

Career Choices and Aspirations of Female Students in Higher Education of Hyderabad-Karnataka Region

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ABSTRACT

Earlier, women were rejected higher education and after globalization, there is increase in emphasis to girls' higher education and outside employment. After globalization, there is also increase in modern employment opportunities and more careers. Hence, it has now become challenge for females in career choice and aspirations. When observed, it is found that, majority of the parents are choosing the future careers for their daughters and it is incorrect. In this respect, a field-based survey was made to assess the career choices and aspirations of female students in Hyderabad-Karnataka region and the region constitutes six districts in Karnataka state. Total 800 female students pursuing their post-graduation in different subject disciplines were surveyed using questionnaires to collect the primary data. The paper described the details. It is suggested to the parents and teachers to assess the existing skills and interests of female students and based on such assessment, the parents and teachers may suggest suitable career to female students.

1. Introduction

Earlier in India, caste and gender were played an important role in deciding occupations. Due to the modernization and after independence, these concepts of caste-based occupation is disappearing slowly, due to the industrialization, urbanization, globalization and government policies on various aspects such as social justice, reservation, equality, etc. Hence, now the occupations are not caste based, but skill-based. Now the occupations are taken by the necessary skills and techniques of the people, not considering their caste or gender.

Career is a term defined by the Oxford English Dictionary as an individual's "course or progress through life (or a distinct portion of life)". It usually is considered to pertain to remunerative work (and sometimes also formal education). A career is mostly seen as a course of successive situations that make up a person's occupation. One can have a sporting career or a musical career without being a professional athlete or musician, but most frequently "career" in the 20th century referenced the series of jobs or positions by which one earned one's money. It tended to look only at the past.

Sociologists are interested in career choice and development primarily because of their consequences for socio-economic inequality and mobility. Occupation is a strong determinant of a person's status within the community, earnings, wealth, and style of life. To the extent that young people follow the same or similar occupations as their parents, the inequalities linked to work will be perpetuated from one generation to the next. Thus, sociological interest in occupational choice initially focused on mechanisms of intergenerational mobility- what came to be called the process of stratification. Initial work examined the linkage between

fathers' and sons' occupations (Kirkpatrick and Mortimer, 2000).

As the idea of personal choice and self-direction picks up in the 21st century, aided by the power of the Internet and the acceptance of people having multiple kinds of work, the idea of a career is shifting from a closed set of achievements, like a chronological resume of past jobs, to a defined set of pursuits looking forward. In its broadest sense, career refers to an individual's work and life roles over their lifespan.

After globalization, women are also increasingly participating in higher education so as to get employment in different modern technology-based professions. But many of the factors are determining their career choices and aspirations. The present study analysed the career choices and aspirations of female students pursuing higher education (post-graduation) in Hyderabad-Karnataka region in India.

2. Objectives of the Study:

The present study is made:

- To know about the personal interests and influencing factors in career choices and aspirations of female students studying in higher education in Hyderabad-Karnataka region.
- To study the role of parents towards higher education and future career of their daughters.
- To look into the knowledge of the female students studying in post-graduation degrees in different subjects on their subject specialization, career prospects, employment opportunities, etc.

3. Methodology and Limitations

Hyderabad-Karnataka region constitutes six districts and is backward, located in Karnataka state. To study the career choice and aspirations of female students in the region, theoretical background was derived using published literature in books, research papers, journal articles, research reports, etc. To collect the primary data, questionnaire was used and total 800 female students studying in post-graduation courses in different subject disciplines were surveyed across six districts of the region. The collected primary data is analysed, interpreted and discussed as under.

