

Factors Influencing Students' Career Choice and Aspirations in South Africa

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ABSTRACT The purpose of this study was to determine factors influencing career choice and aspirations among South African students. A quantitative paradigm guided this study. A survey method in the form of a structured questionnaire was used in this study in order to identify the factors that influence career choice and aspirations among South African students. A purposive sample of 133 first and second year university students (77 females, 56 males; age range 15 to 30 years) participated in the study. The Career Aspirations Questionnaire was used in this study. Career Aspirations Questionnaire which explored the factors that influence medical students' career choice and aspirations. Data were analysed using percentages and tables. The study found that the family; the ability of the learner self to identify his/her preferred career choice; and teachers were significant factors that influence the career choice and aspirations of students. The implications of the findings and practical considerations are discussed in the study.