

Machine Fabrication Student's Self-Esteem and Interest in Career Choice as Correlates of their Entrepreneurial Intention in Nigerian Universities

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Abstract

The study seeks to establish the relationship between self-esteem and interest in career choice of machine fabrication students in Nigerian Universities and their entrepreneurial intention. Two hypotheses formulated were tested at 0.05 level of significance using two research questions. The study adopted a correlational research design. The population was 132 students that offer machine fabrication in eleven universities from South-South geopolitical zone of Nigeria. There was no sampling because of the manageable size. A questionnaire was administered to the students. The internal consistency of the questionnaire was determined using the Cronbach Alpha Reliability method. Self-esteem had a reliability coefficient of 0.84, interest had a reliability of 0.74 and entrepreneurial intention had a reliability of 0.89 and an overall reliability of instrument was 0.92. 130 copies were retrieved out of 132 copies administered. Pearson Product Moment Correlation method was used to analyze the data for answering research questions. Linear and Multiple Regression were used to test the hypotheses at 0.05 levels of significance. The findings showed that a negative and weak relationship exists between self-esteem, interest and entrepreneurial intention of students. There was no significant relationship between self-esteem, interest and entrepreneurial intention. The Lecturers and school authorities should improve the entrepreneurial intention of machine fabrication students in Nigerian Universities by organizing seminars and workshops was the key recommendation.

Keywords: Machine fabrication Students Career Choice, Self-esteem, Interest, Entrepreneurial Intention.

1.0. Introduction

Choice of career is of extreme importance to a person's own development but also for his/her social and economic development. Young people are faced with the choice of what they will study at the university or the dilemma of having to choose a career or what they will study at university after completing the compulsory education stage, while others are rather decisive regarding their specific career path. [1] [2] When individuals gather information, adapt to various environmental resources they make choices that reflect their self-concept in coordination with ideas and realities of the world of work.

Career choice on transition from post primary institution to post-secondary institution is fundamentally critical and paramount to a pupil's educational life. [3] Students of machine fabrication find career choice as a complex choice since it determines the kind of profession that they intend to pursue in life". Choice of career does not only affect the choice maker it also affects the family, community and general societal identity. One of the most important decision to make in Life is the choice of a vocation. It determines to a large extent a person's social status, income, life style, class of friends, mental and physical state and it is also influenced by the type of work the person intended to do [4]. In other words, machine fabrication student's career choice play important roles in their entire life. [5].

The specific aspect of self-such as how people feel about their social standing, racial or ethnic group, physical features, athletic skills, job or school performance defines self-esteem. [6] Self-evaluation and descriptive conceptualization that individuals make or maintain with regard to themselves connotes self-esteem. [7] An individual's perception of his or her own worth or value is embodied in self-esteem definition. Self-esteem can therefore be seen as self-evaluation and self-perception which can affect machine fabrication students' mental and physical status hence it is capable of influencing their choices.

[6] The descriptive conceptualization and personal-evaluation that people do or maintain with regard to themselves is also understood as self-esteem. The universal standard of self-evaluation involving cognitive appraisals about general self-worth and effective experiences of the self that are connected to global appraisals connotes self-esteem.

Self-esteem and career choice are related. Self-esteem is related to career decision-making [8]. Research has indicated a relationship between students' global self-esteem and career indecision, a personality and career decision-making as well as the influence of social psychology on career choice [9]. The fact that one's

understanding of one's work and how it fits into one's career may be affected by one's own career behaviour, (e.g. career self-management) [10]. One would expect vocational choice and career behavior to have effects on vocational self-concept.

The first index towards an individual's participation in any activity is the personal interest developed by the individual. [11] The extent to which individuals prefer some career choices or activities to others indicates vocational interest. [12] Theory of occupational choice explains that people choose jobs based on the confluence between their environment in which and personality type in which they work. According to this theory congruent interactions reinforce individual's behavior because their dispositions allow them to deal more effectively with the stress and problems of a congruent environment versus incongruent environment [13].

