



PARENTAL AND SOCIAL INFLUENCES ON CAREER CHOICE AS DOCTOR

Antara Ghosh

Guest Lecturer & Academic Counselor of IGNOU

Voice of Research

Volume 4, Issue 3

December 2015

ISSN 2277-7733

Abstract

Students in the modern and fast changing world are trying to choose their career in such a way which would ultimately help them to achieve their success in life. Career choice is a major life decision. Each and every individual is coping with dynamic world and its demands. The present investigation has been designed to study the impact of parental and social influence on career choice of the students who want to choose their career as Doctor. Accordingly, a group of 180 higher secondary students (under West Bengal Council of Higher Secondary Education) were selected as sample in this investigation. Three tools, viz., (a) General Information Schedule (b) Perceived Impact of Parental Influence Questionnaire and (c) Perceived Impact of Social Influence Questionnaire were used in this investigation. The overall findings reveal that those who want to choose their career as Doctor seems to be indication of moderate level of parental as well as social influence on career choice. Besides this, monthly income of the family and gender difference also have significant role in connection with career choice. Adequate measures may be taken by parents, teachers, counselors and other well-wishers who are able to help the students to choose a particular career for their future development.

Key words: parental influence, social influence, career, career choice

During the twilight zone of his infancy a man learns to enjoy the presence of others and to achieve his goals with others' help and cooperation. These goals may be physical comforts, protection, survival etc. Different streams from the spectrum of knowledge – self-knowledge, knowledge from others and knowledge of the environment – all initiated and crystallized in this sacred place of him. A career is traditionally seen as a course of successive situation that make up a person's work life. Students in the modern and fast changing world are trying to seek for those careers which would ultimately led them to achieve fairly in life. Career choice is a major life decision. Career choice influence the way an individual feel about him/her, their life-style, the kind of colleagues, types of work environment and social relationship one will have. In the present scenario of competitive world everyone want to build up a solid and prosperous career which not only bring them handsome salary but also establish them in society as a worthy person, enhance their self-esteem. However, the choice of career by an individual is influenced by various factors and among them parental influence is very important. Students sometimes suffer from dilemma for choosing a particular career for their future development. In the present day scenario, not only students but also their parents are anxious and aware about the career choice of their children. Parents believe that right selection of career brings happiness and success in life. They always try to provide the requirement of their children as far as possible in spite of their limited resources. The relationship between specific parental behavior and career development of young adolescents was assessed by Keller and Whiston (2008). The findings reveal that parental behaviors tended to relate more to career decision making self-efficacy than to career maturity and also general psychosocial parenting behaviors appeared to be more salient than career focused parent behaviors. Lease *et al.* (2009) investigated the relations between the maternal/paternal attachment, parenting styles, locus of control, career decision self-efficacy and gender differences. Data analysis using hierarchical multiple regression revealed that attachment was relevant for females' career decision self-efficacy but not for men's. Authoritarian parenting styles were predictive of women's career decision self-efficacy. Another finding reveals that the role of parents

in youth career development is generally acknowledged though, often, perfunctorily. This inquiry examines youth perceptions of parental influence on their career development. One can ask young men and women about specific career development attitudes and behaviors that bear on their relations with their parents. The results confirm the trend of recent studies that report compatibility between parent and youth values, aspirations, and plans. Of all the people to whom youth can turn for help with making career plans, most look to their mothers. The findings apply across gender, to young men as well as young women; and they apply across race, to minority youth as well as majority-culture youth. The results underscore the importance of parents as allies and resources for career counselors in facilitating youth career development (Otto, 2000).

All of our career choices take place within the context of society and the economy. Events that take place in our lives may affect the choices available to us and even dictate our choices to a certain degree. Changes in the economy and resulting job market may also affect how our careers develop. Savickas *et al.* (2002) suggests that planful competence in career development related to greater realization of one's potential and a higher degree of social adjustment. The study of Smith and Betz (2000) investigated the involved development and psychometric evaluation of the Scale Perceived Social Self-Efficacy (PSSE), a measure of self-efficacy expectations with respect to a range of social behaviors. Social self-efficacy was also strongly related to shyness, which has been found to seriously hinder career development processes in young adults.

In time of career choice one cannot ignore a person's interest, aptitude, and motivation and also parental and social influences on career choice.

