Peer Pressure as Predictor of Career Decision making among adolescents

Amandeep Kaur
Research Scholar
Panjab University, Chandigarh

Abstract:

This paper aimed to study the effect of peer pressure on career decision making among adolescents. For this purpose, the investigator used the standardized tools. To check the career decision making among adolescents tool by Singh(2014) was used and tool on peer pressure constructed and standardized by the investigator was used. 800 adolescents of XI class of Government senior secondary schools of Punjab represented the sample population. Results from the analysis showed that there exists a significant relationship between career decidedness and peer pressure among adolescents and also there exists a significant relationship between career indecision and peer pressure among adolescents. Further results and implications are discussed in this paper.

Keywords: Peer Pressure, Career Decision Making, Adolescents

Introduction:

The choice of career is one of the most pertinent decisions of life, hence energies of adolescents should be channelized in a way that could lead to make wise choice of career, alongwith providing congenial atmosphere, both at home and school.

An adolescent is expected to choose a right kind of career when he/she is at senior secondary stage, as this is the stage which decides one's future profession. At this particular time one must be well acquainted with different courses as well as the world of work. Super (1990) suggested that career planning becomes significant during late adolescence and early adulthood. A very important factor that affects the choices made by an individual is his peer group. Peer group is one of the main social factor which influences career decision making. Peer groups provide perspective outside the individual’s viewpoints. Members inside peer groups also learn to develop relationships with others in the social system. Peers, particularly group members, become important social referents for teaching other members customs, social norms, and different ideologies (Sherif & Sherif, 1964; Youniss & Smollar, 1985). Peer pressure can range from positive effects to negative effects such as career decisiveness to career indecisiveness.

Career Decision Making:

According to Rani (2013), “Career decision making is a dynamic and ongoing process where knowledge of self, values, interests, temperament, financial needs, physical work bring changes in one’s life situation and environment.” According to Oke(2015), “Career decision is not just a matter of selecting an occupation that is good match with person’s characteristics, but in reality the process is lot more complicated. Good career planning includes a match between requirement for a job, aptitude, interests, personality of the youth and expectations from the parents. Good
career planning leads to good career adjustment.”

**Peer Pressure:**
Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English (2009) defines peer pressure as a strong feeling that one must do the same things as other people of his age if he wants them to like him.

Hirst (2013) suggested some implication of negative peer pressure as victimization and bullying, anti-social behaviour, substance/alcohol misuse and smoking, poor educational outcomes, crime and gang culture, suicide and self-harm over-sexualization and teenage pregnancy etc.

According to Cambridge Advanced Learner’s Dictionary and Thesaurus (2016) Peer pressure is the influence that other people of your own age or social class have on the way you behave. Peer pressure means the strong influence of a group especially of children, on members of that group to behave as everyone else does.

Peer pressure plays a major role in career decisiveness and indecisiveness among adolescents. According to Salami (2006) many youth in Nigerian make wrong career choices due to ignorance, inexperience, peer pressure, or as a result of reputation attached to certain jobs without adequate vocational guidance and career counselling. Naz et. al(2014) examined that Peer and friends play a significant role in changing the behaviour of individuals, personality development and decision making process regarding career, adaptation as well as positive and negative behaviour in future life. Review of related literature by Obiunee (2008); Alika (2011); Tope (2011); Peter and Maria (2012); Naz, Saeed, Olamide and Olawaiye (2013); Khan, Khan, Sheikh and Khan (2014); Singh (2015); Mtemeri (2017); Ogutu, Odera, Maragia (2017) also shows peer pressure being asset in career decision making of an individual.

**Objectives of the Study:**
- (a) To find out the relationship between career decidedness and Peer pressure among adolescents.
- (b) To find out the relationship between career indecision and Peer pressure among adolescents.

**Hypotheses of the Study:**
1. There exists a significant relationship between career decidedness and peer pressure among adolescents.
2. There exists a significant relationship between career indecision and peer pressure among adolescents.

