

THE NEED OF CAREER COUNSELLING AT THE HIGHER SECONDARY LEVEL

Dr. Fauzia Khurshid¹

Associate Professor

Farkhanda Tabusum²

Research Associate

PAKISTAN

Abstract

Career counseling has great importance for the students. But it is a big problem in our country that the students cannot get proper career counseling especially at higher secondary level so majority of them are unable to decide about their career. This study is aimed at investigating the need of career counseling at higher secondary level. The sample of this study consisted of 150 students including 90 hostel and 60 day scholar students. The students range of age was 15 to above 18 with income from Rs.30, 000 thousand to above Rs. 1,00000. The findings of the study revealed that the students at higher secondary level need career counseling necessarily because they have to select the field of profession for having the admission in professional institutions. The study also concludes that career counseling can be helpful to the students at higher secondary level in decision making about the professions.

Keywords: Students of higher secondary level need of career counseling, difficulties due to nonavailability of career counseling, information and guidance, selection of profession.

Introduction

When the man came on this earth he started fulfilling his basic needs of food, shelter and cloth. At the beginning of civilization it was easy for the individual to set his career according to the skills and abilities. With the passage of time knowledge and awareness enhanced and various fields of life developed. The man has now control over many areas of information and is progressing day by day. Because of this different fields have been introduced and are increasing gradually.

The career is the necessity for the human beings and has turned out to be the important part of their life. The right career is a foundation of satisfaction for them. The career has immense impact on our daily life, needs and desires. If a person is satisfied with his career, he will enjoy his life. There will be tension in his life. He will be capable to utilize his abilities and skills accordingly. Opposite to this if he is having any problem in career, his life will be full of

problems and he will be in the cavities of depression and disappointment. So we can say that the career has obtained value in our life. The career can be called the salaried or paid work, the profession for which we are paid is called the career. In modern world the meanings of career have been expanded because the career involves continuous learning process and the development in the concerned area. So the education, training, experience, awareness, and many other elements play a vital role in the career improvement. The career requires hard work and constant effort.

It is the fact that the career is personal responsibility of the individual and whatever advantages he gets from the career, directly affects his individual and social life. It means that the selection of the career is very important task for him because it influences his whole life. The thirst for wisdom and good selection of career is a continuous process. There is no limit to improve socially, emotionally, spiritually, and materialistically.

We get the information about everything by our observation and connection with the surroundings. At early stage of our life the environment deeply affect our personality and at adult age we make decisions by selecting our careers and other choices of life for better survival in the society. At child hood stage we don't keep the sense to make decisions so we rely on elders decisions but at young age our choices play a significant role in the selection of our career.

Career counseling means to provide the guidance for the solution of the problems. There are many types of counseling. We need counseling to remove our anxiety or for the solution of some problem in our life. Further more in this modern age the career counseling has got importance. There are many professional fields and we need to decide at young level that which profession is suitable for us according to our abilities, skills and interest. When the career is selected according to our choice than we enjoy our work more and get grooming and the progress in the specific field becomes our fate. Opposite to that if an individual selects any profession without his choice than he is unable to utilize his skills and he cannot move forward in his profession. He cannot show interest in his work and feels burden. So it is proved that the choice of career makes the life comfortable or uncomfortable. Career counseling is essential for this purpose. It can help the people for the choice of professions.

The growth of the career is a course of action for whole life whether we are aware of it or not .It starts for the beginning of our age. Many features of our environment and the society manipulate the development of the career. Career counseling helps us in such a way that it enables us to understand and identify our own self with all the qualities and this modern changing world. So we become able to have a profession suitable to our personality, attitude, intelligence, and qualification.

The need of career counseling is not only at the early stage for the selection of the job but with the passage of time career counseling also helps to improve and get progress in the specific field. It means that the career counseling is continuous process for life.

Career counseling provides a vast vision which is essential for making career plans. In the presence of this awareness the person feels himself satisfied and comfortable with his career. Whenever they will face any problem in the career, the techniques to remove the hurdles will help them which they learn through career counseling .If they will remove the problems successfully then they will be able to bring peace and happiness for themselves and for others in the society. Career counseling encourages the individuals and makes them able to think positively. The process of career counseling grants the image of new world full of opportunities instead of disappointment which they generate with their own perceptions.