Selection of career may not always be easy. It remains an important decision due to the far reaching affects it has on the choice maker. [14] The present circumstances of massive access to higher education and a competitive labour market emphasizes strongly on the need to make a deliberate effort towards a right choice of career that is consistent with and fits in with one's tasks, interests and aptitudes. [15] Once in a lifetime most people make career choice and this decision has the potential to influence one's life outcome, furthermore, many factors are found to influence career choice such as competitiveness, acculturation family background, level of confidence and interest in the given field.

Entrepreneurial intention is an intrinsic inspiration to create jobs. [16] Entrepreneurial intention is the identification of the conviction to create a business and conscious planning for its realization in a future time. [17] Entrepreneurial intention is defined as a self-acknowledged conviction by a person that he or she intends to set up a new business venture and consciously plan to do so at some point in the future. Entrepreneurial intention therefore is a self-acknowledged conviction to create a business by consciously planning for its realization in a future time. In machine fabrication it means consciously planning for future business in any machine fabrication trade such as welding, fabrication, machining even as a student [18]. Having this intention as a student may automatically crystalize into becoming an entrepreneur in machine fabrication after graduation. [19] An entrepreneur is an individual who creates a new business, bearing most of the risks and enjoying most of the rewards. The entrepreneur is commonly seen as an innovator, a source of new ideas, goods, services, and business/or procedures.

The desire to be self-employed culminates into entrepreneurship intention. Machine fabrication is a trade that equip individuals with skills that enable individuals to be self- employed. Self- employment intention is an innate psychological trait borne out of the desire to create jobs. Such traits include self- esteem and interest. Machine fabrication students may have chosen the profession as a result of the desire become entrepreneurs in it. Though they are studying machine fabrication, it is not clear whether they have any intention to become entrepreneurs. Some students may find themselves in that programme due to the influence of psychological and sociological variables (such as very high self-esteem and peer influence etc) that have played out in their life before even seeking for admission. Some may be as a last resort in the desperation to gain admission into the programme through supplementary admission process. It is not yet clear whether machine fabrication students' willingness to engage in metalwork profession, make high academic achievement and become entrepreneurs in it when they graduate is motivated by their self-esteem and interest'

The study is based on theory of planned behaviour which claimed that interests and choice is a result of decision making process, which depend on motivation as reflected in the intention to choose or not engage in a behaviour. It explained that in this process, attitudes, subjective norms and perceived behavioural controls are considered motivational factors. These factors, when combined together, influence ones choices and behaviours.

The study will enable machine fabrication lecturers to understand the influence of self-esteem and personal interest on career choice of students. It will enable lecturers to encourage machine fabrication students to develop entrepreneurial intentions on the various machine fabrication trades. Furthermore, it will sensitize Ministries of Education and Science and Technology to work out modalities of promoting machine fabrication students' interest, entrepreneurial intentions and zeal to engage in machine fabrication activities. Increase interest in these activities will result in high demand for machine fabrication labour, manpower and materials. The findings, of the study will encourage government to finance studies in the profession and make educational policies that will enable machine fabrication students to develop strong entrepreneurial intentions.

1.1. Research Questions

The following research questions were posed to guide the study

1. What is the relationship between self-esteem of machine fabrication students' and their entrepreneurial intention in Nigerian Universities?
2. What is the relationship between interest of machine fabrication students and their entrepreneurial intention in Nigerian Universities?

1.2. Hypotheses

The following hypotheses were tested in the study at 0.05 level of significance:

- HO₁:** There is no significant relationship between self-esteem and entrepreneurial intention among machine fabrication students’.
- HO₂:** There is no significant relationship between interest and entrepreneurial intention among machine fabrication students’.

2.0 Research Methodology

This section presents the methodology employed in conducting the study. It covers:

- *Design of the Study
- *Area of the Study
- *Population of the Study
- *Sample Sampling Technique
- *Instrument for data Collection
- *Validation of Instrument
- *Reliability of Instrument
- *Method of Data collection
- *Method of Data Analysis

Design of the Study

The study adopted a correlation research design. Correlation survey research design establishes the relation that exists between two or more variables. It also shows the direction and magnitude of the relationship among variables [24]. This design was appropriate for the study because the study looked into the correlation between self-esteem and interest of machine fabrication student’s career choice and their entrepreneurial intention.

