

The Impact of Parental Influence on Career Perspectives Among Higher Secondary Students in Kerala.

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Abstract: This study is an attempt to analyze the effects of parental influence on the choice of career among higher secondary students in Kerala. The data collection was pointed to the gender-wise and home background variables. The selected sample consisted of hundred students randomly chosen from both government and private schools. Questionnaires were used as data collection tools. The data gathered was analyzed using Pearson's Correlation Analysis, Regression analysis, Hypothesis test, Time series analysis and sequential plots. The finding revealed that parental involvement in their children's career options has significantly influenced their achievement. Based on the finding, it was concluded that academic and career achievement is likely to be high if parents' careful attention and assistance to their children are there. It was recommended that parents' regular attention and advice at home facilitate achievement. The analysis was done using the software Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS).

Index Terms: Secondary School Students, Career Choice, Parental Influence, Parents Expectation, The Influence of Family Status

1 INTRODUCTION

Finding an aim in life before you are twenty years old; Acquire knowledge continuously to reach this goal; Work hard and persevere so you can defeat all the problems and succeed (Abdul Kalam). "Life is like mathematics. To work your life, you need formulas that suit your uniqueness. The same is true for a career, a well-planned career is instrumental in a happy and satisfying life" (Google). Professional improvement is a procedure which begins as of now in youth and one in which the family assumes an especially significant job. Factors, for example, family structure, jobs accepted by every part, connections between the individuals, the arrangement of qualities and mentalities which lie at the premise of practices impact profession decision and advancement of the career. In the event that we pursue the models which attempt to clarify the stages an individual experiences in the basic leadership procedure with respect to professional decision, we can see that the basic step is to be conscious of the need to choose a vocation, trailed by the foundation of the scope of choices – based on knowing one's very own abilities, interests and individual qualities. The parent-tyke connections, collaborations by families and socially encouraging people, give the tyke a setting ideal to scholastic improvement, and to the tyke's professional desires and alternatives. The family's insight, opinion and qualities about career when all is said and done, and especially about particular appeals, together with the immediate perceptions are an important source of professional approach. The idea of relationships and interactions built up among guardians and youngsters comprise the establishment of the professional investigation process. The quality of parent-tyke connections, open interactions, encouragement and trust can have an impact on the investigation exercises, professional yearnings, tentative arrangements, the hindrances that may happen in picking a vocation. The sort of connection created by the tyke encourages us to comprehend its professional

development, yet additionally, the productivity of vocation related choices because disguised working models impact the tyke's receptiveness to investigating, to learning encounters through practices of drawing closer or maintaining a strategic distance from them. The demonstrating of vocation advancement relies upon the sentiment of individual proficiency – having confidence in one's ability to face up to specific circumstances, on the outcomes anticipated after a specific conduct and on the built-up destinations, on the goal to participate in a conduct which would influence future outcomes (Lent et al. 1994, as referred to in Wright and Perrine, 2008).

2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The research problem selected is entitled 'The impact of parental influence on profession decision among higher secondary students in Kerala'. This study is undertaken to find out the extent of parents' involvement while choosing their career. In a report published in Eric Digest No: 164, Lankord (1995) observes that young people devise their opinion about career and work as a result of interaction with the family. Thus, parents are the most influential factor in students' career plans. But this influence can have positive as well as negative outcomes. The best nervousness young people feel about their career choice is in light of parents' adverse involvement. Students feel more confident in choosing their career when they are supported by their family. But when parents are too controlling children often pursue the career chosen by their parents so as not to offend them or conflict with their desires. When children pass into adulthood, they start to consider their future frequently by looking to their parents either as good examples or as career advisers. A parents' attitude to this can encourage adolescents to explore a variety of prospective jobs.

3 OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The research study was undertaken on the following objectives

1. How important is the role of the parent in the career guidance process?
2. The expectations parents have for their children and career.

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3. The opportunities they offer their children to learn and develop.

1.1. Hypothesis of the study

1. There is significant relationship between gender and parental involvement in the career options of adults.
2. There is significant relationship between gender and relatives involvement in the career options of adults.
3. There is significant relationship between career options of adults and family status.

1.2. Data Analysis

In this study the following tables and hypothesis test are used to analyze the data

Table-1: Percentage of male and female participants

	Frequency	Percentage
Male	44	56%
Female	44	56%

The sample selected for this analysis consist of 44% male and 56% female.

Table-2: Source of information about career options

	Frequency	Percent
Parents	38	38%
Teachers	16	16%
Print media	4	4%
Friends	17	17%
Internet	25	25%
Total	100	100%

Among the respondents 38% parents, 16% teachers, 4% media, 17% friends and 25% internet are the sources of information about career options.

Table-3: Reason for choosing career

	Frequency	Percent
Interest	40	40%
Job opportunity	50	50%
Parents' interest	4	4%
Current trend in the society	6	6%
Total	100	100%

Among the participants, 40% choose their career due to interest, 50% due to job opportunity, 4% due to parents' interest and 6% due to current trend in the society. This shows that the parents of today are highly educated and their involvement in career options remain less, students are the main deciding factor but they require parents' regular attention to take good decisions.

