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FACTORS INFLUENCING THE CHOICE OF PROGRAMME OF STUDY IN PHYSICAL SCIENCES

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ABSTRACT : *The issue of making the right choice of course to study is a problem to intending students as a wrong course might lead to frustrations in the future. Some Students choose the courses for which they are intellectually suited or are familiar with. Many factors have been highlighted by different scholars are possible courses of the choice of student's field of study but the literature is still very few. In light of the above, there is need to study the factors that actually influences the choice of the course of study by science students. The study use questionnaire to obtain the required data. The target population was stratified by department in order to determine the sample units for this study. This stratification enabled the collection of samples with adequate degrees of representation from the different parts of the population by taking them as strata. Factors which influence undergraduate choice of field of study were identified from the pilot survey and used to structure a questionnaire. The data were collected and analyzed using proportions and Z-test. The results showed that the factors are considered as factors that mostly influences the choice of programme of study in order of magnitude are : Bright Future in chosen career, Well Secure Jobs guarantee, Prospect for well-paid job and career, Job availability (Man Power need of the country), Personal interest in the field of study, Performances in Secondary school science subjects, Interest if subjects relevant to the field of study, Parental Influence, Secondary school career development teacher and adviser, Reputation of the field of Study and Peer influence*

KEYWORDS: *Choice, Career, Stratification, Sampling, Study*

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I. INTRODUCTION

The problem of deciding the course of study in tertiary institutions in Nigeria has been of great concern to many students and parents alike. Many are confused about choosing the career they are to follow in life. To have a positive career, the initial choice is very important. Career choice is choosing a particular profession over the other (Ooro et al., 2017). Selection of the right career determines the future plans of the students as it impacts on their lives either positively or negatively. In the Physical Sciences, courses studied are much related and thus the choice of picking one against the other has constantly been a problem to students. The choice of course among, Statistics, Mathematics, Physics, Geology, Geophysics, Industrial Chemistry and Computer Sciences is a difficult one if not properly guided. Most of the course required the same entry requirements in O-level and very little changes (If any) in the Joint Admission and Matriculation Board (Jamb) combinations. In the modern world, education gives people basic required knowledge, a realistic perspective and the ability to plan their future career in a most suitable manner. Hence, it is important that choosing a right career should be made earlier, so as to avoid regrets in the future. Therefore, it is important for a person to have a lot of consideration about career choice. Some students of university consider their future as a fantastic adventure. Among many

believes that they would be able to work in the market upon completion of their study. The career choice has a significant impact on the life of any person because if they fail to choose, they fail to get a job.

Career choice has become an important aspect of an individual's life because it determines the blueprint which is played by the individual in the future. Recent decades, students had a problem in choosing their career when they finish their studies.

The decision-making process is also affected by various influential persons and/or institutions whose opinions could be of importance to the prospective student. The prospective student's consideration of these factors along with other limiting factors could then play a role in the student's choice of accepting or rejecting a certain Courses.

In a study by Ezeani (2013) on review of career choice among primary and secondary school students on basic issues that affect career choice identified knowledge of the job, self-knowledge, parental and peer group constraints, and parental financial status influenced career choice pattern of students. Stanley (1996) observed that prestige of a profession was a strong motivating factor influencing students in making career choices. Ogunlade and Akeredolu (2012) examined the influence of counselling on career preference among secondary school student in Ekiti State concluded that there were significant differences in external influence as factors. It was revealed that significant differences existed among male and female students, showing gender as a factor.

Okojide et al (2018) observed that it has been established that the career choice of an individual is very important. It affects every aspect of life including the social, economic, mental and physical lives. Choosing a career has become so difficult in this particular time of advancement in information technology and post-industrial revolution (Kochun and Migunde, 2011); Adetola and Papoola, 2021); Humayan et al., 2018). Today, anyone who wishes to make a good career choice and be able to adjust to the ever-changing social economic situation and technological advancement is bound to carry out proper career research and planning (Wallace, 2007). If there are the desires to be stable, happy and recognized in the world, there is need to a choose a career which will meet these needs; career that may last a lifetime. It Is believed that Career should be chosen according to one's interests and demand of time. There is a stage in a student's life when decision about future career has to be taken. This important decision gives the foundation for course of study in the institution of higher learning and influences life. Gesinde (1979) as cited by Durosaro and Nuhu (2012) noted that in our present society, education is the best ground to prepare the younger generation. However, in Nigeria, due to cultural influences, parents have great influence on their children and this often manifest in career choice. Bandura, et al (2001) stated that those going through the process of career choice are influenced by different factors which include the way they perceive things happening in their environment, abilities, interest, the people they associate with and educational achievements.

Hewitt (2010) was of the view that things that motivate people in choosing certain occupations are either within them or in their environment. He further explained that most youths choose some occupations to please their parents or guardians. According to McQuaid and Bond (2003) , students' ethnic background, years of study, degree of academic performance, subject combinations, activities and differences in job features have influenced students believe of being suitable for a given career. In addition, Kerka (2000) noted that career choice is influenced by student's characteristics, belief about self, culture, information technology, mentors, income of parents and social network. Shahzad, et al (2014) believed that career choices made by students are determined by their precedents, personality, opportunities, socio-economic background and environment where they live. Working on the impact of gender on academic performance on 160 Arts-Related subjects in Nasarawa State University. Madu (2011) concluded that female students performed significantly better than males in Arts-Related subjects. Achebe (1984) observed that girls have greater preference for some jobs than boys.

Many researchers have studied factors that affect or influences students' choice of course of study in many fields. This study tends to study the factors that influence the choice of the course of study among the Physical Science students.

II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was conducted in the Faculty of Physical Sciences, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Anambra State Nigeria. The faculty houses seven Departments which are Computer Sciences, Mathematics, Statistics, Geology, Physics and Industrial Physics, Geophysics and Industrial Chemistry. The Study adopted a survey design. A well- structured questionnaire was constructed and administered.

A. QUESTIONNAIRE SURVEY DESIGN

The development of the questionnaire for the study was guided by previous work in similar studies in the past. A pilot survey was conducted to identify the best factors to include in the study. The pilot survey guided the construction of the main questionnaire. The pilot survey consists of fifty (50) questionnaires. The main questionnaire comprises of Twenty- two (22) items and five demographic items.

