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### Role of Family Background on Students Choice of Studying Program in Higher Learning Institutions in Morogoro Municipal, Tanzania

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#### Abstract

Choosing a career or program is a multiplanar action that involves students' capacity to choose a suitable career by involving acquaintances from different sources of information. This study examined the role of family background on students' choice of studying programs in higher learning institutions in Morogoro municipal Tanzania. The study adopted a convergent research design under the mixed research approach corresponding to pragmatic philosophy. From the targeted population, 100 participants were selected from students through a simple random sampling procedure. Also, a purposive sampling technique was used to select 8 parents and 1 HoD and make a total of 109 participants for the whole study. Interviews and questionnaires were used in data collection as

instruments. The study makes sure conformability, transferability, and reliability are considered in the data collection instrument. The study revealed that parents' encouragement to students to make good program decisions, parents informing students about specific programs, and parents' encouragement to students on considering different education and career options were a significant influence on parents' choice of career among higher learners. The study concluded that parental support is essential for helping students make wise program choices. The study recommends that Parents should not force students to follow careers or programs similar to their own in contradiction to their will.

**Keywords:** Career, Program Choice, Family Background, and Students

#### Introductions

Choosing a career or program is a multiplanar action that involves students' capacity to choose a suitable career by involving knowledge from different sources of information. In the world of globalization Nowadays days One of the most significant decisions for students to make for their studies is choosing a career that will determine their future professional path research suggests that a variety of influences such as family, school, public, and community and financial factors are likely to operate one's final career decision (Adikwu 2022, Zulfikarijah 2022) <sup>[5, 24]</sup>. Among these factors, students account that parents have the greatest inspiration on which career they select. Rafanan and Guzman (2020) <sup>[18]</sup>, reveal that a decision on the potential occupation or instruction program for a student's appeal affects better career well-being, success-job fulfillment, good results, and suitable promotion. This indicates that choosing an appropriate career needs effort and knowledge of a certain career fail to do so a student can end up choosing a career that is not suitable for his or her plan Nowadays, many students especially higher learners fail to focus on how they choose their career effectively and at the end they realize that the career they have been pursuing in secondary education differs or not related to the profession they choose now as their career (Cabantias, 2021) <sup>[9]</sup>. Career choice or program is a multifaceted decision for students meanwhile it controls occupations that aim to follow in life. For every pupil choosing the best progression can be a hard choice as well as intelligent about their upcoming vocation. Some students know precisely which course to follow while others do not know. According to Torres *et al.* (2020), parents' attitude toward their children who are in elementary and high school has an impact on their desire to earn a degree and the kind of degree pursued.

In Nigeria, a study carried out by Abubakar (2019) <sup>[1]</sup> discloses unsuccessful career leadership in Kano state which brought about in trials that confronted numerous pupils in making choices for future education planning. Program optimal is approximately that is hard to choose, particularly as his/her life is contingent on it. Stebleton *et al.* (2022) specified that

occupation is the entirety of knowledge over which one studies and becomes involved in work as part of his way of being active. Koçak *et al.* (2021) <sup>[13]</sup> illustrate that the turning point for choosing a career or program usually starts during the pre-university or university era. In this period, when individuals experience difficulties in both their psychological and social lives, asking them to make decisions that will affect their entire lives will increase individuals' stress and prevent them from making sound decisions mainstream of the undergraduates is powerless to additional their teaching at the college level. This is manifested in the frequent appeal for change of courses by some of the new entrants to the school. Some of these undergraduates devote the whole theoretical year to looking for a path suitable to them. Other students also direct displeasure at themes being pursued at senior high level. So, this led scholars not to give their best intellectually and have the services and the possible for the college programmed but for the cause or the additional students discover their way into the college.

