

REPERCUSSIONS OF INCORRECT CAREER CHOICE ON THE ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE AND MIND - SET OF UNDER GRADUATE STUDENTS - AN ANALYSIS

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Abstract

A person's career plays a vital role in shaping his identity. The right career choice is the key to happiness in a person's life. Emerging evidence indicates that incorrect career choice has severe implications on students' thinking and academic performance. The right career ensures comfort, security, and success in our life. The current study's objective was to explore the consequences which are implicitly and explicitly associated to the psychological conditions and performance related outcomes. The study was carried out by selecting a random sample of 300 undergraduate respondents (from Kerala) belonging to different disciplines. A questionnaire was used for collecting data from the participants. The testing process was done with the help of chi-square and two-tailed t-test analysis methods, after the formulation of a hypothesis. The results of the study bring to light the penalties of wrong career selection which include dissatisfaction, lack of confidence, poor performance, social regard, increasing stress/anxiety and unemployment. The proposed study suggests that choice of right academic streams plays a vital role in the performance and psyche of a student.

Keywords: Career; Incorrect choice; Symptoms; Penalties; Chi Square test; Two tailed t-test.

I. INTRODUCTION

The term 'career' represents an individual's advancement in a profession for a significant period of one's life and the opportunities for progress. Careers are important for both businessmen and working individuals. Therefore, to proffer career, planning is necessary as it helps a person to reach the

right destination. It helps to differentiate between the positives and negatives of the route to success and helps to identify the proficiency and expertise required to fulfil one's dreams.

Nowadays, majority of people in India are not aware of the importance of career planning. The right career choice has a pivotal role in ones' life. The niche that one chooses without proper planning will definitely have a negative impact on the person's success.

Adolescence is the appropriate time to select the right career, by which individuals can fulfil their long-held ambitions. A teenager may be unaware of the possibilities in today's time, and might struggle to make a clever decision regarding career. The choice is usually left to their parents or relatives for the final decision. Parents, on the other hand, usually do not allow their children to select a career according to their interests. It is observed that many parents give more importance to reputation, prominence and honour of achievements than the passion of students. Indian society has a misbelief that only certain degrees can give the above-mentioned statuses. Conventionally family or peers will not support teenagers to select music, sports, dance or painting as their profession since they are risky so far as stable earnings is concerned. So, in the case of a decision-making, the individual may use one of the rational, intuitional and dependent decision-making styles. The result is catastrophic: most chiliadal end up with the incorrect choice of academic streams and is inadequate to create an excellent career for them.

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Picking the wrong career is not an unusual thing. The choice of a suitable career cannot be made in a short span of time. Instead, the person has to discover it incrementally by communicating with experts and councillors. They have to identify their strengths, weaknesses and skills and find a position associated with those qualities so that the performance can be made much better. Though realization of wrong career selection can be regretful, it is important to find out what the wrong career looks like, and what you can do if you realize you need to make a change. Hence, a detailed study is required to understand the signs that indicate that your career path is inexact. It is also important to know the level at which the incorrect choice of career affects the academic performance and psychological condition of the students. The study will also provide us with a better understanding of the mistakes made by the younger generation during selection of their careers.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Career management is a lifelong process which is crucial for the success of one's living. Unerring planning of a career must give importance to mental satisfaction, balance in personal and professional life, financial security etc. [1].

Nowadays, picking an exact vocation has become a strenuous task, as the options depend on countless factors. Education level of an individual is a key deciding factor in career selection [2]. Youth can gain attentiveness and pleasure only if they study a stream of their interest [3]. In order to attain interest in a particular field, one need to obtain a clear notion about that profession and can earn the ideas through different processes such as counseling, interaction with experts, communication with people of same interest etc. [4].

In a profession, mental satisfaction and financial security are pivotal. Job mismatch may lead to dissatisfaction and in the future, can have fatalistic impact on the person's output,

which may affect the financial earnings. In order to avoid this problem, the placement at the right position is necessary [5]. Furthermore, one of the most serious factors we need to consider is temperament of an individual. There is a significant relationship between personality traits and choice of profession in most cases [6].

Conventionally family or peers will not support teenagers to select their profession on their own since their thought is that it is risky to give chance to them so far as stability is concerned[7]. The result will be tragic; most of the pupils end up with choosing inadequate career for them [8]. The prediction of academic performance also implies that the involvement of teachers and parents affect the student's interest in learning and their attitude towards school. So, the suggestion is that parents and teachers must help their wards in the attainment of excellent life-long goals [9].

The chi-square test statistic is a nonparametric test used to find out the relation between two variables in a frequency table. This non parametric independence test ascertains the association between the variables. [10].

