

## The Awareness of Social Work Profession Among Students in Public Secondary Schools in Egor Local Government Area Edo State Nigeria

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### **Abstract**

*Social work is a sub-discipline of the social sciences that focuses on human interactions. Social work is practiced in different settings in the societies such as child welfare departments, families, schools, hospitals, orphanage homes, etc. (Jones and Truell 2012). Internationally, social work as a social science evolved in Europe and America because of humanitarian needs and it evolved into a profession over hundred years ago. Social Work is a professional activity that utilizes values, knowledge, skills and focus on issues, needs and problems that arise from the interactions between individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities.. The study applied cross sectional research design, both quantitative and qualitative research approach and as such, semi structured questionnaire and interview guide were developed for the collection of relevant data from participants in the field. 411 senior secondary school students from SSS 1 to SSS 3 were scientifically selected while in-depth interview were conducted with seven (7) principals from the seven selected secondary schools for the study. It was discovered that 257(62.5%) posited that they are not aware of social work profession while 154(37.5%) of the respondents affirmed that they have heard of the profession through various outlets*

**Keywords:** Profession, Society, Social Work, Awareness, Discipline,

## Introduction

Social work is a sub-discipline of the social sciences that focuses on the human interactions and other social interactions. As a social science, social work focuses on the vulnerable and marginalized members of the society and also stands in the gap for the oppressed members of the society, some of these vulnerable members include; women, children, physically challenged, the aged, amongst others, however social work as a social science evolved in Europe and America because of humanitarian needs. Social Work according to the International Federation of Social Workers (2014)

‘Social work is a practice-based profession and an academic discipline that promotes social change and development, social cohesion, and the empowerment and liberation of people. Principles of social justice, human rights, collective responsibility and respect for diversities are central to social work. Underpinned by theories of social work, social sciences, humanities and indigenous knowledge, social work engages people and structures to address life challenges and enhance wellbeing’ (IFSW2014).

Social work practice comprises of the professional application of social work values, principles, and skills to one or more of the following ends: assisting people obtain real services; counseling and psychotherapy with individuals, families, and groups; helping communities or groups provide or improve social and health services; and take part in legislative processes and social action. The practice of social work requires information of human development and behavior; of social economic, and cultural institutions; and of the interaction of all these factors. (National Association of Social Workers, 2009).

As an academic discipline social work builds its identity on the study of social problems. The goal is to generate knowledge about causes,

consequences and feasible solutions for these social problems. This knowledge is expected to be useful to practitioners working with clients affected by different adverse conditions. Empirical social work research on poverty, discrimination, social exclusion, homelessness, juvenile delinquency, domestic violence and human trafficking, it is usually taken for granted what the 'social problem' is. The social problem is treated as a deplorable circumstance "about which something must be done" (Holstein and Miller, 1993). It is therefore considered to be a deviation from a desirable condition (how society ought to be), how exposed groups suffer from these conditions (Gould and Baldwin, 2004; Healy and Link, 2012) and what social work practitioners need to take into consideration when dealing with those bearing the symptoms of such conditions. (Okoye 2008).

Social work is a dynamic profession that persistently needs to keep abreast of contemporary trends and developments in society. To this end, policy is currently being developed for social workers to engage in continuing professional development (CPD) activities. Many social workers generally practice other profession in multi-disciplinary teams, and social work operates within a welfare sector that needs to collaborate with other sectors such as health, education, sports, recreation and housing. (Barker and Branson 2014).

Social work profession is unique and distinct among helping professions in that it functions on a core principle of self-determination, which is a person's right to decide what is best for himself or herself (Freedberg, 1989). Another distinct nature of the social work profession is its focus on both the person needing services and the environment in which the person lives (Gibelman, 1999). This means that social workers do not only help people in solving their personal problems to improve their functioning, they also work to improve the conditions in society that often create problems for individuals and their families. The profession of social work therefore applies certain principles including the values, ethics and principles of the profession to assist individuals, communities, groups or families with varied forms of problems to improve their lives and social

functioning (NASOWS, 2009). These include personal counseling services, advocacy, community organizing, locality development and lobbying aimed at changing or influencing various forms of legislation that may impact their lives. Although rapid social change in less developed countries like Nigeria is associated with technological, economic and political changes and higher educational attainment but not enough attention has been given to Social Work profession by the Government and Society (Rwomire, 2012).

