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Career preference of secondary school students in relation to their parental involvement

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ABSTRACT

The present paper was taken up with broad objective to study the career preference of secondary school students in relation to their parental involvement. For this study, a sample of 560 secondary school students was drawn randomly from the Malwa region of Punjab. Different schools from the Malwa region were chosen using a multi-stage cluster sampling technique. The Career Preference Inventory developed by the investigator was used to collect the data. To analyse the data, percentage statistics and a t-test were used. The results show that the top three career preferences of secondary school students are Defence Forces (20.00%), Teaching & Training (19.82%), and Law Enforcement & Administrative (11.25%). The study found that there is a significant difference in career preferences of secondary school students in Law Enforcement & Administrative with respect to their parental involvement. It is suggested that every parent should encourage and motivate their child for choosing suitable courses.

Introduction

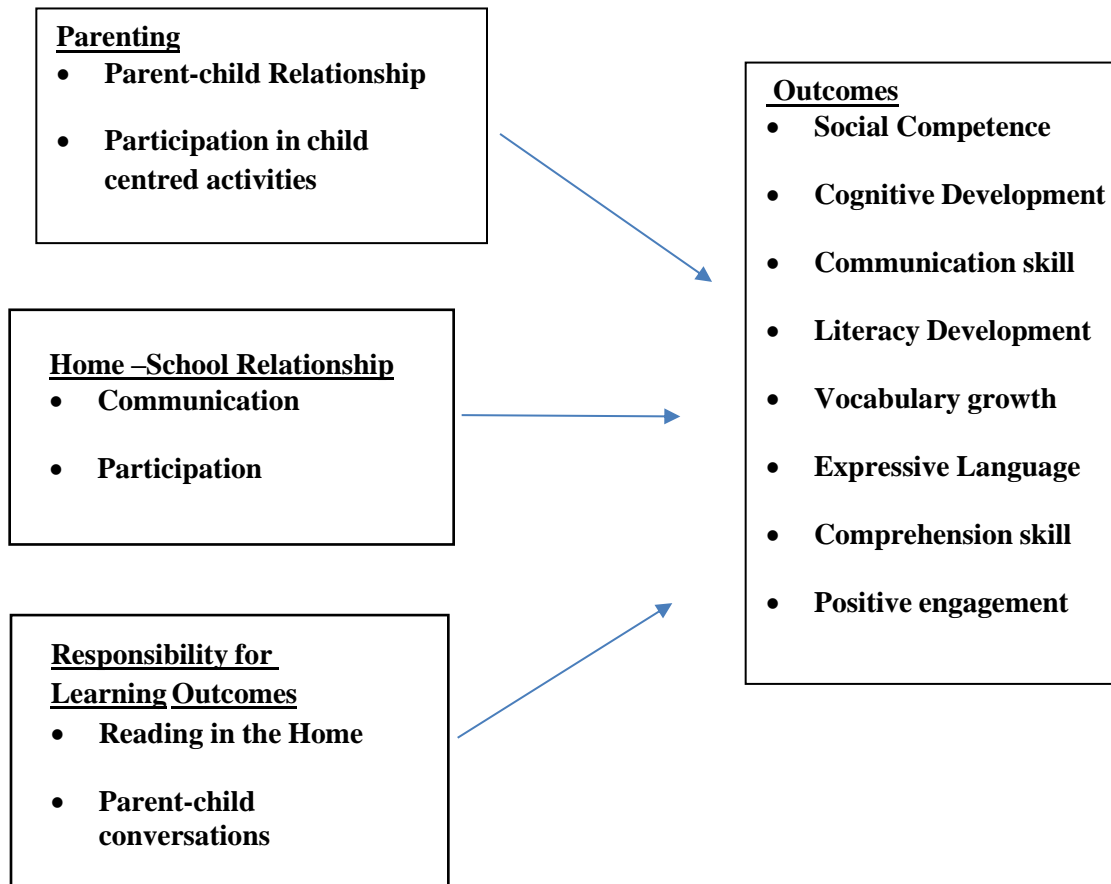
Choosing a career is regarded as a breakthrough in the life of a young adult. This decision has the power to either open the door to success or close it to opportunity. Adolescents at high or higher secondary stages have to face the problem of choosing suitable educational courses leading to career choices. Choosing a career, according to Eyo & Edet (2011), is a decision that most people make at some point in their lives. A career is described by the Oxford English Dictionary as a person's course or development through life or a distinct part of life. According to Mish (2004), a Career is a profession for which one trains and which is undertaken as a permanent calling. Preference refers to select a plan of action in comparison to other options that are ruled out. 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. There are so many factors

