

The Role of Parental Involvement and Future Orientation in Junior High School Students' Career Choice

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Abstract: Nowadays, many adolescents face difficulties in determining the right career path. These challenges stem from various internal and external factors, leading to confusion, uncertainty, and hesitation among students when making decisions about further education or career aspirations. This study aims to examine the influence of parental involvement and future orientation on students' career decisions. The population of this research comprises all students of SMP Negeri 2 Godean, while the sample consists of eighth-grade students selected through purposive sampling. The study employs multiple linear regression analysis, yielding findings that indicate parental involvement has a significant effect on career choice ($t\text{-table } 0.023 < 0.05$), future orientation significantly influences career selection ($t\text{-table } 0.00 < 0.05$), and both variables simultaneously have a significant impact on career determination ($\text{sig. } 0.00 < 0.05$). These findings underscore the importance of parental roles and the development of a clear future orientation to prevent obstacles in the career decision-making process. Additionally, they highlight the responsibility of school counselors in facilitating parental involvement and fostering students' future orientation.

Keywords: Career Choice, Future Orientation, Parental Involvement

A. Introduction

Career choice is one of the most important parts of a person's life. A career is a choice for each individual, and individuals will be faced with various career choices to pursue for their future well-being (Zyberaj et al., 2022). Career selection can be made while still in school. This aligns with previous research that suggests individual career choices should be made even as early as elementary school, as career choice is a crucial issue that requires understanding (Putri et al., 2022). However, in the process of determining their career choices, parental involvement is essential to support individuals in achieving their goals. In their research, Chasanah & Salim, (2019) define parental involvement as a multidimensional activity consisting of three distinct forms of involvement: parental support for students, Parent-student communication and parental involvement in students' academics. Previous research has shown that parents are role models for their children from an early age,

especially when parents' success is at a time when children are deciding their own careers (Park et al., 2019). In the process of fulfilling developmental tasks, particularly those related to career and education, students appear to need parental support. Scholars such as Domina, Epstein, Henderson & Mapp, as well as parents and educators, have conceptualized parents who are involved in their children's lives as those who frequently attend school activities, help their children with homework, participate in their children's decision-making, and manage their children's schoolwork during their free time (Naz et al., 2014). Therefore, in this context, parental involvement is not solely focused on career-related decision-making, but also on educational activities and achievements to improve the quality of career choices. Furthermore, previous research in different countries provides evidence from the perspective that parental involvement influences children's cognitive and social development, which also influences the quality of education for individual careers (Driessen et al., 2007).

Furthermore, future achievements, which refer to career choices in the present, seem to require a further understanding of future orientation. Future orientation is a picture of a student's future. It also describes the goals and the process by which students achieve them. Future orientation in adolescence encompasses the developmental tasks faced, such as life's challenges, particularly employment, education, marriage, and social relationships. Winurini, (2021) states that how a person views the future is their future orientation. Perspective on future orientation encompasses motivation, planning, and evaluation, all of which influence a person's future career. Students must understand the conclusions or assumptions that will be drawn if they make mistakes for their future. Therefore, orientation is considered important as one of the planning steps for students in determining career choices.

Furthermore, based on the problems encountered in the field, and the answers given by students in grades VIII C and VIII D at SMP Negeri Godean during the Field Introduction Program conducted by researchers from late July to mid-September, approximately 25 of the 32 students in grade VIII C reported being unable to determine their career choices, as indicated by students' lack of understanding of career choices. The remaining students stated that their desires did not align with their parents' wishes. Furthermore, issues related to students' careers are closely related to the field of guidance and counseling. Guidance and counseling encompass four areas: (1) personal guidance and counseling; (2) group guidance and counseling; (3) learning guidance and counseling; and (4) career guidance and counseling (Febrini Deni, 2011). Career guidance is a tool, or more precisely, a systematic program, processes, techniques, or services designed to help individuals understand and act based on self-awareness and opportunities in work, education, and leisure, as well as develop decision-making skills so that they can create and manage their career development.