There are information on literature on the professionalization of social work but the issue of awareness among students in secondary schools has not being addressed since the course is not being taught at post primary level, the lack of awareness of social work profession can as well affect their career choice. Hence the study identified the nexus Social Work awareness and career choice among secondary school students and government commitment towards Social Work profession.

### **Objectives of the Study**

1. To determine the level of awareness of Social Work profession among secondary school students.
2. To find out the perception of secondary school students toward social work profession

### **Literature Review**

Social Work profession contribute to social change, solving problem in human connections, and the strengthening and freedom of individuals to improve their wellbeing. Using theories of human conduct and social systems, social work intercedes at points where individuals connect with their surroundings. Standards of human rights and social justice are key to social work (IASSW (International Association of Schools of Social Work), 2001). In spite of the fact that of an exceptionally broad nature, what the IFSW proclamation does in any event introduce is an arrangement of

concurrent duties for social work. Specifically, it promotes change, and furthermore finds the social work task at the interface between the individual and the Society; the individual and his/her environment. Likewise, it additionally recognizes the significance of social justice and human rights and working with sabotaged/defenseless individuals from our Societies. It underlines the liking between social work, the human rights traditions and the later enactment that fortifies the requirement of human rights. (ADSW (Association of Directors of Social Work), 2004).

Social work has its foundations in the battle of society to manage poverty and the resultant issues and it developed into a profession in the later piece of the nineteenth Century when England was in the time of flitter-flourishing (Mere, 1982). Britain was a noteworthy Sea Power amid the time of industrialization. This industrialization and enhanced farming made the populace relatively served because of enhanced wellbeing and natural sanitation inside the different networks. This industrialization wasn't all blasts as it was joined by the marvels of social issues for the majority, since a portion of the real issues were lodging, poor working conditions, stuffed situations, vagrancy, kid surrender, truancy, misconduct, frailty and joblessness. The work conditions were poor and the state couldn't intercede. In the then England, there were poor people, the simple poor and the capable poor. As a ponder worry for aiding the poverty stricken and less advantaged individuals from the general public, the underlying foundations of social work go back to religious and compassionate driving forces apparent in the narratives of most civic establishments (Ekpe and Mamah, 1997).

### **Theoretical Framework: Social Information Processing Theory**

Social Information Processing Theory was produced in 1992 by Joseph Walther and is worried about the greater part of the psychological tasks that are sent to create a conduct reaction amid social collaboration. The hypothesis looks to see how conduct comes about because of people groups' understanding and interfacing with their environment. This

hypothesis looks to clarify why understudies will pick social work teach as a course of concentrate in the college in light of the data they have obtained about the train amid their senior optional school days. Anyway the psychological activities that are considered incorporate particular thoughtfulness regarding meaningful gestures, attribution of plan, and age of objectives, getting to of conduct contents from memory, basic leadership, and social authorization.

There are five phases that promotes where data is acquired and process that eventually prompts activity. The stages are encoding, making mental portrayals, reaction getting to, assessment, and establishment. Social Information Processing Theory has suggestions for understanding tyke abuse (Milner 1993, 2003). In particular, analysts have inspected social data handling as it identifies with forceful conduct of kids who have been abused (Burks 1999; Dodge 1990) and in addition their social adjustment (Price and Landsverk 1998). Studies have additionally utilized social data handling as the establishment of studies looking at how guardians see kids' practices and qualities (Dadds. 2003; Montes. 2001). For instance, (Montes. 2001) looked at moms at okay and high hazard for youngster abuse and discovered proof for social data handling of kid physical mishandle. They presumed that moms in the two unique gatherings prepared data identified with youngsters diversely and utilized more power-decisive teach.

