

Tahira Kalsoom *¹ **Sadaf Jabeen** **² **Mubashira Khalid** ***³

Career Orientation for Girls: Impact of parents' Level of Education and Profession

Abstract

The study was designed to explore the impact of parental level of education and profession on girls' career orientation. The professional world is widening by the time. There are a lot of choices in selecting a profession. One can select a profession according to their talent, capabilities, aptitude and interests. Objectives of the Study were to measure girls' career orientation and the impact of parents' education and profession on the girls' career orientation. It was descriptive type research. This research was quantitative in nature and the survey method was used. A sample of 300 parents was taken from different public sector schools from Lahore city. Convenient sampling technique was used. The study revealed that role of parents is highly significant in selection of career and their opinion regarding which profession their daughters should choose. A large percentage of parents agreed that women should work and do job. The study revealed that parents view engineering as most suitable field for their daughters. The study revealed that, education and profession of parents affect the decisions they make for their daughters.

Key words: Career, Aspiration, Education, Parents, Profession

Introduction

The modern era requires the learners to attain capabilities worth of making sound decisions, to solve problems, plan successfully, work self-sufficiently, communicate well, exploration, research, evaluate themselves persuasively and explore new educational and professional opportunities for their educational and social success (Ashby, & Schoon, 2010).

A wisely planned supervision and professional education platform, starting in the fundamental grades and continuing through secondary school, was to assist students to attain these skills. Parents directly or indirectly

¹* **Tahira Kalsoom (Assistant Professor)** Research and Evaluation Department, Lahore College for Women University, Lahore Pakistan: Email ID: tahira.kalsoom@yahoo.com

² ****Sadaf Jabeen (Assistant Professor)** Research and Evaluation Department, Lahore College for Women University Lahore, Pakistan: Email ID: sadaf.jaben@gmail.com

³*** **Mubashira Khalid³ (Assistant Professor)** Institute of Education and Research University of the Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan

influence decisions of their daughters regarding profession (Alsop, et al 2008). These programs won't be effective without proper involvement of their parents as they were first ever role model and were investors of an individual. Parents are primary source of guidance and are an important element to enhance their daughters' achievement at different stages of life (Bullen, & Kenway, 2005). Parent's involvement was the element that makes the difference. Parent's contribution in learning at home and in school comes with a huge reward and can play a vital role in their child's life (Crossman, 2014).

For parents and educational motivators the need of the time is to point out the accurate benefits of education to school going girls and to authorize and motivate them to outshine in those areas which they continue from elementary standard to secondary education, thus increasing their interest-oriented success. (Cresswell, 2008). In this changing world needs and life patterns of human beings are changing rapidly. In past, the world was limited and confined but now it is very vast. Human knowledge is increasing day by day. Inventions and facilities are increasing because of science and technology. People have much work to do and there is variety of jobs and occupations according to their needs and choices (Davis-Kean, 2005).

In past due to lack of education and domestic labor, which was so much time taking, women had no spare time to spend on any work out of home (Lovat, 2010).

The education system follows an arrangement where student spend some of their childhood time at primary school, next some years at secondary school, and approximately four years in pursuing higher education in universities (Jacobs, et al, 2006). The students who perform well and score high in exams tend to take admissions in science related degrees such as medical, engineering and other major fields. The students who fail to achieve marks up to that level go for arts related degrees (Mills, 2008).

Our Current learning encourages the women of today to get them involved with the professions which are specifically considered for women. Females prefer a job in their own city and not much time taking because they have to look after their families and homes as well as choose the job with less physical or mental labor (Joronen, & Astedt-Kurki, 2005).

People who do efforts for achieving something amazing continues to follow specialized fields as engineering, medicine, law, architecture, finance, accounts etc. On the other hand, individuals who do not perform up to the mark were dragged to unspecialized simple degree courses (Morrison, & Eccles, 2007).

