

# Relationship between Achievement Motivation, Study Habit and Educational Career of Secondary School Students in Rivers State, Nigeria

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## Abstract

The study investigated the relationship between achievement motivation, study habit and educational career of secondary school students in Rivers State, Nigeria. Four research questions and four corresponding null hypotheses guided the study. Correlational research design was adopted for the study. The population for the study consists of 18,240 SSII students in all senior public secondary schools in Rivers State. A sample of 1,200 SSII students was drawn through multistage sampling procedure using cluster and simple random sampling techniques. Three instruments titled "Achievement Motivation Scale" (AMS), "Study Habit Scale" (SHS) and Educational Career Scale" (ECS) were used for data collection. Face and Content validities of the instruments were ensured. The Cronbach Alpha reliability coefficients of (AMS), (SHS) and (ECS) were computed to be 0.79, 0.81 and 0.77 respectively. The data collected were analyzed using Pearson Product Moment Correlation for the research questions while probability values were used to test their corresponding hypotheses at 0.05 alpha level of significance. It was found that there is significant positive high relationship between achievement motivation, concentration during study, time management, organization of study task and educational career of secondary school students in Rivers State independently taken. It was recommended among others that; parents and guardians should always provide enough study materials such as textbooks and computers, that will enhance the study habit of their children/wards positively.

**Keywords:** Achievement motivation, study habit, career and educational career.

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## INTRODUCTION

In the quest for survival and positive contribution to human existence, individuals are involved in one form of career or the other. Career is the experience an individual passes through in life especially, in a particular area of human endeavour. Awujo and Ekechukwu [1] defined career as the totality of meaningful experiences of an individual which include vocational and non-vocational activities. The totality of one's activities in a particular area of life, exposes the individual in the acquisition of knowledge, skill and attitude in such area. Career is a long-life activity extending beyond work activity [2, 3]. Career cuts across all areas of human endeavour such as educational, artisans and para-military areas etc.

However, educational career according to Nwagwu [4] is an enterprise which is aimed at providing the necessary opportunities for the inculcation of right values, literacy, attitude, and skills in an individual for his moral, social and physical

development in a positive direction. Educational career is the sequence of all the useful educational experiences a learner passes through in the course of the acquisition of permanent knowledge, attitude and skill for positive development. Ahmed [5] saw educational careers as the series of educational experiences given to the child from cradle to old age that could enable him or her make useful further career decision in life. It is not a one spot affair but life-long process. Thus, educational careers start from the home where the socialization of the child begins and continues to the formal school environment. Obeni [6] explained that adequate educational career of a child cannot be achieved without proper educational career planning of an individual. He further stated that proper career planning of a child helps in his positive educational career development. Teachers, parents, guidance counsellors and other significant individuals can help in career planning of a child for proper educational career achievement. Meanwhile, there are variables that could influence the educational career of individual either

positively or negatively and such as noticed by the researchers include achievement motivation and study habit of the learner.

Achievement motivation according to Nwankwo [7] is a personality trait present in varying degrees in individuals. It is the drive in an individual to consistently achieve a goal. Obiaju [8] explained that, achievement motivation is the uncommon and unequal trait in individuals which propels them in pursuing and achieving goals in different dimensions. It is the zeal within an individual to accomplish a task successfully at any given time. The level of achievement motivation in individuals could vary such as high, moderate or low. Undoubtedly, individual's ability or effort to learn or pursue educational career will be influenced by his or her level of achievement motivation.

Cyril [9] investigated correlates of achievement motivation among students in Imo State, using a sample of 462 students. It was found that there is significant relationship between personality traits and achievement motivation of secondary school students. Learners who have high level of achievement motivation aspire high and perform better in their educational endeavours than those with low achievement motivation [10].

Study habit according to Mkpa in Ogozi [11] is a purposeful and conscious effort of an individual directs towards acquisition of knowledge in any area of human endeavour. This implies that, all individuals are involved in one form of study or the other as they attain to gain knowledge in their interactions with other individuals and objects in their environment. Study habit is a skill and techniques put together to acquire more knowledge. Study is an organized pattern and style of learning activities such as concentration during study, time management and organization of study task etc. Some learners always find it difficult to focus on their study such as reading, doing assignment and consulting relevant materials and individuals for effective studying. Hassanbeigi in Ogozi [11] in his study on the relationship between concentration during study and academic performance, found out that, there is significant relationship between concentration during study and academic performance of students. Concentration during study entails adequate attention to one's study materials including time and conducive environment. Okereke [12] explained that lack of organization of study task and management of time during study contributes to educational growth of a learner. He further explained that, organization of study task is the appropriate utilization of all the study materials for actualizing positive academic outcome while, time management is the appropriate planning and adherence to study time including preparation of study time table.

