



# Factors affecting career orientation of high school students – a case study in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Mai Quoc Dung<sup>1,\*</sup>, Phan Quoc Thai<sup>1</sup>, Hoang Ngoc Kien<sup>1</sup>, Nguyen Thi Cam Tu<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Ho Chi Minh City University of Food Industry

## Abstract

Career orientation is understood as a process of planning and predicting the job that will be chosen to do in the future of each person. This process is shaped by the socialization environment both in the family and in the society. From a young age, each child is often asked by his parents: what do you want to do when you grow up? Towards the end of high school, their future career orientation is increasingly set. Before the end of this level of study, students will be faced with a serious and realistic decision about which profession to choose for the future. Through research in Ho Chi Minh City, we will discover the factors affecting career orientation and take measures to promote better career orientation.

**Keywords:** Factors, career orientation, students, Ho Chi Minh City.

## Introduce

Ideas about career orientation for the young generation have existed since ancient times, but in a very primitive form and expressed through division and division of labor depending on status and origin of each person in society. This clearly shows the imposition of the ruling class and the inequality in the social division of labor. By the nineteenth century, when social production developed along with positive ideas about human liberation around the world. Only then will vocational science truly become an independent science.

In 1909 Frank Parsons, also a professor at the University of Pennsylvania, published the book "Choosing Vocation", later in the 1930s, the Western world celebrated this book as a foundational work. career counseling industry. The book has presented the psychological basis of career guidance and career selection, the criteria for each individual's job suitability to make a suitable choice. In the 1940s, the American psychologist JL Holland researched and acknowledged the existence of personality types and

career interests. The author pointed out that corresponding to each occupational personality type there are some occupations that individuals can choose to get the best work results. This theory of J.L. Holland has been the most widely used in vocational practice in the world. The book "Career Selection Guide" published in 1948 in France is considered the first book on career guidance. The content of the book has mentioned the diverse development of professions in society due to the development of industry, thereby drawing conclusions that consider vocational education an important issue that cannot be ignored when studying growing society and is also a factor promoting social development. In 1980 James McKeen Cattell - one of the pioneers of career science, professor of psychology at the University of Pennsylvania (USA) opened the door by building the first test to measure and evaluate success students' schools (Chien T.D, 2008: 12).

Career guidance in high schools is also an active measure to stream students after graduating from middle school or high school. Good career orientation helps students to harmoniously combine the interests of themselves and the society (Vuong T.Q, Anh V.Q, 2007). Choosing the right career will be a positive factor affecting people's success (Nhan D.T, 2010: 27). Career orientation in grade 12 students not only has personal meaning but also has profound social meaning. Good career orientation helps employees understand themselves well and make useful contributions to society (Duy N.M 2011: 14; Lich N.T, Trang D.T.T, 2016).

Studies from a psychological perspective show that: There are 8 factors affecting students' motivation to choose a career: (1) The social reputation of the profession, (2) the career situation, (3) the situation the number of people working in society, (4) occupational economic income, (5) the development of science and technology, (6) the change in the form of work, (7) the educational behavior of the family. families and schools, (8) traditional conceptions and social psychology (Duy N.M, 2011).

Research by Ronald McQuaid (2004: 11-14) also confirms the importance of parents in students' career orientation. Parents' advice about future jobs and careers influences children's career choices.

The gender stereotyped personal capacity assessment is also a factor affecting the belief in the capacity of each gender. Men tend to be more highly regarded than women, so men are more likely to pursue career-oriented activities in science, math, and engineering. And so they are less likely to choose social and economic tracking (Shelley J. Correll, 2001; Maaïke van der Vleuten et al., 2016).

Cultural beliefs influence the career journey of each individual male and female. When beliefs are strengthened, there will be attitudes and assumptions about the work of the two sexes (Shelley J. Correll, 2001). Traditional gender ideology leads to many gender stereotyped educational choices. For example, in keeping with the idea of being the breadwinner of the family, male students with a more traditional gender ideology will choose a career with high income in the future.

Ho Chi Minh City is the locality with the largest number of students in Vietnam, the right career orientation of students in Ho Chi Minh City will greatly affect the quality of the country's future workforce. Through information, reference sources and factors about their own characteristics, students have chosen for themselves a career that is suitable for their abilities, interests, forte, and family economic conditions. However, there are still many students from a one-sided perspective, or inaccurate information has inflated "hot" and "fashionable" careers, making students vague about values (economics, ethics, etc.)., status, honor) at work, creating heavy pressure on learning. Therefore, it is very important to study this issue.