### Statement of the Problem

Studying program choice is a multi-disciplinary process that involves the participation of society especially the one surrounding a student. Studies conducted by Alloph (2023), Elias (2020), Siddiky (2021) <sup>[20]</sup>, and Adikwu (2022) <sup>[5]</sup> on students' choice of study program prove that there is a need for society to have this knowledge of career choice to support their children because without this knowledge many students will lose their way and choose a career which is not suitable for them. Previous researchers like Koçak, *et al* (2021) <sup>[13]</sup>, Ampofo (2020) <sup>[4]</sup>, Adikwu and Ereka (2022) <sup>[5]</sup>, Amoakoa, *et al* (2020) <sup>[7]</sup>, and Maree and Magere (2023) <sup>[15]</sup> have also conducted work on the family role in career decision-making of the students in different parts of the world. Previous researchers who have done in this field were almost in the Western contexts and most use qualitative approaches to validate their studies. The current study explored a mixed research approach to incorporate a qualitative approach by deploying a questionnaire and self-structured interview guide to the respondents to get more information about the problem. Therefore, this study aims to investigate the role of family background on student's choice of study program in Tanzania.

### Research Objectives

#### Specific Objective

- To highlight the family factors that significantly influence student choice of studying program in Higher Learning Institutions in Morogoro Municipal, Tanzania.

#### Research Question

- What are the specific family factors that significantly impact students' choice of studying programs in Higher Learning Institutions.?

#### Research Hypothesis

- There are significant differences in mean scores between the role of family background and studying program choice of students.

### Theoretical Framework

This article is governed by two related theories first by a theory by Anna Roe 1957 who believed parents had a more

direct impact on career choice throughout their children's lives. She believed that any needs that were not satisfied during childhood, would either be eliminated from one's consciousness or serve as unconscious motivators. For example, Roe stated, "A child whose expressions of natural curiosity were thoroughly blocked, would cease to be curious". Therefore, Roe maintained that parental attitudes toward their children were more important than the careers they possessed or their behaviors. Roe correspondingly thought that childrearing styles were a main factor in defining a child's vocation choice. She encompassed the subsequent six childcare styles in her model: "over protection," "over demanding," "expressive refusal," "negligence of the kid," "unplanned receiving," and "caring receiving" (Roe, 1957) <sup>[3]</sup>. Ann Roe's theory like other theories is not left without some limitations. The theory has failed to explain how socio-demographic variables affect career choice. Roe's theory finds its practical application in a family counseling setting. The encounter should make the parents and the client understand why people behave differently and cherish a particular occupation at a particular time over others.

The second theory of career development is the theory of circumscription and compromise was derived from Linda Gottfredson (1981) <sup>[12]</sup> who stated that children's career choices were influenced by seven major elements including gender, social class, background, intelligence, interests, competencies, and values. Each of these elements was thought to affect a child's self-concept at four different stages of cognitive development. Gottfredson (1981) <sup>[12]</sup> stated that children would accept their fathers' ambitions and their thoughts of suitable occupations. She also initiates parent impact to be more important for families of lesser intellect and community position. However, the level of children with higher intellect and social position remained extra probable to design for university if stimulated by their parents. So, it appears that however, Gottfredson recommended that vocation excellent was mainly squeezed by teenagers' willingness, she similarly approved the role of parent ambitions and inspiration.

### Review of Empirical Studies

this chapter reviews different studies related to the specific family factors that significantly impact students' choice of studying program.

The study conducted by Disha, *et al* (2023) <sup>[11]</sup> about Family Influence on Career Decision-Making Self-Efficacy in College Students. The study examined the role of selected family variables in predicting 300 college students based on a quantitative approach. The current study explored a mixed research approach to incorporate a qualitative approach by deploying a questionnaire and self-structured interview guide. The distributed questionnaire was used for a previous study to reveal that parental overall support statistically important factor in predicting career decision-making, results reflected that there was a negative correlation between family influence on students. There gender differences between Career decision-making self-efficacy and family influence play a major role in the choice of the program.

The Part of Family Impact and Academic Fulfillment on Vocational Decision-Making Self Effectiveness and Contentment were studied by Koçak, *et al.* (2021) <sup>[13]</sup>, mentioned that engagement in job, family, and school

should be taken into account while measuring the vocation fact. The gathered environmental and individual components are examined in this study. The study used a numerical research methodology, with a researcher using online questionnaires to compile cross-sectional data from 1130 college students. To include a quantitative approach, the current study used a mixed research strategy that included the use of a questionnaire and a self-structured interview guide. The research reveals that family impact and support, students' work, and academic fulfillment are important in the job procedure and pleasure. The study shows that family impact and academic satisfaction were associated with job decision self-efficacy and pleasure.

