



# Vocational Awareness of Students and Parents of Higher Secondary Schools

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## Abstract:

*Today's people expect that the roll of education should be to provide them knowledge and skills which will help their effort at vertical mobility The aim behind education is helping the immature child to develop an understanding into professional career and good citizenship, to live life happily, satisfactory and as fruitful citizen of the society.*

*In the absence of proper guidance and counseling, students become frustrated and take recourse to any alternative that come their way without thinking of the consequences. It is because of such scenarios that vocational guidance has become a matter of grave importance not only for the youths themselves but for the administrative and planners as well. The present study the researcher used survey method for sample consisted of 165 students of higher secondary schools located in Dadra & Nagar Haveli and had three variables viz. standard, stream and gender. In addition to main questionnaire an open ended questionnaire was also constructed by the researcher for taking views from the teachers on vocational guidance needs of students. Along with these tools, semi-structured interview questions were planned by the researcher for taking views and advice from the principals regarding vocational guidance needs of students of higher secondary schools. Teachers' and Principals' views were considered only as supportive element for the findings. In order to analyze and interpret the data received from each student were presented in tabular as well as graphical form, which made the interpretation easier. The researcher further depicted the findings of the study which uncovers the truth that we have to make concerted all-round to make our students fit enough to play the vital role in nation building through the right choice of vocation. The myth that our school students do not have any problems or "all that is needed to set everything right is good teaching "or that services as guidance and counseling are "frivolous additions" to higher secondary education stand exploded today. In fact, there is a great truth in the words of Conant that on the success or failure of our guidance and counseling programme hangs, in all probability the success or failure of our system of education. It is high time we realize this hard reality.*

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**Keywords:** Awareness, Counseling, Guidance, Vocational

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## 1. Introduction

Today's world is complicated and unusually competitive and providing innumerable vistas of opportunities. The multiplicity and complexity of vocations have now increased and the task of the occupation selection has become more difficult today than past. The purpose of education is to help young people with needs of the knowledge, develop the habits and skills and attain the attitudes, aptitudes and ideals that are compulsory for adjustment to modern life and for its progressive improvement. The aim behind education is helping the immature child to develop an understanding into professional career and good citizenship, to live life happily, satisfactory and as fruitful citizen of the society. Vocational Guidance refers to the services that assist individuals of any age and at

any point of time throughout their lives, to make educational training and occupation choice and to manage their career. It includes a wide range of activities like: activities within schools to help students clarify, career goals, understand the world of work and develop career management skills. According to the Mudaliar Commission: The Secondary Education is a complete unit by itself and not merely a preparatory stage that at the end of this period the students should be in a position, if he wishes, to enter into responsibilities of life and take up some vocations. Therefore, Vocational Guidance becomes necessary before students actually take up a vocation. It helps the pupils to get ample information of various newly emerging and technical courses, criterion for entry into those courses and their prospects.

## 2. Statement of the problem

Following title was selected for present research study:

**“Vocational awareness of students and parents of higher secondary schools”**

## 3. Objectives of the study

1. To identify the vocational guidance needs of higher secondary students.
2. To study the awareness among higher secondary students regarding different vocations.
3. To study whether the students get proper guidance in schools regarding different vocations.
4. To study the readiness of higher secondary students to avail the vocational guidance.

## 4. Research Question

1. Do the students know about role of vocational guidance in making their career?
2. What is the current condition of knowledge among the students about various vocations available after passing standard 12?
3. How many percentage of number of students in various stream have knowledge about further vocations?
4. How many percentage of number of students get vocational guidance in the school itself?
5. How many percentage of number of students want to have vocational guidance centre in their schools?
6. What is the opinion of the students regarding the role played by the schools in providing vocational guidance?
7. What is the opinion of the teachers regarding the need of vocational guidance in the schools in context of reflex ions on questionnaire?
8. What are the reflections of the Principals on needs of vocational guidance in the schools in context of semi-structured interviews?
9. How many percentage of number of students get vocational guidance from their parents?
10. How many percentage of number of students get vocational guidance from other resources? (From-relatives, books, websites, training centers of taluka/district/state level, employment exchange etc.)

## 5. Area of research

This research belongs to the research area of Vocational Guidance and counseling.

## 6. Types of research

Types of research can be shown as under

(1) Basic Research, (2) Applied Research and (3) Action Research

This research is applied in nature as it deals with utilities of finding of this research study. The other types of research are qualitative and quantitative researches. Present research is quantitative as it is based on responses given by subjects on various scales to assess the vocational awareness among the students and parents and descriptive type research.

## 7. Research method

To know the vocational awareness of students and parents of higher secondary schools survey is made therefore present research study is conducted by survey method.

## 8. Design of the study

### 8.1 Population and Sample

In the present study the populations consist of Higher Secondary students studying in Gujarati medium schools of Dadra & Nagar Haveli. In the present study the researcher used stratified random sampling technique to select sample consisted of 165 students of higher secondary schools located in Dadra & Nagar Haveli and had three variables viz. standard, stream and gender.

