

A Study on Deciding Factors Regarding Career Choice of the Students in Higher Secondary Level

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ABSTRACT

Successful completion of education has become more strategic due to greater competition to achieve limited number of vacancies in the desired job profile. Some scopes have been so established that they have become a most common and achievable target to major class of students. Fields that are already known to people are more convincing by virtue of being successful than other off bit streams. This situation makes those scopes more limited by accumulating a larger number of seekers. On the other hand, if someone is wise enough to foresee all the risks of a new off bit scope and experience enough to mitigate the same, is more likely to be successful by facing a lesser competition. Therefore, choice of career is a key strategically play to determine ultimate achievement in the name of successful career. There are many factors on which the career choice depends upon, i.e. Academic achievement, economical condition, interest, educational background of family, guidance of teacher, financial solvency etc. In this study, I tried to find out some major factors influencing career choice and also have analyzed the impact of those factors on the career choice among the H.S. students. In this study Non-Experimental Survey method has been used, where total 200 students from 10 different H.S. Schools are chosen as sample. The schools and samples are chosen by Random Sampling Technique. In this study Self-made 'Career Factor' questionnaire and survey sheet are used to collect data

Keywords: Career choice, Career awareness, Career Factors, Career Preference

Introduction

Being a developing country presently India is going through numerous ups and downs in its economy graph. Huge growing industry, medical facilities, financing sectors is subjected to generate sufficient scope in the name of job vacancy. But, insufficient development works, industrial growth have somewhere saturated the market. Importing new technologies have also reduced the need of man power. Besides people of every socio economical condition are more interested to lead a life officer rather than doing some work by himself. It has already scaled up the ratio of vacant jobs to job seeker in our country. Each year this number goes on increasing.

To be strategic enough to achieve ultimate success by getting a desired job, one has to direct his mind from the very root level. Educational administrators have made the system more oriented towards their future profession. Generally, students are guided by their parents and teachers to choose their career. But now a day's parents bind their children into the race of positions in the class, and wrap themselves with the glory of success, or morose of disappointment. They even prioritize their choice over their children, forcefully, in case of career selection. Besides parents' psychology, socio-economic condition of student has played a greater role in terms of career selection. After the board level results are out, we can find many a cases in the newspaper that, due to poor economy some meritorious students become unable to continue themselves with higher education. In the other hand, students with less merit, get themselves admitted in some prestigious institutes just with the help of money in the form of capitation fees or donations. Judging all the factors, it can be concluded that, in present era, choice of career and getting into it does not only depend upon the merit of student and their willingness. It depends upon many factors which plays key roles, from the surroundings. One has to possess strong determination and sufficient self-confidence, to overcome those factors opposing his choice of career and to relish the real sense of success.

Related Studies:

Some studies have been done before regarding career preference, career awareness, and career counseling etc. in India and abroad.

Initial attempt was made by **Michael Borchert (2002)** who studied the career choice factors of higher secondary school students of United States. He found that while students do not feel environmental factors are important, they did not show out right disregard for them and the students may unknowingly define their thinking by based on the ideas and suggestions of the people in their support group.

Kochar (2002) observed that society plays a significant role in career choice. According to their family's background and religious beliefs and culture are also considered as other major factors in career choice.

Pal and Banerjee (2009) observed that family imposition, their self-interest, teacher's guidance, friend's suggestion etc. plays significant role to choose career.

Mattoo (2014) observed parental education could not make any significant difference in some of career choices like fine arts, scientific, literary, sports and household etc. But technical choice and agriculture choices are seen to be higher among the children of professionals.

Millward et al. (2006) made a study regarding career planning of high school students in Canada. He observed in his study that majority of the participants viewed career planning as an important part in their life. They reported that they would approach Parents mostly for help in career planning, followed by relatives, friends, counselors, and then teachers. They also needed career counseling services.

Need of the Study

In this stud I have tried to figure out the factors and their influences on career choice. One does not generally because he aim too high and fail, but because they aim too low and succeed. If one can set a perfect goal in 12th level then it is more probable that heis directed rightly towards his success. This study helps to figure out pattern of career choice for 12th level students. I belief his study will bring betterment and more refinement in career choice of the students which are in 10+2 level.

Objectives

Following major objectives are set for subject study:

1. To find out major factors of career choice among the Higher Secondary school students.
2. To observed the influence of those factor in career choice.

Research Question

- [1] Is there any relation between academic achievement and career choice?
- [2] Is there any relation between family income and career choice of students?
- [3] Is there any relation between career choice and education of guardian?
- [4] Is there any relation between salary expectation and career choice?
- [5] Is there any relation between career choice and guidance?
- [6] Is there any relation between career choice and service sector?

Method of the study

Non experimental survey method has been used to complete the study.

