

# Students' Career Aspirations And Parental Involvement As Determinants Of Entrepreneurial Intentions Among Secondary School Students In Alimosho Local Government Area Of Lagos State

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## Abstract

This research examined the influence of career aspirations and parental involvement on entrepreneurial intention among secondary school students in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State. Two research questions and hypotheses were raised. Descriptive survey research design was employed. Population included 1200 students from selected schools in Lagos state. 120 students were sampled using purposive sampling technique. Influence of Career aspirations and Parental involvement on Entrepreneurial Intention Questionnaire (IAPTEIQ,  $\alpha = .783$ ) was used to collect data. Data were analysed using descriptive and inferential statistics such as Chi-Square. Results showed a significant relationship between student's career aspirations and entrepreneurial intention ( $\chi^2_{12, 0.05} = 94.197, p < 0.05$ ) and a significant relationship between student's parental involvement and entrepreneurial intention ( $\chi^2_{12, 0.05} = 318.541, p < 0.05$ ) in secondary schools. In conclusion, students' career aspirations and parental involvement have significant influence on students' entrepreneurial intentions in secondary schools in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State. It was recommended among others that teachers and parents should guide, counsel and aspire students to have a career in entrepreneurship.

**Keywords:** Career aspirations, Parental involvement, Entrepreneurial Intention

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## I. Introduction

In recent times, there have been high global concern on the increasing level of unemployment in developing nations such as Nigeria, where the adolescents and youths are the most affected groups (Olayinka, 2010, as cited in Ayedun & Ajayi, 2018). This was not the case in those days where Nigerian secondary school leavers and graduates were quite few, in great demand and easily employed upon graduation. Nowadays, the huge population increase and high production of graduates which are not targeted at the available job opportunities have led to high unemployment rate in the nation (Aduwa, 2020). Statistical reports show that youth unemployment rate in Nigeria increased from 23.1 percent in 2018 to 33.3 percent in 2020. It also increased from 37.7 percent in 2022 to 43.0 percent in 2024 (Egole, 2023). This high unemployment rate thus makes entrepreneurial intention among students including those in secondary schools to be very important.

Entrepreneurial intention is defined as the readiness of persons (in this case, secondary school students) to carry out entrepreneurial behaviour and action and be self-employed. A secondary school student may have the ability to be an entrepreneur but may not embark on entrepreneurship because he or she lacks the intention (Ayedun & Ajayi, 2018). It therefore becomes imperative to investigate those factors that may be determining students' entrepreneurial intention in secondary schools. This study sought to ascertain the influence of factors such as students' career aspirations and parental involvement on entrepreneurial intention in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State.

Career aspirations are viewed as professional goals that individuals (in this case, secondary school students) wish or desire to obtain during their lifetime in relation to obtaining employment in a particular field (Hafsat et al., 2021). Students at the secondary school level are expected to formulate and desire their goals in terms of making career choice, as they advance towards tertiary education. Their career aspirations or goals could be in the arts, social sciences, education, physical sciences and/or engineering field. However, not many may aspire to build a career in the entrepreneurial field (Ebifa et al., 2018) which makes this study worth investigating into. Furthermore, although career aspiration could be a factor for students' intention towards entrepreneurship, this assumption however requires substantial proof. Previous studies carried out in this line of endeavour were on

career aspirations on students' academic achievement in southern and northern Nigeria (Udoukpong et al., 2012; Yahya et al., 2023), not entrepreneurial intention.

Parental involvement deals with parents' participation in their children's learning activities both at school and home. It involves parents attending parent-teacher associations and various school events, volunteering in the school and classroom, monitoring children's homework, and creating a home environment that is conducive to children's learning (Nnamani et al., 2020; Shilpa & Sandhya, 2024). It is believed that when parents are actively involved in their children's lives and aspirations, they may develop the mind for entrepreneurship (Ugwueze et al., 2022). There are studies that show that parental attitude and entrepreneurial experience influence students' entrepreneurial intentions in Nigeria (Adeoye & Olubiyi, 2024; Balogun et al., 2017). However, Fayomi (2020) showed no significant impact of parent's entrepreneurial success on entrepreneurship intentions of undergraduate students in Nigeria. There still remains significant gaps in our understanding of the role of parental involvement on students' entrepreneurial intentions in secondary schools in Nigeria. This study was therefore carried out to examine the influence of students' career aspirations and parental involvement as determinants of entrepreneurial intentions among secondary school students in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State.

