



## Role of Stream on the Occupational Aspirations and Career Maturity of the Students of Senior Secondary

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### ABSTRACT

The adolescents' occupational aspirations is affected by various factors such as intelligence, emotional stability, growth and development, peer group interest, family background, social and economic life and the cognitive maturity to select a career according to the one's interest and needs. Adolescents' career maturity is influenced by the attitude and the competencies of the individual. The study focused on finding out the relation between occupational aspirations and career maturity of the senior secondary school students according to their streams of study. The results of the study indicated no significant correlation between the occupational aspirations and career maturity of the arts stream senior secondary school students and it also shows no significant correlation between the occupational aspirations and career maturity of the Science stream students of senior secondary classes.

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## 1. Introduction

The concept of career maturity originated from the term vocational maturity and it refers to the person's degree of readiness to choose, prepare well and plan for the future vocation. Career maturity has been considered as a prerequisite essential ability to make a right choice of the occupation and fulfill career related needs. It is assumed that maturity development occurs along a continuum of thinking and cognition; higher the maturity of the person, the greater is the likelihood that person is able to cope with developmental tasks at various stages of the professional career. Therefore, the career maturity involves forming interests and developing attitude in making consistent and competent to make choices towards the career. But making right career choices is quite a difficult task. Career choice has to be based on good and realistic decisions taken at a proper age. If the right career choice is made at an appropriate stage then the rest of life sails smoothly thereby providing an individual a personal gratification, contentment and fulfillment of life.

The thoughts, feelings, fantasies and goals of an individual regarding the areas of work affecting the

motivation as well as the decision making for the occupational choice and subsequent involvement in occupation is basically termed as occupational aspirations. Occupational aspirations are important for understanding an individual's self-concept, behavior related to the career and attitude, assessment of the effect of social factors on the available opportunities and hence the future educational aspiration and choices related to the career and their extent of attainment. Hoppe (1930) opined that "the level of aspiration represents a person's expectations, goal, claims, or his future achievement in a given task". Rojewski (2005) opined that "occupational aspirations refers to an individual's expressed career related goals or choices". Johnson (1995) defined "the occupational aspirations as expressions of occupational goals, leading several authors to regard them as important career motivational variables, proving to be predictive of later career attainment levels". Van Tuijl & Van der Molen (2016) explored the role of study choice on the career decisions of the young adults and observed that carried choices have roots in earlier childhood expectations. The authors observed that aspirations are important in making the study choice and hence career development

of the young children and the factors affecting the carries development are knowledge of subject, affective values, the beliefs and self-efficacy building among the students. Gutman and Schoon (2018) conducted a study titled “Aiming high, aiming low, not knowing where to go: Career aspirations and later outcomes of adolescents with special educational needs” to investigate the role of the early career aspirations of adolescents in predicting the educational achievement and the occupational outcomes of the adolescents. The author investigated the difference in career aspirations of the children having special educational needs and those with normal educational behaviour. The study predicted the higher later educational and employment outcomes among students having high career aspirations at age 14 as compared to the age of 16 to 20 for adolescents with special educational in comparison to those without special education needs. Thus there is need to identify the career aspirations in early adolescence and adopt suitable strategies to encourage them to attain their career potential.

Studies have shown that the career choices and achievements are affected by the occupational aspirations of adolescents (Wu, 2012). Davis (2013) found positive and significant correlation between the academic performance and educational requirement for the specific occupations before attending the school and after entering into the high school stage. The future occupational aspirations are affected by the academic self-concept at high school stage (Guo et al. 2015). Malik (2015) found that there is significant relationship between the performance in academics and attitude towards their school and their later occupational choice. Andleeb and Ansari (2016) carried out a detailed comparative study to explore the correlation between career maturity of the adolescents and occupational aspirations and found weak and negative correlation between occupational aspirations of the adolescents and their career maturity. Therefore the researches focusing on the occupational aspiration, and career maturity of students reveals that the career choices of the students are influenced by many factors social as well as psychological, and the academic achievement.

## 2. The Rationale of the Study

Senior secondary stage is the stage to make career planning and think of future career options. The

career choices are basically linked to their occupational aspirations which greatly influence the personality of an individual, particularly the senior secondary students. The career decisions at this stage affect the subsequent educational and vocational choices. Career maturity of the secondary students comes through exposure and academic awareness in different fields. The students opt for different streams depending upon their maturity of career planning. Career choice has to be based on good and realistic decisions taken at an appropriate age, the right career choice made at an appropriate stage make the rest of life smooth and contented. Studies have revealed that the career choices and achievements are significantly influenced by the occupational aspirations of adolescents (Wu, 2012). Due to parental pressure students choose a stream of study to go to occupations such as doctors, engineer irrespective of their requisite capabilities, which causes a lot of frustration and dissatisfaction among the students. Therefore, the study undertaken was planned to explore whether occupational aspirations, in any way of the senior secondary school students of various streams is linked to their career maturity.

