

# A Comparative Study of Career Preference between Male and Female Students of Higher Secondary Schools

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**ABSTRACT:** : *With the propagation of civilization, education has become the tool, to be used for occupation only. Some specific streams are getting preference automatically, which are most probable to give a career. It has been also seen that, this selection varies between male and female students. This study makes a comparison of career preference fields between male and female students. This study can also guide them to a better career counseling, so that they become much more aware about their future life. Twenty schools were randomly selected to complete the study. From each of those schools, 40 students were randomly taken as samples for data collection. Thus total 800 students were selected as samples. There were 376 male and 424 female students. Samples were selected through 'Random Sampling Technique'. Here independent variable is male and female higher secondary students and dependent variable is career preference. For the present study, standardized tool 'Career Preference Record' is used which was developed by Dr. Vivek Bhargava & Rajeshree Bhargava(Agra). Data was subjected to statistical treatment by applying 't' value . Through the study, we will also get an idea about the type career fields they are actually interested in, for their future career. It will also be known, whether they are focusing of limited number of careers or not. The significance of the study is to observe the career preference fields of the male and female students so that they can be guided in the right direction.*

**Key Words:** *Career Preference, Higher Secondary Schools, Male and Female Students.*

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## Introduction

The progress and actions taken by a person throughout a lifetime, especially those related to that person's occupations. A career is often composed of the jobs held, titles earned and work accomplished over a long period of time. Choice of occupation varies person to person. Some of them maintain their family business. Being from non-business background some become entrepreneurs. But, in most of the cases, people grab education as a strong and significant tool to build up a prospectus and glamorous career.

In the short span of life, to build a proper career, one has to do all the right things at the right time. It is very difficult to be aware of all the possible career fields and to make choice in this age only. Role of career counseling comes into the picture here. Having a higher I.Q. is not a great factor. All it matters upon how you utilize it to build up your career.

To counsel the careers, it is very much needed to have a view about the whole fact. Knowledge about the factors of choosing a career is also vital. To study on the gender factor, if we divide students into male and female students, it is observed that there were differences in selection of career. They can choose from a huge variety and can take the most convenient path according to their strength. So, this study focuses on the career preference fields of male and female students, to understand their thinking and to recommend them with wider variety of career opportunities.

Nadeem and Ahmad (2016) conducted a study on career choice of Higher Secondary students with reference to Gender. They use the tools (Career Preference Record) to collect data. They found that Science and Technology and Law & Order were the main career preference fields of male students. Artistic and designing, Medical, Education and Science & Technology were the main preference of female students. Atli (2017), Bastien (2014), Matto (2014), Micallef and Gatt (2006), Nicolao (2014), Olamide and Olawaiye (2013), Sirohi (2013) also found significance differences in career choice or preference between male and female school students.

## Objective of the study

Following major objective was set for the present study:

1. To compare the career preference in the fields of Mass Media and Journalism (MMJ), Artistic and Designing (AD), Science and Technology (ScT), Agriculture (AG), Commerce and Management (CM), Medical (M), Defence (D), Tourism and Hospitality (TH), Law and Order (LO) and Education (E) between male and female students of higher secondary schools.

### Hypotheses of the Study

- H<sub>0</sub>1: There would be no significant difference of career preference in the field of 'Mass Media and Journalism' (MMJ) between male and female students of Higher Secondary Schools.
- H<sub>0</sub>2: There would be no significant difference of career preference in the field of 'Artistic and Designing' (AD) between male and female students of Higher Secondary Schools.
- H<sub>0</sub>3: There would be no significant difference of career preference in the field of 'Science and Technology' (ScT) between male and female students of Higher Secondary Schools.
- H<sub>0</sub>4: There would be no significant difference of career preference in the field of 'Agriculture' (AG) between male and female students of Higher Secondary Schools.
- H<sub>0</sub>5: There would be no significant difference of career preference in the field of 'Commerce and Management' (CM) between male and female students of Higher Secondary Schools.
- H<sub>0</sub>6: There would be no significant difference of career preference in the field of 'Medical' (M) between male and female students of Higher Secondary Schools.
- H<sub>0</sub>7: There would be no significant difference of career preference in the field of 'Defence' (D) between male and female students of Higher Secondary Schools.
- H<sub>0</sub>8: There would be no significant difference of career preference in the field of 'Tourism & Hospitality Industry' (TH) between male and female students of Higher Secondary Schools.
- H<sub>0</sub>9: There would be no significant difference of career preference in the field of 'Law & Order' between male and female students of Higher Secondary Schools.
- H<sub>0</sub>10: There would be no significant difference of career preference in the field of 'Education'(E) between male and female students of Higher Secondary Schools.