Socio economic status plays an important role in the life of a person. The status opens the ways for his progress. Intelligence, attitudes, aptitudes and even interests are patterned by socio economic background of the individual. The socio economic status pays rewards and punishment both to a person. Chaudhari *et al.* (1998). Socio economic status refers to the position that an individual and family occupies with reference to prevailing average standards, cultural possession and participation in group activity of



community. It is also said that socio economic status includes both the social and economic status of the individual in the group. The variations in achievement are also due to the differences in socio economic status of the children, differential treatment given by parents, parent’s educational level, and influence of the surroundings and so on. The influence of socio-cultural factors on various aspects of individual’s development has particularly caught the attention of educationists. Individual success and failure can also be judged by facilities and environment provided for his study, self-concept and study habits. As pointed out by Sawrey and Telford (1964) children belonging to higher socio economic status are not only brilliant but also are provided better opportunities for developing intellectually, physically and emotionally. The type of intellectual environment in the home will definitely have an impact on the school achievement of the child and this intellectual environment in turn is determined by intellectual level of parents, parent’s education, occupation, income, size of the family etc. The purpose of career assessment is to gather the relevant information for assisting clients in career choice and decision-making. Socio-cultural realities and their psychological concomitants are the significant factors to assess it.

Considering the above, the present investigation has been designed to study the career choice in connection with parental and social influence as well as monthly income of the family as opined by the students who want to choose their career as Doctor.

Objectives

To study the parental and social influence on career choice as perceived by the students who want to choose their career as doctor in the near future.

To study whether there is any impact of gender difference in connection with career choice or not.

To study whether there is any impact of family income in connection with career choice or not.

Hypotheses

Hypothesis – I: Parental influence on career choice as Doctor is differentially associated with gender difference.

Hypothesis – II: Social influence on career choice as Doctor is differentially associated with gender difference.

Hypothesis – III: Parental influence on career choice as Doctor is differentially associated with monthly income of the family.

Hypothesis – IV: Social influence on career choice as Doctor is differentially associated with monthly income of the family.

Methods

Study Area And Sample

A group of 180 students of class XI and XII belonging to Kolkata city, India who wants to choose their career as Doctor in future were selected as sample in this investigation.

The pertinent characteristics of the students are as follows-

- Age: 16 to 18 years.
- Gender: Equal gender ratio.
- Monthly income of the family:
 - Group – A: Rs. 10,001/- to Rs. 20,000/-
 - Group – B: Rs. 20,001/- to Rs. 30,000/-
 - Group – C: Rs. 30,001/- to Rs. 40,000/-

The students are from West Bengal Council of Higher Secondary Education (Both Bengali and English method of instructions).

Table A - Distribution of sample who want to choose their career as Doctor

Monthly income of the family	Doctor	
	Boys	Girls
Rs.10,001/- to Rs.20,000/-	30	30
Rs.20,001/- to Rs.30,000/-	30	30
Rs.30,001/- to Rs.40,000/-	30	30
Total	90	90

Tools Used

General Information Schedule: It consists of items like name, address, age, gender, class, family type, presence of siblings, father’s occupation, mother’s occupation and monthly income of the family.

Perceived Impact of Parental Influence Questionnaire: It consists of 20 statements, answerable in a 5 - point scale from “Strongly agree” to “strongly disagree” where “High score indicates maximum parental influence on career choice” and vice-versa as expressed by the students who want to choose their career as Doctor in the near future. Odd-even split -half reliability is 0.80.

Perceived Impact of Social Influence Questionnaire: It consists of 20 statements, answerable in a 5 - point scale from “Strongly agree” to “strongly disagree” where “High score indicates maximum social influence on career choice” and vice-versa as expressed by the students who want to choose their career as Doctor in the near future. Odd-even split -half reliability is 0.78.

Administration, Scoring And Statistical Treatment

General Information Schedule, Perceived Impact of Parental Influence Questionnaire and Perceived Impact of Social Influence Questionnaire were administered to a group of selected sample by giving proper instruction. Data were collected and properly scrutinized. Scoring was done with the help of scoring key. In order to determine the different characteristic features, frequency and percentages were calculated. Both qualitative and quantitative analyses were done. Comparisons were made by applying “t”- test.