4. Analysis, Interpretation and Discussion

Table No. 1. Name of University Studying

Particulars	No's of Female Students	Percentage
Central University of Karnataka, Kalaburagi	67	8.37
Gulbarga University, Kalaburagi	152	19.00
Vijayanagar Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Ballari	105	13.12
Sharna Basva University, Kalaburagi	75	9.38
Vishweshwaraiah Technical University Regional Centre & Affiliated Colleges	137	17.12
Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences Affiliated Colleges	129	16.12
Karnataka Veterinary Science University, Bidar	52	6.50
University of Agricultural Sciences, Raichur	83	10.37
Total	800	100

On the name of universities or post-graduate colleges in which the female students are studying revealed that, 67 (8.37%) are studying in Central University of Karnataka, Kalaburagi, 152 (19.00%) are studying in Gulbarga University, Kalaburagi, 105 (13.12%) are studying in Vijayanagar Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Ballari, 75 (9.38%) are studying in Sharna Basava University, Kalaburagi, 137 (17.12%) are studying in Vishweshwaraiah Technical University Regional Centre and Affiliated Colleges, 129 (16.12%) are studying in affiliated colleges of Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, 52 (6.50%) are studying in Karnataka Veterinary

The collected primary data through questionnaires from the female students is analysed and discussed as under.

1. Name of University Studying

More than ten universities are located in Hyderabad-Karnataka region and female students are spread across all these universities to study different subject disciplines. Even many of the female students are also studying in constituent and affiliated colleges under these universities. The following table revealed the names of universities in which the female students are studying.

Science University, Bidar and 83 (10.37%) are studying in University of Agricultural Sciences, Raichur.

2. Attitudes of Parents towards Girls' Education:

It is observed that, though female children are interested in higher education, many of the parents suppress their daughters' education. In few of the families, the parents fully encourage higher education of their daughters. In this respect, the attitudes of parents towards girls' higher education are essential and the attitudes of their parents as stated by the respondents are as under.

Table No. 2. Attitudes of Parents towards Girls' Education

Particulars	No's of Female Students	Percentage
Encourage Girl Children	128	16.00
Prefer Only Male & Suppress Females	294	36.75
Treats Equality among all children	236	29.50
Neutral/ No Difference	142	17.75
Total	800	100

The attitudes of the parents towards girls' education revealed that, 128 (16.00%) of the respondents have expressed that their parents are encouraging girl children's education, 294 (36.75%) have stated that their parents prefer education of only male children and suppress education of girl children, 236 (29.50%) have mentioned that their parents treat equality among all children with reference to education and 142 (17.75%) have agreed that their parents are neutral or make no difference with regard to girls' education.

3. Reasons for Choice of Present Career:

There are different factors which influence the career choices by female students and such factors include personal interest, good employment, professional practice, gain knowledge, etc. The reasons for choice of their present career as stated by the respondents are tabulated as under.

Table No. 3. Reasons for Choice of Present Career

Particulars	No's of Female Students	Percentage
Get Good Employment, Career & Job	385	48.13
Self-employment	78	9.75
Personal Interest/ Gain Knowledge	56	7.00
Parents' Interests	246	30.75
Any Other	35	4.37
Total	800	100

Among all the respondents, 385 (48.13%) have expressed that they have chosen present career to get good employment, career and job, 78 (9.75%) have agreed that they have chosen their present course so as to go for self-employment, 56 (7.00%) have remarked that they have chosen present career due to their personal interest in the same and also to gain knowledge in that subject, 246 (30.75%) have mentioned that based on their parents' interests they have chosen their present career and 35 (4.37%) have given other reasons for choice of their present career.

4. Freedom in Education and Employment:

Many of the parents don't provide sufficient freedom to choose education and employment opportunities to their children and especially in their girls' career future, parents never provide freedom to choose career as per the wishes of their daughters. Still, few of the educated parents are allowing their daughters to choose their education as per their daughters' interests. It was asked to the respondents on the extent of freedom in education and employment and collected primary data is presented in the following table.

Table No. 4. Freedom in Education and Employment

Particulars	No's of Female Students	Percentage
Free to Choose Education & Employment	146	18.25
Restricted by Social Culture & Parents	115	14.37
Choose Education and Employment as per Parents' Wish	246	30.75
Choose Education based on Employment Opportunities	293	36.63
Total	800	100

Among all the female students covered under the study, 146 (18.25%) have stated that they are free to choose education and employment, 115 (14.37%) have mentioned that they are restricted by social culture and parents while choosing education and employment, 246 (30.75%) have agreed that they are choosing their education and employment as per the wishes of their parents and 293 (36.63%) have expressed that they choose education based on employment opportunities.

