

Career Maturity of Higher Secondary Students in Relation to their Gender: A Study



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Abstract

The present study is an attempt to find out the gender difference in career maturity of higher secondary students. The study falls under descriptive survey method. The population of the study includes 7 govt/provincialized higher secondary schools of Sipajhar block of Darrang District, Assam under AHSEC having arts stream. For the present study out of 669 (boys-319 & girls-350) HS students of 7 HS schools, 200 (Boys-94 and Girls-106) HS students are selected by using proportionate random sampling. Indian adaptation of Career Maturity Inventory (CMI) (originally prepared by John. O' Crites) by Dr. Nirmala Gupta was adopted by the researcher according to the local needs and requirements of time to collect the data. For data analysis percentage, mean, standard deviation and t test are used. Result of the study revealed that career maturity of HS arts students is low and there exists no significant difference between boys and girls in relation to their career maturity.

Keywords: Career Maturity, Gender, Higher Secondary Students.

Introduction

Decision making in relation to career is the result of career maturity. Career maturity is the readiness and competence to select appropriate career according to one's own personality. Higher Secondary stage of a student is very crucial in choosing an appropriate career on the basis of their varied needs, interests, aptitudes and attitudes. So, the students of higher secondary stage face the problem of choosing an appropriate career according to their needs, interest, aspiration and capabilities. The right decision taken at the right time leads to selection of a right career. Otherwise a wrong decision in this regard leads to wastage of time, money and energy as well as it also lowers the self-confidence of the students. Career maturity refers to the knowledge about different careers along with one's own talent or quality to fit for different occupations.

In higher secondary level of education, a student has to choose whether to attend university, medical college, engineering college, polytechnic college or to enter the job which is highly influenced by his/her career maturity. So, higher secondary stage of education bears an extra special importance in making students able and competent to choose an appropriate career.

Concept of Career Maturity

Super (1955) was the first to introduce the concept of career maturity. According to Super, "Career maturity refers to the individual's degree of readiness to choose, to plan and to prepare for future vocation." Career maturity is related with knowledge, ability information, aspiration, attitude, planning and usability.

Need and Significance of the Study

In this era of globalization, a competitive mind set is seen everywhere, and to survive in this competitive world, one has to choose a career according to one's interest, cognitive abilities, aptitudes and aspirations. Otherwise he/ she has to face the problem of adjusting physically and psychologically in his /her job. So, the higher secondary level is considered as the best period to follow a specific direction of career. The career choice is highly influenced by the career maturity of the students. Choice of a suitable career is a good sign of career maturity. Higher secondary level of education is very crucial stage as this stage covers the adolescents and in adolescence period choices, expectations and aspirations of the adolescent boys and girls are unlimited and vary.

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Family and social expectations also create an unsaid pressure on them sometimes leading them on a wrong path in career decision making. Some adolescents become successful by handling different problems in this regard and intelligently come out from the pressure by choosing an appropriate career suitable to their personality. The need of the present study lies in the essence that it will help to reveal the fact that how career maturity is differ from students of higher secondary level in relation to their gender.

Statement of the Problem

On the basis of the main concern, the present study is entitled as "Career maturity of higher secondary students in relation to their gender: a study."

Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the present study are:

1. To find out the level of career maturity of higher secondary students.
2. To compare between male and female higher secondary students in relation to their career maturity.

Hypothesis of the Study

Ho1

There is no significant difference between male and female higher secondary students in relation to their career maturity.

Operational Definitions of the Terms Used

Career Maturity

In this present study career maturity means the student's decisiveness, involvement, orientation in career decision-making, student's occupational information and students ability of planning for future vocation, selection of goals by solving the problems arises in the course of career development.

Gender

The word gender refers to 'the state of being male or female'. Gender denotes to the roles and responsibilities of woman and man constructed by society.

Higher Secondary School

A higher secondary school is a school in which students receive education after passing the high school leaving certificate examination and it comes before university education.

Higher Secondary Students

Higher secondary students refer to the students of plus 2 stage of secondary education. Students of age group of 17-18 receive education at this stage.

Delimitation of the Study

The present study has been delimited as following:

1. The area of the study has been limited to Sipajhar block of Darrang District, Assam only.
2. The study has been limited to government/provincialised higher secondary schools of Sipajhar block of Darrang district under AHSEC.
3. The present study has been limited to the XI standard students of arts stream only.

Review of Literature

Salami (2008) conducted a study on gender, identity status and career maturity of adolescents in

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Southern Nigeria. This study investigated the relationship between identity and career maturity of secondary school adolescents. 581 senior secondary school adolescents completed career maturity inventory and the ego identity status scale. The results showed that the identity status significantly predicted career maturity of the adolescents but gender did not. No significant difference was found between the males and females in their career maturity and identity.

