

LIFE PLANNING EDUCATION OF SCHOOL STUDENTS THROUGH CAREER GUIDANCE

1st Author

Arifa Sultana

Ph.D.

Department of Education

Vinaya Bhavana

Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan,

West Bengal

West Bengal

2nd Author

Dr. Sarita Anand

Assistant Professor

Department of Education

Vinaya Bhavana

Visva- Bharati, Santiniketan

Abstract

School takes part a significant role in our society; which put forwards the students with lot of opportunities experience and comprehend knowledge and skills. The selection of a future role as a contributor to the society and career is one of the main factors for drop out. The schools and its stakeholders need to assimilate career guidance in their educational program and life planning education also required. Based on this necessity, different aspects of existing career guidance and life planning education are identified and reviewed. Career and life planning is viewed as a process that starts early in the elementary school through adult life and it should be at the heart of any guidance program. The purpose of the present study was to raise consciousness about life planning education in connection and implementation with life planning. The paper also focused on choice based discipline approach of learning and experiences for students throughout the interactive process of schooling and discussed its objectives. The interpretations in this study will help and guide the educationist, policy makers and planners to arrangement of educational tools and materials according to the student's ability and potentials which can help students to lead a better life in further journey ahead.

Key Words: Career, Career Guidance, Life Planning Education, Schools Students.

Introduction:

In expression of the unique pace in worldwide systemization and changes with the advancement of information and communication technology & explosive growth of information and knowledge, the education system aims to develop students' knowledge, adaptability, creativity, critical thinking and life-long learning potentials so that students can be better prepared to make informed and responsible choices and thus be able to make the best of the opportunities in front. Multiple life-centric career choices have been opened for present and coming generations to flourish their knowledge and skills. The school curriculum, implanting components and experiences of life-long learning and generic skills into all subjects or streams, at the same time aims at all round individual and community development for every student, fostering their self-understanding and offering other learning opportunities to support students' evolution for smooth adjustment of them in further studies and career development, as well as conceptualization and implement ability of personal goals. It was observed in a study that lifelong learning has a new connotation in the context of man-society networking. The continuous character of education has always been the essence of human expression in social context,

but in recent decades this aspect of education has widened considerably in importance. The need for lifelong education is determined both by the necessity of general knowledge and experience of social integration, but especially by the necessity of continuing professional culture and professional integration competence. Starting from selecting the right man for a certain kind of professional activity, going through a process of educational and vocational guidance, we come to the need for career education, lifelong learning for a successful socio-professional integration, process in which the individual involves consciously. Career education, as educational content is an integral part of lifelong learning and is based on conceptual milestones of career pedagogy (Dandara, 2014).

Life Planning Education:

Life planning is an unending and continuous process for personal and societal modification & improvement, where every stage and level of students plays a key role for achievement of life goals. At the schooling stage, life planning education plays a significant role in fostering students' self-understanding, personal planning, goal setting, reflective thinking of mind and articulation to progression pathways. Hence, life planning education is not merely a remedial or advisory service for students when they are in need of making subject or career choice. It connects with school's curriculum components, and through it students are equipped with knowledge, skills and attitude to make wise choices in accordance with their interests, abilities and orientations; and guided to integrate their career/academic aspirations.

Life planning education and career guidance is not new to schools. It plays a significant role in helping students to develop the knowledge and skills needed for making wise choice, managing transition in learning and moving into the workplace. The curriculum frameworks on academic structure school education, all students have opportunities to complete twelve years of schooling, which will provide broader dimensions and approaches of learning experiences for every school student to develop the learning to learn capabilities and for individual development through the core subjects, electives and other experiences through co-curricular activities while confronting with their interests, needs and aptitudes.

Career Guidance:

Career Guidance is an essential factor for identifying the real potential and guiding students towards a right career path. Students need to know the importance of career coaching and right guidance before they are going to choose an academic stream after taking the board exams. Career counseling will be helpful choosing a career goal, planning and give a direction to students for a better future ahead. Read here significance of career counseling and proper guidance for school students

Career guidance should be done in the school itself for class 9-11 students specifically because these are the levels where students choose a particular stream as their specialization and also, it will be helpful for them to decide the stream they should opt for. This is because many students are not satisfied with the stream they choose and tend to

change it; this happens in absence of proper guidance about options available as per their interest and different education stream.

Career guidance and orientation services have been defined both by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD, 2004) and in a World Bank report (Watts and Fretwell, 2004) as Services intended to assist individuals, of any age and any point throughout their lives, to make educational, training and occupational choices and to manage their careers.

They include three main elements

- Career information, including information about courses, professions and career plans. This includes information on the job market. It can be provided in print, but is becoming more and more Internet based.
- Career counseling is done individually or in small groups, where the focus is on the specific professional problems that people face.
- Career education as part of an attractive educational program to help groups of people develops skills to manage their professional development.