One of the services available in the field of career guidance and counseling is career

guidance. The ability to choose a career for students is one output of this form of career guidance service. According to Gysbers & Henderson, (2006) the purpose of career guidance or vocational guidance is to raise awareness and develop positive attitudes in all work activities among the younger generation. The goal of this plan is not to force students to determine their careers early in their experience but to ensure that they do not make career decisions that will hinder their future opportunities. Therefore, based on these problems, the researcher aims to conduct a study entitled "The Role of Parental Involvement and Future Orientation in Career Choice of Students at SMP Negeri 2 Godean," which can contribute to the development of effective career guidance and counseling strategies.

B. Methods

The research method used in this study was quantitative. The subjects were 89 students, calculated by Isaac and Michael, drawn using simple random sampling from a population of 127 students. Data collection methods used were a parental involvement scale, a future orientation scale, and a career choice scale, all tested using expert judgment. After the scales had passed the expert judgment stage, they were pilot tested and validated for reliability. The results of the study, with item statements found to be valid and reliable, were analyzed using multiple regression analysis using the computer-assisted program SPSS version 25.

C. Results and Discussion

Results

Descriptive Statistical Analysis

Based on the results of the descriptive statistical analysis, the Career Choice variable has a value range of 30 to 50, with an average of 40.88 and a standard deviation of 4.05568. Meanwhile, the Parental Involvement variable has a minimum value of 70 and a maximum of 114, with an average of 88.23 and a standard deviation of 8.84080. The Future Orientation variable has a minimum value of 34 and a maximum value of 60, with an average of 47.37 and a standard deviation of 5.64350. These values are presented in the following table:

Table 1. Descriptive Statistic

Descriptive Statistics					
	N	Min.	Max.	Mean	Std. Deviation
Parental Involvement	94	71.00	114.00	88.2340	8.84080
Future Orientation	94	34.00	60.00	47.3723	5.64350
Career Choice	94	30.00	50.00	40.8830	4.05568
Valid N (listwise)	94				

Normality Test

A normality test is conducted to determine whether the distribution of the independent and dependent variables is normal. Based on the results of the normality test analysis using the One-Sample Kolmogorov-Smirnov Test, the significance level reached 0.200, indicating that the value is greater than 0.05. Therefore, it can be concluded that the data is normally distributed. This conclusion indicates that the regression model meets the classical assumptions.

Heteroscedasticity Test

Based on the results of the heteroscedasticity analysis using the Glejser test, the significance value for the parental involvement variable is 0.817 and the future orientation variable is 1.00. All independent variables show significance values greater than 0.05. Therefore, it can be concluded that the regression model shows no signs of heteroscedasticity and meets the criteria for the classical assumption test.

Autocorrelation Test Analysis

The results of the autocorrelation test using the run test revealed a significance level of 0.678, which is greater than 0.05. Therefore, the regression model shows no signs of autocorrelation and meets the standard assumptions.

Multicollinearity Test Analysis

Based on the multicollinearity test results, it can be concluded that all independent variables have tolerance values above 0.100, namely parental involvement (0.478) and future orientation (0.478). The multicollinearity test also revealed that all independent variables in the regression model had Variance Inflation Factor (VIF) values less than 10, including parental involvement (2.053) and future orientation (2.053). From the overall results of this multicollinearity test, it can be concluded that all independent variables meet the criteria, namely tolerance values greater than 0.1

and VIFs less than 10, thus the regression model is free from multicollinearity issues.

Multiple Linear Regression Analysis

Below are the results of the multiple linear regression test:

Table 2. Multiple linear regression test

Model	Coefficients ^a		Standardized Coefficients Beta	t	Sig.
	Unstandardized Coefficients				
	B	Std. Error			
1 (Constant)	14.172	3.142		4.510	.000
Parental Involvement	.116	.050	.252	2.316	.023
Future Orientation	.348	.078	.485	4.447	.000

a. Dependent Variable: Career Choice

The explanation of this regression equation can be summarized: 1) Constant, based on the regression equation, the constant of 14.172 indicates that assuming the values of parental involvement (X1) and future orientation (X2) remain constant, then the value of career choice (Y) becomes 14.172; 2) Parental Involvement (X1): The coefficient value for the parental involvement variable is 0.116, indicating that if the parental involvement variable increases by one unit, career choice will decrease by 0.116. This assumes that the other independent variables remain constant; 3) Future Orientation (X2): The coefficient for the future orientation variable is 0.348, indicating that if the future orientation variable increases by one unit, career choice will increase by 0.348. This assumes that the other independent variables remain constant.

