CAREER TRACK CHOICE AND SCHOOL PERFORMANCE OF GRADE 10 STUDENTS IN PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PRESIDENT QUIRINO

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Abstract

The ultimate aim of education is to develop in the learner the desirable knowledge and skills, values and attitudes in a way he can effectively use to alleviate poverty and improve the quality not only on his life but also his family's, the community and the larger society. Since changes on the world of works are constant, students must be adaptable, flexible, competent and intelligent enough to know their potentials and skills in deciding what would be the best career option for them to take and face the challenges and be successful in their chosen career and better future.

Specifically, this study aimed to identify the extent of Grade 10 career track choice in terms of Interest, Talents and Values Profile, Family-Related Career Profile, Education-Related Career Profile and Community-Related career Profile. Another concerned of the study is the school performances of the public secondary school in the municipality of President Quirino in terms of Enrollment Rate, Dropped-out Rate, Cohort Survival Rate, Completion Rate and Graduation Rate. Furthermore, it ventured to determine the relationship between Grade 10 career track choice and school performances.

Descriptive correlational method of research was used in this study with an adapted survey questionnaire personally conducted to gather data on students' career track choices.

Findings of the study showed that on the extent of career track choices, it was implemented/observed on the great extent. The study also revealed that career track choice has no significant relationship with the school performances.

This study recommended that further study is necessary to explore other factors that may influence the career track choice of the students and its effect on the school performances since the result of the study revealed that there is no existing relationship between the variables.

1. INTRODUCTION

Career selection is one of the main important choices a student will have to take in his life. This choice of decision will have an impact on them throughout their lives. Career plays a fundamental and significant role in the life of the individual because it determines the pattern of his or her income, affects the individual's personality and concept of life. Therefore, career is a lifetime pursuit of success. Career choice is something very hard to make especially as one's livelihood depend on it. Career choice has become a complex task among students in the face of ever changing technology and the information sector (Maxwell et al 2018).

In the Philippines, the government got alarmed with the growing number of unemployed college graduates and some got employed in areas not related to their specialization. The lack of career information that could help students make rational decisions was found to be the foremost reason for unemployment, job mismatch and underemployment (Braza & Guillo, Jr, 2015)

Wrong career choice has been cited as one of the main reasons for the increasing number of graduates who are unemployed and underemployed in the country. In fact, to address this concern, the Department of Education implemented the Senior High School program that aims to produce graduates who are ready after completing two years of career track. But the dilemma in choosing the right track for Senior High School program among high school students remains. Every high school student is faced with a challenge of making the right track or choice while in high school (Miguel, W. 2018).

With the above review, the researcher felt that there is a need to conduct a study that may indicate the career track preferences of Grade 10 students. The insights obtained from this study would be helpful to the educational institution in facilitating student's success in the chosen career track. This could   also helpful in making a comprehensive career guidance program for all the students in all secondary schools Career guidance advocates, the academe to find ways to align instructional materials and pedagogical strategies with their characteristics and interests.

Career planning requires active participation of career allies, which includes the family, career advocates, school counselors and other key holders. Since it is a continuous process, it requires a process of decision making and analysis until the desired career goal is achieved (Guiding Principles on the Use of the MCDP Toolkit, SEAMEO INNOTECH).

In the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Basic Education Act of 2013 Rule V, the Department of Education is mandated to properly guide the secondary school level students in choosing career tracks that they intend to pursue through informed career choice towards becoming productive and contributing individuals. In the Career Development, learners are expected to acquire skills, attitudes and knowledge that enable them to make successful transition from school to the world of works, and from job to job across the life span. This includes but not limited to learner's discovery of their interests, talents and skills, decision making, problem solving, planning and in exploring their career options and opportunities (based on DM 155 s. 2020). These factors are the identified independent variables of the study.

The findings of this study would be significant to the following:

To the **School Administrator.** The result of this study would be beneficial to the administration for planning a comprehensive guidance program in order to cater the needs of the students when it comes to their career track choice and would serve as a basis for offering career orientations to the parents and community.

To the **Career Advocates**. This may provide insights for teachers and career advocates in making a guidance career channel in order to widen the orientation of parents and students in the real world of works.

To the **Students**. Through this study, students would be able to assess their talents, skills, values and other factors to make a sound and meaningful career-related decision making, understanding their innate potentials and uncover their hidden talents and passion.

This study focused on the career track choice and school performance of the Grade 10 students in all the public secondary school in the municipality of President Quirino.

The career track choice would determined in terms of interest, talents and values profile, family career choices profile, education-related career choices profile and community-related career choices profile. The school performance was limited on the Enrollment Rate, Dropped-out Rate, Cohort Survival, Completion Rate, and Graduation Rate.

