



GENDER DIFFERENCES IN THE VOCATIONAL ASPIRATIONS OF SECONDARY
SCHOOL STUDENTS IN PORT HARCOURT

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ABSTRACT

Research concerning the educational and vocational aspirations of boys has been much more comprehensive than for girls. Many studies find that there are differences between the aspirations and expectations of boys and girls. The descriptive survey method of research was utilized in this study. Data were collected with the use of questionnaires. Data selected girls (N =150) and boys (N =150) in Senior Secondary School or High School classes 1-3 (SS1, SS2 and SS3) drawn from twenty secondary schools by way of stratified random sampling using *Easy Sample Software version 5* and Vocational Interest Inventory (VII). The subjects were surveyed to ascertain their educational and vocational expectations. The cumulative analysis showed marginal significant variation in the educational and vocational aspirations of boys and girls. However, there are no significant differences between the vocational aspirations of boys and girls in SS1-SS3. When all the various classes were tested together, gender was shown to greatly influence the vocational aspirations of the High School students. The policy implication of the study is to build a theoretical model to guide the understanding and study of professional, educational and occupational aspirations of young people and to guide policy makers on the value of gender and social class in the planning of educational career provisions.

Keywords: Gender differences, vocational aspiration, High School students.