

INFLUENCE OF LEVEL OF EDUCATION ON THE ATTITUDE OF MARRIED MEN TOWARD CAREER ASPIRATIONS OF THEIR WIVES IN ANAMBRA STATE.

EZEONU, FELIX ELOCHUKWU

**Department of Educational Foundations (Guidance and Counselling)
Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University, Igbariam Campus**

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UNACHUKWU, DORATHY I.

**Department of Educational Foundations (Guidance and Counselling)
Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University, Igbariam Campus**

Abstract

The study investigated the influence of level of education on the attitude of married men towards the career aspirations of their wives in Anambra State. Two research questions and one null hypothesis guided the study. The study adopted descriptive survey design. Population of the study comprised 902 married men whose wives are in one form of career or the other. Purposive sampling technique was used to draw 411 married men. An instrument developed by the researcher titled "Attitude of Married Men Toward Career Aspiration of their Wives Questionnaire" was used for data collection. The instrument was subjected to face validation. The reliability was established using Cronbach Alpha. The result gave coefficient value of 0.79. The researcher administered the instrument with the help of three research assistants. The data collected were analyzed using mean and standard deviation to answer the research questions, while independent T-test was used to test the hypothesis at .05 level of significance. The findings of the study revealed that married men have positive attitude towards the career aspirations of their wives and that level of education has low but significant influence on the attitude of married men to the career aspirations of their wives. Some recommendations were made among which was that married men should develop a positive and supportive attitude to the career aspirations of their wives as much as possible. Formal education should be encouraged for both men and women to improve the attitude of married men towards the career aspirations of their wives.

Key words: Attitude, Education and Career aspiration.

Introduction

One of the many problems that confront man in the society today is ability to maintain a stable relationship especially in the marital state. In the words of Tolorunleke (2014), many factors have combined to affect marriage institution thereby causing many problems that both young and old married couples must live with. Having in mind, the fact, that there is no human relationship that is devoid of conflicts and misunderstanding, many families in our communities experience difficulties as a result of marital conflicts between couples arising from the career aspirations of wives and/or mothers. This constitutes a major threat to sustainability of marital peace and stability in our communities both small and large.

In the past, an average African would expect that the married man should be the person to go out working or securing a career in order to raise money to provide for the needs of the family. According to MaudlinStreet (2010) and Agrinwald (2018), the role that was reserved for an average African woman was taking care of the home, taking care of the children (seeing to it that they had their bath, put on clean clothes, feed well, and trained in morals, family/society/cultural values, among others). In the view of Desai, Chugh and Brief (2014), every marriage had a division of labour, which serves as a critical social structure. The man's primary responsibility was to earn wages that provide for the family's well-being while the woman's primary responsibility was to carry out the family and home oriented tasks that facilitate the husband's wage-earning. However, in the society as a whole, the division of labour between men and women has been

undergoing profound change; the man can no longer do it alone, the woman has to move into the labour market if the family is to have enough to provide for their needs.

In his research on the attitude of married medical doctors towards the pursuit of their wives careers in New York, USA, Stevenson (2010) discovered that 40% of the respondents had positive attitude towards the careers of their wives, 20% said that they did not like the jobs their wives were doing presently and were actively considering a change, 15% said that although the jobs their wives were engaged in was paying well, they would consider a change mainly because of the risky nature of the job; 25% said that they had nothing to say about their wives being involved in a career. On the other hand, Abonyi and Onyishi (2011), in his research on the Attitude of Male bankers toward their wives' jobs in Abakaliki Urban, Ebonyi State discovered that 70% of the married men showed negative attitudes toward their wives' involvement in a career as it had adverse effects on the upbringing of their children. They complained that a situation where both parents leave for the office very early in the morning and return late at night does not give room for the proper upbringing of children. The findings of the study also revealed that 30% of the respondents expressed satisfaction with their wives' involvement in a career of their choice. Of this later group, the findings showed that their wives were mainly teachers in primary, secondary schools and tertiary institutions, a few were petty traders and office workers. More enlightenment is needed on the matter to bring a larger population to a better understanding on the matter at hand.

Dhaker (2016) opined that etymologically, the word education is derived from the Latin words "educare" and "educere". Educare means "to bring up" or "to nourish", whereas 'educere' means 'to bring forth' or 'to draw out'. By way of analysis therefore, education means providing a nourishing environment for a learner or child in order to bring out or develop the latent potentiality hidden within.

