



A STUDY OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND PARENTAL EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND OF FIRST YEAR MEDICAL STUDENTS IN MEDICAL COLLEGE BHAVNGAR

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ABSTRACT:-

Carrier selection is one of the important major question in student life. Various factors affects individual's carrier selection. Among various factors socioeconomic status and parental educational background is most important, which affects student's carrier selection. More than student's interest in particular field for higher education he should be affordable for necessary money required as well he should have proper guidance and inspiration for higher education. Primary guidance of students starts at home so if parents are highly qualified in education, student can get good guidance and motivation at home. In present study we tried to evaluate Socio-economic and Parental educational background of Medical students. Study was conducted in first year medical students of Govt. Medical College, Bhavnagar. Students were given objective questionnaire regarding information like their native place whether in urban or rural area, income of their parents and educational level of their parents. Data was compiled and analyzed. It was observed that students from good socio-economical and high parental educational background have good chances to get admission in good professional courses. Schools in rural area should be upgraded and this students should provide necessary help and guidance to meet their needs.

KEY WORDS: Socio-economic status, educational background, Medical Students, Bhavnagar

INTRODUCTION

Carrier selection is not only a question for individual in student life but also affects individual's whole life. Individual passes his whole life in a field which he has selected as a carrier in his student life and has to be a useful person for not only his family but also for whole society. If a student selects a field of higher education of his own choice, he will not only perform well in study but it will help him to explore his inner potential and than his study would not become his burden.

But in our society individual is connected with his family as well as with society. And in our society one has to perform well in social life after completing his educational life. And this two things affect each other. Thus apart from individual's interest, Factors like parent's educational background, parent's socio-economical status, guidance, job opportunities, social status of degree holders, also affect individual's carrier selection.

In all this factors primary important one is parent's educational background and parent's socio-economical status. Agulanna and Nwachukwu^{1,2} posited that students differ from one another in social class or socio-economic status. Socio-economic status they defined as a relative standing in society based on an individual's income, power, occupation, education and prestige. According to them, it would not be wrong to say that the children of bankers, doctors, teachers, merchants and so on have different upbringing from that experienced by children of peasant farmers, domestic workers, cleaners, laborers, petty traders and so on.

Parents are primary source of advice to students in helping them to select their career. Guerra and Braungart-Rieker,⁴ in studies find that the family appears to play a critical role in a child's career development.³ Otto⁵, in studies also find important role of family in child's career development.³ Numerous studies^{6,7} have found that college students and young adults cite parents as an important influence on their choice of career.³ Some research^{6,9} suggests that both parent

education and income influence career aspirations, whereas other research^{8,10,11} indicates only parent education is an influence.³ Other family variables that have been shown to influence career aspirations include the parents' occupation¹², and family size^{3,13}

Students of low socioeconomic status usually selects field of higher study were they can complete their study early so that they can start earning. While students of high and middle socioeconomic status selects field of higher study were they can get progress in study and good job.¹⁵ Parental socio-economic status and intelligence have either facilitatory or inhibitory effect on the child depending on the traits inherited of the environment in which he is brought up.¹ Educated parents can guide their children well about different carrier selections and student can get good information at home. And any higher education study requires money, so economically sound parents can manage for required amount of money for higher educational studies for their children.

Though reason is not known but relationship exists between father's occupation and his son's career choice, and this relationship influences the career choice of some students.¹ In this way if father is doctor he would like his son to select his career as doctor.

Olayinka¹⁴ also found that children with low socioeconomic status view education and occupation as a means to better their status and economic conditions, while children with high socioeconomic status view education and occupation as a means of entering into a profession similar to their parents.¹⁵

In our society Doctors gets popularity, respect, high social status and good earning as well. Good number of students wish to be a doctor. parent's educational background, parent's socio-economical status is also a major factor affecting individual to select his carrier as a doctor.