Katoch, Suman Kumari (2016) studied on career maturity among senior secondary school students. The study aims at to study the difference in career maturity of government and private senior secondary school students, to study the gender difference in career maturity of senior secondary school students and to study the difference in career maturity of senior secondary school students of rural and urban groups. The study revealed that there is no significant difference in career maturity of govt. and private senior secondary school students. The study also found that there exist no significant gender differences in relation to career maturity and also no significant relationship in career maturity of rural and urban senior secondary students.

Oberai, Rajeev (2016) studied on impact of parent-child relationship on career maturity of high school students in relation to nature of management of school and board of affiliation. The study aims to find out the impact of parent-child relationship on career maturity of high school students in relation to nature of management of school & board of affiliation. The study used Mohsin parent-child inventory, Career Maturity Inventory by Nirmala Gupta to collect data. The study found that parentally accepted students studying in CBSE schools have highest career maturity in comparison to other group.

Dhull, Dr. Kamalesh (March, 2018) conducted a study on Career Maturity among adolescents in relation to their gender and type of schools. The study aims at studying the difference between mean score of career maturity among male and female adolescent students and also to study the difference in career maturity between the students of govt. and private school. The study was conducted on a sample of 120 senior secondary school students by using Indian Adaptation of Career Maturity Inventory (CMI) by Dr. (Mrs) Nirmala Gupta. The study revealed that female students are more mature than male students and significant difference was also found between government and private school students.

Methodology

Method

The present study falls under Descriptive Survey Method.

Population and Sample

Population of the study

1. All the students of higher secondary (10+2) stage are the universe of population of the study.
2. There are 7 government/provincialised higher secondary schools in Sipajhar block of Darrang District under AHSEC having arts stream and the total numbers of 669 arts students of 7 schools are considered as population of the study.

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Sample of the Study

Proportionate stratified random sampling has been used to draw a sample of 30% of the population. Thus out of 669 (boys-319& girls-350) HS arts students of 7 HS schools, 200 (Boys-94 and Girls-106) HS students are selected for the present study.

Tools of Data Collection

Indian adaptation of Career Maturity Inventory (CMI) (originally prepared by John. O' Crites) by Dr. Nirmala Gupta was adopted by the researcher according to the local needs and requirements of the time. On the basis of this inventory which consists 120 questions under two categories namely the attitude and the competence test, few new items were added and few old items

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were eliminated from the inventory and accordingly scoring has been done.

Data Collection

Various data and information related to the study are collected from the higher secondary students of Sipajhar block of Darrang district with the help of above mentioned tool.

Statistical Techniques Used

Percentage, Mean, Standard Deviation, t-test, Graphical Representation.

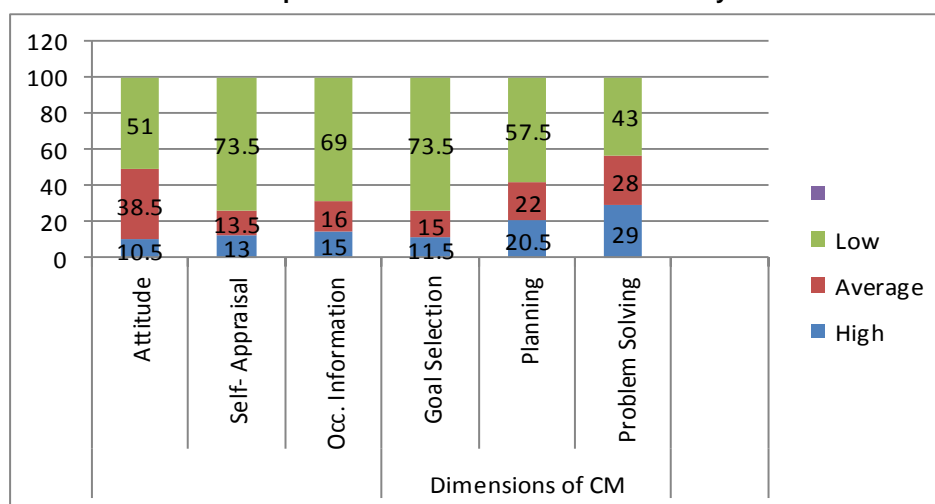
Analysis and Interpretation of Data**Objective1**

To find out the level of Career Maturity of higher secondary students.