**Methodology**

**Method:**
In the present study Descriptive method was employed.
Design of the study

In the present study multistage randomization technique of sampling was used to select the schools. As it is not possible to cover the entire school population of the state of Punjab, the sample was drawn from five administrative divisions of Punjab. Then from each division one district was randomly selected. Further, schools were selected randomly from each district.

Sample

In order to ensure wider applicability of the findings, the total sample of 800 students of XI class (both boys and girls) from urban and rural areas was drawn from Government Secondary/ Senior Secondary Schools of Punjab.

Operational Definitions of the terms used

Career decision making:
Operationally, in the present study career decision-making has been defined as a process of choosing career path by reviewing one’s own skills, interests and abilities and ultimately reaching at rational decision. The Career Decision-Making Inventory (Singh, 2014) will be used to assess sub-scales of career decision-making of career decidedness and career indecision and to survey the career decision-making of undergraduate students.

Peer Pressure:
Peer pressure is feeling pressure by an individual from other age-mates to do something (fruitful or harmful) for self and others especially to be accepted or liked by the peer or peer group. This may result in change of their attitude, values or behaviour.

Delimitations

The study will be delimited to XI class students of Government Senior Secondary Schools from districts of the state of Punjab.

Tool Used

1. Career decision making tool by Singh (2014)
2. Tool on Peer Pressure will be constructed by the investigator.

Statistical Techniques Used

Karl Pearson’s coefficient of correlation technique to find out the relation between dependent variable (career decision making) and independent variable (Self-Esteem, family climate and peer pressure).
Results and Interpretations:

To find out the relationship between career decidedness and Peer pressure & career indecision and Peer pressure among adolescents Karl Pearson’s coefficient of correlation was calculated. The calculations are shown below in the tables.

Table 1: Showing Coefficient of Correlation between Career Decidedness and Peer pressure among adolescents (N=800)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Correlation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Career Decidedness and Positive Peer pressure</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>0.23**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career Decidedness and Negative Peer pressure</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>-0.21**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

** Significant at 0.01 level

Table 2 shows the relationship between career decidedness and peer pressure (positive & negative) of adolescents. The coefficient of correlation between career decidedness and positive peer pressure is 0.23 which is positive and significant at 0.01 level of confidence and negative peer pressure is -0.21 which is negative and significant at 0.01 level of confidence. It indicates that a significant relationship exists between career decidedness and peer pressure of adolescents.

It leads to the acceptance of hypothesis 1 “There exists a significant relationship between career decidedness and peer pressure among adolescents.” Thus career decidedness of adolescents has significant relationship with peer pressure.

Table 2: Showing Coefficient of Correlation between Career Indecision and Peer pressure among adolescents (N=800)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Correlation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Career Indecision and Positive Peer pressure</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>-0.14**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career Indecision and Negative Peer pressure</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>0.25**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

** Significant at 0.01 level

Table 2 shows the relationship between career indecision and peer pressure (positive & negative) of adolescents. The coefficient of correlation between career indecision and positive peer pressure is -0.14 which is negative and significant at 0.01 level of confidence and negative peer pressure is 0.25 which is positive and significant at 0.01 level of confidence. It indicates that a significant relationship exists between career indecision and peer pressure of adolescents.

It leads to the acceptance of hypothesis 2 “There exists a significant relationship between career indecision and peer pressure among adolescents.” Thus career indecision of adolescents has significant relationship with peer pressure.
Implications:

Results from the analysis showed that there is a significant relationship between peer pressure and career decision making process among adolescents. Both Career decision and indecision has significant correlation with peer pressure. However it varies with types of peer pressure (positive or Negative). From the results it may be suggested that parents, teachers should emphasis on promoting positive peer pressure among the adolescents and should try to keep their wards away from the negative effects of peer pressure, this will lead to good career decisions.

References:


Oke, A. (2015). Impact of Personality, Interest and Perceived Parenting on Effective Career Decision making. SNDT Women’s University http://hdl.handle.net/10603/27141