In present era of higher education, Parents from any socio-economical status & educational background wishes that their child should be in good professional course like Medical

field. In present study we tried to evaluate Socio-economic and Parental educational background of Medical students of Govt. Medical College Bhavnagar

MATERIAL AND METHOD:-

Study was conducted at Govt. Medical college, Bhavnagar in 86, 1st year M.B.B.S. students. Out of 86 students 31 were female students and 55 were male students. Subjects were given predesigned objective questionnaire regarding their parents' socioeconomic and educational status. Questionnaire contains information regarding residence of parents like whether they belong to urban or rural area, location of their schools as whether schools were in rural or urban area, educational level of parents as upto higher secondary, upto graduation or postgraduation, and their monthly income. Data was compiled and analyzed statistically

RESULT:-

Table:1 number of male and female students having native in urban or in rural area and number students having their school location in urban and in rural areal

| Location | Female | Male | Total |
|------------------------------|--------|------|-------|
| Urban (native) | 22 | 32 | 54 |
| Rural(native) | 9 | 23 | 32 |
| Urban(location of school) | 25 | 44 | 69 |
| Rural (location of school) | 6 | 11 | 17 |

Urban/rural ratio for native is 1.69:1
Urban/rural ratio for location of school is 4.06:1

Table:-2 percentage of male and female students according to their family income

| Monthly income of family in Rs. | % in Female | % in Male | % Total |
|---------------------------------|-------------|-----------|---------|
| Less than 15000 | 25.8 | 49.09 | 40.69 |
| 15000 to 30000 | 48.38 | 36.36 | 40.69 |
| More than 30000 | 9.67 | 5.45 | 6.97 |
| Unanswered | 16.12 | 9.09 | 11.62 |

Table:-3 percentage of male and female students according to their parent's education

| Father's education | % in Female | % in Male | % Total |
|------------------------------|-------------|-----------|---------|
| Upto higher secondary | 25.81 | 34.55 | 31.4 |
| Graduation or postgraduation | 74.19 | 65.45 | 68.6 |
| Mother's education | | | |
| Upto higher secondary | 38.71 | 61.82 | 53.49 |
| Graduation or postgraduation | 61.29 | 38.18 | 46.51 |

DISCUSSION:-

It is difficult to make a large generalization from a single study about importance of parents socioeconomic and educational background on student's carrier selection. And also sometimes finding of mixed results makes the task more harder. Some findings of the present study correlate with the previous study. From the present study certain things can be highlighted.

For male student's native, urban/rural ratio is 1.39:1 and for female students it is 2.44:1. For location of school, in female students urban/ rural ratio is 4.17:1 and for male students it is 4:1. For all student's native urban/rural ratio is 1.69:1, while location of schooling in urban/ rural area ratio is 4.06:1, which indicates that the students who is residing in urban area or whose parents to manage their schooling is in urban area would get good chance of good educational facilities.

It is found in study¹⁶ that socioeconomic status affects the occupational and educational aspirations of female high school seniors.¹⁵ A strong positive correlation is showed in study¹⁷ between family socioeconomic status and an individual's occupational aspirations and attainment.¹⁵ Bogie¹⁸ in his study in high school seniors, found that socioeconomic status was a strong predictor of the

discrepancy between an individual's occupational aspirations and selection.¹⁵

When considering occupations, students of high socioeconomic status, would like occupations that would allow them to achieve personal goals and skills and meet family professional expectations while those with low socioeconomic stressed security and betterment of income, which is consistent with Bogie's¹⁸ finding.¹⁵ DeCharms¹⁹ described this phenomenon accurately by explaining that people who are able, through, class membership, family resources, or present position, to acquire more easily valued achievement outcomes like status, security, economic advantage¹⁵

Incomewise most students belong to middle class family. It is general consideration in society that doctors would earn more and become economically sound after completing study. And middle class families would have tendency to direct their children in good earning profession. This picture can be seen in the study. Regarding parents education, father of 68.6% of students have educational qualification upto graduate or postgraduate level while mothers of 46.51% of students have educational qualification upto graduate or postgraduate level. And if we observe results combinely of mother's and father's education than also approximately more than 50% of parents, father as well as mother, are having good educational qualification. Students having educated parents can get good guidance for his carrier selection at home.

Some studies^{6,9} suggests that parent's income and education influence career aspirations.³

If parents are having good educational qualification they would like their child also would have good higher educational qualification.

Although this study is admittedly limited by its use of a small sample, it does provide some useful results. Perhaps the most interesting finding is the important relationship between socioeconomic status and occupational aspiration, a finding in agreement with several investigations that have been conducted in the United States.^{15,16,18,20}

CONCLUSION:-

Students from good socio-economical and high parental educational background have good chances to get admission in good professional courses. Socioeconomic status and parental educational background has much influence on student's higher education selection.

Schools in the rural area should be made capable to provide necessary inputs to students to achieve their educational goals. Guidance centers should be established to help low socioeconomic status students and needed students should be provided economic help in the form of scholarships.

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