ABSTRACT

The effect of Personality and Psycho-social correlates on Career Preferences among high school students, was the focus of the present study.

The sample consisted of 320 high school students (Standard X: 160 boys and 160 girls comprised this sample). The various schools approached for data collection belonged to North and South Zones of Bangalore City, Central and State Syllabus and single and co-educational schools. In group setting they were administered the following assessment tests: Information schedule, the Myers Briggs Type Indicator - Form G, the Vocational Expression Blank, the Wagner Preference Inventory Form-I, Educational Interest Record, Vocational Aspiration Scale, Bern Sex Role Inventory (Adapted) and the Fear of Success Scale.

The results were analyzed using suitable parametric and non parametric tests. The statistical tests used in this study were t-tests, ANOVA, Chi Square Test, Contingency Coefficient, and Multiple Regression Analysis.

The analysis of results revealed that Personality Type (as measured by the MBTI-FORM G) and career preference had a significant relationship as hypothesized. The Extraversion-Introversion (EI) Index of personality was the only Index of Personality Type which differed with career preference, unlike the other these Indices of Personality Type i.e. Sensing-Intuition (SN), Thinking-Feeling (TF) and Judgement-Perception (JP) Indices of Personality. The hierarchical level of the career preferred had an influence on both the type of career preferred as well as the Personality Type of the individual.

In terms of laterality, Pattern of Hemispheric Asymmetry did not have a relation with the career preferred. Further the Left-Verbal style was the only subcategory style of Pattern of Functional Hemispheric Asymmetry to differ much with the careers preferred. The other three subcategory styles of Pattern of Functional Hemispheric Asymmetry i.e. Left-Logical, Right-Manipulative and Right-Creative did not vary enough to be statistically significant.
While Pattern of Functional Hemispheric Asymmetry did not show a relationship with the 16 Personality Types (as measured by the MBTI-FORM G), it however differed with specific Indices of Personality Type namely, Thinking-Feeling and Judgement-Perception Indices. Pattern of Functional Hemispheric Asymmetry however did not differ with the Extraversion-Introversion and Sensing-Intuition Indices of Personality Type. Correlations indicated that there was a significant negative relationship between Extraversion-Introversion, Thinking-Feeling, Judgement-Perception Indices of Personality Type and the Left-Logical style of PFHA. And a significant positive relationship existed between the Judgement-Perception Index of Personality Type and the Right-Manipulative Style of Pattern of Functional Hemispheric Asymmetry. Moreover laterality in terms of Left, Right and Balanced patterns did not seem to have an effect on the way Career Preference and Personality Type interacted.

The psycho-social variables which had an influence on the career preferred were Educational Interest and Sex Role Orientation. The other two variables i.e., Vocational Aspiration and Fear of Success did not influence the preference of careers. The Demographic/Social variables which were able to predict Career Preference were, Education of Mother: Undergraduate and Father's preferred occupation for Son/Daughter being Artistic and Musical and Protective careers. Religion, Order of Birth, Zone, Syllabus (Central/State), Type of School (Single Sex/Co-Educational), Preferred Subject, Hobbies and Interests, Education of Father, Occupation of Father and Mother and Preferred Occupation for Son/Daughter by Mother were not significant predictors of Career Preference. Career Preferences differed with the family income of the individual but not with the percentage of marks in the last final examination.

Sex differences were observed for some of the variables in the study. While boys preferred careers which were Engineering, Administrative and Clerical, girls preferred Medical Health Careers more. Boys were more likely to choose Level 1. careers and girls to prefer Levels 2 and 3.
Where Personality Type is concerned, boys used their dominant personality function in the Thinking mode and girls in the Intuitive mode more frequently. However, boys and girls did not differ much in their use of individual Indices of Personality Type.

Gender differences were not found for lateralized brain functions. However the following subcategory styles of Pattern of Functional Hemispheric Asymmetry, i.e. Left-Logical, Right-Manipulative and Right-Creative, differed for boys and girls, unlike Left-Verbal which did not differ much for the same.

Where Educational Interest was concerned boys preferred subjects like Science, Engineering, Medicine, Agriculture and Commerce. Girls on the other hand preferred Home Science, Fine Arts and Humanities. Sex differences did not exist for Vocational Aspiration, Sex Role Orientation and Fear of Success.

And finally sex difference were found with regard to Demographic/Social variables, such as hobbies and interest, and maternal and paternal preferences for sons/daughters Career Preferences.