



## FACTORS AFFECTING THE CAREER CHOICE AMONG FRESHMEN STUDENTS

By

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### **Abstract**

*The influence of financial considerations on career choice among individuals is a crucial aspect of career development, indicating that financial factors significantly affect many decisions. Data analysis reveals that financial considerations have, a mean impact of 3.10 with a standard deviation of 0.82, categorizing it as "Moderately Affected." While financial factors are important, they do not solely determine career choices. Notably, the highest-rated financial factor affecting career choice is "Money has been an issue in choosing a career," reflecting significant challenges individuals face in selecting career paths due to financial constraints. The study used a descriptive design with a quantitative method. Furthermore, the study explores the influence of parental pressure, peer pressure, and personal interest on career choices. While parental pressure plays a role, it is not the primary determinant for most individuals, with personal interest being more influential. Peer pressure, although present, does not significantly affect career choices. Personal interest is the most decisive factor, indicating a strong correlation with career paths. Additionally, the study examines the relationship between these factors and career paths. Financial considerations and parental pressure demonstrate weak but significant correlations, emphasizing their influence on career trajectories. Conversely, peer pressure does not significantly affect career paths. Personal interest emerges as the most substantial factor, strongly correlating with career paths, underscoring the importance of aligning career decisions with individual passions and goals. In conclusion, while financial considerations, parental pressure, and peer pressure play roles in career decision-making, personal interest emerges as the most influential factor. Understanding these dynamics is essential for effective career counseling and supporting individuals in making informed and fulfilling career choices that align with their unique interests, goals, and circumstances.*

**Keywords:** *Financial considerations, Career choice, Influence, Decision-making, Economic factors, Parental pressure, Peer pressure, Personal interest, Career paths*

### **INTRODUCTION**

This study was to identify the factors influencing career choice among freshmen students. This research was motivated by the need to gain a deeper understanding of the elements that shape freshmen students' preferences for college courses. Choosing the appropriate career path is crucial for students embarking on their professional education, as it significantly impacts their future success and professional lives. At this pivotal stage, decisions should not be left to intuition, preconceived notions, or prevailing societal ideas. When individuals make career choices that do not align with their expectations or aspirations, their efforts and resources may be misdirected, leading to frustration and a waste of time and energy. Although realignment is possible, it often comes with significant consequences in terms of time, finances, and motivation. A student's career choice is one of many critical decisions they will face as they plan for their future. Selecting the right courses as freshmen can have lasting implications for their lives. However, the process of choosing courses can be daunting for some students. As Katona noted, "The majority of first-year college students are unsure of the majors and careers they want to pursue." The abundance of options can make the decision-making process challenging, as numerous factors must be considered. The choice of a career path is pivotal for young individuals, as it can influence their entire lives. Factors such as academic performance, age, personal interests, experiences, and learning opportunities play a significant role in shaping students' career choices (Quinter et al., 2011). At this stage, teenagers require guidance to make informed decisions about their desired careers. It is essential to consider their innate abilities, the educational opportunities available to them, and the resources that society provides to help them become efficient and effective in their chosen paths (DepEd, 2017). This study specifically examined the career choices of freshmen students, focusing on how parental pressure, peer influence, personal interests, and financial conditions affect their decisions. The primary purpose was to assess the professional interests of freshmen

students to better prepare them for their future careers, serving as a foundation for their career paths. This research aims to enhance understanding of the factors influencing freshmen students' preferences and will provide valuable insights for educational institutions in guiding students toward optimal career choices.

### **Theoretical Framework**

Making a career choice is a pivotal phase in every student's life, requiring careful consideration of various factors (Kazi & Akhlaq, 2017). Personal interest emerges as a primary influence on career decisions, particularly in individualistic contexts, where youth exhibit greater independence in their decision-making processes (Akosah-Twumasi et al., 2018; Al-Abri & Coli, 2018). Additionally, financial benefits and personal interests significantly impact students' career choices. Previous studies have indicated that both personal interests and academic achievements play crucial roles in shaping students' career paths. Interest can be defined as the inclination that guides students toward selecting a major they find fulfilling and engaging (Atitsogbe et al., 2018). Conversely, external factors, such as the dynamics of parent-child relationships, also influence students' decisions. Interpersonal factors, including the support and expectations from family and peers, are essential in this context (Kumara et al., 2019).

