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## PSYCHO-SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND CAREER CHOICES OF SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED ADOLESCENTS IN KANYAKUMARI DISTRICT

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### Abstract:

*Present study was conducted in Kanyakumari district in Tamilnadu with 500 socially disadvantaged adolescents(MBC, SC and ST) selected from 24 schools to assess their Psycho-social development and career preferences. The study also tried to find out whether there is any significant relationship between the selected psychological and sociological correlates and career choices of socially disadvantaged adolescents.The data was collected using Psycho-Social Development Scale and Career Preference Record constructed and validated by the investigator.The study revealed that the socially disadvantaged adolescents possess moderate level of psycho-social development. Data on career preferences revealed that Scientific and Education were the most preferred careers of socially disadvantaged adolescents while Agriculture is the least preferred career. Gender differences were noted in the career choices of socially disadvantaged adolescents. Significant correlation was noted between psycho-social development and career choices in the areas namely Agriculture,Artistic,Law and order*

### KEY WORDS:

Psycho-social development,career choices,socially disadvantaged adolescents.

### INTRODUCTION

#### NEED AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

India is a land of diversities. Many of these diversities have been man-made. These man made differences hinder the path of progress among certain sections of the society. Of the man made differences caste, peculiar to the Indian society severely affects the thoughts, feelings and sentiments of certain groups of people. These people are discriminated in the society for one reason or other and this state of affairs does not create conducive environment for them to fix higher goals in life and nurture them towards their realisation. These people are better known as socially challenged.

Socially challenged sections of the society in countries like India include people belonging to most backward caste,scheduled caste, and scheduled tribe.. The treatment extended to them by other caste of people have suppressed their initiatives and images. These people have not yet to come into the main stream of the society. Concessions extended to them in the form of reservations and other privileges have not fully remedied them from their suppression. These socially challenged students are also to be provided with some assistance and guidance to come up in the educational and social ladder.

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## PSYCHO-SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND CAREER CHOICES OF SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED.....

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Adolescence is a time when teenagers develop certain choices regarding their future careers . Career exploration is important during adolescence as adolescents begin to engage in self exploration and explore potential career options (Gati and Saka 2001;Julien 1990; Super 1990). Developing a vocational identity is central developmental task during adolescence. So choice of a career is crucial problem for adolescents.

Socially challenged adolescents have been suffering from certain psychological upsets such as anxiety, stress and frustration. Forced by circumstances they seem to have failed to develop self confidence, persistence and emotional maturity. They seem to be less co-operative and sociable, and have failed to realize the importance of courtesy, sense of responsibility and concern for others. They seem to be at a mess with regard to their future vocational choices. Informal chats and talks to the adolescents of these areas have substantiated the above stated status of affairs. Under these circumstances an investigation to understand the real status of psychological and sociological status of affairs of the adolescent student is warranted.

The socially disadvantaged are not handicapped by genetic deficiency but by the socio economic circumstances of their lives. The disadvantages are not inside the individual, but outside the society. The socio economic disadvantages prevent them from developing their basic and natural potentialities. So the investigator made an attempt to study whether there is any relationship between psycho-social development and career choices of socially disadvantaged adolescents. Moreover in Indian settings there is scanty research on socially disadvantaged adolescents. Hence the study.

### Statement of the problem

Present investigation aimed to study the psychological and social correlates and career choices of socially disadvantaged adolescents in Kanyakumari district and is entitled as "Psycho-social development and career choices of socially disadvantaged adolescent students in Kanyakumari district

### VARIABLES OF THE STUDY

#### 1.Psycho – Social development .

In this study psycho – social development is the predictor variable and refers to the psychological variables viz., Self confidence, Persistence, Emotional maturity, Anxiety and Frustration and sociological variables viz., Co-operation Sociability ,Courtesy, Sense of responsibility and Concern for others. Psycho-social development has been operationalized as the sum of scores of these ten variabies

#### 2.Career choices

Career choices is the criterion variable of the study. In this study,ten career areas namely Scientific,Technology,Agriculture,Mass media,Artistic,Commercial, Medical, Socialservices, Law and order and Education.

### MAJOR OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To study the level of psycho-social development of the socially disadvantaged adolescent students.
2. To study the career choices of the socially disadvantaged adolescent students.
- 3.To study the relationship between the psycho-social development and career choices of socially disadvantaged adolescents.

### Hypothesis framed

- 1.There is no signiificant relationship between Psycho-social development and career choices of the socially disadvantaged adolescent students.