Dream of Life Planning Education and Career Guidance:

Through various curricular and co-curricular opportunities and choices in connection with choice based discipline approach of learning and experiences for students and insightful fielding throughout the interactive process of schooling, students would manifest:

1. Quality in life planning education through career guidance services which are associated with their interest and abilities at different phases of growth and development
2. Career related decisions in accordance with their interests, abilities.
3. Empowerment to make informed and responsible choices on their learning, career goals and other aspects leading to a meaningful life.
4. Managing and adapting skills to the transformation from school to vocation and
5. Actualization of potential through tracking down their life-goals.
6. Understand their own aspirations and Positive attitudes towards work and learning;
7. Integrate their aspirations to life-long learning; and Utilize the acquired knowledge, skills and attitudes whenever necessary.

Life Planning Education and Career Guidance:

Life planning education and career guidance must be arranged in a line with the developmental needs of students at different stages of growth, thus multiple necessities in vocation should be considered. Life planning education and career guidance relevant to the schooling process in drawing up their school-based life planning education and career guidance services. It should be provided to all students, irrespective of their abilities, interests and levels of development or education.



Figure 1: Dimensions of career guidance in life planning education. Adopted from “Career Guidance plays a crucial role in student’s life,” by Fiona Muthoni.

Life planning education and career guidance are means of empowering capabilities of students to make rational choices on their learning, career goals and other aspects of life. It also fosters students to make decisions in accordance with their interests, abilities and orientations. And promote career development for the preparation of them for actualizing self-potentials through recreation of their personal or career goals. Life planning education and career guidance assist students in managing and adapting to the transition from school to work, and in the long run prepare them for life-long learning and leading to a rich life.

Life Planning and Career Guidance: A Course of Action

Life Planning and Career Guidance in Schools aspires to afford a holistic podium for all educational aspects to support the developmental needs of all students. It identifies the diverse needs of the students amongst different need group, which necessitates the condition of a adaptive approach to Life Planning and Career Guidance. Through a coordinated approach involving the Careers, Counseling, Learning Activities, Scholarship and other related teams, the School mainly focuses to accelerate all students’ knowledge and skills to make informed and responsible choices with respect to their life scopes and career goals, and to nurture their social, emotional and psychological well-being. The life decisions which students formulate should match their own potentials, interests and strengths and character so that they

may reach and ultimately surpass their potential. The Life Planning and Career Guidance at School foster students to become active and life-long learners, to uphold ethical aspects and values, to develop character, to be able to reflect and find out themselves, and to become empathetic and compassionate contributors of society.

Educational Goals:

1. Literacy with ample expertise
2. To be an informed and responsible citizen with a sense of global and national identity
3. To respect cultures and views and be a critical, reflective and independent thinker
4. To acquire necessary skills for being a life-long learner
5. To understand their own aspirations and develop positive attitudes towards work and learning
6. To lead a healthy life style with active participation in aesthetic and physical activities.

Endeavor of Prospectus:

- a. Establish a vibrant, flexible, diverse, and enabling learning environment that will widen the knowledge base of every student,
- b. Provide multiple progression pathways for future studies and career development in an ever changing society
- c. Enable students to achieve enhanced literacy and numeracy knowledge and competence in critical thinking, independent learning, and interpersonal, moral, civic, physical, and aesthetic development (La Salle College, Annual Report 2015-2016)

Livelihood Schooling: An Example

A well thought-out career education curriculum must be implemented in a sequential and systematic manner. In La Salle College of Hong-Kong, Special information sessions were tailored for students and parents about advice on streaming and university application. The Careers Department was adept at fully engaging the expertise of alumni in programmes like the Careers Day, Overseas Education Talks, Interview Workshop, and the Job Shadowing Programme. In the latter, more than 100 places were secured in different companies, lasting from 1 to 3 days during the last summer vacation. The Careers Department also worked closely with external organizations like the Junior Achievement, Education Bureau Business-School Partnership Programme, Careers and Guidance Master/Mistress Association, and The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups. A Career and Life Planning Activity was organized in January engaging the Service of Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups.

Like the above activities of the said school, Indian schools can also thought and practice the activities for its own development and better life-building.

Conclusion:

From the above discussion we can conclude that the main goals of these two educations are to enhance the quality of life and quality in education as well as career. Life planning education and career counseling should be tailored to the development needs of students at different growth stages, so that the provision of diverse services is taken into account. All students should receive life planning and career guidance education, regardless of their skills, orientation and levels of study. Life planning education and career counseling allow students to make informed and responsible choices about science, career goals and other aspects of life. Education for life planning and career counseling encourages students to make study / career decisions based on their interests, skills and guidance. Life planning education and career counseling promotes the career development of the students who best prepares them to realize the potential of a person pursuing personal / professional goals. Life planning education and career counseling help students manage and adapt to school and work, and in the long run they prepare them for lifelong learning and a rich life.

The whole educational setting must emphasis on instilling in students the concept of servant leadership and helps them understand the role and mentality of a servant leader. Stakeholders should focused on developing a supportive attitude towards their peers and explore them to experience the power of serving. Only then, students will be able to develop certain qualities of holistic leadership, including both skills and competencies.

And finally let students discover their own talents and to sharpen those in leadership for making life beautiful and harmonious for the sake of the nation.

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