

A STUDY ON CAREER AWARENESS OF HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

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ABSTRACT

Career guidance and counseling programs develop an individual's self-knowledge, educational and occupational awareness and help in right career planning. The efforts by government and non government agencies now a days develop an increase in knowledge on educational and career opportunities to some extent. Still career awareness of Higher Secondary school students is not satisfactory. The purpose of this study is to know the career awareness of Higher Secondary school students of Kerala. The study was conducted on a sample of 409 students from middle Kerala. A standardized 40 question test on career awareness is used for data collection. The study reveals that career awareness is below average in the higher secondary students of Kerala.

INTRODUCTION

Today Career Guidance programs assist students in identifying higher educational opportunities and occupational choices. Career guidance programs will put them in touch with today's changing global marketplace trends, needs of job market, trends of higher education and tomorrow's career opportunities. Kerala, popularly known as 'Gods Own Country' is well known for its achievements in education, social development and quality of life. While India is ranked 130th in 2015 Human Development Index among 188 countries across the globe scoring 0.609(reference), among the states of India, Kerala was the leading one with HDI 0.712. This is comparable to the developed countries of the world. Many scholars like Prof. Amarthya Sen attributed these achievements largely to the emphasis given by the state on education.

In Kerala majority of students pursue Higher Secondary education after matriculation. Kerala follows 10 + 2 +3 system in formal education for the past many decades. In 1998 pre degree was delinked from university education and Higher Secondary Education was universalized. About 4.42 lakh students appeared class 12 examinations in March 2018 and 83.75% of them passed. Career Guidance and Adolescent Counselling Cell under the Directorate of Higher Secondary Education, Kerala has systematic programmes and

continuous interventions to provide Career guidance to the students. Career guides are appointed in 1222 Higher Secondary Schools of Kerala and are leading career guidance units with a lot of activities like awareness classes, subscription of periodicals, career notice board, career talks etc. In spite of these programmes a large number of students are not aware of the abundance of opportunities for higher education and employment after matriculation and higher secondary education. Number of students aspiring higher education in nationally reputed institutions is just a small fraction. They are much influenced by parents, senior students, relatives, media, advertisements and admission agents. This results in wrong career choices. Following paths selected by thousands results in lack of demand in the job market, unemployment and underemployment.

Ramakrishnan,(&) Viji K (2015) found that prevailing modalities of guidance and counselling are inadequate for enhancing life skills attainment, developing personality and choosing proper vocation of students at higher secondary level.

The Jiva careers programme is presented as a case study to illustrate a method of career and livelihood planning based upon Indian epistemology and cultural practices. Social cognitive environments and career beliefs are discussed as key factors that characterise a

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group's orientation to career development. (Arulmani, 2011)

Gangadevi, K.(2008) studied the vocational information of Higher Secondary School Students of Kerala. Results showed that around 56.62 percent of the essential basic learning needed for scientific vocational choice is absent among a vast majority of students. The study reveals that students with higher level of intelligence possess higher level of vocational information. Sundarajan (1993) found no sex difference on the three most preferred occupations by boys and girls at higher secondary stage.

Reviewing the related studies the investigators felt the need of studying the career awareness of Higher Secondary school students of Kerala.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

1. To know the of career awareness among higher secondary school students.
2. To compare the career awareness of students with respect to gender, medium of instruction in class 10 studies and type of management.

HYPOTHESIS OF THE STUDY

1. Higher secondary school students have high career awareness.
2. There exists significant difference between girls and boys in their career awareness.
3. There exists significant difference between the career awareness scores of students with English as medium of instruction in class 10 studies and Malayalam as medium of instruction in class 10 studies.
4. There exists significant difference between students from aided schools and government schools in their career awareness.

METHODOLOGY

Present study is a survey on the career awareness of Higher Secondary Students. The sample consists of 409 students (138 boys and 269 female) from two schools, one from

Malappuram district and another one from Palakkad district, situated in the middle part of Kerala. Stratified random sampling was employed for the selection of the students.

TOOLS USED

A standardized test on career awareness was developed by the investigators. The tool consists of 40 items with seven components viz., qualification, job description, location of premier institution, expansion of abbreviation, duration of course, specialisation of premier institution and entrance examination.

Table 1

Sl.no.	Component	Items	No. of items
1	Qualification	1 – 5	5
2	Job description	6 – 10	5
3	Location of premier institution	11 – 15	5
4	Expansion of abbreviation	16 – 21	6
5	Duration of course	22 – 28	7
6	Specialisation of premier institution	29 – 35	7
7	Entrance examination	36 - 40	5

In this Multiple Choice Test each question is followed by four possible answers. Students are required to identify and mark the right answer. The maximum obtainable score is 40 and the minimum is 0. Higher the score better the career awareness.

STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES USED

The obtained data was analysed by percentage analysis, calculation of mean, standard deviation and t-test.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

The mean and standard deviation of the scores of career awareness of the total sample and of girls and boys were found out. The data and the results are given below.

