

Vocational Interest of Senior Secondary School Students in Relation to Their Stream of Study

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Abstract: Vocational interest means the desire of a person to work in a particular field in order to earn for surviving his/her life. The purpose of this study was to examine vocational interest of senior secondary school students of Aligarh district of Uttar Pradesh. To know the vocational interest of students, the researcher used the Career Preference Record (CPR) developed and standardized in 2001 by Vivek Bhargava and Rajshree Bhargava. The data collected from samples were analyzed with the help of SPSS by applying percentile method and the study revealed the interest of students in ten vocational areas, i.e; mass media & journalism, artistic & designing, science & technology, agriculture, commerce & management, medical, defence, tourism & hospitality industry, law & order and education in relation to their stream of study i.e., commerce, humanities(arts), science (PCB), science (PCM).

Keywords: Vocational Interest, Senior Secondary school Students, Career Preference, stream of study.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Twenty first century is said to be an age of science and technology. Man has made speedy advancements in scientific, technological and industrial field. This has immediately influenced all aspects of man's life. Due to scientific advancement, division of labour and specialization of functions, modern society demands the full use of skilled manpower at all levels. Accordingly, there is a need to search talents to increase the productivity level. This necessitates fresh attempt towards search in career orientation with a view to understand the ways in which youth make career choices and multiplicity of factors, which influence their vocational interest. "Vocational interest is defined as one's own pattern of preferences, attitudes or aptitudes likes and dislikes, preferred in any manner, wisely or unwisely by self or by other sources for a given vocational area or vocation". (Kulshrestha, 2003).

"In India, today we stand in a very advantageous position as far as the employable population is concerned. India is a youngest nation in terms of the share of the population aged 15 to 59 years, which has grown from 57.7 per cent to 63.3 per cent during 1991 to 2013. Similarly projections indicate that in 2020 the average age of India's population will be lowest in the world. i.e. around 29 years and India will have a youth surplus of 47 million people by 2020 as against overall world shortage. This advantage of the demographic dividend, may not, however, last beyond 2050 according to economic survey 2014-2015 and therefore, there is a need to harness the potential as quickly as possible which will in turn spur growth and reduce poverty" (Gupta, 2015).

In this informative age where globalization and fast scientific and technological developments take place, the youth all over the world facing manifold challenges in their career planning and selection. To choose a right career in accordance with his / her abilities, potentialities, skills, cognitive structuring, interest patterns, value systems and personality dispositions, one can perform the maximum possible with a high degree of satisfaction. Therefore, one should be very serious while planning and selecting a career because these provide the base of an individual's life long career and his social recognition (Vivek Bhargava and Rajshree Bhargava, 2009).

Significance of the Study

Most of us go through life engaged in jobs that gives us no satisfaction. Many of us spend a lifetime imprisoned in work that we hate. So it is important to identify our real interests correctly early in life. The choice of vocation becomes easier if an individual recognizes his interests. Otherwise, if he does not get a suitable job, he feels restless, edgy, lacking something. A vocation of one's interest may mean happiness and prosperity. It transcends the abilities, needs and aspirations of the individual. On the other hand, if a vocation is not of one's

interest, it not only leads to vocational maladjustment but also to wastage of manpower. When the choice of vocation is not made accordingly, one can neither develop one's own potentialities, nor can one prove to be useful member of the society.

It is important to know the vocational interest of the students for a better understanding of their future needs and present shortages in the area of vocational education and employment opportunities and also to provide vocational guidance which they can achieve their goals as well as national goals. The National Policy on Education 1986 emphasised its importance and observed, the introduction of systematic, well planned rigorously implemented programme of vocational education is crucial in the proposed educational reorganisation. Vocational education will be a distinct stream intended to prepare students for identifying vocations spanning several areas of activity. In the competitive world every aspiring students feeling the pressure of their secure future rather they should feel insecure in terms of vocation, choice of profession to live a healthy life. Thus, the investigator felt to made an attempt to assess the vocational interest of senior secondary school students in relation to their stream of study.

Objectives of the study:

1. To study the vocational interest of senior secondary school students in relation to their stream of studies.
2. To study the vocational interest of senior secondary school students of Arts (Humanities) stream.
3. To study the vocational interest of senior secondary school students of Commerce stream.
4. To study the vocational interest of senior secondary school students of Science (PCB) stream.
5. To study the vocational interest of senior secondary school students of Science (PCM) stream.

