

## IMPORTANCE OF CAREER GUIDANCE FOR NORTH-WEST RURAL RAJASTHAN SCHOOL STUDENTS

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### ABSTRACT

*It is true that career guidance is important for all of them who seeks best jobs according to their abilities, qualifications and acquired skills. A number of research are made to assess needs of career guidance, way of career guidance and such so many other things but there are only few which deals with difference of importance of career guidance for school and college students, with special reference to North-West Rajasthan which is a supreme desert and lag in development, even today also. It is a fact that priorities of rural students differ from the students of urban ones, and so needs of career guidance for the two categories is also different for them. It is widely seen that students belonging to rural areas seeks small jobs in public or private sectors and expense much for it even they have sufficient or more than sufficient land for cultivation and can get much earning from it than their formal employment.*

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**Keywords:** Career Guidance, Formal Employment, Cultivation, Public or Private Sectors, College Students.

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### Introduction

Here it is appropriate to mention that career guidance is not only stands for selection of career but it also deals with recognition of abilities and suggests jobs according internal as well as external abilities, capabilities, and wealth of a person. UNESCO (2000) defines career orientation as a process by which an individual is assisted in the discovery, acceptance and proper use of their abilities, skills and interests in accordance with their aspiration and values. Career guidance is both a concept and product. As a concept it shows path ahead someone according one's interest, skills and natural capabilities. On the other hand, as a product it constructs in a man an image which he can deserve and can achieve in future, by efforts. There are number of terms used for 'career guidance' as 'career orientation', 'career counselling' etc. but these have little differences and can be taken in similar meaning. As conclusion, it can be said that career guidance directly affects person's employability phenomenon and proper use of it is important not only for the individual but for the society, because in absence of it person may fail to acquire livelihood and become a part of unemployed crowd. Again on the same time, it is true that Career guidance and student counselling is an extremely broad and a comprehensive concept, in order to implement this task effectively there are number of factors that need to be taken under consideration. The guidance regarding ones career and the counselling of students involves a conversation between a career counsellor and the one who need it.

### Objectives

- To assess the need of career guidance and counselling for school students, living in rural areas of North-west Rajasthan.
- To know the general practices of career counselling and guidance of school students.
- To point-out suggestions for career counselling and guidance for school students.

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### Why Career Counselling and Guidance for School Students

Career counselling and guidance is equally or more important for school students than the other persons who seeks jobs at particular age. It helps school students to recognise their abilities, qualifications, what they can do, and what they can achieve with efforts in their lives. It is also useful for them to learn the planning of their learning and making decisions. Career guidance provide them the information about the opportunities of the fields and prepare them for future. It is also important to save the students from frustration, which they face being failure for a task. It helps the students to adapt and manage the transition from school to collage or working life. Other these mentioned goals, career counselling and guidance is beneficial for school students in following manners:

- It empowered adolescent students to make responsible and informatics choices on their education, career goals and aspects to lead a success life.
- It prepares for actualization of possessed capabilities and plan accordingly.
- It is useful to develop a positive attitude towards their education and life.
- Make possible to properly utilize the acquired knowledge, attitudes and skills.

### Method

#### • Participants

This research was conducted on a sample of 90 participants, living in rural areas of North-West Rajasthan districts' like Bikaner, Barmer, Jaisalmer, and jodhpur. These all participants are students of class 11 in their respective schools. Participation in the study was voluntary and proper consents of their parents were taken before proceeding to be interviewed. Participation agreements, data confidentiality and other ethical aspects were assured.

#### • Tools

Self-constructed questionnaire consists of 32 short questions was used to interview the participants. Participant students were interviewed in their local language and make them understand about the questions. The main questions were related about what they think about their future, their priorities, interest, employment, the way of their decisions, sources of getting information, and their future intentions and objectives.

#### • Research Design

Present study followed a qualitative-survey research design. Participants were informed about the objective of the study, a friendship and mutual understanding bond was developed before their interviews. To avoid any measuring error that might have been occur due to the data collection procedure, all participants were briefed in a same manner before asking them questions. Responses were denoted with paper-pencil. For any question for which they felt problem, explanations were provided. Interviews were made personally as well as on phone.

