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INFLUENCE OF PARENTS ON CHOOSING THE 11TH STANDARD SUBJECTS OF STUDY FOR THEIR CHILDREN



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ABSTRACT:

This research paper aims to see if there is any association between the type of parents (Business and Working class) in choosing what their children should take up as their subject of study in their Pre University college or 11th standard in order to shape their children's career and future. This study is conducted on a small sample as a base line to understand whether this influence exists or not by quantitative analysis and to confirm the conceived idea of the researcher. The study has successfully come out with the results and discussions which could be further explored.

KEY WORDS:

Business class, Working class, Analysis, Career options, Trend, Generalization.

INTRODUCTION:

Majority of the population in India is filled by the youths. The youth can change the future of the country. But to change the future of the country and of oneself, one has to be educated and not only in terms of academic but also all round development of oneself is needed. Where many institutions today provide an all-round development of the student, parents play an

important role in deciding the path and the career of the child. Hence the opinion of the parent for his child matters a lot when it comes to making a decision regarding his career. When parents decide the path of the future for his child, they take into account a number of factors, the major one being is his subject of study and course stream namely Arts, Commerce and Science. Hence we have spoken and collected data from the parents as to what would they like their child to take up as their career and the reasons for supporting their choice of subject for their child.

NEED FOR THE STUDY:

This particular research is to find out the career options that the parents of the students want their children to take and to analyze the reason, as to why a particular course, a parent would want his child to take. It is to give the readers an overview as to why the parents want their children to take up a particular stream of career. It would also be helpful if we can come to know why a particular career or stream is not chosen and hence awareness about that can be created and if there are any misconceptions,



those can be removed. At the same time science and technology had grown massively and had changed the life style of city dwellers. The populations of the city dwellers are viewed in this study as working class parents and business class parents. There is also difference in opinion of the parents from rural to urban population about their choice of subjects or stream for their children.

REVIEWS OF RELATED LITERATURE

A study conducted in Philippines shows that the reason that has been stated for large number of unemployment and underemployment is because the students prefer to start working after college. The survey is done through frequency, percentage and chi-square treatments. They studied the factors affecting the students' preference of course to their career preference. The reason for unemployment or underemployment is the wrong choice of their career. Students do not choose the course based on their interest or skill but based on the courses that will provide job in future with a proper salary to meet the financial needs of the family. Courses are also chosen based on the financial need of the family. The result that the study has shown indicates that career planning must begin at an early grade and progress in a continuous manner. If the passion of a student is made his career then he would surely become successful.

An article on "Factors Influencing High School Students' Career Aspirations" describes that; on a sample of 141 students, the social cognitive career development model was used to study the relationship among learning experiences, career self-efficacy, outcome expectations, career interests and career choices. Here they talk about how the counsellors help the students in choosing their career. The counsellors are well-informed about the various factors that might be influencing the child and help them accordingly in their decision-making process. This study lays stress on the role of the school counsellors. School counsellor should work with the team of community and also include the teachers as well as parents, as parents play an important role in the life of a student.

OBJECTIVES

- To find out the influence of parents on choosing the 11th standard subjects of study for their children
- To find out is there any association between the type of parents (Business and Working class) in choosing what their children should take up as their subject of study in their Pre University College or 11th standard in order to shape their children career and future.

Statement of the Problem:

INFLUENCE OF PARENTS ON CHOOSING THE 11TH STANDARD SUBJECTS OF STUDY FOR THEIR CHILDREN

Methodology and Sampling Technique

The method used in doing this research is through survey. The data was collected randomly i.e., through "Simple Random Technique". The sample consisted of 60 parents, who are categorized as business class and working class. Among them 30 are from business class and 30 from working class. Table 1 shows the details of sample.

Table 1: Shows the sample chosen for the study

Parents Type	Sample size
Business Class	30
Working Class	30

Hypotheses:

Null Hypothesis:

There is no significant association between the proportion of business and working class parents on selecting the course stream for their children.

Alternative Hypothesis:

There is a significant association between the proportion of business and working class parents on selecting the course stream for their children.

Statistical analysis

To test the null hypothesis Chi-square test has been done and the related tables of analysis are presented below.

