify their potentials. It was concluded that the role of scientific technology information and communication in career choice did not gradually increase until it was actually planted in the society, considerably due to the changing situation. The impact of shift in career socialization on the Nigerian student is very tremendous; this is equally change in value system which possibly could be traced to culture. Besides, it was concluded that counselors should be employed in all schools since it is their responsibility to assist the students to choose school programmes and career that are commensurate with their interests, aptitudes, assets and liabilities, hence success in their

Sustainable and qualitative education cannot be ensured without effective Guidance and Counselling and adequate scientific technological information and communication. But extreme modernization resulted in conflict between traditional attitudes and Western culture thus making the youth to be confused about the best ideal to follow. The rate of changes within our environment is so fast that the youth are so at crossed roads as to what career to choose. This is so when it is realized that the changes bring a lot of obstacles to the students'

academic, social, vocational and educational adjustment. The social and economic stability of any nation largely depends on the citizens' attitude toward work and the fundamental needs of the individual are often satisfied by the nature of his career. It is believed that there is no single situation in life which is potentially capable of giving some satisfaction of one's needs as his career. Career is a way of life which moulds one's character, determines his social status, provides means of personality expression and conditions one's life style especially a person that works in a place of his interest and value where his income is commensurate with his work.

A look at the Government's efforts towards the provision of necessary information of career choice and effective implementation of vocational education in the new national policy determines how he would spend the major part of his working hours. In order to make effective decision scientific technological information becomes a vital ingredients and this is a processed and organized data that can be used for managerial decision making, choosing a career is one of the most difficult decisions any individual has to take in his life time because whatever a person does as his career has a connection with his entire way of his life, since it reflects not only a declaration of what the individual is but also the result of his self introspection. To make a reasonable choice of career therefore needs scientific technological information and communication for a perfect match. This is necessary because it enables individual to carry out self-assessment and cognitive adaptability so that he can understand better his relationship to the world of works. Scientific and technological information cum communication would expose individuals to the knowledge about the world of works and thereby narrow their consideration to the areas that are relevant to their interest, abilities and attitudes. This research is conducted primarily to fulfill one of the many requirements the need for review of scientific technological information cum communication in career choice is of paramount importance.

Many developing nations place a very high premium on scientific technological information because they see information as means of cultural, social, political, economic and educational emancipation. To make a realistic career choice, an individual needs scientific technological information and communication in order to take a careful look at himself, to understand how he is developing or progressing toward making a choice of career. When students are provided with scientific information it would enable them to take adequate insight into themselves in terms of abilities and directives of needs, they would be more likely to be in better positions to judge future alternatives and to define educational occupational and personal social life goals. In Nigeria, the secondary school leavers suffer from ignorance of prospects which is due to lack of information (National Policy on Education, 1981, 30). To this end it is relevant to relate various views and ideas as put forward by some professional educators and other researchers to further highlight the information. Anagbogu (1998)

stated that “choice of career is important to the secondary school child. The subject that a child did strongly affect his future career if the child fails to choose the appropriate subjects and offer unrelated subjects to careers available within his environment, the consequences would be non employment for he picks up a job below his qualification”, Clark and Benedict (1999) asserted that “vocational choice is different from their types of education since it deals with content that directly prepares an individual for a specific occupation. It is different from technical or professional education which both implies education in an institution of learning.”

Denga (1996) pointed out that choosing a career is one of the greatest difficulties an individual has to face in his life time because what a person does and his occupation has a connection with his entire way of his life. Harold (1995) asserted that the fundamental needs of individuals are often satisfied by the nature of their work”. Since career information occupies a central place in career choice the benefit is that with increased knowledge regarding background information about a given career, the probability of a wise career choice by the students is likely to increase” Kenneth (2001). Research findings have revealed that the career in which students expressed interest are far more few than the careers which are available for them. Neidfelt (1992) explained that students are not provided with information about occupations that are likely to be their beginning jobs on completing their secondary school education.

Inyang (1998) explained that in the area of general education career choice provides opportunities for all students to develop an understanding of the business and economic system of the nation.” This would make them to become familiar with certain skills which are basis to all personal and occupational activities. He also opined that scientific technological information services in career choice is mostly expected to guide and produce well trained personnel into broad career spectrum”.

