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Research Article

A STUDY ON SEX DIFFERENCE IN CAREER PREFERENCE LEVEL OFCLASS XII STUDENTS OF HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOLS OF GUWAHATI CITY, ASSAM

NABANITA SARMAH
Research Scholar, Dept. of Education Gauhati University

Abstract:

A career is mostly seen as a course of successive situations that make up a person's occupation. At present, there are a number of career options for the students of each stream- Arts, Science and Commerce. Students prefer career as an occupation or profession for their whole life. Higher secondary stage provides ample opportunities for selecting a suitable career. Due to the difference in interest as well as mental faculties among boys and girls, their preference for different career seems to be different. In this study, an attempt has been made to find out sex difference in career preference level of class XII students of higher secondary school students of Guwahati city of Assam. For conducting the study, the descriptive survey method. The study is based on primary source of data.

KEY WORDS:

Sex Difference , Higher Secondary , mental faculties , modernism .

INTRODUCTION:

A career is mostly seen as a course of successive situations that make up a person's occupation. One can have a sporting career or a musical career without being a professional athlete or musician. In the 20th century career referred to the series of jobs or positions by which one is able to earn money. The career of an individual is not only for himself, but also his family, community and the nation as a whole. So, he has to think of not only what he wants to get out of his career, but also he can contribute to and through the career. He has the final right and total responsibility for it.

In the relatively static societies before modernism many workers would inherit or take up a single life long position, a role or place in the workforce and the concept of an unfolding career had little or no meaning. With the enlightenment of the idea of progress and of habits of individuals' self betterment, choosing a career became possible.

As the idea of personal choice and self direction picks up in the 21st century, aided by the power of the internet and the acceptance of people having multiple kinds of work, the idea of a career is shifting from a closed set of achievements like a chronological resume of the past jobs to a defined set of pursuit looking forward. In its broadest sense career refers to an individual's work and life roles over their life span.

Career options are opportunities or chances, usually commercial or educational ones, which have been made available for a limited period and from which one has to select one or few opportunities as one's career. At present, there are a number of career options for the students of each stream- Arts, Science and Commerce. Students prefer career as an occupation or profession for their whole life.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:

The present study has been stated as “A Study on Sex Difference in Career Preference Level of Class XII Students of Higher Secondary Schools of Guwahati City, Assam”.

OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS OF TERMS:

Career: The etymological meaning of 'career' means 'race' which comes from the Latin word 'carrera'. A career is mostly seen as a course of successive situations that make up a person's occupation. According to the dictionary, career means a series of jobs that a person has in a particular area of work usually involving more responsibility as time passes.

Career preference: The term 'preference' is derived from the Latin word 'preferentia'. Preference is the noun form of the verb 'prefer' which means 'choose rather and like better'. Thus, preference means the act or an instance of preferring or being preferred. Hence, career preference means an act or an instance of preferring a career or favouring a career by an individual among the career options. Career preference may also be defined as the level of importance being given by individuals in selecting a career.

NEED AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY:

It is very disappointing to observe in modern educational and vocational perspective that in spite of the existence of the individual differences in career selection; everybody is choosing his/her own career randomly, haphazardly, uncalculatively without its future orientation and knowing realistic social and family perspectives, his/her psychological abilities and compositions. That is why, a large number of students and youths are not wisely and appropriately selecting their career.

In the present complex society, the selection of career with proper care has become more and more relevant. But from general observation, it is seen that many students fail to select a career properly, because of which subsequent course of their academic life gets affected. The process of career preference generally starts from the higher secondary stage of education. The most important career selection stage is nearly set at this level. Higher secondary stage is that stage of education which prepares the adolescents for a successful and healthy adult life. It covers the age of 16 years of age to 19 years of age. Higher secondary stage provides ample opportunities for selecting a suitable career. On the other, it needs to mention that due to the difference in interest as well as mental faculties among boys and girls, their preference for different career seems to be different. The knowledge of career preference level of the boy and girl students of higher secondary stage will be helpful to channelize them properly regarding selection of a career for their future life. On the basis of this ground the present study has been considered as significant.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

The objectives of the present study are as follows-

1.To study the difference in career preference level between boy students and girl students of Arts stream.