There were three (3) public secondary high school namely; President Quirino National High School, Central Mangilala National High School and Kalanawi II National High School as sources of data needed in the study.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

This chapter deals with the methodology that is used in this study. It includes the research design, locale of the study, respondents, instruments, data gathering procedure and statistical treatment.

The study used a descriptive-correlational design to determine the relationship of the independent variables such as the career track choice and school performance as dependent variables.

This design was in accordance with Best Kahn (2006), that descriptive-correlational research design is used to describe what is, describe, record, analyzed and interpreted conditions that exist. It involves some type of comparison or contrast and attempts to discover relationships between existing non-manipulated variables.

A survey questionnaire was used to collect the necessary information. The researcher made used of the checklist from the SEAMEO INNOTECH Multiple Career Development Pathways Toolkit to determine the factors affecting the career choice of the students.

This study was conducted in all public secondary schools in the Municipality of President Quirino who are enrolled this School Year 2022-2023. The researcher preferred to include all the public secondary school within the municipality to obtain the different thoughts about career track choice and their ideas that serve as basis of their decision making relative to their chosen career.

The respondents of the study were Grade 10 students of all the public secondary schools within the Municipality of President, namely; President Quirino National High School, Kalanawe II National High School and Central Mangilala National High School.

Table shows the respondents of the study from the three public secondary school

Simple Random Sampling through Lottery Method was used in data gathering. This is anchored in the sampling technique by Gay (1978) wherein 10% of the total population in every public secondary school in the Municipality of President Quirino were chosen as the respondents of the study.

In the gathering of the data, the researcher asked permission with notification from her research adviser and the Graduate School Dean of East-West Mindanao Colleges, Inc. and the Schools Division Superintendent of Sultan Kudarat Division. The researcher also asked permission from the School Head of President Quirino National High School for pilot-testing of the questionnaire for assessing its validity, acceptability and reliability. After the approval of the instrument the researcher coordinated with the three (3) School Heads on the schedule of the survey in their respective school. Then the researcher conducted the survey to the respective respondents of the study. After administering, the researcher retrieved the questionnaire for the analysis and interpretation of data.

To answer the problem of this study, statistical tools were very essential for the interpretation of collected data and in drawing out the conclusions.

The data that were gathered from the respondents were evaluated through descriptive statistics. To determine the degree of agreement on the track choice mean was used. Pearson Product Moment of Correlation was utilized to find out the relationship between career track choice and school performance.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This chapter presents analyzes and interprets the data acquired throughout the research.

On the extent of Grade 10 students career track choice in terms of Interest, Talents and Values Profile, Family-Related Career Choices Profile, Education-Related Career Choices Profile, and Community-Related Career Choices Profile

According to Ginzberg and Super (2017) career is a lifelong developmental process. During the adolescent period their innate potentials, values and other characteristics are discovered. These factors may influence their decision making in choosing their vocation, social status and position in life.

Hence, tables illustrate the mean on the extent of Grade 10 students career track choice in terms of Interest, Talents and Values Profile, Family-Related Career Choices Profile, Education-Related Career Choices Profile, and Community-Related Career Choices Profile.

Career track choice in terms of Interest, Talents, and values Profile. Interest, Talents and values Profile refers to the innate potentials, values and academic performance of the learners and activities done in congruence with the career chosen track.

Table 3. Grade 10 Career Track Choice in terms of Interest, Talents, and Values Profile

No.	Indicators	Mean	Interpretation

1	My interest and talents match with my career choices.	3.45	Implemented to the great extent
2	My values match with my career choices.	3.48	Implemented to the great extent
3	I have good grades in subjects related to my chosen careers.	3.27	Implemented to the moderate extent
4	I have accomplished school activities and projects related to my prospective career pathways.	3.36	Implemented to the moderate extent
5	I have concrete evidences like copies and research, term papers and research articles that are related to my preferred career pathways.	3.24	Implemented to the moderate extent
	Section Mean	3.36	Implemented to the moderate extent

Table 3 presents the Grade 10 career track choices in terms of Interest, Talents and values Profile. It garnered a mean of 3.36 interpreted as "Implemented to the moderate extent". Along with the set indicators, My values match with my career choices got the highest mean of 3.48 interpreted as "Implemented to the great extent", followed by My interest and talents match with my career choices with a mean of 3.45 and interpreted as "Implemented to the great extent".