Moreover, according to Humayon et al. (2018), the selection of a career is influenced by parents' financial capacity to support their children's education. Parents, as the primary financial providers, wield significant influence over their children's choice of majors and future careers. However, this perspective contrasts with findings by Peel et al. (2018), which suggest that students' career decisions are primarily aligned with their personal interests, talents, and academic performance. The theoretical framework of this study emphasizes the complex interplay between personal interests, financial considerations, and external influences such as parental and peer pressure in shaping students' career choices. Understanding these dynamics is essential for guiding students toward making informed and fulfilling career decisions.

### **Conceptual Framework**

This study aims to explore the various factors that influence career paths among freshmen students. By developing this conceptual framework, we seek to enhance understanding of the elements affecting career choices during this critical transition period.

#### *Financial Condition*

Financial condition is a significant factor impacting the career paths of freshmen students. It encompasses the financial resources and constraints faced by individuals and their families, which can influence career choices in multiple ways. Students must be aware of their financial situation and consider its implications when making career decisions. While financial considerations are important, it is essential to balance them with personal interests, values, and long-term career satisfaction. Seeking financial aid, scholarships, or part-time job opportunities can help alleviate some financial constraints, providing greater flexibility in career choices. Ultimately, students should strive to make informed decisions that take into account both their financial realities and personal aspirations.

#### *Parental Pressure*

Parental pressure is another significant factor influencing the career paths of freshmen students. Parents often have high expectations for their children's futures and may encourage them to pursue specific career paths that they perceive as prestigious, financially stable, or aligned with their own aspirations. While this pressure often stems from love and concern, it can create challenges for students. Open communication, mutual understanding, and shared decision-making can help alleviate excessive parental pressure, empowering students to make informed and authentic career choices. Understanding the influence of parental pressure on career decisions can provide insights into the complexities of career decision-making and inform strategies to support students in navigating these pressures while pursuing paths that align with their own goals.

### *Peer Pressure*

Peer pressure is another critical factor that can shape the career paths of freshmen students. Friends, classmates, and social circles can exert both positive and negative influences on career decisions. It is important for students to recognize the potential impact of peer pressure and critically evaluate the motivations behind their career choices. While peer pressure can sometimes lead to positive outcomes, such as exposure to new ideas or opportunities, students should prioritize their own interests, values, and aspirations when making career decisions.

### *Personal Interest*

Personal interest is a fundamental factor that significantly influences the career paths of freshmen students. It refers to the genuine enthusiasm, curiosity, and passion individuals have for specific activities, subjects, or areas of work. When making career decisions, freshmen should explore and reflect on their personal interests, considering their hobbies, favorite subjects, and activities that bring them joy and fulfillment. By aligning their career choices with their personal interests, students increase the likelihood of finding a career path that offers both professional success and personal satisfaction. It is crucial for students to reflect on their passions, explore various career options, and seek guidance from mentors or career counselors to identify and pursue paths that resonate with their interests.

### *Career Path*

A career path is the sequence of jobs, roles, or positions an individual follows throughout their professional journey, representing their progression and development within a specific field or industry. Regularly assessing goals, interests, and values is essential for aligning career paths with personal aspirations and achieving fulfillment. This conceptual framework highlights the interplay between financial condition, parental pressure, peer influence, and personal interest in shaping the career paths of freshmen students. Understanding these dynamics is vital for guiding students toward informed and fulfilling career choices.

## **METHODS**

This chapter outlines the essential elements of the research process, including the research design, respondents, research locale, research instruments, data gathering procedures, scoring procedures, instrument reliability and validity, and the statistical treatment relevant to the study.

### **Research Design**

This study employed a descriptive research method with a quantitative design. The quantitative approach was utilized to gather information about the current and existing conditions affecting career paths among freshmen students. This method was chosen to effectively identify and analyze the factors influencing career choices within this demographic.

### **Research Locale**

The research was conducted at Tagoloan Community College, located in Baluarte, Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental. The study focused on freshmen students across all departments of the college. Tagoloan Community College was selected as the research site due to its diverse student population, which provides a wealth of significant information, varied perspectives, and unique experiences from college freshmen that are essential for the study.

### **Respondents**

The respondents for this study were freshmen students from all departments at Tagoloan Community College. This group was specifically targeted as they are directly affected by the factors being examined. The researchers employed a random sampling method, aiming to include 351 students as respondents. This sampling technique was chosen for its practicality and efficiency in gathering data. A survey questionnaire was administered to collect responses from the selected students, who were deemed qualified participants for this study.