Career counseling helps those who are ready to bring changes in their life and revolutionize the career building with futuristic approach. There are many career counseling theories which have fundamentals of humanistic advancement. These theories work with individual choice.

For career counseling the counselor and the client has deep link of affection. If their relation is strong then the client will be able to trust him and share his problems with him. The counselor should ensure him that he is his friend and he can trust him. This affiliation is essential in the process of career counseling. The counselor should have sympathy with the individual who needs counseling.

The individual has the talent and ability for the professional life; career counseling polishes the qualities and gives the knowledge and courage about the selection of the career. Career

counseling is essential for the person to give choices which means that the person does not bind himself to one profession. The person who needs counseling must have the desire to learn from the counseling positively and does not allow the negative powers to overcome him. By following the values of the society he should manage to take benefit from the counseling. He should do planning for his future.

After the completion of basic education the students have to make choice about the professional education for next step towards the study. At this stage they are mostly unaware about different types of professional education and they do not know that which area is suitable for them. They adopt the area without any guidance. In the result they cannot get enough marks to continue further study or they lost the interest. So they become depressed.

At this level the students need counseling for the decision making about the future career. In our country unfortunately we are lacking in the counseling of the students. There is no proper arrangement of career counseling for the future builders of Pakistan. When they complete their education at the higher secondary level, it becomes a great problem for them to what to do for the career. There is no proper arrangement in the colleges for career counseling. Mostly the parents impose their own will and choice of profession upon the students and if it does not match with the student's interest than he cannot perform well in that specific field.

In developed countries there is proper arrangement for the career counseling. They students join the career counseling organizations. The counselors provide them the information about various fields and guide them according to their abilities. They also help them that how they can progress in future.

In Pakistan although there is no proper arrangement of career counseling but at some level the career counseling has been started that is not enough for the students. Majority of the students belong to the rural areas so they cannot get they help. The students should have the knowledge about the value and demand of the career in various fields. If they blindly continue the education without any knowledge than the result will be that there will be unemployment in the country which brings dissatisfaction and frustration among the youth. As in our country the young

generation is facing this problem at high level. They are wandering with the degrees but there is no job for them.

As the world is changing, so the standard of education is also changing and getting advance gradually. But it is tragedy that our students are uninformed about modern professions, fields and the markets. They are ignorant of the market value of different professions. Most of the students are used to get traditional education without the knowledge of modern, scientific, business, education. This influences upon the requirement of modern era. This scientific age demands the students of these fields. Our students undergo this situation because of lack of counseling. They cannot approach to the organizations for career counseling it also happens that the teachers or the parents are unable to do career counseling of the students.

In the view of above situation present study intends to explore the students counseling and guidance need at higher secondary level. When they enter in professional institutions they can develop their skills, if they are aware of various careers and there market value. So the career counseling can help the students in the selection of professions and various training programmes.

Statement of the problem

The students face the problem of career selection at higher secondary level. Keeping in view such situation, it appears vital to commence a research design” To investigate the need of career counseling at higher secondary level”

Research Objective

1. To determine the need of career counseling at higher secondary level.
2. To determine the difficulty level of the students at higher secondary level due to non availability of career counseling.
3. To measure the difference between need and difficulty level of students due to demographic variation such as gender, hostilities and day scholars, college and class.
4. To make recommendations as how to provide career counseling to the students at higher secondary level

Hypotheses of study

For the achievement of these objectives, following hypotheses of the study of the study were planned.

- Students cannot do better decisions about the careers without career counseling than with career counseling.
- There is a need of career counseling at higher secondary level.

Research Questions

- Why is it necessary for the students to get career counselling at higher secondary level?
- Do the students face difficulties for the selection of profession at higher secondary level?
- How can the career counseling be helpful to the hostelite students?
- Does the career counseling help both male and female students?

METHODOLOGY

Population

For this study the population was the students of higher secondary level.

Sample

The sample of the study consists of 150 students from Lawrence College Murree and Army Public College Murree. The age range was 15 to above 18, class 1st year and 2nd year and income from 30,000 to above 1, 00000. The sample included both hostelite and dayscholar students.

Instruments

A questionnaire was developed containing 21 items with five point rating scale having 1.Disagree 2. Strongly disagree 3. Neutral 4 , Agree 5. Strongly agree.Data was entered in the statistical package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) and results were analysed.

