A study on the role of parental guidance on career selection of Secondary School students.

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Abstract

Secondary school stage is one of the most crucial and significant stage of the entire life span of an individual. It is also a period of revolutionary changes in all aspects of development. During this period human personality develops new dimensions. An individual faces tremendous problems of coping with these changes, which creates anxieties and worries. It is also a period of career selection and vocational development for their future. Sometimes it creates tensions and conflicts in the mind of adolescents in selecting a right career for their future. The role of parents is very significant in this regard. In the present study the investigator has tried to study career preferences of secondary school students and the role of parental guidance in selecting the right career. A Sample of 30 male and 30 female students were taken in this study and random sampling technique was used for selecting the sample.

Keywords: Career, career selection, parental guidance, secondary school students.

1. Introduction

Parental guidance plays a very important role in shaping the career prospects of their children. There is no denying the fact that parents are the greatest influence of their children. Parental guidance usually provide for the child’s physical needs, skills and cultural values until they reach legal adulthood usually after adolescence. Most parents have aspirations so far as their children’s educational and career choices are concerned. As such parental guidance can have significant role on an adolescents’ career selection.

Choosing the right career is one of the important milestones of secondary school students. This may be a crucial time in their life when they must decide as to what they wish to be in life keeping in view their options and limitation. Many a time’s children may not be able to decide his/her career and may seem confused in choosing the appropriate one in their lives. In such a situation, guidance of parents help youngster to find his/her path and take the correct decision. Making decisions about their own career helps adolescents believe that they are competent and capable, and their self-esteem gets strengthened in the process. Some time it is seen many talented students are not success due to lack of resources, facilities and opportunities, but sometimes they are fail due to lack of proper guidance of parents. The role of parental guidance in the career choice of a secondary school student is very important which will go a long way in nourishing their children’s hidden talents and encourage them to be the best at whatever they can.

Some parents have high expectations from their children, what they could achieve they want to see those in their children without giving importance to the interests and capabilities of their children. The worst situation occurs when children cannot fulfill the desire and expectations of parents. Lots of depression and frustration occurs in their mind due to their unsuccessful career which affects their entire life. This is why the stage of adolescence is most important and
parents have to take a responsible role in this regard.

2. Significance of the study

The significance of choosing of an appropriate career is a critical task for every secondary school student. This decision has far reaching impact on their entire lifestyle. Hence the role of parental guidance in career selection of secondary school students is significant and it has been sustained by various research studies that parents have a key role to play in the career choice of their children.

3. Review of related literature

- Mariam Hassan studied on the role of parental guidance for career choice of secondary school students in the opinion of educational counselors in Karachi. The study concluded that parental guidance influence most at secondary school students on subject selection and career choice. It was suggested that parents need to be conscious of their role in the future of their children.

- Laitonjam Valentine and Ritu Singh studied on guidance needs of adolescent’s reflection from their type of family. The result of the study revealed that both the family type had extreme need for physical, educational and vocational guidance and least needs for psychological guidance. Among the five domains of guidance, respondents from nuclear and joint families expressed need for vocational guidance on top priority.

- Jungen notes in her research paper that choosing a career is often considered a major turning point in a young adult’s life. This decision alone has potential to open the door for success or close the door of opportunity. While often perceive to be individual choice, research suggests that a variety of influences such as family, school, community, social and economic factors are likely to manipulate one’s ultimate career decision. Among these factors students report that parents have the greater influence on which career they choose.

- Mwaa Mutinda Alphonse was to investigate the extent by which parental factors influence career choice among secondary school students. The study also sought to establish the relationship and significance of parental factors and the students’ career choice. Result from the study showed that parental factors influence the career choice of students in Nairobi country.

- Gayatri Changkkakoti in her study said that parental aspiration like belief and behavior affects career choice of school going adolescents and it was concluded that there is a relationship between parental aspiration and its influence on adolescents career choice.

It is seen that many studies have been done in the field of role of parental guidance in career selection of secondary school students. The present study is of utmost importance to know about career selection of secondary school students in different areas and as to how parents help their children in selecting the best.