### **Statement of the Problem**

Nowadays, many secondary school leavers join the labour market in search of limited jobs which are not enough for the number of graduates. This makes venturing into entrepreneurship to become imperative. However, although many students may have potentials and/or abilities for entrepreneurship, some of them including those in Lagos State secondary schools have been observed to lack entrepreneurial intention. Their minds mainly focus on getting into tertiary institutions, graduating and obtaining jobs that are no longer sufficient for the teeming population of secondary and tertiary institution graduates. Hence, there was the need to examine factors that may be affecting entrepreneurial intention of these secondary school students. This study focused on salient factors such as the students' career aspirations and parental involvement. Moreover, a thorough search of literature showed dearth of studies on students' career aspirations and parental involvement as determinants of entrepreneurial intention among secondary school students. This necessitated an extensive investigation on the extent to which students' career aspirations and parental involvement influence entrepreneurial intention among secondary school students in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State in order to fill this identified lacuna in literature.

### **Aim and Objectives of the Study**

The aim of this study was to find out the influence of students' career aspirations and parental involvement on entrepreneurial intention among secondary school students in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State. The objectives were to:

1. ascertain the relationship between students' career aspirations and their entrepreneurial intention in secondary schools in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State; and
2. find out the relationship between parental involvement and their entrepreneurial intention in secondary schools in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State.

### **Research Questions**

1. Is there any relationship between students' career aspirations and their entrepreneurial intention in secondary schools in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State?
2. Is there any relationship between parental involvement and their entrepreneurial intention in secondary schools in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State?

### **Hypotheses**

The null hypotheses below were tested at 0.05 level of significance.

**H<sub>01</sub>:** There will be no significant relationship between students' career aspirations and their entrepreneurial intention in secondary schools in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State.

**H<sub>02</sub>:** There will be no significant relationship between parental involvement and their entrepreneurial intention in secondary schools in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State.

### **Significance of the Study**

The study is significant in that it would provide information on the influence of students' career aspirations and parental involvement on entrepreneurial intention among secondary school students in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State. The findings of this study would therefore be of significance to students, parents, teachers and researchers. Many students do not have career aspirations in fact some do not even know what the term means. Hence, they can use the information and findings of this study to become aware of the concept (career aspiration) and aspire better for a career in entrepreneurship. They could also use the findings of

this study to find out if and how career aspirations maybe influencing their entrepreneurial intentions and make needed adjustments.

Parents could use the findings to ensure that their children or ward develop the right career aspirations in entrepreneurship that suit their personalities, passion and abilities. They can also imbibe proper intention towards entrepreneurship among children that have potentials for entrepreneurship. They can provide counselling, support and guidance for them with the sole aim of ensuring that they build positive aspirations towards entrepreneurship.

Teachers especially those that teach entrepreneurship and business related subjects could use this findings to develop their students' career aspirations towards entrepreneurial intention. As they teach their subjects, they can also ensure that they teach the students the need to aspire and set goals for entrepreneurship. Lastly, researchers could use the findings of this study as a reference point for subsequent researches on the subject matter.

### **Scope of the Study**

The scope of this study was specifically on career aspirations and parental involvement as determinants of entrepreneurial intention among secondary school students in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State. The variable scope covered two independent variables (students' career aspirations and parental involvement) and one dependent variable (entrepreneurial intention). The geographical scope covered five selected senior secondary schools in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State. The population scope covered all the public senior secondary school students in the five selected schools in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State.

## **II. Literature Review**

### **Theoretical Review**

Theory of planned behaviour serves as a roadmap for this study to explain how career aspirations and parental involvement influence the intention of students to enter the entrepreneurship. The theory of planned behaviour explains that behaviour is the result of a conscious decision to act in a particular manner (Knabe 2012). The theory contends that three factors influence intentions and behaviours (Ajzen, 1991), namely attitude towards the behaviour, subjective norms, and perceived behavioural control. The more favourable the attitude and subjective norms are with respect to certain behaviour, and the greater the level of perceived behavioural control, the stronger the individual's intention will be to perform the behaviour under consideration (Ajzen, 1991; Guzmán & Guzmán-Cuevas 2012). In the context of the entrepreneurship intention, parents have an influence on each of the aforementioned factors, which in turn influence their children's intentions and behaviour in terms of going into entrepreneurship.

Ajzen (1991) describes the attitude towards performing the behaviour as "an individual's perceptions of the desirability of performing the behaviour. Growing up in an environment where parents are involved in children's lives and are entrepreneurship oriented represents a particular context in which career intentions and aspirations are formed. These early life experiences mould an individual's beliefs, attitudes, personality, aspirations, and intentions (Beck et al., 2020).