Consideration of professional choices would be consequently essential task for secondary school students. A careful selection of profession provides an authentic, significant, creative and satisfying future. Selection of profession through proper procedures or plans might give suitable choice than making their choices based upon unknown processes (Padilla & Martinez 2012).

"The influence of parents upon selecting the type of career for their children is very important even across gender and ethnic lines. Although educational institutes, school fellows, and the student's community also affects the identity of a young child and choice, one makes regarding future profession, the expectations of parents and perceptions about what is the best fit profession for their children plays an essential role" (Tang, et al, 2008).

Today's girls face very massive and diverse issues by parental influence and inspirations on professional choice for their daughters. Therefore, without appropriate counseling and guidance, girls may not accomplish or receive their goals in life (Somerville, et al, 2013).

No doubt, it's a fact that most of the girls face challenges in selecting an occupation according to their personal skills, pleasure, benefits, and comforts on their own choice (Denissen, et al, 2007). For that reason, it was the need of the time to value themselves in terms of opinions, morals, comforts and capabilities. They should be helped and guided to obtain expertise they require in order to handle a lot of situations they may face in future (Somerville, 2013).

Ford, (2007) states that the personality of an individual along with other financial benefits is largely determined by the type of choice they make about career. To summarize it, career is the totality of work one does in his/her lifetime and it is most important for each person to prepare him/herself for upcoming life (Field, 2009).

According to (Domenico, & Jones, 2006), one of the ultimate purpose of learning is to assist individuals to make multiple professional choices according to the specific benefits, comforts, capacities, persona and undeniable progress in the chosen profession. It was a point to be noted that the decision, an individual makes on a profession has intense and special impact on the whole life (Diemer, & Hsieh, 2008).

Professional choices are influenced by numerous elements including atmosphere, comforts, self-idea, social behavior, globalization, socialization, respectable pattern, social help and reachable resources, (Kerka, 2000).

In the same view, Eccles, (2009) mentioned that every individual going through the process of choosing a career is influenced by many factors including the environment in which they live in, their personal aptitudes, social context and educational success (Alloway, & Dalley-Trim, 2009). The factors affecting the choice of career can either be intrinsic or extrinsic or both. However, most of the people are influenced by careers that their parents' favor, others follow the field that their subjects offer (Alloway, et al, 2004). Some students choose the fields they are passionate about irrespective of income factor, while others pursue fields that provide them handsome amount of money as income (Care, et al, 2007). Guardians' opinion was the most common factor influencing the profession selection of girls (Correll, 2004).

It was realized that the job of parents and the family was vital in the professional decisions made by their daughters. (Cresswell, 2009). Girls gain more from parents however schools more often disregard parental contribution to professional decisions (Gale, & Parker, 2013).

Fuller, (2009) emphasized that attention regarding selecting a profession was viewed as a noteworthy life action which upgrades the personal satisfaction, offers money related self-assurance, improves confidence, gives sentiments of commitment to society and offers a general fulfillment. Seeking after a profession was a fundamental factor in picking up freedom, accomplishing social incorporation and guaranteeing equivalent interest in all parts of life (Frenzel, et al, 2010). Evans, (2009) deduces that parental education influences daughters' professional decisions. On account of the present examination, the above proclamations were valid apart from the basic pattern while daughters need appropriate direction for career choice.

When girls reach adolescence, they begin to genuinely worry about their future, continuously idealizing their parents as a role model and for occupational supervision too. Parental tactic to handle this can either inspire

adolescents inspect a different arrangement of respective professions or to abide by a way they figure their parents will encourage (Garg, et al, 2006). As Harreveld, (2007) notes, if their parent's employments gave them self-actualization or gave a friendly way of life, girls may select these profession over others. Gillies, (2005) perceived that "parents have a significant influence in their daughters' professional development. Parents want their daughters to discover joy and achievement throughout life, and one factor which affects joy and achievement is professional judgment. This is a significant fact that youngsters, who feel inspired by their parents, will in general select their parents' profession (Mills, 2008). Both family structure factors (e.g., guardians' occupations) and family process factors (e.g., warmth, support, connection, self-governance) were found important in the professional aspirations of girls (Novakovic, & Fouad, 2013).