### METHODOLOGY

The investigator adopted normative survey method for the study. Data was collected from a sample of 500 socially disadvantaged adolescent students in the age group 12-17 years studying in vii to xii standards from 24 schools of Kanyakumari district using stratified random sampling technique. Tools used to collect data were Psycho-Social Development Scale(Sreelatha 2013) and Career Choice Record (Sreelatha 2013). Psycho-social development scale includes five psychological correlates namely Self

**PSYCHO-SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND CAREER CHOICES OF SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED.....**

confidence, Emotional maturity, Persistence, Anxiety, Frustration and sociological correlates namely Co-operation, Sociability, Sense of responsibility, Courtesy, and Concern for others. Reliability of the tool was established using split half method and was found to be 0.79. Content validity of the tool was established by expert opinion. Career Choice Record includes ten career areas namely Scientific, Technology, Agriculture, Mass Media, Artistic, Commercial, Medical, Social Service, Law and Order, and Education. Reliability of the tool was established using test retest method and was found to be 0.84. Criterion validity of the tool was established by correlating with the scores obtained in Career preference record (Bhargava & Bhargava 2009) for a sample of 60 students. The organised data were analysed using Percentage, and Pearson's product method of correlation.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

**1. Different levels of Psycho -Social Development of socially disadvantaged adolescents**

Variable	Low	%	Average	%	High	%
Psychological Development	94	18.8	327	65.4	79	15.8
Sociological Development	88	17.6	329	65.8	83	16.6
Psycho -Social Development	93	18.6	319	63.8	88	17.6

The results in the above table showed that majority of the socially disadvantaged adolescents possessed moderate level of psychological development (65.4%), sociological development (65.8%) and psycho-social development (63.8%). 15.8% had high level of psychological development, 16.6 had sociological development and 17.6% have high level of psycho-social development. 18.8% of the sample possessed low psychological development, 17.6% possessed low sociological development and 18.6% possessed low level of psycho-social development.

**2. Percentage wise analysis of career choices of socially disadvantaged adolescents**

Group		Scientific	Technology	Agriculture	Mass media	Artistic	Commercial	Medical	Social Science	Law and order	Education
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
<b>Total sample</b>		22.2	12.6	0.2	5.6	11.8	6.2	12.6	6	4.6	18.2
<b>gender</b>	<b>male</b>	23.21	16.46	0.42	8.02	9.28	5.06	15.19	5.91	7.17	9.28
	<b>female</b>	21.29	9.13	0	3.42	14.07	7.22	10.27	6.08	2.28	26.24

The above results indicated that Scientific and Education were the most preferred career of socially disadvantaged adolescents and Agriculture the least preferred career. Law and Order, and Mass

**PSYCHO-SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND CAREER CHOICES OF SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED.....**

Media were also least preferred choices of the adolescents. Scientific, Technology and Medical were the most preferred choices of male adolescents and , Education,scientific and artistic were the most preferred careers of female., These findings are in line with that of Rosenbloom, Ash, Dupond, and Coder (2007), Migunds, Agak and Odiconor (2011) which indicated that male and female are geared towards different careers because they value different aspects of work. The results showed that certain career types are preferred by males such as the law and order which reported upto three times more male than females while education is preferred by females more than males. This difference in career choice may be a result of the existing gender stereotyping .Females still choose careers that correspond with their traditional gender roles. .Agriculture is the least preferred career choice for both male and female.,

**3.The relationship between psychological Development and career choices of socially disadvantaged adolescents**

<b>Dimension</b>	<b>Pearson Correlation</b>	<b>p</b>	<b>Remark</b>
Science	0.018	0.69	NS
Technology	0.047	0.29	NS
Agriculture	0.155	0.00	Sig. at 0.01 level
Mass media	0.003	0.95	NS
Artistic	-0.102	0.02	Sig. at 0.05 level
Commercial	-0.007	0.88	NS
Medical	0.055	0.22	NS
Social Service	-0.064	0.15	NS
Law and order	0.103	0.02	Sig. at 0.05 level
Education	-0.019	0.67	NS

The results in the above table showed that there exists significant correlation between psycho-social development and career choices of socially disadvantaged adolescents for the career areas Agriculture, Artistic and Law and order. Remaining other seven areas viz., Scientific, Technology,Mass media, Commercial,Medical, Social service and Education do not significantly correlate with psycho-social development of socially disadvantaged adolescents.

**CONCLUSIONS**

- 1.psycho social development of socially disadvantaged adolescents is moderate.
- 2.Science and Education were the most preferred career choices of socially disadvantaged adolescents.
- 3.Agriculture was the least preferred career of socially disadvantaged adolescents.
- 4.Male and female adolescents differ in their career choices on areas like Technology, Mass Media, Law and order and Education.
- 5.Positive significant correlation existed between psycho-social development and career choices in areas namely Agriculture, Artistic and Law and order,

**IMPLICATIONS OF THE STUDY**

The study revealed that psycho-social development of majority of socially disadvantaged adolescents is moderate.That is their level of selected psychological correlates and sociological correlates are at an average level.Measures should be taken to improve the psychological and sociological development of socially disadvantaged adolescents.Regarding career choice also the percentage of students preferring technology,medical are low.This may be because that socio emotional climate of the socially disadvantaged adolescents is different from that of socially advantaged adolescents. Parents of

#### PSYCHO-SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND CAREER CHOICES OF SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED.....

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socially disadvantaged adolescents cannot support their children in career planning. So the responsibility should be taken by the schools. In schools, career counselling cells should be organised. Stakeholders of the schools should ensure that schools are well equipped with adequate career resources. Qualified personnels should be in the schools to provide career counselling to the adolescents which help them to have better career choices. The study revealed that Agriculture is the least preferred area by the socially disadvantaged adolescents. Measures should be taken to remove their dislike towards Agriculture as a career. Career programs should be developed to educate the parents and adolescents to make them aware about the avenues of emerging career choices.

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