Moreover, indicators, I have accomplished school activities and projects related to my prospective career pathways got a mean of 3.36 and I have concrete evidences like copies and research, term papers and research articles that are related to my preferred career pathways got a mean of 3.24 respectively, and a mean of 3.278 on indicator I have good grades in subjects related to my chosen career. These three indicators are also interpreted as "Implemented to the moderate extent".

Findings emphasizes that interest, talents and values has a great impact and influenced the career decision making of the students. While having a good grades, accomplished school activities, projects and other evidences that is related to preferred career pathways were moderately influenced the decision of the students. It implies that the decision of the students were motivated by their interest, talents and what they value the most.

The result of this study is parallel with the study of Dr. Nancy T. Pascual "Factors Affecting High School Students' Career Preferences: A Basis for Career Planning Program" (2014). The preference of the learners' course reflects their talents, skills and interest. It is further confirmed that students' career success can be best attained if the right course suited their personality, ability and intellectual capacity. Elective courses offered in the third year is also fitted in the students' interest and skills.

This is similar to the study of Asma Shahahid Kazi (2017) that students main reason in their career choice was their interest in the subject and related activities and performances. It is the major factor that affects the choice of tracks of the students due to the fact that they want to do something that really suits them (Cumigad, N., 2019)

Career Track Choice in terms of Family-Related Career Choices Profile

Family-related Career Profile refers to the influences and support of the members of the family, relatives and their educational attainment in the career decision making.

The table presented is the Grade 10 Career Track Choice in terms of Family-Related Career Track Choice

Table 4. Grade 10 Career Track Choice in terms of Family-Related Career Track Choice

Table 4 shows the Grade 10 Career Track Choice in terms of Family-Related

No	Indicators	Mean	Interpretation
1	I have consulted my family about my preferred career choices.	3.92	Observed/implemented to the great extent
2	My family and relatives have expressed full support of my prospective career pathways.	3.93	Observed/implemented to the great extent
3	Our family and relatives can support my education leading to my prospective career choices.	3.70	Observed/implemented to the great extent
4	I have family members who are already professionals in my chosen career.	3.65	Observed/implemented to the great extent
5	I can help my family in the future through my career choices.	4.12	Observed/implemented to the great extent
	Section Mean	**3.87**	Observed/implemented to the great extent

Career Track Choice. The computed section mean of 3.871 is interpreted as "Observed/implemented to the great extent".

In particular, indicators, I can help my family in the future through my career choices , computed the highest mean of 4.12 interpreted as "Observed/implemented to the great extent", followed by indicator, My family and relatives have expressed full support of my prospective career pathways, and I have consulted my family about my preferred career choices computed mean of 3.93 and 3.92 and interpreted as "Observed/implemented to the great extent".

Moreover, indicators, our family and relatives can support my education leading to my prospective career choices got a mean of 3.70 and I have family members who are already professionals in my chosen career has the lowest computed mean of 3.65 but it is also interpreted as, "Observed/implemented to the great extent".

Findings indicates that all the Family-Related Career Profile indicators play a significant role in the decision making of the students. It implies that family and relatives are great influence provider and seeking their advice and support matters a lot. The result of the study is related to the study of Alphones (2016) that parents have a strong impact on students' career planning. The parents as prime motivators play a vital role in the career preference of their children.

The result of this study is related to Cumigad, N. (2019) that parents/guardians still greatly influence the career decision of their children. This can be attributed to the fact that students are still dependent and obedient to their parents, though that still communicate their desired career preference with them.

Career Track Choice in terms of Education-Related Career Choices Profile

Education-Related Career Choices Profile refers to the to the place that can provide education, training, scholarships, grants and location of the prospective school in relation to the availability of the preferred career.

The table below describes the weighted mean on the Education-Related Career Choices' Profile

Table 5. Grade 10 Career Choices in terms Education-Related Career Choices Profile

No	Indicators	Mean	Interpretation
1	There are institutions near my place that can provide education and training related to my career options.	3.40	Implemented to the great extent
2	The SHS track and strand I prefer are offered in a school close to my residence.	3.48	Implemented to the great extent
3	There are available scholarship opportunities related to my career choices.	3.39	Implemented to the moderate extent
4	I have searched online career planning resources to look for available schools related to my career choices.	3.31	Implemented to the moderate extent
5	I have checked the profile of the prospective schools or visited the schools I prefer to enroll in.	3.34	Implemented to the moderate extent
	Section Mean	**3.37**	Implemented to the moderate extent

Table 5 describes the Grade 10 career track choices in terms of Education-Related Career track Choice Profile with the computed section mean of 3.38 with the verbal description of "agree" and interpreted as "Implemented to the moderate extent". In specific indicators, The SHS track and strand I prefer are offered in a school close to my residence has the highest mean of 3.48 with a verbal description of "strongly agree" and interpreted as "Implemented to the great extent".