*Table of Respondents*

<b>RESPONDENTS</b>	<b>TOTAL OF POPULATION</b>	<b>TOTAL SAMPLE SIZE</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE</b>
<i>Midwifery (BSMID)</i>	149	18	<i>12.08%</i>
<i>B-HM (BSHM)</i>	299	37	<i>12.37 %</i>
<i>Criminology (BSCRIM)</i>	312	39	<i>12.5%</i>
<i>Library and Information Studies (BLIS)</i>	202	25	<i>12.38%</i>
<i>Business Administration (BSBA)</i>	560	70	<i>12.5%</i>
<i>Information Technology (BSIT)</i>	295	36	<i>12.20%</i>
<i>Education</i>	675	83	<i>13%</i>
<i>College of Arts and Sciences</i>	348	43	<i>12.36%</i>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,840</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Sampling Procedure**

The researchers employed a random sampling technique to gather information from freshmen students across various departments at Tagoloan Community College. This method involves selecting participants based on their availability and accessibility, aiming to create a valuable and efficient data-gathering process. However, it is important to note that while random sampling helps reduce bias, it does not guarantee a completely random or representative sample.

**Data Gathering**

The data collection procedures for this study were as follows: First, the researcher submitted a formal request letter to the Dean of the College and the Registrar's office to obtain permission to conduct the study, as noted by the research adviser. Following approval, the researcher developed a questionnaire and sought feedback from the research adviser to ensure its clarity and relevance.

Informed consent was obtained from the respondents prior to participation. All freshmen students from various departments at Tagoloan Community College participated in face-to-face instructions on how to complete the questionnaires. After answering the questions, respondents submitted their completed questionnaires directly to the researchers, who then collected and verified the data for accuracy.

**Research Instrument**

The researchers utilized a modified survey questionnaire as the primary tool for data collection. The questionnaire comprised two sets of variables: independent and dependent variables. The independent variables included demographic factors such as parental pressure, peer pressure, personal interests, and financial condition. The dependent variable focused on the respondents' career paths.

**Reliability and Validity of Instruments**

To assess the reliability and validity of the questionnaire, the researcher conducted a pilot survey with 30 randomly selected freshmen students from various departments. This preliminary trial aimed to identify any necessary changes to the questionnaire. The results were then presented to the research adviser and other experts for validation, allowing for further analysis and revisions of specific items as needed. The reliability coefficient, which measures the consistency of the questionnaire, was calculated using Cronbach's Alpha and found to be 0.821, indicating high reliability. This strong reliability coefficient suggests that the questionnaire is a dependable tool for measuring the intended variables in the study.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Financial Consideration

The data presented in Table 3 illustrates the impact of financial considerations on career choice among individuals, indicating that financial factors significantly influence many of their decisions. The overall mean score is 3.10, with a standard deviation of 0.82, categorizing the influence as “Moderately Affected.” These findings suggest that while financial considerations are important, they do not solely dictate career choices.

Research in career development consistently emphasizes the role of economic factors in the decision-making process. For example, Yunusa et al. (2022) highlight that economic constraints and opportunities can profoundly shape individual career paths. This notion is further supported by the strong agreement reflected in responses to items concerning the influence of tuition fees and family financial support. Overall, the data underscores the complexity of career decision-making, where financial considerations interact with other factors to guide individuals in their career choices.

Table 3

**Factors Affecting Career Choice in Terms of Financial Consideration**

<i>Mean</i>	<i>Std. Deviation</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>
3.54	0.52	Strongly Agree	<i>Highly Affected</i>
3.45	0.64	Strongly Agree	<i>Highly Affected</i>
3.52	0.56	Strongly Agree	<i>Highly Affected</i>
3.30	0.80	Strongly Agree	<i>Highly Affected</i>
2.58	1.15	Agree	<i>Moderately Affected</i>
3.34	0.81	Strongly Agree	<i>Highly Affected</i>
3.24	0.94	Agree	<i>Moderately Affected</i>
2.37	1.09	Disagree	<i>Affected</i>
2.21	1.11	Disagree	<i>Affected</i>
3.43	0.59	Strongly Agree	<i>Highly Affected</i>
<b>3.10</b>	<b>0.82</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b><i>Moderately Affected</i></b>

### Parental Pressure

The overall mean score is 2.86, with a standard deviation of 0.81, indicating that parental pressure has a "Moderately Affected" influence. This suggests that while parental pressure plays a role in shaping career decisions, it is not an overwhelming factor for most individuals (G. Ouano et al., 2019). The mean score falling within the "Moderately Affected" range implies that many respondents experience some level of parental guidance or expectations in their career decisions. However, the influence of parents is not the primary determinant of career choices (Dublin et al., 2020). This balance allows individuals to consider parental opinions and expectations while prioritizing their own interests and goals.

