

Awareness on the choice of profession among school students - A survey

R. Inchara¹, R. Gayathri^{2*}, V. Vishnu Priya²

ABSTRACT

Aim: The aim of this study was to estimate the awareness on the choice of profession among school students. **Introduction:** It is better if one decides at the school stage what profession or occupation one is going to adopt. They are immature and so need guidance and help and counsel of parents, teachers, and consideration while choosing a career for them. If they are provided proper vocational guidance at this stage, they can wisely choose a profession in accordance with their aptitude, capability, and financial resources. **Materials and Methods:** A set of questionnaire was framed, and the survey was conducted among 110 school students. **Results and Discussion:** The overall results from this research reveal that familial influences and societal influences, has significant and considerable impact on students' career choices. **Conclusion:** A correct choice may lead to happy, prosperous, and satisfying career and life. The problem should be faced and resolved as early as possible. It is important to decide the career in school stage only. The school-going students are quite young, inexperienced, and raw to take a right decision. What is needed are proper guidance, counseling, advice, vocational training, encouragement, and orientation.

KEY WORDS: Career, Recruitment, Opportunities

INTRODUCTION

The choice of a right career is of fundamental importance in one's life. A correct choice may result in success, happiness, and bright future, while a wrong choice may lead to unhappiness, failure, and gloom. The result of indecision may prove still worse. The matter of choosing a profession should be decided as early as possible. It is better if one decides at the school stage what profession or occupation one is going to adopt. They are immature and so need guidance, and help and counsel of parents, teachers, and consideration while choosing a career for them. If they are provided proper vocational guidance at this stage, they can wisely choose a profession in accordance with their aptitude, capability, and financial resources. This will also help in solving the problem of unemployment to a great extent.

Mostly, information used by the students in deciding their future careers is based on the information they acquire during childhood through their parents or guardians, friends and teachers, the mass media, or social interaction. Usually, career choices are made without the consideration of selection and recruitment processes criterion and such career decision-making concludes with despair and disappointment due to unawareness about the selection and recruitment process. Successful and effective career decision-making requires the comprehensive knowledge of selection and recruitment process of the desired profession.

The higher level of self-exploration and environmental exploration will result in a greater degree of similarity, likeness, and congruence between the individual and the vocation chosen by the individual, and a great degree of congruence between individual and perceived career will definitely result into higher levels of adjustment, certainty, satisfaction, contentment, and loyalty with the choice.^[1] When a child grows and become more

Access this article online

Website: jprsolutions.info

ISSN: 0975-7619

¹Department of Biochemistry, Saveetha Dental College, Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences, Saveetha University, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India, ²Department of Biochemistry, Saveetha Dental College, Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences, Saveetha University, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India

*Corresponding author: R. Gayathri, Department of Biochemistry, Saveetha Dental College, Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences, Saveetha University, 160, Poonamallee High Road, Chennai-600 077, Tamil Nadu, India. Phone: +91-9710680545. E-mail: gayathri.jaisai@gmail.com

Received on: 23-10-2018; Revised on: 28-11-2018; Accepted on: 27-01-2019

aware of their own strengths, weaknesses and interests for a particular subject are more likely to choose career of their own choice. As the child identifies their capacity to prosper in that particular occupation, their self-efficacy leads them to participate in activities in which they are more likely to succeed and feel less barriers.^[2,3] While, the adolescence students of secondary and higher secondary schools had strong perceptions that decisions regarding career choices are controlled and influenced by several external factors particularly family and social factors.^[4,5] Taylor *et al.*^[5] studied that parental support and encouragement are important factors that have been found to influence career choice. Children may choose what their parents desire simply to please them. There is also evidence that employers prefer students with a broader range of skills than just academic knowledge and greater appreciation of occupational needs, both of which can be gained through work experience and awareness of employers' recruitment and selection process. Accordingly, students' career decision-making and career choices are normally influenced by the familial, societal, and academic institution's factors. Unexpectedly students' awareness about selection and recruitment process or selection criterion of chosen career was not examined or studied.^[6]

Literature also revealed that, by interaction with the family, school, and community, students learn and discover careers which eventually lead to their career choice.^[7] Another consistent outcome in research recognized that students' own objectives are often influenced by their family's aspirations.^[8] Some studies also reported that "external effects that help to shape an individual's career choice are also influenced significantly by others through social support from peers."^[9] It was also revealed by previous studies that family and external influences were not dominant factors because students' own aspirations, judgments, and conclusions drawn by societal behaviors do not affect their career decision-making self-efficacy.^[10-12] Awareness about selection and recruitment procedure provides information concerning the organizational behavior, culture, and characteristics of organization, and candidates made judgments from their perspective of the fairness of selection and recruitment process.^[13] Moreover, it was contended that awareness of employment opportunities and equipping them with the facility to be proactive in seeking potential employer or job will lead toward the more effective career self-management and selection processes.^[14]