Result and Interpretation

General Characteristics Data of the student inserted in Table B reveals the characteristic features of the students under study.

Table-B: General Information of the students who want to choose their career as Doctor

General Characteristics Features	BOYS (N=90)		GIRLS (N=90)		COMBINED (N=180)	
	f	%	f	%	f	%
1)Age (Mode Value)	18 years		17 years		17.5 years	
2)Class						
a)Class-XI	34	37.78	48	53.33	82	45.56
b)Class-XII	56	62.22	42	46.67	98	54.44
3)Father’s occupation						
a)Business	46	51.11	45	50.00	91	50.56
b)Service	44	48.89	45	50.00	89	49.44
4)Mother’s occupation						
a)Housewife	82	91.11	77	85.56	159	88.33
b)Business	00	00.00	00	00.00	00	00.00
c)Service	08	08.89	13	14.44	21	11.67

Data inserted in Table-1 reveals the parental as well as social influence on career choice as expressed by the students who want to choose their career as Doctor. From the findings, it can be said that there seems to be indication of moderate parental and social influence on career choice.



Table 1 - Parental and social influence on career choice as Doctor (Mean score)

Monthly income of the family	Parental influences						Social influences					
	BOYS			GIRLS			BOYS			GIRLS		
	N	Mean	S.D	N	Mean	S.D	N	Mean	S.D	N	Mean	S.D
Rs.10,001/-to Rs.20,000/-	30	61.00	8.98	30	66.53	9.20	30	59.00	9.15	30	60.23	9.46
Rs.20,001/- to Rs.30,000/-	30	61.23	9.86	30	64.43	9.11	30	56.27	11.78	30	58.87	10.63
Rs.30,001/- to Rs.40,000/-	30	68.93	9.77	30	67.37	10.51	30	57.74	9.78	30	59.53	8.94
Overall	90	63.72	9.54	90	60.11	9.61	90	57.58	10.24	90	59.54	9.68

Score Range: 20 to 100

High scores indicate maximum parental as well as social influences on career choice and vice-versa.

Data inserted in Table-2 reveals the comparative picture of parental influence upon the boys and girls in connection with career choice. It can be said from the findings that parental influence is more upon the girls than upon the boys. Analysis of data further reveals that career choice mainly depends on decision of the parents those who belong to group-A category. When comparison was made between the boys and girls in terms of parental influence on career choice (group-wise), significant difference was observed those who belong to group A category. But no significant difference was observed for other two groups. Thus, the Hypothesis-I which postulates, "Parental influence on career choice as Doctor is differentially associated with gender difference" – is accepted only for group-A and rejected for all other comparisons. Similarly, data inserted in Table-3 reveals the comparative picture of the social influence on career choice upon the boys and girls. No significant difference was observed in the comparisons. Thus, the Hypothesis-II which postulates, "Social influence on career choice as Doctor is differentially associated with gender difference" - is rejected in this investigation.

Table 2 - Comparison between the boys and girls in terms of parental influence on career choice as Doctor

Monthly income of the family (category wise)	Parental influence						t' - test
	BOYS			GIRLS			
	N	Mean	S.D	N	Mean	S.D	
Group – A	30	61.00	8.98	30	66.53	9.20	2.36**
Group – B	30	61.23	9.86	30	64.43	9.11	1.31*
Group – C	30	68.93	9.77	30	67.37	10.51	0.59*
Overall	90	63.72	9.54	90	60.11	9.61	1.67*

Score Range: 20 to 100

High scores indicate maximum parental influence on career choice and vice versa.

*Difference is not significant, ** P<0.05

Table 3 - Comparison between the boys and girls in terms of social influence on career choice as Doctor

Monthly income of the family (category wise)	Social influence						t' - test
	BOYS			GIRLS			
	N	Mean	S.D	N	Mean	S.D	
Group – A	30	59.00	9.15	30	60.23	9.46	0.51 *
Group – B	30	56.27	11.78	30	58.87	10.63	0.57 *
Group – C	30	57.74	9.78	30	59.53	8.94	0.85 *
Overall	90	57.58	10.24	90	59.54	9.68	1.31 *

Score Range: 20 to 100

High scores indicate maximum social influence on career choice and vice versa.