B. ALLOCATION OF SAMPLE SIZE TO DEPARTMENTS

The target population was stratified by department in order to determine the sample unit for this study. Deming (1975) defined stratified sampling distribution as a plan by which the population is divided into strata (or classes) and a sample drawn from each stratum as though, it was a separate population.

Twenty (20%) percent of the population of students was considered that is 654 out of 3269 students in the Faculty of Physical Sciences which constitute the target population. The ratio of the students in all departments to the total number of students in the faculty of Physical Sciences, Nnamdi Azikiwe University was determined and the allocation of sample size was made using the plan of sampling proportionate to size.

The following terminologies were used.

- N is the total number of students in the population.
- N_i is the number of students in Stratum i (Department i)
- n is the sample size
- n_i is the sample size allocated to department i.
- W_i is the ratio or weight or proportion of students in stratum i.
-

The results of the allocation are presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Allocation of sample sizes

SN	Departments	Ni	Wi=(Ni/N)	ni=n(Wi)
1	Industrial Chemistry	495	0.151422	99
2	Computer Sc	793	0.242582	158.6
3	Geology	666	0.203732	133.2
4	Geophysics	380	0.116243	76
5	Mathematics	256	0.078311	51.2
6	Physics	201	0.061487	40.2
7	Statistics	478	0.146222	95.6
		3269		653.8

C. METHOD OF ANALYSIS

The questionnaire responses were obtained in “Yes” or “No” format. Proportion was used.
P_i is the proportion of respondents that tick the option “Yes” which is obtained as the number of “Yes” divided by the number in the department. The paper uses the Z-test statistics for test of proportions to test the choice of respondents on each item. The stated hypotheses were tested using the Z-test given as

$$Z_{P_{item\,i}} = \frac{P_{item\,i} - P_o}{SE(P_{item\,i})} \sim N(0,1) \quad . \quad . \quad . \quad 1$$

Where

$P_i = \frac{n_{yes}}{n_i}$ (Proportion of "Yes" responses) . . . 2

$Q_i = \frac{n_{no}}{n_i}$ (Proportion of "No" responses) 3

$W_i = \frac{N_i}{N}$ (Weight for the stratum I, departments). . . 4

$P_{item\,i} = \sum_{i=1}^{7} W_i P_i$ (item Proportion of "Yes" responses) . 5

$V(P_{item\,i}) = (\frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{N}) \sum_{i=1}^{7} W_i P_i Q_i$ (Variance of Item Proportion of "Yes" responses). 6

$SE(P_{item\,i}) = \sqrt{V(P_{item\,i})}$ (Standard Deviation of Item Proportion of "Yes") . 7

$P_{item\ I} \sim N(P_{item\ I}, Var(P_{item\ i}))$ This is on the assumption that the Proportion of "Yes" P, follows normal with mean $P_{item\ I}$ and Variance $Var(P_{item\ i})$ which justify the use of the Z-test.

Hypotheses:

H_0: $P_{item\ i} = 0$ (Item do not significantly influence the Choice of programme or Field of Study) Against the alternative

H_1: $P_{item\ i} \neq 0$ (Item significantly influence the Choice of programme or Field of Study)

Decision Rule:

The Decision Rule is that, any item will be consider to significantly influence the choice of the field of study if and only if P $\geq$ 0.5 and the Z-Score $\geq$ 1.64 (alpha 0.05 two tail test) otherwise not significant.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. RESULTS

The proportions, their variances, standard Deviation and Z-scores were computed and presented in tables for clarity.

Table 2: Personal Interest in the Field of Study

	A								
	Department	**Yes**	**No**	**n_i**	**P_i**	**Q_i**	**$W_i = N_i/N$**	**P_{item}**	**$W_i P_i Q_i$**
1	Industrial Chemistry	78	21	99	0.787879	0.212121	0.151422	0.119303	0.025307
2	Computer Sc	145	14	159	0.91195	0.08805	0.242582	0.221222	0.019479
3	Geology	114	19	133	0.857143	0.142857	0.203732	0.174627	0.024947
4	Geophysics	52	24	76	0.684211	0.315789	0.116243	0.079535	0.025116
5	Mathematics	39	12	51	0.764706	0.235294	0.078311	0.059885	0.014091
6	Physics	31	9	40	0.775	0.225	0.061487	0.047652	0.010722
7	Statistics	75	21	96	0.78125	0.21875	0.146222	0.114236	0.024989
								0.816461	**0.14465**

$$P_1 = \sum_{i=1}^{7} W_i P_i = 0.81646$$

With a proportion of 0.81649 and SE of 0.013301

$$V(P_1) = (\frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{N}) \sum_{i=1}^{7} W_i P_i Q_i = 0.000177$$
$$SE(P_1) = \sqrt{V(P_1)} = 0.013301$$
$$Z_{P_1} = \frac{P_1 - P_o}{SE(P_1)} = 61.3814$$

With a proportion of 0.81649, SE of 0.013301, and z-score of 61.3814 it implies that "Personal interest in the field of study" significantly influence the choice of field of study for Physical Sciences students in Nnamdi Azikiwe University.

Table 3: Study duration of the chosen field

	B								
	Department	**Yes**	**No**	**n_i**	**P_i**	**Q_i**	**$W_i = N_i/N$**	**P_{item}**	**$W_i P_i Q_i$**
1	Industrial Chemistry	28	71	99	0.282828	0.717172	0.151422	0.042827	0.030714
2	Computer Sc	88	71	159	0.553459	0.446541	0.242582	0.134259	0.059952
3	Geology	70	63	133	0.526316	0.473684	0.203732	0.107227	0.050792
4	Geophysics	45	31	76	0.592105	0.407895	0.116243	0.068828	0.028075
5	Mathematics	15	41	56	0.267857	0.732143	0.078311	0.020976	0.015358
6	Physics	19	21	40	0.475	0.525	0.061487	0.029206	0.015333
7	Statistics	11	85	96	0.114583	0.885417	0.146222	0.016755	0.014835
								0.420079	0.215059

$$P_2 = \sum_{i=1}^{7} W_i P_i = 0.420079$$
$$V(P_2) = (\frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{N}) \sum_{i=1}^{7} W_i P_i Q_i = 0.000263$$
$$SE(P_2) = \sqrt{V(P_2)} = 0.016219$$
$$Z_{P_2} = \frac{P_2 - P_o}{SE(P_1)} = 25.90077$$

With a proportion of 0.420079, SE of 0.016219, and Z-score of 25.90077 it implies that "Study duration of the chosen field" do not significantly influence the choice of field of study for Physical Sciences students in Nnamdi Azikiwe University as the proportion is less than 0.50.