MATERIALS AND METHODS

In this research, a set of questionnaire was framed and the survey was conducted among 110 school students. This was done using SurveyPlanet. The answers given by school students were studied, and awareness on the

choice of profession was created among school students. Moreover, the results were statistically analyzed.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Among 110 school students, about 51% of students had no idea about the course to pursue and about 49% of students had an idea about what course they are going to pursue [Figure 1]. When it comes to a question of what profession are you interested in? and what made you choose that particular profession? It was observed that majority of them were interested in medical (27%) and engineering (28%). The main reason behind choosing this particular profession was mainly due to societal contact and family inspiration. It was also observed that the students had less interest in private profession (24%) and course related to government

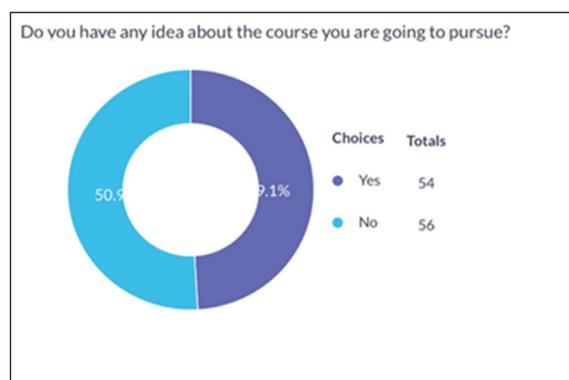


Figure 1: Do you have any idea about course you are going to pursue?

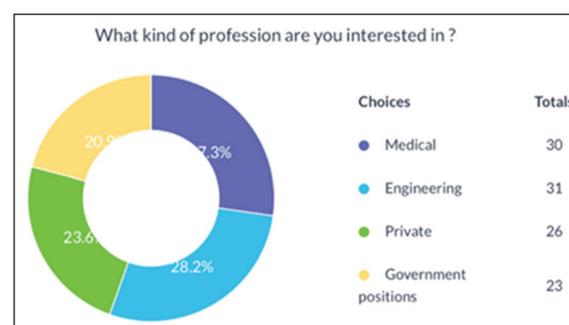


Figure 2: What kind of profession are you interested in?

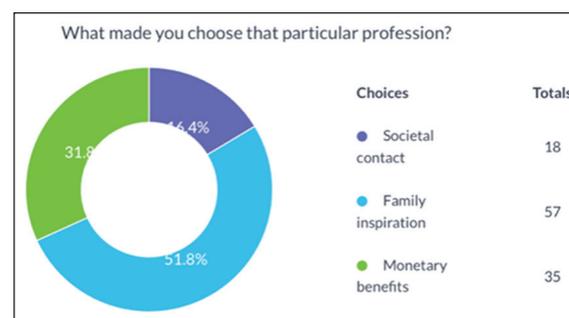


Figure 3: What made you choose that particular profession?

positions (21%); this is due to the lack of knowledge about other professions which are available in today's world [Figures 2 and 3]. What are the benefits of that particular profession which you are going to take up in your future? In this particular question, it was observed that about 65.5% of students were not aware of the benefits of the particular profession which they had interest in, and about 34.5% of students had a little knowledge about the profession they had chosen [Figure 4]. Self-employed or salaried? When students were asked about whether they want to be self-employed or salaried, about 67.3% of students wanted to be self-employed and about 57.7% of students wanted to be salaried [Figures 5 and 6]. Any idea of doing masters? When students were asked whether they want to do masters, as many of them had no basic idea of what profession to choose and answered no (19.1%). Moreover, it was observed that about 80% of school students had an confusion of whether to do masters in their future. It was also noted that about 30% of students had an idea of doing masters and also they had decided to do it in abroad [Figure 7].

The overall results from this research reveal that awareness about selection and recruitment processes has significance and considerable impact on students' career choices, familial influences, societal influences,

and resultantly on students' career decision-making and career choice persistence. This research suggests that the awareness about selection and recruitment process of desired profession is key component of students' career choices and choice persistence according to the choice making the ability of the student and nature of the vocation one's chooses, and this is the most important part of this study.

CONCLUSION

The first profession of any person is like a "first love" of his/her life which can never be forgotten. Therefore, great care for selecting the first career should be observed. Related literature reviewed on career choices revealed that career decision-making ability of the student was greatly influenced by familial, societal, and social contacts. In general, this study hypothesized and confirmed that students' career decision-making ability was also influenced when they aware about selection and recruitment process and criterion. It was also validated in this study that awareness about selection and recruitment process not only influences the student's career decision-making ability but also effects on selection of college majors,



Figure 4: Are you aware of benefits of that particular profession which you want to take up in your future?