*Difference is not significant, ** P<0.05

Group-A: Rs. 10,001/- to Rs. 20,000/-

Group-B: Rs. 20,001/- to Rs. 30,000/-

Group-C: Rs. 30,001/- to Rs. 40,000/-

Data inserted in Table-4 reveals the parental influence upon the students who belongs to families of different monthly income. It can be said from the findings that parental influence

is more upon those who belong to group-C category. This is true for boys and girls also. The reasons behind this are mainly to get high profile as well as prestigious job, priority in connection with the parents and proper identity in the society. When comparison was made (only for boys) in terms of parental influence, significant difference was observed between group B vs. group C and group C vs. group A. But no significant difference was observed between groups A vs. group B. On the other hand, for girls, no significant difference was observed in connection with group-wise comparisons. Thus, the Hypothesis-III which postulates, "Parental influence on career choice as Doctor differs significantly with monthly income of the family"- is accepted only for group-B vs. group- C (boys)and group-C vs. group- A (boys) and is rejected for all other comparisons. Similarly, data inserted in Table-5 reveals the moderate level of social influence regarding career choice as Doctor. When comparison was made between the groups separately, no significant difference was observed in all the comparisons. Thus, the Hypothesis-IV, which postulates, "Social influence on career choice as Doctor differs significantly with monthly income of the family"- is rejected for all comparisons.

Table 4 - Comparison between the groups (considering monthly income of the family) in terms of parental influence on career choice as Doctor

Comparison between the monthly income of the family (category - wise)	Parental influence (BOYS)			t' - value	Parental influence (GIRLS)			t' - value
	N	Mean	S.D		N	Mean	S.D	
	Group-A Vs. Group-B	30	61.00		8.98	30	66.53	
Group-B Vs. Group-C	30	61.23	9.86	30	64.43	9.11	1.15*	
Group-C Vs. Group-A	30	68.93	9.77	30	67.37	10.51	0.33*	

Score range: 20 to 100; * Difference is insignificant, ** p< 0.01 High score indicates maximum parental influence on career choice and vice-versa.

Table 5 - Comparison between the groups (considering monthly income of the family) in terms of social influence on career choice as Doctor

Comparison between the monthly income of the family (category - wise)	Social influence (BOYS)			t' - value	Social influence (GIRLS)			t' - value
	N	Mean	S.D		N	Mean	S.D	
	Group-A Vs. Group-B	30	59.00		09.15	30	60.23	
Group-B Vs. Group-C	30	56.27	11.78	30	58.87	10.63	0.26*	
Group-C Vs. Group-A	30	57.47	09.78	30	59.53	08.94	0.29*	

Score range: 20 to 100; * Difference is insignificant.



High score indicates maximum social influence on career choice and vice-versa.

Group-A: Rs. 10,001/- to Rs. 20,000/-

Group-B: Rs. 20,001/- to Rs. 30,000/-

Group-C: Rs. 30,001/- to Rs. 40,000/-

The Major Findings of the Study are as follow

Overall findings reveal that those who want to choose their career as Doctor have maximum parental influence is upon the boys who are in the category of comparatively high income level. It can further be said that the more the income level, the more is the parental influence on career choice. The reasons behind the parental influence in connection with the career choice are mainly due to - i) prestigious profession, ii) stability of the job, iii) future benefits and iv) to fulfill the expectation of the parents. On the other hand, social influence is more upon the girls who are in the category of comparatively low income level. The reasons behind the social influence in connection with the career choice are mainly due to- i) proper identity, ii) role models, iii) opinion of teachers and seniors and iv) the present scenario of the society.

Parental influence is more upon the girls who want to choose their career as Doctor. Keller and Whiston (2008) revealed that parental behavior tended to relate more to career decision making self-efficacy than to career maturity and also general psychosocial parenting behaviour appeared to be more salient than career focused parent behaviour.

The more the income level the more is the parental influence – it is true for the students (boys) who want to choose their career as Doctor. Trusty (2002) indicated that a low socioeconomic status resulted in reduced and unrealized expectations. Additionally, socioeconomic status had a direct effect on unequal aspirations and expectations. Compared with middle and upper class individuals, lower class individuals faced more obstacles that limited their career aspiration levels (Gottfredson, 1981; Farmer, 1985).

