

## Research Article

**Attitude towards Career Choice among XI Standard School Students****Dafini Pinky. F**

Assistant Professor of Commerce, Stella Matutina College of Education, Chennai, TN, India.

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0009-0001-8370-6046>**Abstract**

This study examines the attitudes of XI standard students towards career choices, considering gender and school type. Results show no significant difference in career attitudes based on gender, but government school students display a higher career choice attitude compared to private and government-aided schools. The findings highlight the need for education and career counselling to guide informed vocational decisions, supporting national development by aligning human resources with suitable roles. Teachers play a crucial role in fostering positive attitudes towards career choices, making career counselling essential for students' long-term success in the workforce.

**Keywords:** Career Choice; Attitude; XI Standard Students; Adolescents; Vocational Preferences; Career Decision-Making; Educational Guidance; Student Aspirations

**Introduction**

Education serves as a process of human enlightenment, empowering individuals for a better quality of life and fostering social, economic, and cultural transformation. In Indian tradition, education leads people from ignorance to knowledge and darkness to light. While education creates individuals fit for employment, career-oriented education ensures they are job-ready or self-employed, instilling the dignity of labour. Attitudes, developed through life experiences, significantly influence career choices and job satisfaction. This study focuses on understanding the attitudes of IX standard students towards their career choices and examines how these attitudes impact their future career decisions, performance, and satisfaction.

**Need and Significance of the Study**

A human being is a precious national resource that needs nurturing and development. Education plays a vital role in shaping individuals, reflecting societal values, and contributing to national growth. In today's world, career education is gaining importance as the increasing

number of vocational options makes career choices more complex. Adolescence, especially during high school, is a pivotal time when students' vocational interests begin to emerge. The choice of subjects after the 10th grade—whether in arts, science, or commerce—has a significant impact on their future career paths. Thus, developing a positive attitude towards career choice is essential during this stage.

### **Objectives of the Study**

- 1) To examine the difference in the Attitude towards Career Choice XI standard School Students owing to the difference in Gender
- 2) To examine the difference in the Attitude towards Career Choice XI standard School Students owing to the difference in Type of institution

### **Review of Related Literature**

**Thomas Buser, Muriel Niederl, and Hessel Oosterbee (2014)** explore the impact of gender and competitiveness on career choices, particularly focusing on psychological attributes and how competitiveness influences decisions. The research involved an experimental study with Dutch secondary school students enrolled in a pre-university track. The findings indicated that, despite boys and girls having comparable academic abilities, boys were significantly more inclined to choose more prestigious academic profiles. The study further revealed that up to 23 percent of the gender difference in profile selection could be attributed to competitiveness. These results emphasize the importance of competitiveness as a predictor in career decision-making, suggesting that gender-related disparities in career choices may, in part, be driven by differences in competitiveness.

**Dr. Mohammad Iqbal Mattoo (2013)**, the career choices of secondary students were examined with a focus on the variables of gender, type of academic stream, and parental education. The study aimed to explore the career preferences of 200 randomly selected secondary school students from district Srinagar, all aged 16 and above. The sample included students from both arts and science streams, and Chatterji's Non-Language Preference Record was employed to gather data. In addition to the primary focus on career choices, the study also considered the educational background of the students' parents. The findings highlighted notable differences in career choices based on gender and parental education, suggesting that these factors significantly influence the students' career decision-making processes.

**Ogowewo and Bridget Oghenekome (2010)**, the factors influencing career choice among secondary school students were explored through a survey of 100 students randomly selected from four secondary schools in region 4, Guyana. Data was collected using a questionnaire, and statistical analysis was conducted using percentages and means. The findings revealed that career choices were influenced by gender bias and several key factors such as interest, life ambition, the challenging nature of careers, prestige, intellectual ability, salary potential, and job opportunities. The study emphasized the need for qualified school counselors in Guyana's secondary schools to guide students in making informed career decisions.

### **Tools Used for the Study**

For the study the following tools were employed to collect the data.

- Career Maturity Inventory (Attitude Scale & Competency test) originally developed by John O'Crites and Indian Adaptation by Dr.Mrs Nirmala Gupta. This tool consists of 50 items measuring an individual's feelings and attitudes toward career choice and work. Reliability ranged from .78 to .82, and the scale has high content and construct validity as confirmed by experts. Scoring is based on correct responses, with one mark per correct answer, while omitted or multiple-marked items score zero.
- Personal data sheet prepared by the researcher.

