A STUDY OF THE CAREER DECISION-MAKING DIFFICULTIES OF UNDERGRADUATE COLLEGE STUDENTS OF UNAKOTI DISTRICT, TRIPURA

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Abstract- Career decision-making is an important and complex process for students as they begin their journey to determine their future path. This abstract explores the challenges students face at this critical stage of life. Difficulties can be attributed to factors such as many career options, lack of self-awareness, external pressure and expectations, fear of failure, limited information and guidance, and changing trends in the labor market. These challenges can lead to uncertainty, procrastination, and impulsive decisions, affecting students' well-being and future prospects. To overcome these obstacles, the present study tries to find out the career decision-making difficulties of undergraduate college students of unakoti district of Tripura. To enable students focus on independent learning, seek professional guidance, and be aware of industry trends to make informed and realistic decisions that align with their passions and long-term goals. By solving these challenges, students can pave the way for successful and successful careers.

Keywords: Career decision making, Career counselling, Undergraduate students.

INTRODUCTION
Career decision-making is an important stage in a student's life when they are faced with many choices, uncertainties and expectations. Choosing the right career path is a difficult task and many students face difficulties in this process. Students pursuing a college are of different individuals with different cultural backgrounds, and different in age, the intellectual abilities too vary from person to person. Students are facing continuously in choosing a career even after graduation which are significantly challenging. Many students struggle with self-awareness, understanding their strengths, weaknesses, interests, and values. Although it has the tremendous advantage of career decision making, a number of young people remains unemployed. Recent studies have revealed that as much as 90% of students opt for a wrong career path due to a lack of career guidance and the persisting gap between skills and aptitudes. Without a clear understanding of one's own needs and abilities, it can be difficult to match talents with suitable career opportunities. This lack of self-awareness often leads to rash and ill-informed decisions. Students often face external pressure from family, peers and society when choosing a career. These expectations may conflict and students may be forced to choose a path that does not match their true aspirations. Balancing personal preferences with outside pressures is emotional and can lead students to make decisions just to please others. Inadequate information about different careers and industries can hinder students' ability to make informed decisions. A lack of career counselling, guidance, and resources exacerbates the challenge. Students may find it difficult to gather comprehensive information about the pros and cons of different career paths, hindering their ability to make informed choices.

SIGNIFICANT OF THE STUDY
Since undergraduate students are the stage of storm and stress and the period of starting the future career. It is expected that they will make a career decision during this period. However, the ability to make career decisions are not an easy task that depends on the environment where the students are facing. Some of the students will get better and advance ability but some may not, depending upon the place the child gets influenced. This study explores the challenges that undergraduate students of Unakoti district of Tripura faced in making career decisions.

AREA OF THE STUDY
The study has taken from Unakoti District of Tripura, inhabitant by multicultural society including Tribal non-Tribal and covering the entire religious group.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS
The following questions are followed for the study:
i. What are the difficulties levels faced by undergraduate college students in making career decision?
ii. What is the level of awareness towards career counselling?
iii. What are the degrees to which career counselling services are available by college student?

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY
i. To study the difficulties levels faced by undergraduate college students in making career decision.

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To study the level of awareness carried towards career counselling.

To know the degrees to which career counselling services are available by college student.

**Career Counselling:** Career Counselling is a professional service provided to both male and female undergraduate college students in assisting them in making career decisions and preparing them for the world of work.

**Delimitation of the study**
I. Present study included the students of the Tripura Government affiliated degree college and professional college of Unakoti District of Tripura.
II. The study was delimited to colleges which followed the curriculum prescribed by the Tripura University.

**REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**
1. Crisan, Pavelae and Ghimbulut (2014) reported the small impact that career centers have on university students in their study, A Need Assessment on students’ Career Guidance. Almost half of the students declared that they have not received any assistance from career counsellors. The results from the group interviews conducted by the researchers’ shows that students are not aware of the projects developed in the career centre, do not have information about free access to career counselling services and are not aware of the possibilities for managing these resources on a medium and long term base.

2. Lepre (2007) led a pre-test-post test experiment on “getting through to them: Reaching students who need career counselling”, targeted first year students who were pursuing general courses. The results revealed the effectiveness of the positive message into getting students to participate in a career counselling workshop. However, because of most of the first year students are undecided about their career, the negative message were also effective in dissuading students from attending the workshop. The study also revealed that lack of awareness and overall ambivalence towards career counselling are also other reasons for the lack of interest in career counselling.

Gati (2006) conducted a study on “facets of career decision-making difficulties” investigated the relations among the measured and expressed career decision-making difficulties in a sample of 299 young adults who intended to apply to college or university was conducted by which posits that there is high correlations between career decision-making difficulties, as measured by the career decision-making difficulties questionnaire (CDDQ), and the expressed difficulties. They also reported that participants with more crystallised career plans reported lower career decision-making difficulties, higher career decision-making self-efficacy, and a higher thinking” as opposed to feeling, vocational decision-making style.