III. PROPOSED STUDY

A. Symptoms that says an individual is in Wrong Career

a) Daydream about other careers

Daydreaming is nothing but the status of one's mind; it may ramble away from your physical existence. If an individual love the current circumstances, that person will not daydream. In other words, when one is in the right career, then that soul does not daydream about what it would be like to be something else. Otherwise, Doctor, Engineer, Lawyer, Farmer, Actor does not matter - all that bothers is that it is a lot different than what that person is doing and a lot better.

b) Poor understandability

To obtain basic ideas about a particular concept we need to learn or study it. Acquiring knowledge will become

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difficult if a person has no interest in a particular area. There is a relationship between students' preferred choice of school subject and its' understandability. There may a situation occurs that a fellow is not fascinated by the subjects that the teacher teaches and become exhausted. It is a glassy sign that the career option needs to be changed. The way in which a subject is taught will also impact upon its difficulty in understanding, but more widespread beliefs is about the wrong choice of a subject and its connection with the capability of a student is being understood the same. Privacy Preservation in Data Publishing:

c) Work hard, but the results are unsatisfactory

Being meticulous is the key to success. In today's world assiduous is not only the key needed but identify the right way to intersect with your goal. An individual may certainly enjoy the area that the soul is in, and the fellow is unceasingly meticulous about completing the work, but the person doesn't get the required results. Consider the situation where athletes work out, run for miles, sweat it out and we say they work hard and feel distressed because of not being able to achieve the desired goal. If this sounds as a recognizable scenario, it's utterly possible that you don't have the skill or talent that it takes to succeed.

d) Always complain about the strategies of the college, teachers and the subjects a lot

Research has suggested that some students always complain about the institution, faculty and the courses they are studying because they are unprepared or because of the mistakes of the authority. It's common for children to have problems at school/college. On the flip side, if an individual can find a college, teachers, subjects which are relentlessly negative and if that person spend a significant amount of time whining about all these, then the fellow may have chosen the wrong career. The person spends most of the time at home and at college feeding negative thoughts and expressing them.

e) The career doesn't make use of an individual's strengths/skillset

Strength is something a character is naturally good in and skill set is the knowledge, abilities, and experience needed to perform a task which the person can master through repetition. A person wants a career that plays to the strengths and avoids the weaknesses of that soul. Knowing the strengths will serve one well in completing the academics admirably and for the rest of that soul's life as well." If you don't feel you have a clear sense of your career -related strengths and when you don't utilize any of your skills, your career isn't rewarding or fulfilling," Crawford says, and it may not be the one for you.

f) Imagine about Quitting

Many people have quit their career because they felt like they had been doing the same thing for too long, wanted to do something different, or didn't want to handle with stress any longer. Quitting the current discipline and detecting a new one is a personal and potentially difficult decision. Whatever may be the reason, leaving a position is never a wrong decision if it makes a person feel happier, healthier or more aligned with the goals or values. Moreover, one would even be satisfied if that person was let go or fired. "This is a sure sign that the career choice is not a fit for that particular person," according to Crawford.

B. Penalties of Inexact Career choice in the final analysis

The typical reaction of the realization of wrong career usually includes a mix of panic, desperation, and discouragement. If you pick a career that which doesn't suits you, you will become obsessed or crazy.

a) Dissatisfaction: The first and foremost consequence that could happen to any particular person is that you are not able to love the things you usually do. One may feel inconvenience, by doing the day to day activities so that the person won't get contentment or enjoyment. If a humn being

is not able to enjoy the responsibilities, then that person can't be a triumphant in a profession.

b) Poor Performance: A person may not be able to perform too well in the examinations or academic activities if he/she selects inexact career. Outcome of an academic performance is what reflects for us at the end of the course. However, picking a wrong career hits your performance level, and therefore the output of your examinations is a vital sign points to the incorrect selection of your career path.

c) Lack of Confidence: Confidence is almost similar to a skill as it is an outlook. If students are in an incorrect career, then they are tortured with doubt and fear, unable to take necessary risks and in contributing your ideas. Everyone has talents and abilities, and a fellow must not be able to use them at the assigned activities, if that soul is disconnected from the right career, and that results in lacking confidence in themselves.

d) Stress and anxiety: If an individual is in a wrong path in the context of career choice, it will certainly affect that fellow's mental health. A person might be unhappy in the selected career and which results in anxiety and stress and there by depression and social withdrawal, always feeling tired and anger problems or mood swings. This affects one's peace of mind and worse the relationship with everyone related to that particular one.