### Operational Definition of Technical Term

**Career Preference :** In this study the career preference means score of different career fields which the researcher has obtained by using the tool 'Career Preference Record' (CPR) developed by Dr. Vivek Bhargava and Rajshree Bhargava.

### Delimitation of the study

The scope of present study is quite extensive in view of the time limit and available resources. The present study is delimited on the following group-

**Area Delimitation:** The study is delimited to the Higher Secondary School's of Howrah District, West Bengal.

**Sample delimitation:** The study is delimited to male and female students of class XI.

**Higher Secondary Students:** It refers to the XI standard students who read in Higher Secondary section of the schools.

### Research Method

Research method is to conduct a research work which is determined by the nature of problem. For the present study Descriptive Survey method has been used.

#### Variable:

1. Independent variable: Male and Female Higher secondary students
2. Dependent variable: Career Preference

### Sample

A sample of 800 students (376 male and 424 female) were drawn from 20 higher secondary schools of Howrah district, West Bengal. These 20 higher secondary schools selected randomly. Forty students from each school selected through random sampling technique.

### Tool

For the present problem the standardized tool used is 'Career Preference Record' (CPR) which was developed by Dr. Vivek Bhargava & Rajeshree Bhargava(Agra) in the year 2001. It published by 'Haraprasad Institute of Behavioral Studies' (HIBS), AGRA.

**Table 1: Showing the fields of career preference and their abbreviations**

Fields of Career Preference	Abbreviations
Mass Media & Journalism	MMJ
Artistic & Designing	AD
Science & Technology	SCT

Agriculture	AG
Commerce & Management	CM
Medical	M
Defence	D
Tourism & Hospitality Industry	TH
Law and order	LO
Education	E

**Strategy of statistical analysis**

Mean, SD, Tests of significance ('t' test) is applied to test the significant of mean difference of career preference fields of Male and Female Students of Higher Secondary schools.

**Data Analysis and Interpretation**

**H<sub>01</sub>:** There would be no significant difference of career preference in the field of 'Mass Media and Journalism' (MMJ) between male and female students of Higher Secondary Schools.

**Table 2: Showing the significance of difference between means of Male and Female Higher Secondary School Students on 'Mass Media and Journalism' (MMJ) field of Career Preference**

Variables	Area	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	t	df	Sig. (2 tailed)
Career Preference- MMJ	Male	376	7.4628	4.6376	0.2391	1.587**	798	0.113
	Female	424	7.9410	3.8810	0.1884			

\*\*not significant at 0.05 level of significance

**Interpretation**

The analysis in Table 2 shows that in case of comparing the career preference in the field of 'Mass Media and Journalism' (MMJ) between Male and Female Higher Secondary Students the calculated  $t_{(798)}$  value is 1.587 and 'p' value is 0.113 ( $p > 0.05$ ). Hence,  $t$  is not significant at 0.05 level. So,  $H_{01}$  is accepted and it can be safely said that the Male Higher Secondary students (Mean=7.4628) were not significantly different from the Female Higher Secondary students (Mean= 7.9410) with respect to the career preference in the field of 'Mass Media and Journalism'. From the mean scores of male and female students', it is observed that Female students prefer 'Mass Media and Journalism' career field than Male students.

**H<sub>02</sub>:** There would be no significant difference of career preference in the field of 'Artistic and Designing' (AD) between male and female students of Higher Secondary Schools.

**Table 3: Showing the significance of difference between means of Male and Female Higher Secondary School Students on 'Artistic and Designing' (AD) field of Career Preference**

Variables	Area	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	t	df	Sig. (2 tailed)
Career Preference- AD	Male	376	5.1410	3.6651	0.1890	13.082*	798	0.000
	Female	424	8.6274	3.8460	0.1867			

\*significant at 0.01 level of significance

**Interpretation**

The analysis in Table 3 shows that in case of comparing the career preference in the field of 'Artistic and Designing' (AD) between Male and Female Higher Secondary Students the calculated  $t_{(798)}$  value is 13.082 and 'p' value is 0.000 ( $p < 0.01$ ). Hence,  $t$  is significant at 0.01 level. So,  $H_{02}$  is rejected and it can be safely said that the Male Higher Secondary students (Mean=5.1410) were significantly different from the Female Higher Secondary students (Mean= 8.6274) with respect to the career preference in the field of 'Artistic and Designing' (AD). From the mean scores of male and female students', it is observed that Female students prefer 'Artistic and Designing' (AD) career field than Male students.