## **Research Methods**

This study adopted cross sectional research design due to the nature of the study. Cross-sectional studies are much cheaper to perform than other options that are available to study. That is because there is no follow-up required with this type of research. Once the information is collected from the entire study group, it can be analyzed because only that single time reference is being considered. That allows for useful information to be obtained without a potentially risky initial investment. The data for this study was collected through one-time survey research design. This means that data will be collected once from the sample selected out of the entire

population of the public secondary school in Egor Local Government Area. This research design was chosen because it is less expensive, it captures a specific point in time, it contain multiple variable at the time of the data snapshot, and many findings and outcomes can be analyzed to create new theories/studies.

The population of this study was public senior secondary school students from SS 1 to SS 3 in Egor local government area of Edo State.

Fig. 1 Public senior secondary Schools Egor LGA

S/N	NAMES	SS1(SEX)		SS2(SEX)		SS3(SEX)		TOTAL
		M	F	M	F	M	F	
1.	Asoro Grammar School	231	238	201	203	227	205	1305
2.	Ohonre Grammar School	29	47	33	44	23	27	203
3.	Evbuotubu Secondary Sch	155	184	109	133	21	23	625
4.	Uselus Secondary School	97	129	124	152	50	59	611
5.	Edo Boys High School	235		240		220		695
6.	Egor Secondary School	110	150	130	145	115	126	776
7.	Evbareke Secondary School	180	203	170	185	140	160	1038
8.	Eweka Secondary School	45	57	40	47	40	42	271
9.	Iyoba Girls College		220		200		185	605
10.	Okhokhugbo Grammar School	45	56	30	45	20	40	236
11.	Useh Secondary School	50	59	47	50	35	42	283
12.	Uwelu Secondary School	45	57	50	60	45	49	306
13.	Grand Total	1222	1400	1174	1264	936	958	6954

Source: Post Primary Education Board (PPEB) Statistical Department, April 2018

The sample size for the study was drawn from seven selected schools names, Evbareke Senior Secondary School 1038, Iyoba Girls Senior Secondary School 605, Uwelu Senior Secondary School 306, Uselu Senior Secondary School 611, Edo Boys High School 695, Egor Senior Secondary School 776 and Eweka Senior Secondary School 271 and the total is **4,302**. The Cochran (1977) sample size determination formula was used to calculate the sample size.

$$N = \frac{Z^2 P(1 - P)}{e^2}$$

420 selected sample size

Since seven (7) schools were selected, therefore for equal number of respondents the sample population will be divided by seven. Therefore 60 participants were selected from each of the schools

Fig. 2

SCHOOLS	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Uselu Secondary School	30	30	60
Edo Boys High Sch	60		60
Iyoba Girls College		60	60
Egor Secondary School	30	30	60
Uwelu Secondary School	30	30	60
Eweka Secondary School	30	30	60
Evbareke Secondary School	30	30	60
Grand Total	210	210	420

Since the scope of the study was between SSS1 and SSS3 hence 10 males, 10 females across the three levels, 60 participants shall be randomly



contacted since they are not mixed schools. This study adopted simple random sampling technique. In-depth Interview was conducted with seven (7) principals in the absence of the any of the principals the vice principal shall be contacted for the indebt interview, one from each schools. Hence the total participants were **427**.

### **Socio-Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents**

The socio-demographic data of the study participants is as presented in table below, 420 questionnaires were administered but 411 were returned.

**Fig 3: Distribution of Respondents by Socio-Demographic Characteristics (n=411)**

<b>Variables</b>	<b>Frequency (F)</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
<b>Sex</b>		
Male	183	44.5
Female	228	55.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Age (Years)</b>		
14-19	407	99.0
20 -24	4	1.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Religion</b>		
Christianity	401	97.6
Muslim	8	1.9
Others	2	0.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>100.0</b>
	142	34.5

<b>Educational level</b>	136	33.1
S.S.S 1	133	32.4
S.S.S 2	<b>411</b>	<b>100.0</b>
S.S.S 3		
<b>Total</b>		
<b>Name of School</b>		
Uselu secondary school	64	15.6
Edo Boys secondary school	63	15.3
Iyoba girls secondary school	56	13.6
	58	14.1
Egor senior secondary school	54	13.1
	56	13.6
Uwelu secondary school	60	14.6
Eweka secondary school	<b>411</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Evbareke secondary school		
<b>Total</b>		
<b>Occupation of father</b>		
Farming	72	17.5
Non farming	337	82.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Occupation of mother</b>		
Farming	60	14.6
Non farming	359	85.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### Field Survey, 2018