Donald Super in his theory as quoted by Anagbogu (1998) concluded by saying that “work satisfaction and life satisfaction depend on the extent to which the individual finds adequate outlet for his abilities, interest, personality traits and values, they depend upon the establishment in a type of work, a work situation and a way of life in which he can play the vivid role which growth and explanatory experiences have, let him to consider congenial and appropriate, this however depends on the acquisition of scientific technological information and communication services. Ross (1998) also explained that information and sound communication help to establish congruency between the students and choice in relation to career plans, decisions and occupational orientation. This implies that if the choice is made out of good and scientific technological information and communication guide, individuals are more likely to make good career choice and stay in the job in a given environment.

The Relevance of Scientific Technological Information and Communication in Career Choice

Oyeleye (2007) agreed with the need for making available to students scientific career information. He however stressed that need for the young people to acquire an accurate picture of the hard facts of the job market in relation to their interest, aptitudes and abilities so that they may better be able to make intelligent choice of occupation. According to Obiomou (2001) career education is aimed at producing school leavers who are competent in basic academic skills required for the adaptability in our rapid changing society.

Grabber and Bello (2008) felt that apart from academic scores, scientific technological information could help students in three broad patterns:

- 1) Many adolescents including intellectual average ones may be assisted to build their own occupational castles in air while still in school, but only to discover these limitations upon completion of school or with the result of the examinations, thus becoming disappointed and lost. Whereas if such students have had scientific information and was well being communicated they must have discovered their areas of competency before now.
- 2) Scientific and technological career information could stimulate career thinking among adolescents, for instance, awareness of a job around and what each requires could challenge ambitious student to work harder at his chosen subjects in order to qualify for entry into his chosen career.
- 3) Scientific technological information and communication help to develop the procedures involved in obtaining needed abilities and experiences required in making career choice decisions. as a result the youth would be able to meet the economic challenges of today such as retrenchment, sudden retirements, poverty, unemployment and unexpected problems of tomorrow.

It is clear from the above that scientific career information and communication cannot be dispensed from career education. Agbaje (2010) asserted that “one cannot choose what one does not know, many careers are unknown to most of the students. One may stumble into appropriate occupations by sheer luck, but the wise choice of career requires accurate information about where career occupations are available”.

Objectives of scientific technological information and communication are:

- 1) To equip school leavers with skills to earn a living and to stimulate and encourage creativity.

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- 2) To help develop the right attitude towards work and habits of mind conducive to proper use of technology.
- 3) It is necessary to encourage the maintenance and expansion of occupational programmes and services for disadvantaged and handicapped individuals.
- 4) For a proper result is better to improve the quality of occupational and career programmes and related research activities.
- 5) Scientific technological information and communication should also anchor development and appreciation of the need for occupation and the importance they have in a modern 21st century society.
- 6) Development in individual of the recognition of the relationship between personal values and the influence of significance others have upon occupational choice.

Stones (1997) submitted that “the parental development of a child’s intellectual endowment is, slow down when scientific technological information is slow down. Knowledgeable parents were more likely to respond readily to the information needs and information rich environment at home for the cognitive growth of their wards.” He further asserted that backwardness in career choice may well, in part be aroused by deficiencies in the child’s career choice. Enlightened parents should strive to establish congruence between home and school informational based centre for the optimum advantage of their children. It should be noted that improper choice of career cum wrong career choice is rounded up with transparent poverty, it follows that vocational status as viewed by Stones has an inversed correlation with scientific information career choice.

Facts About Scientific Technological Information and Communication in Career Choice

The actual choice of a career is as a result of many influences over a long period of time. Thus, planning for immediate and future decisions is possible and can be done more realistically when the principal kinds of information provided include:

- 1) Nature of the work such as the duties performed, tools or equipments used, relationship to other careers, possible work-setting, that is to say, must the client walk, jump, stoop, lift or push in the job, must he travel extensively, working on Sundays, working shifts, working for long hours, working for long sitting sessions, night duty and absence from home for several days or weeks? Is there any scope for fields of specializations?

- 2) Conditions of work, that is, its implication for individual's ways of life, including daily, weekly time schedule, season, physical conditions such as, noise health hazards, working environment such as hot, cold, humid, dirty, dusty, offensive odours, mechanical hazards. Are lighting ventilation and sanitation adequate?
- 3) The minimum educational requirements and training, attitudes and interests.
- 4) Special requirements such as license, certificate or qualifications imposed by law.
- 5) Methods of entering the careers such as direct application, personal references, examinations or apprenticeship information from employing office for instance, in a university information desk
- 6) Preparations needed for various careers if any. Facts about specific advantages and disadvantages or jobs under consideration.
- 7) Work study programmes such as National Youth Service, Boys' Scout, Girls Guide, Community Services, Boys Brigade.
- 8) Social and Psychological factors such as work satisfaction partners of relationships with supervisors and other workers, with unions, associations or other organisations in which membership may be required or desirable.