e) Unemployment: The topmost, direct and a serious contribution of wrong career choice is unemployment. A published report identifies that in India, 7% of MBAs and 6% from the one million engineering graduates are employable now. And also, in every year almost 60,000 graduates are generated from different medical colleges and more than 250,000 unemployed medical graduates are here. All the above mentioned degrees are prestigious; but if a character is out of a job, then that person is a failure in the

chosen career.

f) Affects Self-esteem: Self-esteem is a person's own evaluation of self-worth, or personal value. Particularly, how much you realise and love yourself. It means diversity in a person, such as the appearance, beliefs, emotional status, goals and performance. Self-esteem is crucial because it steadily influences an individual's choices/decisions and vice versa. After selecting a wrong career, the person's self-concept will adapt to the needs of that chosen career. Its impact will reversely affect the self-confidence and there by self-esteem of a person.

C. Objectives of the Study

- To detect the signs or symptoms that say whether a person is selected the wrong career or not.
- To determine the percentage at which the inexact choice of career affects the academic achievement and mind-set of the students.
- To assess whether the decision regarding one's vocation has any dependency with the psyche of an individual such as confidence, self-esteem, stress and frustration, depression.
- To identify the consequences of incorrect career choice.

D. Hypothesis

Inexact choice of career will have harmful impact on academic outcome and mind-set of students.

E. Significance of the Study

This study focuses on observing the repercussions of picking inexact career among the students pursuing their graduation in different disciplines. We have attained samples of students facing deleterious effect of their decision on selection of academic discipline as well as students with right career selection. Here we also tried to find out the percentage at which the choice of career affects the academic achievement and mind-set of the students. Statistical methods were

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utilised, in order to make decisions regarding the analysis.

IV. METHODS AND MATERIALS

In this section, model and paradigm of research, population and sampling, the writing of items and expert opinion, data analysis are included.

A. Model and Paradigm

This paper was carried out as a method which involves both quantitative and qualitative research approaches. Both types of data were collected at different times, followed by findings from first qualitative data and then analysis of quantitative data. The contribution of qualitative and quantitative data to the study was ensured to be equal. It was also conducted as a survey model which analyses the symptoms which leads to the wrong choice and then determines the effects of them on to the academic performance as well as mind-set of a student by studying some attributes. The theoretical model of the study prepared in this view is given in Figure 1.

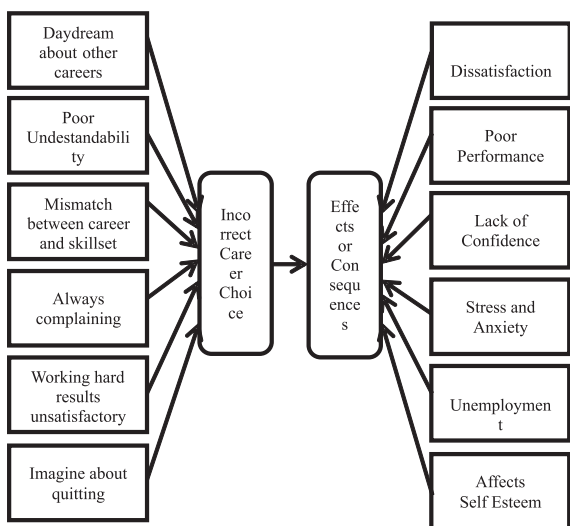


Fig.1. Theoretical model of research

B. Sample:

Collection of data was taken place from the different

colleges located in 14 districts of Kerala. The study was carried out by selecting a random sample of 385 undergraduate respondents belonging to different disciplines such as arts, commerce, science engineering etc. A questionnaire was used for collecting data from the participants. The following graph gives the idea of male and female participants; the respondent's percentages were 45% and 55% for male and female respectively.

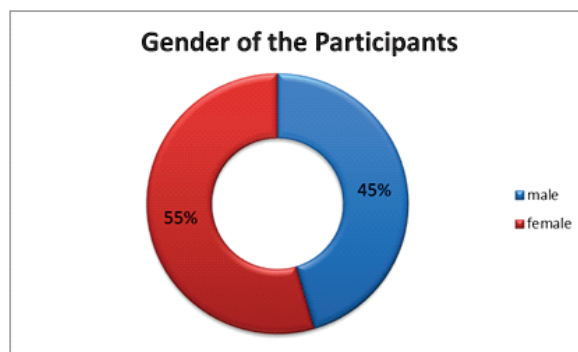


Fig.2. Respondent's Comparison Chart

C. Tools and Materials:

Questionnaire was used for the survey and telephonic interview was also conducted in order to gather samples from the students of different colleges of Kerala.

