

# CHOICE OF A CURRICULAR STREAM AT THE PRE UNIVERSITY STAGE

– A CASE STUDY OF YADGIR DISTRICT IN KARNATAKA

\*Dr.A.S.Jalandharachari  
Maths Faculty  
Kendriya Vidyalaya  
Kalaburagi, India

**Abstract:** The choice of curricular stream at the pre-university colleges plays a significant role in achieving their aspirations. A sample size of 60 boys, 40 girls; 63 boys, 56 girls; 89 boys, 64 girls were randomly, proportionately selected from Shahapur, Shorapur and Yadgir taluk Pre University colleges of Yadgir district in Karnataka for the present study. The study found that Gender has no role in the student's choice of curricular stream at the Pre University stage in Yadgir district of Karnataka state while as reasons like PU Colleges demand huge donations, doesn't offer co-education and PU Colleges did not have adequate facilities have no significant bearings on the choice of stream at PU stage. The females and males in almost all streams were not self motivated in choice of stream at Pre University stage, most of the occasions they were influenced by teachers, only father, both parents, friends etc.

**Index Terms:** Choice of stream, Factor, Person and Pre-University stage.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Everyone concurs that Education is a pivotal instrument for the social transformation in the individual and the society. Even though India has witnessed a tremendous expansion of educational facilities at all stages of education including pre-university education, education at all stages doesn't seem to be equally accessible to all sections of society. Inequality in access to education in general and higher education in particular consequences inequality in access to prestigious occupations in our country.

The Choice of stream at Pre University (PU) stage plays a significant role in achieving their aspirations. Some of the circumstances force the youngsters despite having interest in choosing some stream they chose some other stream; nearest college they choose the platform elsewhere thereby they forego many prestigious occupations.

The reasons for the choice of stream at Pre University stage might be parents, distance of the school, financial position, friends, crazy in certain syllabus, advertisement factors, donations, special coaching or extra coaching for competitive examinations, transportation, personal ambition etc. Among the reasons, one or many play a significant role in the choice of curricular stream at the pre-university stage of education. Some of the reviewed literature in this aspect is stated as follows.

Naheed Zahoor (2007) found that "School Building and Infrastructure, available Facilities and Amenities, School Discipline that encompasses Students, Teachers and the Head of Schools, the Socio-economic Status of Student's Parents and overall School Environment carry considerable weight in determining the Student's Performance and in turn the choice of school".

Siva Jalndharachari, Anchula (2015) found in his study that "gender, religion, category, rural – urban residence, educational attainments of parents and grandfathers, per capita income, age of the student, medium

of the study, educational aspirations of both children and parents, parents' influence, liking or dislike for teacher and distance of the school from home have significant bearing on the choice of occupationally potent streams of Science and Commerce”.

Ratan Biswas (2007), in his article concluded that “in states like Assam, vernacular medium schools are also one of the barriers for higher education in science and technology”.

Viswanathan (2007) suggests that “it is ‘essential’ to ensure that no student is denied access to higher education owing to financial constraints. He further stated that the dream of National Knowledge Commission (NKC) of expansion and reform of our school system is necessary to ensure that every child has an equal opportunity to enter the world of higher education”.

Raina (1987), in her study stated that “the choices made by the girls do not seem to be their own as 92% have indicated that the decisions about education and occupation for children in their families are taken by their elders and only 8% seem to enjoy the freedom of this choice”

From the above research studies found that facilities at the college, faculty, parents, medium of instruction, distance of the school, financial position etc., play a significant role in choose the choice of curricular stream at the pre-university stage of education. Besides these factors teachers, friends, crazy in certain syllabus, advertisement factors, donations, special coaching or extra coaching for competitive examinations, transportation, personal ambition etc., may also determining role in choice of curricular stream in PU college while as this trend may not be an exception for Yadgir district in Karnataka too.

Yadgir district is one of the newly formed districts of Karnataka State in 2009. It occupies 5234.4 square kilometers area. It is the smallest district in Hyderabad Karnataka region of Karnataka state, consists of 8.46 percent area of the state. There are three revenue and educational blocks in the district namely Shahapur, Shorapur and Yadgir. The district has 59 PU colleges in total spreading 18 PU colleges in Shahapur taluk , 13 PU colleges in Shorapur taluk and 28 PU Colleges in Yadgir taluk.