Teddy (2015) views education as the solution to many problems faced by man in his every day dealings with life and situations that arise with them. He says that it helps people to establish and maintain appropriate relationships and help them learn to display pro-social behaviour while in social gatherings. For Arung (2016) education is simply to humanize the human beings. It is not merely teaching or increasing cognition, it is more about preparing a media for the learners' cognition – it is an attitude. Having good or positive attitude will provide a good medium for the cognition, learning behaviour, learning autonomy, and critical thinking.

For the course of this research, the researcher would want to view education as a process of facilitating learning, or the acquisition of knowledge, skills, values, beliefs and habits; it is the process of learning about things around us for optimal productivity. It is essentially a lifelong process which starts from the birth of a person and continues to death. Learning may go a long way in shaping a person's way of thinking and feeling toward a particular object or circumstance; the more learning more achieves in life may just have something to do with how he feels or reacts to everything in life which is his or her attitude.

Pratt (2018), presented the term attitude as a French term that originated from the Italian word *attitudine* and from the late Latin "aptus" and "aptitudo", meaning fitness, posture. For him attitude is a position of the body or manner of carrying oneself; a state of mind or a feeling, disposition towards an object or a person, it could be an arrogant or hostile state of mind or disposition. It also means an aircraft's axis relative to a reference line or plane, such as the horizon; it is the orientation of a spacecraft relative to its direction of motion. It is a position similar to an arabesque in which a ballet dancer stands on one leg with the other raised either in front or at the back and bent at the knee. It is regarded as an important aspect of human behaviour upon which depends our reactions to events, objects and persons.

Guralnik (2018), defined attitude as a manner of acting, feeling or thinking that shows one's disposition, opinion, and so forth (for instance, one could say that a person is putting on or has a friendly attitude). It is one's disposition, opinion, mental set towards a person or an object.

In a nut shell therefore, the researcher conceives of attitude as the tendency to respond positively or negatively to an idea, object or person. They are innate predispositions to react in a certain way to certain stimuli, and others acquired. The attitude of a person is determined by psychological factors like ideas, values, beliefs, perception, among others. Attitude is learned or formed from the experiences one has gathered in the course of his or her early life or in the past: early childhood, family background, environment, among others. As attitudes are formed, they can also be changed through certain unlearning processes.

For Links (2020), career aspiration typically refers to a long-term career goal, plan or dream that is far away in the future instead of short-term and in the present. It is different from a career goal as it is a hope or an ambition as against a goal which is more specific or a desired result.

According to Moro (2018) career aspiration is the path which one would want his or her career to follow. It defines what a person needs from his or her work. Speaking further, he aligned his thoughts to those of Maslow (1943) in his discussion of hierarchy of needs by saying that a person's career aspiration is the part of what leads to self actualization.

In the context of this work therefore, the career aspirations of married women would be whatever they do and intend to do in the course of their work life. It is the totality of what married women do in order to make a living leaving room for improvement or advancement in that career.

Statement of the Problem

There seem to be an increase in the cases of marital instability among couples in Anambra State as a result of the attitude of some married men toward the career aspirations of their wives. Some married men find it difficult to come to term with the reason why their wives should be involved in a particular career of their choice even against the will of their husbands.

There seems to be a daily increase in domestic violence because some married men think that their wives' involvement in a particular career is responsible for their neglecting their primary responsibilities of caring for the children and other duties expected of married women in the family. Some married men have also resorted to domestic violence because they feel their authority in the family is being challenged because of the career choice of their wives. On the other hand, some married have resorted to violence because they think their wives are not assisting them well enough to help provide for the family needs.

It appears there is an increase in cases of mutual suspicion and lack of trust among couples in Anambra State because married men accuse their wives of infidelity as a result of the amount of time they dedicate to pursuing one career or the other. The worst scenario is that the crack keeps increasing instead of reducing as long as the trust is not there in the relationship.

There also seem to be a neglect of duty by some married men who would prefer that their wives go out working to fend for the family while they wait around the house for whatever the woman comes home with. This has resulted in constant tensions between couples on who does what in the family: should the man be left with the full responsibility of providing for the financial and other economic needs of the family while the woman takes care of the domestic needs of the family?

It is based on these problems that the researcher intends to study the influence of level of education on the attitude of married men toward the career aspirations of their wives.

Purpose of the Study

The main purpose of this study is to ease/eliminate the tension/conflict seen among couples when to married men have problems with their wives following a careers path of their choice. The specific purpose is to:

1. Ascertain the attitude of married men towards the career aspirations of their wives;
2. Ascertain the influence of level of education on the attitude of married men towards the career aspirations of their wives.