Ampofo (2020)<sup>[4]</sup> in Ghana examined the career preferences of senior high technical students using a descriptive survey technique. Information was obtained from a sample of 80 students and 20 teachers using a questionnaire. The current study combined a qualitative method with a mixed research strategy, using a questionnaire and a self-structured interview guide. The study found that knowledge of occupations, employment, interpersonal needs, educational requirements, and self-awareness was necessary for pupils. Study habits, educational information, career needs, and interpersonal information are the top demands of students seeking career help, according to teachers and school counselors. This shows that most students desire guidance and information on the field of study they intend to pursue. It was suggested.

The goal of Adikwu and Ereka's (2022)<sup>[5]</sup> study in Nigeria was to ascertain how family influences affected senior secondary students' career choices in the Federal Capital Territory. The study's sample consisted of 20,163 senior secondary students who were surveyed descriptively. A multi-stage sampling strategy was employed in the study. Using a random selection technique, a sample size of 360 respondents was selected from 12 public secondary schools located throughout the six Area Councils in the Federal Capital Territory. A self-structured questionnaire was used to collect data. The goal of this study is to examine the application of a mixed research strategy, which includes a qualitative method using a questionnaire and a self-structured interview guide. The study reveals that parental variables have a major impact on senior secondary students' employment choices.

The purpose of Ramadhani and Suharso's (2020)<sup>[19]</sup> study in Indonesia was to ascertain the effects of gender, proactive personality, and parental engagement on high school students' self-efficacy in choosing career selections. The current study used a hybrid research technique, combining a questionnaire and a self-structured interview guide, to integrate the prior work. The results of the study showed that proactive personalities and parental involvement significantly influenced high school students' self-efficacy when it came to choosing a job. Furthermore, female pupils are more impacted than male students by proactive personalities and parental involvement. This illustrates how parental choices might affect the study plan that pupils choose.

Zulfikarijah and Mohyi (2022)<sup>[24]</sup> sought to investigate the Career Choices of The Students, and What is Important. Their study aims to determine the factors considered by students in choosing a career after graduating from college. The sample of the study was 200 respondents with details of each university's 50 respondents, respondents who filled out

the complete questionnaire were 134. Data was collected through a questionnaire using a 5 Likert scale. The current study explored a mixed research approach to incorporate a qualitative approach by deploying a questionnaire and self-structured interview guide. The results showed that there were 6 factors for student career choice: Financial, job information, opportunity, social environment, challenge, and interest, with financial being the dominant factor. This proves that most of the factors of choosing a learning program in higher education lie in the results obtained such as financial, job information, opportunity, and environmental challenge.

The study conducted by Okesina and Famolu (2022)<sup>[17]</sup> investigated the parental influence on the choice of career among secondary students in the Ilorin Metropolis. The relative influence of variables such as parents' level of education, parents' occupation, and family types were examined. A descriptive survey design approach was employed for the study. The population for the study comprised all students of secondary schools in the Ilorin Metropolis. A simple random sampling technique was used to select 200 respondents who participated in the study. Data were collected using a structured questionnaire. The current study explored a mixed research approach to incorporate a qualitative approach by deploying a questionnaire and self-structured interview guide. The findings of the study revealed that parents' encouragement to students to make good career decisions, parents informing students about specific careers, and parents' encouragement to students on considering different education and career options were significant influences on parents' choice of career among secondary students in the Ilorin Metropolis. This implies that most of the parents make sure that their children choose a good program for their future career it was recommended that from the researcher school direction counsellors should organize a meaningful career program that will help to instruct both parents and students on the concept of career choice.

The study done by Siddiky & Akter (2021)<sup>[20]</sup> aimed to investigate the factors determining the students' career choices and find out their job preparedness strategies. Primary data for this study were collected from 120 students selected from fourteen academic departments of the Noakhali Science and Technology University in Bangladesh based on snowball sampling. The study revealed that several factors involving students' family preferences, teachers' advice, job prestige, job security, remunerations, the scope of promotion, the scope of pension, the scope of professional development, personal interests, academic majors, educational attainments and career development training have a significant association with the student's career decision-making. (Siddiky & Akter, 2021)<sup>[20]</sup>. The researcher suggested that the students of the Noakhali Science and Technology University should undertake career development courses as a strategy for job preparedness. Also, the study suggested that the Noakhali Science and Technology University should set up career guidance and counseling to link their students with the current labor market.

