

**IMPACT OF BIRTH ORDER AND FAMILY
ATTRIBUTES ON THE CAREER CHOICE:
A CASE OF EGERTON UNIVERSITY STUDENTS**

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- That birth order as a factor plays a part in an individual's intelligence (1992).
- Parents are often anxious about their first child and may be more restrictive with them than with later children.
- Intellectually, firstborns have been found to have larger receptive vocabularies.
- Later borns may have better conversational skills than firstborns (Coates & Messer, 1996).

- The study of interactions among intellectual performance, family size, birth order predicts an additive decrease in intellectual performance with increasing family size and birth rank. (Zajonc's 1996).
- In the U.S.A studies have shown that first-borns hold memberships in more organizations and demonstrate a significantly higher general point aggregate (GPA) than later borns ((Nelson & Harris, 1995).
- That the order of person's birth has a lasting impact on personal development.

- Studies have indicated a strong relationship between birth order and perceptions of favouritism to be perceived from the opposite-sex parent.
- That, sibling rivalry, self-esteem, and fear failure were all concepts relevant to a child's birth order (Romeo 1994).
- In order for the family to meet the basic requirements for individuals in it, the birth order and family characteristics would play a part in the career interests, occupation and type of job.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To determine the influence of family attributes on career choice of students in Egerton University.
- To establish the extent to which teachers and peer influence the career choice of Egerton University students.
- To investigate how birth order affects career choice for Egerton University students.
- To find out the influence of gender on the career choice of Egerton University students.

Objectives Contd.....

- To determine the source of funding for Egerton University students.
- To establish the reasons for student's choice to study at Egerton University.

Table1:

Adlerian Overview of Birth order Characteristics (Adher, (1957), The Education of children)

POSITION	FAMILY SITUATION	CHILD'S CHARACTERITICS
Only	Birth is a miracle. Parents have no previous experience. Retains 100% attention from both parents. Many become rival of one parent. Can be overprotective and spoiled.	Likes being the centre of adult attention. Often has difficulty sharing with siblings and peers. Prefers adult company and uses adult language.
Oldest	Dethroned by next child. Has to learn to share. Parent expectations are usually very high. Often given responsibility and expected to set an example	May become authoritarian or strict. Feels power is his right. Can become helpful if encouraged. May turn to father after birth of nest child.
Second	He has a pace maker. There is always someone ahead.	Is competitive, wants to overtake older child. May become a rebel or to try to out do everyone. Competition can deteriorate into rivalry.
Middle	Is "sandwiched" in. May feel squeezed out of a position of privilege and significance.	May be even-tempered, "take or leave it" attitude finding a place or become a fighter of injustice.

ADLERIAN OVERVIEW OF BIRTH ORDER

CONTD.....

Youngest	Has many mothers and fathers order children try to educate him. Never dethroned.	Wants to be bigger than the others. May have huge plans that never work out. Can stay the “baby”. Frequently spoiled.
Twin	One is usually stronger or more active. Parents may see one as the older.	Can have identity problems. Stronger one may become the leader.
“Ghost child”	Child born after death of the first child may have a “ghost” in front of him. Mother may become overprotective.	Child may exploit mothers over concern for his well-being, or he may rebel, or protest the feeling of being compared to and idealized memory.
Adopted child	Parents may be so thankful to have a child that they spoil him. They may try to compensate for the loss of his biological parents.	Child may become very spoiled and demanding. Eventually, he may resent or idealize the biological parents.

Adlerian Overview of Birth Order

Conti....

Only boy among girls	Usually with women all the time, if father is away.	May try to prove he is the man in the family or become effeminate.
Only girl among boys	Older brothers may act as her protectors.	Can become very feminine, or a tom boy and out do the brothers. May try to please the father.
All boys	If mother wanted a girl, can be dressed as a girl.	Child may capitalize on assigned role or protest vigorously.
All girls	May be dressed as a boy	Child may capitalize n assigned role or protest it vigorously.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK MODEL