Meanwhile, indicators, I have checked the profile of the prospective schools or visited the schools I prefer to enroll in and I have searched online career planning resources to look for available schools related to my career choices got the computed lowest mean of 3.34 and 3.31, respectively.

Results show that Education-Related Career Profile moderately influenced in choosing the career path of the students though the distance of the school were a great influenced. This implies that they opted to study to school close to their residence.

In the study of Allen Nazareno (2021) there are factors such as availability of scholarships, the school's proximity to the residence, popularity of the tracks/strands were considered. Students may choose a tracks/strands offered in a school close to the residence because of convenience and less financial burden to a family.

Career Track Choice in terms of Community-Related Career Choices Profile

This refers to the jobs and career opportunities that is related to prospective career choices.

Table 6. Grade 10 Career Choices in terms Community-Related Career Choices Profile

No	Indicators	Mean	Interpretation
1	I have already search for the job opportunities for my prospective career pathways.	3.27	Implemented to the moderate extent
2	There are available career opportunities in my community which are related to my career choices.	3.39	Implemented to the moderate extent
3	My career choices will help improve the condition of my community. I can serve my community through my career choices.	3.60	Implemented to the great extent
4	I can identify prospective employers or work opportunities connected to my career choices.	3.21	Implemented to the moderate extent
5	There are many possible occupational opportunities related to my career prospective.	3.68	Implemented to the great extent
	Section Mean	**3.43**	Implemented to the great extent

Table 6 discuss the Grade 10 Career track Choices in terms of Community-Related Career Track Choice. The section garnered the mean of 3.435 and has a verbal description of " Agree" and interpreted as "implemented on great extent".

In particular indicator, There are many possible occupational opportunities related to my career prospective got the highest mean of 3.68 while I can identify prospective employers or work opportunities connected to my career choices got the lowest mean of 3.21 both interpreted as "implemented on the moderate extent".

Moreover, indicators My career choices will help improve the condition of my community, I can serve my community through my career choices got the second highest mean of 3.60 and interpreted as 'implemented to the great extent. There are available career opportunities in my community which are related to my career choices, I have already search for the job opportunities for my prospective career pathways got the means of 3.39 and 3.27 respectively and interpreted as 'implemented to the moderate extent".

Findings show that Community-Related Career Profile has a great influenced on the decision making of the students. Availability of possible job, career opportunities and the choice of career can help the condition of their community. These indicators greatly support the preference of the students. It implies that great opportunities awaits the students in their respective places and the career choice they opted were beneficial not only for themselves but for the community as well.

In the study of Pascual, N. (2014) the student's first consideration in choosing the course in college is the availability of possible work. This could be the common

response of the students since now-a-days graduates find it difficult to find a job even if they already have completed or acquired educational degrees of their choices.

Table below shows the Grade 10 students career track choice.

Table 7. Summary Table of Career Track Choice

No	Indicators	Mean	Interpretation
1	Interest, Talents & Values Profile	3.36	Implemented to the moderate extent
2	Family-Related Career Profile	3.87	Implemented to the great extent
3	Education-Related Career Profile	3.38	Implemented to the moderate extent
4	Community-Relate Career Profile	3.43	Implemented to the great extent
	Career Track Choice Over-All Mean	**3.51**	Implemented to the great extent

The table above shows the over-all mean of the career track choice of Grade 10 and garnered 3.51 mean and interpreted as "implemented to the great extent'.

Among the indicators, Family-Related Career Track Choice Profile got the highest mean of 3.87, followed by Community-Related Career Trak Choice Profile with a mean of 3.43, both interpreted as 'implemented on the great extent', Education-Related Career Track Choice Profile got the mean of 3.38 and Interest, Talents and Values Profile got the lowest mean of 3.36 respectively both interpreted as 'implemented to moderate extent."

Therefore, among the four domain/indicator Family-Related Career Profile greatly influenced the decision-making of the students in their career preference. The result also shows that Community-Related Career Profile influenced the career track choice. Education-Related Career Profile and Interest, Talents and Values Profile moderately influenced the career decision making of the students.

Findings emphasizes that the domain of the career track choice has influenced the decision making of the students. Family-Related Career Profile and Community-Related Career Profile significantly influenced the preference of the students in choosing their career. Although Interest, Talents and Values Profile and Education-Related Career Profile has a moderate impact on the preference of the students.

