



## VOCATIONAL MATURITY OF SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS AS RELATED TO THEIR SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

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### *Abstract*

The study was conducted to study of vocational maturity of senior secondary school students as related to their school environment. . For this purpose a limited sample consists of 200 Secondary School Teacher from different schools of Ferozepur City and adjoining areas were taken. The data was collected by School Environment Inventory by Dr karuna Shankar Misra, and Vocational Attitude Maturity Scale by Dr. (Mrs.) Manju Mehta. After analyze the data it was found there is significant difference between the school environment of Government and Private senior secondary students. Private schools provide more congenial atmosphere than Government schools.



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Everyone has to do something or the other in one's life. Work is essential for living, there is no place on earth where life can be maintained without work. The importance of work in the life of an individual can hardly ever be estimated. Work is the condition of life and all the enjoyments. Every parent has high dreams for the bright future of their children. They want their children to touch the sky that means their expectations, hopes, aspirations are high and children have to suffer sometimes because of their Parents' high hopes on them. Vocation is the greatest need of today. Occupation thus become much more than a mere means of producing necessities, comforts and luxuries. Different People hope for different vocations in accordance with their interest, aptitudes, values, status etc.

The future prospect of every country rests on the human and material resources it includes educational system, vocational set-up etc. Education is a powerful mean for providing all kinds of necessary information, preparing for suitable educational and vocational courses, educating for discriminant behaviour and leading to fruitful vocational choices.

The generalized vocational preference becomes specified choice during the late adolescence. The individual shows confidence in the specific preference and an attitude of commitment to it. Implementation is the task of early adulthood. This is possible only by

entering the appropriate field of work. Once an individual gains entry into an appropriate field of work, or job, he begins implementing his self concept and establishing stability.

Maturity is that stage at which development has reached its maximum and growth has ceased, applied to cells, organs, functions both physical and mental and entire organism. The maturity depends upon inheritance but the effect of environment cannot be overlooked. By effective changes in the environment, changes may be brought about in normal motivation.

Maturity is of various types such as physical, moral, sexual, intellectual, social, emotional, educational and vocational maturity.

**Vocational Maturity** is one of the primary construct of vocational psychology, which allows assessing both rate and level of an individual's development with respect to vocational choice. The problem of facilitation of vocational maturity can be said as one of the important problems in developing country like India.

Vocational maturity is the degree to which one has reached a point in the development in cognitive, emotional and other psychological factors where by acquires the capacity of making realistic mature choices.

**Batdwin (1955)** identified three basic features of vocational maturity cognition, goal selection and goal directed behaviour.

**Vocational maturity is thus defined as;**

“the process of involving an adolescent, involvement in the process of vocational choices, his orientations towards the problem of vocational choices, his independence in decision making, his reference for factors in vocational choice and his concept of vocational choices.”

When a child is aware of different types of vocations and he is ready to settle a proper vocation for himself means he has become vocationally mature. Vocational maturity is used to denote the level of vocational development of an individual. **Vocational maturity depends upon various factors like Intelligence, need Achievement, Interest, Adjustment, Economics, Vocational Environment and Educational choice.**

There are various environmental factors such as Home, school, Society, Peer group, neighbourhood etc. may effect the level of vocational maturity of students.

**School environment** is an important factor that affects the vocational maturity of the child.

In this complex and dynamic society, role of education is also becoming more and more difficult and complicated. The process of education is not that simple as it used to be in the past. Research and development in all aspects of education related fields are going on.

Consequently all the concerned individuals, the teacher, educationists, administrators and even layman feel the urge to make evaluation pattern better than ever before and turn it into an important national agency.

**John Dewey** regards schools not as preparation for life, but life in itself.”

Hence school is a specialized agency which has become quite important in the growing complexities of culture and civilization because of the increasing knowledge which every individual needs to acquire in order to live a full life, the knowledge about changes in the methods of production, distribution and exchange, the knowledge of the effects of the fast increasing industrialization, the knowledge of the human body imparted by biological, medical and allied science, the knowledge of history, international affairs etc.

A school is a vibrant community centre, radiating life and energy all round. A school is wonderful office resting on the foundation of goodwill of the public. The society establishes school for the provision of education for its members. In the ancient times, when the society was simple and the knowledge had not advanced much, education was usually given by the family and religious institution.

The profession for each one has to be chosen in the accordance with his abilities, interest and aptitude can only then be efficient in his vocation. So in present time, his choice of vocation is not solely dependent upon his family. As the society grew complex and its store of knowledge enhanced, the need of a formal agency like school was felt.

In the school various types of educational and vocational courses that affect the vocational maturity of students are provided.

The school provides simple, pure interesting and well organized environment to a child according to a pre planned scheme which ensures the harmonious development of child. School environment comes under the heading of internal environment. It can be defined as an aggregate of all these psychological and social conditions that determine the mental, social, emotional, intellectual growth and development of the child.