### 8.2 Tools

For the present study, a self developed tool was used and administered on the subjects of the sample. A questionnaire on vocational awareness for students and parents of higher secondary school was constructed with the help of guidance from the research and subject experts. In addition to main questionnaire an open ended questionnaire was also constructed by the researcher for taking views from the teachers on vocational guidance needs of students. Along with these tools, semi-structured interview questions were planned by the researcher for taking views and advice from the principals regarding vocational guidance needs of students of higher secondary schools. Teachers' and Principals' views were considered only as supportive element for the finding

### 8.3 Data collection

After the sample was selected, the researcher collected the data from various schools and sources through the use of different tools and techniques which were already constructed. For the present study, the permission of principals of schools for collection from students of higher secondary classes was taken by researcher. To collect data on tools, the researcher visited all the Gujarati Medium Higher Secondary Schools of Dadra & Nagar Haveli. Principals and Teachers were also requested to provide fruitful information in the interviews and open ended questionnaires respectively.

### 8.4 Analysis of data

The analysis of data requires insight and imagination on the part of researcher in context of objectives of the research study and research questions. The value of research depends largely upon the degree to which its data is sincerely collected, analyzed, interpreted and applied. It is done to make a careful distinction between fact and opinion. The findings and generalizations need to be derived logically and results of the statistical treatment should authenticate the interpretation being given to the new score. In the present study, the researcher has given value as '1' and '0' to all the answers in 'Yes' and 'No' respectively. Thus, all the questions in the questionnaire were tabulated in form of 0 / 1 and presented in tabular form and graphical form for even critical analysis.

## 9. Major Findings of the Study

Findings should be clear, specific and directly relating to the objectives of the study. As a result of analysis and interpretation of the data collected for students of higher secondary schools located in Dadra & Nagar Haveli the researcher was able to obtain the findings as given below:

1. In the general reflection of all 20 questions of the questionnaire, the positively highest percentage obtained is question 7, which shows that the students of standard 12 need vocational guidance more in advance before completion of standard 12 which is crucial for them in taking career decisions.
2. In general reflection of all 20 questions of the questionnaire, the negatively highest percentage obtained is question 18, which shows that most of the higher secondary students do not know about any books on vocational guidance.

3. Majority of the students want to go for a specific course of their choice. It can be further said that majority of the students do not want to take admission wherever they get without their choice.
4. Majority of the students are not ready to join any other course (which is not of their choice) if they do not get proper vocational guidance for the same. It further indicates that majority of the students are willing to join a specific course of their choice if they get proper vocational guidance for that.
5. Majority of the students are not aware of most of the vocations available after passing standard 12.
6. Majority of the students are not aware of the proper eligibility for different courses after passing standard 12.
7. Majority of the students do not know the names of the universities / colleges where they can take admission after passing standard 12.
8. Majority of the students are aware of entrance exams for different courses and the type of preparation needed for those examinations.
9. Majority of the students are aware of entrance exams and their preparation required. Still majority of the students have not started taking any type of coaching or started preparing for such entrance exams.
10. Majority of the students are well aware of the financial requirements to complete their educational needs.
11. Majority of the students are aware of the financial support system to complete the course of their choice.
12. Majority of the students believe that vocations guidance can play an important role in making their career.
13. Maximum number of students believes that vocational guidance should be provided before completion of standard 12.
14. Majority of the students who get vocational guidance, they get it from their parents as well as some other sources like relatives, books, websites, training centre etc.
15. Majority of the students do not get vocational guidance in their school.
16. Majority of the students wish to have vocational guidance programmes in their school.
17. Majority of the students have discussions regarding different vocations with their friends. But friend's opinion does not influence their career choice.
18. Majority of the students have not ever appeared for Aptitude Test.
19. Majority of the students feel that they require vocational guidance.
20. Majority of the students believe that vocation of one's interest play vital role in job satisfaction.
21. Majority of the students are not aware of any vocational guidance centre.
22. Majority of the students do not know about books on vocational guidance.
23. Majority of the students are influenced by their parents with respect to their career.
24. Teacher's views suggest that awareness regarding different vocations is found very less among higher secondary students.
25. Teachers of higher secondary schools feel that schools can play very important role in providing vocational guidance to the students.
26. Views of Principals suggest that vocational guidance can definitely play an important role in this fast changing scenario of professional fields.
27. Views of Principals suggest that schools can play important role in providing vocational guidance.

## 10. Conclusion

This study uncovers the truth that we have to make concerted all-round to make our students fit enough to play the vital role in nation building through the right choice of vocation. The myth that our school students do not have any problems or “all that is needed to set everything right is good teaching “or that services as guidance and counseling are “frivolous additions” to higher secondary education stand exploded today.

In fact, there is a great truth in the words of Conant that on the success or failure of our guidance and counseling programme hangs, in all probability the success or failure of our system of education. It is high time we realize this hard reality.

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