Subjective norms refer to the perceived pressure received from society by a person to perform or not to perform certain behaviours (Ajzen, 1991). Krueger et al. (2000) explain that perceived subjective norms look at the perceptions of what important people (parents, friends or mentors) in the individual's life think about a particular behaviour. Parents thus play a crucial role in determining a person's subjective norms (Dwivedi et al., 2012; Guzmán & Guzmán-Cuevas, 2012).

Guzmán and Guzmán-Cuevas (2012) explain that perceived behavioural control reflects a person's perception regarding his/her capacity to achieve a specific result. Individuals usually adopt behaviours that they believe they will be able to control and master (Fayolle, 2007). Students' career aspirations can therefore be an outcome of their perception of their ability, control and interest in a particular career path.

### **Conceptual Model**

The conceptual model for the study showed the relationship between the independent variables (students' career aspirations and parental involvement), and dependent variable (entrepreneurial intention) as illustrated in figure 1:

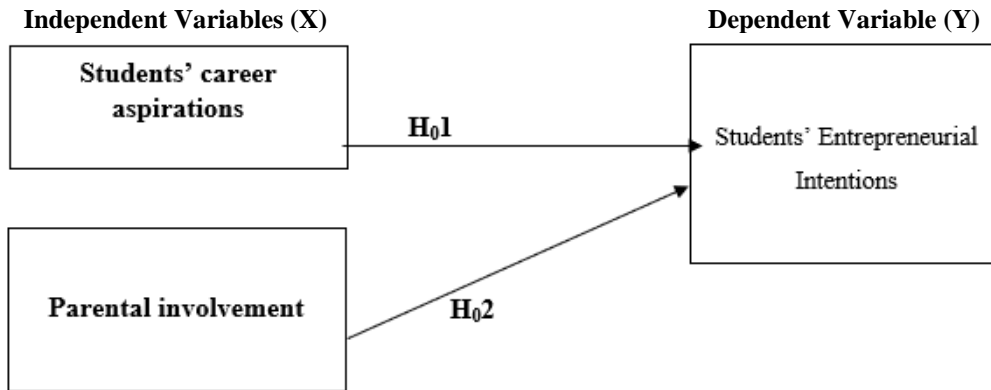


Figure 1: Conceptual Model (Source: Researcher, 2022)

### III. Methodology

This research employed the descriptive survey research design. The target population consisted of one thousand, two hundred (1,200) students in five selected schools (Lagos State Model College, Meiran, Command Secondary School, Ipaja, Lagos, State High School, Alimosho, Lagos, Alimosho Grammar School, Alimosho, Lagos and Meiran Community Senior High School, Meiran, Lagos) in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos state, Nigeria. Purposive sampling technique was used to sample 10% of the total of 1,200 students to make one hundred and twenty students (120) for the study. The students were selected at random.

Primary source of data was obtained through the use of a questionnaire titled: “Influence of Career Aspirations and Parental Involvement on Entrepreneurial Intention Questionnaire (ICAPIEQ)”. This questionnaire consisted of three (3) sections. The first section contained demographic variables such as gender, age, and class of the students. The second section consisted of five items on the influence of career aspirations on entrepreneurial intention of the students. The rating technique was a four scale Likert type of Strongly Disagree (1) to Strongly Agree (4). The third section also consisted of five items on the influence of parental involvement on entrepreneurial intention of the students. The rating technique was also a four scale Likert type of Strongly Disagree (1) to Strongly Agree (4).

The questionnaire was validated using content and face validity and subjected to test-re-test method of reliability. This means that the questionnaire was administered to same set of students within an interval of two weeks and the values were correlated using Pearson product moment correlation. A reliability value of .783 was obtained which meant that the questionnaire is reliable. The instrument was made into various copies and administered to the sample number of one hundred and twenty (120) students. Demographic information of students were analysed using frequency and percentage. Research questions and hypotheses were analysed and tested using frequency counts, percentages and Chi-square statistics at 0.05 level of significance.

### IV. Results

#### Demographic Data Presentation

Table 1: Frequency Distribution of Students' Demographic Variables (n = 120)

Demographic Variable		Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Gender	Male	48	40.0
	Female	72	60.0
Age (Years)	13 – 14	30	25.0
	15 – 16	36	30.0
	17 – 18	54	45.0
Class	SSS1	24	20.0
	SSS2	36	30.0
	SSS3	60	50.0

Source: Field Work, 2022

Table 1 showed that that 40.0% of the students are males while 60.0% are females. It also showed that majority of the students (45.0%) are within 17-18 years of age which implies that they are young adolescents. Most of the students (50.0%) are in senior secondary school year three.