Table 4: Personal intellectual Ability

	C								
	Department	**Yes**	**No**	**n_i**	**P_i**	**Q_i**	**$W_i = N_i/N$**	**P_{item}**	**$W_i P_i Q_i$**
1	Industrial Chemistry	35	64	99	0.353535	0.646465	0.151422	0.053533	0.034607
2	Computer Sc	94	65	159	0.591195	0.408805	0.242582	0.143413	0.058628
3	Geology	72	61	133	0.541353	0.458647	0.203732	0.110291	0.050585
4	Geophysics	12	64	76	0.157895	0.842105	0.116243	0.018354	0.015456
5	Mathematics	17	34	51	0.333333	0.666667	0.078311	0.026104	0.017403
6	Physics	16	24	40	0.4	0.6	0.061487	0.024595	0.014757
7	Statistics	24	72	96	0.25	0.75	0.146222	0.036556	0.027417
								0.412846	0.218852

$$P_3 = \sum_{i=1}^{7} W_i P_i = 0.412846$$

$$V(P_3) = (\frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{N}) \sum_{i=1}^{7} W_i P_i Q_i = 0.000268$$
$$SE(P_3) = \sqrt{V(P_3)} = 0.016361$$
$$Z_{P_3} = \frac{P_3 - P_o}{SE(P_1)} = 25.23323$$

With a proportion of 0.412846, SE of 0.016361, and Z-score of 25.23323 it implies that "Personal intellectual Ability" though significantly greater than zero, it does not significantly influence the choice of field of study for Physical Sciences students in Nnamdi Azikiwe University as the proportion is less than 0.50.

Table 5: Family Finance

	D								
	Department	**Yes**	**No**	**n_i**	**P_i**	**Q_i**	**$W_i = N_i/N$**	**P_{item}**	**$W_i P_i Q_i$**
1	Industrial Chemistry	28	71	99	0.282828	0.717172	0.151422	0.042827	0.030714
2	Computer Sc	37	122	159	0.232704	0.767296	0.242582	0.05645	0.043314
3	Geology	16	117	133	0.120301	0.879699	0.203732	0.024509	0.021561
4	Geophysics	9	67	76	0.118421	0.881579	0.116243	0.013766	0.012136
5	Mathematics	7	44	51	0.137255	0.862745	0.078311	0.010749	0.009273
6	Physics	3	37	40	0.075	0.925	0.061487	0.004612	0.004266
7	Statistics	4	92	96	0.041667	0.958333	0.146222	0.006093	0.005839
								0.159004	0.127102

$$P_4 = \sum_{i=1}^{7} W_i P_i = 0.159004$$
$$V(P_4) = (\frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{N}) \sum_{i=1}^{7} W_i P_i Q_i = 0.000155$$
$$SE(P_4) = \sqrt{V(P_4)} = 0.012469$$
$$Z_{P_4} = \frac{P_4 - P_o}{SE(P_4)} = 12.75243$$

With a proportion of 0.159004, SE of 0.012469, and Z-score of 12.75243 it implies that "Family Finance" though significantly greater than zero, it does not significantly influence the choice of field of study for Physical Sciences students in Nnamdi Azikiwe University as the proportion is less than 0.50.

Table 6: High Social Status and Respect in the chosen field

	E								
	Department	**Yes**	**No**	**n_i**	**P_i**	**Q_i**	**$W_i = N_i/N$**	**P_{item}**	**$W_i P_i Q_i$**
1	Industrial Chemistry	66	33	99	0.666667	0.333333	0.151422	0.100948	0.033649
2	Computer Sc	49	110	159	0.308176	0.691824	0.242582	0.074758	0.051719
3	Geology	48	85	133	0.360902	0.639098	0.203732	0.073527	0.046991
4	Geophysics	22	54	76	0.289474	0.710526	0.116243	0.033649	0.023909
5	Mathematics	11	40	51	0.215686	0.784314	0.078311	0.016891	0.013248
6	Physics	14	26	40	0.35	0.65	0.061487	0.02152	0.013988
7	Statistics	19	77	96	0.197917	0.802083	0.146222	0.02894	0.023212
								0.350234	0.206717

$$P_5 = \sum_{i=1}^{7} W_i P_i = 0.350234$$

$$V(P_5) = (\frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{N}) \sum_{i=1}^{7} W_i P_i Q_i = 0.000253$$

$$SE(P_5) = \sqrt{V(P_5)} = 0.015901$$

$$Z_{P_5} = \frac{P_5 - P_o}{SE(P_5)} = 22.02576$$

With a proportion of 0.350234, SE of 0.015901, and Z-score of 22.02576 it implies that "High Social Status and Respect in the chosen field" though significantly greater than zero, it does not significantly influence the choice of field of study for Physical Sciences students in Nnamdi Azikiwe University as the proportion is less than 0.50.