## 3. The Objectives of the Study

1. To find out the relationship between occupational aspirations of arts stream senior secondary students and their career maturity
2. To find out the relationship between occupational aspirations of science stream secondary students and their career maturity

## 4. The Hypotheses of the Study

The null hypotheses planned and formulated as under were tested in this study:

1. There exist no significant correlation between occupational aspirations and career maturity of the arts stream senior secondary students.
2. There exist no significant correlation between occupational aspirations and career maturity of the of science stream secondary student.

## 5. The Design and Procedure of the Study

The main focus of this present study was to find the relation between occupational aspiration and career maturity of the senior secondary school adolescents.

The present study was carried out by using descriptive survey method. Further, the study was delimited to two variables viz. career maturity and occupational aspirations. The sample taken for the study consisted of 200 students of senior secondary classes of different government schools in Chandigarh from Arts as well as Science streams divided equally. The standardized tools used for the research were the Career Maturity Inventory (CMI) by John O' Crites (1978) and its Indian adaptation by Nirmala Gupta (1989) and Occupational Aspiration Scale (OAS) by J.S. Grewal (1973). The tools were administered to the target groups as per the instructions mentioned in their respective manuals.

### 6. The Analysis of Data and the Interpretation of Results

The data so collected through the specified tools was analysed by employing descriptive techniques and using the inferential statistics. The results so obtained were thus interpreted accordingly. The data concerning the occupational aspiration of the senior school students as well as their career maturity of the total sample was analysed and the coefficient of correlation computed and is depicted in Table 1 below.

**Table 1:** Correlation between Occupational Aspiration of the Arts stream students and their Career Maturity.

Variables	N	Mean	r - value	Level of significance
Career maturity	100	56.49	0.15	Not Significant
Occupational Aspirations	100	47.82		

(Critical values of  $r = 0.196$  at 0.05 and 0.254 at 0.01 level,  $df = 99$ )

From the above Table no. 1, it is quite clear that the mean score of the career maturity of the total sample of the arts stream students is 56.49 and the mean score of the occupational aspiration of Arts stream students is 47.82, the coefficient of correlation between career maturity and occupational aspiration is 0.15, which is even quite lesser than that of the table value of 0.196 against the 0.05 level of significance testing. Thus, the results indicate that correlation between occupational aspiration of the students and the career maturity of the

Arts stream senior secondary students of the schools is not significant at 0.05 level of significance.

**Table 2:** Correlation between Occupational Aspiration of the Science stream students and their Career Maturity.

Variables	N	Mean	r - value	Level of significance
Career maturity	100	62.97	0.02	Not significant
Occupational Aspirations	100	52.96		

(Critical values of  $r = 0.196$  at 0.05 and 0.254 at 0.01 level,  $df = 99$ )

From the above Table no. 2, it is quite clear that the mean score of the career maturity is found to be 62.97 and the mean of occupational aspiration is 52.96, the coefficient of correlation between career maturity and occupational aspiration is 0.02, which is even quite lesser than that of the table value of 0.196 against the 0.05 level of significance testing. Thus, the results indicate the correlation between occupational aspiration of the students and the career maturity of the Science stream senior secondary students of the schools is not significant at 0.05 level of significance testing.

There are limitations with regards to the sample size and the population and the study can be replicated to the larger population covering different streams of study instead of only two streams offering wide spectrum of subject choices. The important implication of the study is the predicted value in the rightful career options for the youth. The study also had limited scope in the sample distribution and the same could be used to cover wider area with different cultural and social background of the student population.

### Conclusions

Analysis and interpretation of results of the study reveals that: i) there is a variation in career maturity of the Arts and Science stream senior secondary students, ii) there is also variation in occupational aspiration of the Arts and Science stream senior secondary students, iii) there exist not much significant correlation between occupational aspiration of Arts stream senior secondary students of school and their career maturity, iv) there exist not much significant correlation between

occupational aspiration of Science stream senior secondary students of school and their career maturity. The results of the study were supported by the findings of the Andleeb & Ansari (2016). The study suggests that the scheme of study have no significant bearing on the relationship of occupational aspirations of the students of senior secondary and their career maturity.

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