D. Procedure

In order to collect the data, colleges from 14 districts of Kerala were targeted. The undergraduate students of different disciplines were given questionnaire through online. The primary data were collected from 150 students of the selected colleges. At last, the data were analysed using Chi-square and two tailed -test respectively.

a) Chi Square Test

It is a nonparametric test used to find out the relation between two variables in a frequency table. This non parametric independence test ascertains the association between the variables.

- The formula for calculating a Chi-square statistic is:

$$\chi_c^2 = \sum \frac{(O_i - E_i)^2}{E_i} \quad (1)$$

Where:

c is the Degrees of freedom

O is the Observed value(s)

E is the Expected value(s)

- To find out the value of E(Expected value) use the formula:

$$EV = (\text{Row total}) \times (\text{Column total}) / (\text{Grand total}) \quad (2)$$

- Degrees of freedom can be calculated using the formula:

$$df = (\text{no. of rows} - 1) \times (\text{no. of columns} - 1) \quad (3)$$

Hypotheses have been established and tested the one; formulated the null and alternative hypotheses H0 and H1 respectively:

H0: Incorrect choice of career does not have an impact on academic achievement and psychological attributes

H1: Incorrect choice of career has negative impact on academic achievement and psychological attributes.

b) Two Tailed T-Test

It is a test of a statistical hypothesis, in which the region of rejection is two-sided. The result is tested to find out whether a sample is greater than or less than a certain range of values.

V. RESULTS

A. Chi Square Analysis

The sample data is shown in a contingency (frequency) table, TABLE1. In this test of independence the null and alternative hypotheses are:

H0: Incorrect choice of career does not have any impact on academic achievement and psychological attributes

H1: Incorrect choice of career has impact on academic achievement and psychological attributes.

Symptoms of incorrect Career Choice	After Effects on academic achievement and psychological attributes.						Total
	Dissatisfaction	Poor performance	Lack of Confidence	Stress and Anxiety	Unemployment	Self-esteem	
Daydream about other careers	17	12	10	12	8	6	65
Poor Understandability	19	28	5	6	7	6	71
Always Complain	10	17	6	4	5	4	46
Working hard but Results are not good	25	27	5	7	12	5	81
Mismatch between career and skillset	22	21	6	10	13	7	79
Imagine about quitting	11	11	4	6	7	4	43
Total	104	116	36	45	52	32	385

Table 1: Contingency Table with Sample Data; Number of Students Who Selected Each Category.

Next step is to summarize the data in order to calculate the Chi-square value. The calculations for the above case are shown below in TABLE II

Observed Value (O _i)	Expected value (E _i)	O _i -E _i	(O _i -E _i) ²	(O _i -E _i) ² /E _i
17	22.53	-5.53	30.62	1.36
12	25.13	-13.13	172.48	6.86
10	7.80	2.20	4.84	0.62
12	9.75	2.25	5.06	0.52
8	11.27	-3.27	10.67	0.95
6	6.93	-0.93	0.87	0.13
19	24.61	-5.61	31.51	1.28
28	27.45	0.55	0.30	0.01
5	8.52	-3.52	12.39	1.45
6	10.65	-4.65	21.62	2.03
7	12.31	-5.31	28.16	2.29
6	7.57	-1.57	2.48	0.33

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10	15.95	-5.95	35.36	2.22
17	17.79	-0.79	0.62	0.03
6	5.52	0.48	0.23	0.04
4	6.90	-2.90	8.41	1.22
5	7.97	-2.97	8.84	1.11
4	4.91	-0.91	0.82	0.17
25	28.08	-3.08	9.49	0.34
27	31.32	-4.32	18.66	0.60
5	9.72	-4.72	22.28	2.29
7	12.15	-5.15	26.52	2.18
12	14.04	-2.04	4.16	0.30
5	8.64	-3.64	13.25	1.53
22	27.39	-5.39	29.02	1.06
21	30.55	-9.55	91.14	2.98
6	9.48	-3.48	12.11	1.28
10	11.85	-1.85	3.42	0.29
13	13.69	-0.69	0.48	0.04
7	8.43	-1.43	2.04	0.24
11	14.91	-3.91	15.26	1.02
11	16.63	-5.63	31.66	1.90
4	5.16	-1.16	1.35	0.26
6	6.45	-0.45	0.20	0.03
7	7.45	-0.45	0.21	0.03
4	4.59	-0.59	0.34	0.08
$\sum \frac{(O_i - E_i)^2}{E_i}$				39.062

Thus, the value of X2 is 39.062.

