

Career Preference Of Higher Secondary Students In Relation To Gender

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Abstract

The present study was taken up with the broad objective to assess the career preference of higher secondary students in relation to their gender. For this study, a sample of 854 higher secondary students selected by using stratified random sampling technique. The Career Choice Inventory (CCI) developed by Dr. M. Govindan and Dr. G. Vishvanathan (2011) was used to collect the required data. To analyze the data, Percentage, Mean, Standard Deviation, Pearson 'r', and 't'-test were employed. The findings of the study showed that the higher secondary students first preference of career is Architecture and Engineering and the least preference is Production related careers.

Key Terms: Career Preference, Higher Secondary Students.

1. Introduction

In the Liberalized, Privatized and Globalized (LPG) world changes are happening day by day in all walks of life. The world of work is also transforming on a daily basis, which requires an individual to develop their skills as part of the requirement for an area of interest and specialization in the workplace, which makes it more intimidating for the individual to decide on a certain career. Career is a lifetime process that entails decision making that is linked to an individual's general experience. It is a profession for which one trains and which is undertaken as a permanent calling. Career is the sequence of major positions occupied by a person throughout his/her lifetime. Choosing a right career is essential in leading a satisfying life, and

accomplish outstanding vocational output that sets the platform for organizational growth and development.

2. The Concept of Career Preferences

Every individual is unique from one another in terms of their knowledge, attitude, beliefs, skills, and expectations as well as in their career. Career plays an important role in everyone's life not only to determine their level of income but also it affects their personality and perception of life. One of the most difficult decisions for students to make for their studies was choosing a career that will determine their future professional path. Career preferences are the freedom to choose the profession of one's choice. It refers to the kind of careers that adolescents find appealing independent of work market conditions. Career preference is a stage where students plan and prepare themselves for the role in which they would like to get into the desired jobs to improve the standard of living and personal dignity (Dangoy & Madrigal, 2020). Kazi & Akhlaq (2017) viewed that career preference is an indicator and determinant of individuals future level of income and nature of employment and as a result, it affects an individual's personality and outlook. Willner et al., (2015) confirmed that life is meaningfully expressed with lucidity and precision in individual's career. The importance of career preference could be emphasized by the direct influence that a good career choice has on an individual's standard of living and status in the society. Shimoni (2016) stated that if the career preferences aren't aligned with the expectation, the individual efforts and resources will be wasted. The decision of selecting a career is very difficult for any students as they have to consider various factors before they choose a career and wrong decisions can change the fate of an individual. Okojide et al., (2018) states that it affects every aspect of life including the social, economic, mental, and physical lives.

3. Review of Related Literature

Obikwelu et al., (2022) examined the need achievement and career preference of 380 in-school adolescents and found that the career pattern of in-school adolescents is Psychology (3.43); Administration (3.11); and Medical (3.50). The preference patterns of other careers are Journalism (2.74);

Business (2.75); Fashion and Design (2.49); Banking (2.82); Law (2.79; Engineering (2.50).

Beenu Singh and Alka Kumari (2020) examined the job preferences as well as the factors that may impact their future preferences among 193 junior high school students. The study revealed that women preferred Human Services and Education, while men preferred Business Management and Administration. The study also revealed that there are a number of elements that influence a student's jobs preference, including gender, occupation, kind of school, and surroundings of the residence.

Neharika et al., (2020) investigated the career preference of 193 senior secondary school students and found that 73.23 % of girls preferred Human Services and the field of education which lead towards the various career preferences like teaching, professor, psychologist, special education teachers, counsellors etc, whereas 74.34% of boys preferred Business Management and Administration which open various fields like accountant, management analyst, real estate manager etc. The study also indicates that 83.33%. government school students preferred Architecture, Design and Construction as well as marketing and sales, whereas 79% of private school students preferred Hospitality and Tourism. Furthermore, there is difference between the career preferences with respect to gender and parental occupation, but there is no difference with respect to residential setting and the type of management of the school.

Sumanta Kumar Khanra & Dipak Kumar Sarkar (2019) compared the career preference among 800 school students. Findings of the study showed that the boys show more preference in the careers like Science and Technology, Commerce and Management, Defence, and Artistic and Law order; whereas the girls show more preference in the careers Mass media and Journalism, Artistic and Designing, Agriculture, Medical, Tourism & Hospitality and Law and Order. Further, there is significant difference in career preference between boys and girls in the fields of Artistic and Designing, Science and Technology, Medical, Defence, and Education; there is no significant difference in the fields of MassMedia and Journalism, Agriculture, Commerce and Management.