Design of the study

Sample

Total 200 students from 10 different H.S. Schools at Amta 1 Block,Howrah,West Bengal are chosen as sample. The schools and samples are chosen by '**Random Sampling Technique**'.

Tools

Self-made 'Career Factor' questionnaire and survey sheet are used to collect data. Through survey sheet we collect data regarding students' family income, education background of family, academic achievement, selection of stream etc.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Research Question 1

Is there any relation between academic achievement and career choice?

There are lots of individual differences among the students. So their academic achievements are different. After analysis of data , I found that on the basis of academic achievement they choose different stream. The result is below:

(Table no: 1)

Percentage of Marks In last Board Examination passed (Class-X)	Choice of academic career / selection of stream		
	ARTS	COMMERCE	SCIENCE
Less than 40%	100%	-	-
40%-50%	80%	10%	10%
51%-60%	70%	14%	16%
61%-70%	18%	22%	60%

71%-80%	11%	21%	68%
81%-90%	3%	10%	87%
91%-100%	2%	4%	94%

From the above table it has been clear that Low Academic Achiever Students (less than 40% - 50%) prefer Arts stream. They have minimum interest in Commerce and Science. Moderate Academic Achiever Students' (51%-70%) preference stream is arts and science. High Academic Achiever students (71%-100%) prefer Science Stream. They have minimum interest in commerce stream and they have less interest in Arts stream.

Research Question 2

Is there any relation between family income and career choice of students?

Economic condition of the family is one of the major factors of career choice. According to our knowledge, most of the students are liable to choose a career on the basis of family income support. Need of getting a job impels him to most common and average paid streams with lesser risk factors.

(Table no : 2)

Family income, per month. (in Rupees)	Choice of academic career / selection of stream		
	A R T S	C O M M E R C E	S C I E N C E
Below 5000	80%	8%	12%
5001-10000	65%	10%	30%
10000-20000	60%	9%	31%
20001-30000	42%	8%	50%
Above 30000	18%	12%	70%

From the result we can see that there is relation between family income and career choice. From the result we can see students of higher monthly income families prefer science stream and students of lower monthly income families prefer arts stream.

Research Question 3

Is there any relation between career choice and education of guardian?

Career choice depends upon guardian's guidance. If a guardian is conversant with the present condition of career world and ongoing educational system then they are more efficient to direct children in taking decision for their proper career.

(Table no : 4)

Highest educational qualification of guardian	Choice of academic career / selection of stream		
	Arts	Science	Commerce
Below Class XII	75%	20%	5%
Graduate	70%	22%	8%
Post Graduate	62%	29%	9%

From the above analysis we can observed that educational qualification of guardian's plays an important role to select career of a students.

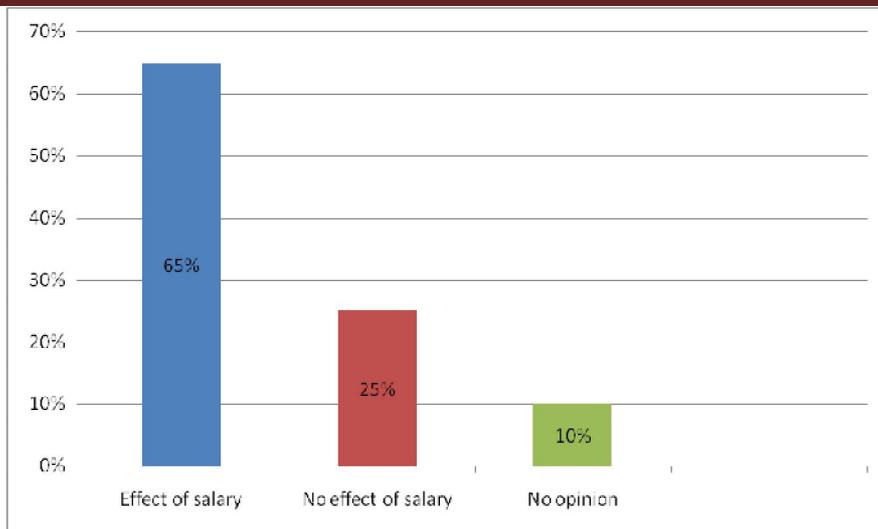
Research Question 4

Is there any relation between salary expectation and career choice?

