

# A STUDY OF VOCATIONAL INTERESTS OF SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN RELATION TO THEIR PARENTAL FACTORS

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## ABSTRACT:

The study investigated the influence of parents occupation, monthly income and educational background on vocational interests of secondary school students. . A sample of 200 students (105 Boys and 95 Girls) reading in various schools in the district of Murshidabad of West Bengal state was selected by purposive sampling method for the study. A standardised tool developed by Bansal V. P & Srivastava D. N. (1975) named as “Vocational Interest Record” were for collection of primary data. The data were analyzed with the help of Mean, SD and percentage to study the vocational interests of secondary students influencing parental factors. The result revealed that there exist a strong difference in vocational interest pattern of secondary school students in terms of parental monthly income. The result also revealed that there is a significant difference in the vocational area of secondary school students in relation to their parental educational background and occupation.

**KEY WORD:** Vocational Interest, Secondary School Students, Parental influence, Parental Factor

## INTRODUCTION:

The right choice of vocations will bring the best in the individual consequent to which he/she will be happy him/her self. Taking into account in the area of solution of unemployment, development of various abilities, economic development of the country, development of social adjustment, attainment of social efficiency and development of moral values the thinkers, educationists and education commissions gave stress upon vocationalization of education. For the purpose of the study, effort will be channelized towards analyzing the influence of parental monthly wages, occupation and educational background on interest of vocation among secondary school students.

Dictionary tells that the meaning of the word vocation as a strong feeling of suitability for a particular career or occupation. And vocational interest is the interest towards this suitable career or occupation. It is always said that finding a perfect job is never easy, but to decide about the choice of that job is far more difficult. All the peoples are not doctors or engineers and they never wants to be. There are various factors which guides a person for their choice of vocation. Characteristic likes or dislikes a person has regarding different occupations or types of work, usually conceptualized as a small set of basic dimensions and these dimension are called vocational interest. According to Holland’s theory there are six types of vocational interests like- Realistic, Investigative, Artistic, Social, Enterprising, and Conventional vocational interests. Motivation is the basic factor that helps to decide which way one’s interest will go. But how this motivation builds up in a child’s mind? What are the deciding factors that build up this motivation of making a choice about one’s preferred profession. Super Jones in his book “An Introduction to Measurement and evaluation” answers

this question. According to him “Vocational Interest emerges due to physical causes. Environment and heredity influence it. Along with birth, Vocational Interest is trained through the influence of various occasions, facilities and environment. They all influence Vocational Interest. Due to certain Vocational Interest person can work with efficiency certain Vocational Interest develops through the contact of friends and some develop by itself.” When asked about their vocational preferences, young persons often response not only about his or her preferences but also about the rewards that are associated with his or preferences. This kind of association comes through his experience of life, much of which is influenced by his or her parents. A girl experiences her life in a much different way than a boy experiences. There is so much difference between the experiences of a boy from a poor family background and a boy from an affluent family background, a child of illiterate parents and child of high qualified parents. Again a farmer’s son experiences the toils and troubles associated with the hard farm works and not always wants to face the same. These experiences shape up the normal mental and physical motivations to make up the choice of one’s own occupation. The present study tries to delve into this in detail on how the parental income, parental education and parental occupation influences the decision making process in the case of choice of one’s occupation

## REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE:

- **Poorani (1982)** conducted a study on vocational interest of higher secondary school students. The objectives of the study were to identify the aptitudes of higher secondary school students and to assess the vocational interests of adolescents in higher secondary school. The major findings of the study were
  - (i) Natural Science, Mathematics and English were the subjects preferred by the majority 84 % of the students.
  - (ii) All the teachers in the sample showed favorable attitude towards vocational courses as they considered these jobs as job- oriented.
- **Singh (1988)** conducted a study on vocationalisation of education in Indian school and found that
  - (i) There was a lack of organizational facilities for the development of vocational education in India.
  - (ii) Students lacked proper attitude towards vocational education.
  - (iii) The curriculum of vocational education did not take into consideration the local or regional needs.
  - (iv) There was a lack of funds, infrastructure and trained teachers for the implementation of technical education in India.
- **Sharma (1988)** conducted a study on effectiveness of vocational exploration programme at secondary level for vocationalisation where the investigator has attempted to study the effectiveness of vocational exploration programme. His objective was to study the effect of vocational exploration programme on secondary school pupils and also to study the effect of vocational exploration programme high and low intelligence group and found that
  - (i) The experimental group differed significantly and their pre-test, post-test scores comparison, but not controlled group.

This indicates that the vocational exploration programme was highly significant in attracting the objectives.

