



Career Choice Among Teenagers: Major Determinants and Nature of Selection.

Dr.Giridhar Rao M S.

Associate Professor of Sociology

Govt First Grade College, Mudipu.

Dakshina Kannada District, Karnataka

Abstract:

Career is an important factor in one's lifetime. It is essential for his livelihood as well as it determines his social standing, mental health and social well being. Unlike in the past, in modern times it is a matter of pure choice based on educational qualification and personal interest. However in rural India, it is the most neglected sector in one's life and the decision is made not by the person himself, but by the circumstances, parents, and other unconcerned persons. Hence this study is conducted to throw light on how one's career choice is determined and decided while it has to be inevitably done during the teen age of a person during which time he is totally left without proper guidance and counseling.

Introduction:

Choice of career is an important decision in one's life, both male and females, in the present society. In the past, in Indian Society, the Varna system and Caste system used to be the decisive factor in determining one's occupation and career. In Varna system, there were four categories of occupation, for which one's own qualities or gunas. The four Varnas were Brahmana, Kshatriya, Vaishya and Sudra. The Brahmanas used to be the priests and teachers, the Kshatriyas were the kings and rulers, Vaishyas were the traders, merchants, and those involved in commercial activities. The Sudras were the servant class people. This system has been in prevalence since ancient time. The caste system which emerged in the later years consisted of innumerable segments based on occupation. However, in these two systems of social division of labour we come across several rigidities, of which the choice of occupation or career has been restricted either by birth or by strict rules. These occupational division of labour has gone to the extent of restricting social intercourse between people with regard to marriage, exchange of food and places of residence. However, things have begun to change with the advent of modernization. The impact of the west and the advent of British rule in India brought about remarkable changes in the social fabric of Indian society. The introduction of modern education, impact of industrialization, urbanization, commercialization and the decline of traditional crafts have all brought about changes in the modes of occupational choice in India.

Education in modern science and technology has changed the very basis of choice of occupation and career among the youth in India. In traditional India the youngster used to get empirical education in the traditional occupation of their family or caste. They used to learn the skills and knowledge of the traditional occupation or crafts of their parents. Each household is a unit of production wherein the elders used to train youngsters by participative learning in traditional crafts. This has been the case of all the artisan classes. However, with

regard to Brahmanas and Kshatriyas, education of the youngsters used to take place in Gurukulas, where they learn the texts and skills of archery from rishis in their ashrams.

However, with the advent of modern education, Gurukula system of education has disappeared, and modern schools and colleges, medical and technical institutes took over the functions of imparting specialized knowledge and training to the youths. This has brought about freedom of choice of occupation and career for the youngsters and removed caste restrictions on choice of career.

As the new social system has come into existence with modern education in science and technology, selection of occupation has become choice of the person on the basis of his level of education. Prescribed qualification has become the decisive criterion for choice of career. Social mobility in terms of occupational choice has been facilitated by modern education. The avenues for education has been made open for all irrespective of caste, colour, creed and sex. Modern governments, which run on the basis of democratic principles, began to implement social justice by opening up the gateways of various job opportunities to all. This has resulted in choice of career as the greatest challenging process of decision making in one's life especially during teenages.

Statement of the Problem.

The present study aims to ascertain the nature and the determinants of choice of career by the youth who are in the adolescent age group of thirteen to nineteen. As the modern occupations, especially those based on statutory educational qualifications like medical, technical and professional occupations, can be obtained only by having the required educational qualification by the candidates, the present study aims to concentrate on the factors which the aspirants of those occupations focus upon during the period of their education itself and what are the factors determine their decisions.

Objectives :

The objective of the present study is to ascertain the following.

1. Who takes the decision of choice of career of the teenagers, whether the parents, elders or the candidates themselves
2. What are the important rules that determine the choice of stream of education and career choice
3. What are the inherent interests required for the choice of particular career by a candidate
4. What are the skills and qualifications required for different careers or occupations.
5. How a candidate can develop experiences required for the career of his orientation

Coverage of Study.