154 (19.25%) are motivated by their mothers, 113 (14.12%) are motivated by their brothers, 56 (7.00%) are motivated by their sisters and 88 (11.00%) are not motivated by any of their family members.

5. Motivation in Education and Future Career:

While getting higher education, there is need for motivation of family members, friends and relatives. It was asked to the female students that who motivate them in higher education and collected responses are tabulated as under.

6. Parents' Concern about Daughters' Career Future:

Many of the parents think about the higher education, career and employment opportunities of their daughters and even few of them think for the marriage of their daughters. In this respect, the concerns of parents on the career future of their daughters as stated by the respondents are shown in the following table.

Table No. 5. Motivation in Education and Future Career

Particulars	No's of Female Students	Percentage
Father	389	48.63
Mother	154	19.25
Brother	113	14.12
Sister	56	7.00
None	88	11.00
Total	800	100

Table No. 6. Parents' Concern about Daughters' Career Future

Particulars	No's of Female Students	Percentage
Yes	426	53.25
No	374	46.75
Total	800	100

Only 426 (53.25%) of the female students have agreed that their parents are much concerned towards their career future, whereas 374 (46.75%) have disagreed to the same.

As expressed by all the female students on the motivation from family members they are getting for their higher education and future career, 389 (48.63%) are motivated by their fathers,

7. Parents' Plan for Career Future:

As discussed above, many of the female students have agreed that their parents are much concerned towards their

career future and in this respect; the parents' plan for the career future of the respondents is as under.

Table No. 7. Parents' Plan for Career Future

Particulars	No's of Female Students	Percentage
Government Job	234	29.25
Good Profession, Self-employment & Career	192	24.00
Better Marriage Prospects	256	32.00
Any Other	30	3.75
Never Thought/ Not Planned for Anything	88	11.00
Total	800	100

On their parents' plan for their career future among all the respondents, 234 (29.25%) have stated that their parents have thought that their daughters may get government job, 192 (24.00%) have mentioned that their parents have planned that their daughters should get good profession, self-employment and career, 256 (32.00%) have expressed that their parents have planned for their better marriage prospects, 30 (3.75%) have given other plans of their parents towards the career

future and 88 (11.00%) have mentioned that their parents have never thought or not planned for their future.

8. Career Prospects in Future:

In the future, there are many career prospects for female students based on education, employment and professional practice. There may be jobs in Government or private sector or even brighter opportunities in self-employment. The collected information in this regard is tabulated as under.

Table No. 8. Career Prospects in Future

Particulars	No's of Female Students	Percentage
Brighter Prospects in Govt. Jobs	257	32.12
Good Opportunities in Private Sector Jobs	324	40.50
Attractive Earning in Private Coaching	66	8.25
Best Income from Professional Practice	153	19.13
Any Other	--	--
Total	800	100

The career prospects of the female students in future as stated by respondents depicted that, 257 (32.12%) have mentioned that there are brighter career prospects in Government jobs, 324 (40.50%) have agreed that there are good opportunities in private sector jobs, 66 (8.25%) have felt that there are attractive earning in private coaching and 153 (19.13%) have remarked that there is best income from professional practice.

After any graduation or post-graduation, there are abundant of career and job opportunities for youth. In Government, there are different jobs such as IAS, KAS, banking, railways, teacher, etc and in private sector, there are different technical jobs at different companies and commercial establishments. Even the professionals like chartered accountants, lawyers, doctors, etc have brighter professional practice. In this regard, the information was collected from the female students on their future career aims and presented in the following table.

9. Personal Future Career Aims:

Table No. 9. Personal Future Career Aims

Particulars	No's of Female Students	Percentage
Teacher/ Assistant Professor	113	14.13
Scientist/ Technocrat	19	2.37
Administrative Officers (IAS, KAS, etc)	78	9.75
Any Government Job	410	51.25
Job in Private Sector	212	26.50
Professional Practice	129	16.12
Better Marriage Prospects	124	15.50
Any Other	23	2.88
Total	800	100

Note: Above made it clear that, many of the female students are personally aimed to more than one or two or many career opportunities in future and hence total number of respondents is not considered.