Interestingly Yadgir taluk had registered high sex ratio i.e., number of female to 1000 males was 1007 in rural;996 in urban ; 1005 in total as per 2011 census while entire Yadgir district registered sex ratio of 990 in rural; 984 in urban; 989 in total.

It is therefore pertinent to find out the most influencing factor and person in the choice of curricular stream at the pre-university stage. Hence the present study “Determinants of choice of a curricular stream at the pre-university stage – A case study of Yadgir district in Karnataka” is an attempt in this direction.

## II. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the present study are as follows.

- 1) To find out the role of the gender in the student's choice of curricular stream at the Pre University stage in Yadgir district of Karnataka state.
- 2) To find out the most influencing factor in the student's choice of curricular stream at the Pre University stage in Yadgir district of Karnataka state.
- 3) To find out the most influencing person in the student's choice of curricular stream at the Pre University stage in Yadgir district of Karnataka state.

To study the objectives of the present study the following null and alternative hypotheses were formulated and tested.

H<sub>01</sub>: Gender has no role in the student's choice of curricular stream at the Pre University stage in Yadgir district of Karnataka state.

H<sub>11</sub>: Gender has a role in the student's choice of curricular stream at the Pre University stage in Yadgir district of Karnataka state.

H<sub>02</sub>: There are no factors which can influence the student's choice of the curricular stream at Pre University stage in Yadgir district of Karnataka state.

H<sub>12</sub>: There are factors which can influence the student's choice of the curricular stream at Pre University stage in Yadgir district of Karnataka state.

H<sub>03</sub>: There are no persons who influence the student's choice of the curricular stream at Pre University stage in Yadgir district of Karnataka state.

H<sub>13</sub>: There are persons who influences the student's choice of the curricular stream at Pre University Stage in Yadgir district of Karnataka state.

### III. METHODOLOGY

For this study 11139 students on the rolls of Pre University Colleges of Yadgir district form the universe as on 2014-15. As per the available sources 5235 students were studying in Science stream, 2440 in Commerce and 3464 in Humanities. This includes those on the rolls of the first year and second year also.

372 students were chosen for the present study as a sample size at 95% confidence level with 5 % of margin of error. Yadgir district consists of three taluks viz., Shahapur, Shorapur and Yadgir having 18, 13 and 28 PU colleges respectively with 2983, 3580 and 4576 students on the rolls. A sample size of 60 boys, 40 girls; 63 boys, 56 girls; 89 boys, 64girls were randomly, proportionately selected from Shahapur, Shorapur and Yadgir taluk PU colleges for the present study. Out of which 329 (88.44%) respondents questionnaires were found suitable in all respects for the study.

Both Primary and Secondary data was used in the present study. Primary data was collected through questionnaire. Secondary data was collected through the official website of Yadgir district. The collected data was classified and tabulated according to the requirements of the objectives. Proportions of different categories under each variable were compared, employed ANOVA test using SPSS and inferences drawn with regard to various objectives.

### IV. DISCUSSION

#### 4.1 ROLE OF GENDER IN CHOICE OF STREAM AT THE PRE UNIVERSITY STAGE

Table – 4.1.1 gives the distribution of respondents by the gender for the choice of stream of study at the Pre University stage in Yadgir district of Karnataka state.

Table - 4.1.1

Distribution of respondents by the gender for the Choice of Stream of Study

		Choice of stream		
		Humanities	Commerce	Science
		Count	Count	Count
Gender	Male	58 (57.43%)	40 (55.56%)	82 (52.56%)
	Female	43 (42.57%)	32 (44.44%)	74 (47.44%)
Total		101 (100%)	72 (100%)	156(100%)

Source: Primary data.

The male dominated their counter parts in all streams. Interestingly the gender proportions were almost same in science stream as compared to other streams. Majority of the students have chosen the science stream as this stream have significant bearing on the choice of occupations in future.

To test the null hypotheses "Gender has no role in the student's choice of curricular stream at the Pre University stage", one way ANOVA test is conducted. The results were shown in the following table 2.