- Mohan and Gupta (1990) conducted a study on factors related to choice of vocational courses and found that some of the significant factors for joining vocational and technical courses were identified as
  - (i) Interest and motivation for a particular kind of activity.
  - (ii) Personal concerns, assets, sets of values cherished.
  - (iii) Level of self concept.
  - (iv) Attitudinal aspect.
  - (v) Career maturity.

- **Bhargava (1991)** conducted a study on the interest and difficulties faced by the students studying in vocational education stream.

He found that

- (i) 83% of students choose vocational education out of their own interest, while a smaller section joined it as they could not get admission in their academic stream.

- **Mark Watson a,ꞑ, Mary cMahon b,1** (Department of Psychology, University of Port Elizabeth, South Africa, b School of Learning and Professional Studies, Queensland University of Technology, Australia ) conducted a study on **Children's career development: A research review from a learning perspective** with the objectives as

1. How do children learn about the world of work and their future in it?
2. What do children learn about the world of work and their future in it?

The researcher used exploratory-descriptive research method (dual focus research) and measurement instruments for collection of data and the present review of children's career development research examines 76 articles including 7 previous reviews (Dorr & Lesser, 1980; Gysbers, 1996; Hartung et al.,2005; Helwig, 1998b; HoVman & McDaniels, 1991; Tracey, 2001; Wahl & Blackhurst, 2000) within a meta-framework of learning as structured by the two questions posed earlier. Included in the present review are articles spanning the years 1971 to 2003 that have researched the career development of children 13 years of age and under.

The researcher found

1. It has highlighted the need to understand more holistically the influences on and processes of career development learning in children.
2. The learning framework of the present review accommodates the dynamic and interactional nature of career development and allows for a meaningful grouping of what has been a disparate body of research.
3. The learning perspective of the present review provides a way forward for future research as it suggests the holistic nature of research that is needed to paint a clearer picture of children's career development learning.
4. It has identified several issues related to children's career development research that require further discussion from both methodological and conceptual viewpoints.

- **Mohanty (2011)** conducted a study on Vocational Interest in Science and Technology of higher secondary pupils with reference to parental academic qualification and occupation.

He found that

- (i) No influence of parental education and occupation in developing scientific interest among the children and girls showed higher degree of scientific interest compared to boys in both urban and rural areas.

- **Fulya Damla Kentli** (Department of Elementary Education, Yildiz Technical University, School of Education, A-1026, 34210- Davutpasa/Istanbul, Turkey, Accepted 18 December, 2013P) conducted a study on **Influential factors on students' vocational aspiration in Turkish elementary schools** with the objectives as
  1. Although Turkish educational laws regulated the vocational guidance activities at schools, whether students experience such activities at their school and whether those activities inspire them for their future vocations?
  2. In addition, potential factors influencing vocational aspiration are to be identified.
  3. However, there is a gap in the literature at the national level in Turkey. This study aims to fill this gap and proposes to identify potential influential factors in elementary students' vocational aspiration. Therefore, the current study proposed to answer the following research questions: Which vocation(s) do boys and girls aspire for the future? What/Who are the influential factors in student' vocational aspiration?

This study explored the fifth grade elementary school students' vocational aspiration and the factors affecting it. The sample consisted of 115 students in 20 elementary public schools with whom face-to-face interviews were conducted. The findings showed

1. Engineering, medical doctor, and school teachers were the most frequently mentioned three vocations to which students aspired.
2. Boys were found to aspire to traditionally-masculine occupations; girls aspired to traditionally-female occupations.
3. Parents seemed to be the most influential factor on students' vocational aspiration, followed by the favorite academic subject and social environment.
4. On the other hand, vocational guidance activities were the least influential factor, which was not a surprise given that approximately 90% of the students indicated absence of vocational guidance activities.

Based on the findings, improving the quality and quantity of the vocational guidance activities at schools is suggested.

#### **STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:**

The problem selected for the purpose of the present investigation is read as follows: A STUDY OF VOCATIONAL INTEREST OF SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN RELATION TO THEIR PARENTAL FACTORS

#### **OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY:**

The study was conducted on the basis of the following objectives:

To find out significant difference in interest of different vocational areas of secondary students in relation to parental education, income and occupation variation.

#### **HYPOTHESIS OF THE STUDY:**

- **H<sub>01</sub>**- There is no significant difference in the vocational areas of secondary school students in relation to parental income.
- **H<sub>02</sub>**- There is no significant difference in the vocational areas of secondary school students in relation to parental education.



- **H<sub>03</sub>**- There is no significant difference in the vocational areas of secondary school students in relation to parental occupation.

### METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY:

#### SAMPLE:

For the present study the samples were taken from four number of Secondary Schools of Raghunathganj-1 block of Murshidabad district; 200 number of Secondary School students were the sample for the present study. As Raghunathganj-1block is more or less a rural area, the sample included schools of good academic record and comparatively low academic records. Simple Random Sampling Procedure was used for selection of sample.

#### TOOLS USED:

A standardized tool developed by Bansal V. P & Srivastava D. N. (1975) named as “Vocational Interest Record” was used for the collection of data. The test consisted of 128 items of 8 different vocational areas named as Agriculture, Artistic, Commercial, Executive, House Hold, Literacy, Scientific and Social. In each area 16 items were there which were marked by the responders.

### ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION:

#### SECONDARY SCHOOL BOYS STUDENTS INTEREST TOWARDS DIFFERENT VOCATIONAL AREAS

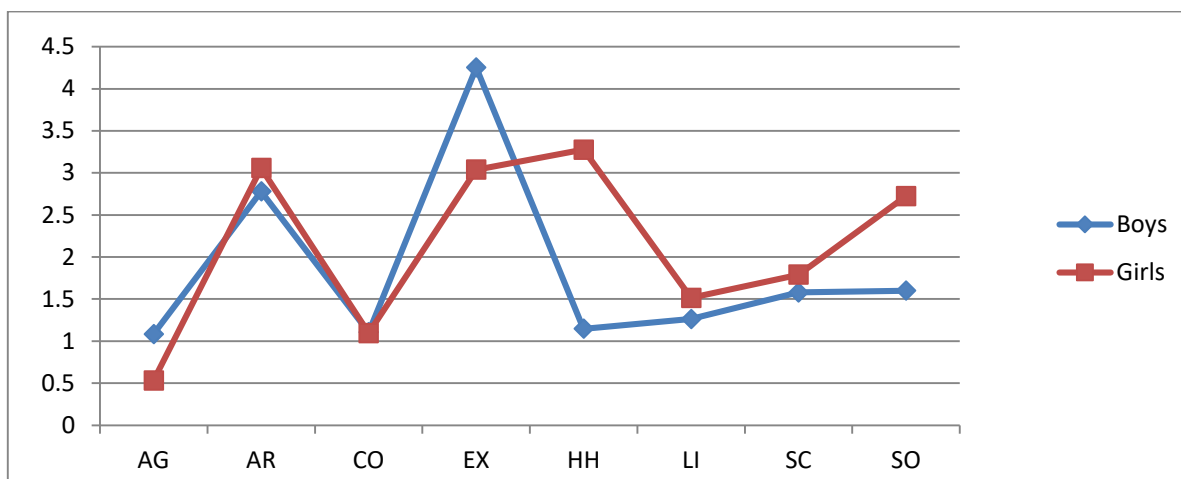
For Boys									
	AG	AR	CO	EX	HH	LI	SC	SO	Sum of all options
<b>Total</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>1407</b>
<b>Mean</b>	<b>1.08</b>	<b>2.779</b>	<b>1.105</b>	<b>4.253</b>	<b>1.147</b>	<b>1.263</b>	<b>1.579</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>14.81</b>
<b>SD</b>	<b>1.58</b>	<b>2.4284</b>	<b>1.1436</b>	<b>2.4924</b>	<b>1.2374</b>	<b>1.6771</b>	<b>1.8135</b>	<b>1.6137</b>	<b>4.048364</b>

#### SECONDARY SCHOOL GIRLS STUDENTS INTEREST TOWARDS DIFFERENT VOCATIONAL AREAS

For Girls									
	AG	AR	CO	EX	HH	LI	SC	SO	Sum of all options
<b>Total</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>1788</b>
<b>Mean</b>	<b>.533</b>	<b>3.057</b>	<b>1.095</b>	<b>3.038</b>	<b>3.276</b>	<b>1.514</b>	<b>1.790</b>	<b>2.724</b>	<b>17.027</b>
<b>SD</b>	<b>0.951382</b>	<b>2.526127</b>	<b>1.31941</b>	<b>2.393596</b>	<b>2.680037</b>	<b>1.732685</b>	<b>1.485152</b>	<b>1.987921</b>	<b>4.874299</b>

AG= Agriculture, AR= Artistic, CO= Commercial, EX= Executive, HH= Household, LI= Literary, SC=Scientific, SO= Social