Krishnan and Asha (2021) studied the career preference of 560 secondary school students from the Malwa region of Punjab. The findings of the study showed that the main career preference of students according to rank are Defence forces (20%), Teaching & Training (19.82%), Law enforcement & Administrative services (11.25%), Commerce and Management (9.11%), Visual and performing arts (7.50%), Science and Engineering (6.79%), Agriculture and allied services (6.79%), Tourism and Hospitality (5.54%), Medical and Health (5%), Journalism and mass communication (4.82%), Skilled and self-employment (3.39%). Furthermore, this indicates that Defence force is the main career preference field of majority (20%), of secondary school students while Skilled and Self-employment is the least preference (3.39%) of secondary school students. The study also shows that a positive significant relationship exists between need achievement and career preference of in - school adolescents.

Govindan and Visvanathan (2012) studied the career choices of 960 higher secondary students in relation to their family environment and mental ability. The results of the study showed that the higher secondary students have given first choice to academic career, second to engineering and third choice to medicine and least choice to sales, farming and construction related careers. The study also denotes that out of 23 choices of careers 11 have significant relationship with family environment while the rest of the choices of careers have no relationship with family environment. Furthermore, out of 23 choices of careers 12 have significant relationship with students' mental ability while the rest of the choice of careers have no relationship with mental ability.

4. Objectives of the study

1. To find the career preferences of the higher secondary students.
2. To find the order of career preferences of the higher secondary students.
3. To find the difference between the higher secondary boys and girls preferences of career.

5. Hypotheses of the study

1. The higher secondary boys and girls do not differ significantly in their career preferences.

2. There is no significant relationship between higher secondary students gender and their career preference.

6. Operational definition

Career preference

In this study, career preference means the score of 23 career fields which that researcher has obtained by using the tool Carrier Choice Inventory (CCI).

7. Method and Materials

7.1 Method

Research method is to conduct a research work which is determined by the nature of the problem. For the present study descriptive survey method has been employed.

7.2 Sample

The sample of the study consists of 854 boys and girls studying in higher secondary schools located in Chennai and Thiruvallur districts of Tamil Nadu.

7.3 Research InstrumentUsed

For the present study the standardized tool used is “Career Choice Inventory” which was developed by Dr. M. Govindan and Dr. G. Visvanathan in the year 2011.

7.4 Statistical Techniques Employed

The data was tabulated and calculated by using Microsoft Excel. Descriptive statistical techniques like Frequency and Percentage, Mean and Standard Deviation, and the Differential Analysis of ‘t’ test were used to analyse the collected data.

8. Analysis and Interpretation of Data

Table -1 Mean and SD scores of Career Preference of higher secondary students

S.N O	Careers	N	Mean Maxim um	SD
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1	Architecture and Engineering Career (AEC)	8 5 4	2.37	0. 68
2	Art, Design, Entertainment, Sports and Media Career (ADESMC)	8 5 4	1.88	0. 73
3	Building and Ground Cleaning and Maintenance Career (BGCMC)	8 5 4	2.08	0. 85
4	Business and Financial Operation Career (BFOC)	8 5 4	2.00	0. 82
5	Community and Social Service Career (CSSC)	8 5 4	1.92	0. 85
6	Computer and Mathematical Career (CMC)	8 5 4	2.17	0. 84
7	Construction and Extraction Career (CEC)	8 5 4	1.90	0. 78
8	Education, Training and Library Career (ETLC)	8 5 4	2.23	0. 73
9	Farming, Fishing and Forestry Career (FFFC)	8 5 4	1.86	0. 81
10	Food Preparation and Serving Related Career (FPSRC)	8 5 4	2.09	0. 80
11	Health Care Practitioners and Technical Career (HCPTC)	8 5 4	2.25	0. 86
12	Health Care and Support Career (HCSC)	8 5 4	2.10	0. 83
13	Installation, Maintenance and Repair Career (IMRC)	8 5 4	2.02	0. 80
14	Legal Career (LC)	8 5 4	1.96	0. 79