2.To study the difference in career preference level between boy students and girl students of Science stream.

HYPOTHESES:

Based on the objectives of the present study, the following null hypotheses have been formulated-

Ho-1 There is no significant difference in career preference level between boy students and girl students of Arts stream.

Ho-2 There is no significant difference in career preference level between boy students and girl students of Science stream.

DELIMITATION OF THE STUDY:

The present study has been delimited as follows-

1.The present study has been delimited to the provincialized and Govt. Assamese medium higher secondary schools of Guwahati city of Assam.

2.The present study is confined to only two streams i.e. Arts stream and Science stream. The commerce stream has not been included in the study.

3.The present study is confined to ten areas of career such as-

I.Mass Media and Journalism.

II.Artstic and Designing

III.Science and Technology
IV.Agriculture
V.Commerce and Management
VI.Medical
VII.Defence
VIII.Tourism and Hospitality Industry
IX.Law and Order
X.Education

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE:

Bhatnagar,H (1983) conducted a study to find out the occupational choices of the girls and the factors which influenced the occupational choices of girls. The findings of the study were that girls had diversified occupational choices and the highest factor influencing occupational choices was interest followed by serving humanity/society, to see different places, to please oneself, to be a model for youngsters, economy and so on.

Bhatnagar, Asha and Gupta, Nirmala (1988) conducted a study on career maturity of secondary students with the objective to determine whether participation in a short term group guidance programme would enable students to move in positive direction towards the goal of increasing maturity in career related altitudes and to find out sex differences in the career maturity altitudes of adolescents. The study revealed that all the three groups viz. boys, girls and combined showed significantly higher scores after the guidance intervention and comparison across gender showed no significant differences in pre-intervention and post-intervention.

Hirchi, Andreas and Lagee (2007) conducted a study on relation of secondary students' career choice readiness to a six phase model of career decision making. A career decision making for secondary students presented and evaluated based on common aspects of recent models of career decision making. The study tested the hypothesis that students who are in later phases possess more career choice readiness and consider different number of career alternatives. 260 Swiss secondary students completed measures tapping phase of career decision making, career choice readiness and number of considered options. Career choice readiness showed an increase with phase of career decision making. Later phases were associated with a large increase in career choice readiness. Male students showed a large variability in distribution than female students.

Almiskry, A.S., Baker, A.R. and Mahamed Othman (2009) carried out a study on gender difference and career interest among undergraduates. The objective of the study was to determine the career interest pattern of undergraduates attending public universities in Malaysia. This study found that students' career interest pattern vary across gender. Students who were considered as having realistic career interest were mainly male students (70%) while majority of the students having social interest were mainly female students (75%). About 62% of the students with artistic career interest were mainly female students. About 58% of the students with investigative career were also the female students. An equal percentage of male and female students have a conventional career interest.

METHOD OF THE STUDY:

Keeping in mind the nature of the present study, the Descriptive Survey Method has been selected as research method.

VARIABLES:

The variables of the present study includes-

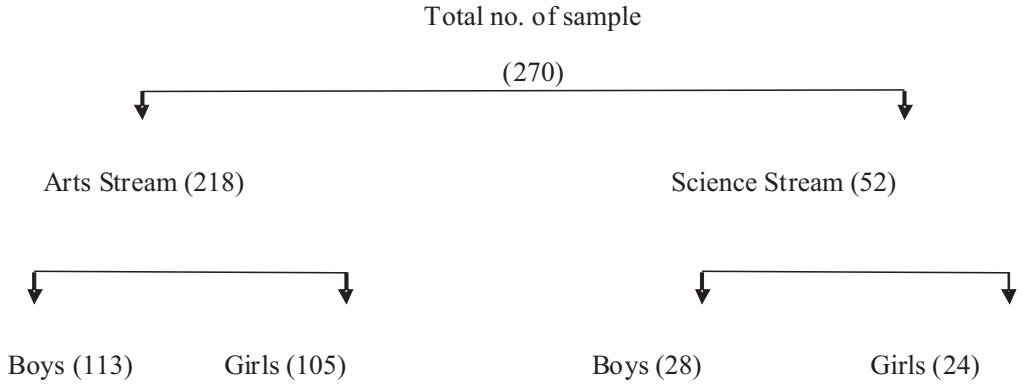
I.The sex of the students i.e. boys and girls.
II.Arts stream and Science stream.