In Ghana the study conducted by Amoakoa, *et al* (2020)<sup>[7]</sup> about the influence of family background on the career choices of senior high school students: The study investigated the effect of family background on career decision-making among senior high school students. A

descriptive cross-sectional survey design was adopted in the study. Multiphase stage sampling was used to sample 248 senior high school students. A structured questionnaire was used for data collection. The current study explored a mixed research approach to incorporate a qualitative approach by deploying a questionnaire and self-structured interview guide. The study reveals that self-efficacy should be enhanced to improve career decision-making and parents should be interested in the program of study of students in their career decision-making. It was also found that the perception of students on the influence of family factors on career decision-making is not affected by the sex of the students. This implies that students can choose his or her program. The researcher suggests that parents should develop the self-efficacy of students when it comes the time of choosing a career.

In Tanzania a study of Elias and Idda (2020) about the Career Progression of Female Academics in Public Universities. The main objectives of the study were to examine factors that affect the career progression of female academics to senior positions in Public Universities by involving qualitative design to understand academic experiences on female career progression. The current study explored a mixed research approach to incorporate a qualitative approach by deploying a questionnaire and self-structured interview guide. 21 participants were selected purposively from the study which involves the Interview method for data collection. The study used thematic analysis in data analysis. The findings revealed that family work conflict, culture and gender, lack of mentor and mentoring program, lack of role models, low self-confidence, limited opportunities, and networking were factors that discourage the career progression of female academicians to senior positions. The findings also implied that few female academicians managed to reach senior positions and majorities are struggling to move up this implies that some family factors can affect negatively the choice of study program for a student and that situation can affect future career.

In Tanzania Maree and Magere (2023) <sup>[15]</sup> also aimed to investigate the impact of a group career-building counseling intervention on Tanzanian students' challenges in choosing career decisions. by using a qualitative methodology. The current study used a self-structured interview guide and a questionnaire as part of a mixed research strategy that included a qualitative approach. 35 high school students were chosen by sampling from a single public school. The results showed that the majority of the participants' psychological traits, career flexibility, and capability for making well-informed professional decisions were all enhanced by the intervention. This suggests that receiving career counseling and assistance enhances one's capacity to select an appropriate study program in Tanzania.

In Tanzania also the study by Venant and Ngussa (2021) <sup>[23]</sup> sought to establish the role of teachers and parents on students' career choice preparedness based on gender among Secondary Schools in Arusha District, Tanzania. By involving descriptive research design. The current study tends to explore a mixed research approach to incorporate a qualitative approach by deploying a questionnaire and self-structured interview guide. The sample was 314 extracted from 2200 from three students through simple random sampling. The study concluded that female students were

more prepared for careers than male students. While both male and female students agreed that teachers and parents prepared them for career choice, female students had a significantly higher mean score than male students on the role of teachers and parents in preparing them for career. This shows that in Tanzania we have a program that guides students to choose a studying program effectively.

The study done by Alloph and Msonge (2023) in Tanzania sought to examine the challenges facing teachers in the provision of career guidance services to secondary school students in Magu District, Involving Social Cognitive Career Theory which was developed by Lent, Brown, and Hackett in 1994. And hired a convergent parallel research design under a mixed research approach which helped in data collection and analysis. The sample size was 152 participants; simple random sampling was used to select secondary school teachers and form four students. Purposive sampling was used to select public secondary school leavers in 2020 and heads of secondary schools. The study revealed that lack of professional training on career guidance, lack of cooperation among the students and teachers, shortage of time in school as well as a shortage of career guidance materials are the challenges facing teachers in the provision of career guidance services to secondary school students in Magu District. the study recommends that public secondary school administrator should provide time for career guidance services in their schools. Moreover, public secondary school teachers should cooperate with their students to ensure the effective provision of career guidance services in schools.