Furthermore, the highest-rated item for factors affecting career choice in terms of parental pressure is "My parents tell me they have high expectations for my career," with a mean of 3.48 and a standard deviation of 0.60, indicating a "Highly Affected" influence. This finding implies that many individuals feel significant pressure from their parents' expectations regarding their career paths. According to Sallee & Cox (2019), parental expectations play a substantial role in shaping individuals' career choices, though the overall data suggests that this influence is moderated by other factors.

Table 4

**Factors Affecting Career Choice in Terms of Parental Pressure**

<i>Mean</i>	<i>Std. Deviation</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>
3.48	0.60	Strongly Agree	<i>Highly Affected</i>
3.47	0.54	Strongly Agree	<i>Highly Affected</i>
3.34	0.71	Strongly Agree	<i>Highly Affected</i>
3.35	0.73	Strongly Agree	<i>Highly Affected</i>
3.24	0.88	Agree	<i>Moderately Affected</i>
3.42	0.68	Strongly Agree	<i>Highly Affected</i>
2.01	0.99	Disagree	<i>Affected</i>
1.94	0.93	Disagree	<i>Affected</i>
1.85	0.92	Disagree	<i>Affected</i>
2.50	1.11	Disagree	<i>Affected</i>
2.86	0.81	Agree	<i>Moderately Affected</i>

**Peer Pressure**

The data reveals that the overall mean for peer pressure's influence on career choice is 2.23, with a standard deviation of 0.92, indicating an "Affected" level of influence. This suggests that while peers do play a role in career choices, they are not the dominant factor driving decisions. Individuals may be influenced by their friends' career paths or academic choices, leading them to consider similar options (Akosah-Twumasi et al., 2018). However, the impact of peer pressure can differ depending on individual experiences and contexts, as Dublin et al. (2020) suggest. Some individuals may rely more heavily on their peers' advice and choices, while others prioritize different influences, such as family expectations or personal interests.

Moreover, the highest-rated item for factors affecting career choice in terms of peer pressure is "The socialization factor is one of the important factors for me to choose a career," with a mean of 3.20 and a standard deviation of 0.78, indicating a "Moderately Affected" influence. The findings indicate that individuals consider social aspects such as relationships, social circles, and the opinions of peers when making career decisions. According to Zhang et al. (2018), this could be due to the desire to fit in with a peer group, align with the expectations of a social network, or gain support from friends who share similar career interests or experiences.

Furthermore, the lowest-rated item for factors affecting career choice in terms of peer pressure is "My parents choose my course," with a mean of 1.62 and a standard deviation of 0.66, indicating an "Affected" level of influence. This suggests that peer pressure does not significantly drive individuals to choose a career based on their parents' decisions. El-Dief & El-Dief (2019) propose that individuals may be more inclined to make their own decisions regarding their academic and career paths rather than relying solely on the choices their parents have made for them. Additionally, the data implies that while peer pressure can influence certain aspects of career choice, individuals are less likely to choose their courses based on their parents' preferences due to peer influence. This autonomy in decision-making highlights the importance of supporting individuals in pursuing career paths that align with their personal interests and goals (Akosah-Twumasi et al., 2018).

Table 5

**Factors Affecting Career Choice in Terms of Peer Pressure**

<i>Mean</i>	<i>Std. Deviation</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>
2.09	1.04	Disagree	<i>Affected</i>
2.01	0.94	Disagree	<i>Affected</i>
1.98	0.93	Disagree	<i>Affected</i>
2.10	0.96	Disagree	<i>Affected</i>
2.55	0.98	Agree	<i>Moderately Affected</i>
2.81	1.05	Agree	<i>Moderately Affected</i>
2.05	0.99	Disagree	<i>Affected</i>
1.85	0.83	Disagree	<i>Affected</i>
1.62	0.66	Disagree	<i>Affected</i>
3.20	0.78	Agree	<i>Moderately Affected</i>
<b>2.23</b>	<b>0.92</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b><i>Affected</i></b>

**Personal Interest**

The data reveals an overall mean of 3.17 and a standard deviation of 0.81, categorizing personal interests as "Moderately Affected" in career decision-making. This indicates that personal interests are a key consideration, aligning with existing research that emphasizes the importance of aligning career paths with individual passions and hobbies (Sharif et al., 2019). Individuals are more likely to pursue careers that resonate with their interests, as these choices can lead to greater satisfaction and fulfillment in the long term (Kyriacou, 2018). Overall, the data underscores the significant impact of personal interest on career choice, suggesting that people are drawn to careers that align with their passions and skills.