that influence the career choice of a student such as social class, family, parents' involvement, school, gender, academic achievement, personality, aptitude, interest. While many people believe that choosing a career is a personal decision, research shows that a range of factors such as family, school, community, and social and economic issues are likely to impact one's final selection (Ferry, 2006). Among these factors, parents have the most influence on the choice of career by students (Kniveton, 2004). Additional studies show that parents have a wider influence on job choice than teachers and can even affect the major their children choose in college (Kniveton, 2004). Many parents are unaware of the varied forms in which they might influence their children's career choices. Some argue that without parental approval, children are unable to pursue or even consider certain professions (Taylor, Harris, & Taylor, 2004). Gonzalez & Wolters (2006), describe parental involvement as to how much interested, knowledgeable, and active the parents are in their child's life. Parents' involvement, according to Vandergrift (1992), includes two distinct components: parents as supports and parents as active partners. Henderson (2002) states that when parents become involved, children do better in school, and they go to better schools. Parenting styles, according to Roe (1957), have the biggest influence on a child's professional decision, particularly when it comes to choosing a person-oriented career. She concluded that the most crucial aspect was a child's attachment to their parent. So, considering parental involvement as a major factor influencing the career choice of students, the researcher intends to study the career preference of secondary school students in relation to their parental involvement at the secondary school level in the Malwa region of Punjab.

Many researchers have attempted to find the relationship between the career preference of the students and their parental involvement. Alika (2010) investigated whether school students' parents and peer groups have any influence on their career choices among 12th-grade students. The study discovered that parental and peer groups had no significant influence on the career choices of 12th-grade students. Brownson (2014) explored the influence of parents on their children's professional choices in several selected schools in Ondo State's Ondo West Local Government Area (OWLGA). The findings found that parents had little influence on their children's professional choices and that parents did not encourage their children to pursue a course other than the one they had selected and they simply gave their children advice on what subjects to offer. Olaosebikan and Olusakin (2014) tried to look into the impact of parents on secondary school students' professional choices in Lagos State's Badagry Local Government Area. The findings revealed that adolescents in secondary schools in Lagos State's Badagry Local Government Area have some degree of professional choice independence. Tillman (2015) studied the level of parental impact on their children's vocational choices in his study. The study found that children whose parents are educators have a greater parental influence on their occupational choices than children whose parents are non-educators. Educator parents have a significant impact on their children's lives, according to the study. Cervera et al. (2016) investigated the impact of parental influence, aptitude, hobbies, and environmental factors on students' job choices. According to the findings, parents' influence, students' aptitude, hobbies, and influences from their environment all have a significant role in a student's decision to pursue their preferred track in senior high school. The greatest component among the indicators

is the pupils' interest. It is followed by environmental factors, their aptitude, and then the influence of their parents. Mwaa (2016) aimed to investigate the impact of parental influences on high school students' career choices in Nairobi County. According to the findings, a high parental educational level has a considerable impact on students' professional choices.

Figure 1. Process of Parent Involvement and Adolescent Outcome according to Kansara & Makwana (2020)



The figure 1 reveals the process of parental involvement and adolescent outcome given by Kansara & Makwana (2020). According to this figure, parent involvement has three components parenting, home-school relationship and responsibility for learning outcomes. After a period of time, these inputs convert into outcomes such as social competence, cognitive development, communication skill, literacy development, vocabulary growth etc.

