



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF RESEARCH IN COMMERCE AND MANAGEMENT

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FACTORS INFLUENCING CAREER CHOICE AMONG ADOLESCENTS

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ABSTRACT

Adolescents are no longer adolescents now days. Their thinking is more of an adult. Right from the time the child is in junior school, his/her thoughts are revolving around the choice of career. Undecided students often need more knowledge to make a decision in general and intervention with them need to focus less on information giving and more on helping them reduce barriers to decision making. The magnitude and stability of individual and socio cultural influence on adolescents' career interests require further investigation. Thus; the present study will examine the stability of career interests of middle and high school students. The current study aims to analyze, "The influence of certain factors such as the ordinal position, socio-economic status, and the urban, rural area as factors affecting the adolescents choice in career". "Stratified Random Sampling" method was adopted for selecting the sample. The investigator randomly selected 100 adolescents. From the 100 students, 50 were boys and 50 were girls. The investigator with the help of the class teacher gave them the questionnaire to be filled in & returned. Since, the objective of the study is to find out if there is any significant difference in career choice among adolescents, t – test as a statistical tool is used. The research results acquired indicate that there is no difference in career choice between the first-born and the second born adolescents. It also shows that there is significant difference in the career choice among the lower income group and middle-income group adolescents. There also exists an observable difference in career choice among adolescents coming from the rural and urban areas. It can also be seen that there is a significant difference in career choice among adolescents from middle and higher secondary schools. Hence, it can be concluded that factors, such as ordinal position, economic status (income category) rural & urban areas, and the standard of class does influence the career choice of adolescents.

KEYWORDS

Career choice, adolescents, ordinal position, socio-economic status, gender & urban, rural area.

INTRODUCTION

The study of how adolescents make career decisions, which adolescents are likely to be undecided, and how to improve adolescents' decision making has been an area of research of vocational psychologists for nearly 90 years. Adolescents are no longer adolescents now days. Their thinking is more of an adult. Right from the time the child is in junior school, his/her thoughts are revolving around the choice of career.

But there are many factors that hinder the correct choice of career. Vocational psychologists have gained knowledge of factors that lead to being career undecided or indecisive about a career direction. Undecided students often need more knowledge to make a decision in general and intervention with them need to focus less on information giving and more on helping them reduce barriers to decision making. The magnitude and stability of individual and socio cultural influence on adolescents' career interests require further investigation. Thus, the present study will examine the stability of career interests of middle and high school students.

The present study suggests that there are additional variables to consider when evaluating an adolescents career interests. There remains a need to substantiate the early findings and to further validate Holland's theory. A few gender studies have been done. But few researchers have conducted research on gender differences in relation with these variables. It is also important to focus on those families who reside in rural areas, where exposure to and experience with different occupations may be limited. Therefore if the research touches upon these factors then the counsellors, parents and other family members will be able to assist adolescents with career choice.

AIM

The aim of this study is to examine,

"The influence of certain factors such as the ordinal position, socio-economic status, and the urban, rural area of factors affecting the adolescent's choice in career".

Hence, this study is to make schools students, college student's, counsellors and the adolescents themselves to be aware of the factors influencing career choice and how to make career decisions. The adolescents should rise to the challenge. Most adolescents, even in disadvantaged situations, should be optimistic about their future. Many youth should develop to higher level and make valuable contributions to their communities.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the research are:

- a. To find out the difference in the career choice in the ordinal position among the adolescents.
- b. To analyse if there is any difference in career choice due to the socio-economic status among the adolescents.
- c. To evaluate the difference in the career choice among the adolescents of rural and urban areas.
- d. To identify if there is any difference between the male and female in their career choice.

Along with this, the various reasons for and against these three variables was taken into consideration.

HYPOTHESIS

The four main Alternate hypotheses are as per following:

1. There will be a difference in the career choice between the first born and the second born adolescents.
2. There will be a difference in the career choice among the lower and middle income adolescents.
3. There will be differences in career choice among adolescents coming from the rural and urban areas.
4. There will be a difference in the career choice between male and female adolescents.

METHOD

The sampling technique adopted is “**Stratified Random Sampling**”. The researcher took samples from two high schools, one being in the rural areas of Tuticorin District and the other from the town of Tuticorin. The researcher first went to the high school in the urban area, “**St. Thomas Matriculation High school**”. The investigator randomly selected 100 adolescents. From the 100 students, 50 were boys and 50 were girls. The investigator with the help of the class teacher gave them the questionnaire.

From the school in the rural areas, “**St. Xavier High school**”, the investigator randomly selected 100 adolescents. She gave the students a brief summary on career choices and interest and then she instructed them as to how to go about filling in the questionnaire. It took one hour for the questionnaire to be completed. Since, the objective of the study is to find out if there is any difference in career choice among adolescents, t – test as a statistical tool is used.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

TABLE 1: COMPARISON OF CAREER CHOICE BETWEEN THE FIRST BORN & SECOND BORN ADOLESCENTS

SAMPLE	N	MEAN	S.D	t	LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE
FIRST BORN	100	82.86	21.94	1.28	NS
SECOND BORN	100	87.10	22.11		

HYPOTHESIS 1 states that **there will be a difference in the career choice between the first born and the second born adolescents.**

From the above table it can be observed that the mean value for the first born is 82.86 and for the second born is 87.10. The S.D. value is 21.94 and 22.11 respectively. The calculated ‘t’ value is 1.28. Hence, it can be observed that the birth order has no influence in the career choices among the adolescents.