### **Research question**

First, what is the status of career orientation of high school students in Ho Chi Minh City?

Second, what factors affect the career orientation of high school students in Ho Chi Minh City?

Third, how to best promote their career orientation based on those factors?

### **Method**

In this article, using a questionnaire that includes the following main parts: Personal information (including demographic information, majors, intended level of study, etc.); The part collects information on the current situation of students' career orientation (Including information on awareness and behavior in choosing a career of high school students); The section measures the levels of interest and evaluates the factors affecting the difference in career orientation of high school students. The questionnaire was sent online to 12th grade students in Ho Chi Minh City, the results had 578 answers, of which 497 answers fully met the criteria of the questionnaire and were included in the study.

In addition to quantitative descriptive techniques, further analysis techniques are used such as: 1) Arithmetic mean analysis (Mean) for variables with Likert scale. The mean is calculated by the quotient where the numerator is the sum of the values of each case of the research sample, and the denominator is the total number of cases (Minh N.H, 2016: 184); 2) Analysis of the relationship between variables, mainly using the analysis of the relationship between pairs of two variables to determine if there is a relationship between two variables; 3) Chi-Square analysis aims to determine whether the relationship between two variables is statistically significant or not, but it does not tell the direction of the correlation (Minh N.H, 2016: 200); 4) Multivariate regression analysis (Logistic) to determine the impact of each different factor on the variable to be explained (Minh N.H, 2016: 208).

## Results and Discussion

The results show that in the process of orientation and career selection, students show a moderate interest in family advice/sharing, accounting for over 35%. In which, they are most interested in the advice/sharing of their parents. Then came the advice of siblings, aunts and uncles, and grandparents. More than 30% in the study showed a great deal of interest in the advice of parents. That is, the closest relatives in the family can more or less influence the student's career choice orientation.

The results show that the percentage of students who are interested in the school's career guidance activities, the level of interest in the school's career guidance activities is mainly at 10%. The results show that the percentage of students who are interested in the teacher's career advice/share is over 8%.

The results show that students are interested in images and information about careers in the media. However, the level of interest was mainly at a low score (5%).

Nearly 42% of students have a certain self-control and opinion and decide on their own future career choices. Among the factors, students themselves decide the majority. In other words, students rated the factor that most influenced their career choice was themselves.

In general, most of them lack information about careers, while current vocational education documents only mention a few occupations that are common in many occupations today. This has greatly influenced the choice of department and later academic orientation of high school students. A fact is that now, over two-thirds of students register for the Natural Science department to take the A-block exam, while many of them have real ability and future if they choose other exam blocks. Along with that is the phenomenon that a large number of students when applying for university and college entrance exams choose to enter schools and majors with a "calling" name, regardless of whether they are qualified or not and what will you do after studying that major, why is there a job opportunity? This is reflected by the number of over 30% of candidates applying for university and college entrance exams choosing majors in the economic, financial, banking and business sectors, regardless of their ability to "pass the door".

There are many reasons for this, in which family influences and movement trends are quite common, and students decide to choose their own career according to their feelings. And as a result, too many young workers after being trained in post-secondary institutions can't find jobs that match their abilities, while businesses and employers are tired eyes cannot find the necessary specialized labor.

## Conclusion

The tendency to choose a career of students is a very complex psychological phenomenon, it is formed over a long period of time, so it is stable and relatively sustainable. As a social phenomenon, it is affected by other social phenomena such as economy, education, public opinion... The strong development of information and communication, the interest of the family Family, school and society have a great

influence on the career choice trend of students both positively and negatively, which also affects the quality of human resources in the future of the country. In addition, the children's career choice mainly comes from personal interests but little orientation from the school, the influence of parents is significant, but they are also heavily influenced by the way of thinking backward in career and employment, only want their children to enter the university, moreover, and parents' expectations of their children are beyond their ability. Therefore, parents of students are not able to have the right career orientation, suitable for their children.

### **Recommendations**

The following questions can be investigated as suggestions for further study:

Students need to determine if their current learning ability and conditions are suitable for the profession?

Are the family's economic conditions, appearance, health, and personality suitable for the profession or not?

Parents understand what work their children want to do, how do they want to work?

Is current vocational education and career counseling consistent with reality? Is the student's needs met?