Significance of the Study

The study has both theoretical and practical significance. It will contribute to the existing knowledge on measures that best optimize the attitude of married men toward the career aspirations of their wives. The study is anchored on balance theory by Heider (1946). This theory talks about the consistency in the judgment of people and/or issues that are linked by some form of relationships. It explains how people tend to maintain consistency in patterns of their liking and disliking of one another and of inanimate objects. This theory is relevant to the study because the findings may call for a balance in the judgment of married men as it touches the career aspirations of their wives.

In practical terms, the findings of this study will be of benefit to guidance counsellors, married men and women, religious leaders, and future researchers. For guidance counsellors, this study will help them in

handling couples who are in need of family counselling especially as it relates to their work/career. It shall provide them with valid, reliable and up-to-date information on how to assist couples in appreciating each other and assisting each other in their career aspirations without compromising the peace or stability of the family.

To the married men and women, the findings of the study will equip them with vital pieces of information on the best way of respecting each other when it comes to their career aspirations without compromising their responsibilities in the family. They will come to know what others have done in their cases and be better equipped on how to handle their particular situation. Married men will be provided with sufficient knowledge, skills and aptitude on the implications of standing on the way or supporting the career aspirations of their wives. Married women, on their part, will be better guided in making their choice of careers because they will be equipped with the knowledge of what makes married men have negative attitudes towards certain careers aspirations.

Religious leaders everywhere have an important role in the wellbeing of married people largely because of the trust people have in them for direction. The findings of this study will enable religious leaders to guide and direct couples or intending couples on the right way to go about choosing careers that will not affect the integrity of their marriage.

The findings of this study will also act as a foundation upon which future researchers who may want to embark on a similar study. The study will contribute to available literature on attitude in general and specifically the attitude of married men toward their wives' career. This study will serve as a source of vital and useful information, a bank of knowledge for other researchers who may wish to embark on research from related perspectives. It is hopeful that this work will provide them direction and guideline for their study. The findings of this study will be made available through published journals, seminars, workshops, newspapers, newsletters and online research portals.

Scope of the Study

The geographical scope of this study was delimited to married men in Anambra State. The researcher has however chosen to carry out the research in Onitsha Education zone because it has a large number of married men living with their wives. It is also one of the largest education zones in Anambra State containing three local government areas (Onitsha North, Onitsha South and Ogbaru) and so has a proper distribution of the population that is needed for the study.

The study in its content, examined the attitude of married men towards the career aspirations of their wives and the influence of level of education on the attitude of married men toward the career aspirations of their wives.

Research Questions

Two research questions guided the study.

1. What is the attitude of married men towards the career aspirations of their wives?
2. Does the level of education of married men influence their attitude towards the career aspirations of their wives?

Hypothesis

One null hypotheses was formulated and tested at .05 level of significance:

Level of education has no significant influence on the attitude of married men towards their wives' career aspirations.

Method

The study adopted a descriptive survey design. The population of the study consisted of 902 married men who were still living with their wives within the three Local Government Areas that make up Onitsha Education Zone. This consisted of 350 married men in Onitsha North, 300 married men in Onitsha South and 252 married men in Ogbaru as gathered from the Marriage Registry of the three Local Government Areas from 2017 to 2019. The sample of the study comprised 411 men whose wives are into one form of career or the other. Purposive sampling technique was used to draw the sample. The instrument for data collection was a structured questionnaire designed by the researcher titled: "Attitude of Married Men Toward Career Aspiration of their Wives" (AMMTCAW). The instrument is made up of two sections: A and B.

Section A sought information on the personal data of the respondents, while Section B contained 20 items which sought information on the attitude of married men towards career aspirations of their wives. The items on Section B were rated on 4 – point rating scale of Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D) and Strongly Disagree (SD). The range scores for positive items were weighed as 4, 3, 2 and 1 for A – SA respectively, while the negative items were weighed 1, 2, 3 and 4 for D – SD respectively. The face validity of the instrument were established by three experts, two in Guidance and Counselling and one in Measurement and Evaluation all in the Department of Educational Foundations, Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University, Igbariam, Campus. The instrument was tested for reliability using Cronbach Alpha correlation co-efficient which gave a co-efficient of 0.79, this was considered high enough for the study. The researcher administered the instrument to the respondents with the help of three research assistants who were properly briefed on how to distribute, explain and collect copies of the questionnaires from the respondents. Out of the 411 copies of the questionnaire administered, 408 were correctly completed and used for data analysis representing 99.2% return rate. The data collected were statistically analyzed thus: the Mean and Standard Deviation were used to answer the research question while the null hypothesis was tested using independent T-Test at .05 level of significance. The decision to reject or not reject the null hypotheses was guided by the calculated probability value (*P*) and the 0.05 level of significance stipulated. Where the *P* was less than the 0.05, the null hypothesis was rejected and where *P* was greater than 0.05 the null hypothesis was not rejected.