**H<sub>03</sub>:** There would be no significant difference of career preference in the field of 'Science and Technology' (ScT) between male and female students of Higher Secondary Schools.

**Table 4: Showing the significance of difference between means of Male and Female Higher Secondary School Students on 'Science and Technology' (ScT) field of Career Preference**

Variables	Area	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	t	df	Sig. (2 tailed)
Career Preference- ScT	Male	376	6.0426	4.1746	0.2152	2.812*	798	0.005
	Female	424	5.2712	3.5834	0.1740			

\*significant at 0.01 level of significance

### Interpretation

The analysis in Table 4 shows that in case of comparing the career preference in the field of 'Science and Technology' between Male and Female Higher Secondary Students the calculated  $t_{(798)}$  value is 2.812 and 'p' value is 0.005 ( $p < 0.01$ ). Hence, t is significant at 0.01 level. So,  $H_03$  is rejected and it can be safely said that the Male Higher Secondary students (Mean=6.0426) were significantly different from the Female Higher Secondary students (Mean= 5.2712) with respect to the career preference in the field of 'Science and Technology'. From the mean scores of male and female students', it is observed that Male students prefer 'Science and Technology' career field than Female students.

**H<sub>04</sub>:** There would be no significant difference of career preference in the field of 'Agriculture'(AG) between male and female students of Higher Secondary Schools

**Table 5: Showing the significance of difference between means of Male and Female Higher Secondary School Students on 'Agriculture' (AG) field of Career Preference**

Variables	Area	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	t	df	Sig. (2 tailed)
Career Preference- AG	Male	376	4.3644	3.3430	0.1724	0.711**	798	0.477
	Female	424	4.5354	3.4385	0.1669			

\*\*not significant at 0.05 level of significance

The analysis in Table 5 shows that in case of comparing the career preference in the field of 'Agriculture' (AG) and between Male and Female Higher Secondary Students the calculated  $t_{(798)}$  value is 0.711 and 'p' value is 0.477 ( $p > 0.05$ ). Hence, t is not significant at 0.05 level. So,  $H_04$  is accepted and it can be safely said that the Male Higher Secondary students (Mean=4.3644) were not significantly different from the Female Higher Secondary students (Mean= 4.5354) with respect to the career preference in the field of 'Agriculture' (AG) From the mean scores of male and female students', it is observed that Female students prefer 'Agriculture' (AG) career field than Male students.

**H<sub>05</sub>:** There would be no significant difference of career preference in the field of 'Commerce and Management' (CM) between male and female students of Higher Secondary Schools.

**Table 6: Showing the significance of difference between means of Male and Female Higher Secondary School Students on 'Commerce and Management' (CM) field of Career Preference**

Variables	Area	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	t	df	Sig. (2 tailed)
Career Preference- CM	Male	376	5.6330	3.9797	0.2052	0.735**	798	0.462
	Female	424	5.4387	3.4941	0.1696			

\*\*not significant at 0.05 level of significance

### Interpretation

The analysis in Table 6 shows that in case of comparing the career preference in the field of 'Commerce and Management' between Male and Female Higher Secondary Students the calculated  $t_{(798)}$  value is 0.735 and 'p' value is 0.462 ( $p > 0.05$ ). Hence, t is insignificant at 0.05 level. So,  $H_05$  is accepted and it can be safely said that the Male Higher Secondary students (Mean=5.6330) were not significantly different from the Female Higher Secondary students (Mean= 5.4387) with respect to the career preference in the field of 'Commerce

and Management’ From the mean scores of male and female students’, it is observed that Male students prefer ‘Commerce and Management’ career field than Female students.

**H<sub>06</sub>:** There would be no significant difference of career preference in the field of ‘Medical’ (M) between male and female students of Higher Secondary Schools.

**Table 7: Showing the significance of difference between means of Male and Female Higher Secondary School Students on ‘Medical’ (M) field of Career Preference**

Variables	Area	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	t	df	Sig. (2 tailed)
Career Preference- M	Male	376	3.9521	3.5089	0.1809	3.203*	798	0.001
	Female	424	4.7264	3.3241	0.1614			

\*significant at 0.01 level of significance

**Interpretation**

The analysis in Table 7 shows that in case of comparing the career preference in the field of ‘Medical’ between Male and Female Higher Secondary Students the calculated  $t_{(798)}$  value is 3.203 and ‘p’ value is 0.001 ( $p < 0.01$ ). Hence, t is significant at 0.01 level. So, H<sub>06</sub> is rejected and it can be safely said that the Male Higher Secondary students (Mean=3.9521) were significantly different from the Female Higher Secondary students (Mean= 4.7264) with respect to the career preference in the field of ‘Medical’. From the mean scores of male and female students’, it is observed that Female students prefer ‘Medical’ career field than Male students.