Conclusion

Career choice is a vital factor in the present day scenario. Students in the fast changing life sometimes suffer from dilemma to take a proper decision regarding career choice. By the late 20th century, a wide range of choices (especially in the range of potential professions) and more widespread education had allowed it to become possible to plan (or design) a career: in this respect the careers of the career counselor and of the career advisor have grown up. It is also not uncommon for adults in the late 20th/early 21st centuries to have dual or multiple careers, either sequentially or concurrently. Thus, professional identities have become hyphenated or hybridized to reflect this shift in work ethic. Parental support and encouragement were found to influence vocational outcome. Through interactions, such as, conversations and through verbal and non-verbal reactions, parents conveyed their influence to their children, which in turn, affected the children to choose various careers. This eventually affected the children's attitudes and behaviours towards work. Undoubtedly it can be said that the parents have an important role regarding career choice. But parental and social influence sometimes may create negative impact upon them and it is not appropriate for their future development. Some significant factors like, social status, prestigious job, influence of peer group, financial benefit, advertisement etc. create impact upon the students in different ways. Proper information and knowledge about reality, social settings and job availability, future benefit etc. should be informed them properly so that they may choose a particular career according to their own choice.

Applicative Potentials of the Present Study

The present investigation has highlighted the impact of parental and social influence on career choice as opined by the students who want to choose their career as Doctor. Considering the findings, of the study, the applicative potentials are as follows:

In this investigation, it was also found that there seems to be indication of parental influence on career choice. Undoubtedly, it can be said that the parents have an important role regarding career choice. But influence sometimes may create negative impact upon them and it is not appropriate for their future development. Care should be taken in this regard.

Considering the social influence, it can be said that today's fast changing social scenario have an important role in connection with the career choice. Some significant factors like, social status, prestigious job, influence of peer group, financial benefit, advertisement etc. create impact upon the students in different ways. Proper information and knowledge about reality, social settings, and job availability, future benefit etc. should be informed them so that they may choose a particular career according to their own choice.

Parents, teachers, counselors and other well-wishers may help the students to choose a particular career for their future if they know the personality, interest, aptitude etc. of the students properly. Adequate measures should be taken in this regard also.

Proper guidance and counseling in connection with the career choice is required for becoming a good professional in the near future.

References

- Chaudhari, V.S., Vaidya S., Navalakha, N.G. and Mahapatra, B.C. (1998). Effect of teaching strategies and Socio economic Status on Self Concept of the learner. *Indian Psy.Rev*, 50(4), 216-223.
- Das, D. and Das, A. (1981). *Statistics in Biology and Psychology* (Fourth Edition); Academic publishers, Calcutta.
- Gibson, R.L. and Mitchell, M.H. (2005). *Introduction to Counseling and Guidance* (Sixth Edition), Delhi : Pearson Education.
- Hartung, P.J. and Taber, B.J. (2008). Career Construction and Subjective Well-Being. *Journal of Career Assessment*, 16(1), 75 – 85.
- Hojat, M., Glaser, K., Xu, G., Veloski, J. J. and Christian, E. B. (1999). Gender Comparison of Medical Students Psychological Profiles. *Medical Education*, 33 (5), 342-349
- Keller, B.K. and Whiston, S.C. (2008). The role of Parental Influences on Young Adolescents' Career Development. *Journal of Career Assessment*, 16(2), 198 – 217.
- Lease, S.M., and Dahlbeck, D.T. (2009). Parental Influences, Career Decision-Making Attributions and Self-Efficacy: Differences for Men and Women. *Journal of Career Development*, 36(2), 95 – 113.
- Otto, L.B. (2000). Youth Perspectives on Parental Career Influence. *Journal of Career Development*, 27(2), 111 – 118.
- Perry, Justin C., Liu, Xiongyi and Pabian, Yvona (2010). School engagement as a mediator of academic performance among urban youth: The role of career preparation, parental career support and teacher support. *The Counseling Psychologist*, 38, 269 – 295.
- Smith, H.M., and Betz, N.E. (2000). Development and Validation of a scale of perceived social self-efficacy. *Journal of Career Assessment*, 8(2), 283 – 301.
- Telford, C.W. and Sawrey, J.M. (1964). *Educational Psychology*, 2nd Edition, New Delhi, Prentice Hall of India (Private) Ltd. www.careerchoice.com
www.journalofcareerassessment.com