In present time, students are conscious about their professional aim and salary of job. It is an important factor. Students are asked about this matter during the survey. The result is here-

(Table no : 5)

Factor	No of students	% of students
Effect of salary	130	65
No effect of salary	50	25
No opinion	20	10



CHOICE OF STREAM/CAREER ON THE BASIS SALARY

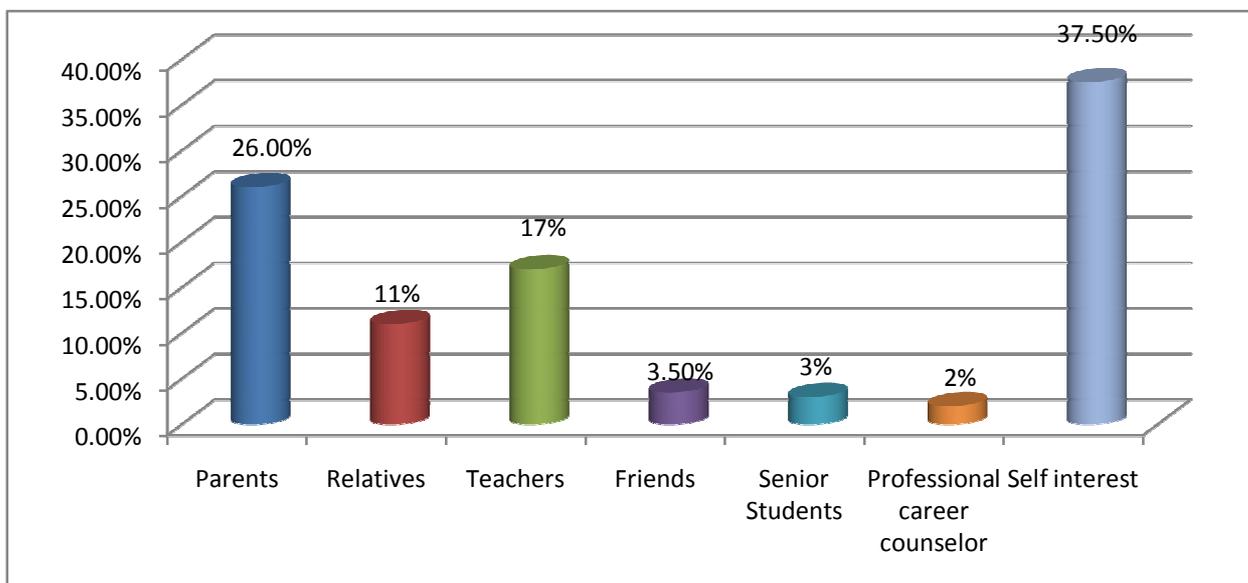
From the analysis it has been clear that salary is a big factor for selection a career

Research Question 5

Is there any relation between career choice and guidance?

(Table no : 6)

Influence/Guidance	No of students	% of students
Parents	52	26
Relatives	22	11
Teachers	34	17
Friends	7	3.5
Senior Students	6	3
Professional career counselor	4	2
Self interest	75	37.5



Students are guided by their parents, guardians, teachers, friends, career counselor to choose his/her educational stream and career. Sometimes to choose a career, students neglect their self interest. From the study we can see self interest is the most important factor for selection a career. They also

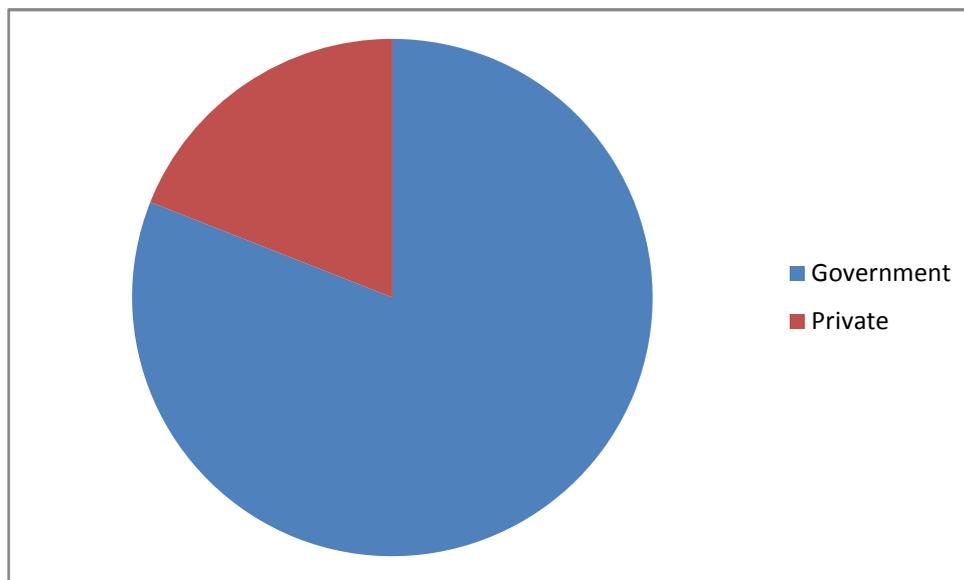
reported that they would approach Parents mostly for help in this regard followed by teachers, relatives, friends, senior students and professional career counselors.

Research Question 6

Is there any relation between career choice and service sector?