Table 2: Shows the cross tabulation of data Subject stream x Type of Parents

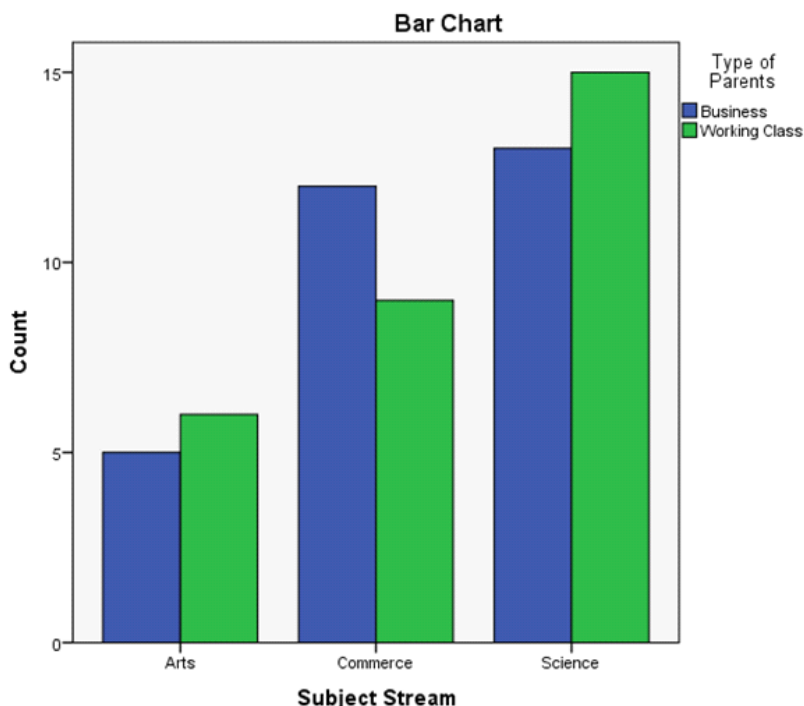
Subject Stream * Type of Parents Crosstabulation					
		Type of Parents		Total	
		Business class	Working Class		
Subject Stream	Arts	Count	5	6	11
		Expected Count	5.5	5.5	11.0
		% within Subject Stream	45.5%	54.5%	100.0%
		% within Type of Parents	16.7%	20.0%	18.3%
		% of Total	8.3%	10.0%	18.3%
	Commerce	Count	12	9	21
		Expected Count	10.5	10.5	21.0
		% within Subject Stream	57.1%	42.9%	100.0%
		% within Type of Parents	40.0%	30.0%	35.0%
		% of Total	20.0%	15.0%	35.0%
	Science	Count	13	15	28
		Expected Count	14.0	14.0	28.0
		% within Subject Stream	46.4%	53.6%	100.0%
		% within Type of Parents	43.3%	50.0%	46.7%
		% of Total	21.7%	25.0%	46.7%
Total	Count	30	30	60	
	Expected Count	30.0	30.0	60.0	
	% within Subject Stream	50.0%	50.0%	100.0%	
	% within Type of Parents	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	
	% of Total	50.0%	50.0%	100.0%	

Table 3: Shows Chi-Square Tests result

Chi-Square Tests			
	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	0.662 ^a	2	0.718
Likelihood Ratio	0.664	2	0.717
Linear-by-Linear Association	0.029	1	0.865
N of Valid Cases	60		

0 cells (0.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 5.50.

Graph 1: Showing the frequency of Subject stream x Type of parents



QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS:

An Interview technique was also conducted for around 16 parents, among them 8 are business class parents and 8 are working class parents, the interview has successfully brought out the reasons for choosing certain subject stream by particular parents. The interview output has been discussed in the discussion paragraph at the end.

INTERPRETATION:

A chi-square test for association was conducted between the type of parents (business and working class parents) and the course stream for their children. All expected cell frequencies were greater than five. Chi-square value = 0.662, p value = 0.718 which is > 0.05. Hence Null hypothesis is accepted, Alternative Hypothesis is rejected, that is, “There is no significant association between the proportion of business and working class parents on selecting the course stream for their children”.

DISCUSSION:

From the data collected, It was found that, majority of the people would like to go for the science stream whether be it from business class or working class family (Graph 1). The reason why the parents want their child to opt for science is because they think that these subjects of study have very good opportunities in the future for their child to get placed and have a proper and steady income. In the science stream, the most preferred course is engineering and medicine. One of the reasons why the parents want their children to take engineering is because of the pressure and status in the society. It has become more of a trend to take engineering rather than the matter of interest. Children, whose parents are doctors, most likely prefer their son/daughter to become a doctor too. Very few people opt for pure science stream.

Commerce ranks as the second preference for the parents (refer Graph 1). After taking commerce, the parents want the students to either take up CA or CS or do MBA. MBA is more preferred when compared to CA or CS so that the students can get placed easily in Multi-National Companies. One of the reasons the parents want the child to do commerce is, especially from Business class family, is because the child can take up the family business.

Arts is the least preferred subject because the parents think that the career option in this area is not very wide and the chances of getting a proper and a secured job is very less when compared to other streams. Few of the parents are ok with their child taking up arts because they know in what areas further studies can be done, if required for a proper job. The main concern of the parents is for their child to get placed whether it be arts, science or commerce field and to be able to earn a decent livelihood.

CONCLUSION:

The general trend seen these days is that the parents want their child to take up either engineering or medicine for mainly two reasons, that is, one because of the respect in society and two, to get placed in any MNC for good income. This in turn puts a lot of pressure on the child as they are not freely able to tell what they would like to take up as their career and moreover the mind of the child is tuned in such a way that they start thinking along the lines that if they take up science, only then their future will be secured. As a result, the child ends up taking science willingly or unwillingly. But in this entire case, the stream of pure science is not focused and the focus is alone on engineering and medicine. Also commerce is accepted to a certain extent but parents are still very reluctant about their child taking arts because they think it guarantees no secured job. More awareness has to be created among people and parents regarding various opportunities in various fields of education and not just stick to the trend or pressurize the kids for the sake of society. The awareness can be done through talking to the parents of the students personally and giving them an insight in various fields of education or making them interact with people from different educational areas in certain workshops etc. The conclusions drawn above are from the sample collected. The sample collected is very small. The conclusions drawn above may vary if we take a large and a radial sample and may be generalized in that case.

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