POPULATION AND SAMPLIING:

Both population and sample have special significance in research. The research process cannot be systematically lead towards the findings and logical conclusions without the identification of population and drawing a representative sample from the population. All the students of higher secondary schools of Guwahati city constitute the population of the study. The sample of the present study consists of 270

students of 7 higher secondary schools.

Distribution of the sample of the study



SAMPLIMG TECHNIQUE:

In order to select the sample of the study the 'Stratified Random Sampling' has been used as sampling technique.

PROCEDURE FOR DATA COLLECTION:

The data collected for study are mainly based on primary source. The investigator has visited herself the higher secondary schools located in Guwahati city in order to collect the necessary data from the students.

TOOL USED:

In order to collect necessary data, the investigator has used 'Career Preference Record' (CPR) developed by Vivek Bhargave and Rajshree Bhargava in the year 2001. Scoring procedure of CPR is quite simple and convenient. There are ten major areas of career preference and each contains 20 vocations or jobs in ascending to descending order and left to right. One (1) mark has to be assigned to each preference of vocation and total in each area is known as raw score of that particular area. Therefore, maximum marks in each area are twenty (20) and minimum is to be zero (0).

STATISTICAL TECHNIQUE:

For analysing the data of the study, t-test has been utilized as statistical technique.

ANALYSIS OF THE STUDY:

The objective-1 has been analysed and interpreted with the help of Table-1 and Table-2 as follows-

Table-1 shows the difference in career preference between boy and girl students of Arts stream in Mass media & Journalism, Artistic & Designing, Science & Technology, Agriculture and Commerce & Management.

Career Preference Area	Sex	N	Mean	SD	t-value	Remark
Mass media & Journalism	Boys	113	8.70	4.520	.366	Not significant
	Girls	105	9.11	11.127		
Artistic & Designing	Boys	113	9.17	4.482	.011	Not significant
	Girls	105	9.16	3.947		
Science & Technology	Boys	113	0.08	.272	3.001	Significant
	Girls	105	.00	.000		
Agriculture	Boys	113	7.42	4.059	4.431	Significant
	Girls	105	5.18	3.353		
Commerce & Management	Boys	113	8.47	4.025	2.241	Significant
	Girls	105	7.29	3.751		

1.Regarding Mass media & Journalism, it is observed that the Mean and SD of boy students are 8.70 and 4.520 respectively whereas the Mean and SD of girl students are 9.11and 11.127 respectively. The obtained t- value is .366. Thus, it indicates that the t-value is not significant at 0.05 level. Here the null hypothesis has been accepted.

2.Regarding Artistic & Designing, it is observed that the Mean and SD of boy students are 9.17 and 4.482 respectively whereas the Mean and SD of girl students are 9.16and 3.947 respectively. The obtained t- value is .011. Thus, it indicates that the t-value is not significant at 0.05 level. Here the null hypothesis has been accepted.

3.Regarding Science & Technology, it is observed that the Mean and SD of boy students are 0.08 and .272 respectively whereas the Mean and SD of girl students are .00and .000 respectively. The obtained t- value is 3.001. Thus, it indicates that the t-value is significant at 0.05 level. Here the null hypothesis has not been accepted.

4.Regarding Agriculture, it is observed that the Mean and SD of boy students are 7.42 and 4.059 respectively whereas the Mean and SD of girl students are 5.18 and 3.353 respectively. The obtained t-value is 4.431. Thus, it indicates that the t-value is significant at 0.05 level. Here the null hypothesis has not been accepted.

5.Regarding Commerce and Management, it is observed that the Mean and SD of boy students are 8.47 and 4.025 respectively whereas the Mean and SD of girl students are 7.29 and 3.751 respectively. The obtained t- value is 2.241. Thus, it indicates that the t-value is significant at 0.05 level. Here the null hypothesis has

not been accepted.

