

# PARENTAL INFLUENCE ON CAREER ASPIRATIONS AND CAREER CHOICE OF COLLEGE STUDENTS

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## INTRODUCTION

“An aspiration is a future goal in which an individual is willing to invest time, effort or money (Richard.A.Sherwood, 1989).” Career aspirations, career choice and career progress are complex constructs influenced by numerous factors like socio-economic status, personality traits, gender, parental influence, school or college experience, self-concept, academic achievement, existing or future job prospects, peer pressure. It is a proven belief that among all the other determining factors, family influence is an indispensable predictor in case of career decisions (Miller,Wells,Springer&Cowger,2003).Research studies on this topic reveal that career aspirations are closely associated with parents’ education, occupation, and their encouragement.

## REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The extent of parental involvement in a child’s life, be it positive or negative can impact the child’s future career choice. Without proper parental approval or support, students would be unwilling to explore and pursue various career options. College students and young adults cite parents as a major influence on their career choice. Both the parents’ education and income have an impact on individuals ‘career aspirations. (Mau and Bikos,2000) . Parents’ occupation and family size also influence career aspirations (Downey,2005). In case of gender dominated occupations, family involvement is the most significant predictor of career choice (Salami,2006).

Parents provide appropriate support for certain occupational choices which tend to follow their own ( Small&McClean, 2002) and among both the parents, mothers were more influential (Mickelson and Velasco,2008). Parental influences played a critical role in driving young people’s educational and occupational aspirations. Hence programs that encourage active participation of parents in career decision making process will go a long way in nurturing the career aspirations of youth (SinanGemici, Alice Bednarz ,Tom Karmel,Patrick Lim ,2014)

The students whose parents have obtained a college degree may start the choosing their careers earlier than students whose parents have not attended college (Litten, 1992). Generally, students tended to aspire to as much higher a career as possible as that of their parents ( Moody,1996). The students whose parents have college level education have better level of aspiration than students whose parents are illiterates or have only school level education (Senthilselvam.S&Subramonian.G, 2015).

## OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

- To obtain the demographic profile of science students
- To draw their parents’ characteristics.
- To determine who mostly influences a student’s career choice
- To find out the influence of fathers’ qualification and occupation on student’s career aspirations
- To find out the influence of mothers’ qualification and occupation on student’s career aspirations.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

- **Research design:** The present study followed a **descriptive design**, where the people influencing career choices, the role of parents’ qualification and occupation in students’ career aspirations have been explored
- **Sampling design:**
  - Population: All the undergraduate science students of Hindusthan College of arts and science, Coimbatore ( a strength of 500)
  - Sample size: The Sample size for the study was 60 respondents
  - Sampling technique: Purposive and Convenience sampling which are non-probability sampling methods are exploited.

- **Research Instrument and data collection methods:**Data was collected by primary sources. Primary data was collected through structured undisguised questionnaire which was filled by the science students.
- **Analysis tools:** Data collected was analyzed by using various descriptive statistical tools like frequency distribution, simple percentage analysis, mean and average.

**DATA ANALYSIS RESULTS:****TABLE No.1 Demographic Profile of respondents**

S.No.	Variable	Frequency	Percentage
I	<b>Gender</b>		
	1. Male	22	36.7%
	2. Female	38	63.3%
	Total	60	100
II	<b>Area</b>		
	1. City	34	56.6%
	2. Sub-urban	18	30%
	3. Rural	08	13.4%
	Total	60	100
III	<b>Father's Educational qualification</b>		
	1. Less than high school	09	15%
	2. High school	17	28.3%
	3. Higher Secondary	16	26.7%
	4. Under graduation	10	16.7%
	5. Post-graduation	07	11.7%
	6. None of these	01	1.6%
Total	60	100	
IV	<b>Mother's Educational qualification</b>		
	1. Less than high school	10	16.7%
	2. High school	22	36.7%
	3. Higher Secondary	12	20%
	4. Under graduation	12	20%
	5. Post-graduation	02	3.3%
	6. None of these	02	3.3%
Total	60	100	
V	<b>Father's Occupation</b>		
	1. Self Employed	12	20%
	2. Monthly employee	15	25%
	3. Daily Wage	07	11.7%
	4. Business	19	31.6%
	5. A professional	07	11.7%
Total	60	100	
VI	<b>Mother's Occupation</b>		
	1. Self Employed	03	5%
	2. Monthly employee	10	16.7%
	3. Daily Wage	04	6.6%
	4. Business	02	3.3%
	5. A professional	03	5%
	6. A Home Maker	38	63.4%
Total	60	100	

**Table No.2 People influencing choice of a career**

S.No	Factors	Frequency				Total
		Extremely 4	To some extent 3	Not much 2	Not at all 1	
1	Father	37	14	04	05	60
2	Mother	29	17	10	04	60
3	Teachers	16	16	10	18	60
4	Friends	20	27	11	02	60
5	Relatives	13	21	22	04	60

6	Role models in the field	21	13	13	13	60
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The above table reveals that fathers have extremely influenced choice of career among respondents followed by mothers who have extreme influence in career choice for around half of the total respondents. Role models and friends have also influenced majority of the respondents extremely in opting a career. Teachers and relatives have not shown much influence on students in choosing a career.

**Table No.3 Mean Scores for Career aspirations Construct in relation to Parents' qualification**

S.No.	Father's Qualification	Mean Scores	S.No	Mother's Qualification	Mean Scores
1	Less than high school	21.27	1	Less than high school	22.5
2	High school	22.75	2	High school	23.08
3	Higher Secondary	24	3	Higher Secondary	23.78
4	Under graduation	24.07	4	Under graduation	24.1
5	Post-graduation	24.75	5	Post-graduation	24.6
6	None of these	21	6	None of these	20

It is inferred from the table that though there was no drastic difference in the mean scores for career aspirations of individuals whose parents had different levels of educational qualification, that highest mean scores for career aspirations construct were noticed among respondents whose parents were well qualified

**Table No.4 Mean Scores for Career aspirations Construct in relation to Parents' occupation**

S.No.	Father's Occupation	Mean Scores	S.No.	Mother's Occupation	Mean Scores
1	Self Employed	23.25	1	Self Employed	23
2	Monthly employee	24.26	2	Monthly employee	24
3	Daily Wage	22.625	3	Daily Wage	21.5
4	Business	22.85	4	Business	23.5
5	A professional	23.8	5	A professional	23.3
			6	A Home Maker	23.44

It is noted from the table that occupational status of parents has an impact on the mean scores for career expectations among respondents. Respondents whose father's occupation and mother's occupation were monthly employees had the highest career aspirations score.

## CONCLUSION

From the study it could be concluded that major of the respondents were from city and most of the respondents' parents' qualification was high school. Among people who most significantly influence career choice were parents followed by role models in the chosen field. Children of well qualified parents had higher career expectations as an influence from their parents. Individuals whose parents were monthly employees had higher career aspirations scores followed by the children of self-employed parents.

## REFERENCES

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