Table 2 - Career awareness of higher secondary school students

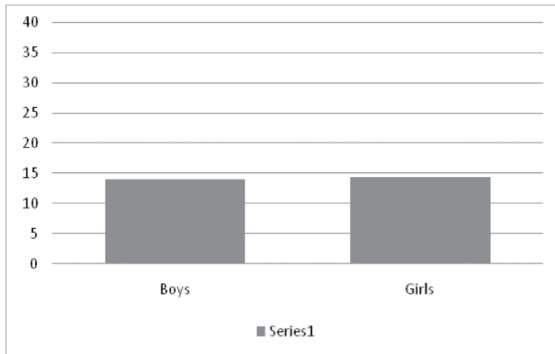
Category	N	Mean	SD
Girls	269	14.41	5.06
Boys	138	14.04	5.04
Total	407	14.28	5.050

It is inferred from the Table 2 that the higher secondary school students possess low career awareness. While the maximum possible score is 40, the mean score of boys is 14.04, mean score of girls is 14.41 and the mean score of the total sample is 14.28. Hence the formulated hypothesis 1 is rejected.

The mean and standard deviation of the scores of career awareness of girls and boys were found out. The scores were compared by finding out the critical ratio for their difference and testing it for significance. The data and the results of the test of significance are given below.

Table -3. Comparison of mean scores of Girls and Boys in Career Awareness

Category	N	Mean	S.D.	t value
Girls	269	14.41	5.06	0.698
Boys	138	14.04	5.04	

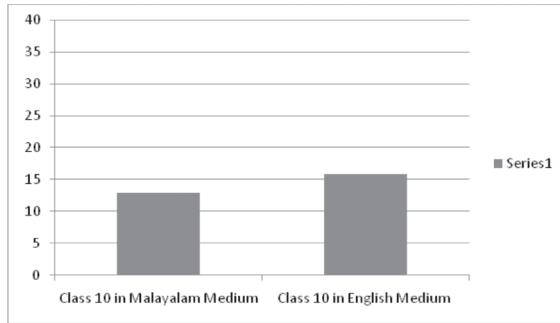


In table 3, the calculated value of 't' is less than the table value, 1.96. Hence the formulated hypothesis 2 is rejected, indicating that there is no significant difference in career awareness between boys and girls.

The mean and standard deviation of the scores of career awareness of students with English as medium of instruction in class 10 studies and Malayalam as medium of instruction in class 10 studies were found out. The scores were compared by finding out the critical ratio for their difference and testing it for significance. The data and the results of the test of significance are given below.

Table 4 – Comparison of mean scores on career awareness of students with English as medium of instruction in class 10 studies and Malayalam as medium of instruction in class 10 studies.

Category	N	Mean	S.D.	t value
English Medium	192	15.82	5.00	6.06
Malayalam Medium	215	12.91	4.70	

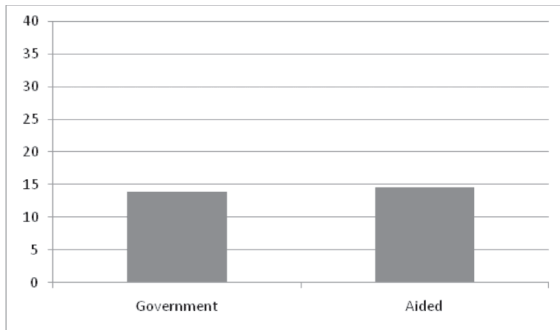


In table 4, the calculated value of 't' is higher than the table value, 2.58. Hypothesis 3 is accepted, indicating that there is significant difference at 0.01 levels between students with English as medium of instruction in class 10 studies and Malayalam as medium of instruction in class 10 studies. Students from English medium have higher career awareness.

The mean and standard deviation of the scores of career awareness of students from aided school and of government school were found out. The scores were compared by finding out the critical ratio for their difference and testing it for significance. The data and the results of the test of significance are given below.

Table 5 - Comparison of mean scores of career awareness of students from aided schools and government schools

Category	N	Mean	S.D.	t value
Aided	218	14.65	5.28	1.544
Government	189	13.87	4.75	



In table 5, the calculated value of 't' is lower than the table value, 1.96. Hypothesis 4 is rejected, indicating that there is no significant difference between students from government and aided schools in career awareness. But the analysis of mean scores indicates that the awareness of aided school students is slightly higher than that of government school students.

CONCLUSION

The field of higher education and career observe changes continuously. New courses are launched, new universities are established and new career avenues are evolved within short time spans. The present study reveals that the higher secondary school students of Kerala are to be given more awareness and exposure on educational and career opportunities. There is no significant difference in the career awareness of boys and girls or of students from government schools and private schools. But students who studied their class 10 in English medium possess significantly high career awareness compared to those who did class 10 in Malayalam medium. Unless proper awareness on existing and upcoming careers is given, Kerala students will miss thousands of prospectus opportunities in future. More emphasis is to be given to career guidance programmes in our higher secondary educational system.

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