Table-2 shows the difference in career preference between boy and girl students of Arts stream in Medical, Defence, Tourism & Hospitality Industry, Law & Order and Education.

Career Preference Area	Sex	N	Mean	SD	t-value	Remark
Medical	Boys	113	.05	.225	.907	Not significant
	Girls	105	.03	.167		
Defence	Boys	113	6.50	3.672	3.672	Significant
	Girls	105	4.65	3.500		
Tourism &Hospitality Industry	Boys	113	6.67	3.895	4.203	Significant
	Girls	105	4.67	3.069		
Law & Order	Boys	113	7.25	4.041	3.968	Significant
	Girls	105	5.45	2.866		
Education	Boys	113	7.81	3.534	2.782	Significant
	Girls	105	9.17	3.668		

1.Regarding Medical, it is observed that the Mean and SD of boy students are .05 and .225 respectively whereas the Mean and SD of girl students are .03and .167 respectively. The obtained t- value is .907. Thus, it indicates that the t-value is not significant at 0.05 level. Here the null hypothesis has been accepted.
2.Regarding Defence, it is observed that the Mean and SD of boy students are 6.50 and 3.901 respectively whereas the Mean and SD of girl students are 4.65 and 3.500 respectively. The obtained t- value is 3.672. Thus, it indicates that the t-value is significant at 0.05 level. Here the null hypothesis has been rejected.
3.Regarding Tourism and Hospitality Industry, it is observed that the Mean and SD of boy students are 6.67 and 3.895 respectively whereas the Mean and SD of girl students are 4.67and 3.069 respectively. The obtained t- value is 4.203. Thus, it indicates that the t-value is significant at 0.05 level. Here the null hypothesis has not been accepted.
4.Regarding Law and Order, it is observed that the Mean and SD of boy students are 7. 25 and 4.041 respectively whereas the Mean and SD of girl students are 5.45 and 2.866 respectively. The obtained t-value is 3.968. Thus, it indicates that the t-value is significant at 0.05 level. Here the null hypothesis has not been accepted.
5.Regarding Education, it is observed that the Mean and SD of boy students are 7.81 and 3.534 respectively whereas the Mean and SD of girl students are 9.17 and 3.668 respectively. The obtained t- value is 2.282. Thus, it indicates that the t-value is significant at 0.05 level. Here the null hypothesis has not been accepted.

The objective-2 has been analysed and interpreted with the help of Table-3 and Table-4 as follows-

Table-3 shows the difference in career preference between boy and girl students of Science stream in Mass media & Journalism, Artistic & Designing, Science & Technology, Agriculture and Commerce & Management.

Career Preference Area	Sex	N	Mean	SD	t-value	Remark
Mass media & Journalism	Boys	28	4.04	2.027	3.86	Significant
	Girls	24	4.29	2.742		
Artistic & Designing	Boys	28	2.71	1.997	2.160	Significant
	Girls	24	4.08	2.569		
Science & Technology	Boys	28	10.04	3.226	.146	Not significant
	Girls	24	9.92	2.535		
Agriculture	Boys	28	5.36	2.438	.987	Not significant
	Girls	24	6.13	3.167		
Commerce & Management	Boys	28	1.39	1.236	2.419	Significant
	Girls	24	2.58	2.205		

1.Regarding Mass media & Journalism, it is observed that the Mean and SD of boy students are 4.04 and 2.027 respectively whereas the Mean and SD of girl students are 4.29and 2.742 respectively. The obtained t-value is 3.86. Thus, it indicates that the t-value is significant at 0.05 level. Here the null hypothesis has not been accepted.

2.Regarding Artistic & Designing, it is observed that the Mean and SD of boy students are 2.71 and 1.997 respectively whereas the Mean and SD of girl students are 4.08 and 2.569 respectively. The obtained t-value is 2.160. Thus, it indicates that the t-value is significant at 0.05 level. Here the null hypothesis has not been accepted.