### **Selection of the Sample**

The sample for the study was selected randomly. The sample consisted of 500 XI standard school students drawn from 8 schools from Chennai city and Gudiyatham (three Governments, two Government-aided and three private schools).

### **Hypotheses**

**H1** – There is no difference in Attitude towards Career Choice of XI standard School Students owing to the difference in Gender

**H2**– There is no difference in the Attitude towards Career Choice of XI standard School students owing to the difference in Type of school

**Hypothesis 1**

There is no difference in Attitude towards Career Choice of XI standard School Students owing to the difference in Gender.

**Table 1**

**Showing the difference in Attitude towards Career Choice of XI standard School Students owing to the difference in Gender**

Variable	Category	N	Mean Rank	Wilcoxon W	Mann-Whitney U	z' value	Sig. level
<b>Gender</b>	Male	250	243.24	60810.500	29435.500	1.141	0.254
	Female	250	257.76				

**Interpretation:**

Since the significant value 0.254 is greater than 0.05 which is not significant at 5% level. So, the null hypothesis is accepted. Hence, there is no significant difference in Attitude towards Career Choice of XI standard School Students owing to the difference in Gender.

**Hypothesis 2**

There is no difference in Attitude towards Career Choice of XI standard School students owing to the difference in Type of School.

**Table 2**

**Kruskal Wallis Test showing difference in Attitude towards Career Choice of XI standard School students owing to the difference in Type of School.**

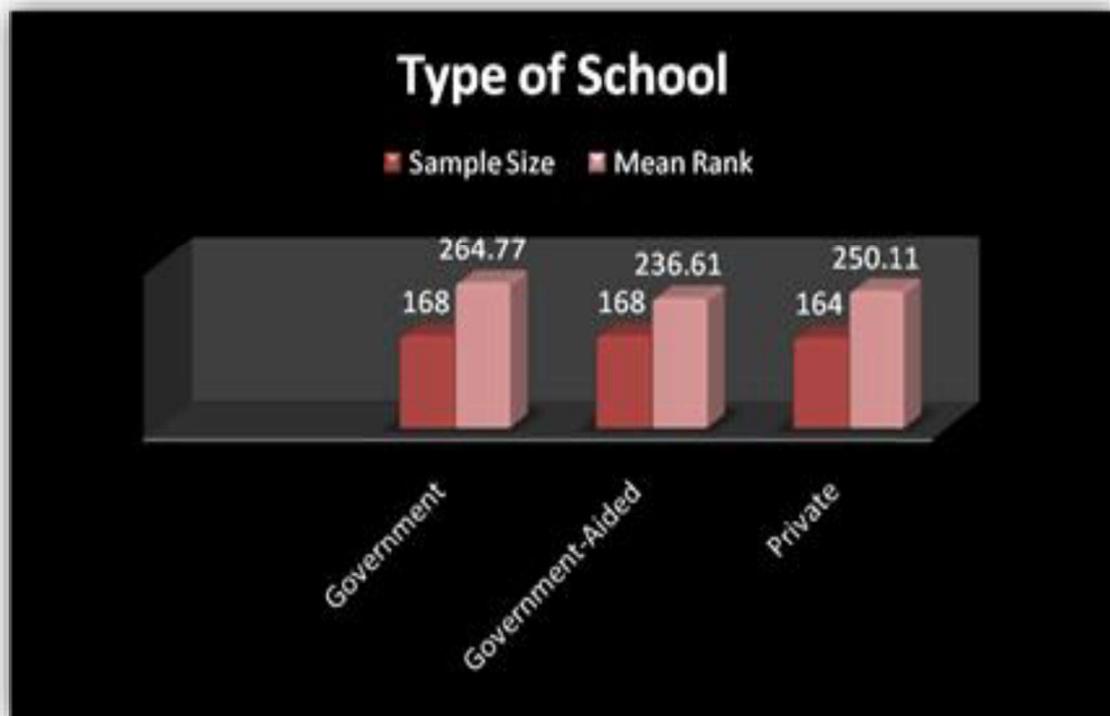
Variable	Categories	Sample Size	Mean Rank	Chi-Square	Degree of freedom	Sig. level
<b>Type of School</b>	Government	168	264.77	3.296	2	0.192
	Govt-Aided	168	236.61			
	Private	164	250.11			

**Interpretation:**

Since the significant value 0.192 is greater than 0.05 which is not significant at 5% level. So, the null hypothesis is accepted. Hence, there is significant difference in Attitude towards Career Choice of XI standard School students favouring Government schools.