Tool Used for the Study:

For accessing the Vocational Interest of the respondents the researcher selected **Career Preference Record (CPR)**, developed in 2001 by Vivek Bhargava and Rajashree Bhargava.

Sample:

The sample for the present study was decided to include 208 students, comprising of 104 male and female respondents for each. The sample of the study has been selected from various schools of Aligarh district.

Table 1.1: Details of final sample

Stream of Study	Gender		Total
	Male	Female	
Science (PCM)	26	26	52
Science (PCB)	26	26	52
Commerce	26	26	52
Humanities	26	26	52

Data analysis:

The data collected through career preference record were scrutinized by the investigator and then the data were organized and categorized and differentiated on the basis of their gender, place of living and stream of study. This data were tabulated manually and systematically analyzed with the help of Microsoft office excel and SPSS software. After different operations like converting the data into a percentage, the findings were interpreted on the basis of objective format. Based on the analysis of data, findings and suggestions for further studies have been given. To categorize the students on the basis of their vocational interest, the researcher used the standards, calculated by using percentiles.

Table 1.2: Categorization Standards adopted for Raw Data

Area of vocation	Standards		
	Low preference	Average preference	High preference
MMJ, AD	0 – 5	6 – 10	Above 10
SCT	0 – 6	7 – 13	Above 13
AG	0 – 2	3 – 6	Above 6
CM	0 – 4	5 – 8	Above 8
M	0 – 3	4 – 11	Above 11
D	0 – 4	5 – 9	Above 9
TH	0 – 3	4 – 8	Above 8
LO, E	0 – 7	8 – 12	Above 12

Note: Minimum score 0 and maximum score 20

All the response sheets were scored and cross tab analysis (percentage) has been performed. All the obtained results have been tabulated and interpreted.

II. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

1. Preference of Mass Media & Journalism (MMJ) on the basis of stream of study:

Stream of study	Low Preference	Average preference	High Preference	Total sample
Commerce	18 (34.6%)	20 (38.5%)	14 (26.9%)	52
Humanities	13 (25.0%)	26 (50%)	13 (25%)	52
Science- (PCB)	14 (26.9%)	27 (51.9%)	11 (21.2%)	52
Science- (PCM)	23 (44.2%)	21 (40.4%)	8 (15.4%)	52
Total	68 (32.7%)	94 (45.2%)	46 (22.1%)	208

Commerce students has shown an average interest towards MMJ i.e., 20 constituting 38.5% of sample, while as 18 respondents belongs to low preference category constituting 34.6%, and only 26.9% respondents preferred MMJ as their first choice. Humanities students has shown an average interest towards MMJ i.e., 26 constituting 50% of sample, while as 13 respondents belong to low preference category constituting 25%, and another 25% respondents preferred MMJ as their first choice. Science (PCB) students has shown an average interest towards MMJ i.e., 27 constituting 51.9% of sample, while as 14 respondents marked a low preference, and only 11 respondents preferred MMJ as their first choice, comprising 21.2% from science (PCB). Majority students from Science (PCM) has shown alower interest towards MMJ i.e., 23 constituting 44.3%, while as 21 respondents belong to average category constituting 40.4%, and only 8 (15.4%) respondents preferred MMJ as their first choice.

2. Preference of Artistic & Designing (AD) on the basis of stream of study:

Stream of study	Low Preference	Average Preference	High Preference	Total
Commerce	21 (40.4%)	10 (19.2%)	21 (40.4%)	52
Humanities	21 (40.4%)	21 (40.4%)	10 (19.2%)	52
Science- PCB	15 (28.8%)	25 (48.1%)	12 (23.1%)	52
Science-PCM	19 (36.5%)	19 (36.5%)	14 (26.9%)	52
Total	76 (36.5%)	75 (36.1%)	57 (27.4%)	208

Commerce students has shown high and low preference for AD equally i.e., 21 respondents in each category comprising 40.4 %. While as only 10 respondents have shown average preference constituting 19.2% of the total sample. Humanities students has shown an lower to average interest towards AD i.e., 21 in each category constituting 40.4% of sample, while as only 10 respondents belong to high preference category constituting 19.2%. Science (PCB) stream students given average preference towards AD i.e., 25 constituting 48.1% of sample, while as 15 respondents belong to low preference category constituting 28.8%, and only 12 respondents preferred AD as their first choice, comprising 23.1%. From a sample of 52 from Science (PCM) students, majority has shown a lower to average interest towards MMJ i.e., 19 in each category constituting 36.5% of the sample, while as 14 (26.9%) respondents belong to high preference category.

