

VOCATIONAL CHOICES OF SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED ADOLESCENTS IN KANYAKUMARI DISTRICT



S.SREELATHA

ASST.PROFESSOR IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION N.V.K.S.D.COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
ATTOOR KANYAKUMARI DISTRICT TAMILNADU, INDIA

Abstract

Present study was conducted in Kanyakumari District in Tamilnadu with 500 socially disadvantaged adolescents(MBC, SC and ST) selected from 11 schools in to assess their vocational preferences (Scientific, Technology, Agriculture, Mass Media, Artistic, Commercial, Medical, Social service, Law and order and Education) using career Preference Record constructed and validated by the investigator. Data on vocational preferences revealed that Scientific and Education were the most preferred careers of socially disadvantaged adolescents while Agriculture is the least preferred career. Sex and locality influences the career choice of socially disadvantaged adolescents

Significance of the study

Vocational choice is the most important event in an individual's life. Persons' success and consequent satisfaction and happiness depend on how accurately he chooses his career. Individuals who make career choices based on personal interests and abilities, show significantly higher levels of job satisfaction and are more productive workers. But the improper selection of the career is very harmful for mental health.

No power in adult life moulds a man as strongly as his vocation. So career choice is significant through which a person can establish his identity. Career choice is not only central to one's life style, but also a vital aspect of the physical and emotional well being of the individuals themselves and their families.

In India there was a time when vocational choice was not prevalent and division of labour was based on caste and sex. India at present is rapidly developing in higher education

which has made the career choice more complex. The number of occupations has increased and freedom of career choice is high. Because of wrong choice, many people are not satisfied with their jobs and maladjustment with the vocation courses. A person's potentialities can be explored fully and invested profitably if his career choice is right. Individual's talents, capacities, attitudes and aptitudes have to be considered in career choice.

Adolescence is a time when teenagers develop certain choices regarding their future careers. Career exploration is important during adolescence as adolescents begin to engage in self exploration and explore potential career options (Gati and Saka2001; Julien1990; Super1990). Developing a vocational identity is a central developmental task during adolescence. So choice of a career is a crucial problem for adolescents

The socially disadvantaged are not handicapped by genetic deficiency but by the socio economic circumstances of their lives. The disadvantages are not inside the individual but outside the society. The socio economic disadvantages prevent them from developing their basic and natural potentialities. The investigator made an attempt to study the career choice of socially disadvantaged adolescents. Moreover in Indian settings there is scanty research on vocational choices of socially disadvantaged adolescents. Hence the study

Objectives of the study

1. To study the vocational choices of socially disadvantaged adolescents in kanyakumari district
2. To study the significant difference in the mean scores of vocational choice of socially disadvantaged adolescents on the basis of gender, and locale

Hypothesis

There exists no significant difference in the mean scores of vocational choice of socially disadvantaged adolescents on the basis of gender, and locale

Methodology

The investigator adopted normative survey method for the study. Data was collected from a sample of 500 socially disadvantaged adolescent students in the age group 12-17 years studying in vii to xii standards from 11 schools of Kanyakumari district using stratified random sampling technique. Tools used to collect data were Vocational Choice Record constructed and validated by the investigator. Vocational Choice Record includes ten career areas namely Scientific, Technology, Agriculture, Mass Media, Artistic, Commercial, Medical, Social Service, Law and Order, and Education. Reliability of the tool was established using Split Half Method and was found to be 0.84. Content validity of the tool was established by expert opinion. The organised data were analysed using Percentage, and ttest.

Results and Discussion

1.Percentage wise analysis of Vocational Choice

	Scientific	Technology	Agriculture	Mass media	Artistic	Commercial	Medical	Social Science	Law and order	Education
Group										

		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Total Sample		22.2	12.6	0.2	5.6	11.8	6.2	12.6	6	4.6	18.2
Gender	Male	23.21	16.46	0.42	8.02	9.28	5.06	15.19	5.91	7.17	9.28
	Female	21.29	9.13	0	3.42	14.07	7.22	10.27	6.08	2.28	26.24
Location of school	Rural	24.44	14.07	0	6.67	8.52	5.93	13.33	4.81	4.81	17.41
	Urban	19.57	10.87	0.43	4.35	15.65	6.52	11.74	7.39	4.35	19.13

The above results indicated that Scientific and Education were the most preferred career for socially disadvantaged adolescents and Agriculture least preferred career. Agriculture, Law and Order, Mass Media were the most preferred choices for the adolescents. Scientific, Technology and Medical were the most preferred choices for male adolescents and for female, Education, Scientific, and Artistic were the most preferred choices. For both male and female, Agriculture was the least preferred choices. These results are in line with that of Rosenbloom, Ash, Dupond, and Coder (2007), Migunds, Agak and Odiconor (2011) which indicated that career choice may be a result of the existing gender stereotyping and difference in self efficacy.