Nag-Arulmani (2006) conducted a survey to the undergoing vocational course in 88 institutions in Shimoga, Bengalure, Dehradun, Chennai, Manipur, Goa, New Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Assam, Dhule, Nagacoil and Chandigarh under the initiative of the Promise Foundation and Sir. Ratan Tata Trust. The results showed that the youth have significant levels of difficulties located around the Readiness theme, closely followed with average difficulties because of lack of information persisted across all classes.

Dingyuan Zhou & Angeli Santos (2007) conducted a study on Career decision-making difficulties of British and Chinese international university students explored cultural and gender differences in career decision-making difficulties experienced by 109 British and 86 Chinese international university students, and the impact of cross-cultural adjustment on the career decision making difficulties of Chinese international students. The results indicated that there were no cultural differences in career decision making difficulty of the students. However, there were cultural differences and gender differences in the subscales of the career decision difficulty questionnaire. Chinese students scored higher in lack of readiness as compared to British students. With regards to gender, male students had fewer difficulties in career decision making than female.

**RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**
In the present study qualitative and quantitative research method has been employed. 80 participants from all the undergraduate college student of Unakoti Tripura are the population of the study. The self made questionnaire was employed as a tool of data collection.

**ANALYSIS OF THE STUDY**
Objective 1: To assess the difficulty level faced by undergraduate college students in making career decisions.

a. Lack of Readiness: It was found that 81.25% of the students have difficulty in making career decision and 18.75% of the students have low difficulty in career decision making. Comparison was made on the basis of male and female and it was found that out of 40 male and 40 female, it was found that majority 25% of the student have low difficulty in career decision making whereas 75% of the male students have difficulty and 87.5% of the female students have difficulty in making decision and the rest 12.5% of the students have no difficulty.

b. Lack of motivation: It was found that 90% of the students have difficulty in making career decision and only 10% of the students have difficulty in career decision making. Comparison was made on the basis of male and female and it was found that it was found that majority 62.5% of the male student have low difficulty in career decision making whereas 37.5% of the male students have difficulty and 81.5% of the female students have difficulty in making decision and the rest 18.5% of the students have no difficulty.

c. Due to lack of information: It was found that 70% of the students have difficulty in making career decision and 30% of the students have low difficulty in career decision making. Comparison was made on the basis of male and female and it was found that out of 40 male and 40 female, it was found that majority 31.5% of the student have low difficulty in career decision making
whereas 68.5% of the male students have difficulty and 80.5% of the female students have difficulty in making decision and the rest 10.5% of the students have no difficulty.

Objective 2: To study the level of awareness towards career counselling.

Analysis was done to know how many students have ever aware about career counselling and it was found that 56.25% of the students are not aware about career counselling and the rest 43.75 are aware about the career counselling. And finding out about male and female, it was found that 61% of the male students are aware and the rest 39% of the male students are not aware whereas 50% of female are aware and 50% of the female students are not aware about career counselling.

Objective 3: To know the degree to which career counselling services are availed by college students.

Analysis was done to know the degree to which career counselling service are availed by the students. Out of 80 students 65 of them responded to have career counselling centre in college and 35 of them responded to have no career counselling centre in college. And comparing among male and female it was found that 35 of the male students responded to have career counselling centre in the college and 30 of the female responded to have career counselling in the college

DISCUSSION

The study mainly focuses on to access the career decision making difficulties of undergraduate college students. The finding of the study showed that maximum of the students has difficulties in career decision making due lack of readiness where the students showed less interest or give no importance even though some schools or locality have setup a counselling centre, and the lack of motivation from parents, society or teachers would result in difficulty in making career decision and due to lack of information could also be the reason where adequate or proper information from which or from where the counselling service be provided to the students and its importance were not influenced to the students. And even to compare among male and female it was found from the result that female students have more difficulties in career decision making than male students. And with regards to the level of awareness about career counselling, most of the students are not are about the career counselling, and with regards to male and female, the percentage of male students are little higher than the percentage of female about career counselling provided anywhere for the students of undergraduate anywhere in school, college or in the counselling centre and in the society. To know the degree to which students have provided counselling service from the college, it was found that most of the college have counselling centre but few students responded to not have counselling centre. And among male and female, not much difference with regards to the respondents to have counselling centre in the college. In these regards it is commendable that although most of the college have counselling centre but most of the students are seen to have difficulty in career decision making, and most of the students are not aware about counselling service.

CONCLUSION

Career counselling is an important field where the undergraduate students are in great need. Career decision making such a difficult component that the students are facing, to eradicate the problems, more importance and steps be taken by the family, society, institution, awareness programme and should be made free, affordable and accessibility so that everyone in the society gets opportunity. Although colleges have counselling centre but many students are not aware about the service provided in that centre, the administration should be made aware about the necessity of attending counselling service, and time table or proper routine space be made available so that students can occupy the time without hampering the normal class. The administration should also b appointed counsellor who can give time and be made available all the time in the college. The family should also be informed about the service and career decision making of the students, the problems of the students be informed to the parents so that parents can have knowledge about the needs, interests and ability of the children. In these way the parents will have proper knowledge in deciding what the students wants to decide about the future career according to the needs, interest and ability of the children.

REFERENCES: