

(Phillips et al., 2001; Schultheiss et al., 2001).

Selecting a career can be one of the most significant and challenging decisions a student can make. As Gati and Levin (2014) aptly pointed out, people often feel overwhelmed when considering the numerous avenues they could take concerning their careers. This is especially true for high school students, who are often going through a tumultuous period of physical, cognitive, and emotional development and facing choices about what programs or major to pursue. The ramifications of career indecision can be far-reaching, including physical consequences related to financial strain, time dedicated to changing college programs and/or schools, and psychological consequences relating to a negative self-image, low self-efficacy, and loss of career aspirations (Feldman, 2003; Boo & Kim 2020).

A major finding of this research was the predictive

a sample of Grade 12 students.

Our results suggest that, with some notable exceptions, social support can predict career decision-making difficulties for students reaching the end of their Secondary studies.

Regarding hypothesis 2.1. (i.e., social support subscales will predict career decision-making difficulties main scales), an interesting result generated from this research is the lack of significant effect between social support and career readiness when that social support comes from teachers or guidance counsellors. Our results indicate that students' parents are the most influential in reducing career decision difficulties. These findings parallel those of prior research in the context of vocational decisions. For example, Garcia et al. (2012) found that both student and parental ratings of parental support moderated the relationship between learning goal orientation and career decision-making self-efficacy. It has also

a parent chooses to *raise their children* can greatly impact their children's ability to make a career decision. Positive parenting styles have been repeatedly shown to improve their children's career development. Children of parents who display consistent acts of love, affection, and interest display greater senses of responsibility and career decision-making efficacy during their college years (Liu, 2008; Hou et al., 2013). Conversely, negative parenting styles (such as adopting more authoritarian approaches) have been shown to increase career decision-making difficulties (Cenkseven-Onder et al., 2010; Koumoundourou et al., 2011). Unsurprisingly, unsupportive parental environments where parents have been found to be either indulgent or neglectful are linked with higher career decision-making difficulties (Sovet & Metz, 2014).

By contrast, no correlation existed between social support and