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RESEARCH ARTICLE

CAREER DECISION OF HIGHER SECONDARY STUDENTS IN RELATION TO THEIR SELF - EFFICACY

Suchismita Sau¹ and Udayan Mandal²

1. Ph.D. Research Scholar, Department of Education, Bankura University, Bankura, West Bengal.
2. Assistant Professor, Department of Education, Bankura University, Bankura, West Bengal.

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Abstract

Career decision is defined as the beliefs in one's capabilities to successfully engage in the activities of selection and planning of occupation. The objectives of the paper are to measure career decision of higher secondary level students and how self-efficacy helps the students in deciding a career. In the present study, career decision and status of self-efficacy is measured by the scores obtained through the self-constructed scales by the investigator. It is a descriptive correctional study. Through the hypothesis testing, the results found out positively significant correction in regards of location and gender wise. The research findings show that positive results regarding career decision, high self efficacy students are very much helped for choosing a suitable career. The research may recommend to the different state higher secondary or higher education students and different government organizations must orient students to enhance career related decision.

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Introduction:-

We make many decisions every day. Some of these decisions of a part of our daily routine whereas others are perceived as being more important and crave more attention on them. The decisions related to career are considered as prime important because those decisions have notable long range implications on a one's lifestyle, the vocational activities of quality of life. A thoughtful selection of a career of an individual and satisfaction in his work inevitably affects the level and degree of his contribution to his own welfare and to that of the community. The key role of education is to enable an individual to realize one's self and make capable to decide upon one vocation to the other. Selection of a career as a process covers a considerable number of years, ranging from early childhood to late childhood.

Therefore, the present research is an attempt to understand how the career related decisions are made and how much self efficacy of a student becomes a deciding factor.

Significance of the Study: -

Like any other, this research study is also a significant one for number of reasons. These are as follows:

- This study helps to know the status of career decision and self-efficacy of higher secondary level students.
- It helps to know the factors which are responsible in determining the level of self-efficacy for career decision of higher secondary level students.

Corresponding Author:- Suchismita Sau

Address:- Ph.D. Research Scholar, Department of Education, Bankura University, Bankura,

- The contribution self-efficacy of the higher secondary students will make them confident in taking decision about their future career.
- It may be an evidence for the concern government, policy makers as well as administrators in order to make some effective measures for improvement of the students in respect to status of career decision and self-efficacy of higher secondary level students.

Objectives of the Study:-

- 1) To know about the status of career decision of higher secondary school students.
- 2) To explore about the status of self-efficacy of higher secondary school students.
- 3) To find out the relationship between the scores of career decision and self-efficacy in respect of gender and locality.

Sources of the Information:-

The Researcher, for this Study went through-

- Thesis,
- Journals,
- Books,
- Research Abstracts, and
- Browsed Different Websites.

Reviews of Related Literature:-

To comprehend the research objectives in a better and complete way, the relevant related literature review revitalized for this study has been stated as follows:

Studies Conducted on Career Decision:-

1) Researcher : Berger et al.

Title : The influence of immediate feedback on adolescent's self-efficacy of career decision and ambition alignment.

Sample : 211 adolescents selected for a study that lived in Western Sydney.

Findings : The results highlighted that students who got automated feedback on their ambitions about career and education, could improve their self-efficacy of career decision and aspirational alignment as well. They have more confidence in collecting occupational information and selection of goals.

2) Researcher : Kaur (2018)

Title : Study to observe the influence of anxiety about career choice and self-determination on career decision making of learning disable adolescents.

Methodology : 42 students were selected for a sample and the data was collected with the help of Singh's career decision making inventory, Career choice anxiety scale by Charles and self-constructed self-determination scale in this study.

Findings : predicted that career decision making and anxiety about career choices were inversely related to each other. As decidedness increased among adolescents, anxiety about career choices would be decreased in learning disabled students. Although, adolescents self-determination and decisions related to career were positively related. The students who believe in their abilities and capabilities more competently make their career choices. It leads to a more successful and happier life later on.

