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CAREER MATURITY OF HIGHER SECONDARY STUDENTS IN THENI DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT

In the present study an attempt is made by the investigators to study the Career Maturity of Higher Secondary Students in Theni District, Tamil Nadu, India. Random Sampling Technique was used to compose a sample of 1035 Higher Secondary Students. Mean, Standard Deviation and t values were calculated for the analysis of data. The result revealed that the Gender and Medium of instruction had no significant difference but, Locality of the school exhibited significant difference in respect of their Career maturity of Higher Secondary Students.

KEY WORLD : investigators to study , Random Sampling Technique , Gender and Medium of instruction.

INTRODUCTION

Career maturity provides a means of measuring the degree of affective and cognitive career development an individual has attained. Career maturity refers to the individual's degree of readiness to choose, to plan and to prepare for future vocation. According to super (1963) "Career maturity is used to denote the degree of development, the place reached on the continuum of the vocational development from exploration to decline. The career maturity quotient may thus be conceived of as the ratio of vocational maturity to chronological age. It would indicate whether or not the vocational development of an individual is appropriate of this age." Operationally 'Career Maturity' is defined as the maturity of attitudes and competencies to make appropriate choices, including awareness of what are required to make a career decision and degree to which one choice are both realistic and consistent over time.

NEED AND IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY

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 to 19 years. Higher secondary stage provides ample opportunities for selecting a suitable career. At the time of entry into the secondary stage, which is a stage of diversity of curriculum the teenager has to select particular stream of studies like science, commerce, arts or professional subjects. Even though career development is a lifelong process and does not remain static in the life of a progressive individual, still teenager is expected to make career choices at the time of secondary stage, which is a stage of the diversity of career. Thus, it becomes imperative for an adolescent to engage in academic decision making processes which have important repercussions for the future life.

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STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The problem selected for the present study may be stated as follows "Career Maturity of Higher Secondary Students in Theni District".

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The researcher has framed following objectives for the study to find out the difference in career maturity of higher secondary students.
1.Male and female higher secondary students
2. Rural and urban area higher secondary students
3. Tamil and English medium higher secondary students

HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY

For the present study based on the objectives of the researcher framed the following hypotheses.
1. There is no significant difference between male and female higher secondary students in respect of their career maturity.
2. There is no significant difference between rural and urban area higher secondary students in respect of their career maturity.
3. There is no significant difference between tamil and english medium higher secondary students in respect of their career maturity.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Sivakumar B & Sridhar N (2016) have reported that the career maturity of XI standard students. The data were collected from 200 XI students in Erode district of Tamil Nadu. In this study based on the career maturity and career competency of XI standard students. The investigator was used by t and F test for analysis. They concluded that the sex, location of the school, type of school management, type of family, religion and community of the XI standard student's career maturity and career competency is low.

Nikme S.C Momin and Geetam Chetry (2016) has found that the influence of gender and locale on the career maturity of students in degree colleges. The samples were collected from 240 degree students studying in seven degree colleges in west garo hills district of Meghalaya. The data was analysed with the help of two-way ANOVA. That the result showed no significant influence of gender and no significant influence of interaction between gender and locale on career maturity of the student. The influence of locale on the career maturity of students was found to be significant and that the urban students were found to have significantly higher level of career maturity than the rural students.

Mohamood Alam (2013) have investigated a study of gender difference in career maturity of rural and urban students in India. That the study examined the gender difference in career maturity of rural and urban students and the sample consisted of 640 tenth class students selected from government high schools of Darbhanga city. The descriptive and inferential statistics are to study the gender difference between students on the measures of career maturity. The investigator concludes that a concerted educational effort, manginalized and rural adolescents will be better prepared both affectively and cognitively to select and attain their vocational aspirations and career maturity.

METHODS OF THE STUDY

The present investigation was undertaken by using normative survey method. The tool was administered to the sample of 1035 higher secondary students. The data was collected and subjected to statistical analysis to arrive at the conclusion.

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TOOLS USED

Career Maturity scale was constructed and validated by Jeyalakshmi S. & Naga Subramani P.C. (2017). Career Maturity Scale consists of 45 items. Out of 45 items 30 items are Positive items and remaining 15 items are negative items. In each statement five point scale ranging from "Strongly Agree", "Agree", "Undecided", "Disagree" and "Strongly Disagree" is used. The different points on the scale are assigned arbitrary weights, for example 5, 4, 3, 2 and 1 in the order of "Strongly Agree" response to "Strongly Disagree" response for the positive statements. The scoring scheme is reversed for the negative statements. Here the "Strongly Disagree" response is given the weight of 5 and the "Strongly Agree" response is given the weight of 1. An individual score is the sum of all the score of the 45 items. The maximum score that one can get in this is 225. Higher score indicating the presence of high level of Students Career Maturity.

SAMPLE OF THE STUDY

In this present study, 1035 higher secondary students studying in different higher secondary schools were taken as sample. The random sampling technique has been used in the selection of the sample. The samples were collected from the higher secondary students of various secondary schools in Theni district, Tamil Nadu, India.

STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES

The following statistical techniques have been used in the present study for the analysis of collected data.
1. Descriptive Analysis
2. Differential Analysis

TABLE
DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE MEANS OF ATTITUDES TOWARDS CAREER MATURITY

S.No.	Variable		N	Mean	S.D.	't' value	Significant value
1	Gender	**Male**	633	**110.46**	**25.96**	**0.48**	**NS**
		Female	402	**109.66**	**25.91**		
2	Locality of School	Rural	412	**109.12**	**27.18**	**2.04**	**S**
		Urban	623	**112.24**	**29.07**		
3	Medium of Instruction	Tamil	588	**111.35**	**26.09**	**1.71**	**NS**
		English	447	**108.57**	**25.67**		

S -Significant
NS –Not Significant

MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

1. The verification of hypothesis based on the analysis of data indicates that there is no significant difference between the Male and Female students in respect of their Career Maturity (t = 0.48).
2. The testing of hypothesis based on the analysis of data indicates that Rural and Urban area students differed significantly in their Career Maturity. They felt that the urban area students (Mean =112.24) had better than the rural area students (Mean = 109.12) in respect of their Career Maturity (t =2.04).
3. The verification of hypothesis based on the analysis of data indicates that there is no significant difference between the Tamil and English medium students in respect of their Career Maturity (t = 1.71).

CONCLUSION

In this study, the following conclusions have been reached in the light of the present investigation. Gender and Medium of Instruction has no significant difference and Locality of the School has significant

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difference in Career Maturity of higher secondary students in Theni District, Tamil Nadu and India. Career options are opportunities or chances, usually commercial or educational ones. At present, there are a number of career options for the students of each stream like Arts, Science and Commerce. Students prefer career as an occupation or profession for their whole life.

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