2.1. Area of the Study

The area of study was south-south geopolitical zone. This zone is made up Edo, Delta, Rivers, Bayelsa, Akwa Ibom and Cross River States. This zone was selected because public universities in this zone have Technical Departments that have machine fabrication as an area of specialization.

2.2. Population for the study

The population of the study is made up of 132 machine fabrication students of technical departments of Federal and State universities in south-south geopolitical zone of Nigeria. The population consisted of machine fabrication students in 300 and 400 levels. The population was selected from these levels because students in technical departments of universities choose areas of specialization at these levels. The universities are: Akwa Ibom State University (ABSU), Akwa Ibom State; University of Uyo (UNIUYO), Akwa Ibom State; Federal University Utuoke (FUO), Bayelsa State; Niger Delta University (NDU), Bayelsa State; Cross River State University of Technology (CRUTECH), Cross River State; University of Calabar (UNICAL), Cross River State; Delta State University (DELSU), Delta State; Ambrose Alli University (AAU), Ekpoma, Edo State; University of Benin (UNIBEN), Benin City, Edo State; Ignatius Ajuru University of Education, (IAUE), Rumuolumeni, Rivers State and Rivers State University (RSU), Rivers State; University of Port Harcourt (UNIPORT), Rivers State. The table below shows the population distribution of machine fabrication students across public universities in south-south geopolitical zone of Nigeria.

2.3. Sample and Sampling Technique

No sampling was required as the entire population of machine fabrication students was used in all the public Universities that have technical departments in the six States.

2.4. Instrument for Data Collection

The instrument used for data collection for this study was a questionnaire titled questionnaire on in Nigerian Universities. Section A of the instrument contains information on personal data such as sex, levels, area of specialization, school and state. Section B elicit data on self-esteem, section C elicits data on interest and section D elicits data on entrepreneurial intention of machine fabrication students. The instrument which was designed along a four-point scale is made up of 20 questionnaire items. Six items measuring self-esteem were adapted from Rosenberg, (1979) self-esteem scale. Seven items measuring interest were adapted from Strong, (1935) interest scale. Six entrepreneurial intention items were adapted from a scale drawn by Ferreira, Raposo, Rodrigues, Dinis, Paço (2012). The weights of the responses option to each item are strongly Agree (SA) = 4, Agree (A) = 3 Disagree (D) = 2 and strongly Disagree (SD) = 1. The respondents will be requested to indicate the level of agreement for each item by ticking (✓).

2.5. Validation of Instrument

Three experts from the department of Industrial Technical Education, Faculty of Vocational and Technical education, University of Nigeria, Nsukka validated the instrument. The study carried out by the experts assessed the relevance and clarity of the items based on the purposes of study, research questions and research hypotheses given to them. Based on the comments and contributions of the experts, some of the items on the questionnaire were restructured to produce the final draft of 20 items.

2.6. Reliability of the instrument

The reliability of the instrument was established by Cronbach Alpha reliability method. Some copies of the instrument were distributed to 20 students of the department of industrial technical education in the University of Nigeria Nsukka to test the reliability of the instrument. The computed reliability gives an overall reliability coefficient of 0.89 was obtained at 0.05 level of significance.

2.7. Method of Data Collection

With the help of a research assistant, 132 copies of the instrument for data collection were administered to the respondents in Delta, Edo, Bayelsa, Rivers, Cross Rivers and Akwa Ibom States public Universities. A total of 130 copies were retrieved back out of 132 copies of the questionnaire administered, which represented 98.48 percent return rate.

2.8. Method of data Analysis

SPSS package was used to analyze the data collected. The Pearson- product moment correlation method was the statistical tool used for the data analysis. Where the relationship between self-esteem, interest and entrepreneurship intention of ± 0 to ± 0.20 is interpreted as very weak relationship, ± 0.2 to ± 0.40 is regarded as weak relationship, ± 0.40 to ± 0.60 is regarded as moderate relationship and ± 0.60 to ± 1.00 it is regarded as very strong relationship. The relationships could be positive and strong, positive and weak or negative and weak.

To test for the null hypothesis, linear regression was conducted. Apply decision rule, where r calculated is less than r -critical at a degree of freedom of $N-2$ and 0.05 level of significance it shall be interpreted as no significant relationship between their entrepreneurial intention, self-esteem and interest of career choice of metal work students. Where r calculated is greater than r critical it is interpreted as a significant relation between the dependent and independent variable.