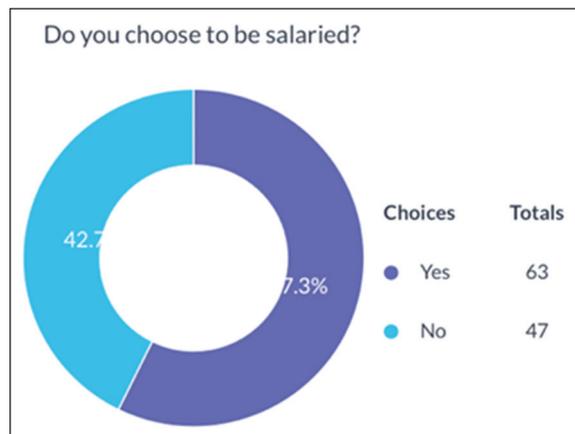


Figure 6: Do you choose to be salaried?

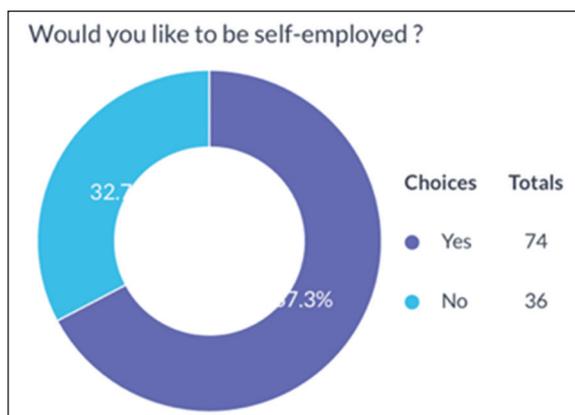


Figure 5: Would you like to be self-employed?

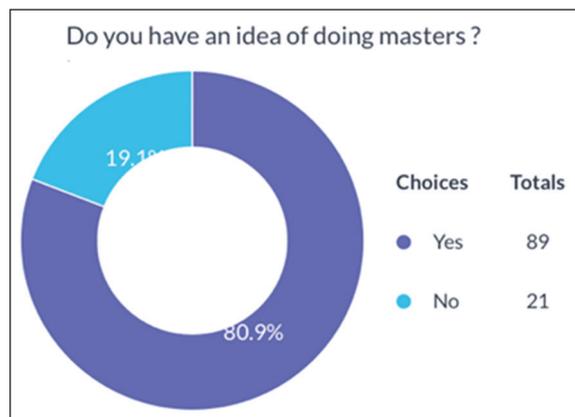


Figure 7: Do you have an idea of doing masters?

choice persistence, societal contact, and familial inspirations.

REFERENCES

1. Germeijs V, Verschueren K. High school students' career decision-making process: Consequences for choice implementation in higher education. *J Vocat Behav* 2006;70:223.
2. Gibbons M, Shoffner M. Electronic Version perspective first generation college students: Meeting their needs through social cognitive career theory. *Prof Sch Couns* 2004;8:91-7.
3. Helwig A. A ten year longitudinal study of the career development of students: Summary findings. *J Couns Dev* 2004;82:49-50.
4. Stebleton MJ. Career counseling with African Immigrant College: Theoretical approaches and implications for practice. *Career development quarterly. J Emerg Trends Educ Res Policy Stud* 2007;55:290-7.
5. Taylor J, Harris M, Taylor S. Parents have their say about their college aged children's career decisions. *Natl Assoc Coll Employer J* 2004;64:157-60.
6. Blustein DL. The role of goal instability and career self-efficacy in the career exploration process. *J Vocat Behav* 1989;35:94-203.
7. Natalie MF. Factors influencing career choices of adolescents and youth adults in rural Pennsylvania. *J Ext* 2006;44: 530-4.
8. Edward K, Quinter M. Factors influencing students career choices among secondary school students in Kisumu Municipality, Kenya. *J Emerging Trends Educ Res Policy Stud* 2011;2:81-7.
9. Harren VA. A model of career decision making for college students. *J Vocat Behav* 1979;14:119-33.
10. Houser ML, Yoder EP. Factors related to the educational and career choices of talented youth. *Proceedings of the 19th National Agricultural Education Research Meeting. Vol. 19. St. Louis, MO.: 1992. p. 400-3.*
11. Bergeron LM, Romano JL. The relationships among career decision-making self-efficacy, educational indecision, vocational indecision, and gender. *J Coll Stud Dev* 1994;35:19-24.
12. Wilson LM. *The Relationship Between Parental Attachment, Career Decision-Making Self-Efficacy, Gender, Race and Career Indecision.* (Florida State University). *Dissertation Abstracts International*; 2000. p. 61.
13. Delery JE, Doty DH. Modes of theorizing in strategic human resource management: Tests of universalistic, contingency and configuration performance predictions. *Acad Manage J* 1996;39:802.
14. Betz NE, Luzzo DA. Career assessment and the career decision-making self-efficacy scale. *J Career Assess* 1996;4:413-28.

Source of support: Nil; Conflict of interest: None Declared