15	Life, Physical and Social Science Career (LPSSC)	8 5 4	2.12	0. 86
16	Management Career (MC)	8 5 4	1.95	0. 76
17	Military Career (MC)	8 5 4	2.05	0. 86
18	Office and Administrative Service Career (OASC)	8 5 4	1.99	0. 77
19	Personal Care and Service Career (PCSC)	8 5 4	2.19	0. 85
20	Production Career (PC)	8 5 4	1.80	0. 86
21	Protective Service Career (PSC)	8 5 4	2.07	0. 70
22	Sales Related Career (SRC)	8 5 4	1.98	0. 77
23	Transportation and Material Moving Operation Career (TMMOC)	8 5 4	2.03	0. 83

Table 1 reveals that the calculated mean scores of the carrier preferences of the entire sample fall in the range of 2.37 to 1.80. It states that the higher secondary students vary in their preferences of different careers. The highest mean (2.37) is for the career Architecture and Engineering, and the lowest mean is for the career Production (1.80).

Table -2 Rank Order of Carrier Preferences of Higher Secondary Students

S.NO	Careers	Career Preference Mean Score	Order of Preference Pattern
1	AEC	2.37	1
11	HCPTC	2.25	2

8	ETLC	2.23	3
19	PCSC	2.19	4
6	CMC	2.17	5
15	LPSSC	2.12	6
12	HCSC	2.1	7
10	FPSRC	2.09	8
3	BGCMC	2.08	9
21	PSC	2.07	10
17	MC	2.05	11
23	TMMOC	2.03	12
13	IMRC	2.02	13
4	BFOC	2	14
18	OASC	1.99	15
22	SRC	1.98	16
14	LC	1.96	17
16	MC	1.95	18
5	CSSC	1.92	19
7	CEC	1.9	20
2	ADESMC	1.88	21
9	FFFC	1.86	22
20	PC	1.8	23

Table 2 shows that the higher secondary students first preference of career is Architecture and Engineering. The second preference is HealthCare Practitioners and Technical Career. The third preference is Education, Training and Library Career. The higher secondary students least preference of career is Production.

Table -3 Mean difference between Higher Secondary Boys and Girls with respect to their Career Preferences

S.N O	Caree rs	Gender				t' valu e	Level of signific ance
		Boys		Girls			
		Mea n	SD	Mea n	SD		
1	AEC	2.35	0.6 8	2.38	0.6 8	0.70	NS
2	ADS MC	1.85	0.6 9	1.9	76	0.96	NS
3	BGC MC	2.15	0.8 7	2.39	0.8 1	4.22	0.01

4	BFOC	2.03	0.8 1	1.96	0.8 3	1.19	NS
5	CSSC	1.75	0.8 3	2.06	0.8 4	5.24	0.01
6	CMC	1.89	0.8 1	1.91	0.8 1	1.96	0.05
7	CEL	2.07	0.8 4	2.25	0.8 4	3.21	0.01
8	ETLC	2.17	0.7 5	2.28	0.7 1	2.19	0.05
9	FFFC	1.8	0.8 1	1.91	0.8 1	1.96	0.05
10	FPSR C	2.05	0.7 5	2.13	0.8 4	1.32	NS
11	HCPT C	2.11	0.8 7	2.37	0.8 2	4.45	0.01
12	HCSC	2.12	0.7 8	2.08	0.8 7	0.75	NS
13	IMRC	1.89	0.8 1	2.13	0.7 8	4.34	0.01
14	LC	1.97	0.7 5	1.96	0.8 2	0.21	NS
15	LPSSC	2.04	0.8 8	2.19	0.8 4	2.49	0.05
16	MTC	1.9	0.7 4	2	0.7 8	1.77	NS
17	MYC	1.99	0.8 5	2.1	0.8 6	1.91	NS
18	OASC	1.93	0.7 5	2.04	0.7 9	1.92	NS
19	PCSC	2.2	0.8 5	2.17	0.8 5	0.56	NS
20	PC	1.65	0.8 3	1.93	0.8 6	4.79	0.01
21	PSC	1.97	0.6 5	2.17	0.7 2	4.18	0.01
22	SRC	1.94	0.7 5	2.01	0.7 9	1.34	NS
23	TMM OC	2.03	0.8 3	2.03	0.8 3	0.05	NS