At higher classes, +1, +2 stage students have to make relevant choices in subjects, so that they can select a vocation for themselves. So it is very important that they should be mature enough to select a right vocation for themselves. Vocational choice can make or mar the career of the students. It is not an easy task. Proper guidance should be given to the children, so that they can choose vocations according to their abilities, interests, capacities, potentialities etc. These choices are influenced by many hereditary and environmental factors. As hereditary factors cannot be changed but developed so, environmental factors go a

long way in making individuals vocationally mature. The environments like home, school, society, neighbourhood, peer-group etc. highly influence the vocational maturity of students. So, the present study is planned to find out the effect of school environment on the level of vocational maturity of senior secondary school students.

### **NEED OF THE STUDY**

**"The wealth of the world is created by the work of skilled hands on raw materials" –Dwight D. Eisenhower.**

Vocation is the greatest need of today. The choice of vocation is one of the very important decisions a person must make for himself and this choice is long process rather than a simple incident vocational choice take place as a result of development process that has been traced to the early days of individual's life. The nature of career pattern is determined by the individual's parental socio-economic level mental ability and personality characteristic and by the opportunities to which he is exposed. The individual is a product of his environment, his inherent aptitude and neural endocrinal makeup.

The vocational maturity of the children has found to be largely determined by the environment. Besides this, it is also accepted fact that the hereditary characteristics also play their role in the vocational maturity.

The category of students needs to be studied and it is assumed that school may be important variable that effect the vocational maturity of the students although they possess a good hereditary characteristic. Researches indicate that school plays a crucial role in determining the vocational maturity of students. The present study is designed to test this assumption.

### **STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

The Problem under investigation is stated as :

"Vocational Maturity of Senior Secondary School Students as Related to their School Environment".

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

The study aims to achieve the following objectives

1. To study the nature of school environment of senior secondary school students (Boys & Girls).
2. To study the level of vocational maturity of senior secondary school students.
3. To study the effect of school environment on the level of vocational maturity of senior secondary school students.

4. To study the vocational maturity of senior secondary school students (Boys & girls) studying in government and private schools.

### **HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY**

1. There is significant effect of school environment on the vocational maturity of senior secondary school students.
2. There is significant difference between vocational maturity of senior secondary school students studying in government and private school in relation to their school environment.
3. There is significant difference of school environment of govt. and private schools.
4. There is significant difference between vocational maturity of boys and girls' students of government senior secondary schools.
5. There is significant difference between vocational maturity of boys and girls' students of private Sr. Sec. schools.

### **SAMPLE OF THE STUDY**

The sample of the study consists of 200 students (100 boys and 100 girls) studying at Govt. Senior Secondary Schools and Private school areas randomly.

### **METHOD OF THE STUDY**

The descriptive and survey method was employed for the present study.

### **TOOLS USED FOR THE STUDY**

School Environment Inventory by Dr karuna Shankar Misra

Vocational Attitude Maturity Scale by Dr. (Mrs.) Manju Mehta

### **DELIMITATION OF THE STUDY**

- a) Vocational maturity of the students depends upon so many factors but in the present study one factor has been taken up i.e. school environment.
- b) The sample of the study includes Govt. and private schools of Ferozepur District only.
- c) The study is confined to Senior Secondary School students only.
- d) The study is restricted to 200 students only.

### **MAJOR FINDINGS**

The following are the major findings of the study:-

1. With regard to the first objective, "**To study the nature of school environment of senior secondary school students**", it is found that Mean score has been found to be 176.3 With S.D 36.58 and 24.5% students are receiving congenial school

environment, Whereas 18.5% students are having uncongenial school environment .About 57% students are receiving an average type of school environment.

2. As far as the second objective , "**To study the level of vocational maturity of senior secondary school students**", is concerned. Mean score has been found to be 9.67 with S.D 2.01 . It is found that 7% Students have high level of vocational maturity while others 7% have low level of vocational maturity and 86% students have an average level of vocational maturity.
3. As regards the level of vocational maturity of students of Government senior secondary schools is concerned. Mean Score comes to be 8.35 with S.D 2.76. It is found that only 2% students have high level of vocational maturity while 10% students have low level of vocational maturity whereas 88% students have average level of Vocational maturity.
4. With regard to the level of vocational maturity of students of Private Senior Secondary schools is concerned. Mean Score comes to be 11.14 with S.D 3.28 .it is found that 14% students of Private Schools have high level of vocational maturity while 4% have low level of vocational maturity and 82% have average level of vocational maturity.
5. As regards the level of vocational maturity of Boys studying in of Government senior secondary schools is concerned, mean score comes to be 8.38 with S.D. = 2.01 . It is found that no boy has high level of vocational maturity and 6% boys have low level of vocational maturity. Whereas 94% boys have an average level of vocational maturity.
6. With regard to the level of vocational maturity of Girls studying in Government senior secondary schools is concerned. Mean 8.32 with S.D. 3.24, it is found that 4% have high level of vocational maturity and 14% girls have low level of vocational maturity. While 82% girls have an average level of vocational maturity.
7. As regards to the level of vocational maturity of Boys of Private Senior Secondary schools is concerned. Mean comes to be 11.62 with S.D 3.13. 16% Boys of Private Schools have high level of vocational maturity .only 2% Boys have low level of vocational maturity and 82% Boys have average level of vocational maturity.
8. As regards to the level of vocational maturity of Girls of Private Senior Secondary schools is concerned. Mean comes to be 11.32 with S.D 3.45, it is found that 12% Girls of Private Schools have high level of vocational maturity .and 6% Girls have

