

# Analysis on the Awareness of Career Development Among High School Students

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**ABSTRACT:** Career planning is of utmost importance for high school students. It involves selecting a career path that aligns with job aspirations. To gain deeper insights into this process, an analysis was conducted to examine the level of career awareness among grade 9–12 students from Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya Kabirdham, Chhattisgarh, India. Specifically, this study aimed to assess the level of career awareness among students, identify their sources of information, and understand their challenges. The results revealed that career counselors play an important role in shaping the career paths of students.

## INTRODUCTION

The term “career,” as defined by the Britannica Dictionary, refers to a long-term job or profession that may include several job roles, positions, paid or unpaid work, and part-time or full-time work. The world of work offers numerous opportunities in both public and private sectors, including self-employment, remote work, part-time work, contractual work, and full-time work. This evolving landscape of the world of work has introduced several new careers while phasing out traditional ones.

According to CERIC, “career development is a lifelong process of managing learning, leisure and work. It is a lifelong process which is influenced by many factors like abilities, background, circumstances, interests, value and personality.” (CERIC)

Career planning and career awareness are two important aspects of career

development. Early career planning, typically initiated among grades 9 or 10 students, aids in the discovery of possible career paths. Therefore, regular career counseling classes must be mandated in regular educational routines.

Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV) Schools, managed by the Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS) and the Ministry of Education, were established with the mission of nurturing rural talent. These residential co-educational schools are spread across all Indian states and districts, except Tamil Nadu. JNV Kabirdham, located in the tribal belt of Chhattisgarh, educates students from tribal families. Numerous parents within this region aspire for their children to become doctors or engineers, limiting their exposure to alternative career fields. This study aimed to understand students’ level of awareness regarding different career options and the challenges they encounter when choosing a career.

## STUDY

The current study focused on the career awareness of high school students, their choice of careers, and their career-decision-making strategies. Notably, this study exclusively focused on the students of JNV Kabirdham, Chhattisgarh (India). Future research could consider a larger sample size with multi-cultural backgrounds for a better understanding of the situation.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research targeted students studying in grades 9–12 at JNV Kabirdham. Specifically, a questionnaire (as a Google form) comprising 10 questions was shared with the students. The total study sample (including both genders) encompassed 300 students, out of which 261 responded to the survey.

## DATA ANALYSIS

The data collected through the Google form questionnaire were analyzed, yielding the following results:

- 62.3% of the participants preferred to choose a career based on their aptitude.
- 83.6% of the participants preferred to choose a career based on their interests.
- 80.3% of the participants preferred to choose a career based on their abilities.
- 67.3% of the participants preferred to choose a career based on their academic performance.
- 70.5% of the participants preferred to choose a career based on their personality and temperament.
- Sources of career information included social media (49.2%); teachers (41%); and parents and career counselors (24.6%).

## RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

This study indicates that the participants were well-informed about selecting career options based on their interests, aptitude levels, and temperament. The main source of information was social media. However, the primary challenge encountered by these students was the limited availability of authentic and reliable job requirement information, compounded by parental pressure and lack of funds. Based on these findings, the study concludes with the following recommendations:

- Career counselors need to play more active roles to provide students with authentic and reliable career-related information.
- Counselors can provide information regarding available scholarships for higher studies.
- School authorities and counselors can organize workshops for parents on career guidance.

The analysis of this study can be considered a pilot project examining career awareness levels and potential challenges among high school students.

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