Need and significance:

Career preference assumes great importance in the life of adolescents for their proper future placement. Counsellors, parents, and teachers with whom they interact must be aware of the various forms and characteristics of career patterns. The study reveals the career preference of students having high and low parental involvement. The investigator also tried to find out if parents had any influence over their children's career choices. The findings of the present investigation will be of immense use for parents, as by knowing the career choices of their children they can

help them in selecting jobs for them according to their preference. Teachers and counsellors will benefit from the findings of this study since they will be able to provide guidance and assistance to secondary school students by knowing their vocational interests. Curriculum designers, administrators, psychologists, researchers, and other agencies and institutions involved in one or more types of careers will benefit greatly from the findings of this study.

Objectives of Study:

The objectives of the present study are:

1. To study the career preferences of secondary school students.
2. To study and compare the career preference of secondary school students in relation to their parental involvement.

Hypothesis:

The hypothesis of the present study is:

1. There is no significant difference in the career preference of adolescents in relation to their parental involvement.

Operational Definition of Variables:

1) **Career Preference:** Career preference is described as the process of choosing suitable careers from a list of options. The Career Preference Inventory, which was standardized by the investigator himself, was used to assess adolescent career preferences in this study.

2) **Parental Involvement:** Parental involvement refers to how parents participate in the development of their child's entire personality. Parental involvement has been operationally defined in this study as the score obtained by the investigator after administering the Parental involvement scale developed by Vijaya Laxmi Chauhan and Gunjan Ganotra Arora (2009).

3) **Secondary school students:** The students studying in 10th grade in high or senior secondary schools of Punjab are taken as secondary school students in the present study.

Sample:

The present study was conducted in the Malwa region of Punjab. Investigator selected a sample of 560, grade 10 students, from selected high/senior secondary schools using the multistage cluster sampling. In the first step, 2 districts of the Malwa region of Punjab were selected from the districts having the lowest literacy rate as per the Indian Census Reports of 2001 and 2011. In the second step, 50% of educational blocks from each district were selected randomly using the Rand between option of the excel sheet. In the 3rd step, 2 schools from each block were selected randomly. In the 4th step, 40 students were selected randomly from each school.

Table 1. Detail of sample selected from high/ senior secondary schools

Sr no	Name of District	Total No. Educational	Number of Blocks	No. of schools	Total no. of schools	Number of	Total Number
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		Blocks	selected Randomly	selected Randomly from each block	selected from the district	students selected Randomly from each school	of students selected from the district
1	Bathinda	7	4	2	8	40	320
2	Sri Mukatsar Sahib	5	3	2	6	40	240
	TOTAL	12	7		14		560

Tools used:

1. Career Preference Inventory:

The investigator developed and standardized an inventory to determine the career preferences of 10th-grade pupils. After 15 days and 30 days, the inventory's average test-retest reliability in the 11 fields was 0.83 and 0.77, respectively. When compared to Bhargava's Career Preference Record, criterion validity was determined to be 0.723 in ten related fields and 0.738 in six related fields, when compared to Vocational Interest Record of Kulshrestha.

2. The Parental involvement scale by Vijaya Laxmi Chauhan & Gunjan Ganotra Arora (2009) was used to assess the parental involvement level from adolescents' point of view.

Procedure:

For this study, a survey approach was used as part of a descriptive research method. The approval of the respective heads of the institution was obtained for using Google Forms to collect data from their school students. The adolescents were assured that their data would only be utilized for research purposes before the instrument was administered. A soft copy of the booklet containing brief information on 242 careers was provided to all concerned students before conducting the test.

Delimitations of the study

The scope of this research is delimited to the following aspects:

1. The study is delimited to the Malwa region of Punjab only.
2. The study is delimited to only Government high/senior secondary schools affiliated to Punjab School Education Board.
3. The study is delimited to students studying in 10th class.