Table- 1: Percentage Distribution of Higher Secondary Students across Attitude and Competence Dimensions of Career Maturity

Dimensions of Career Maturity	Level of Career Maturity	No. of Students (n=200)	Percentage (%) of Students
Attitude	High	21	10.5
	Average	77	38.5
	Low	102	51
Self -Appraisal	High	26	13
	Average	27	13.5
	Low	147	73.5
Occupational Information	High	30	15
	Average	32	16
	Low	138	69
Goal Selection	High	23	11.5
	Average	30	15
	Low	147	73.5
Planning	High	41	20.5
	Average	44	22
	Low	115	57.5
Problem Solving	High	58	29
	Average	56	28
	Low	86	43

Figure-1: Representing Percentage of Scores of HS Students Across Attitude and Competence Dimensions of Career Maturity

**Interpretation**

From the table 1 and figure 1 it has been found that 10.5% HS students have high attitude, 38.5% have average attitude, and 51% have low

attitude towards a career choice and entering the world of work.

In case of Self appraisal 13% students possess high level, 13.5% HS students possess

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average, 73.5% HS students possess low self appraisal regarding career maturity.

In case of Occupational Information it is found that 15% HS students have high occupational information, 16% HS students possess average occupational information, 69% students possess low occupational information regarding career maturity.

In case of Goal Selection dimension of career maturity 11.5% HS students possess high competence in goal selection, 15% students possess average and 73.5% HS students have low level of this competence on career maturity.

Table- 2: Mean and Standard Deviations of Scores on Career Maturity Measures:

Criterion	No. of Students	Mean	Standard Deviation
Career Attitude	200	29.96	7.27
Self Appraisal	200	5.51	2.94
Occupational Information	200	6.44	2.98
Goal Selection	200	6.05	3.04
Planning	200	5.34	3.75
Problem Solving	200	5.05	2.96
Total	200	58.68	13.79

Interpretation

From the Table 2 it is found that the Mean and SD of HS students in Career Attitude are 29.96 and 7.27 respectively. The mean and SD of HS students in self appraisal of career maturity are 5.51 and 2.94. Again the mean and SD of HS students in occupational information are 6.44 and 2.98 respectively. Again the mean and SD of H.S students in goal selection are 6.05 and 3.04. Again mean and SD of HS students in planning are 5.34 and 3.75 and in problem solving mean and SD of HS students are

5.05 and 2.96 respectively. The total mean score and SD of all the dimensions of career maturity is 58.68 and 13.79 respectively.

Objective 2

To compare between male and female higher secondary students in relation to their career maturity.

Ho1

There is no significant difference between male and female higher secondary students in relation to their career maturity.

Table- 3: Showing the total t Value of Male and Female HS Students in Relation to Career Maturity as a whole (career attitude & career competence)

(Table value 1.97 at 0.05 level and 2.60 at 0.01 levels of significance)

Gender	N	Mean	SD	df	t value	Level of Significance
Male	94	51.52	12.6	198	0.35	Not Significant
Female	106	55.29	10.16			

Interpretation

From the table 3 it has been found that the total mean and SD of male students in relation to career maturity are 51.52 and 12.6 respectively and the total mean and SD of female HS students in relation to career maturity are 55.29 and 10.16 respectively. The calculated t value of male and female is 0.35 which is smaller than the table values at both 5% and 1% level of significance. Hence the t value is not significant at both level and the formulated null hypothesis for **objective 2** cannot be rejected. So, it is found that there exists no significant difference between male and female HS students in relation to their Career Maturity.

Major Findings of the Study

On the basis of the analysis and interpretation of data, the major findings of the study have been found as follows:

1. The study reveals that in case of every dimension of career maturity including career attitude, self appraisal, occupational information, goal selection, planning and problem solving HS students possess low level. So, from the analysis of the objective 1 it has been found that high

percentage of students possess low level of career maturity.

2. The study also reveals that there is no significant difference between higher secondary boys and girls in relation to career maturity

Suggestion

From the study it has been revealed that majority of higher secondary students possess low level of career maturity. They possess low attitude and competence in case of career decision making. So, Career Counseling Cell should be formulated in every govt/provincialised HS school and government should take initiative in this regard. School authority should devote sufficient period for career counseling of the HS students in every week.

Conclusion

The present study is of great importance as career maturity is the hallmark of career decision making. The study also bears extra special importance as it covers the HS students who fall under the most crucial period of human life i.e. the adolescence period. This is the stage from where adolescents choose the direction to their future career. From the study it can be concluded that career maturity of H.S students studying in

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In case of Planning dimension of career maturity it has been revealed that 20.5% HS students possess high levels of planning competence, 22% have average and 57.5% HS students possess low planning competence of career maturity.

In case of problem solving dimension it is found that 29% HS students have high problem solving competence, 28% students have average and 43% HS students possess low level of problem solving competence of career maturity.

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govt/provincialised schools of Sipajhar block of Darrang district, Assam is low. Most of the students score low in every dimension of career maturity across career attitude and career competence. There exists no significant difference between male and female HS students in relation to their career maturity.

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