



A Study of Professional Career Awareness of Class X Students

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Abstract:

Professional career awareness is most important for the students who have cleared their 10th class examination. Because it's the initial time or step to start their career therefore, it is very important for the students to decide the way where they want to start their career. So, it is most important for the students that they have been awarded about the various ways for suitable to start their career where they want to go ahead. This study indicates that what is the present level of professional career awareness of the students of class 10th.

Keywords: *Awareness, Professional career*

1. Introduction

The students and his parents have to take an important decision about the future career after standard 10. Not only students but also parents look confused in taking decision about the development and expansion of the career of the students (Bruhmbhatt, 2009, p. 6). Therefore, it is necessary for the students should plan about his career. He should concentrate on three points: appropriate curriculum, appropriate occupation and success in the occupation. Tenth standard is the first decisive stage and twelfth standard is the second decisive stage in the career of the students in the 10+2 structure of education (Bruhmbhatt, 2009, p. 2). The career of the students' was almost decided during this period. Because the students have to select a particular educational stream (discipline) in the eleventh standard and the career prospects depends on it. There are only two options about the school and the medium of study up to standard 10. The study proceeds from standard 1 to 10 easily as there is nothing to choose. But after standard 10, there are options available for the students.

The students should study the professional world and think about what he can achieve of become (Baldani, 1967, p.1). This can be called in way career awareness. When the students are passing through an important phase of their career in the standard 10, they are to decide what their goal is, what they want to be which are the eligibility qualification conditions for that? Where can he get those degrees or qualifications? He has to be aware of all these things (Mehta,1999, p.1). We have seen many students' career ruined who have not such awareness. The researcher has experienced such phenomena. Moreover, the students studying in Gujarat Vidyapith comes from backward areas, uneducated families and poor economic conditions, and so the researcher felt oppressed with the thought of their career prospects. These students are devoid of the positive factors affecting their career. As standard 10 is the first step of their career the present study was conducted to explore the Professional career awareness of the students of standard 10.

2. Operational Definitions of the terms

Professional career awareness means having knowledge or trying to get the knowledge about the occupation, business or job after study, different source of Professional guidance, different alternatives available in the field of different vocations, different qualifications for occupation and different skills needed for different occupations. The total scores acquired by the students on the test i.e. Professional Career Awareness Test, developed by the researcher based on above definition is their Professional career awareness.

3. Variables

The study was conducted about Professional career awareness reference to their gender, status of parental education and academic achievement of the tenth standard students'.

4. Objectives of the Study

1. To study Professional career awareness of the tenth standard students'.
2. To study Professional career awareness of the tenth standard students' reference to academic achievement.
3. To study Professional career awareness of the tenth standard students' reference to status of parental education.
4. To study Professional career awareness of the tenth standard students' reference to gender.

5. Questions of the Study

1. What is the Professional career awareness of the tenth standard students'?
2. What is the relation between the academic achievement and the Professional career awareness of the tenth standard students'?
3. What is the relation between the status of parental education and the Professional career awareness of the tenth standard students'?
4. What is the relation between the gender and the Professional career awareness of the tenth standard students'?

6. Hypotheses of the Study

- Ho₁:** There will not be significant difference between the average scores on the Professional Career Awareness Test of the tenth standard students' having low academic achievement and high academic achievement.
- Ho₂:** There will not be significant difference between the average scores on the Professional Career Awareness Test of the tenth standard students' having low literate parents and illiterate parents.
- Ho₃:** There will not be significant difference between the average scores on the Professional Career Awareness Test of the male and female tenth standard students'.

7. Delimitations of the Study

The present study was on the tenth standard students' of secondary schools of Ganhinagar city and students studying in the academic year 2014-15.

8. Population and Sample

The present study was on 250 students studying in the standard tenth from the secondary schools of Gandhinagar city. Students were selected from the total five schools, students studying during the academic year 2014-15.

9. Instrumentation

The researcher himself developed the tool for the study. The researcher developed 'Professional Career Awareness Test' to know the Professional career awareness of the students'. There was a 32 objective type question in the test. The reliability was established by the Cronbach's Alpha index and Spearman- Brown coefficient of split-half method. The validity of the test was established using Cliffs' 'C' index based of graph theory and difficulty value and discrimination value of the items of the test.

10. Data Collection

The researcher firstly took permissions of the principals of the secondary schools of Ganhinagar city. The researcher himself went to the schools and gave the Professional Career Awareness Test to the students' in the normal classroom conditions with necessary instructions. The data collection work was complete within one period in each class.

11. Data Analysis

Descriptive statistics like mean, standard deviation, kurtosis and skewness were calculated using Computer programme SPSS. The reliability was established by calculating Cronbach's Alpha index and Spearman- Brown coefficient of split-half method. For this analysis the computer programme SPSS was used. 't-value' calculated to test the hypotheses about the relation between Professional career awareness and the gender, status of parental education and academic achievement of the tenth standard students'. The computer programme SPSS was used for this analysis.

12. Major Findings

- The Cronbach's Alpha reliability coefficient of the Professional Career Awareness Test was 0.711.
- The relation between the two halves of the Professional Career Awareness Test was 0.652.
- The reliability coefficient according to Spearman-Brown formula was 0.638.
- Cliffs' 'C' index based of graph theory was calculated for the validity of the Professional Career Awareness Test.
- Few of the students had lower Professional career awareness, Majority of the students had average Professional career awareness and all the students have higher Professional career awareness.
- The t-value testing the significance of the difference between the average scores on the Professional Career Awareness Test of the tenth standard students having low academic achievement and high academic achievement was 6.58.
- The t-value testing the significance of the difference between the average scores on the Professional Career Awareness Test of the tenth standard students having low literate parents and illiterate parents was 7.45.
- The t-value testing the significance of the difference between the average scores on the Professional Career Awareness Test of the male and female tenth standard students was 1.47.

13. Conclusion

It was clear from the findings of the study that the tenth standard students had lower Professional career awareness. There should be Professional career guidance programmes, periods specially allotted for Professional guidance in the schools. The teachers having interest in Professional guidance should be appointed. The standard ten is very important in the Professional career of the students'. Career takes the direction according to his selection of the stream in the eleventh standard. Therefore, there should be efforts in the schools to make aware the students about their interest and competencies. There should be a teacher for Professional guidance. There should be arrangement for such teaching where the stress is on the students' Professional career awareness.

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