Statement of the Problem

The study was designed to explore the impact of parental level of education and profession on career orientation for girls.

Objectives of the Study

- To measure the Career orientation for girls.
- To measure the impact of parents' level of education and profession on the career orientation for girls.

Research Questions

- What are the career orientations for girls?
- What is the impact of parental level of education and profession on the career orientation for girls?

Research Design:

It was descriptive type research. This research was quantitative in nature and the survey method was used. Quantitative research was selected for the study because the strength of the quantitative paradigm is to be quantifiable and reliable. This type of data is usually generalizable to some larger population and ensures objectivity and reliability. The basic purpose of designing this study was to investigate the opinion of parents regarding career orientation for girls. The population of this study was the parents of secondary schools' students of Lahore city. A sample of 300 parents was taken from different public sector schools specifically from Lahore city. Convenient sampling technique was used. The data was collected with the help of a self constructed questionnaire. Descriptive statistics were used to describe and summarize the properties of the mass of data collected from the respondents. Means scores, standard deviations and percentages were calculated as per each item of the survey instrument. T test and NOVA was applied to find out difference in perceptions between groups.

Data Analysis and Results

The collected data was analyzed and findings were drawn. For data analysis, descriptive statistics Mean score, standard deviation independent sample t-test and ANOVA was applied to find out that if there is significant difference in the groups.

Table 1

ANOVA test to find mean difference in groups on the basis of parents' level of education regarding girls' career orientation

Career Orientation for Girls: JRSP, Vol. 1, January-June- 2020

	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between groups	9633.671	8	1204.209	4.054	.000
Within groups	101303.289	291	297.077		
Total	110936.960	299			

In the above table one-way ANOVA was conducted to explore the parent's perceptions regarding girls' career orientation. With $F(4,054)$ and $P = .000$, the result declared that there is a significance difference between groups on the basis of education. In other words parental level of education has a significant effect on the career orientation for girls.

Table 2

ANOVA test to find mean difference in groups on the basis of parents' level of education regarding girls' career orientation

	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between groups	3893.889	3	1297.963	4.195	.006
Within groups	107043.071	291	309.373		
Total	110936.960	299			

In the above table one-way ANOVA was conducted to explore the impact of parent's profession on girls' aspirations related to job. With $F(3,346) = 4.195$, and $P = .006$, the result declared that there is a significance difference between groups on the basis of their profession. In other words type of job affects the career orientation for girls.

Table 3

Statements	SA	A	Z	D	SD	Mean	SD
You are in favor of women's job.	50.6	28.3	10.0	2.9	8.3	1.85	1.083
You allow your daughters for job.	40.9	32.3	10.3	4.6	12.0	2.07	1.184
You permit your daughters to do job with men.	12.6	13.4	19.7	16.6	37.7	3.32	1.256
You prefer that your daughters become economically established.	46.6	31.7	12.0	2.9	6.9	1.88	1.051
Working women prove that they are more confident as compare to non-working women.	31.1	21.7	23.7	8.6	14.9	2.48	1.300
You permit your daughters to do job outside the city.	11.7	14.0	27.7	8.3	38.3	3.17	1.139
You encourage your daughters to choose profession whatever they want.	25.1	31.4	7.4	12.3	13.7	2.57	1.329
You permit your daughters to go abroad for professional education.	11.7	28.3	22.3	13.7	24.0	3.00	1.243