In this section, socio-demographic variables such as gender, age, educational attainment, occupation of father and mother of the respondents were examined. Fig 3. therefore shows the socio-demographic characteristics of respondents for the study. The gender distribution of the

respondents as shown in Fig 3 revealed that 183 (44.5%) of the respondents were males and 228(55.5%) were females. This indeed reflects the distribution of respondents in the research endeavor by gender and the data therefore suggests that there are more females students in the seven public schools in Egor Local government Area of Edo State. The data is depicted in a bar chart showing the gender distribution of respondents. Figure 4.1 below throws more graphical light on the gender distribution.

More so, the data obtained on the age distribution of respondents also revealed that majority of the respondents fall within the age bracket of 14 - 19 years which represents 401(99.0%) of the total respondents that participated in the research. This findings suggest that the respondents selected for this study are teenagers and the study seeks to divulge the level of awareness of teenagers on the social work profession in general. On the other hand, 1.0% of the respondents fall within the age bracket of 20-24 years; it therefore imply that a minute fraction of the respondents are adult. The age distribution of the respondents is also depicted in fig 3

**Fig. 4 : Frequency distribution showing level of awareness of the social work discipline among secondary school students in Egor Local Government Area, Edo State.**

<i>Level of Awareness</i>	<i>Responses</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<b>Have you heard of social work profession</b>	Yes	154	37.5
	No	257	62.5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>How often do social work students do internships in your school</b>	Never	274	66.7
	Often and regularly	86	20.9
	Rarely	51	12.4
	<b>Total</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Do you want to be a social worker</b>	Yes	154	37.5
	No	251	61.1

	Indifferent	6	1.5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Do you think the social work profession is widely publicized</b>	Yes	107	26.0
	No	304	74.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Are your peers aware of social work profession</b>	Yes	73	17.8
	No	338	82.2
	<b>Total</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Do you know what social workers do</b>	Yes	117	28.5
	No	294	71.5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Source: Field Survey, 2018*

The first objective of the study was to ascertain the level of awareness of the social work profession in Edo State. In order to achieve this objective, respondents were asked series of questions on their awareness of the discipline. The result in Fig. 4 revealed that the social work profession was regarded as a noble profession but most of the secondary school students that were interrogated had little or no knowledge about the profession. The frequency distribution showed that respondents were asked if they have heard of the social work profession; 154(37.5%) of the respondents affirmed that they have heard of the discipline through various outlets such as programs, orientation programs, sensitization by social workers in schools and TV shows. On the other hand, a vast majority of the respondents with 257(62.5%) posited that they are not well-informed about the profession. It therefore shows that the level of awareness about the discipline is quite low. From the foregoing, it can be deduced that most of the senior secondary school students that participated in the research are not conversant with the profession and they have little or no idea as regards the core aim of the profession. In the bid to further establish the level of awareness of among students, the respondents were also asked to mention how often social

work students do internship in their schools. The data also showed that respondents were asked to state their view about the social work profession; the responses of some of the respondents which were extracted from the open-ended sessions of the questionnaire are as follows:

*They had this to say: social work is a profession that deals with the relationship between social workers and students; social workers are peoples who ask question based on their specialization; social workers are not permanent workers, they just enlighten students and can be changed from time to time; I don't know anything about social work profession, social workers help in improving social problems in our school, community, town and country as a whole. The social workers teach and advise students on a particular decision to make (Extracts from open-ended questions from the questionnaire)*

It can be deduced that majority of the students had misconceptions about the profession and are not conversant with the role social workers play in the society. It can also be observed that a minute fraction of the respondents had a little idea about the social work profession; but they are not well-informed and educated about the fundamentals of the social work profession.

