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CAREER CHOICES OF SCHOOL STUDENTS IN RELATION TO THEIR SOCIAL COMPETENCE

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Abstract

The present study investigates the career choices and social competence of secondary school students and whether the areas of career choices significantly correlate with their scores of social competence. Accordingly, 100 class IX students were taken as a sample randomly from Patiala district of Punjab. The scales used were Career Preference Record (CPR) by Bhargava & Bhargava (2003) and Social Competence Scale by Sharma, Shukla & Shukla (1992). For statistical analysis, mean, median, mode, skewness and kurtosis was being used and to find out the correlation between career choices and social competence Pearson's product moment coefficient of correlation was employed in the present study. The results depict that education is the most preferred choice among other areas of career and agriculture is the least preferred choice among secondary school students. The findings also revealed that there exists a positive and significant correlation between career choices and social competence.

Keywords: Career Choices, Social Competence, Secondary School Students.

I. INTRODUCTION

Career can be defined as an occupation or profession that involves special training or formal education in a particular field. Borchert (2002) defines career choices as the essence of who the student is will rotate around what the student desires to do with their life long work. Career choice determines the status that an individual wants to achieve in the society. Daing (2012) observed that the society has a greater influence on career preference. He stated that society's attitude towards a profession may force the individual to sublimate own choices into society's approved professions. Career choice is a developmental process that demands a

great deal of exploration. There are multiple factors which contribute to the selection of career among students such as intelligence, interests, abilities, home and social environment. Students acquire social skills or competencies while coming in contact with their surroundings. Greenspan (1981) defined Social Competence as that portion of an individual's perceived effectiveness in interpersonal situations and social roles which is attributable to qualities of temperament, character, and social awareness. According to Vaughn and Hogan (1990) socially competent behaviors are the result of the interaction between the relation with peers, social cognition, behavioral problems and efficacy social abilities.

According to Reitz (2012) Social Competence is the behavior of a person which leads in a specific situation to the achievement of the person's goals while at the same time guaranteeing the social acceptance of the behavior. This is one major factor of achieving success at the workplace these days because, apart from having suitable skills for a job, people have to maintain positive relationships and may need to work in groups in an organization. It covers many areas such as respectability, leadership, healthy competition, cooperation, sensitivity which are all of utmost significance to succeed in life. Therefore, a person having these qualities may become more successful in the career they chose at the early stages of their life. While exploring the relationship of career choices with some psychological variables, the researcher come across the fact that yet very limited work has been conducted relating to the variable Social Competence and hence the researcher felt the need of the present study.

II. OBJECTIVES

1. To study Career Choices and Social competence of secondary school students.
2. To study the relationship of Career Choices with Social Competence of secondary school students.

III. HYPOTHESIS

H1: Career Choices will be significantly related with Social Competence of secondary school students.

IV. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

For the present study, Descriptive method of research was employed to study Career choices and Social Competence of secondary school students. In the present study, the statistical techniques employed for the purpose of analysis of data are mean, median, mode, standard deviation, skewness and kurtosis. To find the correlation between the variables, Pearson's Product Moment coefficient of correlation was being used.

Tools Used

Career Preference Record (CPR): Career Preference Record was developed by Bhargava & Bhargava in 2003. It covers 10 major areas of career interest namely, Mass Media and Journalism (MMJ), Artistic and Designing (AD), Science and Technology (ScT), Agriculture (AG), Commerce and Management (CM), Medical (M), Defence (D), Tourism and Hospitality Industry (TH), Law and Order (LO) and Education (E). Each area covers 20 vocations related to the field, thus maximum marks in each area is 20 and minimum is 0.

Social Competence Scale: Social Competence Scale was developed by Sharma, Shukla & Shukla in 1992. The scale comprises of 18 factors with 50 items. Each statement of the scale is expressed from very high to very low in a 5 point scale. The range of raw score can be 50 (minimum) to 250 (maximum).

V. SAMPLE: The population targeted for this study is secondary school students studying in government schools of Punjab. Therefore, a random sample of 100 class IX students were selected from the Patiala district of Punjab.