3. Preference of Science & Technology (ScT) on the basis of stream of study:

Stream of study	Low Preference	Average Preference	High Preference	Total
Commerce	30 (57.7%)	14 (26.9%)	8 (15.4%)	52
Humanities	23 (44.2%)	23 (44.2%)	6 (11.5%)	52
Science- PCB	10 (19.2%)	21 (40.4%)	21 (40.4%)	52
Science-PCM	8 (15.4%)	26 (50.0%)	18 (34.6%)	52
Total	71 (34.1%)	84 (40.4%)	53 (25.5%)	208

Students from commerce stream has shown a low interest towards ScT i.e., 30 constituting 57.7% of sample, while as 14 respondents belong to average preference category constituting 26.9%, and only 8 respondents preferred ScT as their first choice, comprising 15.4% of the Total sample of commerce faculty. Humanities stream students has shown a low and average interest towards ScT equally i.e., 23 constituting 44.2% of sample, and only 6 respondents preferred ScT as their first choice, comprising 11.5% of the total sample. Science (PCB) students showing an average and high interest towards ScT equally i.e., 21 constituting 40.4% of sample, while as 10 (19.2%) respondents given low preference. Science (PCM) stream has shown an average interest towards ScT i.e., 26 constituting 50.0% of the sample, while as 8 respondents belong to low

category constituting 15.4%, and 18 respondents preferred ScT as their first choice, comprising 34.6% of the Total sample of Science (PCM).

4. Preference of Agriculture (AG) on the basis of stream of study:

Stream of study	Low Preference	Average Preference	High Preference	Total
Commerce	22 (42.3%)	20 (38.5%)	10 (19.2%)	52
Humanities	21 (40.4%)	20 (38.5%)	11 (21.2%)	52
Science- PCB	11 (21.2%)	18 (34.6%)	23 (44.2%)	52
Science-PCM	26 (50.0%)	11 (21.2%)	15 (28.8%)	52
Total	80 (38.5%)	69 (33.2%)	59 (28.4%)	208

Among a total sample of 52 from commerce faculty majority has shown a low interest towards AG i.e., 22 constituting 42.3% of sample, while as 20 respondents belong to average preference category constituting 38.5%, and only 10 respondents preferred AG as their first choice, comprising 19.2% of the Total sample of commerce faculty. From a sample of 52 from Humanities faculty majority has shown a low and average interest towards AG equally i.e., 21 constituting 40.4% and 20 constituting 38.5% of sample respectively, and only 11 respondents preferred AG as their first choice, comprising 21.2% of Humanities students. From a sample of 52 from Science (PCB) faculty majority has shown a high interest towards AG i.e., 23 constituting 44.2% of sample, while as 18 respondents belong to average preference category constituting 34.6%, and 11 respondents shown a low preference towards AG i.e., 21.2% of the total sample of Science (PCB). From a sample of 52 from Science (PCM) faculty majority has shown a low interest towards AG i.e., 26 constituting 50.0% of the sample, while as 11 respondents belong to average category constituting 21.2%, and 15 respondents preferred AG as their first choice, comprising 28.8% of the total sample of Science (PCM).

5. Preference of Commerce & Management (CM) on the basis of stream of study:

Stream of study	Low Preference	Average Preference	High Preference	Total
Commerce	10 (19.2%)	18 (34.6%)	24 (46.2%)	52
Humanities	20 (38.5%)	19 (36.5%)	13 (25.0%)	52
Science- PCB	23 (44.2%)	18 (34.6%)	11 (21.2%)	52
Science-PCM	26 (50.0%)	14 (26.9%)	12 (23.1%)	52
Total	79 (38%)	69 (33.2%)	60 (28.8%)	208

Students from commerce stream has shown a high interest towards CM i.e., 24 constituting 46.2% of sample, while as 18 respondents belong to average preference category constituting 34.6%, and only 10 respondents preferred CM as their least preference, comprising 19.2% of the total sample of commerce faculty. Arts students shown a low and average interest towards CM equally i.e., 20 constituting 38.5% of sample, and only 13 respondents preferred CM as their first choice, comprising 25.0% of the arts stream. Science (PCB) stream, majority has shown a low interest towards CM i.e., 23 constituting 44.2% of sample, while as 18 respondents belong to average preference category constituting 34.6%, of the total sample of Science (PCB). Science (PCM) faculty majority has shown a low interest towards CM i.e., 26 constituting 50.0% of the sample, while as 14 respondents belong to average category constituting 26.9%, and 12 respondents preferred CM as their first choice, comprising 23.1% of the total sample of Science (PCM).