Table -4.1.2

ANOVA					
Choice of stream * Gender					
	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	0.455	1	0.455	0.602	0.438
Within Groups	247.350	327	0.756		
Total	247.805	328			

Source: SPSS output.

From the table-4.1.2, it is evident that the calculated p value is 0.438 which is more than the level of significance at 5%. Hence the proposed null hypothesis is rejected and alternative hypothesis is accepted, inferred that Gender has a role in the student's choice of curricular stream at the Pre University stage.

#### 4.2 MOST INFLUENCING FACTOR FOR THE CHOICE OF STREAM

Table – 4.2.1 gives the distribution of respondents by the most influencing factor for the choice of stream of study in Yadgir district of Karnataka state.

In Humanities stream, the most important reason claimed by the respondents for the choice of curricular stream at the Pre University stage was that the nearest PU College demand huge donations and doesn't have co-education, second most important reason was that the respondents interested to join Govt PU College and the third reason was their personal ambition, didn't get an admission and College in which they are interested to join does not have reputation. The least proportion of respondents had the reasons for the choice of curricular stream at the Pre University stage were their parents interest and doesn't have NCERT syllabus.

In Commerce stream, the respondents had different reasons in choice of curricular stream at the PU College were personal ambition, second most important reason was college doesn't have co-education and the third one was the nearest PU College doesn't have adequate facilities. The least proportion of respondents had the reasons for choice of curricular stream were they didn't get an admission, doesn't have NCERT syllabus, to join a Govt PU College and college doesn't have reputation.

In Science stream, the respondents claim that personal ambition; colleges did not have adequate facilities and demand huge donations are the factors influenced them in order for the choice of stream. While as the least proportion of respondents didn't chose science stream because they didn't get an admission or College doesn't have reputation.

Table – 4.2.1  
Distribution of Respondents by the Most Influencing Factor for the Choice of Stream of Study

		Choice of stream					
		Humanities		Commerce		Science	
		Gender		Gender		Gender	
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Most Influencing factor	Parent's Interest	2 (3.45%)	2 (4.65%)	4 (10.00%)	4 (12.50%)	4 (4.80%)	13 (17.57%)
	Does not have Adequate Facilities	7 (12.07%)	2 (4.65%)	5 (12.50%)	5 (15.63%)	14 (17.07%)	7 (9.46%)
	To join Govt Pre University College	10 (17.24%)	7 (16.28%)	2 (5.00%)	4 (12.50%)	6 (7.32%)	6 (8.11%)
	Does not have NCERT Curriculum	5 (8.62%)	3 (6.98%)	4 (10.00%)	2 (6.25%)	8 (9.76%)	8 (10.81%)
	Does not have Co-education	10 (17.24%)	8 (18.60%)	7 (17.50%)	4 (12.50%)	9 (10.98%)	5 (6.76%)
	Does not have Reputation	6 (10.34%)	3 (6.98%)	4 (10.00%)	2 (6.25%)	6 (7.32%)	4 (5.41%)
	Demanding Huge Donations	11 (18.97%)	7 (16.28%)	4 (10.00%)	5 (15.63%)	11 (13.41%)	9 (12.16%)
	Personal Ambition	3 (5.19%)	6 (13.95%)	8 (20.00%)	4 (12.50%)	17 (20.73%)	17 (22.97%)
	Do not get Admission	4 (6.90%)	5 (11.63%)	2 (5.00%)	2 (6.25%)	7 (8.54%)	5 (6.76%)
		58 (100%)	43 (100%)	40 (100%)	32 (100%)	82 (100%)	74 (100%)

Source: Primary data.

Note: Figures in parenthesis are percentages.

To test the null hypotheses “There are no factors which can influence the student’s choice of the curricular stream at Pre University Stage.”, Two way ANOVA test is conducted. The results were shown in the following table 4.2.2.

Table -4.2.2

ANOVA Table							
			Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Choice of stream * Most Influencing Factor	Between Groups	(Combined)	15.302	8	1.913	2.632	0.008
	Within Groups		232.504	320	0.727		
	Total		247.805	328			

Source: SPSS output.