Table 7: Job availability (Man Power need of the country)

	F								
	Department	**Yes**	**No**	n_i	P_i	Q_i	$W_i = N_i/N$	P_{item}	$W_i P_i Q_i$
1	Industrial Chemistry	89	10	99	0.89899	0.10101	0.151422	0.136127	0.01375
2	Computer Sc	114	45	159	0.716981	0.283019	0.242582	0.173927	0.049225
3	Geology	122	11	133	0.917293	0.082707	0.203732	0.186882	0.015456
4	Geophysics	70	6	76	0.921053	0.078947	0.116243	0.107066	0.008453
5	Mathematics	45	6	51	0.882353	0.117647	0.078311	0.069098	0.008129
6	Physics	28	12	40	0.7	0.3	0.061487	0.043041	0.012912
7	Statistics	66	30	96	0.6875	0.3125	0.146222	0.100528	0.031415
								0.816669	0.13934

$$P_6 = \sum_{i=1}^{7} W_i P_i = 0.816669$$

$$V(P_6) = (\frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{N}) \sum_{i=1}^{7} W_i P_i Q_i = 0.00017$$

$$SE(P_6) = \sqrt{V(P_6)} = 0.013055$$

$$Z_{P_6} = \frac{P_6 - P_o}{SE(P_6)} = 62.55593$$

With a proportion of 0.816669, SE of 0.013055, and Z-score of 62.55593 it implies that "Job availability (Man Power need of the country)" significantly influence the choice of field of study for Physical Sciences students in Nnamdi Azikiwe University as the proportion is less than 0.50.

Table 8: Opportunity of self-employment

	G								
	Department	**Yes**	**No**	n_i	P_i	Q_i	$W_i = N_i/N$	P_{item}	$W_i P_i Q_i$
1	Industrial Chemistry	55	44	99	0.555556	0.444444	0.151422	0.084124	0.037388
2	Computer Sc	75	84	159	0.471698	0.528302	0.242582	0.114425	0.060451
3	Geology	102	31	133	0.766917	0.233083	0.203732	0.156246	0.036418
4	Geophysics	58	18	76	0.763158	0.236842	0.116243	0.088712	0.021011
5	Mathematics	16	35	51	0.313725	0.686275	0.078311	0.024568	0.016861
6	Physics	11	29	40	0.275	0.725	0.061487	0.016909	0.012259
7	Statistics	5	91	96	0.052083	0.947917	0.146222	0.007616	0.007219
								0.4926	0.191607

$$P_7 = \sum_{i=1}^{7} W_i P_i = 0.4926$$

$$V(P_7) = (\frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{N}) \sum_{i=1}^{7} W_i P_i Q_i = 0.000234$$

$$SE(P_7) = \sqrt{V(P_7)} = 0.015309$$

$$Z_{P_7} = \frac{P_7 - P_o}{SE(P_7)} = 32.17725$$

With a proportion of 0.4926, SE of 0.015309, and Z-score of 32.17725 it implies that "Opportunity of self-employment" though significantly greater than zero, it does not significantly influence the choice of field of study for Physical Sciences students in Nnamdi Azikiwe University as the proportion is less than 0.50.

Table 9: Low Jamb-score/admission

	H								
	Department	**Yes**	**No**	n_i	P_i	Q_i	$W_i = N_i/N$	P_{item}	$W_i P_i Q_i$
1	Industrial Chemistry	55	44	99	0.555556	0.444444	0.151422	0.084124	0.037388
2	Computer Sc	71	88	159	0.446541	0.553459	0.242582	0.108323	0.059952
3	Geology	62	71	133	0.466165	0.533835	0.203732	0.094973	0.0507
4	Geophysics	14	62	76	0.184211	0.815789	0.116243	0.021413	0.017469
5	Mathematics	32	19	51	0.627451	0.372549	0.078311	0.049137	0.018306
6	Physics	27	13	40	0.675	0.325	0.061487	0.041504	0.013489
7	Statistics	19	77	96	0.197917	0.802083	0.146222	0.02894	0.023212
								0.428412	0.220515

$$P_8 = \sum_{i=1}^{7} W_i P_i = 0.428412$$

$$V(P_8) = (\frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{N}) \sum_{i=1}^{7} W_i P_i Q_i = 0.00027$$

$$SE(P_8) = \sqrt{V(P_8)} = 0.016423$$

$$Z_{P_8} = \frac{P_8 - P_o}{SE(P_8)} = 26.08572$$

With a proportion of 0.428412, SE of 0.016423, and Z-score of 26.08572 it implies that "Low Jamb-score/admission" though significantly greater than zero, it does not significantly influence the choice of field of study for Physical Sciences students in Nnamdi Azikiwe University as the proportion is less than 0.50.

Table 10: Reputation of the field of Study

	I								
	Department	**Yes**	**No**	n_i	P_i	Q_i	$W_i = N_i/N$	P_{item}	$W_i P_i Q_i$
1	Industrial Chemistry	77	22	99	0.777778	0.222222	0.151422	0.117773	0.026172
2	Computer Sc	97	62	159	0.610063	0.389937	0.242582	0.14799	0.057707
3	Geology	88	45	133	0.661654	0.338346	0.203732	0.1348	0.045609
4	Geophysics	47	29	76	0.618421	0.381579	0.116243	0.071887	0.027431
5	Mathematics	33	18	51	0.647059	0.352941	0.078311	0.050672	0.017884
6	Physics	29	11	40	0.725	0.275	0.061487	0.044578	0.012259
7	Statistics	65	31	96	0.677083	0.322917	0.146222	0.099005	0.03197
								0.666705	0.219032

$$P_9 = \sum_{i=1}^{7} W_i P_i = 0.666705$$

$$V(P_9) = \left(\frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{N}\right) \sum_{i=1}^{7} W_i P_i Q_i = 0.000268$$

$$SE(P_9) = \sqrt{V(P_9)} = 0.016368$$

$$Z_{P_9} = \frac{P_9 - P_o}{SE(P_9)} = 40.73247$$

With a proportion of 0.666705, SE of 0.016368, and z-score of 40.73247, it implies that "Reputation of the field of Study" significantly influence the choice of field of study for Physical Sciences students in Nnamdi Azikiwe University.