Moreover, the highest-rated item regarding factors affecting career choice in terms of personal interest is "It is my dream course," with a mean of 3.38 and a standard deviation of 0.67, indicating a "Highly Affected" influence. This finding suggests that individuals are strongly motivated to pursue careers that align with their aspirations and dreams. According to Afzal Humayon et al. (2018), many individuals prioritize following their passions and ambitions when making career decisions, which can lead to greater satisfaction and fulfillment in their professional lives.

Conversely, the lowest-rated item concerning personal interests is "I have attended career counseling sessions," with a mean of 2.60 and a standard deviation of 1.05, categorizing it as "Moderately Affected." This suggests that attending career counseling sessions has a moderate impact on career choices influenced by personal interests. Through counseling, individuals may gain valuable insights into potential career paths that align with their interests, skills, and long-term goals (Kazi & Akhlaq, 2017). While career counseling can assist individuals in navigating their personal interests in career choices, its effectiveness may depend on individual circumstances and the existing clarity regarding personal goals (Woods et al., 2018).

Table 6 shows the factors affecting career choice in terms of Personal Interest.

Table 6  
 Factors Affecting Career Choice in Terms of Personal Interest

<i>Mean</i>	<i>Std. Deviation</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>
3.38	0.67	Strongly Agree	<i>Highly Affected</i>
3.23	0.77	Agree	<i>Moderately Affected</i>
3.15	0.85	Agree	<i>Moderately Affected</i>
3.34	0.77	Strongly Agree	<i>Highly Affected</i>
2.60	1.05	Agree	<i>Moderately Affected</i>
3.18	0.81	Agree	<i>Moderately Affected</i>
3.07	0.88	Agree	<i>Moderately Affected</i>
3.35	0.73	Strongly Agree	<i>Highly Affected</i>
3.06	0.91	Agree	<i>Moderately Affected</i>
3.33	0.70	Strongly Agree	<i>Highly Affected</i>
3.17	0.81	Agree	<i>Moderately Affected</i>

### What is the Extent of the Career Path among Freshmen Students?

Table 7 illustrates the extent of career paths among freshmen students. The data reveals an overall mean of 3.22 and a standard deviation of 0.75, categorizing the influence on career paths as "Moderately Affected." This suggests that freshmen students possess a moderate understanding and direction regarding their career trajectories. Factors such as personal interests, academic performance, and guidance from mentors or advisors play a significant role in shaping these paths (Bir Araştırma et al., 2018). The relatively low standard deviation indicates a consistent level of responses among freshmen, reflecting a shared perspective on how their career paths are influenced.

Furthermore, the highest-rated item regarding career paths among freshmen students is "My university/college actively supports my career development," which has a mean of 3.44 and a standard deviation of 0.59, indicating a "Highly Affected" influence. This finding underscores the value students place on the support they receive from their educational institutions in terms of career development. It suggests that students perceive their universities or colleges as playing a crucial role in guiding and shaping their career paths. Such support may encompass various aspects, including career counseling, mentorship programs, job placement services, internships, and networking opportunities (Uy, 2018). The results emphasize the importance of institutional support in helping freshmen students establish their career paths. Therefore, universities and colleges should continue to prioritize career development services and initiatives to ensure that students receive the guidance and resources necessary for successful career planning (Yukhymenko-Lescroart & Sharma, 2023).

In contrast, the lowest-rated item regarding career paths among freshmen students is "Others see me as an expert in my desired occupation," which has a mean of 2.91 and a standard deviation of 0.95, categorizing it as "Moderately Affected." This suggests that perceptions of expertise in a desired occupation have a moderate impact on freshmen students' career choices. While some students may be influenced by how others perceive their level of expertise in their chosen field, this factor does not dominate their career decision-making (Arbona et al., 2023). Lam & Santos (2019) suggest that individual experiences regarding the impact of others' perceptions on career paths can vary. For some students, being recognized as an expert may hold greater significance, while others may prioritize their own interests and aspirations over external validation.