Results

Research Question 1: What is the attitude of married men towards the career aspirations of their wives?

Table 1. Mean Scores on the Attitude of Married Men Towards the Career Aspirations of their Wives

	N	Mean	SD	Remark
Attitude towards the career aspirations of their wives.	408	2.58	.28	Positive

Table 1 shows the mean score of 2.58 indicating that married men have positive attitude towards the career aspirations of their wives.

Research Question 2: Does level of education of married men influence their attitude towards the career aspirations of their wives?

Table 1. Mean Scores on Influence of Education of Married Men on their Attitude Toward the Career Aspirations of their Wives

Level of Education	N	Mean	SD
Educated	300	2.53	.27
Not Educated	108	2.65	.29

The analysis in Table 2 shows that the mean for married men who are not educated (2.65) is greater than that of those who are educated (2.53) with a mean difference of 0.12. This suggests that education of married men has influence on their attitude towards the career aspirations of their wives.

Hypothesis One: Education has no significant influence on the attitude of married men towards their wives' career aspirations.

Table 3: T-test Comparison of the Attitude of Married Men Towards their Wives' Career Aspirations Based on Level of Education

Source of variation	N	Mean	SD	Df	t-cal	P-value	Decision
Educated	300	2.53	.27	406	-3.92	.000	Significant
Not Educated	108	2.65	.29				

The result in table 3 shows that the mean attitude score of educated married men ($M=2.53$, $SD=.27$) was significantly less than the mean attitude of married men who are not educated ones ($M=2.65$, $SD=.29$). This

shows that level of education significantly influence the attitude of married men towards their wives' career aspirations. The null hypothesis was therefore rejected.

Summary of Findings

1. Married men have positive attitude towards the career aspirations of their wives;
2. Education has significant influence on married men's attitude to the career aspirations of their wives;

Discussion of Findings

The findings of the study as shown in Table 1 revealed that men have positive attitude toward the career aspirations of their wives. The result is in line with the findings of Stevenson (2010) who found out that married men had positive attitude towards the career of their wives. However, the findings of the study contradicts the study of Abonyi and Onyishi (2011) who indicated that married men had negative attitudes towards their wives being involved in careers. The positive attitude of married men towards their wives career is probable because they have come to accept the fact that, apart from domestic chores, they also need the financial supports of their wives since what the man brings alone may not be enough to cater for the family's financial demands. Again, the protection against sexual assaults and discrimination given to women in some places of work may have also contributed a great deal in the positive attitude of married men towards the career aspirations of their wives.

The findings of the study as shown in Table 2 revealed that education of married men has low influence on their attitude towards the career aspirations of their wives. However, this was further tested using a null hypotheses. The result of the null hypotheses showed that level of education significantly influence the attitude of married men towards their wives' career aspirations the present study is in line with the findings of Teddy (2015) presented education as the solution to many problems faced by man in his every day dealings with life and situations that arise with them. He says that it helps people to establish and maintain appropriate relationships and help them learn to display pro-social behaviour while in social gatherings. It also agrees with the view of Arung (2016) that education is simply to humanize the human beings. It is not merely teaching or increasing cognition, it is more about preparing a media for the learners' cognition – it is an attitude. Having good or positive attitude will provide a good medium for the cognition, learning behaviour, learning autonomy, and critical thinking. This was most probably the reason why most educated men, do not just respect the careers of their spouses, but even sponsor or at least encourage those who do not have a career to secure one; they know the value of education and securing a career and so would be expected to have a positive attitude towards their wives' career aspirations.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study, the researcher came to the conclusion that married men have positive attitude towards the career aspirations of their wives and that level of education of married men has low but significant influence on the attitude of married men toward the career aspirations of their wives.

Recommendations of the Study

Based on the findings and the conclusion of the study, the following recommendations are made:

1. Marriage counsellors and religious leaders should encourage married men, as much as possible, to develop a positive and supportive attitude to the career aspirations of their wives;
2. Parents, caregivers and the community leaders should, as much as possible, explore available opportunities to promote education of both men and women in order to improve the attitude of married men to the career aspirations of their wives. Also as a way of educating the younger ones, mothers, women leaders and guidance counsellors should, from the family levels, groom the girl child properly on her responsibilities as a wife and a mother so that the pursuit of her career would not make her lose sight of what is expected of her in the family.

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