Table 11: Peer influence

	J								
	Department	**Yes**	**No**	n_i	P_i	Q_i	$W_i = N_i/N$	P_{item}	$W_i P_i Q_i$
1	Industrial Chemistry	65	34	99	0.656566	0.343434	0.151422	0.099419	0.034144
2	Computer Sc	77	82	159	0.484277	0.515723	0.242582	0.117477	0.060585
3	Geology	49	84	133	0.368421	0.631579	0.203732	0.075059	0.047406
4	Geophysics	47	29	76	0.618421	0.381579	0.116243	0.071887	0.027431
5	Mathematics	30	21	51	0.588235	0.411765	0.078311	0.046066	0.018968
6	Physics	33	7	40	0.825	0.175	0.061487	0.050727	0.008877
7	Statistics	49	47	96	0.510417	0.489583	0.146222	0.074634	0.03654
								0.535268	0.233951

$$P_{10} = \sum_{i=1}^{7} W_i P_i = 0.535268$$

$$V(P_{10}) = \left(\frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{N}\right) \sum_{i=1}^{7} W_i P_i Q_i = 0.000286$$

$$SE(P_{10}) = \sqrt{V(P_{10})} = 0.016916$$

$$Z_{P_{10}} = \frac{P_{10} - P_o}{SE(P_{10})} = 31.64243$$

With a proportion of 0.535268, SE of 0.016916, and z-score of 31.64243, it implies that "Peer influence" significantly influence the choice of field of study for Physical Sciences students in Nnamdi Azikiwe University.

Table 12: Secondary school career development teacher and adviser

	K								
	Department	**Yes**	**No**	n_i	P_i	Q_i	$W_i = N_i/N$	P_{item}	$W_i P_i Q_i$
1	Industrial Chemistry	47	52	99	0.474747	0.525253	0.151422	0.071887	0.037759
2	Computer Sc	112	47	159	0.704403	0.295597	0.242582	0.170875	0.05051
3	Geology	109	24	133	0.819549	0.180451	0.203732	0.166968	0.03013
4	Geophysics	70	6	76	0.921053	0.078947	0.116243	0.107066	0.008453
5	Mathematics	44	7	51	0.862745	0.137255	0.078311	0.067563	0.009273
6	Physics	35	5	40	0.875	0.125	0.061487	0.053801	0.006725
7	Statistics	25	71	96	0.260417	0.739583	0.146222	0.038079	0.028162
								0.67624	0.171012

$$P_{11} = \sum_{i=1}^{7} W_i P_i = 0.67624$$

$$V(P_{11}) = \left(\frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{N}\right) \sum_{i=1}^{7} W_i P_i Q_i = 0.000209$$

$$SE(P_{11}) = \sqrt{V(P_{11})} = 0.014463$$

$$Z_{P_{11}} = \frac{P_{11} - P_o}{SE(P_{11})} = 46.75708$$

With a proportion of 0.67624, SE of 0.014463, and z-score of 46.75708, it implies that "Secondary school career development teacher and adviser" significantly influence the choice of field of study for Physical Sciences students in Nnamdi Azikiwe University.

Table 13: Family profession

	L								
	Department	**Yes**	**No**	n_i	P_i	Q_i	$W_i = N_i/N$	P_{item}	$W_i P_i Q_i$
1	Industrial Chemistry	78	21	99	0.787879	0.212121	0.151422	0.119303	0.025307
2	Computer Sc	116	43	159	0.72956	0.27044	0.242582	0.176978	0.047862
3	Geology	29	104	133	0.218045	0.781955	0.203732	0.044423	0.034737
4	Geophysics	15	61	76	0.197368	0.802632	0.116243	0.022943	0.018415
5	Mathematics	9	42	51	0.176471	0.823529	0.078311	0.01382	0.011381
6	Physics	7	33	40	0.175	0.825	0.061487	0.01076	0.008877
7	Statistics	69	27	96	0.71875	0.28125	0.146222	0.105097	0.029559
								0.493323	0.176136

$$P_{12} = \sum_{i=1}^{7} W_i P_i = 0.493323$$

$$V(P_{12}) = \left(\frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{N}\right)\sum_{i=1}^{7} W_i P_i Q_i = 0.000215$$
$$SE(P_{12}) = \sqrt{V(P_{12})} = 0.014678$$
$$Z_{P_{12}} = \frac{P_{12} - P_o}{SE(P_{12})} = 33.60991$$

With a proportion of 0.493323, SE of 0.014678, and Z-score of 33.60991 it implies that "Family profession" though significantly greater than zero, it does not significantly influence the choice of field of study for Physical Sciences students in Nnamdi Azikiwe University as the proportion is less than 0.50

Table 14: Influence of Gender

	M								
	Department	**Yes**	**No**	**n_i**	**P_i**	**Q_i**	**$W_i = N_i/N$**	**P_{item}**	**$W_i P_i Q_i$**
1	Industrial Chemistry	29	70	99	0.292929	0.707071	0.151422	0.044356	0.031363
2	Computer Sc	31	128	159	0.194969	0.805031	0.242582	0.047296	0.038075
3	Geology	19	114	133	0.142857	0.857143	0.203732	0.029105	0.024947
4	Geophysics	9	67	76	0.118421	0.881579	0.116243	0.013766	0.012136
5	Mathematics	39	12	51	0.764706	0.235294	0.078311	0.059885	0.014091
6	Physics	29	11	40	0.725	0.275	0.061487	0.044578	0.012259
7	Statistics	65	31	96	0.677083	0.322917	0.146222	0.099005	0.03197
								0.33799	0.16484

$$P_{13} = \sum_{i=1}^{7} W_i P_i = 0.33799$$
$$V(P_{13}) = \left(\frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{N}\right)\sum_{i=1}^{7} W_i P_i Q_i = 0.000202$$
$$SE(P_{13}) = \sqrt{V(P_{13})} = 0.014199$$
$$Z_{P_{13}} = \frac{P_{13} - P_o}{SE(P_{13})} = 23.80309$$

With a proportion of 0.33799, SE of 0.014199, and Z-score of 23.80309 it implies that "Influence of Gender" though significantly greater than zero, it does not significantly influence the choice of field of study for Physical Sciences students in Nnamdi Azikiwe University as the proportion is less than 0.50.