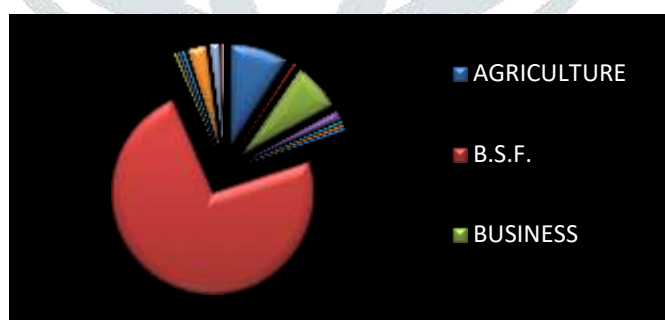
### SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS INTERESTS TOWARDS DIFFERENT VOCATIONAL AREAS DUE TO GENDER VARIATION



### PARENTAL OCCUPATION ANALYSIS

PARENTAL OCCUPATION	FREQUENCY	PARENTAL OCCUPATION	FREQUENCY
AGRICULTURE	18	HOUSE WIFE	1
B.S.F.	1	LABOUR	1
BUSINESS	15	SERVICEMAN	6
CARPENTER	3	SHOPKEEPER	3
DECORATOR	1	TAILOR	1
DRIVER	1	FARMER	147
EX SERVICEMAN	1	FURNITURE SHOP	1