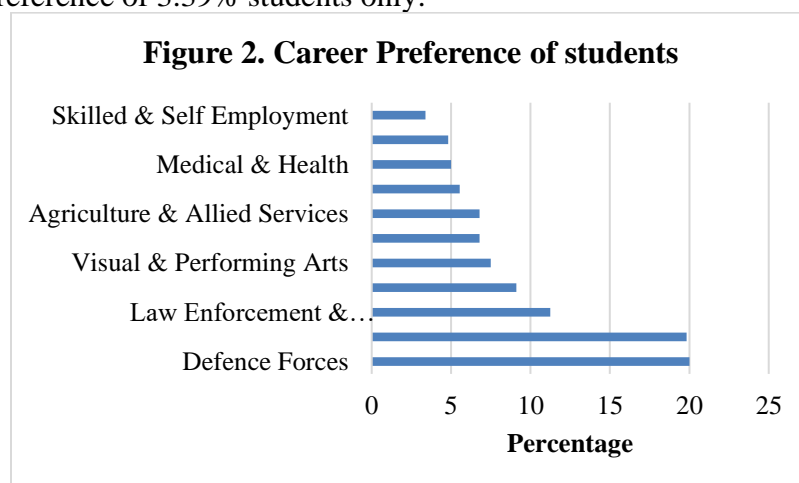
Data analysis and interpretation**Section I- Descriptive Analysis:****1.1 Career preference of secondary school students:**

The percentage and rank of career preference of 560 students in different career fields (Agriculture & Allied Services, Defence Forces, Teaching & Training, Science & Engineering, Commerce & Management, Law Enforcement & Administrative, Medical & Health, Visual & Performing Arts, Journalism & Mass Communication, Skilled & Self Employment, and Tourism & Hospitality) were calculated. The obtained values from all 560 students are presented in Table 2.

Table 2. Percentage and rank of career preference of secondary school students (N=560)

Career field	Number of students	Percentage	Rank
Defence Forces	112	20.00	I
Teaching & Training	111	19.82	II
Law Enforcement & Administrative	63	11.25	III
Commerce & Management	51	9.11	IV
Visual & Performing Arts	42	7.50	V
Science & Engineering	38	6.79	VI
Agriculture & Allied Services	38	6.79	VII
Tourism & Hospitality	31	5.54	VIII
Medical & Health	28	5.00	IX
Journalism & Mass Communication	27	4.82	X
Skilled & Self Employment	19	3.39	XI
Total	560		

Table no.2 shows the description of the main career preference of the students of the secondary schools. The main career preference of students according to rank are Defence Forces (20.0%), Teaching & Training (19.82%), Law Enforcement & Administrative (11.25%), Commerce & Management (9.11%), Visual & Performing Arts (7.50%), Science & Engineering (6.79%), Agriculture & Allied Services (6.79%), Tourism & Hospitality (5.54%), Medical & Health (5.0%), Journalism & Mass Communication (4.82%), Skilled & Self Employment (3.39%). From the table, it is clear that Defence Forces is the main career preference field of majority (20.0%) of secondary school students while Skilled & Self Employment is the preference of 3.39% students only.



In the Figure 2, Career fields has been taken on the Y-axis while percentage of career preference of each field has been taken on the X-axis. It is clear from the

figure that Defence forces is the most preferred career and skilled & self-employment is the least preferred career.

1.2 Career preference of students having high parental involvement

The percentage and rank of career preference of 224 students having high parental involvement in different career fields (Agriculture & Allied Services, Defence Forces, Teaching & Training, Science & Engineering, Commerce & Management, Law Enforcement & Administrative, Medical & Health, Visual & Performing Arts, Journalism & Mass Communication, Skilled & Self Employment, and Tourism & Hospitality) were calculated. The obtained values from all 224 students are presented in table 3.

Table 3. Percentage and rank of career preference of students having high parental involvement (N=224)

Career field	Number of students	Percentage	Rank
Teaching & Training	43	19.20	I
Defence Forces	42	18.75	II
Law Enforcement & Administrative	32	14.29	III
Commerce & Management	24	10.71	IV
Visual & Performing Arts	16	7.14	V
Tourism & Hospitality	14	6.25	VI
Agriculture & Allied Services	12	5.36	VII
Science & Engineering	12	5.36	VIII
Journalism & Mass Communication	12	5.36	IX
Medical & Health	11	4.91	X
Skilled & Self Employment	6	2.68	XI
Total	224		

It is observed from the above Table that the main career preference of students having high parental involvement according to rank is Teaching & Training (19.20%), Defence Forces (18.75%), Law Enforcement & Administrative (14.29%), Commerce & Management (10.71%), Visual & Performing Arts (7.14%), Tourism & Hospitality (6.25%), Agriculture & Allied Services (5.36%), Science & Engineering (5.36%), Journalism & Mass Communication (5.36%), Medical & Health (4.91%), Skilled & Self Employment (2.68%). Further, it is evident from the Table that Teaching & Training is the main career preference field of majority (19.20%) of students while Skilled & Self Employment is the preference of 2.68 %

of students only.