Simultaneous Test (F Test)

The results of the F test are shown in the table below:

Table 3. Results of the F test

		ANOVA ^a				
Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	724.486	2	362.243	40.938	.000 ^b
	Residual	805.227	91	8.849		
	Total	1529.713	93			

a. Dependent Variable: Career Choice
b. Predictors: (Constant), Future Orientation, Parental Involvement

The results of the simultaneous hypothesis testing (F-test) showed a significance

level of $0.00 < 0.05$. Therefore, it can be concluded that parental involvement and future orientation simultaneously play a role in career choice.

Coefficient of Determination

Based on the results of the coefficient of determination test, the Adjusted R Square value was 0.462. This indicates that 46.2% of the variation in the dependent variable, namely career choice, can be explained by the two independent variables used in this study: parental involvement and future orientation. Meanwhile, the remaining 53.8% is influenced by other factors not included in the model, such as environmental factors, personality, peer influence, and access to career information. Thus, it can be concluded that parental involvement and future orientation contribute significantly to influencing students' career choices, although they are not the sole determining factors.

Discussion

The Role of Parental Involvement in Junior High School Students' Career Choice

Thus, the first hypothesis (H1), which states that "Parental Involvement Plays a Role in Career Choice," is accepted. These findings indicate that parental involvement in various aspects of children's lives, whether emotional, informational, or instrumental, is a crucial factor in supporting students' career decision-making process in junior high school. This involvement includes forms of support such as motivation, attention to academic development, involvement in school activities, and the provision of facilities to support the exploration of children's potential and interests. When students feel supported by their parents, they tend to have higher levels of self-confidence, positive perceptions of the future, and greater preparedness to make further choices, whether in the context of major selection, social circle, or long-term career planning (Aria Sandika & Halik, 2022).

This aligns with developmental ecology theory, which explains the influence of interactions between individuals and their social environment, which consists of several systems. In the context of parental involvement in students' career choices, particularly during adolescence, parents play a crucial role within the microsystem, the immediate environment that exerts a direct influence. Parental involvement is one of the factors supporting students in making decisions about their future. Parents play a crucial role in this process, ensuring that students' ongoing career choices are not hindered. Parents, as part of the microsystem, provide emotional support, information, values, expectations, and access to resources, all of which play a crucial role in shaping students' future orientation and career decisions. These interactions do not occur in isolation but are interconnected with other systems such as the school (mesosystem), the media (ecosystem), and culture (macrosystem). Thus, parental involvement not only provides practical support but also shapes

children's expectations and beliefs about their future, including career path selection. These results align with the findings of Kornspan, 2014), which showed that parental roles and the family environment significantly influence students' career choices. A conducive, communicative, and supportive family environment contributes to the formation of career perceptions and encourages students to make more rational and planned decisions. Furthermore Nikander et al., (2022) also found a significant relationship between parental support and students' readiness and direction in career choice. This support not only serves as a form of validation of students' desires but also as a source of reference and social control that shapes students' preferences and attitudes toward the world of work. The research discussion section contains a discussion of the research results and comparisons with theories and/or similar research.

The Future Orientation in Junior High School Students' Career Choice

Based on the results, the second hypothesis (H2), which states that "Future Orientation plays a role in Career Choice," is accepted. This finding reinforces the assumption that the extent to which students possess a strong future orientation will contribute to their ability to plan, consider, and make career decisions in a more focused and realistic manner. Theoretically, these results align with the Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB) framework, which explains that individual behavior is driven by intentions formed from three main components: attitude toward the behavior (the individual's evaluation of the action to be taken), subjective norms (social influences from the surrounding environment such as parents, peers, and teachers), and perceived behavioral control (the individual's belief in their capacity to control and execute the behavior). Thus, future orientation can be viewed as a manifestation of a strong intention to achieve long-term goals, formed from the interaction of internal and external forces. Students with a clear vision of the future tend to demonstrate more mature career planning, readiness to face challenges, and confidence in evaluating and selecting career paths that align with their potential and aspirations.