It could be observed from table 3, the computed 't' values 4.22, 5.24, 3.21, 4.45, 4.34, 4.79 and 4.18 are significant at 0.01 level

and the 't' values 2.49, 2.19 and 1.96 are significant at 0.05 level. This indicates that the higher secondary boys and girls differ significantly in their preference of BGCM, CSS, CE, ETL, FFF, HCPT, IMR, LPSS, P and PS careers. The 't' values 0.70, 0.96, 1.19, 0.49, 1.32, 0.75, 0.21, 1.77, 1.91, 0.56, 1.34, and 0.05 are not significant even at 0.05 level. It reveals that the higher secondary boys and girls do not differ significantly in their preference of AE, ADSM, BFO, CM, FPSR, HCS, L, MT, MY, OAS, PCS, SR and TMMO careers. Hence, the null hypothesis (1) is rejected for BGCM, CSS, CE, ETL, FFF, HCPT, IMR, LPSS, P, and PS careers and retained for the remaining careers.

Table -4 Relationship between Gender and Career Preferences of Higher Secondary Students

Variables		'r' value	Level of significance
Demographic variable	Careers		
Gender	AEC	0.024	NS
	ADESMC	0.033	NS
	BGCMC	0.143	0.01
	BFOC	0.041	NS
	CSSC	0.177	0.01
	CMC	0.017	NS
	CEC	0.109	0.01
	ETLC	0.075	0.01
	FFFC	0.067	0.01
	FPSRC	0.045	NS
	HCPTC	0.151	0.01
	HCSC	0.026	NS
	IMRC	0.147	0.01
	LC	0.007	NS
	LPSSC	0.085	0.05
	MTC	0.061	NS
	MYC	0.065	NS
	OASC	0.066	NS
	PCSC	0.019	NS
	PC	0.162	0.01
	PSC	0.142	0.01
	SRC	0.002	NS
	TMMOC	0.216	0.01

It could be observed from table 4, there is a significant relationship exists between gender of the students and

preferences of the BGCM, CSS, CE, ETL, FFF, HCPT, IMR, LPSS, P, PS, and TMMO careers. But there is no statistically significant relationship between gender and the preferences of AE, ADSM, BFO, CM, FPSR, HCS, L, MT, MY, OAS, PCS, and SR careers. Hence, the null hypothesis (2) is rejected for careers BGCM, CSS, CE, ETL, FFF, HCPT, IMR, LPSS, P, PS, and TMMO careers and retained for the remaining careers.

9. Findings of the study

- The higher secondary students vary in their preferences of different careers. This finding is supported by the findings of the study done by Govindan and Vishwanathan (2012) who found that the higher secondary students vary in their choices of different careers.
- The higher secondary students, first preference of career is Architecture and Engineering, second preference is HealthCare Practitioners, and third preference is Education, Training and Library Careers. The higher secondary students least preference of carrier is Production. This finding is corroborate with the findings of Neharika et al., (2020), Samantha Kumar Khanva and Dipak Kumar Sarkar (2019), and Govindan and Vishvanathan (2012) who found that majority of the student's preference of carriers is Architecture and Engineering.
- The higher secondary boys and girls differ significantly in their preference of BGM, CSS, CE, ETL, FFF, HCPT, IMR, LPSS, P, and PS career; whereas they do not differ significantly in their preference of AE, ADSM, BFO, CM, FPSR, HCS, L, MT, MY, OAS, PCS, SR, and TMMO careers.
- There is a significant relationship exists between gender of the students and preference of BGCM, CSS, ETL, FFF, HCPT, IMR, LPSS, P, PS, and TMMO careers. But, there is no significant relationship between gender and preferences of AE, ADESM, BFO, CE, FPSR, HCS, L, MT, MY, OAS, PCS, and SR careers.

10. Conclusion

Choosing a career is regarded as a breakthrough in the life of adolescence. Adolescents at higher secondary stage have to face the problem of choosing suitable educational courses

leading to career preferences. The results of the present study showed that the higher secondary students vary in their preferences of different careers. Also, the higher secondary students first preferences of career is Architecture and Engineering, second preference is Medicine, and least preference is production related careers. These findings suggest that the higher secondary students prefer to work in white collar jobs rather than blue collar jobs.

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