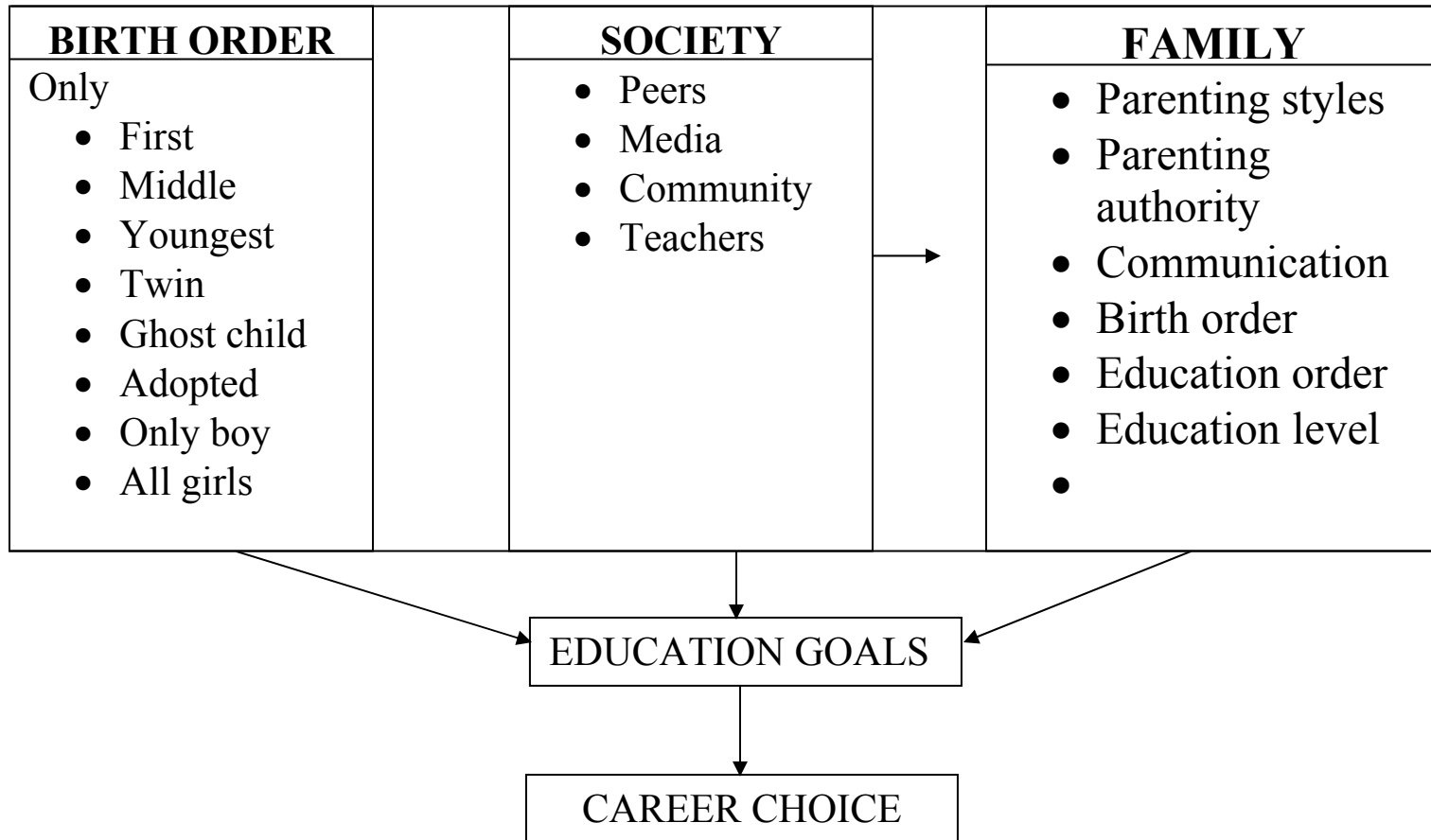


Figure 1:
Relationship between birth order, Birth Order, Family Characteristics, Education and Career choice

METHODOLOGY

- The study was carried out At Egerton University, Njoro campus.
- Descriptive survey on a randomly selected stratified sample of 201 students.
- Students were further stratified into male and female in their respective faculties.

Table 2:
Population of student per faculty

Faculty	No. of programs	Male	Female	Total
Environmental Science & Natural resources	2	114	50	164
Agriculture	11	744	290	1,034
Sciences	5	436	152	588
Education and human resources	6	556	268	824
Art and social resources	2	302	215	517
Engineering technology	4	234	22	256
Health sciences	1	27	15	42
Total	31	2,413	1,012	3425

Source: Egerton University, Admission Office.