Studies conducted on Self-efficacy:-

1) Researcher : Zhang et al. (2019)

Title : Study to analyze the interactional influence of different career specific practices on career decision self-efficacy of Chinese high school students.

Sample : A sample included 641 high school students.

Findings : revealed that career related parental support boosted up adolescents career decision self-efficacy. It means that parental career related support builds up adolescent self-confidence to taking decisions related to career. However, a lack of parental engagement and career interference decrease self-confidence to make career choices among adolescent due to which they face difficulties in making career choices or delay in the selection of the right choice.

2) Researcher : Xing and Rojewski (2018)

Title : Study to see the influence of family on Chinese vocational secondary school student's career decision making self-efficacy.

Methodology: This study considered parental psychological support and parental career-related behavior as family structural variables of 587 students. Career decision self-efficacy scale by Taylor, Betz and Klein and parental career-related behavior checklist by Whiston and Keller were administered for the collection of the data.

Findings: Showed that parental verbal encouragement and emotional support played a significant role in students self-efficacy related to career decisions. 41% of the total variance was explained by parental psychological support and parent's career-specific behavior in student's self-efficacy of career decisions. Although, age and gender did not play a vital role in adolescent's self-efficacy of career decisions.

Research Gap:-

From the reviews of related literature, it is found that some research works done on career decision and self-efficacy. There is very low research work found in context to an adolescent's self-efficacy ability in career decision stage at higher secondary school level; therefore, further research is needed to arrive at meaningful generalization about the relationship of different variables and on the aspect of higher secondary school level students and on the aspect of West Bengal

Population of the Study:-

Population for the present study consists of all class eleventh grade students enrolled in Bengali medium schools affiliated to West Bengal Council of Higher Secondary Education. The students are of both rural and urban area schools of West Bengal.

Sampling Technique:-

Stratified random sampling technique has been used in the selection of the sample for the present study. The researcher has collected 300 samples for the study maintaining rural and urban location of schools from the district of Jhargram. 3 types of schools (Govt. aided Boys' Schools, Govt. aided Girls' Schools and Govt. aided Co-ed Schools) selected for sample collection for the study. One Boys' School, one Girls' School and two Co-ed schools are randomly taken from the district.

Sample Design:-**Table 1:-** Description of Sample.

Urban		Rural	
Boy	Girl	Boy	Girl
75	75	75	75
150		150	
Total - 300			

Variables of the Study:-

- ➔ **Dependent variable** - Career decision
- ➔ **Independent variables** – Self-efficacy

Tools of the Study:-

The researcher has used two self-developed scales as a tool for collecting the data in the present study. These are -

- **Career Decision Scale**
- **Self-efficacy Scale**

Tools Development:-

Step-1) Reviews of related scale

Step-2) Determining the dimensions

Step-3) Experts' opinion and Selection of the items

- Step-4)** Scoring Pattern determines
Step-5) Pilot Study
Step-6) Item Analysis
Step-7) Norms of the scale
Step-8) Reliability and Validity of the scale

Delimitation of the Study:-

Area of the study

- ✓ The present study was delimited to the state of West Bengal only.
- ✓ The study has been carried out only on Government Aided Schools which are affiliated by West Bengal Council of Higher Secondary Education of Government of West Bengal.

Sample of the study

- ✓ The researcher has selected only 300 students out of 4 schools from Jhargram.
- ✓ There are boys' schools, girls' school and co-ed school.
- ✓ Only the higher secondary level students are considered for the present study.

Tools

- ✓ Two self-made standardized tools have been used in the present study.

Statistics Used in the Study:-

Descriptive Statistics	Inferential Statistics
Mean, Median, Std. Deviation, Skewness, Kurtosis and NPC	Correlation (Pearson Product Moment)

Hypothesis of the Study:-

- H₀₁:** There is no significant relationship between the scores of career decision and self-efficacy of boy students.
H₀₂: There is no significant relationship between the scores of career decision and self-efficacy of girl students.
H₀₃: There is no significant relationship between the scores of career decision and self-efficacy of rural students.
H₀₄: There is no significant relationship between the scores of career decision and self-efficacy of urban students.