3. Statement of the problem

The present study is titled as “A study on the role of parental guidance on career selection of secondary school students.”

4. Operational definition

- Parental Guidance: Parental guidance means assistance, direction and involvement from parents who guide their children directly or indirectly.
- Career: Career may be defined as the progress and actions taken by a person throughout a lifetime, specially related to that person’s occupation.
- Career Selection: Career selection means selection of a particular path or vocation in term of career. This is usually influenced by parental guidance, vocational counseling etc.
- Secondary school student: Student studying in Std. XI & XII.

5. Objectives of the study

(i) To know the career preferences of secondary school students.
(ii) To study the role of parental guidance on career selection of secondary school students come from government and private schools.

6. Hypothesis of the study

- Ho 1: There is no significance difference of parental guidance on career selection of secondary school students come from government and private schools.

7. Method of the study

The present study follows the Descriptive Survey
Method and is based on primary and secondary sources of data. Besides this, the investigators had gone through different journals, books and online services.

8. Sample

In the present study a sample of 60 secondary school students (30 boys and 30 girls) of XII std. and parents were selected randomly from some selected Govt. and private junior Colleges in Guwahati respectively.

9. Tools used

Keeping in view the objectives of the study, the investigators had developed a self-constructed questionnaire on 10 career options, where the students were indicated which career they prefer for their future. A Likert-type scale was developed to know the role of parental guidance in career choice of secondary school students where 15 statements were given.

10. Statistical technique used

The following statistical techniques are used in the study:

- Mean
- Standard Deviation
- Percentage
- T-test to the significance of between different groups.

11. Delimitation of the study

The study is delimited to only std. XII (Arts) students.

12. Analysis and discussions

- Objective 1: To know the career preference of secondary school students.

  In order to find out the career preference of secondary school students the questionnaire was handed over to the students where ten career options were provided against which the respondent had to indicate their choice. The following were provided –

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl No</th>
<th>Name of careers</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Science &amp; Technology</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>23.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Defence</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Law</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>13.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Teacher</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>16.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Journalism</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Medicine</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Social work</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Commerce &amp; management</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Any other</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Objective no 2: To study the role of parental guidance on career selection of secondary school students come from government and private schools

- Ho 1: There is no significance difference of parental guidance on career selection of secondary school students come from government and private schools.

In order to find out the role of parental guidance on career choice of government and private secondary school students the questionnaire was handed to the parents where 20 statements were given in Likert scale and respondents were given their view against in Strongly agree, Agree, Undecided, Disagree, Strongly disagree.
13. Findings of the study
On the basis of the analysis of the data following were the findings of the study:

- 23.3% of secondary schools students prefer Science & Technology as their career, 20% of them prefer Commerce & Management, 16.6% prefer Teacher, 13.3% prefer Law, 8.3% prefer Defence, 6.6% prefer journalism, 5% of them prefer Medicine and Social Work and 1.6% prefers Agriculture as their career preferences for their future.
- The t value (0.52) is less than critical value of t at 0.05 level of significance, hence it is not significant at 0.05 level of significance.
- Thus, the null hypothesis that there is no significant difference in role of parental guidance in government and private secondary school students is accepted.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. N</th>
<th>Group</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>S. D.</th>
<th>df</th>
<th>t</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Government</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>8.25</td>
<td>4.6792</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0.52</td>
<td>Not significant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>5.25</td>
<td>3.3502</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

14. Conclusion
Career choice is very important aspect among secondary school students and hence reliable and accurate guidance of parents has to be provided to them in order to choose a correct career choice in their life. Parents should realize that their value and expectations influence the career choice to a great extent. Parents should deliberately communicate their expectations to their children without being over persuasive. Parents should discuss different career choices with their children and if it possible, the parents should express satisfaction with the child’s decision.

References

Dr. Kaberi Saha 2012 : Statistics in Education and Psychology; Asian Books Private limited.