low level of vocational maturity While 82% Girls have average level of vocational maturity.

9. As far as the School environment of Government and Private school students is concerned , the t-value calculated between the mean scores of students of Government and Private schools, is calculated to be 4.64 which is significant at both 0.05 and 0.01 levels . It means that there is a significant difference between the school environment of Government Senior secondary schools and Private Senior. Secondary schools. **Hence the hypotheses that there is a significant difference of school environment of Govt. and Private schools has been accepted.**
10. As regards the effect of school environment on vocational maturity of Senior Secondary school students is concerned, ‘t’ value between the mean score of the vocational maturity of senior secondary school students studying in government and private schools has been calculated to be 6.49, which is significantly at 0.05 and 0.01 levels respectively which shows that type school environment has significant effect on the level of vocational maturity of Senior Secondary School students. **Hence the hypotheses ,” There is significant effect of school environment on the level of vocational maturity of senior Secondary school students has been accepted.**

The above results correlates with the study conducted by Upma Dhillon and Rajinder Kaur, GNDU, Amritsar which was taken from journal of Indian Academy of Applied Psychology, Jan-July 2005. The study revealed that on comparison of Public and Government schools, the results clearly indicate that the students of Public schools possess a higher career maturity attitude, career maturity competence as well as self concept and achievement motivation.

11. As regards the effect of Government schools on vocational maturity of secondary school students (Boys and Girls) is concerned, ‘t’ value between the mean score of the vocational maturity of Boys and Girls of Government schools has been calculated to be 0.1 and it is non-significant at both 0.05 and 0.01 level . This shows that there is no significant difference between the vocational maturity of Boys and Girl’s students of Government Senior secondary schools. **Hence the hypothesis ,” There is significant difference between vocational maturity of boys and girls students of Govt. Senior Secondary schools has been rejected.**

The above result correlates with the study conducted by Chand . H. in which one of the finding was that sex differences in rural or urban background differences were not significantly related to vocational maturity of the students.

12. As regards the effect of Private schools on vocational maturity of Senior Secondary school students (Boys and Girls) is concerned, 't' value between the mean score of the vocational maturity of Boys and Girls' students of Private Senior Secondary schools has been calculated to be 0.45 and it is non-significant at both 0.05 and 0.01 level . this means that there is no significant difference between the vocational maturity of Boys and Girl's students of Private Senior secondary schools.

**Hence the hypothesis , "There is no significant difference between vocational maturity of boys and girls' students of Private Senior Secondary schools has been rejected".**

#### **CONCLUSION:**

On the basis of above findings, the following conclusions have been drawn:-

1. As far as the nature of school environment is concerned,. it has been found that the majority of students are receiving Average school environment and some are receiving congenial and some others Uncongenial school environment.
2. It has been concluded that majority of senior secondary school students either Govt. or Private are having average level of vocational maturity whereas only a few have either high or low vocational maturity.
3. It has been concluded that there is significant difference between the school environment of Government and Private senior secondary students. Private schools provide more congenial atmosphere than Government schools.
4. It has been concluded that there is significant effect of school environment on the level of Vocational maturity of senior secondary school students. Private school students are more vocationally maturity than Govt. school Students.
5. It has been concluded that there is no significant difference between the vocational maturity of Boys and Girls' students of Govt. senior secondary schools.
6. It has been concluded that there is no significant difference between the vocational maturity of boys and girls students of private senior secondary schools.

#### **SUGGESTIONS FOR THE FURTHER STUDY**

Research in any branch of human knowledge is never a closed book . There is always persistent need for finding solutions to new problems and testing the variety of solutions to



other problems. There is no piece of meaningful research that does not provide clues for further investigation. The present study open up certain avenues for further research which are briefly listed below:-

1. A similar study can be conducted on a larger sample, So that the results obtained may be more reliable.
2. The study of same nature can be undertaken for the different districts of the state.
3. A similar study can be conducted by taking into consideration other variables such as socio-economic status, achievement, motivation, interest ,home-environment etc.
4. The same study can be extended to other levels of education.
5. A comparative study can be conducted with respect to different streams of students in order to find out their level of vocational maturity

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