### Research Methodology

A convergent research design was used in the study as part of a mixed research method that is consistent with pragmatic philosophy. To offer a thorough study of the research topic, the researcher converges or combines quantitative and qualitative data, according to Creswell (2022). This made it possible for researchers to simultaneously gather qualitative and quantitative data. 100 participants were chosen at random from the desired demographic of students using a straightforward random selection technique. Additionally, eight parents and two educational advisers were chosen using the purposive sample approach, bringing the total number of participants in the research to 110 Mugenda (2019) <sup>[16]</sup>. Instruments for gathering data include surveys and interviews. The Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) was used to assist in the descriptive statistical analysis of the quantitative data that was gathered, and the thematic analysis of the qualitative data that was given in the form of quotes and narrative. To confirm that the data collecting tools assess the desired subject or areas and to support their applicability, this study uses content validity. Furthermore, the study ensures that the data-collecting instrument takes conformability, transferability, and dependability into account. Maslakçi and Sürücü, (2020). Anonymity and confidentiality are guaranteed throughout the study.

### Findings and Discussion

This section comprises three sub-sections: Return rate of instruments used in data collection, demographic information of respondents, and interpretation and discussion of research findings.



**Return Rate of Instruments**

This entails the extent to which expected data collection instruments such as questionnaires for students, and interview guides for parents. Table 4.1 summarizes the return rate of instruments.

**Table 4.1:** Return Rate of Instruments

S. No	Instruments	Expected	Actual	Percentage (%)
1.	Questionnaire for students	100	95	95%
2.	Interview guide for parents and HOD	10	10	100%

Source: Field data (2024)

Data in Table 4.1 indicates the return rate of data collection instruments that indicates 100% of the expectation of the researcher. 95% of a questionnaire for students was collected and an interview guide for parents and HOD reached the expectation of the researcher to interview 10 respondents as shown in table 4.1. The filled questionnaires were collected on the same day to avoid mismanagement of the questionnaires. In addition to that the researcher conducted appointments to the respective respondents for interview within a given time.

**Demographic Information of Respondents**

It was important for the researcher to obtain information related to the demographic characteristics of respondents from students and parents.

**Students Demographic Information**

The researcher gathered information concerning the gender of the students who were sampled in this study. Table 4.2 summarizes students' demographic information.

**Table 4.2:** Students Demographic Information (n=95)

Gender	Frequency (F)	Percentage (%)
Male	39	41.1%
Female	56	58.9%

Source: Field Data (2024)

Data in Table 4.2 indicated that 41.1% of students were male and 58.9% were female respondents. This data shows the existing distribution of respondents in the sampled

university in the Morogoro district. This suggests that the gender status of respondents was considered during the supervision of questionnaires.

**Parents Demographic Information**

The researcher also sought information from parents in favor of their gender. Parents were in varying professions so it was necessary to grasp their information to check on the validity of the information they contributed to the study. Table 4.3 summarizes parents' demographic information.

**Table 4.3:** Parents' Demographic Information (n=10)

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	4	44.4
Female	5	55.6

Source: Field Data (2024)

In regards to the gender status of the parent, Table 4.3 indicates that the majority (55.6%) of parents were female respondents whereas slightly minority (44.4%) were male respondents correspondently. This data shows that there is a slight difference in gender status between male and female parents sampled for this study. In addition, the data show that having more female parents may probably act as effective local parents in the entire process of deciding for their children during studying program selection.

**Specific Family Factors That Significantly Impact Student's Choice of Studying Program**

This research question attempts to look at the different family factors that significantly impact the direct or indirect way on the choice of study program for a student in Higher Learning Institutions in Tanzania. The information required by the study from respondents was on usefulness to learners in choosing an appropriate studying program and society especially parents in making the right choices for their children when it comes to the selection of the studying program. The research instruments used were questionnaires for students while interview guides were used to gather information from parents and education stakeholders. Table 4.4 presents students' responses from one of the universities in the Morogoro district.

**Table 4.4:** Students' Response to the Role of Family Background to the Choice of Students Studying Program in Higher Learning Institutions (n=95)