Therefore the hypothesis 1 which is stated above is rejected.

TABLE: 2 COMPARISON OF CAREER CHOICE BETWEEN THE ADOLESCENTS COMING FROM LOWER INCOME AND MIDDLE INCOME GROUPS

SAMPLE	N	MEAN	S.D	t	LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE
LOWER INCOME GROUP	100	82.5	20.1	6.5	Significant at .01
MIDDLE INCOME GROUP	100	86.2	22.2		

HYPOTHESIS 2 states that **there will be a difference in the career choice of adolescents hailing from the lower income and middle income group.**

From the above table it can be observed that the mean value for the lower income group of adolescents is 82.5 and for the middle income group of adolescents is 86.2. The S.D. value is 20.1 and 22.2 respectively. The calculated ‘t’ value is 6.5. Hence, there is a significance difference in the career choice between the adolescents coming from the lower and middle socio-economic groups.

Therefore the hypothesis 2 which is stated above is accepted.

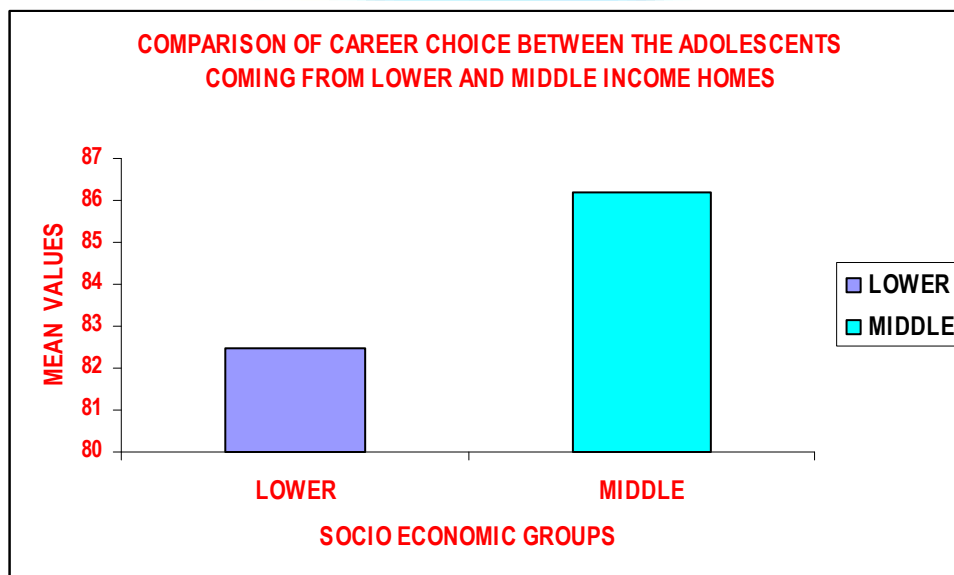


TABLE 3: CAREER CHOICE BETWEEN THE ADOLESCENTS FROM THE URBAN & RURAL AREAS

SAMPLE	N	MEAN	S.D	t	LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE
URBAN	100	78.25	17.20	4.36	Significant at .01
RURAL	100	91.71	25.39		

HYPOTHESIS 3 states that **there will be differences in career choice among adolescents coming from the urban and rural areas.**

From the above table it can be observed that the mean value for the adolescents coming from the urban area is 78.25 and for the adolescents coming from the rural area is 91.71 and the S.D. value is 17.20 and 25.39 respectively. The calculated ‘t’ value is 4.36. Hence, there is a significant difference in the career choice between the adolescents coming from the urban and rural areas.

Therefore the hypothesis 3 which is stated above is accepted.