In a study by Omouli in Sabastine [13] on correlates of academic achievement of students, it was found that there is significant relationship between time management and academic achievement of students. Study habit is a critical factor that helps learners in their study if well-developed. For a learner to have positive educational career then, good study habit and achievement motivation should be part of the learner's goal. Educational career remains a major factor in the preparation of an individual for subsequent better career in life. The researchers have noticed that while some secondary school students are channeling and pursuing their educational career positively by constantly planning and evaluating their educational activities with their parents, teachers and guidance counsellors, others are not engaging in proper educational career planning. This lack of proper educational career planning has led some of the affected secondary school students in Nigeria especially, those in Rivers State into poor academic achievement, school dropout and consequently involvement in gangsterism, stealing, molestation and disobedient to constituted authorities. Consequently, the inability of most students to have high achievement motivation and good study habit could be contributing negatively to their educational career. It is against this background that, they investigated achievement motivation, study habit and educational career of secondary school students in Rivers State, Nigeria.

The aim of this study is to investigate the relationship between achievement motivation, study habit and educational career of secondary school students in Rivers State, Nigeria. The objectives are to:

- Determine the relationship between achievement motivation and educational career of secondary school students in Rivers State.
- Find out the relationship between concentration during study and educational career of secondary school students in Rivers State.
- Ascertain the relationship between time management and educational career of secondary school students in Rivers State.
- Determine the relationship between organization of study task and educational career of secondary school students in Rivers State.

The following research questions were used to guide the study.

- What is the relationship between achievement motivation and educational career of secondary school students in Rivers State?
- What is the relationship between concentration during study and educational career of secondary school students in Rivers State?
- What is the relationship between time management and educational career of secondary school students in Rivers State?
- What is the relationship between organization of study task and educational career of

The following null hypotheses which were tested at 0.05 Alpha level of significance, were used to guide the study.

- There is no significant relationship between achievement motivation and educational career of secondary school students in Rivers State.
- There is no significant relationship between concentration during study and educational career of secondary school students in Rivers State.
- There is no significant relationship between time management and educational career of secondary school students in Rivers State.
- There is no significant relationship between organization of study task and educational career of secondary school students in Rivers State.

## METHODS AND MATERIALS

The study adopted correlational research design. The population of the study consists of all the 18,240 SSII students in senior public secondary schools in Rivers State. A sample of 1,200 SS II students were drawn through multistage sampling approach using cluster sampling and simple random sampling techniques. Three instruments titled "Achievement Motivation Scale" (AMS), "Study Habit Scale" (SHS) and "Educational Career Scale" (ECS) were used for data collection. The instruments were validated by three experts in Measurement and Evaluation based on face

and content validities. The reliability of the instruments were established using Cronbach Alpha reliability method and the reliability coefficients of the AMS was 0.79, SHS 0.81 and ECS was 0.77 respectively. The researchers personally administered the copies of the instruments AMS, SHS and ECS to the sampled students with the help of three research assistants (teachers) in each school who were properly guided about the administration of the instruments. The completed copies of the instruments were collected immediately after its administration. Data collected were analyzed using Pearson Product Moment Correlation for the research questions, for the test of their corresponding hypotheses, the significant probability value was subjected to critical probability value of 0.05 alpha level of significance.

## RESULTS

The results of this study are presented as shown below:

- **Research Question 1:** What is the relationship between achievement motivation and educational career of secondary school students in Rivers State?
- **Hypothesis 1:** There is no significant relationship between achievement motivation and educational career of secondary school students in Rivers State.

**Table-1: Pearson Product Moment Correlation Computation on the Relationship between achievement motivation and educational career of secondary school students in Rivers State**

Category	N	r	z-ratio	z-crit	P-value	Alpha level	Remarks
Achievement motivation	1200	0.79	26.33	1.96	0.000	0.05	Significant
Educational career							

Table-1 revealed that the r-value is 0.79 which depicts a positive high relationship between achievement motivation and educational career of secondary school students in Rivers State, Nigeria. In order to test the null hypothesis, the significant probability value of 0.000 was subjected to the critical probability value of 0.05. The null hypothesis is rejected. This implies that, there is a significant relationship between achievement motivation and

educational career of secondary school students in Rivers State.

- **Research Question 2:** What is the relationship between concentration during study and educational career of secondary school students in Rivers State?
- **Hypothesis 2:** There is no significant relationship between concentration during study and educational career of secondary school students in Rivers State.