Table 15: Age influence

	N								
	Department	**Yes**	**No**	**n_i**	**P_i**	**Q_i**	**$W_i = N_i/N$**	**P_{item}**	**$W_i P_i Q_i$**
1	Industrial Chemistry	16	83	99	0.161616	0.838384	0.151422	0.024472	0.020517
2	Computer Sc	24	135	159	0.150943	0.849057	0.242582	0.036616	0.031089
3	Geology	19	114	133	0.142857	0.857143	0.203732	0.029105	0.024947
4	Geophysics	9	67	76	0.118421	0.881579	0.116243	0.013766	0.012136
5	Mathematics	11	40	51	0.215686	0.784314	0.078311	0.016891	0.013248
6	Physics	7	33	40	0.175	0.825	0.061487	0.01076	0.008877
7	Statistics	4	92	96	0.041667	0.958333	0.146222	0.006093	0.005839
								0.137702	0.116652

$$P_{14} = \sum_{i=1}^{7} W_i P_i = 0.137702$$

$$V(P_{14}) = (\frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{N}) \sum_{i=1}^{7} W_i P_i Q_i = 0.000143$$

$$SE(P_{14}) = \sqrt{V(P_{14})} = 0.011945$$

$$Z_{P_{14}} = \frac{P_{14} - P_o}{SE(P_{14})} = 11.52802$$

With a proportion of 0.137702, SE of 0.011945, and Z-score of 11.52802 it implies that "Age influence" though significantly greater than zero, it does not significantly influence the choice of field of study for Physical Sciences students in Nnamdi Azikiwe University as the proportion is less than 0.50.

Table 16: Difficulty in Curriculum

	O								
	Department	**Yes**	**No**	**n_i**	**P_i**	**Q_i**	**$W_i = N_i/N$**	**P_{item}**	**$W_i P_i Q_i$**
1	Industrial Chemistry	11	88	99	0.111111	0.888889	0.151422	0.016825	0.014955
2	Computer Sc	9	150	159	0.056604	0.943396	0.242582	0.013731	0.012954
3	Geology	14	119	133	0.105263	0.894737	0.203732	0.021445	0.019188
4	Geophysics	9	67	76	0.118421	0.881579	0.116243	0.013766	0.012136
5	Mathematics	7	44	51	0.137255	0.862745	0.078311	0.010749	0.009273
6	Physics	5	35	40	0.125	0.875	0.061487	0.007686	0.006725
7	Statistics	3	93	96	0.03125	0.96875	0.146222	0.004569	0.004427
								0.088771	0.079658

$$P_{15} = \sum_{i=1}^{7} W_i P_i = 0.088771$$

$$V(P_{15}) = (\frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{N}) \sum_{i=1}^{7} W_i P_i Q_i = 0.0000974$$

$$SE(P_{15}) = \sqrt{V(P_{15})} = 0.009871$$

$$Z_{P_{15}} = \frac{P_{15} - P_o}{SE(P_{15})} = 8.993249$$

With a proportion of 0.088771, SE of 0.009871, and Z-score of 8.993249 it implies that "Difficulty in Curriculum" though significantly greater than zero, it does not significantly influence the choice of field of study for Physical Sciences students in Nnamdi Azikiwe University as the proportion is less than 0.50.

Table 17: Parental Influence

	P								
	Department	**Yes**	**No**	n_i	P_i	Q_i	$W_i = N_i/N$	P_{item}	$W_i P_i Q_i$
1	Industrial Chemistry	88	11	99	0.888889	0.111111	0.151422	0.134598	0.014955
2	Computer Sc	120	39	159	0.754717	0.245283	0.242582	0.183081	0.044907
3	Geology	99	34	133	0.744361	0.255639	0.203732	0.15165	0.038768
4	Geophysics	45	31	76	0.592105	0.407895	0.116243	0.068828	0.028075
5	Mathematics	34	17	51	0.666667	0.333333	0.078311	0.052208	0.017403
6	Physics	22	18	40	0.55	0.45	0.061487	0.033818	0.015218
7	Statistics	47	49	96	0.489583	0.510417	0.146222	0.071588	0.03654
								0.69577	0.195864

$$P_{16} = \sum_{i=1}^{7} W_i P_i = 0.69577$$

$$V(P_{16}) = \left(\frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{N}\right) \sum_{i=1}^{7} W_i P_i Q_i = 0.00024$$

$$SE(P_{16}) = \sqrt{V(P_{16})} = 0.015478$$

$$Z_{P_{16}} = \frac{P_{16} - P_o}{SE(P_{16})} = 44.95194$$

With a proportion of 0.69577, SE of 0.015478, and z-score of 44.95194, it implies that "Parental Influence" significantly influence the choice of field of study for Physical Sciences students in Nnamdi Azikiwe University

Table 18: Well Secure Jobs guarantee

	AA								
	Department	**Yes**	**No**	n_i	P_i	Q_i	$W_i = N_i/N$	P_{item}	$W_i P_i Q_i$
1	Industrial Chemistry	91	8	99	0.919192	0.080808	0.151422	0.139186	0.011247
2	Computer Sc	124	35	159	0.779874	0.220126	0.242582	0.189183	0.041644
3	Geology	110	23	133	0.827068	0.172932	0.203732	0.1685	0.029139
4	Geophysics	74	2	76	0.973684	0.026316	0.116243	0.113184	0.002979
5	Mathematics	45	6	51	0.882353	0.117647	0.078311	0.069098	0.008129
6	Physics	28	12	40	0.7	0.3	0.061487	0.043041	0.012912
7	Statistics	79	17	96	0.822917	0.177083	0.146222	0.120329	0.021308
								0.842522	0.127359

$$P_{17} = \sum_{i=1}^{7} W_i P_i = 0.842522$$

$$V(P_{17}) = \left(\frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{N}\right) \sum_{i=1}^{7} W_i P_i Q_i = 0.000156$$

$$SE(P_{17}) = \sqrt{V(P_{17})} = 0.012481$$

$$Z_{P_{17}} = \frac{P_1 - P_o}{SE(P_{17})} = 67.50364$$

With a proportion of 0.842522, SE of 0.012481, and z-score of 67.50364, it implies that "Well Secure Jobs guarantee" significantly influence the choice of field of study for Physical Sciences students in Nnamdi Azikiwe

University.