From the table-4.2.2, it is evident that the calculated p value is 0.008 which is less than the level of significance at 5%. Hence the proposed null hypothesis is accepted and inferred that there are no factors which can influence the student’s choice of the curricular stream at Pre University Stage in Yadgir district of Karnataka state.

Form this data it can be inferred that the said reasons do not have any significant bearing on the student’s choice of stream in Yadgir district of Karnataka state. Majority of the respondents had chosen the stream with no particular choice. The reason could be majority of the reputed colleges in this district provide science streams only while as streams like humanities and commerce are available in semi urban and rural places besides PU Colleges demand huge donations.

### 4.3 PERSON WHO INFLUENCED MOST THE CHOICE OF CURRICULAR STREAM

Table – 4.3.1 gives the distribution of the respondents by the person who influenced most their choice of stream in the Pre - University stage.

In Humanities, most of the respondents were influenced by teachers, only father and parents both respectively play an important role in choice of curricular stream at the Pre University stage. In Commerce the serious players were only father, both parents and friends while as in Science stream teachers, friends and both parents play a significant role in choice of stream at the PU stage. Almost same trend was observed in all streams. Interestingly neighbours do not play any role in student's choice of stream at the PU stage in Yadgir district of Karnataka state.

Table – 4.3.1  
Distribution of Respondents by the Person who influenced most their Choice of stream

		Choice of stream					
		Humanities		Commerce		Science	
		Gender		Gender		Gender	
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Person influenced most	Father	11 (18.97%)	7 (16.28%)	7 (17.50%)	8 (25.00%)	9 (10.98%)	9 (12.16%)
	Mother	3 (5.17%)	4 (9.30%)	3 (7.50%)	5 (15.63%)	3 (3.66%)	8 (10.81%)
	Both Parents	9 (15.52%)	5 (11.63%)	10 (25.00%)	4 (12.50%)	11 (13.41%)	13 (17.57%)
	Siblings	6 (10.34%)	3 (6.98%)	3 (7.50%)	1 (3.13%)	6 (7.32%)	10 (13.51%)
	Relatives	3 (5.17%)	6 (13.95%)	1 (2.50%)	4 (12.50%)	5 (6.10%)	6 (8.11%)
	Teachers	11 (18.97%)	11 (25.58%)	3 (7.50%)	3 (9.38%)	17 (20.73%)	13 (17.57%)
	Neighbours	1 (1.72%)	1 (2.33%)	2 (5.00%)	1 (3.13%)	9 (10.98%)	4 (5.41%)
	Friends	10 (17.24%)	4 (9.30%)	5 (12.50%)	5 (15.63%)	16 (19.51%)	9 (12.16%)
	Self	4 (6.90%)	2 (4.65%)	6 (15.00%)	1 (3.13%)	6 (7.32%)	2 (2.72%)
Total		58 (100%)	43 (100%)	40 (100%)	32 (100%)	82 (100%)	74 (100%)

Source: Primary data.

Note: Figures in parentheses are percentages.

Table – 4.3.2  
ANOVA Table

		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Choice of stream * Person influenced most	Between Groups	(Combined) 5.679	8	0.710	0.938	0.485
	Within Groups	242.126	320	0.757		
	Total	247.805	328			

Source: SPSS output.

### V. FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The Gender has no role in the student's choice of curricular stream at the Pre University stage in Yadgir district of Karnataka state. Majority of the respondents had choice of stream at the Pre University stage in Yadgir district in Karnataka because of their personal ambition. Parents' interest played an important role in in science stream. The reasons like PU Colleges demand huge donations, doesn't offer co-education and PU Colleges did not have adequate facilities have no significant bearings on the choice of stream at PU stage.

The persons who influenced most in their choice of PU College were teachers, only fathers, both parents and friends. Almost same trend was observed in all streams. Interestingly neighbours did not play any role in choice of stream of a student in this district.

The females and males in almost all streams were not self motivated in choice of stream at Pre University stage, most of the occasions they were influenced by teachers, only father, both parents, friends etc., Only mothers, relatives, neighbours, sibling play a role but not significantly in choice of stream at the PU stage while as only mothers play a key role in choice of PU College in case of female students.

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