Statements	Responses										Mean
	SD		D		U		A		SA		
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	
1. Family background influences students' program decisions.	18	18.9	4	4.2	8	8.4	47	49.5	18	18.9	3.45
2. The financial status of a family determines the career path of the child	4	4.2	16	16.8	3	3.2	33	34.7	39	41.1	3.92
3. The career of the parents influences a child to follow the footprint of their parents.	10	10.5	13	13.7	8	8.4	44	46.3	20	21.1	3.54
4. The level of education of the parents affects negatively the decision of a child in his or her career	24	25.3	15	15.8	9	9.5	32	33.7	15	15.8	2.99
5. Peer groups influence a student to choose a suitable program.	15	15.8	25	26.3	7	7.4	33	34.7	15	15.8	3.08
6. Educational seminars play a role in program choice for the students.	4	4.2	7	7.4	8	8.4	50	52.6	26	27.4	3.92
7. Family empowering students with guidance support during their program selection process.	3	3.2	12	12.6	10	10.5	54	56.8	16	16.8	3.72
8. Online resources and platforms empower students in program choice.	5	5.3	7	7.4	9	9.5	46	48.4	26	27.4	3.89
9. Job marketing influences a student in choosing a suitable program.	9	9.5	9	9.5	9	9.5	34	35.8	34	35.8	3.79
10. Family members are not guiding students' program choices.	36	37.9	21	22.1	8	8.4	22	23.2	8	8.4	2.42

Source: Field Study (2024)

Key: 1. SD – Strongly Disagree, 2. D - Disagree, U – Undecided, A – Agree, SA – Strongly agree

Data in Table 4.4 indicates that the majority (68.4%) of students agreed and strongly agreed on the influence of family background in students' choice of studying program at an average mean score (3.45.) This implies that most of the family members influence their children when it comes to the selection of the study program. This finding indicates family background is among of specific factors considered by the student for a choice of higher learning discipline. This finding agrees with the information given by Student respondents during face-to-face interviews who insisted that;

Most family backgrounds have the role of encouraging the student to accompany the programs that will be the path to success in a particular study, especially in higher learning institutions like choosing courses and which university to go to (*Student A, Personal Communication, May 6, 2024*).

The information given by Student A designates These imply that most of the parents support their children in program selection. The findings correspond to Torres *et al.* (2020), who argue that parents' attitudes toward their children are vital when it comes to the choice of study program for their children, especially their desire to earn a degree and the kind of degree pursued. The discoveries correspond to the theory of Anna Roe (1957) [3] who believed parents had a more direct impact on career choice throughout their children's lives. This implies that parent had an impact on their children during the program selection.

Data in Table 4.4 specifies that 75.8% of students agreed and strongly agreed that the financial status of a family determines the career path of the child with a mean score of 3.92. This implies that the financial status of the family affects positively or negatively the career path of the child this means a child can choose the studying program suitable for the financial level of the family. During the interviews, Parent "A" reveals that

"In my family, most of us didn't go to school because of the financial scarcity of paying school fees and uniforms for school but if our family could have money we could all go to good schools. This affects us to have a hard life" (*Parent A, Personal Communication, May 6, 2024*).

The information from the parent shows that economic status affects negatively learning. This implies that the economic status of the family can affect negatively the decision of the child in program selection even in their study. The findings correspond with Zulfikarjah and Mohyi (2022) [24] who found that there were 6 factors for student career choice such as financial, job information, opportunity, social environment, challenge and interest, and financial being the dominant factor. Also, Adikwu and Ereka (2022) [5], established that parents' socioeconomic status influences the career choices of students in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja. This implies that most of the parents who didn't go to school are influenced by the financial status of the family. These results correspond to the theory of Linda Gottfredson (1981) [12] her theory stated that children's career choices were influenced by seven major elements including social class. There financial status in the family can guide a child to choose or select a study program that is not suitable due

to the financial insufficiency in the family.

Data in Table 4.4 stipulates that 67.4% of students agreed and strongly agreed that the Career of the parents influences a child to follow the footprint of their parents with a mean score of 3.54. And 24.2% of the students disagree and strongly disagree that the Career of the parents can influence a child to follow the footprint of their parents. These imply that most of the parent's careers are inherited by their children. During the interview parent 'E' reveals;

"It is not necessary to follow footprint but as a parent, it is important to support and guide the child positively and constructively, allowing them to explore their interests while providing them with resources they need to make informed decisions about their future career" (*Parent E, Personal Communication, May 7, 2024*).

The information from the parent indicates that parents have the right to support their children in the decision of the studying program. This implies that families have the right to choose to study programs for their children This finding was approved by Adikwu and Ereka (2022) [5], who established that parental work performance influences the career choice of students in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja. The findings correspond to the theory of Anna Roe (1957) [3] who believed parents had a more direct impact on career choice throughout their children's lives. There for most of the careers taken by the students come from their family members.