Sources of Scientific Technological Information

The original source of all career information is the worker who does the work, the person who pays to do the job and the Government Bureau which issues license and regulates employment. Other sources include:

- 1) Publications – books, monographs, journals, telephone Directories
- 2) Audio-Visual Aids – such as films, tapes, slides, Radio and Television and programmed instructional materials such as work books.
- 3) Computer based system – Storage retrieval mechanized system
- 4) Interviews with experts especially career representatives
- 5) Stimulating Situations such as career games, role playing
- 6) Artificial Reproduction of setting such as Role Playing
- 7) Directed explanatory experiences such as work sample, evaluation tasks and also by direct observation such as excursion to work site.
- 8) On the job try out – work study programmes.

Means of Making Modern Career Information Available to Students and Clients

- 1) Most Federal Agencies such as the Ministry of Labour publish materials that relate directly to careers. Such information should be made available to students and clients.
- 2) Bulleting exhibitions are profitably used to display vital information on pre-vocational course such as entry requirements for higher institutions.
- 3) “Career week” and Career exhibitions may be mounted successively for career information to students and clients by representatives of selected careers. Pamphlets and periodicals are conspicuously displayed and generously distributed on each career.
- 4) Industrial and business concerns issue literature of a vocational nature as a public service and as an advertising device. The information gained from these sources can be of great value if it is properly selected and utilized.
- 5) Periodicals contain advertisement of educational and vocational literature. These sources may be added to the files and made available to the students. Periodicals of publish articles, too of a vocational, nature which may be utilized by students in their study of placement opportunities.
- 6) Audio-Visual aids are now available in abundance and related materials can be bought at moderate costs. University films libraries constitute a major source of these materials. Some commercial companies and community agencies are also able to supply the aids.
- 7) On “Career Day” groups of clients or students are given the opportunity for direct contact with representatives of selected careers in which they have indicated an interest. Its purpose is to provide the students with pertinent and accurate information about specific fields of work. Questions, films or other audio-visual resources are used.
- 8) In excursion, opportunity to observe various workers on the job are provided. A field trip or industry tour can be highly motivating to students, encouraging them to explore further both the world of work and their own future plans.

Conclusions

The role of scientific technological information and communication in career choice did not gradually increase until it was actually planted in the society, considerably due to the changing situation. The impact of shift in career socialization on the Nigerian Student is very tremendous; this is equally change in value system which possibly could be traced to the culture.

Educational occupational and socio-personal information data should be highly integrated when the individual student attempts to assimilate, analyse, project and discuss their meanings in terms of personal decisions or future plans. Information to which students have been exposed will be accepted if it fits into their self-perceptions otherwise it will be perceived as unrealistic or appropriate only for others. According to Hoppock (1969) information is used on counselling “to help the client to clarify the goal that he wants to reach and to move in the direction in which he wants to go, as long as the goal and the means of obtaining it are not injurious to others”. Thus Goldman (1967) interpreted the counselors role with reference to information services as that of an “interpreter of possibilities”, while Arbuckle (1970) sees his role as one who not only gives information “but rather as the individual who will help a person to get to the point where he can make sensible use of sensible information”.

Recommendations

Based on the finding of this study the following recommendations would go a long way towards solving the problems of improper career choice:

Teachers should create a school environment that would compensate for lack of scientific technological information and communication as this would boost the morale of the students towards effective career choice.

Majority of our students in secondary schools continues to operate at concrete operational level, that is, they are not capable of serious abstract thinking. Thus teachers should make more use of audio-visual aids so that the student5s can interact with themselves and gain worthwhile learning experiences.

There should be dailies, periodicals and magazines in the library, Radio, Television and other learning facilities in the audio-visual laboratory to facilitate student learning.

The Guidance Counsellors in schools would be able to help students to understand themselves, their assets and liabilities, their attitudes, aptitudes and interest. They would therefore help to choose school programmes and career that are commensurate with their interest, aptitudes, assets and liabilities thus success in their various career choice would be ensured.

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