(Table no : 6)

Influence by	No of Students	Percentage
Government	162	81
Private	38	19



It is a big factor for selection of a career. It has been seen that most of the students prefer government job. During interaction with students they told that due to more security in job, more consistency in getting salary, lesser stressful work life, they prefer government sector to work within than private sector.

MAJOR FINDINGS

After the analysis we can point out major findings regarding how the students choose career generally influenced by their achievement level. Following the complex nature we can say career choice depends on many factors which are mutually dependent with each other. Self interest, socio-economical condition, awareness of parents about career and environment in family show their influence on career choice of a student. All the major factors are discussed as follows.

1. In 12th level stream selection (i.e. science, arts and commerce) is mainly influenced by academic achievements of a student.

Students, who earn around 70 percent above marks in class X, generally are interested to choose science stream. Few of them manage to get admission in schools with science stream with their average marks, and most of them are not successful. This percentage increases with higher marks obtaining students in class X level. At the end, almost all of the students, who get above 80% marks, take science as their preferred stream.

Students who fail to obtain science, ends up with taking commerce/arts. Their marks actually lie above 40%. Similarly, all the students with less than or equals to 40% marks generally ends up taking arts subjects.

2. Not only academic achievement, factors with economic aspect also play a vital role in career selection. Adopting science is believed not only to secure career. It is more probabilistic to have a good glamour. If a student wants to prepare himself professionally keeping in view his future career, he needs to spend a handsome amount of money at the level of getting prepared. In current infrastructure condition of India, it is

next to impossible for a higher secondary student to earn the money by his own, to continue with this kind of professional trainings.

So, it is noticed that, students with family earning greater than Rs. 30,000, have a greater probability, who adopt science as their first choice. Students of family income less than Rs. 10,000 generally show more tendency of taking arts stream .

3. Educational background of guardians is also responsible for selection of streams of their son or daughter. Parents are the only key persons, who understand their children best. If they are educated and so aware enough to know every aspect about a lot of career opportunities, then only they are able to guide their children to adopt an appropriate stream according to their ability.

4. There is a common saying, money is not everything in this eternal, but it is the most important factor one can ever imagine of in his life. Therefore, the stream providing a handsome package of salary generally has a greater demand. This is the one and only reason of science stream to be a hot cake in the market of career defining streams. Results found from the analysis also gives a figure taht, 65% students are interested for actually getting into higher package offering careers.

5. Guidance of parents, teachers, relatives, friends, senior students and most of all self-interest are the major decisive factors of stream selection. Among those factors, self-interest is the most predominant one, as its meant to be. Parents' and teachers' guidance also have fair percentage of influence regarding career choice. These are the major factors, influencing stream selection for future career opportunities and also have a fair percentage of exceptions that students with exceptional psychology and merit and those who are guided by great thinkers about career opportunities.

6. Last but not the least, due to more security in job more consistency in getting salary, lesser stressful worklife students choose government sector to work within than private sector

CONCLUSION

“Education is the manifestation of perfection already in men”. It is to enable a person to stand firmly on his own feet and to enlighten him or her with self-confidence and self-respect. Everyone has their own views on education according to their need. Some people want to satisfy their egoistic need. Some are interested to indulge in triumph of science and technology, whether some are just settled only with a respectful and prominent social recognition.

In India, a major part of student is found to be dependent on education, to fulfill their basic needs. If they can manage some degree, they could be able to earn a handsome amount and so can continue with their daily expenses. Besides, there are only a few left, who prefers education to satisfy their egoistic need. They seek for a good recognition in society by perfectly career-oriented studies and higher package of jobs. Only a few are found to continue education for their self-actualization only. They just do, with what they are in love. If we notice the common link among all, it is found that, what they all need is education.

Choosing a career is a key part of Indian Education System. With a larger number of students competing toughly for higher paid prestigious jobs, it has been established as the key factor which is to be taken care. Regarding career selection, there are many a factors, which are already discussed in this subject literature. But, the factors which should only be present to succeed in future and get satisfied in job should be student's self-interest and his actual capability. Economical factors, social factor are not desired to play any influence. They are to be abolished, completely.

Indian constitution provides basic right for education. But, only providing rights to people only not going to help . Government needs to create greater scopes for jobs to abolish the competition in the name of education. Besides, if we look into the current situation, it is noted that many students are even not able to continue their education after 10+2 level due to poor financial condition. Still now, girls are not supposed to avail educations in many corners of India. Their higher education is getting hindered by the custom of getting married in a very early age. Government should campaign for the awareness to influence more people to have education. More career counseling centers, with professional career experts should be present there, to provide proper career guidance. If government provides educational loan to students, in place of short services in public sectors, so they can return the amount, many students will get benefit. Because , stipends alone are not supposed to reach to every needy student. Education should be scattered as far as possible. Then only, true progress of a nation, a civilization will happen. A new era can make its first step.

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