Here the degrees of freedom which is associated with the number of rows and columns of the table being studied, and can be calculated as

$$df = (\text{rows} - 1) \times (\text{columns} - 1).$$

$$\text{Here, } df = (6-1) \times (6-1) = 5 \times 5 = 25.$$

Since 39.062 is greater than 37.6525 (for alpha 0.05) we need to reject the null hypothesis that incorrect career choice does not have any impact on academic achievement and psychological attributes. Our data tell us incorrect career choice has an impact on academic achievement and psychological attributes. Since our attributes are all contradictory, we can say that incorrect career choice has harmful impact on academic performance and mind-set of students.

B. Two Tailed T-Test

a) Level at Which Wrong Choice Affect Academic Performance:

Hypotheses have been formulated the null hypothesis H0 and alternative H1. The null hypothesis here is what currently stated to be true about the population. In our case it will be,
H0: The percentage at which incorrect choice of career affects the academic performance of a student is 50.

$$H0: \mu = 50$$

The alternate hypothesis is always what is being claimed. In our case,

H1: We don't know that whether the average has gone up or down, but believes that it has changed and is not 50 anymore.

$$H1: \mu \neq 50$$

Table II: Table With Summarized Data for Calculating Chi-square Value.

Percentages given by the students (%)		
50	60	50
40	60	40
75	40	75
20	55	20
80	50	80
50	45	60
45	80	45
50	60	60
55	20	55
60	50	75

Table III: Sample Data - the Percentages At Which Wrong Career Choice Affect Academic Performance.

Applying formula

$$t = \frac{\bar{x} - \mu_0}{s / \sqrt{n}}$$

Where,

is average of the sample = 53.5
 μ = average of the population = 50
 σ = standard deviation of sample = 16.56492
 n = sample size = 30

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE 0.05

Z-value = $(53.5 - 50) \times (\sqrt{30}) \div 16.56492 = 1.157282$

This value 1.157282 is called the test statistic.

Degrees of freedom = 29

The value of 1.157282 is less than the critical value of 2.045. As the value lies in the acceptance region, we could accept the Null hypothesis.

Conclusion:

Accept **H0**: which is $\mu = 50$

Reject **H1**: which is $\mu \neq 50$

So, as per the problem statement, there is insufficient

evidence to suggest that the percentage at which the incorrect choice of career affects the academic performance of a student is greater or less than 50. So, we must accept the null hypothesis which says that the percentage is equal to 50.

b) Level at Which Wrong Choice Affect the Mind-set or Psychological Condition

Hypotheses have been formulated the null hypothesis H0 and alternative H1.

The null hypothesis is,

H0: The percentage at which incorrect choice of career affects the minds-et of a student is 50.

$$H_0: \mu = 50$$

The alternate hypothesis is,

H1: The percentage at which incorrect choice of career affects the mind-set of a student is not 50 anymore.

$$H_1: \mu \neq 50$$

Percentages given by the students (%)		
60	35	60
50	50	50
40	35	40
60	50	60
30	70	40
40	50	50
45	40	40
70	35	30
45	55	65
35	60	35

Table IV: Sample Data-The Percentages at Which Wrong Career Choice Affect Psychological Conition.

Applying formula

$$t = \frac{\bar{x} - \mu_0}{s / \sqrt{n}}$$

Where

is average of the sample = 47.5

μ = average of the population = 50

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σ = standard deviation of sample = 11.65228999

n = sample size = 30

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE 0.05

Z-value = $(47.5-50) \times (\sqrt{30}) \div 11.65228999$
= -1.175139303

This value -1.175139303 is called the test statistic.

Degrees of freedom = 29

The value of -1.175139303 is less than the critical value of 2.045. As the value lies in the acceptance region, we could accept the Null hypothesis.

Conclusion:

Accept **H₀**: which is $\mu = 50$

Reject **H₁**: which is $\mu \neq 50$

So, as per the problem statement, there is insufficient evidence to suggest that the percentage at which the incorrect choice of career affects the mind-set of a student is greater or less than 50. So we must accept the null hypothesis which says that the percentage is equal to 50.

VI CONCLUSION

The decision taken from the current analysis is that career forethought is supreme so that a person can avoid incorrect choice of career. In fact, choice of career of an individual will decide the success in one's life. It indicates that incorrect career choice has significant involvement in students' way of thinking and academic outcome. The current study suggests that the wrong choice of career implicitly and explicitly associated to the psychological conditions and performance related outcomes of a student at the same level. Furthermore, it was concluded that incorrect career choice had a significant effect on academic performance and mind-set of a student by fifty percentages. So making right career decisions is the possibility of progression in academic performance as well as mental satisfaction.

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