For rural adolescents Scientific, Education and Technology were the most preferred choices and Agriculture, Social service and Law and order were the least preferred choices. Scientific, Education and artistic were the most preferred carrier choices of urban socially disadvantaged adolescents and Agriculture, Mass Media and Law and order were the least preferred carrier choices

2. Comparison of Vocational Choice based on Gender

Dimensions	Gender	Mean	SD	N	t	p	Remark
Scientific	Male	11.22	3.10	237	1.584	0.114	NS
	Female	10.77	3.25	263			
Technology	Male	11.31	3.49	237	7.553	0.000	Sig. at 0.01 level
	Female	8.92	3.58	263			
Agriculture	Male	5.57	2.58	237	0.426	0.671	NS
	Female	5.67	2.67	263			
Mass media	Male	9.07	3.50	237	7.442	0.000	Sig. at

	Female	6.79	3.33	263			0.01 level
Artistic	Male	9.57	3.14	237	1.789	0.074	NS
	Female	10.08	3.23	263			
Commercial	Male	10.13	3.03	237	5.525	0.000	Sig. at 0.01 level
	Female	8.46	3.72	263			
Medical	Male	10.76	3.20	237	1.835	0.067	NS
	Female	10.22	3.38	263			
Social Service	Male	9.44	3.34	237	1.056	0.292	NS
	Female	9.75	3.21	263			
Law and order	Male	9.88	3.83	237	11.600	0.000	Sig. at 0.01 level
	Female	6.05	3.52	263			
Education	Male	10.36	3.58	237	5.341	0.000	Sig. at 0.01 level
	Female	12.03	3.39	263			

The above results indicated that there existed significant difference between male adolescents and female adolescents in their carrier choices regarding Technology, Mass Media, Commercial, Law and Order and Education. Comparing the means scores it is evident that male adolescents prefer carriers in Technology, Mass media, Commercial, Law and Order compared to females. But Education Career was preferred most by female adolescents compared to their counter parts. Chen (1997), Ogunmola (2004) and Jamabo(2012) indicated the relevance of gender in Career preference of adolescents as observed here. No significant difference was noted in the Career like Scientific, Artistic, Medical, and Social Service. This result is in line with that of Shakya and Singh (2013)

3.Comparison of Vocational Choice based on Locale

Dimension	Locale	Mean	SD	N	t	p	Remark
Scientific	Rural	11.19	3.21	270	1.578	0.115	NS
	Urban	10.74	3.15	230			
Technology	Rural	10.36	3.67	270	1.975	0.049	Sig. at 0.05 level
	Urban	9.70	3.77	230			
Agriculture	Rural	5.65	2.58	270	0.296	0.767	NS
	Urban	5.58	2.68	230			
Mass media	Rural	8.57	3.53	270	4.821	0.000	Sig. at 0.01
	Urban	7.05	3.50	230			

							<i>level</i>
Artistic	Rural	9.26	3.12	270	4.406	0.000	<i>Sig. at 0.01 level</i>
	Urban	10.50	3.15	230			
Commercial	Rural	9.23	3.37	270	0.126	0.900	NS
	Urban	9.27	3.68	230			
Medical	Rural	10.64	3.30	270	1.214	0.225	NS
	Urban	10.28	3.31	230			
Social Service	Rural	9.31	3.19	270	2.180	0.030	<i>Sig. at 0.05 level</i>
	Urban	9.95	3.34	230			
Law and order	Rural	8.33	4.10	270	2.738	0.006	<i>Sig. at 0.01 level</i>
	Urban	7.32	4.12	230			
Education	Rural	11.10	3.77	270	0.976	0.329	NS
	Urban	11.41	3.33	230			

The results indicated that there existed significant difference in the career choice of rural and urban socially disadvantaged adolescents in areas Technology, Mass Media, Artistic, Social Service and Law and Order. Mean scores showed that rural adolescents have more preferences in technology, Mass Media and Law and Order compared to urban adolescents. In career life Artistic and Social service urban adolescents have more preferences compared to the rural adolescents.

Conclusions

1. Science and Education were the most preferred career choices of socially disadvantaged adolescents.
2. Agriculture was the least preferred career of socially disadvantaged adolescents.
3. Male and female adolescents differ significantly in their career choices on areas like Technology, Mass Media, Law and Order and Education
4. Rural and urban adolescents differ significantly in their career choices on areas like Technology, Mass Media, Artistic, Social Service and Law and Order.

Implications of the Study

Socio emotional climate of the socially disadvantaged adolescents is different from that of socially advantaged adolescents. Parents of socially disadvantaged adolescents cannot support their children in career planning. So the responsibility should be taken by the school in schools career counselling cells should be organised. Stake holders of the school should ensure that schools are well equipped with adequate career resources. Qualified personnels should be in the schools to provide career counselling to the adolescents which help them to have better career choices. The study revealed that Agriculture is the least preferred area by the socially disadvantaged adolescents. Measures

should be taken to remove their dislike towards Agriculture career. Career programs should be developed to educate the parents and adolescents to make them aware about the avenues of emerging carrier choices

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