Data in Table 4.4 indicates that 49.5% of the student's responses agreed and strongly agreed that the level of education of the parents affects negatively the decision of a child in his or her career with a mean score of 2.99. And 41.1% of the respondents disagree and strongly disagree that the level of education of the parents affects negatively the decision of a child in his or her career. This implies that most of the parents who are not educated enough in the family affect negatively the career path of the child in the family also 41.1% of the respondents disagree with the statement which shows that nowadays people change their perspectives and advise their children to chase their dreams, especially in learning. The finding agrees with students' response, who agreed that

"Students from families with higher levels of education and good socioeconomic status may have more access to information, resources, and support to pursue good programs but the family with low education and low economic status cannot have the accessibility of information and support." (*Student B, Personal Communication, May 6, 2024*).

The findings of student B mean families with higher education and status have more access to information than those with low education and economic. This implies that education status matters to increase the ability to find suitable programs for the future careers of the students. The findings correspond with Adikwu and Ereka (2022) [5], who argue that parental educational level influences the career choices of students in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja. The findings correspond to the theory of Anna Roe (1957) [3] who believed parents had a more direct impact on career choice throughout their children's lives. These do not relate

to the theory of circumscription and compromise by Linda Gottfredson (1981) <sup>[12]</sup>. There for level of education of the parents nowadays does impact negatively a child in studying a certain program in the field of education although other respondents disagree with the statement this shows that the education of the parents does not affect the choice of the students during studying certain programs.

Data in Table 4.4 indicates that 80% of student respondents agreed and strongly agreed on the fact that educational seminars play a role in program choice for the students with a mean score of 3.92. These imply that educational seminars help students to be aware of the different programs and which program is suitable for their environment and level of education and sometimes to be aware of qualifications required in different programs. During the interview parent "B" reveals that "

"It is true that seminars support the student to have information about different programs in the context of education and help them in making good decisions because they already have the information about the certain program and its benefits to their life in the future". (Parent B, Personal Communication, May 6, 2024).

Parent 'C' also reveals that

"Seminars help students to be aware of different programs found in the contest of education and be aware of effects of choosing that course also enable students to choose a suitable studying program because they get knowledge about different education programs". (Parent C, Personal Communication, May 6, 2024).

These findings from parents imply that seminars support students in deciding on the program choice These results relate to the theory of circumscription and compromise by Linda Gottfredson (1981) <sup>[12]</sup> who stated that children's career choices were influenced by seven major elements including gender, social class, background, intelligence, interests, competencies, and values.

Data in Table 4.4 indicates that 73.6% of students agreed and strongly agreed on Family empowering students with guidance support during their program selection process. This implies that most of the family guide their children during their study program selection and also support them financially in their education matters. During the interview parent 'A' revealed that

"I support my children in terms of financial support during course selection especially paying school fees and decision making, and also to empowering my child with guidance and finance that are needed from the institution of education during studying period". (Parent A, Personal Communication, May 6, 2024).

The information from the parents shows that children get support from their parents, especially financial support and decision-making. This information implies that parents are the source of financial support for their children in learning. The findings correspond with Okesina and Famolu (2022) <sup>[17]</sup> who reveal that parents encourage to students make good career decisions in secondary school students in Ilorin

Metropolis, Kwara State. These findings imply that parents play a major role in decision-making about a career or program due to the support they provide like financial support. The findings correspond to the theory of Anna Roe (1957) <sup>[3]</sup> who believed parents had a more direct impact on career choice throughout their children's lives. Therefore, students need guidance from their parents when it comes to the study program selection.

Data in Table 4.4. indicates that 79.9% of students agreed and strongly agreed that Online resources and platforms empower students in program choice with a mean score of 3.89. These imply that some students get information from online resources where it is easy to access information about any academic program. During the interview parent 'B' revealed that

"It is true online resources help my child to look on what studying program is good for learning and then he comes to me for more advice about what he proposes but all information he already has from online resource". (Parent B, Personal Communication, May 6, 2024).

The information from parent B shows that students get information through online resources. These findings imply that students have good access to online information before choosing a study program. These findings relate to the theory of circumscription and compromise by Linda Gottfredson (1981) <sup>[12]</sup> who stated that children's career choices were influenced by seven major elements including gender, social class, background, intelligence, interests, competencies, and values. This finding reveals that online information plays a significance in getting information to certain programs.