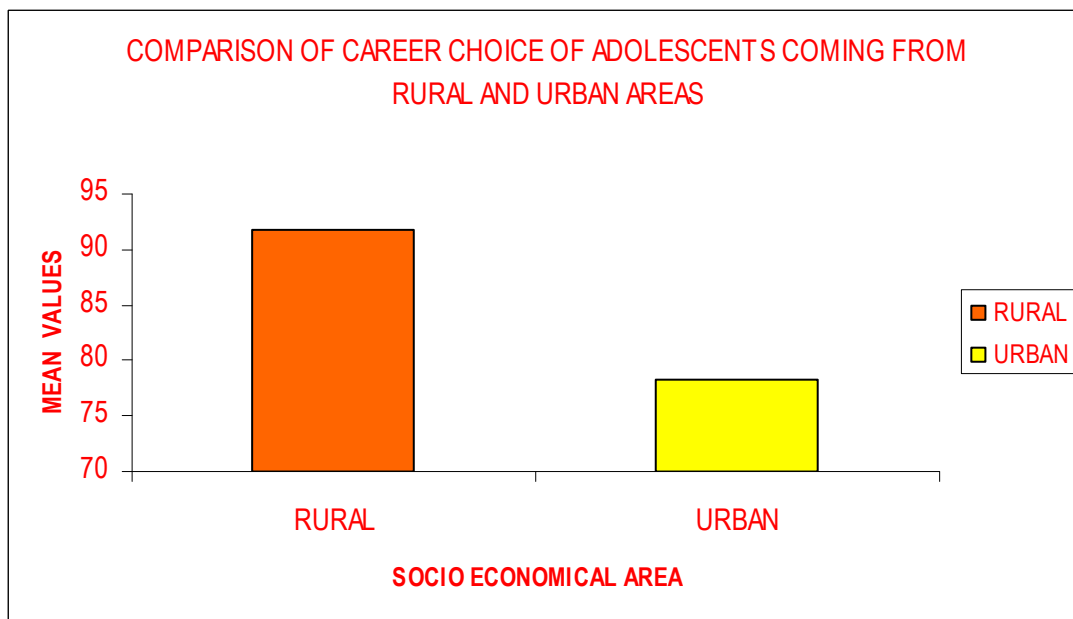


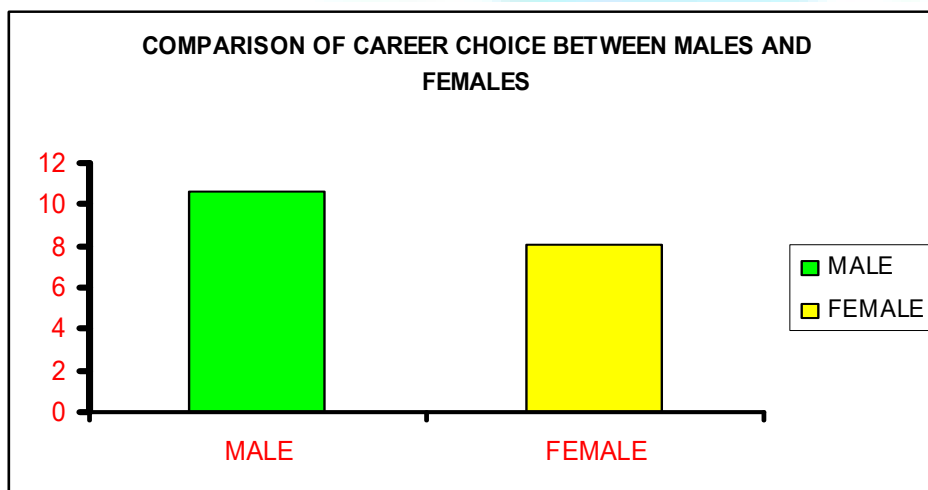
TABLE 4: CAREER CHOICE BETWEEN THE MALE AND FEMALE ADOLESCENTS

SAMPLE	N	MEAN	S.D	t	LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE
MALE	100	75.63	19.33	6.71	Significant at .01
FEMALE	100	94.02	20.67		

HYPOTHESIS 4 states that **there will be a difference in the career choice for male and female adolescents.**

From the above table it can be observed that the mean value for the male adolescents is 75.63 and for the female adolescents is 94.02. The S.D. value is 19.33 and 20.67 respectively. The calculated 't' value is 6.71. Hence, there is a significant difference in the career choice between the male and female adolescents.

Therefore the hypothesis 4 which is stated above is accepted.



CONCLUSION

In the present research career choice remains as nominal variable, while the other demographic variable is studied to see if they influence the career choice. There are 10 Dimensions of career choice. Each dimension of the career choice was individually analyzed in comparison with the demographic variable. Some of the insights arrived from the analysis are: Ordinal position of the adolescents show significant difference in Musical & Linguistic area alone, while others have no significant difference. Socio-economic status of the adolescents indicated that there exists significant difference in all the dimensions of career choice except for Musical area alone. Urban vs rural area of the adolescents showed significant difference in most of the career choice areas except for computational, linguistic & artistic area. And finally for the gender it was found that except for biological science area of career choice other all areas showed significant difference.

Hence, based on these individual analysis of various dimensions, result for overall career choice was carried out using the total score of individual on the full career choice scale.

It is observed, that there is no difference in career choice between the first-born and the second born adolescents. The present research findings reveal that there is a difference in the career choice among the lower income group and middle-income group adolescents. There is a difference in career choice among adolescents coming from the rural and urban areas. There is a difference in the career choice for male and female adolescents.

In today's social milieu, with broadening horizons of education, the issue of career is steadily gaining prominence. With the emergence of the global village, careers have become the core issue of human existence - the pathway to a bright future. **(National Network of Education)**

So we as Career Counsellors must stretch our hands and help the adolescents to make a decision when it comes to their future. We must encourage their parents as well as the teachers to get to know their child's/ student's interests and encourage them towards it.

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