1.3 Career preference of students having low parental involvement

The percentage and rank of career preference of 248 students having low parental involvement in different career fields (Agriculture & Allied Services, Defence Forces, Teaching & Training, Science & Engineering, Commerce & Management, Law Enforcement & Administrative, Medical & Health, Visual & Performing Arts, Journalism & Mass Communication, Skilled & Self Employment, and Tourism & Hospitality) were calculated. The obtained values from all 248 students are presented in table 4.

Table 4. Percentage and rank of career preference of students having low parental involvement (N=248)

Career field	Number of students	Percentage	Rank
Defence Forces	53	21.37	I
Teaching & Training	50	20.16	II
Science & Engineering	24	9.68	III
Commerce & Management	21	8.47	IV
Law Enforcement & Administrative	20	8.06	V
Agriculture & Allied Services	18	7.26	VI
Visual & Performing Arts	17	6.85	VII
Medical & Health	12	4.84	VIII
Journalism & Mass Communication	12	4.84	IX
Skilled & Self Employment	11	4.44	X
Tourism & Hospitality	10	4.03	XI
Total	248		

It is observed from the above Table that the main career preference of students having low parental involvement according to rank are Defence Forces (21.37%), Teaching & Training (20.16%), Science & Engineering (9.68%), Commerce & Management (8.47%), Law Enforcement & Administrative (8.06%), Agriculture & Allied Services (7.26%), Visual & Performing Arts (6.85%), Medical & Health (4.84%), Journalism & Mass Communication (4.84%), Skilled & Self Employment (4.44%), Tourism & Hospitality (4.03%). Further, it is evident from the Table that Defence Forces is the main career preference field of majority (21.37%) of students while Tourism & Hospitality is the preference of 4.03 % students only.

Section II: Differential analysis using t-test

Hypothesis: There is no significant difference in the career preference of

adolescents in relation to their parental involvement.

The student's t-test was applied to test this hypothesis and the obtained results are presented in the following table:

Table 5. Results of 't-test' between Career Preferences of students having high and low parental involvement

Career field	PI	N	Mean	df	t-value	p-value	Null hypothesis
Agriculture & Allied Services	High	224	9.41	470	-1.06	p>.05	Accepted
	Low	248	9.73				
Defence Forces	High	224	11.44	470	0.15	p>.05	Accepted
	Low	248	11.39				
Teaching & Training	High	224	11.44	470	0.97	p>.05	Accepted
	Low	248	11.09				
Science & Engineering	High	224	10.39	470	-0.74	p>.05	Accepted
	Low	248	10.62				
Commerce & Management	High	224	10.59	470	0.68	p>.05	Accepted
	Low	248	10.36				
Law Enforcement & Administrative	High	224	11.33	470	2.13	p<.05	Rejected
	Low	248	10.62				
Medical & Health	High	224	9.47	470	-1.42	p>.05	Accepted
	Low	248	9.96				
Visual & Performing Arts	High	224	10.13	470	-0.36	p>.05	Accepted
	Low	248	10.24				
Journalism & Mass Communication	High	224	10.37	470	0.64	p>.05	Accepted
	Low	248	10.17				
Skilled & Self Employment	High	224	9.31	470	0.54	p>.05	Accepted
	Low	248	9.51				
Tourism & Hospitality	High	224	9.82	470	-0.85	p>.05	Accepted
	Low	248	10.09				

