

A STUDY ON CAREER INTEREST OF HIGHER SECONDARY STUDENTS

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Abstract

This study intended to know that the level of career interest of higher secondary students. Normative survey method was employed. A random sample of 200 higher secondary school students was selected. The career interest inventory was used to collect the required information. The results of the study reveal that, the level of career interest of higher secondary student is average. Further, there is significant difference in the teaching competence of between the male and female, rural and urban, community and parental educational qualifications of higher secondary students with respect their career interest.

Introduction

According to Behling and others, an individual's decision to join a firm may depend on any of the three factors viz. Objective factors, subjective factor and Critical contact. Objective factor theory assumes that the applicants are rational. The choice, therefore, is exercised after an objective assessment of the tangible benefits of the job. The factors helping him choose maybe the salary, other benefits, location, opportunities for career advancement etc. Subjective factor theory suggests that decision making is dominated by social and psychological factors. The status of the job reputation of the organizations and other similar factors play an important role.

Critical contact theory advances the idea that candidate's observations during his interactions with the organization play a vital role in decision making. For example how the recruiter keeps in touch with the candidate, the promptness of response and similar factors are important. This theory is more valid with experienced professionals. These theories assume that candidates have a free choice of employers and careers. In reality the scarcity of job and strong competition for desirable jobs severely skews the decision making process. In many markets employees work particular careers simply because they were forced to accept whatever work was available to them.

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Need and importance of the study

Selection of career and settings in it is an important task and it is the source of personal gratification. In the modern age of science and technology, hundreds vocation have been thrown open to an individual. The choice of right location is becoming difficult in these days. Adolescence is the period when a major turning takes place in the life of a student because that career will depend upon the subject selected at this level. On the recommendations of National Policy on Education 1986, School curriculum after then 10th class has been diversified inter academic and vocational streams, the educational and vocational decisions at this stage pave the way for future decisions to be taken by any individual in the world of work. Any wrong decisions of vocational choice due to pressure of the family or from indecisiveness on the part of adolescence can block his / her growth and development in future. Therefore, it was a considered relevant to study this aspect namely career interest of higher secondary students.

Hypotheses of the study

1. The level of career interest of prospective teacher is low
2. There is no significant difference in the Career interest between the male and female higher secondary students.
3. There is no significant difference in the Career interest of higher secondary students based on their locality.
4. There is no significant difference in the Career interest of higher secondary students based on their Type of school.

Method of the study

Normative survey method was used in the present study.

Sample of the study

Random sampling technique was used in the selection of sample. The sample comprised of 200 higher secondary school students. This sample was taken from five higher secondary school.

Null Hypothesis-1

The level of career interest of higher secondary school students is low

Table 1

Levels of professional ethics among career interest of entire sample

Level	Scores	N	Percentage
high level	159 and above	31	15.5
Average level	Between 109 to 158	112	56.00
low level	108 and below	57	28.5

The following inference are drawn from the table 1 in respect of the entire sample of higher secondary students, only 28.5% of the total sample have low level of career interest, 56% of them have average level and 15.5% of them have high level of career interest of higher secondary students. This trend is seen in respect of the entire sample. This finding reveal that the majority of the higher secondary students belong to the average level of career interest. Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected and it is concluded that the level of career interest is average.

Null Hypothesis-2

There is no significant difference between male and female higher secondary students in the Career interest

Table-2

Mean difference in the career interest of male and female higher secondary students

Variable	Sub-samples	N	Mean	S.D	't' Value	significance at 0.05. Level
Career interest	Male	102	182.96	29.92	2.56	Significant
	Female	98	175.74	23.00		

In order to find out the significant difference in Career interest of higher secondary students in terms of gender the mean, standard deviation and 't' values were computed. The obtained 't' value 2.56 is greater than the table value at 0.05 level of significance. Hence, the null hypothesis is rejected and it is concluded that the male and female higher secondary students differ significantly in their Career interest.

Null Hypothesis-3

There is no significant difference between rural and urban higher secondary students in their career interest.

Table-3

Mean difference in the career interest rural and urban higher secondary students

Variable	Sub-samples	N	Mean	S.D	't' Value	Significance at 0.05. Level
Career interest	Rural	91	192.16	15.99	0.16	Non Significant
	Urban	109	196.84	26.82		

In order to find out the significant difference in Career interest of rural and urban higher secondary students, the mean, standard deviation and 't' values were computed. The obtained 't' value 0.16 is less than the table value at 0.05 level of significance. Hence, the null hypothesis is accepted and it is concluded that rural and urban higher secondary students did not differ significantly in their Career interest.

Null Hypothesis-4

There is no significant difference among boys, girls and co-education school higher secondary students in their Career interest.

Table-3

Mean difference in the career interest among boys, girls and co-education school higher secondary students

Variable	Source of variation	Sum of squares	df	Mean square	'F'	significance at 0.05 level
Career interest	Between	49.006	2	21.503	2.152	Non Significant
	Within	38345.349	197	184.646		

In order to find out the significant difference in the Career interest of higher secondary students from boys, girls and co-education schools 'F' value was computed. The calculated 'F' value 2.152 is less than table value at 0.05 level of significance. Hence, the null hypothesis is rejected and it is concluded that there is no significant difference among boys, girls and co-education higher secondary students in their career interest.

Findings

1. The level of career interest of prospective teacher is average.
2. There is significant difference in the Career interest between male and female higher secondary students. While comparing the mean scores male are better than female in their career interest. This may be due to the reason that male are more realistic on investigating they feel happy to do a job like.
3. There is no significant difference in the Career interest of higher secondary students based on their locality.
4. There is no significant difference in the Career interest of higher secondary students based on their type of school.

Conclusion

Higher Secondary is a period of transition for the students from school to further education. So the students are expected to develop their career interest and choose their career path ways very carefully. The present investigation has revealed that male have more career interest than female. Therefore it is the duty of the teachers to develop broad interest and passion towards career interest of the female students. Therefore, relevant awareness could be initiated and effective training may be provided to make them aware of the present and future career trends so that the female students may develop more realistic career interest among themselves.

Reference

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