Table-4: Parents' occupation persuades choice of career

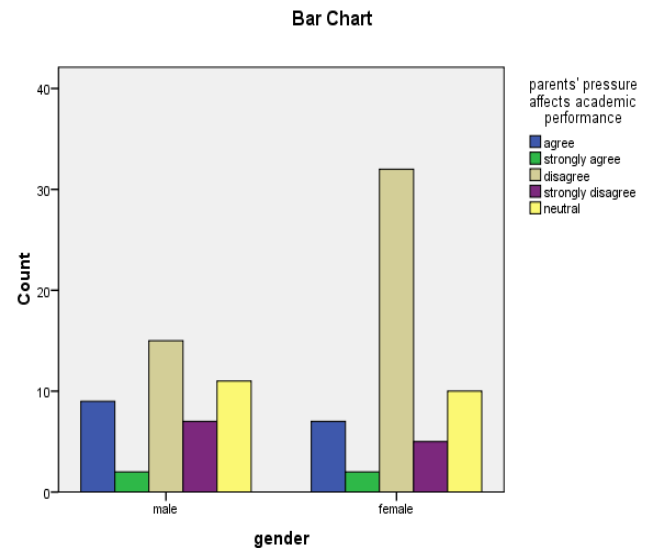
	Frequency	Percent
Agree	53	53%
Disagree	29	29%
Neutral	18	18%
Total	100	100%

Among the participants 53% agreed, 29% disagreed and 18% have neutral opinion regarding the influence of parents' occupation while choosing their career. According to this study parents' occupation only partially affected the career choice of students.

Table-5: Opinion regarding parents' pressure affects academic performance

	Frequency	Percent
Agree	20	20%
Disagree	59	59%
Neutral	21	21%
Total	100	100%

Among the respondents 20% agreed that parents' pressure



affect their academic performance but around 59% not agreed the same.

Fig. 1. Parents' pressure affects academic performance

Table-6: Family expects to choose a career in accordance with family values or beliefs

	Frequency	Percent
Agree	53	53%
Disagree	29	29%
Neutral	18	18%
Total	100	100%

Among the respondents 53% agreed that their family expects to choose a career in accordance with family values or beliefs which demonstrates that the family expects to maintain the stature while choosing a career.

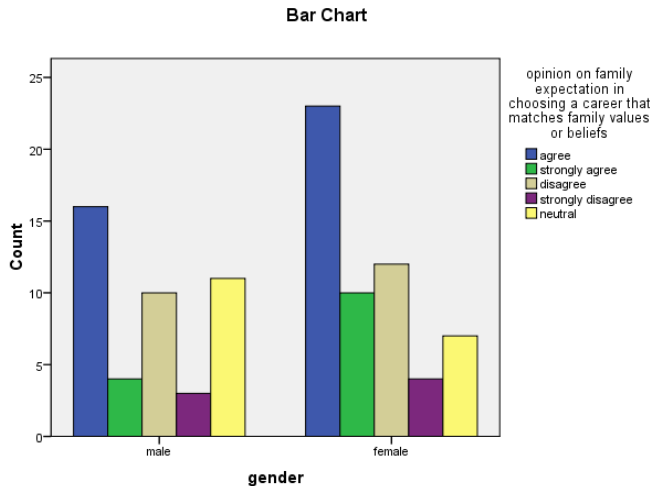


Fig. 2. Family expects to choose a career in accordance with family values or beliefs.

Table-7: Opinion on parents agreeing to make independent career choices

	Frequency	Percent
Agree	88	88%
Disagree	2	2%
Neutral	10	10%
Total	100	100%

Among the participants 88% agreed and only 2% disagreed regarding the questions of parents' opinion towards choosing an independent career. A test was carried to test whether there was a significant relation between gender and parental involvement in the career options of adults.

Hypothesis: The calculated value $t = .031$ at significance level $\alpha = .000 < .05$, so we accept the hypothesis and there is no significant relation between gender and parental involvement in the career options of adults.

Table-8: ANOVA

Model	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean square	F	Sig.
Regression	.050	1	.050	.199	.657
Residual	24.394	97	.251		
Total	24.444	98			

1. Predictors: (Constant), opinion on parents agreeing to make independent career choices.
2. Dependent Variable: gender.

Using ANOVA the calculated value $F = .199$ and significance

level $.657 > .05$ so we accept the hypothesis that parents no way affect the students' freedom of choosing an independent career.

1.3. Hypothesis test result

1. Chi-square value = 56.77 and significant since P-value greater than 0.05 so the hypothesis is accepted and there is no significant relation between gender and parental involvement in the career options of adults
2. Chi-square value = 28.7 and significant since P-value greater than 0.05 so the hypothesis is accepted and there is no significant relation between gender and relatives involvement in the career options of adults.
3. Chi-square value = 27.14 and P-value greater than .05 so the hypothesis is accepted and there is no significant relation between career option of adults and family status.

4 CONCLUSION

This study shows that parents motivate their children to make independent career choices and also they analyze the child's strengths, weaknesses and help them to achieve their goals. They also provide an increasingly powerful instructive environment where the youngsters are educated to be self-reliant and make independent choices. The career decisions must be taken at an early stage and it should be under the guidance of parents. Especially Mothers play an important role in each phase of children's career decision.

SUGGESTIONS

Few variables are of vital importance in the career selection process

1. Motivation of parents, teachers and acceptance of friends always play great role in all children's life.
2. The child's attitude and interest always reflects his personality, strength and weakness.
3. It is difficult to spend life working in a profession that one is not interested in.
4. Students should think about different fields and callings that are open in the wake of seeking after a specific course.
5. The compensation should coordinate with the youngster's yearnings and should empower a fulfilled and agreeable life.

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