It is evident from the above Table that the values of t-ratios for Agriculture & Allied Services, Defence Forces, Teaching & Training, Science & Engineering, Commerce & Management, Medical & Health, Visual & Performing Arts, Journalism & Mass Communication, Skilled & Self Employment, and Tourism & Hospitality are -1.06, 0.15, 0.97, -0.74, 0.68, -1.42, -0.36, 0.64, 0.54 and -0.85 respectively, which are not significant at 0.05 level of significance. Thus, there exists no significant difference between students having high and low parental involvement in the Agriculture & Allied Services, Defence Forces, Teaching & Training, Science & Engineering, Commerce & Management, Medical & Health, Visual & Performing Arts, Journalism & Mass Communication, Skilled & Self Employment, and Tourism & Hospitality career fields. Hence null hypothesis is accepted.

Further, it is observed from Table 5 that the value of the t-ratio for the Law Enforcement & Administrative career field is 2.13, which is significant at a 0.05 level of significance. Thus, there exists a significant difference between students having high and low parental involvement in the Law Enforcement & Administrative career field. Hence null hypothesis is rejected.

Conclusions:

The major findings of the study are:

1. The study found that the main career preferences of the students in order of rank are Defence Forces (20.0%), Teaching & Training (19.82%), Law Enforcement & Administrative (11.25%), Commerce & Management (9.11%), Visual & Performing Arts (7.50%), Science & Engineering (6.79%), Agriculture & Allied Services (6.79%), Tourism & Hospitality (5.54%), Medical & Health (5.0%), Journalism & Mass Communication (4.82%), Skilled & Self Employment (3.39%). Further, it is found that Defence Forces is the main career preference field of majority (20.0%) of secondary school students while Skilled & Self Employment is the preference of 3.39% students only.
2. The main career preferences of students having high parental involvement according to rank are Teaching & Training (19.20%), Defence Forces (18.75%), Law Enforcement & Administrative (14.29%), Commerce & Management (10.71%), Visual & Performing Arts (7.14%), Tourism & Hospitality (6.25%), Agriculture & Allied Services (5.36%), Science & Engineering (5.36%), Journalism & Mass Communication (5.36%), Medical & Health (4.91%), Skilled & Self Employment (2.68%). The study also revealed that Teaching & Training is the main career preference field of majority (19.20%) of students while Skilled & Self Employment is the preference of 2.68 % of students only.
3. The main career preferences of students having low parental involvement according to rank are Defence Forces (21.37%), Teaching & Training (20.16%), Science & Engineering (9.68%), Commerce & Management (8.47%), Law Enforcement & Administrative (8.06%), Agriculture & Allied Services (7.26%), Visual & Performing Arts (6.85%), Medical & Health (4.84%), Journalism & Mass Communication (4.84%), Skilled & Self Employment (4.44%), Tourism & Hospitality (4.03%). Further, the study also revealed that Defence Forces is the main career preference field of majority (21.37%) of students while Tourism & Hospitality is the preference of 4.03 % students only.

4. There exists no significant difference between students having high and low parental involvement in the Agriculture & Allied Services, Defence Forces, Teaching & Training, Science & Engineering, Commerce & Management, Medical & Health, Visual & Performing Arts, Journalism & Mass Communication, Skilled & Self Employment, and Tourism & Hospitality career fields. These findings are consistent with the findings of Alika (2010), Brownson (2014), and Olaosebikan & Olusakin (2014).

5. There exists a significant difference between students having high and low parental involvement in the Law Enforcement & Administrative career field. This finding is consistent with the findings of Mwaa (2016) and Kniveton (2004).

Educational implications:

The research examines secondary school pupils' career preferences. It will assist parents, educators, and career counsellors in guiding students in choosing appropriate courses and jobs. It will also assist colleges and institutions in starting courses based on students' preferences. The study also reveals the career preference of students having high and low parental involvement. It found a significant difference in the Law Enforcement & Administrative career field in relation to parental involvement. Many parents are unaware of the various ways in which they can influence their children's professional choices. So, every parent should encourage and motivate their children for choosing suitable courses. The involvement of parents in their children's overall development should be encouraged by school authorities. To provide awareness about different careers, meeting with parents should be organized.

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