

Career Choice: An Analysis of Multiple Intelligences and Socio-Environmental Factors

Saturnino T. Pabalinas, Jr., Aldwin M. Teves, and Karen Luz Y. Teves

Abstract—This study aimed to determine the relationships between socio-demographic factors, multiple intelligences and the environment on the career choice. The respondents were 370 first year college students enrolled for School Year, 2013 – 2014. The data collected and analyzed using Chi-square likelihood ratio test to mined-out relevant information. The study reveals that on the socio-demographic factors such as age, gender and occupation of the parents show significant relationship to career choice. Moreover, the first and the second inclinations to multiple intelligences show highly significant relationship on the choice of career. On the factors of environment, school attended and job opportunities provide significant relationship on the choice of career.

Keywords—Socio-environment, multiple intelligences, career choice

I. INTRODUCTION

ONE of the most difficult decisions in life especially to students who wish to pursue their education is the career choice. For others, the answer to the question, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" was to be determined and identified through a pathway of choosing a career. A variety of factors can influence the choice of a career path (Hewitt, 2008). In relation to this change, the students need to identify their inclination based on multiple intelligences (Gardner, 2007). Other factors that influence on the choice of career are job opportunities and professional growth. The definition of choice incorporates two components: first is the availability of alternatives, which presents an objective reality, and the second one, the act of preference, which involves a subjective process. If a reference to career 'choice' is made, availability of career choices and the dynamics of choosing a career should be examined. Hence, in order for career choice to take place, there should be alternative career routes available and there should be an individual preference between these career options.

According to Gardner (2000), "the broad spectrum of students and perhaps the society as a whole would be better served if disciplines could be presented in a number of ways and learning could be assessed through a variety of means."

Saturnino T. Pabalinas, Jr. is a Principal at Fortress College, Kabankalan City, Negros Occidental, Philippines

Aldwin M. Teves is an Associate Professor of Central Philippines State University, Kabankalan City, Negros Occidental, Philippines

Karen Luz Y. Teves is an Assistant Professor of Central Philippines State University, Kabankalan City, Negros Occidental, Philippines (corresponding author's e-mail: kartevs@yahoo.ca)

Career choice is a complex phenomenon that can be better appreciated through a study of its key components. The study assessed the students' influences of socio demographic profile, multiple intelligences and environment on the career choice and determined if significant relationship occurs between these factors.

II. HYPOTHESES

1. There is no significant relationship between socio-demographic profile and career choice
2. There is no significant relationship between multiple intelligences and career choice
3. There is no significant relationship between environment and career choice

III. THEORETICAL AND CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK OF THE STUDY

This study was based on the theory of Hughes (1937) and Goffman (1968), career has been the focus of many studies. However, the contemporary formulations of the concept by critical realists embody a layered conception that embraces subjective experiences and objective structures of work in interplay as cited by Layder (1993) as cited by Hallissey et al. (2000). As supported by Kyriacou and Colthart (2000), definition (choice) incorporates two components: First is the availability of alternatives, which presents an objective reality, and the second one, the act of preference, which involves a subjective process. If a reference to career 'choice' is made, availability of career choices and the dynamics of choosing a career should be examined.

In this study the subject-respondents' family factors such as students' age, gender, academic performance, annual family income, parent's educational attainment and occupation; multiple intelligences such as linguistic intelligence, Logical-mathematical intelligence, spatial intelligence, bodily-kinesthetic intelligence, musical intelligence, interpersonal intelligence, intrapersonal intelligence and the environment such as type of school, peer influence and job opportunity were the independent variables. These independent variables were the attributes or characteristics that were presumed to have either an effect, cause or influence based on the career choice. Hence, this study determines the relationships and significant models between the student's family profile and multiple intelligences; between family profile and environment; between multiple intelligences and environment towards students' career choice.

VI. FINDINGS

Socio-demographic Profile and the choice of career

Results shown in Table II indicated three socio-demographic factors that influencing career choice – students’ age, gender and parents’ occupation. These are indicated by the likelihood ratio values with their associated p-value. The age of the students has a likelihood ratio value of 90.903 with an associated p-value of 0.000. This implies that age significantly influence the choice of career. The younger the respondents, the more they are inclined to take engineering course that requires additional year of schooling. In like manner, gender also plays a significant role in the choice of career. Though the world of work seems to have gender equality, nevertheless, respondents show reservation on the gender-based profession. The occupation of parents play a significant role in the career choice of their children. This is indicated by a likelihood ratio value of 86.642 with an associated p-value of 0.001. This speaks to mean that parents outlook to the world of work open avenues in order to prepare their children what particular career to track to have brighter job opportunity. This is enforced by the study of Bem (2000) that perceptions of parental occupational satisfaction will have a positive effect on career aspiration. This means that there exists an important consideration the occupation of parents to look into the future job opportunity of their children. The family income and the education of parents fail to provide evidence that they are directly influential to career choice of their children.