**Table-2: Pearson Product Moment Correlation Computation on the Relationship between concentration during study and educational career of secondary school students in Rivers State**

Category	N	r	z-ratio	z-crit	P-value	Alpha level	Remarks
concentration during study	1200	0.89	29.67	1.96	0.001	0.05	Significant
Educational career							

Table-2 indicates that the r-value is 0.89 which depicts a positive high relationship between concentration during study and educational career of secondary school students in Rivers State, Nigeria. In order to test the null hypothesis, the significant probability value of 0.001 was subjected to the critical

probability value of 0.05. The null hypothesis is rejected. This implies that, there is significant relationship between concentration during study and educational career of secondary school students in Rivers State.

- **Research Question 3:** What is the relationship between time management and educational career of secondary school students in Rivers State?
- **Hypothesis 3:** There is no significant relationship between time management and educational career of secondary school students in Rivers State.

**Table-3: Pearson Product Moment Correlation Computation on the Relationship between time management and educational career of secondary school students in Rivers State**

Category	N	r	z-ratio	z-crit	P-value	Alpha level	Remarks
Time management	1200	0.83	27.67	1.96	0.003	0.05	Significant
Educational career							

Table-3 indicates that the r-value is 0.83 which depicts a positive high relationship between time management and educational career of secondary school students in Rivers State, Nigeria. In order to test the null hypothesis, the significant probability value of 0.003 was subjected to the critical probability value of 0.05. The null hypothesis is rejected. This implies that, there is a significant relationship between time

management and educational career of secondary school students in Rivers State.

- **Research Question 4:** What is the relationship between organization of study task and educational career of secondary school students in Rivers State?
- **Hypothesis 4:** There is no significant relationship between organization of study task and educational career of secondary school student in Rivers State.

**Table-4: Pearson Product Moment Correlation Computation on the Relationship between organization of study task and educational career of secondary school students in Rivers State**

Category	N	r	z-ratio	z-crit	P-value	Alpha level	Remarks
Organization of study task	1200	0.76	25.33	1.96	0.000	0.05	Significant
Educational career							

Table-4 indicates that the r-value is 0.76 which depicts a positive high relationship between organization of study task and educational career of secondary school students in Rivers State, Nigeria. In order to test the null hypothesis, the significant probability value of 0.000 was subjected to the critical probability value of 0.05. The null hypothesis is rejected. This implies that, there is significant relationship between organization of study task and educational career of secondary school students in Rivers State, Nigeria.

have good concentration and well-focused in their study always have positive acceleration in their educational career. This finding is in agreement with that of Hassanbeigi in Ogozi [11] who found that there is significant relationship between concentration during study and academic performance of students.

There is significant relationship between time management and educational career of secondary school students in Rivers State. This implies that, as the scores of time management was increasing, the scores of educational career was also increasing. This result also means that, proper management of time is a panacea for positive educational development of learners. This finding is in line with that of Omouli [13] who found that there is a significant relationship between time management and academic achievement of secondary school students.

There is significant relationship between organization of study task and educational career of secondary school students in Rivers State. This means that, as the scores of organization of study task was increasing, there is a corresponding increase in the scores of educational career. This result also implies that, learners who organize their task adequately, have a better chance of educational career development. This finding is in agreement with that, Obiaju [8] who found a significant relationship between study habit and academic achievement of secondary school students.

## DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The discussion of findings were based on the summary of findings of the study. There is significant positive high relationship between achievement motivation and educational career of secondary school students in Rivers State, Nigeria. This means that, as the scores of achievement motivation was increasing the scores of educational career was also increasing. This result also implies that, learners with high achievement motivation always aspire higher in their education pursuit. This finding is supported by the finding of Cyril [9] who also found that, there is significant relationship between personality traits of academic achievement of students.

There is significant relationship between concentration during study and educational career of secondary school students in Rivers State. This means that, as the scores of concentration during study were increasing the scores of educational career was also increasing. The result also implies that, learners who

## CONCLUSION

The following conclusions were made based on the findings of this study. It was concluded that achievement motivation, concentration during study, time management and organization of study task play significant roles in the educational career of students.

## Recommendations

The following recommendations were made based on the findings of the study.

- Learners should always develop the zeal to be on the track in their learning process in and outside the school settings. As this will help to enhance their educational career positively.
- Parents and guardians should always provide enough study materials such as textbooks and computers, that will enhance the study habit of their children/wards positively.
- Guidance counsellors should always organize seminars for students in school with the aim of providing them with necessary information on how best they could achieve meaningful study.
- Teachers should always make teaching and learning activities very interesting. As this will help learners to develop positive mind sets and good study habits towards their studies.

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