6. Preference of Medical (M) on the basis of stream of study:

Stream of study	Low Preference	Average Preference	High Preference	Total
Commerce	26 (50.0%)	18 (34.6%)	8 (15.4%)	52
Humanities	25 (48.1%)	23 (44.2%)	4 (7.7%)	52
Science- PCB	3 (5.8%)	19 (36.5%)	30 (57.7%)	52
Science-PCM	10 (19.2%)	28 (53.8%)	14 (26.9%)	52
Total	64 (30.8%)	88 (42.3%)	55 (26.9%)	208

Commerce students has shown a low interest towards M i.e., 26 constituting 50.0% of sample, while as 18 respondents belong to average preference category constituting 34.6%, and only 8 respondents preferred M as their first choice, comprising 15.4% of the total sample of commerce faculty. From a total sample of 52 from Humanities faculty majority has shown a low and average interest towards M equally i.e., 25 constituting 48.1% of sample and 23 constituting 44.2% respectively, and only 4 respondents preferred M as their first choice, comprising 7.7% of the Total sample of Humanities faculty. Science (PCB) students has shown an high interest

towards M i.e., 30 constituting 57.7% of sample, while as 3 respondents belong to low preference category constituting 5.8%, only of the Total sample of Science (PCB). From a Total sample of 52 from Science (PCM) faculty majority has shown a average interest towards M i.e., 28 constituting 53.8% of the sample, while as 1% of respondents belong to low category constituting 19.2%, and 14 respondents preferred M as their first choice, comprising 26.9% of Science (PCM) students.

7. Preference of Defence(D) on the basis of stream of study:

Stream of study	Low Preference	Average Preference	High Preference	Total
Commerce	20 (38.5%)	17 (32.7%)	15 (28.8%)	52
Humanities	19 (36.5%)	20 (38.5%)	13 (25.0%)	52
Science- PCB	19 (36.5%)	19 (36.5%)	14 (26.9%)	52
Science-PCM	22 (42.3%)	18 (34.6%)	12 (23.1%)	52
Total	80 (38.5%)	74 (35.6%)	54 (26.0%)	208

Commerce students has shown a low interest towards D i.e., 20 constituting 38.5% of sample, while as 17 respondents belong to average preference category constituting 32.7%, and only 15 respondents preferred D as their first choice, comprising 28.8% samples of commerce faculty. From a total sample of 52 from humanities faculty majority has shown a low and average interest towards D almost equally i.e., 20 constituting 38.5% gave an average preference and 19 respondents constituting 36.5% has a low preference of total sample, and only 13 respondents preferred D as their first choice, comprising 25.0% of humanities students. Science (PCB) students has shown an average and low interest towards D equally i.e., 19 constituting 36.5% of sample respectively, while as 14 respondents belong to high preference category constituting 26.9% science (PCB) students. Science (PCM) stream students has shown a low interest towards D i.e., 22 constituting 42.3% of the sample, while as 18 respondents belong to average category constituting 34.6%, and 12 respondents preferred D as their first choice, comprising 23.1% from Science (PCM) stream.

8. Preference of Tourism & Hospitality Industry (TH) on the basis of stream of study:

Stream of study	Low Preference	Average Preference	High Preference	Total
Commerce	19 (36.5%)	16 (30.8%)	17 (32.7%)	52
Humanities	15 (28.8%)	22 (42.3%)	15 (28.8%)	52
Science- PCB	20 (38.5%)	21 (40.4%)	11 (21.2%)	52
Science-PCM	20 (38.5%)	22 (42.3%)	10 (19.2%)	52
Total	74 (35.6%)	81 (38.9%)	53 (25.5%)	208

Commerce students has shown a low interest towards TH i.e., 19 constituting 36.5% of sample, while as 17 respondents belong to high preference category constituting 32.7%, and 16 respondents has average preference for TH, comprising 30.8% students from commerce stream. Humanities students has shown an average interest towards TH, i.e., 22 constituting 42.3% of sample, and 15 respondents constituting 28.8% of the samples are showing a low preference and same number shown a high preference towards TH. Science (PCB) students has shown an average interest towards TH i.e., 21 constituting 40.4% of sample, while as 20 respondents belong to low preference category constituting 38.5%, of the totalsample of Science (PCB). While PCM students showing an average interest towards TH i.e., 22 constituting 42.3% of the sample, while as 20 respondents belong to low category constituting 38.5%, and 10 respondents preferred TH as their first choice, comprising 19.2%.