### ANALYSIS OF PARENTAL OCCUPATION

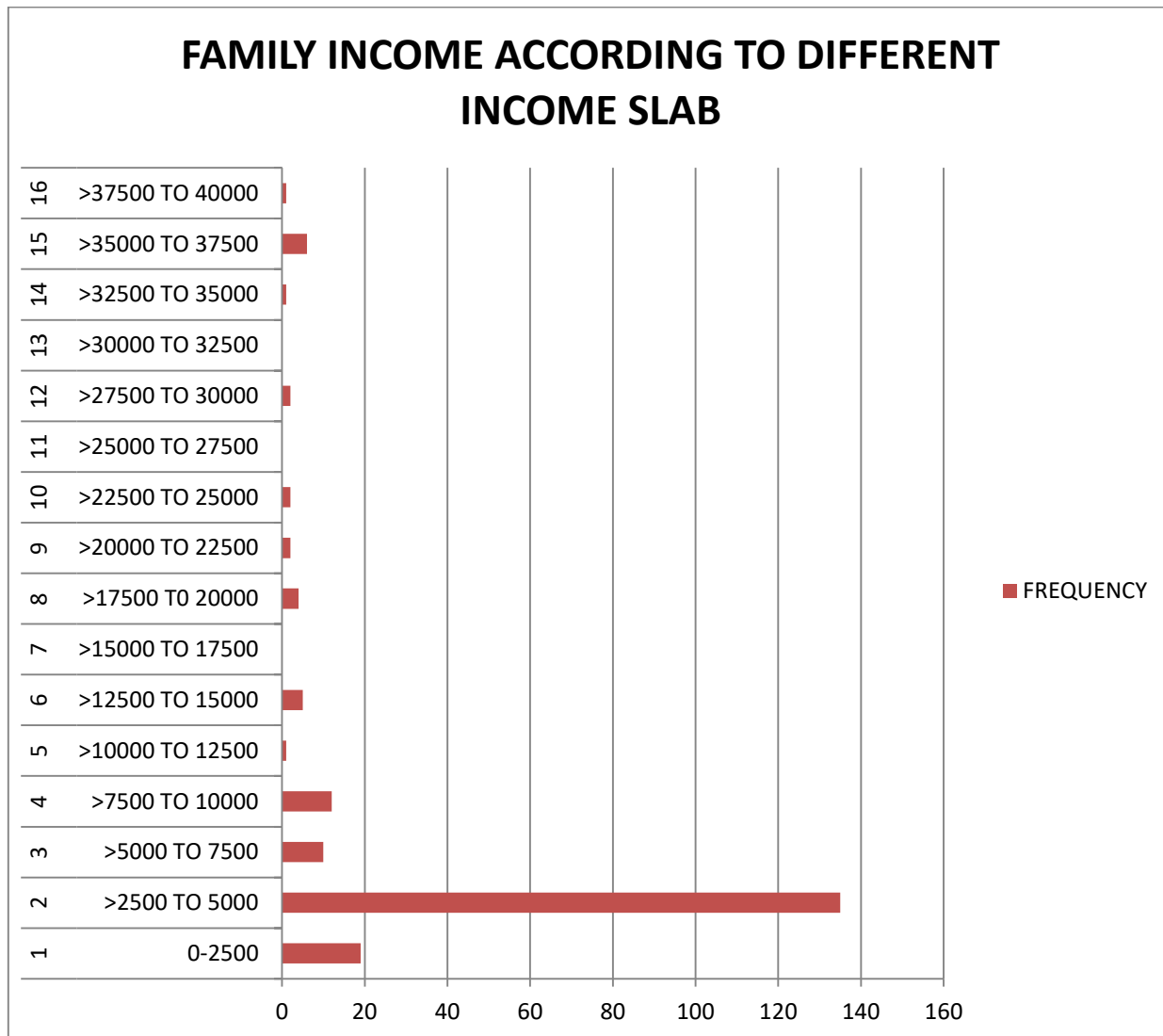


### PARENTAL MONTHLY INCOME

Sl. No	Range	Frequency	%	Mean	SD
1	0 to 2500	19	9.5	6450	7617.250
2	>2500 to 5000	135	67.5		
3	>5000 to 75000	10	5		
4	>7500 to 10000	12	6		
5	>10000 to 125000	1	0.5		
6	>12500 to 15000	5	2.5		
7	>15000 to 17500	0	0		

8	>17500 to 20000	4	2
9	>20000 to 22500	2	1
10	>22500 to 25000	2	1
11	>25000 to 27500	0	0
12	>27500 to 30000	2	1
13	>30000 to 32500	0	0
14	>32500 to 35000	1	0.5
15	>35000 to 37500	6	3
16	>37500 to 40000	1	0.5

### ANALYSIS OF PARENTAL MONTHLY INCOME



The mean parental income **6450**, showed low income the standard deviation **7617.250** showed the deviation from the mean in a large amount, i.e. the researcher found a huge disparity in the parental monthly income.

The major number of students belonged to very poor family background (135 out of 200 samples, i.e. 67.5 percent out of the total sample had parental monthly income between 2500 and 5000) and the major parental occupation found is farming (73.5 percent). Therefore, the students specially boys rejected the Agricultural trade and tended to Executive choices to avoid poverty and solve financial problem literally. Here the researcher found a tendency to escape from poverty through their vocational choices .On the other hand, the

girls showed highest tendency towards House-Hold discipline and a high interest towards Artistic discipline which depicted a quite natural and usual tendency. Thus the researcher rejects the null hypothesis  $H_{01}$ .

### **INFLUENCE OF PARENTAL EDUCATION AND OCCUPATION:**

Unlike the parental income and the parental education, parental occupation does not always positively influence the vocational interests of the children. But most of the time it inversely affects the choice of the children. In most of the cases it has been seen that a doctor's child do not want to be a doctor as he or she knows the problems that his/her father or mother faces in that profession. This is true for the parents of other professions also. From the beginning of the early childhood, children become influenced by the profession of their parents. Some time both working parents could not give time to their youngsters which leaves a negative impact on the mind of the children and they may grow a negative impression about the profession of their parent. Noshina Saleem , Mian Ahmad Hanan, Irfan Saleem and Rao Majid Shamshad in their study named "Career Selection: Role of Parent's Profession, Mass Media and Personal Choice "validated that "parent's profession" has influence on students" career choice".<sup>1</sup> Leppel, et al. (2001) examines gender perception regarding the effects of socioeconomic status and parental occupation on choice of major subjects in colleges. The study concludes that father's professional or executive occupation has a significant effect on female students compare to the mothers in a similar occupation. The opposite holds for the males. The present study also makes it clear that father's professional occupation has significant effect on the female students. Out of 95 girls surveyed as high as 76 were influenced by their father's job profile. And out of 105 boys surveyed as high as 72 were influenced by their mother's occupation. So from the above results it can be concluded that parent's profession has a vital effect on the student's vocational interests.

The major parental educational standard found was not sound, parents were unable to guide their children in case of vocational choices. The students therefore preferred multi vocational choices which depicted that the students did not have any clear idea about their own. Whereas, the students with strong parental educational background showed, though very less, a more clear idea about their vocational choices.

The researcher found that, there is significant difference in the vocational areas of secondary school students in relation to parental education. Therefore, the parental education played a role in framing interests towards different vocations of the secondary school students. The researcher found that, there was significant difference in the vocational areas of secondary school students in relation to parental occupation and income. They both played a vital role in framing interests towards different vocations of the secondary school students. Thus the researcher rejected the null hypothesis  $H_{02}$  and  $H_{03}$ .

### **CONCLUSION:**

Vocational aspiration being one of the most important and applied concept of the area of carrier development has been attracting the attention of the researcher working in many discipline. The study recommended that Teacher, Parents and guidance councillor should take into cognizance the influence of parental factors as they guide students through the process of carrier selection, This will enable the students to make sound carrier choice depending on their vocational interest.

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