#### Research Questions and Hypotheses

**Research Question One:** Is there any relationship between students' career aspirations and their entrepreneurial intention in secondary schools in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State?

**H01:** There will be no significant relationship between students' career aspirations and their entrepreneurial intention in secondary schools in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State

**Table 2a: Relationship between students' career aspirations and their entrepreneurial intention (n =120)**

S/N	Items	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
1	My career aspiration enhances my entrepreneurial choice making	31 (25.8%)	44 (36.7%)	11 (9.2%)	34 (28.3%)	120
2	I am willing to set long term goals in area of entrepreneurship	43 (35.8%)	20 (16.7%)	16 (13.3%)	41 (34.2%)	120
3	I have motivation to be an entrepreneur after leaving secondary school	26 (21.7%)	29 (24.2%)	24 (20.0%)	41 (34.2%)	120
4	I am ready to build relevant skills that is suited for entrepreneurial success	28 (23.3%)	55 (55.8%)	18 (15.0%)	19 (15.8%)	120
5	I am interested in starting and building a career in entrepreneurship	60 (50.0%)	51 (42.5%)	4 (3.3%)	5 (4.2%)	120
	<b>Total (Oij)</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>600</b>

Source: Fieldwork, 2022

Chi-square formula for goodness of fit and to test the hypothesis is shown below:

$$\text{Chi Square value } (X^2) = \frac{(O_{ij}-E_{ij})^2}{E_{ij}}$$

Where Oij = Observed Value

Eij = Expected Values

$$\text{Expected value for (SA)} = \frac{188 \times 120}{600} = 37.6$$

$$\text{Expected value for (A)} = \frac{199 \times 120}{600} = 39.8$$

$$\text{Expected value for (D)} = \frac{73 \times 120}{600} = 14.6$$

$$\text{Expected value for (SD)} = \frac{140 \times 120}{600} = 28$$

Level of significance of this study was 0.05 (5%). Degree of freedom (df) is 12 calculated using the formula: (r-1)(c-1), where "r" and "c" means row and column in the contingency table. Hence, Df = (5-1)(4-1) = 4x3 = 12

Tabular value ( $\chi^2$ ) = 21.026

Test Statistics = The Chi Square value ( $\chi^2$ )

**Table 2b: Chi – Square value calculated table**

Items	SA	A	D	SD	DF	SL	r-cal	r-tab	Decision
1	31(37.6)	44(39.8)	11(14.6)	34(28)	12	0.05	94.2	21.02	rejected
2	43(37.6)	20(39.8)	16(14.6)	41(28)					
3	26(37.6)	29(39.8)	24(14.6)	41(28)					
4	28(37.6)	55(39.8)	18(14.6)	19(28)					
5	60(37.6)	51(39.8)	4(14.6)	5(28)					

Key: SL = Significant Level

$$\text{Chi Square value } (X^2) = \frac{(O_{ij}-E_{ij})^2}{E_{ij}} = 94.197$$

$$X^2 \text{ cal} = 94.2 \text{ and } X^2 \text{ tab} = 21.026$$

Since the calculated chi-square ( $X^2 \text{ cal}$ ) value (94.2) is greater than the table chi-square ( $X^2 \text{ tab}$ ) value (21.026) at 0.05 level of significance; Hence, the null hypothesis is rejected. This shows that there is a significant relationship between career aspiration and entrepreneurial choice making in secondary school.

**Research Question Two:** Is there any relationship between parental involvement and their entrepreneurial intention in secondary schools in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State?

**H02:** There will be no significant relationship between parental involvement and their entrepreneurial intention in secondary schools in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State

**Table 3a: Relationship between parental involvement and their entrepreneurial intention (n =120)**

S/N	Items	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
1	My parents involvement in my life and affairs inspired me to choose entrepreneurial	81 (67.5%)	36 (30.0%)	2 (1.7%)	1 (0.8%)	120
2	My parents guidance and counsel aspired my entrepreneurial intention	78 (65.0%)	40 (33.3%)	2 (1.7%)	-	120
3	My parents always try to imbibe in me entrepreneurial skills which spurs my intent towards entrepreneurship	2 (1.7%)	4 (3.3%)	78 (65.0%)	36 (30.0%)	120
4	My parents constant encouragement and support of entrepreneurship inspires me to choose and have a career in entrepreneurship	22 (18.3%)	27 (22.5%)	46 (38.3%)	25 (20.8%)	120
5	My parents always border me on the need and relevance of entrepreneurship which influences my intention to go into it	41 (34.2%)	27 (22.5%)	22 (18.3%)	30 (25.0%)	120
	<b>Total</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>600</b>