Career Orientation for Girls: JRSP, Vol. 1, January-June- 2020

Women's job proves that they are helpful in reducing the economic burden of parents.	34.6	36.6	18.9	4.6	5.4	2.09	1.076
Women have equal rights as men in all field of life.	36.3	34.9	8.3	10.0	10.6	2.23	1.311
Women have the abilities to perform their duties as men.	36.6	42.3	12.0	5.1	4.0	1.99	1.054
The professional studies of daughters in abroad create financial worries for parents.	21.4	36.6	22.0	6.9	13.1	2.47	1.165
Performing arts as the best profession for your daughters.	16.0	28.9	25.4	11.4	18.3	2.80	1.239
Female lawyers are considered to have the high social status.	23.7	31.1	26.6	7.4	11.1	2.47	1.182
Females have good abilities in the field of textile industry.	12.3	17.1	7.4	12.9	50.3	3.34	1.252
You permit your daughters to do job in call centers.	14.9	22.0	16.6	16.6	30.0	3.11	1.330
You permit your daughters to choose the profession of calligraphy.	9.1	11.1	14.9	13.4	51.4	3.49	1.137
You considered that modeling is the best profession for your daughters.	11.1	13.1	25.4	14.0	36.3	3.29	1.192
You permit your daughters to choose the profession of beautician.	8.6	23.7	16.9	18.3	32.6	3.28	1.250
Journalism is the suitable profession for your daughters.	8.0	9.7	11.1	11.4	59.7	3.57	1.073
You permit your daughters to choose sales girl's job.	11.0	25.5	9.5	2.0	52.0	1.93	1.121
Women are good doctors.	36.3	32.9	15.7	5.4	9.7	2.15	1.174
Women can make the best use of their creative abilities in the field of engineering.	58.3	26.0	9.1	0.6	6.0	1.65	.918
You considered that teaching is the best profession for their daughters.	24.3	43.7	15.7	6.6	9.7	2.31	1.136
Women show good performance as lady health worker.	13.7	31.1	23.1	8.6	23.4	2.82	1.187
Females are good designers in the field of web designing.	19.4	36.6	31.7	6.6	5.7	2.43	1.071
Women are good developer in the field of software engineering.	33.1	29.1	25.1	4.3	8.3	2.21	1.121
Women can helpful for defensive purposes of the country.	19.1	31.7	22.9	8.9	197.4	2.65	1.222
Nursing as the best profession for your daughters.	28.6	26.0	17.1	5.7	22.6	2.51	1.273
You considered that banking job as the suitable profession for your daughters.	31.7	33.1	19.7	6.9	8.6	2.26	1.188

It is indicated in the above table that 79% of the parents were agreeing with the statement that parents are in favor of women's job. 79% parents were agreeing that they allowed their daughters for job. Only 26% parents were agreeing that they permit their daughters to do job with men. 78% parents were agreed that they prefer their daughters to become economically established. 58% parents were agreed that Working women prove that they are more confident as compare to non-working women. Only 26% parents were agreed that they permit their daughters to do

job outside the city. 42% parents were agreed that they encourage their daughters to choose profession whatever they want. 40% parents were agreed that they permit their daughters to go abroad for professional education. 53% of the parents were agreed that Women's job proves that they are helpful in reducing the economic burden of parents. 71% parents were agreed that Women have equal rights as men in all field of life. 78% of the parents were agreed that Women have the abilities to perform their duties as men. 58% of the parents were agree the professional studies of daughters in abroad create financial worries for parents. 45% parents were agreed that Performing arts as the best profession for their daughters. 51% of the parents were agreed that Female lawyers are considered to have the high social status. Only 29% of the parents were agreed that Females have good abilities in the field of textile industry. Only 37% of the parents were agreed that they permit their daughter to do job in call centers. Only 20% parents were agreed that they permit their daughters to choose a profession of calligraphy. 23% parents were agreed that they consider that modeling is the best profession for their daughters. 33% parents were agreed that they permit their daughter to choose the profession of beautician. 18% parents were agreed that Journalism is the suitable profession for their daughters. 38% parents were agreed that they permit their daughters to choose salesgirl's job. 69% parents were agreed that Women are good doctors. 84% parents were agreed that Women can make the best use of their creative abilities in the field of engineering. 68% parents were agreed that they considered that teaching is the best profession for their daughters. 45% parents were agreed that Women show good performance as lady health worker. 56% parents were agreed that Females are good designers in the field of web designing. 62% parents were agreed that Women are good developer in the field of software engineering. 51% parents were agreed that Women are helpful for defensive purpose of the country. 55% parents were agreed that Nursing as the best profession for their daughters. 65% parents were agreed that they considered that banking job as the suitable profession for their daughters.