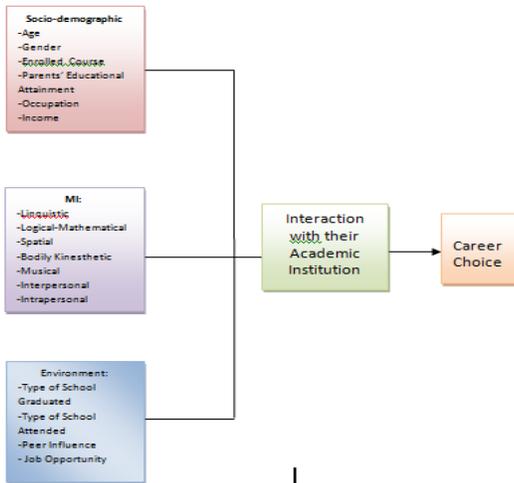


Fig. 1 Schematic diagram showing the relationship variables in the study

IV. METHODOLOGY

The descriptive type of research was used in the study. The respondents were first year college students enrolled for School Year, 2013 - 2014 of recognized college and universities in three cities of Negros Occidental, Philippines- Kabankalan, Bacolod and Talisay Cities (Table I).

TABLE I
DISTRIBUTION OF STUDENTS IN COLLEGE & UNIVERSITIES
IN KABANKALAN, BACOLOD AND TALISAY CITIES

College/University	N	%
Carlos Hilado Memorial State College(CHAMSC)	85	23.00
Central Philippines State University (CPSU)	100	27.00
University of Negros Occidental Recoletos (UNO-R)	111	30.00
University St.La salle (USLS)	74	20.00
Total	370	100.00

A two-part researcher modified and standardized survey questionnaire. Part I surveyed the students’ family profile on age, gender, academic performance, annual family income, parents’-educational attainment and occupation. Part II assessed respondents’ influences based on multiple intelligences on the career choice. Each question has a corresponding 1 to 5 equivalent scores for a total of 175 points. These points were scaled and interpreted accordingly. There are seven multiple intelligences being assess in this study, namely: Linguistic, Logical Mathematical, Spatial, Bodily- Kinesthetic, Musical, Interpersonal and Intrapersonal.

V. DATA ANALYSES

To find out the significant relationship between students’ demographic profile, multiple intelligences and environment on the choice of career a, Chi-square and their associated Chi-Square-based transformation (Likelihood ratio) was used at 5 percent level of significance.

TABLE II
VALUE OF THE LIKELIHOOD RATIO AND P-VALUE
BETWEEN THE SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC
PROFILE AND CHOICE OF CAREER

Socio-demographic Profile	Likelihood Ratio Value	df	p-value
Age	90.903	40	.000
Gender	56.485	10	.000
Family Income	95.439	80	.115
Parents’ Education	69.811	60	.181
Parent’ Occupation	86.642	50	.001

Relationship between multiple intelligences and career choice

The first and the second intellectual inclinations influenced the choice of career (Table III). These are indicated by the likelihood ratio values with their associated p-value. The first intellectual inclination of the students has a likelihood ratio value of 114.079 with an associated p-value of 0.000. The second intellectual inclination of the students has a likelihood ratio value of 70.448 with an associated p-value of 0.002. These imply that the first and the second intellectual inclinations of the students play a vital role in the choice of their career. Statistical analysis shows that they significantly influence the choice of career. This implies that the second inclination fallback the first one and provides synergy framing the pathway for career track.

TABLE III
VALUE OF THE LIKELIHOOD RATIO AND P-VALUE BETWEEN
THE MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES AND CHOICE OF CAREER

Multiple intelligences	Likelihood Ratio Value	df	p-value
First Intellectual Inclination	114.079	60	.000
Second Intellectual Inclination	70.488	40	.002

Relationship Between environment and career choice

There are two environmental factors that influenced career choice - school attended by students and the future job opportunity (Table IV). These are indicated by the likelihood ratio values with their associated p-value. The school attended by the students has a likelihood ratio value of 87.290 with an associated p-value of 0.000. This implies that school attended by the students has a significant influence of choosing their career pathway. They have a pre-determined notion that such an academic institution can bring them to a brighter future. In like manner, the future job opportunities also plays a significant role in the choice of career. This is indicated by the likelihood ratio value of 63.676 with a p-value of 0.000. This is motivated by the fact that it is more valuable to take a career wherein there is an anticipated room to land a job. The choice of their career is also enthused to land job locally, nationally and globally. The school graduate, peer influence the source of logistical support to schooling fail to provide evidence that they are significantly influential to career choice of their children.