**H<sub>07</sub>:** There would be no significant difference of career preference in the field of ‘Defence’ (D) between male and female students of Higher Secondary Schools.

**Table 8: Showing the significance of difference between means of Male and Female Higher Secondary School Students on ‘Defence’ (D) field of Career Preference**

Variables	Area	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	t	df	Sig. (2 tailed)
Career Preference- D	Male	376	7.5638	4.6154	0.2380	6.441*	798	0.000
	Female	424	5.7005	3.54604	0.1722			

\*significant at 0.01 level of significance

**Interpretation**

The analysis in Table 8 shows that in case of comparing the career preference in the field of ‘Defence’ between Male and Female Higher Secondary Students the calculated  $t_{(798)}$  value is 6.441 and ‘p’ value is 0.000 ( $p < 0.01$ ). Hence, t is significant at 0.01 level. So, H<sub>07</sub> is rejected and it can be safely said that the Male Higher Secondary students (Mean=7.5638) were significantly different from the Female Higher Secondary students (Mean= 5.7005) with respect to the career preference in the field of ‘Defence’ . From the mean scores of male and female students’, it is observed that Male students prefer ‘Defence’ career field than Female students.

**H<sub>08</sub>:** There would be no significant difference of career preference in the field of ‘Tourism & Hospitality Industry’ (TH) between male and female students of Higher Secondary Schools.

**Table 9: Showing the significance of difference between means of Male and Female Higher Secondary School Students on ‘Tourism & Hospitality Industry’ (TH) field of Career Preference**

Variables	Area	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	t	df	Sig. (2 tailed)
Career Preference- TH	Male	376	5.9122	3.8713	0.1996	0.462**	798	0.644
	Female	424	6.0330	3.5208	0.1709			

\*\* not significant at 0.05 level of significance

### Interpretation

The analysis in Table 9 shows that in case of comparing the career preference in the field of 'Tourism & Hospitality Industry' between Male and Female Higher Secondary Students the calculated  $t_{(798)}$  value is 0.462 and 'p' value is 0.644 ( $p > 0.05$ ). Hence,  $t$  is not significant at 0.05 level. So,  $H_08$  is accepted and it can be safely said that the Male Higher Secondary students (Mean=5.9122) were not significantly different from the Female Higher Secondary students (Mean= 6.0330) with respect to the career preference in the field of 'Tourism & Hospitality Industry'. From the mean scores of male and female students', it is observed that Female students prefer 'Tourism & Hospitality Industry' career field than Male students.

**H<sub>09</sub>:** There would be no significant difference of career preference in the field of 'Law & Order' (LO) between male and female students of Higher Secondary Schools.

**Table 10: Showing the significance of difference between means of Male and Female Higher Secondary School Students on 'Law & Order' field of Career Preference**

Variables	Area	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	t	df	Sig. (2 tailed)
Career Preference-LO	Male	376	6.4255	3.9678	0.2046	1.689**	798	0.092
	Female	424	5.9764	3.5542	0.1726			

\*\* not significant at 0.05 level of significance

### Interpretation

The analysis in Table 10 shows that in case of comparing the career preference in the field of 'Law & Order' between Male and Female Higher Secondary Students the calculated  $t_{(798)}$  value is 1.689 and 'p' value is 0.092 ( $p > 0.05$ ). Hence,  $t$  is not significant at 0.05 level. So,  $H_09$  is accepted and it can be safely said that the Male Higher Secondary students (Mean=6.4255) were not significantly different from the Female Higher Secondary students (Mean= 5.9764) with respect to the career preference in the field of 'Law & Order'. From the mean scores of male and female students', it is observed that Male students prefer 'Law & Order' career field than female students.

**H<sub>010</sub>:** There would be no significant difference of career preference in the field of 'Education' (E) between male and female students of Higher Secondary Schools.

