

# Factors Affecting Career Track and Strand Choices of Grade 9 Students in the Division of Antipolo and Rizal, Philippines

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**Abstract-** The main purpose of the study was to craft a Senior High School program offerings of University of Rizal System. It made use of the Descriptive Survey Method. Findings showed that most of the Grade 9 students selected Career Tracks and Strands are Accountancy, Business and Management (ABM), and Technical Vocational Livelihood (TVL) track. Moreover, there is a significant association between the career track choices and profile of the students in terms of sex, average family income, occupation of the head of the family, school preference and average scholastic rating in Grade 8 and no significant association between the career track choices and the highest educational attainment of the head of the family and person influential in the choice of career track.

**Index Terms-** career tracks choices, factors affecting career track choices, grade 9 students

## I. INTRODUCTION

One significant reform in Philippine Educational System is the implementation of K to 12 program. Its goal is for the “development of a holistically developed Filipino with the 21<sup>st</sup> century skills who are ready for employment, entrepreneurship, middle level skills development and higher education upon graduation from Grade 12” (The K to 12 Basic Education Program, 2012).

The structure of K to 12 implementation which provides addition of two (2) years level from the old system which are Grades 11 and 12 which the students will take core courses and career pathways. This will result to no enrollment in first year and second year college which will be a big challenge to colleges and universities during the School Year 2017-2018 and 2018-2019. The offering of Career Tracks in Grades 11 and 12 could be an avenue for colleges and universities to collaborate with the Department of Education (DepEd). In this way, resources of colleges and universities who have no enrollees can utilize their resources to the maximum level.

In view of the need to help colleges and universities in the province of Rizal address this challenging situation and come up with the necessary initiatives, this study on Factors Affecting Career Tracks Choices of Grade 9 students was conducted.

## II. OBJECTIVES

The main purpose of the study was to craft a program for Senior High School program in the University of Rizal System.

Specifically, it sought determine the following:

1. The career tracks and strands selected by the Grade 9 students in public high school in the Division of Antipolo City and Rizal.
2. Variables associated with the career racks and strands selected by the students.

## III. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

The literature sought develop a Senior High School program of the University of Rizal System through the determination of career track choices and its relationships to the profile of grade 9 students

### *Career Choice Tracks of Grade 9 Students*

The choice of Career Tracks of the students play a great role in the preparations of the schedule for the Senior High School. These career tracks are associated with career preferences which were the bases in the conduct of the present study. Career preferences as defined by Martinez and Fuller (1999) pertains to the identification of one’s work schedules and activities in relation to individual’s abilities, skills, competencies and with the assistance of management in order that he can take greater job and personal responsibility for his future. In other words, this is a preferred career choice of an individual that should be decided ahead of time.

In an article on “What is Most Important to Students by Duffy and Sedlacek from 1995 to 2004 revealed that male preferred to select careers which will generate money and female would like to select career which will concentrate on working with people and those which can contribute to society.

### *Association of the Career Track Choices and Profile of the Respondents*

Witko, Bernes, Magnusson and Bardick (2006) studies on senior high school students' occupational aspirations found out that interests, skill, personal meaning, challenges and parental support are variables contributory to the occupational aspirations of senior high school students. In like manner with the study of La (2009) on factors influencing the educational and career choices of senior high school students revealed that parent’ supports, school structure, gender and grade point average have considerable influence on the Vietnamese Senior high school students’ educational and career choice. In same year, Leonard (2009) study on high school students' course selection decisions in south Carolina found out that parents and teachers are highly

influential in the course selection decision. In addition, Heilbrunner (2011) claimed that the greater number of the students manifested to proceed to STEM courses in college. This is brought about with the quality, adequacy of preparations and scholastic experiences of the students.

Eremie, (2014) study on comparative analysis of factors influencing career choices among senior secondary school students in Rivers State, Nigeria. The result showed that there were significant differences in the career preferences when grouped according to their sex, parity, and parental influence. In addition, socio-economic background were influential in participants' decisions to pursue a postsecondary degree. Cultural factors, especially English fluency, were also relevant.