Similarly, the respondents were asked if they would like to study social work as a profession; data revealed that 154(37.5%) of the respondents noted that they would want to become a social worker in the future while 251(61.1%) of the respondents had a contrary view as regards taking up the social work profession as an area of interest in the future; 6(1.5%) of the respondents were indifferent to the question raised. Some of the respondents noted that they do not have flare for the discipline but would rather take up other professions like medicine, law, and accounting; on the other hand a little fraction of the respondents had interest in the profession and would want to acquire knowledge about the profession. The result also further showed that respondents were asked their view about

the publicity of the profession; 107(26.0%) affirmed that the social work profession is widely publicized while an overwhelming majority 304(74.0%) of the respondents disagreed. 73(17.8%) of the respondents also agreed that some of their peers are aware of the social work profession while 82.2% which represents a greater percentage are of the opinion that their peers are not aware of the social work profession. The data also revealed that respondents were asked what social workers do; 28.5% mention few things they know about the profession while an overwhelming majority (71.5%) said they don't know what social workers do. The findings of this study were also corroborated by the work of Okoye, and Ijebor, (March, 2013). When they noted that one of the challenges of social work practice in Nigeria is the low level of awareness of the profession. The qualitative data extracted from the in-depth interview sessions also corroborated the findings of the quantitative data with regards to the low level of awareness among secondary school students.

Some of the interviewee had this to say:

I would like to say that the level of awareness is a bit low in the sense that most of the times they really don't know what social work is. I don't think they have a motivation to study it because the first thing they ask themselves most times is where I will work if I finish studying it at the university level. The level of awareness is low because the students are not in the know though they send students ie social worker for field practicum once in a year. I don't think they are able to reach them that much in terms of one on one basis (IDI/ Uselu Secondary School/ Principal/ Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> Oct. 2018)

Another principal that was interviewed also affirmed the poor exposure and publicity of the social work profession. She noted that:

They are not aware of the profession at all, although they study social work in the university. The school has not had any counselor for the past 25yrs, since the principal started working with the school, not to talk about social workers. It's a new profession that few are knowledgeable about.

She went further to advocate that "It is a good idea to have a social worker in the school for internship because so many students are not aware of the profession. She was of the opinion that students should at least study social work at their high school level before getting into higher institutions for further study of the profession. She suggested that awareness should be made, to achieve such goal. She blamed the government and its parastatals for the unawareness of the profession and other courses" (IDI/ Evbareke Secondary School/ Principal/ 30<sup>th</sup> Oct. 2018)

In addition, another interviewee also had this to say

The level of awareness is low among secondary school students in the case of our school Uwelu secondary, social work is not a general phenomenon, and like me I don't know anything about the profession (IDI/ Uwelu Secondary School/ Principal/ Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> Oct. 2018).

On a divergent view, Naidoo .S (2004) carried out a study in South Africa on the Social Work Profession In South Africa: Quo Vadis? He opined that Social Work profession is practiced everywhere and its spreading in Africa because of humanitarian needs.

## Perception of Secondary School Students towards Social Work profession in Egor Local Government Area, Edo State

**Fig 5: Respondents View Social Work profession in Egor Local Government Area, Edo State**

<i>Variables</i>	<i>Responses</i>	<i>Frequency (F)</i>	<i>Percent (%)</i>
Do you think social work profession has achieved expected results	Yes	109	26.5
	No	300	73.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Do you think most students will love to study social work in the University</b>	Yes	219	53.3
	No	192	46.7
	<b>Total</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>100.0</b>
After knowing the benefit of social work, would you advice a friend to study social work	Yes	252	61.3
	No	159	38.7
	<b>Total</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Do you think social work profession is admirable in Nigeria	Yes	117	28.5
	No	294	71.5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Do you think social work profession is highly respected in Nigeria	<b>Yes</b>	89	21.7
	<b>No</b>	322	78.3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Source: Field Survey, 2018*



The data on the perception of respondents about the social work profession revealed that majority of the respondents with 300(73.0%) argued that social work profession has not achieved the expected results while 26.5% of the respondents had a positive view. Social work as a discipline is a practice-based profession that promotes social change and development, social cohesion, and the empowerment and liberation of people. But as it stands, the discipline have not been able to achieve its objectives in totality. The study went further to ask the respondents whether students will love to study social work in the university; the data revealed that 219(53.3%) of the respondents were affirmative while 192(46.7%) had a contrary view. The students were asked if they will advise their friend to study social work if they are conversant with its benefits; majority of the respondents with 252(61.3%) were affirmative while 38.7% had a negative view. The results therefore shows that secondary school students would love to study the profession provided they have insight about the social work line of work.

