



A STUDY OF SELF-EFFICACY AND VOCATIONAL INTERESTS OF DEGREE COLLEGE STUDENTS IN RELATION TO MATERNAL EDUCATION

Dr. Rajni Bala
Assistant Professor
Khalsa College of Education
Sri Muktsar Sahib

ABSTRACT

The present study intended to investigate self-efficacy and vocational interests of degree college students in relation to maternal education. The study was conducted on 100 degree college students with respect to their maternal education. General Self Efficacy Scale (GSE) by M. Jerusalem and R. Schwarzer (1993) and Vocational Interest Record (VIR) by Dr. Kulshrestha (2003) were administered for data collection. The results revealed that degree college students had high self-efficacy and had varied vocational interests. The degree college students whose mother's education was graduation or above graduation had high self-efficacy than the students whose mother's education was below graduation. Further study showed that maternal education did not affect vocational interests of degree college students.

Keywords : Self-Efficacy, Vocational Interests and Maternal Education.

INTRODUCTION

"Give me an educated mother, I shall promise you the birth of a civilized, educated nation"

Napoleon Bonaparte

Maternal education level is consistently found to be positively correlated with children's cognitive development and educational outcomes (Moore and Schmidt, 2004). Positive correlations between mothers' educational attainment and children's well-being, and particularly school outcomes and cognitive development, are among the most replicated results from developmental studies (Bee et al., 1982; Haveman and Wolfe, 1995). The processes by which maternal education affects children's development may be both direct and indirect. Direct effects may consist of enrichments to the child's home learning environment and mother-child interactions (Bee et al., 1982; Richman et al., 1992). Most studies estimating associations between maternal education and child outcomes are correlational and therefore likely biased by the omission of many spurious

factors (e.g., maternal personal endowments such as verbal ability) that could be driving the maternal education-child development association. Maternal education affects every aspect of her child's life. Here the researchers tried to study maternal educational level's effect on self-efficacy and vocational interests of their children.

Self-efficacy refers to subjective judgments of one's capabilities to organize and execute courses of action to attain designated goals (Bandura, 1977). It is a belief about what a person can do rather than personal judgments about one's physical or personality attributes. It is also context-specific and varies across several dimensions, such as level, generality, and strength. The level of self-efficacy refers to its dependence on the difficulty level of a particular task, such as math addition problems of increasing difficulty; generality of self-efficacy beliefs refers to the transfer ability of one's efficacy judgments across different tasks or activities, such as different academic subjects; strength of efficacy judgments pertains to the certainty with which one can perform a specific task (Zimmerman, 1995).

Career as viewed by Sears (1982) as totality of work done in his/her lifetime. Vocational choice is not just one choice made at a particular point in life but rather a series of decisions made over several years. Making vocational decisions and adjusting vocationally are process i.e. they are series of related behaviour rather than limited number of discrete acts and they are behaviours which changes with time, generally in direction of increasing complexity and greater specificity. The 'choice act' was epitomized in guidance literature by 1930's and 1940's by the picture of young man standing at junction of several paths deciding about which to follow (Crites, 1965). This is cross sectional and historical and concept of vocational choices dominated psychology for several decades.

From the review of literature it is conclude that for young children, higher levels of completed parental education are significantly positively correlated with higher standardized test scores (Liebowitz, 1977, Blau and Grossberg, 1992). Furthermore, maternal education is generally found to have a larger effect than father's education on children's educational outcomes (Haveman and Wolfe, 1995).

Tracey and Young (2002) found that types of maternal interaction with children depend upon educational level. Mothers with high school education were more likely to correct their children's errors during oral reading, while college-educated mothers tended to ask more high-level critical thinking questions. This is consistent with results found in Hill and Duncan (1987) and Brooks-Gunn et al (2002). The cumulative positive effects of maternal education are large and strongly significant for boys, while they are not statistically different from zero for girls. However, they are not statistically different from each other.

Another study by Dubow et al. (2009) reported strong support for the unique predictive role of parental education on adult outcomes 40 years later and underscore the developmental importance of mediators of parent education effects such as late adolescent achievement and achievement-related aspirations. Siringoringo et al. (2010) believed 99.9% that mother education level moderates the relationship Word of Mouth on career interest. We categorized mother education level into three (3) levels, i.e. (1) elementary and secondary schools, (2) high school, and (3) degree. Mohanty and Sahu (2011) reported that parental academic qualification and occupation did not have any influence on vocational interests.

Xing and Rojewski (2018) reported that parental general psychosocial support was a statistically significant factor in predicting career decision-making self-efficacy. Another study by Mahmud & Adnan (2023) showed that there was a significant positive relationship for career self efficacy and career behaviour of students' parents. The resulting level of correlation between self-efficacy and the career behaviours of students' parents was high.

So this study has been an attempt to find out self-efficacy and vocational interests of Degree College students in relation to maternal education.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To study self-efficacy and vocational interests of degree college students.
2. To compare self-efficacy of degree college students in relation to maternal education.
3. To compare vocational interests of degree college students in relation to maternal education.

HYPOTHESES

1. There is significant difference in self-efficacy of degree college students in relation to maternal education.
2. There is significant difference in vocational interests of degree college students in relation to maternal education.

DELIMITATIONS

1. The study was delimited to degree college students only.
2. The study was delimited to those students whose mother's education was graduation or above and below graduation.
3. The study was delimited to degree college students from those colleges which are affiliated to Punjabi University Patiala only. All students of science, arts; commerce stream were included in the sample and belonging to all categories.

OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS

1. **Self-Efficacy:** An expectation that one can successfully perform behaviour. This is influenced by one's past experiences and attribution of success to chance or skill as measured by General Self Efficacy Scale by Jerusalem and Schwarzer.
2. **Vocational Interests:** Vocational interest is defined as one's own pattern of preferences, aptitudes, likes and dislikes, preferred in any manner, wisely or unwisely by self or by another source for a given vocational area or vocation as measured by Vocational Interest Record by Kulshrestha.
3. **Maternal Education:** Here maternal education refers to formal education taken by the mothers of degree college students. In the present study maternal education is categorized into two levels namely, (i) graduation or above, (ii) below graduation.

METHOD

The study was conducted through descriptive method of research. The descriptive method has undoubtedly been the most popular and most widely used research method in education.

Sample

For the present study purposive sampling technique was used. 100 degree college students from those colleges which are affiliated to Punjabi University, Patiala, comprised the sample of this research paper. 50 students whose mothers education was graduation or above and 50 students whose mothers education was below graduation constituted the sample.

Tools

1. General Self Efficacy Scale (GSE) by M. Jerusalem & R. Schwarzer (1993)
2. Vocational Interest Record (VIR) by Dr. Kulshrestha (2003)

RESULTS AND INTERPRETATION

Table 1

Self-Efficacy of Degree College Students

	N	Mean	Median	Mode	SD
Self-Efficacy	100	29.84	29	26	5.134

The mean value given in table 1 showed that self-efficacy mean score is 29.84. It is conclude from the mean score that degree college students have high self-efficacy.

Table 2

Comparison of Self-Efficacy of Degree College Students in Relation to Maternal Education

	Maternal Education	Mean	SD	t-ratio	Significance
Self-Efficacy	Graduation or above Graduation	32.72	3.91	10.88**	Significant
	Below Graduation	26.96	4.54		

** Significant at 0.01 level

The t-value given in table 2 showed that the mean score on self-efficacy of children of graduation or above or below graduation educated mothers is 32.72 and 26.96. Difference between the means is significant at 0.01 level of confidence, as t-value is 10.88. One can easily conclude from this result that children of graduation or above or below graduation educated mothers differ significantly than their counterparts children of mothers having below graduation education. Children whose mothers are more educated possessed more self-efficacy than their counterparts.

Table 3

Vocational Interests of Degree College Students

Areas	N	Mean	S.D.	Ranking	Classification
Literary (L)	100	7.13	4.35	IV	Average
Scientific (Sc)	100	5.35	4.76	VIII	Below Average
Executive (E)	100	9.9	4.79	I	Average
Commercial (C)	100	6.49	3.99	VI	Below Average
Constructive (Co)	100	3.01	2.80	X	Low
Artistic (A)	100	8.57	4.62	II	Average
Agriculture (Ag)	100	3.42	3.71	IX	Low
Persuasive (P)	100	7.69	4.32	III	Average
Social (S)	100	6.02	3.99	VII	Below Average
Household (H)	100	7.01	4.57	V	Average

Table 3 showed that degree college students have varied interests. They have high interests in executive, artistic, persuasive and literary areas. Constructive, agriculture, scientific and social areas are given least preferences.

Table 4

Comparison of Self-Efficacy of Degree College Students in Relation to Maternal Education

Area	Maternal Education	Mean	S.D.	t-ratio	Significance
Literary (L)	Above Graduation	7.38	4.85	0.579	Not significant
	Below Graduation	6.88	3.72		
Scientific (Sc)	Above Graduation	5.82	5.22	0.997	Not significant
	Below Graduation	4.88	4.15		
Executive (E)	Above Graduation	10.14	4.81	0.503	Not significant
	Below Graduation	9.66	4.72		
Commercial (C)	Above Graduation	6.18	3.87	0.789	Not significant
	Below Graduation	6.8	4.05		
Constructive (Co)	Above Graduation	2.84	2.92	0.610	Not significant
	Below Graduation	3.18	2.64		
Artistic (A)	Above Graduation	9.16	4.77	1.29	Not significant
	Below Graduation	7.98	4.34		
Agriculture (Ag)	Above Graduation	3.54	4.27	0.33	Not significant
	Below Graduation	3.3	2.99		

Persuasive (P)	Above Graduation	7.74	4.05	0.116	Not significant
	Below Graduation	7.64	4.54		
Social (S)	Above Graduation	5.9	4.28	0.396	Not significant
	Below Graduation	6.14	3.62		
Household (H)	Above Graduation	6.88	4.77	0.286	Not significant
	Below Graduation	7.14	4.31		

Table 4 showed the comparison of self-efficacy of degree college students in relation to maternal education. As the mean score showed there exists no significant difference in vocational interests of degree college students in relation to maternal education. It is observed from the table that maternal education either above graduation or below graduation has no impact on their children's vocational interests.

MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

1. Degree college students have high self-efficacy and have varied vocational interests.
2. The degree college students whose mother's education is graduation or above graduation has high self-efficacy than the students whose mother's education is below graduation.
3. There exists no significant difference in vocational interests of degree college students in relation to maternal education.

EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

Education of the mother plays an important role in determining child survival even after controlling for other socio-economic characteristics. Maternal education contributes a lot and mother's education can enhance child survival in the area of health, knowledge, capacity to interact in the modern world. So, adult education programme should be implemented effectively for illiterate or less educated mothers for their children's bright future. College education is right time where orientation programmes for the children whose maternal education is less should be implemented and career guidance should be given to them. The institutions should organise on sight or field trips to different work places according to their interests for collecting first-hand information regarding particular vocation. Societies and communities should organise some programmes for women education. Village Panchayats should also organise some plans for rural illiterate women.

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