3.0 Results and Discussion

Research Question 1

What is the correlation between self-esteem of machine fabrication students and their entrepreneurial intention in Nigerian Universities?

Data for answering research question one is presented in Tables 1.

Table 1: Correlation between Self-esteem, and Entrepreneurial Intention

Variables	SE	EI
Self-Esteem (SE)	1	
Entrepreneurial Intention (EI)	-.152	1

The result in Table 1 shows the relationship between self-esteem of machine fabrication students and entrepreneurial intention. A negative and weak relationship (-.152) was observed between the self-esteem and entrepreneurial intention of machine fabrication students in Nigerian Universities.

Research Question 2

What is the Correlation between interest of machine fabrication students' and their entrepreneurial intention in Nigerian Universities?

Data for answering research question two are presented in Table 3.

Table 2: Correlation between Interest and Entrepreneurial Intention

Variables	IT	EI
Interest (IT)	1	
Entrepreneurial Intention (EI)	-.059	1

The result in Table 2 shows the relationship between interest of machine fabrication students' and their entrepreneurial intention. The table revealed a negative and very weak relationship (-.059) between the interest and entrepreneurial intention of machine fabrication students in Nigerian Universities.

Hypotheses 1

There is no significant relationship between machine fabrication students' self-esteem and their entrepreneurial intention.

Data for testing hypothesis one is presented in Table 12

Table 3: Model Summary of Regression Analysis between Students' Self-esteem and their Entrepreneurial Intention

	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.	R	R ²
	B	Std. Error	Beta				
Entrepreneurial Intention	-.107	.084	-.152	-1.272	.208	.152	.023

Table 12 highlights the model summary of Regression analysis between students' self-esteem and their entrepreneurial intention. The value of R² for entrepreneurial intention is.023. This means that 2.3% of the entrepreneurial intention of machine fabrication students is explained by their self-esteem. The table also shows that the relationship between self-esteem and entrepreneurial intention is not statistically significant ($p > .208$). Therefore, it may be concluded that there is no significant relationship between machine fabrication students' self-esteem and their entrepreneurial intention.

Hypotheses 2

There is no significant relationship between machine fabrication students' interest and their entrepreneurial intention.

Data for testing hypothesis two are presented in Table 13

Table 4: Model Summary of Regression Analysis between Students' Interest and their Entrepreneurial Intention

	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.	R	R ²
	B	Std. Error	Beta				
Entrepreneurial Intention	-.112	.230	-.059	-.486	.628	.059	.003

Table 4, highlights the model summary of Regression analysis between students' interest and their entrepreneurial intention. The value of R² for entrepreneurial intention is .003. This means that 0.3% variation in the entrepreneurial intention of machine fabrication students is explained by their interest. The table also shows that the relationship between machine fabrication students' interest and their entrepreneurial intention is not statistically significant ($p > .628$). Therefore, it may be concluded that there is no significant relationship between machine fabrication students' interest and their entrepreneurial intention (Minev et al. 2018).

3.1. Findings of the study

The following findings emerged from the study based on research questions answered and hypotheses tested:

1. A negative and weak relationship was observed between the self-esteem and entrepreneurial intention of machine fabrication students in Nigerian Universities.
2. A negative and weak relationship exist between the interest and entrepreneurial intention of machine fabrication students in Nigerian Universities

3.2. Discussion

The choice to study machine fabrication in the university ordinarily connotes willingness and readiness to do all it takes to succeed in it. These include having interest in all activities in machine fabrication, being motivated to participate in it, being highly engaged in all that there is to metal work. Thereby achieving highly in it, developing self-esteem and self-efficacy as well as possible entrepreneurial intention in machine fabrication. Enrolment into the programme in a developing economy like Nigeria may assume different dimensions. These dimensions could be positive or negative and could also be encouraging or discouraging. The angle to which the enrolment tilts could depend on different variables affecting or relating to it. These factors in their variegated form could be psychological or sociological. Such variables could include self-esteem, interest, self-efficacy as psychological variables and parents, teachers, peers as sociological variables. The students who are admitted into the programme may be making progresses in academic and entrepreneurial dimensions as motivated by these variables. Though they are studying metalwork, it is not clear whether they have any intention to become entrepreneurs. Some machine fabrication students may find themselves in that programme due to the influence of psychological and sociological variables that have played out in their life before even seeking for admission, while some may be as a last resort in the desperation to gain admission into the programme through supplementary admission process. Machine fabrication students' willingness to engage in machine fabrication profession, and become entrepreneurs in it when they graduate could or could not be related to their self-esteem and interest. There is the need to establish the dimension of this relationship.