**Figure 1**

Showing the difference in the Sample Size and Mean Rank of Attitude towards Career Choice of XI standard School Students owing to the difference in Type of School

**Findings of the Study**

1. There is no significant difference in the Attitude towards Career Choice of XI standard School Students owing to the difference in Gender.
2. There is significant difference in the Attitude towards Career Choice of XI standard School students owing the difference in Type of School.

## **Discussion of the Result**

### **Attitude towards Career Choice**

#### **Gender**

The computed Mann-Whitney ratio for Attitude towards Career choice led to the conclusion that there is no significant difference in the Attitude towards Career Choice of XI standard School Students owing to the difference in Gender.

Hence the result shows that Male and Female students do not vary in their Attitude towards Career choice.

This finding is in contradicting with the finding of Mohammed Iqbal Mattoo (2013) and Thomas Buser, Muriel Niederl and Hessel Oosterbee (2012) whose findings showed that there is some significant difference on the basis of gender in various career choice and they also found that boys are substantially, more likely than girls to choose more prestigious profile.

#### **Type of Institution**

The computed Kruskal-Wallis ratio for Attitude towards Career Choice led to the conclusion that that there is significant difference in the Attitude towards Career Choice of XI standard School students owing the difference in Type of School.

From the mean value it is evident that the government schools' students have higher Attitude towards Career Choice when compared to private and government-aided schools' students.

Hence the result shows that students studying in government, government-aided and private schools vary in their Attitude towards Career Choice.

#### **Educational Implications of the Present Study**

The economic growth and development of a nation hinge not only on the development of mass power resources but also on effectively placing human resources in suitable roles. In India, the role of education, particularly its vocationalization at the higher secondary stage, is crucial for national development.

## Role of Teachers

Teachers serve as custodians of the nation's human capital and guardians of youth, playing a vital role in shaping the future of the nation. They must create an environment that fosters positive attitudes towards career choices among students.

## Importance of Career Counselling

The present study highlights the necessity of identifying adolescents' attitudes towards career choices as part of the career counselling process. Understanding their interests and career preferences can facilitate informed decision-making.

The path of career success is now more apparent that Educators, counselors, and parents can enhance students' awareness of the connection between academic achievement and career success by following these guidelines:

- **Encourage Skills Reflection:** Help students recognize the relationship between skills learned in school subjects and those required in various occupations.
- **Connect Academics to Careers:** Motivate students to see how their studies relate to the workforce and their interests.
- **Discuss Characteristics of Successful Students:** Share insights with high school students about the attributes of successful college students and how career goals influence academic preparation.
- **Expose Career Alternatives:** Provide students with exposure to a diverse range of career options to promote interest and informed choices.
- **Facilitate Success Experiences:** Create opportunities for students to gain career-related experiences that reinforce their interests.
- **Provide Mentorship:** Connect students with adult mentors who can help them develop realistic career and educational plans aligned with their interests and academic potential.

This contributes to the fact that students today are provided with career guidance & counseling programs which help them make more informed and better career choice. These programs offer information on course settings, career options, type of academic, occupational training needed

to succeed in the workplace and post-secondary opportunities that are associated with their field of interest.

Academic preparations and strong career preferences can better position individuals to make career choice that are suited to their skills and interest. Such preparation can strengthen the future workforce and ensure students long term success in the world of work.

The present study brought into light that there is no significant difference in the Attitude towards Career Choice of XI standard School Students owing to the difference in Gender and Type of School. In the Indian culture, there tends to be a sex difference in favor of boys. So, it is the duty of educational institution to uproot the sexual disparities through education. It has now been observed that the selection of proper vocation according to an individual's ability and interest is essential for the success of any man to be happy in Career life.

### **Conclusion**

The study emphasizes that education not only prepares students for employment but also plays a key role in shaping their attitudes toward career choices. While no significant gender-based differences were observed, the type of institution notably impacted career attitudes, with government school students showing a more positive outlook. This underscores the need for targeted career counseling, particularly during high school, to help students navigate the increasingly complex vocational landscape. Effective guidance can ensure informed subject selection, foster a positive attitude toward future career decisions, and ultimately contribute to greater career satisfaction and national development.

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