Table 19: Prospect for well-paid job and career

	BB								
	Department	**Yes**	**No**	n_i	P_i	Q_i	$W_i = N_i/N$	P_{item}	$W_i P_i Q_i$
1	Industrial Chemistry	89	10	99	0.89899	0.10101	0.151422	0.136127	0.01375
2	Computer Sc	125	34	159	0.786164	0.213836	0.242582	0.190709	0.040781
3	Geology	116	17	133	0.87218	0.12782	0.203732	0.177691	0.022712
4	Geophysics	65	11	76	0.855263	0.144737	0.116243	0.099419	0.01439
5	Mathematics	41	10	51	0.803922	0.196078	0.078311	0.062956	0.012344
6	Physics	26	14	40	0.65	0.35	0.061487	0.039966	0.013988
7	Statistics	77	19	96	0.802083	0.197917	0.146222	0.117282	0.023212
								0.824151	0.141177

$$P_{18} = \sum_{i=1}^{7} W_i P_i = 0.824151$$

$$V(P_{18}) = \left(\frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{N}\right) \sum_{i=1}^{7} W_i P_i Q_i = 0.000173$$

$$SE(P_{18}) = \sqrt{V(P_{18})} = 0.013141$$

$$Z_{P_{18}} = \frac{P_{18} - P_o}{SE(P_{18})} = 62.71691$$

With a proportion of 0.824151, SE of 0.013141, and z-score of 62.71691, it implies that "Prospect for well-paid job and career" significantly influence the choice of field of study for Physical Sciences students in Nnamdi Azikiwe University.

Table 20: Bright Future in chosen career

	CC								
	Department	**Yes**	**No**	n_i	P_i	Q_i	$W_i = N_i/N$	P_{item}	$W_i P_i Q_i$
1	Industrial Chemistry	95	4	99	0.959596	0.040404	0.151422	0.145304	0.005871
2	Computer Sc	142	17	159	0.893082	0.106918	0.242582	0.216645	0.023163
3	Geology	120	13	133	0.902256	0.097744	0.203732	0.183818	0.017967
4	Geophysics	74	2	76	0.973684	0.026316	0.116243	0.113184	0.002979
5	Mathematics	35	16	51	0.686275	0.313725	0.078311	0.053743	0.016861
6	Physics	35	5	40	0.875	0.125	0.061487	0.053801	0.006725
7	Statistics	77	19	96	0.802083	0.197917	0.146222	0.117282	0.023212
								0.883779	0.096778

$$P_{19} = \sum_{i=1}^{7} W_i P_i = 0.883779$$

$$V(P_{19}) = \left(\frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{N}\right) \sum_{i=1}^{7} W_i P_i Q_i = 0.000118$$

$$SE(P_{19}) = \sqrt{V(P_{19})} = 0.010888$$

$$Z_{P_{19}} = \frac{P_{19} - P_o}{SE(P_{19})} = 81.22996$$

With a proportion of 0.883779, SE of 0.010888, and z-score of 81.22996, it implies that "Bright Future in chosen career" significantly influence the choice of field of study for Physical Sciences students in Nnamdi Azikiwe University

Table 21: Interest if subjects relevant to the field of study

	DD								
	Department	**Yes**	**No**	**n_i**	**P_i**	**Q_i**	**$W_i = N_i/N$**	**P_{item}**	**$W_i P_i Q_i$**
1	Industrial Chemistry	84	15	99	0.848485	0.151515	0.151422	0.12848	0.019467
2	Computer Sc	111	48	159	0.698113	0.301887	0.242582	0.16935	0.051124
3	Geology	106	27	133	0.796992	0.203008	0.203732	0.162373	0.032963
4	Geophysics	65	11	76	0.855263	0.144737	0.116243	0.099419	0.01439
5	Mathematics	44	7	51	0.862745	0.137255	0.078311	0.067563	0.009273
6	Physics	32	8	40	0.8	0.2	0.061487	0.049189	0.009838
7	Statistics	61	35	96	0.635417	0.364583	0.146222	0.092912	0.033874
								0.769285	0.170929

$$P_{20} = \sum_{i=1}^{7} W_i P_i = 0.769285$$

$$V(P_{20}) = \left(\frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{N}\right) \sum_{i=1}^{7} W_i P_i Q_i = 0.000209$$

$$SE(P_{20}) = \sqrt{V(P_{20})} = 0.014459$$

$$Z_{P_{20}} = \frac{P_{20} - P_o}{SE(P_{20})} = 53.20349$$

With a proportion of 0.769285, SE of 0.014459, and z-score of 53.20349, it implies that "Interest if subjects relevant to the field of study" significantly influence the choice of field of study for Physical Sciences students in Nnamdi Azikiwe University

Table 22: Performances in Secondary school science subjects

	EE								
	Department	**Yes**	**No**	**n_i**	**P_i**	**Q_i**	**$W_i = N_i/N$**	**P_{item}**	**$W_i P_i Q_i$**
1	Industrial Chemistry	74	25	99	0.747475	0.252525	0.151422	0.113184	0.028582
2	Computer Sc	109	50	159	0.685535	0.314465	0.242582	0.166298	0.052295
3	Geology	117	16	133	0.879699	0.120301	0.203732	0.179223	0.021561
4	Geophysics	65	11	76	0.855263	0.144737	0.116243	0.099419	0.01439
5	Mathematics	45	6	51	0.882353	0.117647	0.078311	0.069098	0.008129
6	Physics	27	13	40	0.675	0.325	0.061487	0.041504	0.013489
7	Statistics	78	18	96	0.8125	0.1875	0.146222	0.118805	0.022276
								0.787532	0.160721

$$P_{21} = \sum_{i=1}^{7} W_i P_i = 0.787532$$

$$V(P_{21}) = \left(\frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{N}\right) \sum_{i=1}^{7} W_i P_i Q_i = 0.000197$$

$$SE(P_{21}) = \sqrt{V(P_{21})} = 0.014021$$
$$Z_{P_{21}} = \frac{P_{21} - P_o}{SE(P_{21})} = 56.16841$$