Qualitative data for the study also revealed that one of the interviewee highlighted why it is necessary to encourage students to choose the discipline in the higher institution. Her remarks are as follows:

Take for instance, there are some students that just have some dispositions, there are some characters you see in some persons that convince or you just see them, the way they care, sociable, the way they want to know how persons are faring there are some of the things that would even help one more to conclude if an individual should be in this profession or not. So if I want to advise a student on career choice maybe to study social work. If I understand it very well the person should be good at social sciences first and foremost, because sociology really has to do with the society and culture of the people and I think I will encourage them because it is supposed to be a noble profession but the way we go about it I don't think the

awareness has been created enough both among the schools even in the curriculum, it is still silent in terms of highbrow courses I don't think whether it is the society, but the comparison with some of these courses, so it really takes time, even in the social sciences, you see students going into accounting, business administration, Public administration, etc. we try to talk to them but the first thing they are going to ask you is where will they work if they study such courses and coupled with the fact that schools as it is now have guidance and counsellors when it comes to career choice those are the people to go to but it's different now. These schools as a whole, we don't have a guidance and counsellor.

(IDI/Uselu Secondary School/ Principal/ Tuesday

30<sup>th</sup> Oct. 2018)

The result also showed that 89(21.7%) agreed to the fact that social work profession is highly respected in Nigeria while a greater fraction 322(78.3%) disagreed. In the same vein, 117(28.5%) of the respondents that participated in the research posited that the social work profession is admirable in Nigeria while 71.5% had a contrary view.

### **Recommendations**

The study has identified the level of awareness of the social work profession and the role of parent and the society on the responsibility of the social worker, the error of not educating the general public on the role and responsibility of the social worker and its profession will pose a disaster to the course of study. Hence, the recommendations that are given below will take into cognizance the social work profession as well as other profession without much popularity in Nigerian society.

Based on the findings in this study, the following recommendations were made;

1. Social work being one of the study that focuses on humanities and also one of the professions that is internationally recognized need to be re-emphasize to children especially in their secondary education as this will give them a hint of what the study entail and the benefit of choosing the study for future career.
2. The policy maker should make policy that will create an enabling environment for the social work to strive and also assist in making available grant that are educationally inclined especially in the area of the humanities where social work is a major.
3. Government should create in the educational curriculum some course and also employ teacher in this specialized field to educate the younger generation on the role and benefit of studying courses like social work.
4. Parents without the social work knowledge should never discourage their children whenever they are about to make a profession for themselves especially in the area of social work.
5. Finally, there should be a re-awakening of the social work as a choice in the university and the publication of awareness of the social work profession need to be brought to the door step of all as this will ameliorate the disaster of total neglect of the profession.

### **Implication of Findings to Social Work Practice in Nigeria**

The following are the implication of findings:

- (a) Social profession help to put in place initiatives that will combat the problems of moral degeneration among young people. The problems of family instabilities, corruption, high unemployment levels and general hypocrisy cannot be addressed through policy and legislation but mostly by awareness of social work profession by all asundry. Social work profession response to the call of the society and its needs. Society needs social workers to do the development, prevention, and therapy to its dysfunctional/problematic members and dysfunctional social structures/institutions. In order to achieve

this, social workers need to recognize the existence of a problem, which is the beginning of the solution. Therefore, we must recognize that the conceptualization of social work is in a chaotic situation.

- (b) Social workers orient parents through family therapy to totally embrace their responsibility and start acting like parents by checkmating their children activities as it relates to their academic career choice in the higher institutions. Thus, the awareness of Parents about the profession will go a long way in educating and encouraging their children and wards in studying course that will help bring solution to societal problems.

## Conclusion

The study concludes that the social work choice of study and profession is still under professed and this has a great implication for future generation as the society will pay for its negligence. The study also added that parent and the academic institution should allow their children to take a course that they are free with. Finally the study conclude that the un-popular picture of the social work profession is not only socially inclined (which is at the macro level) but also at the micro level where the family influences decision of children especially culturally incline society as Nigeria.

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