Results and Discussion

The results showed that the cronbach's alpha value of part one (need of career counseling was .696 and the value of part 2 (difficulty due to non availability of career counseling) was .775.Total items were 21. As shown below (Table 8). It was confirmed that there was a high level of internal reliability for our scale with this precise sample (150)

Cronbach's Alpha	Part 1	Value	.696
		N of Items	11 ^a
	Part 2	Value	.775
		N of Items	10 ^b
	Total N of Items		21
Correlation Between Forms			.651
Spearman-Brown Coefficient	Equal Length		.789
	Unequal Length		.789
Guttman Split-Half Coefficient			.788

To explore the relationship between the difficulties in career counseling due to non availability of facilities and need for the career counseling Pearson correlation was computed .The results (Table 1) showed that there was strong, positive correlation between the need and difficulties of career counseling. The need of career counseling for the students at higher secondary level was correlated with the difficulties which they face in the selection of the professions due to the non availability of facilities for the career counseling.

Table 2

Correlation between the need of career counseling and difficulties due to non availability of career counseling facilities for the students at higher secondary level.		
N= 150		
Need	.550	Total= .905
Difficulties	.550	Total= .853

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

To find out the difference between various age groups the mean and standard Diavation was calculated.It showed that the students above 18 years (80%) need more counseling and they face much difficulties due to non avalibility of professional guidance.

Table 3						
Age wise difference in the need of career counseling						
Age						
15-16			17-18		Above 18	
Variables	M	Std.Dev	M	Std.Dev	M	Std.Dev
Need	47.4	6.2	48.1	6.8	50.8	5.4
Difficulties	30.0	5.4	29.5	5.5	31.2	4.5
Total	77.4	11.6	77.6	12.3	82.0	9.9

The results according to the gender showed that the mean level of male students was higher than female students about the need of career counseling.They also face more difficulties due to non availability of the facilities of career counseling.

Table 4				
Gender wise difference in the demand for career counseling at higher secondary level				
Gender				
Male			Female	
Variables	M	Std.dev	M	Std.dev
Need	48.7	6.8	46.7	4.8
Difficulties				

due to non availability of counseling	30.2	5.4	27.2	4.3
Total	78.9	12.2	73.9	9.1

The results of lawrance colledge and Chinar Army Public Colledge showed that the mean level of the students of lawrance colledge in both need and difficulties of career counseling was higher than Chinar Army Public colledge. It means that the hostile students had more problems of career counseling.

Table 5				
Comparison of the students of Lawrance college and Chinar Army Public College Murree in the need of career counseling				
College				
Lawarence College Murree			Chinar Army Public College Murree	
Variable	M	Std.dev	M	Std.dev
Need	50.2	6.2	47.4	6.6
Difficulties	31.5	5.8	28.7	4.8
Total	81.7	12.0	76.1	11.4

The results showed that the mean level of boarder students was higher then the day scholar students in both the need of counseling and the difficulties due to non availability of career counseling facilities. It showed that the majority of boarding students belong to backward areas or they are far from their homes so they cannot get proper guidance for the selection of future career.

Table 6				
Difference of boarders and day scholar students in the need of career counseling				
Student residence				
Boarders			Day Scholars	
Variables	M	Std.dev	M	Std.dev
Need	49.3	6.3	46.8	7.0
Difficulties	30.3	5.6	29.0	4.8
Total	79.6	11.9	75.8	11.8

The results showed that the students of first year need more counseling as compare to the students of 2nd year. The sample's mean and standard deviation were calculated which described that the students of first year had less awareness about career counseling so they found difficulty in the selection of profession.

Class				
First Year			Second Year	
Variable	M	Std.dev	M	Std.dev
Need	48.7	6.8	47.9	6.2
Difficulties	30.1	5.6	29.2	4.9
Total	78.8	12.4	77.1	11.1

The comparison of the family income showed that the mean level of need of career counseling of the students with the income of 51,000-1, 00000 was higher than other income groups but the students with above 1.00000 incomes with the mean of 30.3 showed that they face more difficulties due to non availability of career counseling.