9. Preference of Law & Order (LO) on the basis of stream of study:

Stream of study	Low Preference	Average Preference	High Preference	Total
Commerce	18 (34.6%)	20 (38.5%)	14 (26.9%)	52
Humanities	11 (21.2%)	23 (44.2%)	18 (34.6%)	52
Science- PCB	25 (48.1%)	18 (34.6%)	9 (17.3%)	52
Science-PCM	20 (38.5%)	27 (51.9%)	5 (9.6%)	52
Total	74 (35.6%)	88 (42.3%)	46 (22.1%)	208

Students from commerce stream are showing an average interest towards LO i.e., 20 constituting 38.5% of sample, while as 18 respondents belong to low preference category constituting 34.6%, and 14 respondents preferred LO as their first choice, comprising 26.9% of commerce stream. Humanities students showing an average interest towards LO i.e., 23 constituting 44.2% of sample, and 18 respondents preferred LO as their first choice, comprising 34.6% and 11 respondents preferred least comprising 21.2%. Science (PCB)

stream students has shown a low interest towards LO i.e., 25 constituting 48.1% of sample, while as 18 respondents belong to average preference category constituting 34.6%. While PCM students has shown a average interest towards LO i.e., 27 constituting 51.9% of the sample, while as 20 respondents belong to low category constituting 38.5%, and 5 respondents preferred LO as their first choice, comprising 9.6% of the sample.

10. Preference of Education (E) on the basis of stream of study:

Stream of study	Low Preference	Average Preference	High Preference	Total
Commerce	20(38.5%)	23 (44.2%)	9 (17.3%)	52
Humanities	11 (21.2%)	31 (59.6%)	10 (19.2%)	52
Science- PCB	17 (32.7%)	20(38.5%)	15 (28.8%)	52
Science-PCM	18 (34.6%)	20 (38.5%)	14 (26.9%)	52
Total	66 (31.7%)	94 (45.2%)	48 (23.1%)	208

Commerce studentsshowing an average interest towards Education i.e., 23 constituting 44.2% of sample, while as 20 respondents belong to low preference category constituting 38.5%, and only 9 respondents preferred Education as their first choice, comprising 17.7% of total sample. In humanities stream, majority has shown an average interest towards Edcation i.e., 31 constituting 59.6% of sample, and 10 respondents preferred E as their first choice, comprising 19.2%. An average interest is shown by science students towards E i.e., 20 constituting 38.5% of sample, while as 17 respondents belong to low preference category constituting 32.7%. PCM students showing an average interest towards Education i.e., 20 constituting 38.5% of the sample, while as 18 respondents belong to low category constituting 34.6%, and 14 respondents preferred E as their first choice, comprising 26.9% of Science (PCM) students.

III. FINDINGS

From the present study after the detailed analysis and interpretation, the main focus of students are as follows; majority students reveals average preference towards mass media and journalism. While as PCM students are not highly interested in this area as compared to other streams.Commerce students reveal higher preference towards artistic & designing area, followed by science students and then by students belonging to humanities stream.Science students, (both PCM and PCB) showed a relatively high vocational interest in Science & Technology area as compared to commerce and humanities students.PCB students revealed higher preference for the vocations of agricultural areas, PCM students showed lower preferred, while as majority of students belonging to Commerce and humanities streams are in low and average group.Commerce students are highly interested in Commerce & Management area than other streams. Students from all other streams are less interest in this area of vocation.PCB students reveal higher interest towards medical area. While as mathematics as well as commerce and humanities students are have revealed low and average interest in this area of vocation.Thereis almost an equal percentage of students in low, average, and high preference groups for vocational areas of defence.Commerce and humanities students revealed higher interest than science students for the vocations of tourism & hospitality industry. Large number of humanities and science students are coming under average preference group, it showing that they are moderately interested in this area.In the areas of law & order it is clear that the humanities and commerce students have comparatively higher interest towards this vocational area as compared to science stream students.Science students have higher interest than commerce and humanities students to the areas of education as a vocation. Commerce and Humanities students prefer education on average basis as an area of vocation.

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