Local communities and institutional factors had generally a negative impacts on career choice of the students.

#### IV. METHODOLOGY

The study made use of the descriptive method of research utilizing a the survey checklist developed to attain the objectives of the study.

The subjects of the study were the 761 students in public high schools in the Division of Antipolo and Rizal. The students were distributed to 383 and 378 randomly selected from public high schools in the Division of Antipolo and Rizal respectively. The data were treated using frequency and percentage distribution and Chi-Square test.

#### V. RESULTS

##### Career tracks choices of the Grade 9 students enrolled in public high schools in the Division of Antipolo and Rizal

**Table I. Distribution of Career Track Choices of Grade 9 Students of the Division of Antipolo and Rizal**

Career Tracks	Strands	Frequency	Percent	Rank
Academic	Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)	79	10.38	6
	Humanities and Social Sciences (HumSS)	92	12.09	3
	Accountancy, Business and Management	164	21.55	1
	General Academic Strand (GAS)	40	5.26	7
Technical-Vocational Livelihood	Home Economics (HE)	152	19.97	2
	Information and Communication Technology (ICT)	91	11.96	4
	Agri-Fishery (AF)	27	3.55	8
	Industrial Arts (IA)	83	10.91	5
Arts		13	1.71	10
Sports		20	2.63	9
<b>Total</b>		<b>761</b>	<b>100</b>	

**Table II. Chi-Square Value on the Association of the Profile and Career Track Choices of Grade 9 Students**

Variables	Df	Critical $X^2$ Value	Computed $X^2$ Value	Verbal Interpretation
Sex	9	16.92	83.85	Significant
Highest Educational Attainment of the Head of the Family	72	90.53	4.0	Not Significant
Persons Influential in the Choice of Career Track	45	55.76	53.51	Not Significant
Average Monthly Family Income	36	55.76	498.30	Significant
School Preference	18	28.87	46.54	Significant
Occupation of the Head of the Family	45	55.76	97.11	Significant
Average Scholastic Rating in Grade 8	54	67.50	584.77	Significant

#### VI. DISCUSSIONS

As presented in Table 1, Academic track with a strand Accountancy, Business and Management (ABM) has the highest frequency of 164 or 21.55% which is the first rank followed by

Technical-Vocational Livelihood (TVL) track with a strand of Home Economics with frequency of 152 or 19.97% which is second in rank. On the other hand, Arts track has the lowest frequency of 13 or 1.71% which is tenth rank. The result indicates that majority of the Grade 9 students prefer to take

Accountancy, Business and Management; and Technical-Vocational Livelihood track with strand of Home Economics in the Senior High School.

As shown in Table 2, the computed Chi-Square value on the association between the career track and strand choices and the profile of the students in terms of sex, average family income, occupation of the head of the family and average scholastic rating in Grade 8 have greater computed Chi-Square values than the critical values considered to be significant. The data implies that the profile of the students in terms of sex, average family income, occupation of the head of the family and average scholastic rating in Grade 8 are associated to the career track choices of the students who will enroll in the Senior High School.

On the other hand, the Chi-square Computed value on the career track choices and profile of grade 9 students in terms of highest educational attainment of the head of the family and person influential in the choice of career track have the lowest computed Chi-Square values compared to Critical values. The result emphasizes that there is no significant association between the career choice and the profile of the students in terms of the highest educational attainment of the head of the family and person influential in the choice of career track.

## VII. CONCLUSIONS

Most number of Grade 9 students are inclined to take Accountancy, Business and Accountancy (ABM) courses in Senior High School and in the college level.

The result implies that sex, average monthly family income, school preference, occupation of the head of the family and average scholastic ratings in the preceding years are factors associated to the career track choices of the students, while highest educational attainment of the head of the family and persons influential in the choice of career track are not associated with the Career Track Choices.

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