VI. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

Table 1: Descriptive Analysis of Career Choices Among Secondary School Students

Areas	N	Mean	Median	Mode	S.D.	Kurtosis	Skewness
MMJ	100	10.12	10	10	3.27	-0.14	-0.40
AD	100	9.01	8	6	4.31	-0.97	0.22
ScT	100	7.06	7	7	2.67	-0.71	0.04
AG	100	4.40	4	4	2.65	-0.28	0.59
CM	100	7.55	7	7	2.65	-0.03	0.31
M	100	6.00	6	6	3.12	0.19	0.55
D	100	4.81	4	4	2.82	-0.10	0.55
TH	100	6.07	5	4	3.51	0.09	0.71
LO	100	6.19	6	4	3.41	-0.28	0.52
E	100	11.53	12	12	3.18	-0.65	-0.28

Source: Field Survey

Table 1 represents the mean, median, mode, standard deviation, kurtosis and skewness of different areas of career choices among 100 adolescents of class 9th. Highest career preference has been given to Education (E) followed by Mass Media and journalism (MMJ), Artistic and Designing (AD), Commerce and Management (CM) and Science and Technology (ScT). Tourism and Hospitality (TH), Medical (M) and Law and Order (LO) are among the moderate preferred career choices. Among the areas of career choices, Defence (D) and Agriculture (AG) have been found the least preferred areas by students. Further, the table depicts that the Education (E) has highest median and mode value whereas, highest standard deviation (S.D) can be seen in the area of Artistic and Designing (AD). The values of mean, median and mode are more or less identical in case of almost all the areas of career choices. Kurtosis and Skewness have also been worked out to check the symmetry of the data. Kurtosis value of all the areas is less than 3, which indicates that the shape of the distribution is platykurtic. Platykurtic shape reveals that the curve is flatter than the normal. In terms of skewness, negative values implies that the data is skewed towards left and positive values indicates that the data is skewed towards right side.

It is clearly evident from the table 1 that the secondary school adolescents are more inclined towards areas of Education (E), Mass Media and Journalism (MMJ), Artistic and Designing (AD) and less towards Defence (D) and Agriculture (AG).

Table 2: Frequency Distribution of Social Competence Scores among Secondary School Students

Class Interval	Frequency	Cumulative %
115-131	7	7.00%
132-148	15	22.00%
149-164	18	40.00%
165-181	21	61.00%
182-198	17	78.00%
199-215	15	93.00%
216-232	7	100.00%
Total	100	
Mean= 172.95	Median= 173	Mode= 173
SD= 28.02	Range=116	Minimum= 115
Maximum= 231		

Table 2 shows that the distribution of scores of secondary school students regarding social competence is normally distributed. It is also clear from the table that 40 school students lie below that class interval in which mean lies. Whereas 21 cases lie in the class interval in which mean lies. The score of 39 school students lie above that class interval in which mean lies. Figure 1 shows the frequency distribution scores of secondary school students. The maximum frequency (21) lies in the interval 165-181, whereas the minimum frequency (7) lies in the class interval 115-131 and 216-232.

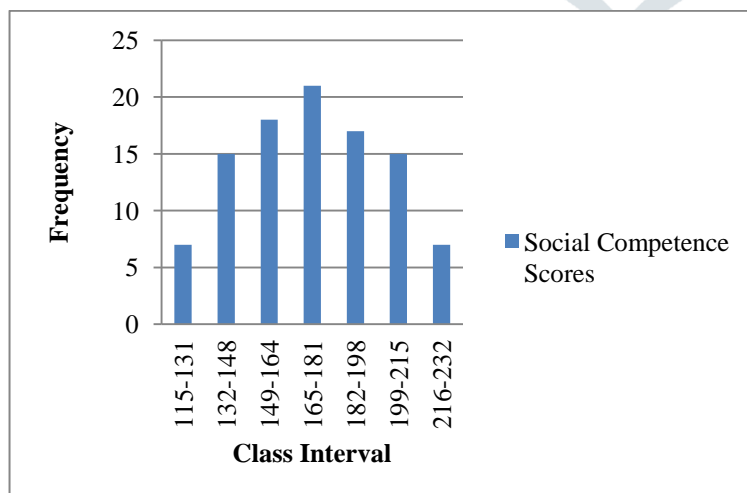


Table 3: Relationship between Career Choices and Social Competence

H1: Career Choices will be significantly related with Social Competence of secondary school students.

Career Choices	MMJ	AD	ScT	AG	CM	M	D	TH	LO	E
Social Competence	0.26**	0.18**	0.11**	0.21**	0.15**	0.24**	0.23**	0.25**	0.09*	0.18**

** significant at 0.01 level

*significant at 0.05 level

Table 3 shows that there exists a significant positive correlation between 10 areas of career choices and social competence among secondary school students. Therefore, the alternate hypothesis is accepted.

VII. CONCLUSION

Career choices at the secondary stage plays a significant role in life. It is therefore, extremely important for educationists, counselors and parents to understand their interests towards specific field so that proper guidance is being given. The present study revealed that education is the most preferred area among the secondary school students. The findings of the present study are also supported by Kaur (2016) who found out education being the most preferred area followed by mass media and journalism. The findings of the study also reveal that social competence is positively and significantly correlated with the areas of career choices. Hence, it becomes prudent that students are being taught how to be socially competent so that they can make better career choices.

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