Data in Table 4.4 indicates that 71.6% of students responded agreed and strongly agreed that Job marketing influences a student in choosing a suitable program with a mean score of 3.79. These imply that most of the students nowadays have been influenced by the presence of the job or job marketing in the environment. During the interview parent 'C' reveal

"In today's competitive job market, students may be more likely to choose programs that align with high-demand industries or emerging fields because many children now go to school to get a job and the purpose of having a job is to get money". (Parent C, Personal Communication, May 6, 2024).

The information from parent C shows that students like to choose a program that aligns with job marketing. These findings imply that job marketing influences a student in choosing a program. These findings relate to the theory of circumscription and compromise by Linda Gottfredson (1981) <sup>[12]</sup> who stated that children's career choices were influenced by seven major elements including gender, social class, background, intelligence, interests, competencies, and values. There many students nowadays choose a program with the influence of job marketing in the field

Data from Table 4.4. indicates that 60% disagree and strongly disagree that Family members are not guiding students' program choice with a mean score of 2.42. These imply that most of the students get support and guidance from their parents during the study program selection. This data agrees with students' response, who agreed that

“sometimes students get higher influence to their parent about their education”. This information shows that parent helps their children in deciding on their career. The findings correspond with Okesina and Famolu (2022) [17] whereby parents encouraged secondary school to students make good career decisions of secondary school students in Ilorin Metropolis, Kwara State. The data correspond to the theory of Anna Roe (1957) [3] who believed parents had a more direct impact on career choice throughout their children's lives. There for family members guiding students in program selection

### Hypothesis Testing

The hypothesis sought to find out if there was statistical gender difference among the factors in the influence of the role of family background and studying program choice of students by using ANOVA test techniques. The result is presented in Table 4.5.

**Table 4.5:** Hypothesis Testing

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Factors	2.040	4	.510	2.191	.076
Gender Groups	20.949	90	.233		
Total	22.989	94			

The data in Table 4.5 shows that there is no significant differences between the role of family background and the studying program choice of students [F =2.191, sig = 0.076]. The null hypothesis which states that there is no significance differences between the role of family background and the studying program choice of students is failed to be rejected at an alpha level of 0.05. However, the alternate hypothesis is not supported by the statistical information available. The statistical implication of the result suggests that differences in the reported means for family factors on program decision making of students were due to chance. It can be concluded that there is no significance differences between the role of family background and the studying program choice of students. The finding is supported by Amoako et al, (2020) [7] on their study about The impact of family background on career decisions of senior high school students in Ghana. The study concluded that there is no sex difference between home factors. This suggests that Senior High School students, nevertheless of their sex reflect home factors in the process of occupation decision-making of career choice. This finding shows that parental play a big role in shaping their children during school program selection.

### Conclusion

The study's conclusions showed that parental support is essential for helping students make wise program choices. Family variables, including parents' financial situation, degree of education, and career, can also influence students' decision to enroll in a particular program. Finally, parents' encouragement of their children to explore a variety of educational and career options can have a significant impact on parents' career choices among higher learners in Morogoro Municipality. The study hypotheses that were put to the test showed that there are significant differences between family background influences students' choice of study program and their parents' educational status, career, and family structure.

### Recommendation

The following recommendations are supported by the study's findings. To guarantee that boys and girls, regardless of their socioeconomic situation, gender, or background, maximize their potential in terms of tapping into job chances, parents should first establish tactics for fostering their children's self-confidence and positive self-evaluation from infancy onward. By doing this, they would get the self-assurance necessary to pursue occupations that interest them. Second, parents and counselors should provide appropriate vocational information to adolescents so they may carefully consider programs and make decisions by relying on successful role models. To make an informed decision about their university program, which in turn affects their chances for future education and employment, students must be able to draw a direct line between their secondary school education and potential job paths. Third, parents shouldn't push their kids against their will to choose professions that are similar to their own. First, kids can choose the correct job path with parental support and advice. Fifth, a student's professional decision is greatly influenced by their family ties. It is advised that parents spend time talking to their children about various job options in this respect. Parents should also, if needed, convey their happiness and provide words of support for their children's choices.

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