#### • Results

Results are derived with use of simple statistics techniques, in terms following measure terms:

- Need of career guidance
- Their priorities for career selection
- Source used by them for career guidance

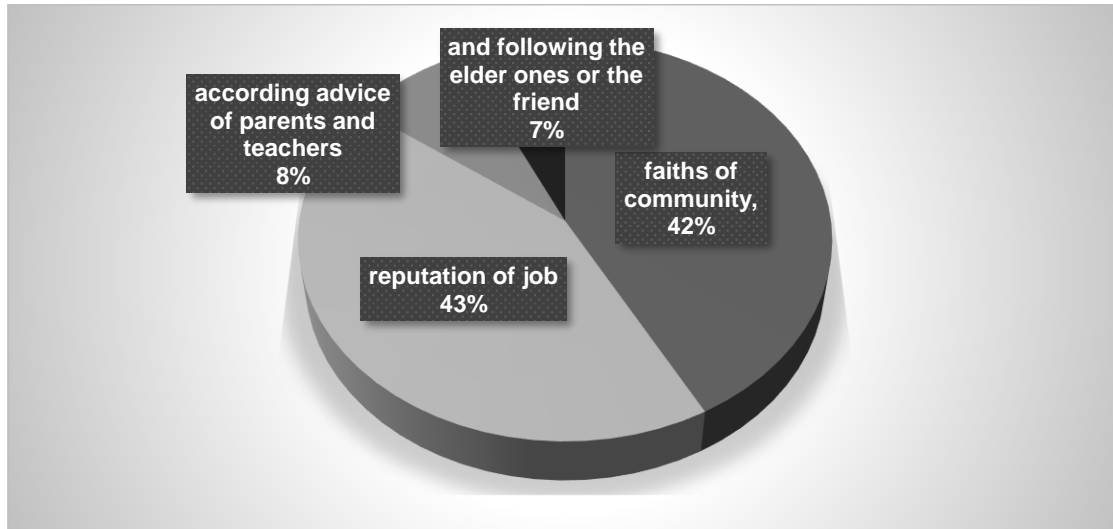
#### • Need of Career Guidance

Surprisingly enough, 32 percents of participants were not knowing the term of "career guidance", they hear it first time, yet they had been known about 'advice', mostly think that advising and career guidance are same things. About the need of career guidance their thoughts are presented in following table:

S. No.	Statement	No of Responses	Percentage
1	Needed and aspiring that someone provide them career guidance	63	70
2	Value for career guidance	20	22.22
3	Partially value for career guidance	5	5.56
4	No need of career guidance	2	2.22

- **Their Priorities for Career Selection**

Most of students of the study accepted that they decide their priority according the faiths of community, reputation of job, according advice of parents and teachers, and following the elder ones or the friends. For fixing job priority they never consider their interests, abilities, and sources which they already possess. A brief consideration is shown in the figure given below:



- **Source used by them for Career Guidance**

Sources used by the school students belonging to rural areas of North-West Rajasthan is shown in the following table:

S. No.	Source	Percentage of Students
1	Family members advice	61
2	Teachers' advice	8
3	Advertisement of print media	11
4	Social media	6
5	Following friends	12
6	Proper career guidance	2
<b>Total</b>		100

### Conclusion

By the results shown above it becomes clear that priorities of rural school students of the particular region, is different than the others. These students are dependent for their choices regarding subject selection and all other future plans on unscientific sources of counselling. Most of students, 61 percent dependent on their parents, who are illiterate or have not at least possess proper knowledge of counselling services. Again, few students take advice of their teachers, who are also possess limited knowledge and limited sources. Advertisements of print media is used by 11 percent students but we cannot forget that these advertisements are sometimes proved misleading and produce only general information of a particular field. Following friends, who also have not counselled, is also in trend and 12 percent students choose it for planning their career. A small amount, about 2 percent students got proper guidance. These are the students whose parents or relatives are residing in cities and aware enough about counselling services.

It is clear that rural students are yet deprived from the career counselling services, which they needed most. They don't know that counsellor must be an expert in his field, he should possess all the skills, abilities, knowledge and information regarding the job openings, prospects, opportunities that are available and possess the ability to effectively communicate with the person who is seeking counselling and guidance. Counsellor should be an expert of adolescent psychology. Only this kind of the services may help them to utilise their abilities along with providing the society skilled persons. It will be also helpful for reducing unemployment, as rural students cover a large part of the population.

So, it is significant challenges for changing the conventional system of counselling and guidance for these students to modern career guidance service, which they deserve. This will be helpful for them to decide courses or a good job. For educational institutions, it means to build a good career education in the curriculum and linking it with students' overall developments. In our own country government is working on it and it is also considered in New Education Policy-2020. Number of countries in world already have integrated it with school core subjects. Where career guidance and educational service remains concentration around the last or end of compulsory schooling.

### Suggestions

- Trained career counsellors should be appointed at block or revenue tahasil level to provide proper counselling services to the school students, who are living in undeveloped and rural areas. Counselling centres must be established.
- Importance of career guidance and counselling must be popularized among the students. There can be matter included in the syllabus of compulsory subjects at +2 level.
- Teachers who are teaching at +2 level should be properly trained in career guidance and counselling services.
- Parents should be made aware about career guidance and counselling services through the parent-teacher meetings or the meetings of SMC/SDMC.
- Government should arrange some on-line platforms of providing counselling services like child helpline or women helpline.

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