Table: 3

Sample size per faculty

FACULTY	No. of programmes per faculty	Male	Female	Total
Environmental sciences & natural resources	2	7	3	10
Agriculture.	11	44	17	61
Science.	5	25	9	34
Education and human resource.	6	32	16	48
Art and social sciences.	2	18	12	30
Engineering technology.	4	13	2	15
Health sciences.	1	1	2	3
TOTAL	31	140	61	201

Source: Egerton University, Admission Office

Data Collection procedures

- The instruction comprised of 230 questionnaire items
- The questionnaire was administered to the students based on their respective year of study and on the courses studied in the university
- The responses to the items in the questionnaire were on individual basis
- Interview scheduled were arranged for a few sampled students

RESULT/FINDINGS

INMFLUENCE ON STUDY PROGRAMME/CAREER CHOICE

- **The influence on the choice of study programme were categorized into Parents, Teachers, Peers, Self, Siblings And Joint Admission Board(Jab)**
- **The majority of student, (57.2%), chose the programme by themselves**

Table 4 :

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Parents	32	15.9
Teachers	17	8.5
Peers	12	60
Self	115	57.2
Siblings	5	2.5
JAB	20	10.0
TOTAL	201	100

Table 5:

Marital Status and Parenting Styles

Category	Marital status	
	Frequency	percentage
Single	8	4.0
Married	153	76.1
Separated	5	2.5
Remarried	3	1.5
Widow/widowed	32	15.9

Table 6:
Parenting styles

Total	201	100
	Parenting styles	
	Frequency	Percentage
Perfectionist	109	54.2
Rejecting	5	2.5
Severe	16	8.0
Inconsistent	26	12.9
Over protective	28	13.9
Over permissive	13	6.5
Overindulgent	4	2.0
Total	201	100

Table 7:

Alternative career choice and role of communication

Category	Alternative career	
	Frequency	%
Medicine	64	31.8
Education	9	4.5
Law	15	7.5
Economics	17	8.5
Engineering	23	11.5
Business management	28	13.9
Agriculture	11	5.5
Computer sciences	18	9.0
Social sciences	16	8.0
Total	201	100

Table 8:
Effect of birth order on career choice

Alternative career choice	Birth order									
	First		Second		Middle		Last		Only	
	Frequency	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Medicine	17	26.6	10	15.6	31	48.4	5	7.8	1	1.6
Education	2	22.3	3	33.3	3	33.3	1	11.1	None	
Law	2	13.3	2	13.3	9	60.0	2	13.3	None	
Economics	6	35.5	4	23.5	6	35.3	1	5.9	None	
Engineering	5	21.5	2	6.7	13	56.5	2	6.7	1	4.3
Business management	9	32.1	3	10.7	12	42.9	3	10.7	1	3.6
Agriculture	5	45.5	1	9.1	2	18.2	2	18.2	1	9.1
Social sciences	5	31.3	3	18.8	6	37.5	2	12.5	None	
Computer science	5	27.8	5	27.8	8	44.4	None		None	
Total	56		33		90		18		4	

CONCLUSIONS

- The birth order of parents does not influence the career choice of university students.
- The parenting style affects the career choice of a student significantly.
- Communication in the family plays an important role in the career choice.
- The marital status of the parents plays a key role in the student's career choice.
- The socio-economic status of a family influences the career choice of the students with high socio-economic status families encouraging and facilitating careers which are perceived more as paying.

Conclusions Contd.....

- The majority of students chose careers on their own. The joint admission's board (JAB) as well as parents did not have great influence on career choice.
- The role of teachers in career choice did not show great significance.
- The birth order of students affects the career choice. This depends on the expectation placed on them by the family.
- Gender influences career choice which appear to be male dominated, (e.g. engineering, law, medicine,

agriculture) while others are female likeable(e.g. education)

- The main source of funding for Egerton university students is the higher education loans board; followed by parents based on the family socioeconomic status
- The main reasons for coming to there university as reported by the students were to:
 - Acquire knowledge
 - Get good respectable high paying jobs
 - Raise family social economic status

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Parents should not dictate on the career choices of their children. They should have an open mind to the decisions the children make, which may be different from those they would have wished.
- The distinctive birth order characteristics of the students entering the university should be highlighted for purposes of matching the career choices defined into. The family birth order tree of parents should be included in the university forms.
- The programmes of study in the university should have wide professional marketability prospects that will encourage self-employment and lessen the pressure of competition in strict white collar jobs.

Recommendations contd...

- The higher educational loan's board should serve all students without partiality so that educational economic financial strain experienced by students can be lessened thus giving equal opportunity to all.
- The gender parity in career choice should be encouraged from the family level to the university.
- The career advisory centers should be established stage wise from primary schools to the university with sufficient resource material for career information.
- The parenting paradigms and lifestyle of the parents have a marked bearing on the student's education and future career development. These should be exploited and utilized appropriately for career replacement.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- **THANKS TO EGRTON UNIVERSITY**
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- **DEPUTY VICE CHANCELLOR(R&E)**

- **THE END**

- **THANK YOU ALL**