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ROLE OF SOCIO – ECONOMIC STATUS IN CAREER ASPIRATIONS DURING COVID -19 PANDEMIC SITUATIONS



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According to Plato “Education is the capacity to feel pleasure and pain at the right moment and it develops in the body and in the soul of the pupil, all the beauty and all the perfection which he is capable of”. Such a capability that can be attained by education can be assessed by Academic achievement. Good defined Academic achievement as the knowledge attained or skills developed in the school subjects, usually assessed by test scores or by marks assigned by teachers. The essence of academic achievement is that one makes one’s own plan, future, expectancies, and to achieve a standard of excellence in actions. Achievement of pupil is influenced by a number of factors such as examination, stress, achievement.

Socio – economic status can be defined as the “Individuals relative position in the community” – Chaplin J.P. Socio –economic status is usually measured in terms of occupation of father, mother, their education, their income, social caste and class, neighborhood, material possession, land form, power etc. Dave and Dave (1971) Anand (1973), Abraham(1974), Das Gupta(1975) found that students with high socio – economic status are high achievers in comparison to the students with low socio – economic status. Mehotra (1986) found a positive relationship between socio – economic status and academic achievement.

The traditional Indian school education system is based on the foundation of all round development of the students in all the three aspects of personality: physical, mental and socio-emotional. To cater to this foundation the schools in Indian education system conventionally have many activities in the curriculum. Covid -19 has affected almost every sector of human activity in especially in higher education. Lock downs imposed in different nations in order to curb the spread of Covid -19 viruses has restricted the movement of students and faculty members and placed barriers in terms of access to laboratories, libraries and classrooms.

According to UNESCO around 89.4% of total enrolled learners in the world have got affected on 1 April 2021 due to lock down in 185 countries. The Universities around the world have responded to the sudden outbreak of Covid -19 largely through an unplanned and unprepared experiment for a shift towards distance teaching and learning. During this Covid -19 pandemic situation, students are highly anxious to their future. Their socio-economic status backgrounds were changed. They couldn’t select their choices of career due to the financial problems. Career preparations an important precursor for successful career development across the life span and is closely related to adolescents adjustment and wellbeing. Socio –

economic status has shown to be significant factor in influencing career aspirations of adolescents. It encompasses not just income but also educational attainment, financial security and subjective perceptions of social status social class.

Research studies have shown that adolescents who were from lower socio –economic backgrounds were more likely to have uncertainty in their career aspirations. Diemen and Bluestein found that racial, ethnic, and socio –economic barriers generally hinder individual’s career development. Career barriers are significantly higher for those from poor backgrounds.

During this pandemic situation virtual education is one of the innovative steps in the field of education. Virtual education has been in existence in some form or the other for sometime throughout the globe including India. Virtual education is gaining currency everywhere now in the context of the present Covid -19. A number of research results in computer search engines indicate the fact that online education is becoming popular everywhere.

The advantages of virtual learning compared to traditional classroom setting were countable. Depending on the self discipline, pace of learning and style and motivation of an individual getting online education could easily offer a learning experience more effective than attending classes at a brick and mortar educational institution. But the influence of financial status reflects at each and every individual’s career many of them drop out their studies and turned into the role of a labour. This pandemic situation created many individuals who fail in their dreams. Let us wish there will be a great change in their lives.

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