Source: Fieldwork, 2022

Chi-square formula for goodness of fit and to test the hypothesis is shown below:

$$\text{Chi Square value } (X^2) = \frac{(O_{ij}-E_{ij})^2}{E_{ij}}$$

Where  $O_{ij}$  = Observed Value

$E_{ij}$  = Expected Values

Expected value were calculated as follows

$$\text{Expected value for (SA)} = \frac{224 \times 120}{600} = 44.8$$

$$\text{Expected value for (A)} = \frac{134 \times 120}{600} = 26.8$$

$$\text{Expected value for (D)} = \frac{150 \times 120}{600} = 30$$

$$\text{Expected value for (SD)} = \frac{92 \times 120}{600} = 18.4$$

Level of significance of this study was 0.05 (5%). Degree of freedom (df) is 12 calculated using the formula: (r-1)(c-1), where “r” and “c” means row and column in the contingency table. Hence,  $Df = (5-1)(4-1) = 4 \times 3 = 12$

Tabular value ( $\chi^2$ ) = 21.026

Test Statistics = The Chi Square value ( $\chi^2$ )

**Table 3b: Chi – Square value calculated table**

Items	SA	A	D	SD	DF	SL	r-cal	r-tab	Decision
1	81(44.8)	36(26.8)	2(30)	1(18.4)	12	0.05	318.5	21.02	rejected
2	78(44.8)	40(26.8)	2(30)	-					
3	2(44.8)	4(26.8)	78(30)	36(18.4)					
4	22(44.8)	27(26.8)	46(30)	25(18.4)					
5	41(44.8)	27(26.8)	22(30)	30(18.4)					

Key: SL = Significant Level

$$\text{Chi Square value } (X^2) = \frac{(O_{ij}-E_{ij})^2}{E_{ij}} = 318.541$$

$$X^2 \text{ cal} = 318.541 \text{ and } X^2 \text{ tab} = 21.026$$

Since the calculated chi-square ( $X^2 \text{ cal}$ ) value (318.541) is greater than the table chi-square ( $X^2 \text{ tab}$ ) value (21.026) at 0.05 level of significance; Hence, the null hypothesis is rejected. This shows that there is a significant relationship between parental involvement and entrepreneurial choice making in secondary school.

## V. Discussion Of Findings

This research work was carried out to examine the influence of career aspirations and parental involvement on entrepreneurial intention among secondary school students in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State. The findings from research question one and hypothesis one revealed that there is a significant relationship between students' career aspirations and their entrepreneurial intention in secondary schools in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State. This result is supported by that of Yahya et al. (2023) who found a strong relationship between career aspiration and academic achievement of learners with hearing impairment in English language in North Eastern, Nigeria. The result also aligns with that of Udoukpong et al.

(2012) who also showed that students' career aspirations significantly influence academic achievement in entrepreneurial curriculum in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria.

The findings from research question two and hypothesis two revealed that there is a significant relationship between parental involvement and their entrepreneurial intention in secondary schools in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State. This result agrees with that of Adeoye and Olubiya (2024) who showed that parental attitude influence final year students' entrepreneurial intentions in selected private universities in Southwest, Nigeria. This result also corroborates that of Balogun et al. (2017) who showed that parental entrepreneurial experience significantly influence students' entrepreneurial intentions in university of Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria. The similarities in the results could be because they were all carried out in Nigeria and on students. However, this result disagrees with that of Fayomi (2020) who showed no significant impact of parental entrepreneurial success on entrepreneurship intentions of undergraduate students in Oyo State, Nigeria. The differences in the results could be because they were all carried out in two different states in Nigeria. The former was conducted in Oyo State whereas the latter was carried out in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State.

## VI. Conclusion

It can be concluded that students' career aspirations and parental involvement significantly influence their entrepreneurial intentions in secondary schools in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State.

## VII. Recommendations

1. Teachers during teaching and learning activities should emphasize the need and importance of entrepreneurship in the society with the sole aim of making students to aspire for a career in entrepreneurship.
2. Parents should guide, counsel, support and be more involved in their children's lives in such a way that they are able to make them aspire for a career in the field of entrepreneurship.

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