Table 8. The Level of Performance in terms of Enrollment Rate, Dropped-out Rate, Cohort Survival, Completion Rate and Graduation Rate

Public Secondary Schools in the Municipality of President Quirino	School Year			Mean
	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	
Central Mangilala NHS	80.2980	82.9160	79.4280	80.88
Kalanawe II NHS	81.85	77.003	75.97	78.28

President Quirino NHS	79.93	80.92	81.098	80.65
Over-All School Performance				79.94

Table 6 shows the school performances of the public secondary school in the municipality of President Quirino. The over-all performance got the mean of 79.94. These key performance indicators refer to the Enrollment Rate, Dropped-out Rate, Cohort Survival, Completion Rate and Graduation Rate. Central Mangilala National High School got the highest mean of 80.88 while President Quirino National High School got the Mean of 80. 65 and Kalanawe II National High School got the lowest Mean of 78.28 respectively.

Among the three public secondary schools, the school performance of President Quirino National High School has increasing rate while Central Mangilala National High School and Kalanawe II National High School decreases.

Figure 4 shows the Enrollment Rate of the Public Secondary Schools in the Municipality of President Quirino

This result is in contradictory to the statement " Students who cannot or don't want to attend college after high school can be tempted to drop out of the school because they don't think their high school classes will benefit them. But students who have the opportunity to explore future careers often find more value in staying in high school. High school career readiness programs have expanded over the years and now better prepare students for life after school. Students can study subjects in career fields that interest them such as business, health science, nursing, public safety, agriculture, manufacturing, transportation, and information technology. When schools introduce career programs, students see they can learn useful skills that will help them get jobs. The kids feel more involved, and the parents know that their children are moving toward successful futures. Educators are still measuring the effects of offering career education courses in high school. Current studies, though, show that CTE programs already produce two outcomes: lower dropout rates and higher on-time graduation rates (Elizabeth Street (2016))

4. MAJOR FINDINGS

This chapter presents the summary, conclusion, and recommendation of the study.

Summary

The study aimed to determine the relationship between the Grade 10 Career Track Choice and School performances in terms of Enrollment Rate, Dropped-out Rate, Cohort Survival, Completion Rate and Graduation Rate. Specifically, this study tried to evaluate the factors that may influence the decision making of the grade 10 students in choosing their career track. These factors are Interest, Talents and Values Profile, Family Career Choices Profile, Education-related Career Choices Profile and Community-related Career Choices Profile respectively.

This research used a descriptive-correlational design and employed a survey questionnaire. The respondents of the study were 79 students from the three (3) public secondary schools in the municipality of President Quirino.

The researcher used the checklist from the SEAMEO INNOTECH Multiple Career Development Pathways Toolkit in determining the factors affecting the career choice of the students. Likert Scale were use in identifying the degree of agreement between the variables.

The statistical tools used in processing the data were mean and Standard Deviation. Pearson Product Moment of Correlation (Pearson r) was used to determine the relationship between career track choice and school performance.

The salient findings of the study are;

On the extent of the Grade 10 students career track choice in terms of Interest, Talents and Values Profile, Family Career Choices Profile , Education-related Career Choices Profile and Community-related Career Choices Profile it revealed that may "Observed/implemented to the great extent".

On the level school performance in terms of Enrollment Rate, Dropped-out Rate, Cohort Survival, Completion Rate and Graduation Rate garnered the mean of 79.94 for Over-all Performance.

Interestingly it was found that there is no significant relationship that exist between Grade 10 career track choice and school performance.

5. CONCLUSION

The following conclusion were drawn based on the findings of the study.

On the extent of Grade 10 career track choice it was revealed that the domain Interest, Talents and Values Profile and Education-Related Profile were "Implemented to the moderate extent". While Family-Related Career Profile and Community-Related Career Profile were "Implemented/Observed to the great extent.

On the relationship between Grade 10 career track choice and school performance, it was revealed that there is no significant relationship existing between the two variables.

From the salient findings of this study and conclusion reached, the following recommendations are presented;

1. School may continue to intensify and enhance the career guidance program in order to cater the factors that may influence the career preference of the students.
2. School administrators, guidance advocates and teachers may work collaboratively in integrating the importance of career track decision making skills of the students.
3. Conduct a career guidance and information program that could provide more awareness about self, what Senior High School tracks have to offer and requirements such as abilities, aptitudes, interest, high demand occupation and projected manpower for the next ten (10) years.
4. School administrator will look into the SHS track offerings since the Municipality of President Quirino is widely an agricultural land. Track offerings relevant and responsive of courses may be given utmost priority.
5. Further, the study conducted may determine factors that influence the career track choice and its effect on the school performance since the result of this study implies that career track choice has nothing to do in the school performances.

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