The present study is conducted on one hundred and twenty students selected from a government Pre-University College in Mudipu in Dakshina Kannada district of Karnataka State. Twenty students each from arts, commerce and science streams are being selected for interview. The students are almost of the same socio-economic background. All of them belong to middle class and lower middle class families whose parents are either artisans, small agriculturists, and petty job holders. In most cases the students are first generation learners. The sample of students are selected on the basis of convenient sampling method.

Method of study.

Data necessary for the conduct of this study has been collected from the college students by personal interview. They are being interviewed in the college where they study. They are interviewed separately

based on interview schedule. The interview schedule consisted of seventy five questions, ranging from some questions on personal information to questions pertaining to the choice of career. The questions are of descriptive nature for which clarifications are given to them on the spot.

Findings of the study:

Based on the above study, it is found that the respondents considered career choice as an important decision in their life. They are of the opinion that there is no proper guidance and training for them for making decision on their career choice. The important findings are as follows:

1. The students studying in arts stream are of the opinion that they have chosen the stream not by any predetermined purpose of particular occupation. Some of them have chosen their stream of study simply because they scored less marks in their qualifying examination.
2. The Commerce students have reported that their career choice has been determined by their elders who have either studied in commerce stream or have the opinion that commerce stream has got more job opportunities in modern world.
3. The science students have chosen their career by themselves, based on their interest in pursuing higher studies in science subjects and seeking some specific jobs like science teacher in schools, engineering or medical professions.

Table 1. Decision on Choice of Educational stream

Stream of education	No of respondents	Decision by		
		Parents	Others	self
Arts	40	32	00	08
Science	40	10	00	30
Commerce	40	16	10	14
Total	120	58	10	52

Table 2. Decision on their Career.

Stream of education	No of respondents	Bureaucratic job	Professional occupation	Self employment	No decision
Arts	40	05	04	09	22
Science	40	08	32	00	00
Commerce	40	34	00	06	00
	120	47	36	15	22

Conclusion:

Career choice is the most exciting, hardest and important of all choices. In Indian social setup, the students coming from backward socio-economic background it the most neglected sector of one's life. It is very unfortunate that the these people do not take it seriously, although it determines their entire future life. The people in rural areas simply leave their future for fate to determine. The parents belonging to middle and lower middle class are totally unaware or uninterested in competitive world wherein their children have to struggle for getting an occupation which enhances their standard of living.

The choice of career has to be in accordance with certain rules. First, one has to choose something one likes to do. Before choosing the career one has to equip with necessary qualification for it. Second, before choosing a career one has to research carefully about it in order to probe ones own sustainable interest in it. Third, it is utmost necessity to make it meaningful for himself.

Choice of career depends upon the values one cherishes in his life. Different career have different cherished values. Some professions are based on altruistic and helping in nature, while some are based on hard work, high income, and high prestige or social esteem. One has to probe his own lenience on what values he cherishes in life.

Career or occupation vary from one another in terms of inherent interest they adhere to. For example some are more realistic while others are investigative, conventional, artistic , enterprising and social in their interest.

Different career require different skills for the discharge of their duties. Some professional career require strict academic skills, while some require people skills and many others require artistic skills.

Finally, the choice of career essentially depends upon the education one pursues during his student life. Education, coupled with necessary intelligence, experience and skills play crucial role in selection of appropriate stream of learning and career choice of the children during their teen age period. It takes definite shape and direction only during the teen age period. Upto tenth standard, the education is more general in nature. But in senior secondary education one has to take a decision regarding the stream of education appropriate for his career. It is at this juncture he requires proper guidance and counseling. Many of the students of rural and backward socio economic background do not get proper guidance at this juncture. This is reflected in the present study of career choice among teenagers.

References:

Agarwala, T. (2008). Factors influencing career choice of management students in India. *Career Dev. Int.* 13, 362–376.

Gokuladas, V. K. (2010). Factors that influence first-career choice of undergraduate engineers in software services companies: a South Indian experience. *Career Dev. Int.* 15, 144–165