It is emphasized that many of the female students are aimed to gain opportunities in more than one or two or many career opportunities. Particularly, of all the female students, 113 (14.13%) have stated that they are aimed to go for the posts of teacher or Assistant Professor in colleges and universities, 19 (2.37%) have agreed that they wish to become

scientists or technocrats, 78 (9.75%) have felt that they would like to go for competitive examinations to become administrative officers such as IAS, KAS, etc, 410 (51.25%) have expressed that they are aimed to get any Government job, 212 (26.50%) have mentioned that they wished to get job in private sector, 129 (16.12%) of the female students wish to go for professional practice, 124 (15.50%) are aimed to get

better marriage prospects and 23 (2.88%) have also aimed to get other career personally.

Table No. 10. Satisfaction in Present Course and Career

Particulars	No's of Female Students	Percentage
Happy with Present Course	293	36.62
Unhappy with Present Course	162	20.25
Adjustment of Family Members	345	43.13
Total	800	100

On their personal satisfaction in their present course and career as stated by the female students revealed that, 293 (36.62%) of the female students have agreed that they are happy with present course and career, 162 (20.25%) are unhappy with their present course and career and 345 (43.13%) are adjusting present course and their personal career as per the wishes of their family members.

11. Freedom to Choose Future Career:

It was asked to the respondents that whether they are free to choose their future career and collected information is shown as under.

Table No. 11. Freedom to Choose Future Career

Particulars	No's of Female Students	Percentage
Fully Free	360	45.00
Somewhat Free (As per Suggestions of Parents)	194	24.25
Not Free/ Parents' Interest	246	30.75
Total	800	100

It is emphasized that, only 360 (45.00%) of all the female students are fully free to choose their future career, whereas 194 (24.25%) are somewhat free, that is depending on the suggestions of their parents to choose their future career and 246 (30.75%) of the female students are not free as they are going to their future career as per the interests of their parents.

Though female students are studying post-graduation, technical and professional courses, still they may lack in few of the skills which are essentially needed for their future job or professional practice. Even few of the female students think that existing skills and knowledge is sufficient for their future career. Based on their experiences, hard work, money, economic support, parents' cooperation etc are also determining factors for future career prospects. In this respect, the factors that determine future career prospects as stated by the female students are as under.

12. Factors Determine Future Career Prospects:

Table No. 12. Factors Determine Future Career Prospects

Particulars	No's of Female Students	Percentage
Existing Skills & Knowledge	136	17.00
Hard work, Efforts & Ambition	442	55.25
Money & Economic Support	148	18.50
Parents' Support & Cooperation	74	9.25
Any Other	--	--
Total	800	100

Of all the female students, on the factors that determine their future career prospects, 136 (17.00%) have stated that their existing skills and knowledge determine their future career prospects, 442 (55.25%) have agreed that their hard work, efforts and ambitions determine their future career prospects, 148 (18.50%) have felt that money and economic support will determine their future career prospects and 74 (9.25%) have agreed that parents' support and cooperation determine future career prospects.

5. Suggestions from the Study

Following suggestions are made from the present study:

- ✓ It is suggested to the parents of female students to not to force or pressurize their daughters to choose higher education in particular subject discipline.

- ✓ It is suggested to the female students to assess their areas of interests, existing skills and employment or self-employment or professional practice opportunities, before choice of their career prospects in particular career or subject of study.
- ✓ The teacher's role is most important in career choice and aspirations of female students. In this regard, the teachers should study the different subjects of study, employment opportunities, professional practice issues, self-employment chances, etc and assess the existing skills and personal interests of their students. Based on such analysis, the teachers may guide their female students to go for particular career future.

6. Conclusion

As discussed above, in majority of the cases, parents are choosing career for their daughters, which is incorrect. Hence, it is essential on the part of parents and teachers to assess the personal interests of female students along with their existing skills in different subject areas. Based on such assessment, the teachers and parents have to advise their female students to choose particular career or area of study. In this way, the career choice decisions should be made. Further, career prospects of female students from their future livelihood and hence, more care about assessment of the factors mentioned above is necessary while career choices and aspirations.

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