### **Presenter**

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## Questionnaire

Results for scientific research - Commitment to information confidentiality of survey participants - Thank you very much for participating in the survey.

### Part I. General Information

Question 1. What is your gender?

1. Female
2. Male

Question 2. In which area is your high school located?

1. Districts of Ho Chi Minh City
2. Districts of Ho Chi Minh City

Question 3. Which of the following is your family's economic status?

1. Wealthy
2. Well-off
3. Average
4. Poor and difficult households

### Part II. Future career plans

Question 4. Are you interested in your future career?

1. Very interested
2. Care
3. Care a little
4. Don't care

Question 5. When did you think about choosing a career?

1. Before going to high school
2. While in 10th grade
3. While in grade 11
4. While in grade 12
5. When registering for the high school graduation exam
6. When the high school graduation exam results are available

Question 6. Which of the following occupations/occupations would/have you chosen?

1. Division of Natural Sciences
2. Engineering sector
3. Technology Sector
4. Agriculture - Forestry - Fisheries sector
5. Medicine and Pharmacy sector
6. Department of Social Sciences
7. Humanities Division
8. Foreign Languages Division
9. Pedagogy Division
10. Department of Economics & Management
11. Culture - Arts sector
12. Other

Question 7. How do you feel about the career characteristics that you will/have chosen?

Rate your level of agreement with the following question:

1 - Do not completely agree; 2 - Disagree; 3 - Neutrality; 4 - Agree; 5 - Totally agree.

	1	2	3	4	5
1. Help/care for others					
2. Careful, meticulous					
3. Communicate with many people					
4. Earn a lot of money					
5. Ability to advance					
6. Work travel a lot					
7. Work requires creativity					
8. The job requires a strong, decisive personality					
9. Work requires strong personality, assertiveness, self-confidence					
10. Work has the opportunity to study further					
11. Work allows flexible working hours					
12. Work in accordance with the trend of the times					
13. Work that suits your health					
14. Jobs that match your looks					
15. Other					

## Part III. The role of family, school, friends and the media in career choice

Rate your level of agreement with the following questions:

1 - Do not completely agree; 2 - Disagree; 3 - Neutrality; 4 - Agree; 5 - Totally agree.

Question 8. In the process of choosing a career, how are you interested in the following activities of the school?

	1	2	3	4	5
1. Subjects related to career guidance					
2. Thematic talks and activities on career guidance of high schools					
3. Talks, sharing career guidance from universities, colleges, intermediate schools, vocational schools					
4. Talks, sharing from employers, education experts, successful people					
5. Other					

Question 9. In the process of you choosing a career, how interested are you in the advice/sharing of your teachers?

	1	2	3	4	5
1. Advice/share from homeroom teacher					
2. Tips/shares from your subject teachers					
3. Tips/shares from other teachers					
4. Tips/shares from teachers you admire					
5. Other					



Question 10. In the process of choosing a career, how interested are you in the advice/sharing of your family?

	1	2	3	4	5
1. Advice / sharing of parents about career, career					
2. Your advice/share about career, career					
3. Advice/share about your career, career					
4. Advice / sharing of relatives and relatives					
5. Other					

Question 11. In your opinion, does the family economy affect the decision to choose a career?

1. Huge influence
2. Influence
3. A little influence
4. No effect

Question 12. In the process of choosing a career, how interested are you in the media?

	1	2	3	4	5
1. Professional information and images on news of the press (television, radio, paper newspapers, electronic newspapers)					
2. The information, images on the web (not the press)					
3. Information and images from social networks					
4. Information, images from movies					
5. Other					

Question 13. In the process of you choosing a career, how interested are you in the advice/sharing of your friends?

	1	2	3	4	5
1. Advice/share from classmates					
2. Advice/share from classmates					
3. Advice/share from friends on social					
4. Other					

Question 14. Which of the above factors do you think has the most influence on your career choice intentions? (Choose 01 option)

1. Parents
2. Grandparents
3. Siblings
4. Family members (aunt, aunt, uncle, uncle)
5. Teachers
6. Neighbor friends
7. Vocational work of the school
8. Press
9. Internet (except social networks)
10. Social network
11. Movies
12. Unaffected by any factors, you decide for yourself
13. Other

Question 15. What suggestions do you have for the school, teachers, family, employers,... in your career orientation?

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Thank you for taking part in the survey, wish you always success in life.