**Table 11: Showing the significance of difference between means of Male and Female Higher Secondary School Students on 'Education' field of Career Preference**

Variables	Area	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	t	df	Sig. (2 tailed)
Career Preference-E	Male	376	7.5293	4.32533	0.2230	4.635*	798	0.000
	Female	424	8.8892	3.9720	0.1929			

\*significant at 0.01 level of significance

### Interpretation

The analysis in Table 11 shows that in case of comparing the career preference in the field of 'Education' between Male and Female Higher Secondary Students the calculated  $t_{(798)}$  value is 4.635 and 'p' value is 0.000 ( $p < 0.01$ ). Hence,  $t$  is significant at 0.01 level. So,  $H_010$  is rejected and it can be safely said that the Male Higher Secondary students (Mean=7.5293) were significantly different from the Female Higher Secondary students (Mean=8.8892) with respect to the career preference in the field of 'Education'. From the mean scores of male and female students', it is observed that Female students prefer 'Education' career field than Male students.

**Table 12: Fate of H<sub>0</sub>1 to H<sub>0</sub>10**

H <sub>0</sub>	Variables		Decisions
	Dependent	Independent (Groups for Comparison)	
H <sub>0</sub> 1	Career Preference- <b>Mass Media and Journalism</b>	Male and Female Students	Accepted (p=0.113)
H <sub>0</sub> 2	Career Preference- <b>Artistic and Designing</b>	Male and Female Students	<b>Rejected (p=0.000 )</b>
H <sub>0</sub> 3	Career Preference- <b>Science and Technology</b>	Male and Female Students	<b>Rejected (p=0.005)</b>
H <sub>0</sub> 4	Career Preference- <b>Agriculture</b>	Male and Female Students	Accepted (p=0.477)
H <sub>0</sub> 5	Career Preference- <b>Commerce and Management</b>	Male and Female Students	Accepted (p=0.462)
H <sub>0</sub> 6	Career Preference- <b>Medical</b>	Male and Female Students	<b>Rejected (p=0.001)</b>
H <sub>0</sub> 7	Career Preference- <b>Defence</b>	Male and Female Students	<b>Rejected (p=0.000)</b>
H <sub>0</sub> 8	Career Preference- <b>Tourism &amp; Hospitality Industry</b>	Male and Female Students	Accepted (p=0.644)
H <sub>0</sub> 9	Career Preference- <b>Law &amp; Order</b>	Male and Female Students	Accepted (p=0.092)
H <sub>0</sub> 10	Career Preference- <b>Education</b>	Male and Female Students	<b>Rejected (p=0.000)</b>

The analysis in Table 12 shows that null hypotheses H<sub>0</sub>1, H<sub>0</sub>4, H<sub>0</sub>5, H<sub>0</sub>8, H<sub>0</sub>9 are accepted and H<sub>0</sub>2, H<sub>0</sub>3, H<sub>0</sub>6, H<sub>0</sub>7, H<sub>0</sub>10 are rejected.

### Major Findings:

1. There is significant difference in career preference between Male and Female Higher Secondary school students in the field of Artistic and Designing (AD), Science and Technology (ScT), Medical (M), Defence (D) and Education (E).
2. There is no significant difference in career preference between Male and Female Higher Secondary school students in the field of Mass Media and Journalism (MMJ), Agriculture (AG), Commerce and Management (CM), Tourism and Hospitality (TH) and Law and Order (LO).
3. Male students show more preference in the career preference fields 'Science and Technology' (ScT), 'Commerce and Management' (CM), 'Defence'(D), 'Law & Order' (LO) than female students.
4. Female students show more preference in the career preference fields 'Mass Media and Journalism'(MMJ), 'Artistic and Designing' (AD), 'Agriculture'(AG), 'Medical' (M), 'Tourism & Hospitality Industry' (TH) and 'Education' (E) than male students.

### Discussion:

Now it is observed that there were significance differences in some career preference fields between male and female students of higher secondary schools. Findings of the study are supported by Atli (2017), Bastien (2014), Matto (2014), Micallef and Gatt (2006), Nadeem and Ahmad (2016), Nicolao (2014), Olamide and Olawaiye (2013), Sirohi (2013) etc researchers. They also found significance differences in some career preference fields or areas between male and female students. So it was seen that gender plays a significant role in career preference.

### Conclusion

In this study it was observed that there were significance differences in some career preference fields between male and female students of higher secondary schools. During the data collection, personally researcher made conversation with some of the teachers and guardians. They were concerned about the career of their students or childs. Most of the students need more consciousness regarding career building. This study clearly indicated the differences of career preference fields between male and female students of higher secondary schools. Now school authority or Govt. should build career awareness among the students

and parents through campaign or any relevant awareness programme. There should be a Career counseling cell in every school. With the help of the cell every student can select their career on the basis of their interest.

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