Family Income						
30,000-50,000			51,000-1,00000		Above 1.00000	
Variable	M	Std.de v	M	Std.dev	M	Std.dev
Need	47.8	7.8	49.0	6.0	48.2	6.5
Difficulties	29.4	4.9	29.8	5.6	30.3	5.5
Total	77.2	12.7	78.8	11.6	78.5	12.0

CONCLUSION

This study was aimed at the need of career counseling (NCC) for the students at higher secondary level. It is apparent that when the students start getting professional education, they are unaware about various fields and occupations. The study was conducted to investigate the problem of career counseling for the students at higher secondary level. In the study hypotheses were formulated to achieve the research objectives and first hypothesis was that the students cannot do better decisions about career without career counseling. The findings approve that career counseling can help them and without proper career counseling they cannot decide better about their future profession. When sample's mean (M) and standard deviation (SD) were calculated, the results showed that the hostelite students need more career counseling as compared to the dayscholar students. They also face more difficulties in the selection of the

career due to the unavailability of the facilities for career counseling. Mostly they come from remote areas and their parents are uneducated so they cannot help or guide them in the selection of profession. So career counseling can help them in decision making about future occupation

It was the objective of the study to determine the need of career counseling at higher secondary level. The study has made clear that the students at higher secondary level remain unaware about various fields due to inadequate facilities of career counseling and they need information about training programmes correlated to the variety of careers. The statistic analysis shows that the hostelite and the day scholar students both require counseling about the selection of the career because it will be helpful for them in decision making at the time of admission in professional colleges. Other wise they are unable to decide according to their abilities or the resources and than during the training they suffer because they lost the interest and face various complications.

It was also the objective of the study to measure the difference between need and difficulty level of students due to demographic variation such as gender, hostilities and day scholars, college and class. The study findings further indicate that the level of need for career counseling and the difficulties in the selection of profession due to non availability of career counseling facility is equal withen little difference which showed that both male, female and hostelite and ay scholar students require career counseling in 1st year and 2nd year class. At this level such type of guidance can make htem confident to get training of appropriate profession. The variables like gender, class, age, family income and student residence have statistically significant relationship with caeer counseling of the students at higher secondary level. The results of the study have deep connection with the hypotheses which were stated.

Recommendations

1. Career counseling is important for the students so they should be provided the awareness about the career counseling.
2. The schools, colleges and universities should provide the knowledge about different fields and professions to the students.
3. Government should provide awareness about various careers through media like television, news papers etc.
4. The charecterstics of different training programmes should be defined in detail so the students can choose the field according to their abilities and skills at the time of admission in professional colleges.
5. Career counseling organizations should held seminars at schools and colleges to provide the information about different fields and occupations.

6. The teachers at higher secondary level should provide the knowledge about different training programmes and professional institutes.
7. As it is the age of competition and various fields of technology and science have developed, so the students should also try to get information through media, teachers and the counselors.
8. The students should gain knowledge about the trends of various careers in market through career counseling.
9. This study is beneficial for the students to get awareness about the importance of career counseling for decision making about future profession.
10. The students can assess themselves and evaluate their skills according to various skills through career counseling.
11. The teachers can also get advantage from this study because they can play the role of career counselor for the students and can help them in the selection of suitable occupation.
12. Career counseling should be promoted because it can bring about benefit to the economy of the country
13. This study is productive to the society because unpleasant professions bring despondency and depression, so through career counseling the common man can choose suitable profession.

Applied significance

In this modern age the significance of career counseling has got importance. In foreign countries there is proper system of career counseling at school, college and universities. Above all different career counseling organizations also help the students but in our country this trend is not common so the students are unaware about the importance of career counseling at higher secondary level. With little knowledge they get admission in some professional institute and then they come to know that this field is not suitable for them. So they get confused and change the decision repeatedly.

In Pakistan we do not have proper system of career counseling so we suffer from this problem. It is expected that this study will help the concerned authorities including schools, colleges and universities to provide the facility of career counseling to the students because they are the future nation builders of Pakistan. When they will gain professional training they will be able to get proper direction. The statistical analysis of the study defines that career counseling can help the students about the selection of future profession. The teachers and parents should also play their

role to guide the students in getting the admission in suitable professional institutes because they are also aware about the abilities of the students.

The career counselors are professionally trained people who can help the students in this context because they are aware of the student concerns. They know about the academic resources which can be supportive to the students in decision making about the career. When the students reach at higher secondary level they start thinking about this question that what they are going to do? It is reality that the students with 16-18 year age group lack the enough knowledge about the future profession so career counseling plays imperative role . In this perspective this study can enhance the importance of career counseling at higher secondary level.

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