**Title: The Influence of Parental Involvement on Higher Education Choice-Making in Non-Western Context: The Lived Experience of Students in Kerala, India**

**Abstract**

The paper explores the lived experience of students as to how parent-child relationship can shape higher education choice-making, in a non-western context. Employing qualitative research approach, data were collected through in-depth interviews with students in Kerala, India, and analysed using Charmaz’s Constructivist Grounded theory methodology. The study employed two types of purposive sampling: maximum variation sampling and theoretical sampling. The study identifies two key parental functions in the decision-making process: acts of parenthood and parental efforts. Acts of parenthood are characterised by the approach to parenthood and conforming or non-conforming responses, while parental efforts encompass monetary involvement and interactional participation. The findings indicate that parental involvement has a significant influence on a child's educational choices, highlighting the importance of understanding parental behaviour and interactional investment in shaping educational decision-making in non-western contexts. By shedding light on the impact of these parental functions, this study provides valuable insights for parents, educators, and policymakers in promoting better educational outcomes.

**Keywords**: Choice-making, Higher education, Parental involvement, Grounded theory