Table 7

**The Extent of Career Path among Freshmen Students**

<i>Mean</i>	<i>Std. Deviation</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>
3.18	0.76	Agree	<i>Moderately Affected</i>
2.96	0.90	Agree	<i>Moderately Affected</i>
3.37	0.59	Strongly Agree	<i>Highly Affected</i>
3.29	0.71	Strongly Agree	<i>Highly Affected</i>
3.30	0.72	Strongly Agree	<i>Highly Affected</i>
2.91	0.95	Agree	<i>Moderately Affected</i>
3.28	0.68	Strongly Agree	<i>Highly Affected</i>
3.44	0.59	Strongly Agree	<i>Highly Affected</i>
3.34	0.71	Strongly Agree	<i>Highly Affected</i>
3.07	0.89	Agree	<i>Moderately Affected</i>
<b>3.22</b>	<b>0.75</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b><i>Moderately Affected</i></b>

**Is there a significant relationship between factors affecting career choice and career path?**

The data presented in Table 8 examines the relationship between factors affecting career choice and career path. The analysis reveals varying levels of significance for financial considerations, parental pressure, peer pressure, and personal interest.

Financial considerations show a statistically significant, albeit weak, correlation with career path, as indicated by an R-value of 0.152 and a P-value of 0.004. This leads to the rejection of the null hypothesis, suggesting that financial factors do influence students' career trajectories to some extent.

Similarly, parental pressure exhibits a significant relationship with career path, with an R-value of 0.162 and a P-value of 0.002. This finding implies that parental expectations also play a role in shaping students' career paths. Both financial considerations and parental pressure demonstrate a significant, though modest, impact on the career paths of freshmen students.

In contrast, peer pressure does not have a significant relationship with career path, as shown by an R-value of -0.065 and a P-value of 0.222. This result leads to the acceptance of the null hypothesis, indicating that peer pressure does not substantially determine career paths among freshmen students.

The most substantial and decisive factor is personal interest, which has a strong correlation with career path, with an R-value of 0.432 and a P-value of 0.000. This finding emphasizes the critical importance of aligning career decisions with personal passions and goals. Students who pursue careers that match their interests are more likely to experience fulfillment and success in their chosen paths.

In summary, the data analysis reveals that financial considerations and parental pressure have a significant but weak relationship with career path, while peer pressure does not significantly influence career trajectories. Personal interest emerges as the most decisive factor, demonstrating a strong correlation with the career paths of freshmen students. These findings underscore the need for career guidance that prioritizes the alignment of individual interests with professional goals, while also considering the impact of financial and familial factors on career decision-making.

Table 8  
 The Test of Significant Relationship between Factors Affecting Career Path

<i>Factors Affecting Career Choice</i>	<i>Career Path</i>		<i>Decision on Ho</i>
	<b>R-Value</b>	<b>P-Value</b>	
<i>Financial Consideration</i>	.152**	0.004	<i>Rejected</i>
<i>Parental Pressure</i>	.162**	0.002	<i>Rejected</i>
<i>Peer Pressure</i>	-.065	0.222	<i>Accepted</i>
<i>Personal Interest</i>	.432**	0.000	<i>Rejected</i>

*Significant if P-value < 0.05*

*Legend: Ho is rejected if Significant Ho  
 is accepted if Not Significant*

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the findings of this study reveal that financial considerations, parental pressure, and personal interest all significantly influence individuals' career choices and paths, although their impacts vary in strength and nature. Financial considerations are moderately influential, with monetary challenges serving as a significant factor; however, students often exhibit reluctance to rely on bank loans. Parental expectations also play a moderate role in shaping career decisions, while peer pressure has a comparatively lesser influence. Notably, personal interest emerges as the most substantial factor, underscoring the importance of pursuing careers that align with individual passions and goals. Freshmen students particularly benefit from institutional support in career development, highlighting the critical role educational institutions play in guiding students along their career paths. Ultimately, the data emphasizes the necessity for balanced career counseling and support systems that account for the varying degrees of influence these factors exert on individuals' career choices. By encouraging alignment with personal interests while effectively managing financial and parental pressures, educational institutions can significantly enhance successful career planning and development.

## RECOMMENDATION

Based on the study's findings, several recommendations emerge to enhance career development support for freshmen students. To optimize career decision-making, institutions should prioritize financial literacy, expand career counseling services, foster exploration of interests, and educate parents about their role. Additionally, mentorship programs and comprehensive career development resources are essential to equip students with the tools and knowledge needed for career success.

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