TABLE IV
VALUE OF THE LIKELIHOOD RATIO AND P-VALUE
BETWEEN THE ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS
AND CHOICE OF CAREER

Family Factors	Likelihood Ratio Value	df	p-value
School Graduated	16.338	10	.090
School Attended	87.290	10	.000
Peer Influence	111.591	12	.696
Job Opportunities	63.676	30	.000
Support to Schooling	68.097	90	.959

VII. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Socio-demographic factors such as age, gender and occupation of the parents have significant influence on the student-respondent's choice of career. Furthermore, the first and second inclinations to multiple intelligences also revealed significant relationship on career choice. On environmental factors, school attended by respondents and perceived job opportunities had significant relationship on the choice of career. It is recommended that parents may consider age, gender, job opportunity and their outlook towards their current occupation as references of their children in choosing a career; they should realize the importance of education and the role they are expected to play to facilitate accurate career choice of their children. Likewise, students may evaluate the courses they take by considering these significant variables to better prepare for a good career in the future.

Socio-demographic factors such as age, gender and occupation of the parents have significant influence on the student-respondent's choice of career. Furthermore, the first and second inclinations to multiple intelligences also revealed significant relationship on career choice. On environmental factors, school attended by respondents and perceived job opportunities had significant relationship on the choice of career. It is recommended that parents may consider age, gender, job opportunity and their outlook towards their current occupation as references of their children in choosing a career; they should realize the importance of education and the role they are expected to play to facilitate accurate career choice of their children. Likewise, students may evaluate the courses they take by considering these significant variables to better prepare for a good career in the future.

REFERENCES

- [1] Bem, S.L. (2000). The measurement of psychological androgyny. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, 42, 155-162.
- [2] Dahl, G. and Lochner. (2008). The Impact of Family Income on Child achievement: Evidence from the earned income tax credit.
- [3] Engel, C. E. (2008). German Student Education Transitions: Factors of Educational Paths. University of California, Los Angeles.
- [4] Fields, A.B., 1981. Some influences upon the occupational aspirations of three white-collar ethnic groups. *Adolescence*, Volume No. 16 pp 663-84. Sage Publications, Healy, C. C. 1982.
- [5] Friedman, S.M. (2000). Attachment, separation, and women's vocational development: A longitudinal analysis. *Journal of Counseling Psychology*, 47(3), 301-315.
- [6] Gardner, Howard (2002), "Interpersonal Communication Amongst Multiple Subjects: A Study in Redundancy", *Experimental Psychology*
- [7] Gilman, Lynn (2012), "The Theory of Multiple Intelligences", Indiana University, retrieved 14 November 2012.
- [8] Hewitt, J. (2008) Factors Influencing Career Choice Himmelfarb, H. S. 2007. "The Interaction Affects of
- [9] Parents, Spouse, and Schooling: Comparing the Impact of Jewish and Catholic Schools." *Sociological Quarterly* 18: 464-71.
- [10] Huges, D. 2002. "Determinants of Church Participation and Attitudes Among High School Youth." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 17: 359-79.
- [11] Kyriacou and Colthart. (2000). Neighbourhood Effects and Cultural Exclusion, Bauder Urban Studies.
- [12] Gardner "Howard Gardner, multiple intelligences and education", the encyclopedia of informal education, retrieved 22 October 2011.
- [13] Robert Slavin (2009). *Educational Psychology*, p. 117 ISBN 0- 205-59200-7
- [14] Salawu, A. A and Bagudo, A. A (2000). Self-concept as a Correlate of Career Choice of Students in Tertiary Institution in Sokoto State. *The Nigerian Journal of Guidance and counselling* : 7 (1) 1 - 11.
- [15] Thomas, D. et. al 2002. *Family Socialization and the Adolescent*. Lexington, MA: D. C. Heath.
- [16] Tweed, A. (2004). Direct Instruction: Is It the Most Effective Science Teaching Strategy? NSTA Reports 15 December 2004. Retrieved 5 August 2013.
- [17] *Howard Gardner's Multiple Intelligence Theory*. (2002). PBS, retrieved 9 December 2012
- [18] Gardner, H., & Hatch, T. (1989). Multiple intelligences go to school: Educational implications of the theory of multiple Intelligences. *Educational Researcher*, 410. retrieved 15 July 2013 from JSTOR