3.Regarding Science & Technology, it is observed that the Mean and SD of boy students are 10.04 and 3.226 respectively whereas the Mean and SD of girl students are 9.92 and 2.535 respectively. The obtained t-value is .146. Thus, it indicates that the t-value is not significant at 0.05 level. Here the null hypothesis has been accepted.

4.Regarding Agriculture, it is observed that the Mean and SD of boy students are 5.36 and 2.438 respectively whereas the Mean and SD of girl students are 6.13 and 3.167 respectively. The obtained t-value is .987. Thus, it indicates that the t-value is not significant at 0.05 level. Here the null hypothesis has been accepted.

5.Regarding Commerce and Management, it is observed that the Mean and SD of boy students are 1.39 and 1.236 respectively whereas the Mean and SD of girl students are 2.58 and 2.205 respectively. The obtained

t- value is 2.249. Thus, it indicates that the t-value is significant at 0.05 level. Here the null hypothesis has not been accepted.

Table-4 shows the difference in career preference between boy and girl students of Science stream in Medical, Defence, Tourism & Hospitality Industry, Law & Order and Education.

Career Preference Area	Sex	N	Mean	SD	t-value	Remark
Medical	Boys	28	9.86	3.297	2.593	Significant
	Girls	24	12.17	3.088		
Defence	Boys	28	2.64	2.147	1.691	Not Significant
	Girls	24	1.71	1.781		
Tourism & Hospitality Industry	Boys	28	3.00	2.325	1.177	Not Significant
	Girls	24	3.92	3.269		
Law & Order	Boys	28	2.50	2.186	.000	Not Significant
	Girls	24	2.50	2.085		
Education	Boys	28	3.43	2.080	2.499	Significant
	Girls	24	4.83	1.949		

1.Regarding Medical, it is observed that the Mean and SD of boy students are 9.86 and 3.297 respectively whereas the Mean and SD of girl students are 12.17 and 3.088 respectively. The obtained t- value is 2.593. Thus, it indicates that the t-value is significant at 0.05 level. Here the null hypothesis has not been accepted.
2.Regarding Defence, it is observed that the Mean and SD of boy students are 2.64 and 2.147 respectively whereas the Mean and SD of girl students are 1.71 and 1.781 respectively. The obtained t- value is 1.691. Thus, it indicates that the t-value is not significant at 0.05 level. Here the null hypothesis has been accepted.
3.Regarding Tourism and Hospitality Industry, it is observed that the Mean and SD of boy students are 3.00 and 2.325 respectively whereas the Mean and SD of girl students are 3.92and 3.269 respectively. The obtained t- value is 1.177. Thus, it indicates that the t-value is not significant at 0.05 level. Here the null hypothesis has been accepted.
4.Regarding Law and Order, it is observed that the Mean and SD of boy students are 2.50 and 2.186 respectively whereas the Mean and SD of girl students are 2.50 and 2.080 respectively. The obtained t-value is .000. Thus, it indicates that the t-value is not significant at 0.05 level. Here the null hypothesis has been accepted.
5.Regarding Education, it is observed that the Mean and SD of boy students are 3.43 and 2.080 respectively

whereas the Mean and SD of girl students are 4.83 and 1.949 respectively. The obtained t- value is 2.499. Thus, it indicates that the t-value is significant at 0.05 level. Here the null hypothesis has not been accepted.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY:

1.It is found that in Arts stream, there is no significant difference in career preference between boy students and girl students regarding mass medium & journalism, artistic & designing and medical.
2.It is found that in Arts stream, there is significant difference in career preference between boy students and girl students regarding science & technology, agriculture, commerce & management, defence, tourism & hospitality industry, law & order and education.
3.Regarding science stream, it is found that there is no significant difference in career preference level between boy students and girl students in case of science and technology, agriculture, defence, tourism & hospitality industry and law & order.
4.It is found that in case of science stream, there is significant difference in career preference level between boy students and girl students regarding mass media & journalism, artistic & designing, commerce & management, medical and education.

CONCLUSION:

In this study an attempt was made to find out sex difference in career preference level of class XII students of secondary schools of Guwahati city of Assam. The findings of the study might be helpful to some extent for the career guidance counsellors, educators, educational administrators, policy makers for providing guidance to the students in proper career selection.

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