



# **ANALYSIS OF JOB CHOICE OF SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS: A STUDY WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO GENDER DIFFERENCE.**

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## **Abstract**

The main purpose of this study was to explore the job choices of the secondary school students as well as to find out the gender difference in job choice of these students. The study was conducted in district Rajouri of Jammu and Kashmir U.T. A random sample of 240 students (120 boys and 120 girls) was drawn from the selected schools. A self developed questionnaire was used as a tool of data collection. The data were analysed by means of descriptive statistical tools including mean and percentages. The results showed there were marked differences between the job choice of boys and girls as well as between the same gender.

**KEY WORDS:** Job, choice, Secondary, School Students, Salary, Gender difference.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The terms, job, job choice and gender difference need to be defined and explained in the beginning. The term ‘job’ means a work for which one gets regular payments and the term ‘choice’ means an act of choosing between two or more possibilities or something that one can choose from the given alternatives (Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Edition).

The term, ‘Gender difference’ refers to the difference between the job choices of male and female students. The review of related literature reflects that a number of studies have been conducted on gender difference in job choices both in India and abroad. In a similar study (Mattoo 2013) found that there were significant differences in the job choice of boys and girls in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir.

Appropriate choice of career is reported to have received greater attention in the world of work (Kulshrestha 1979). Studies also show that there are significant differences between the interests of males and females with respect to jobs. Even the Kothari Education Commission(1964-66) observed that “the students are admitted in vocational courses unsystematically which results in wastage of manpower, time and money (Mattoo, 2013). it often results into “Square pegs in round holes”. To overcome this problem it is desirable to identify the interests of students by means of research studies. The present study is concerned with the same purpose. A number of studies on the locale, personality, gender etc. have been conducted in India (Jamsari and Kumar 1999, Pandey 1975, Pangotra 1965) to find out job choice differences. The gender differences have also been reported in many cases.

However, it is observed that the findings of the existing research studies are not in uniform directions. Hence, further exploration is required to arrive at a definite conclusion. The research has shown that the females were un-represented in the field of STEM subjects viz Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (Master, et al 2017, Sainz & Ecedes 2012, Schuster & Martiny 2017). One explanation behind this condition is that these fields require strong mathematical abilities which were lacking in females. (Gelenter 1999, Nosek et al 2012)

### **1.1 Rationale Behind the Study**

A number of studies are found to have been conducted to explore career choices of the students in relation to intelligence, scholastic achievements and creativity. (Habibollah et al 2010, Heinze 2009, Ivcevic 2007, Hamingthmznala 2001, Mattoo 1994, Tulsi, 1985, Randhava 1977, Martin 1975).

As observed by the researcher, many youths are often forced by their parents to take up jobs irrespective of their attitude and aptitude resulting into “Square pegs in round holes” resulting into maladjustment of many boys and girls in their career.

Though a host of studies seem to have been conducted on the subject. Yet no such study has so far been conducted in district Rajouri of Jammu and Kashmir U.T. Hence, there seems a felt need for this study to explore the job choice of secondary school students with special reference to gender difference in the selected area.

## 1.2 Objectives of the study

The main objectives of the study are stated as under :

1. To study the choice of career lines of secondary school students.
2. To study the job choice of the secondary school students.
3. To find out the gender difference in job choice of the secondary school students.

## 1.3 Research Questions

The following questions are to be answered by this study:

1. which is the most preferred career line of the secondary school students (respondents).
2. Which is the least preferred career line of the respondents?
3. Which is the most/least preferred job choice of boys?
4. Which is the most/least preferred job choice of the girls?
5. Is there any difference between job choice of male and female students?

## 1.4 Statement of the Problem

The statement of the problem is given as under:

**“Analysis of job choice of secondary school students : a study with special reference to gender difference”**, yet it could not be possible to do so due to a number of limiting factors including time and other personnel and material resources. Hence, in view of the limitations, the data were collected from a few randomly selected students numbering 240 (120 boys and 120 girls) reading in secondary schools.

Though the study is limited upto the number of a few selected schools, yet being based on a random sampling design, it is assumed to be the representative of the entire U.T of Jammu and Kashmir. Hence, the findings of this study can be generalized to all parts of Jammu and Kashmir U.T.

## **1.6 Operational Definitions**

Some specific words/terms used in this article need to be defined in the context of this study. There are defined as under :

1. 'Job choice' means option to choose a job out of given choices.
2. "Career Line' means a specified occupational line carrying several job choices.
3. 'Gender difference' means difference between the job choice of boys and girls.
4. Secondary school students means, the students reading in 10th class.

## **2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

The research methodology adopted in the study is described as under:

### **2.1 Research Design**

The study was designed to collect data from the secondary school students including boys and girls reading government and private schools in district Rajouri of Jammu and Kashmir U.T. It (study) was concerned with the analysis of data relating to job choice of the students. In this way, the study is based on a Diagnostic-Descriptive type of Research Design.

## **Data collection tools**

A self-developed multi-dimensional questionnaire was used to collect data from the respondents.

### **2.2 Sampling Design**

A multi-stage random sampling design was adopted in the selection of 240 students/respondents from 7 government and 2 private school students. All of the students reading in 10th. class were selected as respondents which included 120 boys and 120 girls.

### **Collection of data**

The data were collected by means of a self-developed questionnaire. The questionnaires (400 numbers) were handed over to the head of the selected schools for further completion by the students. The questionnaires were collected back after one month. And out of 400 questionnaires distributed only 290 were received back out of which only 240 (120boys and 120 girls)were found correct and considered for further processing.