With a proportion of 0.787532, SE of 0.014021, and z-score of 56.16841, it implies that "Performances in Secondary school science subjects" significantly influence the choice of field of study for Physical Sciences students in Nnamdi Azikiwe University

Table 23: Secondary school subject teacher's influence

	FF								
	Department	**Yes**	**No**	**n_i**	**P_i**	**Q_i**	**$W_i = N_i/N$**	**P_{item}**	**$W_i P_i Q_i$**
1	Industrial Chemistry	21	78	99	0.212121	0.787879	0.151422	0.03212	0.025307
2	Computer Sc	44	115	159	0.27673	0.72327	0.242582	0.06713	0.048553
3	Geology	31	102	133	0.233083	0.766917	0.203732	0.047486	0.036418
4	Geophysics	17	59	76	0.223684	0.776316	0.116243	0.026002	0.020186
5	Mathematics	17	34	51	0.333333	0.666667	0.078311	0.026104	0.017403
6	Physics	11	29	40	0.275	0.725	0.061487	0.016909	0.012259
7	Statistics	9	87	96	0.09375	0.90625	0.146222	0.013708	0.012423
								0.229459	0.172548

$$P_{22} = \sum_{i=1}^{7} W_i P_i = 0.229459$$
$$V(P_{22}) = \left(\frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{N}\right) \sum_{i=1}^{7} W_i P_i Q_i = 0.000211$$
$$SE(P_{22}) = \sqrt{V(P_{22})} = 0.014528$$
$$Z_{P_{22}} = \frac{P_{22} - P_o}{SE(P_{22})} = 15.79466$$

With a proportion of 0.229459, SE of 0.000211, and Z-score of 15.79466, it implies that "Secondary school subject teacher's influence" though significantly greater than zero, it does not significantly influence the choice of field of study for Physical Sciences students in Nnamdi Azikiwe University as the proportion is less than 0.50.

IV. CONCLUSION

The results of the analysis done and presented in the previous section are summarized in Table 24. The results were ranked in order of the proportion P_i with the factors.

Table 24: Summary of results

SN	Items	P_i	Z_{pi}	Remarks
1	Bright Future in chosen career	0.884	81.23	Influencing Factor
2	Well Secure Jobs guarantee	0.843	67.50	Influencing Factor
3	Prospect for well-paid job and career	0.824	62.72	Influencing Factor
4	Job availability (Man Power need of the country)	0.817	62.56	Influencing Factor
5	Personal interest in the field of study	0.816	61.38	Influencing Factor
6	Performances in Secondary school science subjects	0.788	56.17	Influencing Factor
7	Interest if subjects relevant to the field of study	0.769	53.20	Influencing Factor
8	Parental Influence	0.696	44.95	Influencing Factor

9	Secondary school career development teacher and adviser	0.676	46.76	Influencing Factor
10	Reputation of the field of Study	0.667	40.73	Influencing Factor
11	Peer influence	0.535	31.64	Influencing Factor
12	Family profession	0.493	33.61	Not influencing Factor
13	Opportunity of self-employment	0.493	32.18	Not influencing Factor
14	Low Jamb-score/admission	0.428	26.09	Not influencing Factor
15	Study duration of the chosen field	0.42	25.90	Not influencing Factor
16	Personal intellectual Ability	0.413	25.23	Not influencing Factor
17	High Social Status and Respect in the chosen field	0.35	22.03	Not influencing Factor
18	Influence of Gender	0.338	23.80	Not influencing Factor
19	Secondary school subject teacher's influence	0.229	15.79	Not influencing Factor
20	Family Finance	0.159	12.75	Not influencing Factor
21	Age influence	0.138	11.53	Not influencing Factor
22	Difficulty in Curriculum	0.089	8.99	Not influencing Factor

Conclusively, this study on factors that influences the choice of course/programme of study was initiated to add to the existing literature on the subject area. Literature were reviewed and questionnaires designed. A pilot survey aided the design of the 22 items questionnaire that guided the study. The Faculty of Physical Sciences was selected. The Faculty has seven departments which includes; Mathematics, Physics, Statistics, Pure and Industrial Chemistry, Computer Sciences, Physics and Industrial Physics, and Geophysics. Hypotheses were formulated. The genera hypothesis is that a given item(factor) do not significantly influence the choice of course/programme of study. Z-test of proportion was used to test the stated hypotheses at 5% level of significance. The ranked results in order of influence showed that the most influential factor considered as factors that influences the choice of course of study is Bright Future in chosen career. This might be so due to the current economic situation of the country as everyone is now interested in a bright future that guarantee food security and better life.

The next two factors are “Well Secure Jobs guarantee” and “Prospect for well-paid job and career”. The reason is also the same as that of the first factor as both factors point to the same situation of economic security. Other factors considered significant is “Job availability (Man Power need of the country)”. This is predicated on the fact that the level of unemployment is very high in Nigeria and there is need to study programmes that have jobs readily available to minimize the effects and consequences of unemployment. Personal interest in the field of study was the next influential factor as shown in the above table. The next two factors are “Performances in Secondary school science subjects” and “Interest if subjects relevant to the field of study”. These factors are important because Physical sciences programmes are all sciences and all have related science subject combination, hence a good background in science subject being a factor is not unexpected. Parental Influence came as the next factor as most parents in modern days guide and direct their children on what to study in school as they as more experienced than the children, The role of Secondary school career development teacher and adviser was the next significant factor that influences the choice of course/programme of study by students of the Faculty of Physical sciences. In modern day the importance of Career or school adviser cannot be overemphasized. Most schools have this department of Career development and adviser that constantly guide the study on the choice of the course/programme of study. The last two significant factors of influence are “Reputation of the field of Study and Peer influence. Most students seek to be addressed as studying a particular programme or the other. The response also showed that “Peer group influence” which is the reason most youth engage in some activities was also considered and influencing factor.

It is concluded that the study was able to identify the influencing factors that influences the choice of the course/programme of study by students of the Faculty of Physical Sciences. The study has added to the literature, more factors that are considered as important in the choice of the course/programme of study. Further studies are therefore recommended on factors that influences students’ choice of course/programme of study in other areas.

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