Analysis of Null Hypothesis Testing:-

H₀₁: There is no significant relationship between the scores of career decision and self-efficacy of boy students.

Table-2:- Relationship between Career Decision and Self-efficacy of Boy Students.

Groups	N	df		p-value	Significance
Career Decision	300	298	0.109	0.06	Not Significant
Self-efficacy					

Interpretation

There is no significant relationship between the scores of Career Decision and Self-efficacy of boy students at 0.05 level as the p-value of 0.06 is greater than 0.05 for df 298. The correlation value (r) is 0.109 which is positive indicating that Career Decision increases when Self-efficacy increases but not significantly. Hence the null hypothesis H₀₁ is accepted.

H₀₂: There is no significant relationship between the scores of career decision and self-efficacy of girl students.

Table-3:- Relationship between Career Decision and Self-efficacy of Girl Students.

Groups	N	df	r	p-value	Significance
Career Decision	300	298	0.277	0.00	Significant at 0.05 level
Self-efficacy					

Interpretation:

There is significant relationship between the scores of Career Decision and Self-efficacy of girl students at 0.05 level as the p-value of 0.00 is less than 0.05 for df 298. The correlation value (r) is 0.277 which is positive indicating that Career Decision increases significantly when Self-efficacy increases. Hence the null hypothesis H_{02} is rejected.

H_{03} : There is no significant relationship between the scores of career decision and self-efficacy of rural students.

Table-4:- Relationship between Career Decision and Self-efficacy of Rural Students.

Groups	N	df	r	p-value	Significance
Career Decision	300	298	-0.121	0.036	Significant at 0.05 level
Self-efficacy					

Interpretation

There is significant relationship between the scores of Career Decision and Self-efficacy of rural students at 0.05 level as the p-value of 0.036 is less than 0.05 for df 298. The correlation value (r) is -0.121 which is negative indicating that Career Decision decreases significantly when Self-efficacy increases. Hence the null hypothesis H_{03} is rejected.

H_{04} : There is no significant relationship between the scores of career decision and self-efficacy of urban students.

Table-5:- Relationship between Career Decision and Self-efficacy of Urban Students.

Groups	N	df	r	p-value	Significance
Career Decision	300	298	0.126	0.029	Significant at 0.05 level
Self-efficacy					

Interpretation

There is significant relationship between the scores of Career Decision and Self-efficacy of urban students at 0.05 level as the p-value of 0.029 is less than 0.05 for df 298. The correlation value (r) is 0.126 which is positive indicating that Career Decision increases significantly when Self-efficacy increases. Hence the null hypothesis H_{04} is rejected.

Findings:-

- It is positively indicating that Career Decision increases when Self-efficacy increases but not significantly.
- It is positively indicating that Career Decision increases significantly when Self-efficacy increases.
- It is negatively indicating that Career Decision decreases significantly when Self-efficacy increases.
- It is positively indicating that Career Decision increases significantly when Self-efficacy increases.

Implication of the Study:-

The result findings have shown that high levels of career decision of ability make higher secondary students enable self-efficacy significantly. There is the supportive social environment for career oriented decision for school students.

- School administrators and counselors have to provide career counseling during the transition of adolescents from high school to senior secondary school, so that they can decide about the career of their choice as per their capabilities.
- School administrators can emphasize on organizing different activities related to guidance, educational fairs, counseling sessions for parents as well as students.
- Students personally should pursue guidance to find out in which field they can excel rather than depend on peer choices. Students can identify their likings and abilities and what their future should look the same.

The findings of this study have important implications for parents, teachers, counselors and school administrators. As school administrators and counselors can guide the school students about the main obstacles in career decision.

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