### **2.3 Universe and Time of study**

As this study is a part of Ph.D. programme, the process of data collection was completed during the month of April-May 2022. As the study is based on random sampling design. The entire secondary school students population is to be considered as the universe of the study.

## 2.4 Analysis of Data

After collection, the data were transferred to a master data table/sheet and also coded for further processing. The descriptive statistical tools including mean, frequency, percentages etc were used to find out results.

## 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The results are discussed as under:

### 3.1 Frequency Distribution of Respondents

The frequency and percentage distribution of the students gender-wise and school-wise are shown in the following table:

**Table 1 : Frequency and Percentage Distribution (Gender-wise & School-wise)**

S.No.	Type of School	Frequency & Percentage Distribution					
		Boys (N= 120)		Girls (N =120)		Total N = 240	
		N	P	N	P	N	P
1.	Govt. Schools	85	71	85	71	170	71
2.	Pvt. Schools	35	29	35	29	70	29
Total		120	100	120	100	240	100

Source : Questionnaire

‘N’ denotes — Numbers

‘P’ denotes — Percentage

The analysis shows that there were 240 respondents in the sample out of which 170 (71%) belonged to government schools and 70 (29%) to private schools. The sample consisted

of 120 (50%) boys and 120 (50%) girls. The mean age of both the boys and girls is 14.93 thus indicating that there was no gender difference in the age of respondents.

### 3.2 Choice of Career Lines

The students were shown 8 different career lines and were required to indicate their own choice. The data on this variable is presented in the following table:

**Table 2: Choice of Career Lines**

S.No.	Career Line	Frequency & Percentage Distribution					
		Boys (N= 120)		Girls (N =120)		Total N = 240	
		N	P	N	P	N	P
1.	Govt. Service	75	63	65	54	140	58
2.	Bank Service	12	10	12	10	24	10
3.	Pvt. Service	10	08	10	08	20	08
4.	Self - Employment	10	08	20	16	30	13
5.	Social work	02	02	06	05	08	03
6.	Political Leader	00	00	00	00	00	00
7.	Religious Leader	00	00	00	00	00	00
8.	Yet Not Decided	11	09	07	06	18	08
Total		120	100	120	100	240	100

Source : Questionnaire

‘N’ denotes — Numbers



‘P’ denotes — Percentage

The analysis shows that a strong majority of students/respondents (58%) including 63% of boys and (54%) of girls preferred the government service as their career line. The second most preferred career line was self-employment (30%) for all the students/respondents and followed by Banking service (24%) while as no preference (0%) was given to the political and religious lines.

### 3.3 Job choice under Government Service and Gender Difference

Out of 240 students/respondents, 140 (58%) opted for government services which were divided into ten (10) different jobs. The relevant data were analytically presented in the following table:

**Table 3: Analysis of Data Relating to Government Job Choice**

S.No.	Job choice	Frequency & Percentage Distribution (Gender-wise)					
		Boys		Girls		Total	
		N	P	N	P	N	P
1.	Agri. Officer	03	03	02	02	05	02
2.	Asstt. Professor	08	07	15	13	23	10
3.	Doctor Medical Officer	10	08	10	08	20	08
4.	Engineer	15	13	03	02	18	07
5.	Indian Army	05	04	00	00	05	02
6.	J&K Police	03	03	02	02	05	02
7.	IAS/JKAS	13	11	10	08	23	10

8.	School Teacher	04	03	13	11	17	07
9.	Para Medical	00	00	03	02	03	01
10.	Forest Service	03	03	00	00	03	01
11.	NOA	45	38	55	46	100	42
12.	No Decision	11	09	07	06	18	08
Total		120	100	120	100	240	100

Source : Questionnaire

‘N’ denotes — Numbers

‘P’ denotes — Percentage

NOA means — None of above

Description: The analysis indicates the following results :

1. The most preferred jobs of the boys were Engineer (13%), followed by JKAS 11% and Doctor (8%) while as a strong majority of 38% did not prefer any government job.
2. The most preferred jobs of the girls were Asstt. Professor (13%), followed by school teacher (11%) and doctor (8%) while as a strong majority of 46% did not like any govt. job.
3. The most preferred job of all the students was Asstt. Professor (10%), and JKAS (10%) followed by Doctor (8%) and Engineer and School teacher (7%) each.
4. The paramedical and forest services were the least preferred jobs for all the students.
5. There was a marked gender difference in job choices in the boys preferred Engineering services (13%) while as the girls preferred teaching jobs.

### **3.4 Answers to Research Questions**

The answers to the research questions are given as under :

- Q.1 The government service was found to be the most preferred career line of the respondents (58%).
- Q.2 The most preferred and least preferred jobs of boys were Engineering and paramedical services (13%) and (00%) respectively.
- Q.3 The political and religious services were the least preferred (0%) career lines for all of the students.
- Q.4 The most and least preferred jobs of boys were Engineering (13%) and paramedical services (0%) respectively.
- Q.5 The most and least preferred job choices of girls were Asstt. Professor (10%) and forest service (0%) respectively.
- Q.6 On the basis of answers given above it can be mentioned here that there were marked gender difference in job choice. The boys preferred Engineering while as the girls preferred teaching job.

## **4. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION**

The study was conducted in district Rajouri of Jammu and Kashmir U.T. with the main objective to find out the choice of career lines and government jobs among the secondary school students. A total of 240 students (120 boys and 120 girls) were selected as respondents and data were collected by means of a self developed questionnaire and the same were analysed using descriptive statistical tools.

The results showed that there were significant differences between career lines and job choices of male (boys) and female (girls) students on one hand, Engineering service was the first choice of boys while as teaching service/job was the most preferred choice of the girls.

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