The study therefore revealed that career choice variables of machine fabrication students such as self-esteem and interest resulting to possible entrepreneurial intentions are related. The relationship which could be weak, strong, positive or has however been established in the study.

Relationship between Self Esteem of machine fabrication Students' and their Entrepreneurial Intention

The study found that relationships exist between self-esteem, and entrepreneurial Intention of machine fabrication Students. The findings of the study were in agreement with the opinion of [21]: that self-esteem is a psychological variable of individuals that affects physical and mental status as well as having interpersonal relationship during transition. [22] Also concord with the findings by saying that self-esteem is the overall assessment of the individual's worthiness, expressed in positive or negative orientation towards them and unchanging feature of an adult that is difficult to be influence by experimental designs. The finding of the study also agreed with the opinion of [23] that self-esteem as a psychological variable can affect and influence entrepreneurial intention. In co-union with this finding is the comment of [10]: that where people seek out strong job values positive identity construction can act advantageously as a cyclical effect which in turn boosts their self-esteem, and encourages them to seek out better occupational values". Self-esteem and career choice are related. Self-esteem is related to career decision-making [8]. There is a relationship between students' global self-esteem, career indecision, personality and career decision-making as well as the influence of social psychology on career choice, One's understanding of one's work and how it fits into one's career may be affected by one's own career behaviour, (e.g. career self-management) [9]. In a related comment [13] held that if the balance between positive and negative experiences is shifted, individuals with low self-esteem will begin to behave in the same way as do those with high self-esteem

It was found out that a relationship exists between interest of machine fabrication students and their entrepreneurial intention. This finding was in consonance of the opinion of [25] that vocational interest reflects the degree to which individuals prefer certain career choices or activities which may be common for various positions, and that interest of individuals could have relationship with level of motivation and how people engage in an activity. The findings agreed with the opinion of [26] that interest of individuals such as students can influence or have a relationship with their intentions to embark on entrepreneurial activities after graduation. [27] also agreed with the findings when they commented that personality types and interest in a subject is a factor that impacts lots on career choice of students. Therefore, personal interest of an individual towards a particular subject contributes to his career selection decision. [28] was also in line as they commented that "when a child begins to identify what he is interested in and what he likes to do, he is never sure of what he wants to do in future. He keeps changing his mind till he experiences transition during which he integrates his interest capacity and value system and comes up with a more realistic choice at the realistic period. [29] noted that "Carrier interests preferences that motivates the individual to do a particular activity that the individual considers and enjoys". Therefore multiple factors including but not limited to personality interest, self-concept, cultural identity,

globalization, socialization role model, social support and available resources such as information and finance could influence career choices [12]. The findings agreed with [5] that “interest is a significant factor to students’ vocational choice”.

4.0 Conclusion and Recommendations

The essence of machine fabrication programme in Nigerian Universities is for students to acquire relevant knowledge, skills and attitudes for self or paid employment after graduation. The researcher therefore conducted this study to generate data to justify to ascertain situation on ground. The study therefore concluded that relationship exists among self-esteem, interest and entrepreneurial intention of machine fabrication students in their career choice in Nigerian Universities.

Based on the findings made and the conclusion drawn, the following recommendations were made:

1. Lecturers and school authorities should find a way or strategies for improving entrepreneurial intention of machine fabrication students in Nigerian universities
2. School authorities or government should organize seminar or workshops for students of machine fabrication on how their entrepreneurial intention could be improved.
3. The findings of the study and major concepts of the study should be developed into a book or manuals by experienced lecturers and writers for educating students and lecturers of machine fabrication.

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