The results of this study also align with the findings of Chonsalasin & Khampirat, (2022), which showed that future orientation has a significant influence on students' careers. Future orientation has been shown to not only influence how students view future possibilities but also shape higher and more specific career aspirations. Other research also confirms that future orientation contributes to students' career choices. Students with a high level of future orientation tend to make more effective career decisions that align with their future expectations (Juniarti et al., 2022). This suggests that developing future orientation from adolescence is a crucial aspect of optimal career guidance and decision-making.

The Role of Parental Involvement and Future Orientation in Junior High School Students' Career Choice

The results of the simultaneous test (F-test) indicate that Parental Involvement and Future Orientation simultaneously play a significant role in career choice among junior high school students. Therefore, the third hypothesis (H3), which states that "Parental Involvement and Future Orientation influence Career Choice," is accepted. This implies that simultaneous fluctuations in the level of parental involvement and students' future orientation will influence how students formulate and determine their career choices.

Based on Chasanah & Salim, (2019) Ecological Theory of Development, parents, as part of the microsystem, play a crucial role in shaping a social environment that supports children's development, including recognizing potential, interests, and values that form the basis for career choice. Parental involvement, demonstrated through communication, information provision, emotional support, and role modeling, creates a positive atmosphere that encourages children to have more focused career aspirations. Furthermore, future orientation becomes a psychological aspect that bridges these influences, as explained in the Theory of Planned Behavior by (Box & Dorn, 2023). Future orientation reflects an individual's intention to achieve long-term goals, which is formed from a positive attitude toward career, subjective norms derived from parental and environmental expectations, and confidence in one's own ability to realize these plans. Thus, parental involvement not only directly impacts career choice decisions but also indirectly through the formation of a strong future orientation. The combination of parental support and a clear future orientation result in greater readiness, confidence, and commitment in planning and selecting a career path that aligns with the child's interests and potential.

Conceptually, parental involvement encompasses various forms of support, including emotional, informational, and instrumental, which contribute to the formation of a psychological environment conducive to career exploration. Parents who are actively involved in their children's academic and social lives tend to provide positive encouragement, boost their children's self-confidence, and broaden their horizons regarding alternative career options. Furthermore, future orientation refers to the extent to which an individual has long-term views, plans, and expectations regarding their future, including careers. Students with a strong future orientation generally demonstrate a greater awareness of life goals, personal values, and the consequences of current decisions on their future.

Furthermore, the Social Cognitive Career Theory proposed by Zola et al., (2022) also explains how parental involvement and future orientation jointly influence career choices. In this theory, parental support plays a crucial role in shaping self-efficacy, which is an individual's belief in their own abilities, and outcome expectations,

which are a child's hopes for positive outcomes from achieving a particular career. Positive self-efficacy and outcome expectations form the basis for a more focused future orientation, in the form of realistic and planned career goals. This future orientation then drives motivation and concrete action in determining and pursuing career choices that align with one's interests and potential.

The simultaneous influence of these two variables can be understood as a complementary interaction. Parental involvement provides a stable social and emotional foundation, while future orientation provides a long-term framework that encourages students to make more mature and purposeful career decisions. Therefore, when both develop simultaneously, students have a greater opportunity to form career perceptions that are realistic, aligned with their interests, and supported by a conducive environment. These findings emphasize the importance of a holistic approach to adolescent career development, encompassing support from the family environment as well as the development of cognitive and affective aspects related to the future.

D. Conclusions

This study found that parental involvement and future orientation are significant positive predictors of career decision-making among junior high school students. The results are proven by the results of the simultaneous test (F-test) showing that parental involvement and future orientation simultaneously play a significant role in career choice among junior high school students. However, this study has limitations related to the small sample size so that the research results are not optimal. In addition, the research process is relatively short so that the sampling process is not in-depth. Future research is expected to be able to uncover more samples and be able to find ways to improve the career exploration abilities of junior high school students. This study is expected to be able to provide school insights to be able to provide guidance to students regarding problems in parent-student relationships and junior high school student career planning.

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