Discussion

Choosing a suitable profession was one of the far- reaching decisions that a young person will be required to make. The decision to choose a profession was not only made looking at the work requirement of profession but also how the person's living standard and social status would intermingle with the profession's representation.

To know the opinion of parents regarding selection of profession, ANOVA test was applied to check the difference in opinion of parents regarding their daughter's professional orientation. The study aimed to identify what is the opinion of parents about job of women, what is the opinion of parents towards different professions for their daughters? what profession parents considered suitable for their daughters and how parents affect the professional choice of their daughter. The sample included 300 parents of secondary schools' female students from Lahore city. The study concluded that educational level and profession of parents effects the career orientation for girls. A large percentage of almost 79% of parents viewed job as acceptable for their daughters. They agreed that women should be allowed to do job. Parents agreed on the point that they want their daughters to be economically stable in their lives. Although a small percentage agreed to allow daughters to work with men and out of city. Only 42% agreed that their daughters can choose whatever profession they want. Consistent with the notion that parents influence highly in the matter of career selection among daughter, parental Effects on Sons and Daughters states that daughters choose profession of engineering much less as compared to sons with parent's employment playing major

role in this choice of daughters. It was found that daughters whose parents were engineers or any one of the parent was engineer, were more likely to choose this profession in comparison to those daughters whose parent were employed in other professions (Smith, et al, 2011).

The research from the Institution of Engineering and Technology in UK shows that one percent of parents want their daughters to be engineers and that getting young people interested in STEM careers is not purely a gender issue (Singaravelu, et al, 2005).

Research suggests that parents are less likely to choose engineering for girls. The reason for inconsistent result might be limitations of the sample or changing trend of society. Personal choice of individual becoming more dominant in comparison to parent's choices. As is evident from literature review where one study validates "personal choice" has solid impact on what a student selects as career. (Gutman, & Schoon, 2012).

Conclusions

The study revealed that role of parents is highly significant in selection of career and their opinion regarding which profession their daughters should choose. A large percentage of parents agreed that women should work and do job. The study revealed that parents view engineering as most suitable field for their daughters. The study revealed that, education of parents and profession affects the career orientation for their daughters. They consider that working women become confident and economically stable in their lives.

References

- Alloway, N., & Dalley-Trim, L. (2009) 'High and dry' in rural Australia: obstacles to student aspirations and expectations. *Rural Society*, pp. 49 - 49.
- Alloway, P. N., Dalley, D. L., Patterson, A. A., Walker, D. K., & Lenoy, M. M. (2004). School students making education and career decisions: aspirations, attitudes and influences. Department of Education, Science and Training: Australian Government.
- Alsop, R., Gonzalez-Arnal, S., & Kilkey, M. (2008). The widening participation agenda: the marginal place of care. Routledge Taylor Francis Group.
- Ashby, J. S., & Schoon, I. (2010). Career Success: the role of teenage career aspirations, ambition value and gender in predicting adult social status and earnings. *Journal of Vocational Behaviour*, 350-360.
- Bullen, E., & Kenway, J. (2005). Bourdieu, subcultural capital and risky girlhood. *Theory and research in education*, 47-61.
- Care, E., Deans, J., & Brown, R. (2007). The realism and sex-type of four-to-five-year-old children's occupational inspirations. *Early Childhood Research*, 5.2.
- Crossman, A. (2014). Secondary data analysis. Retrieved from About.com Sociology: <http://sociology.about.com/od/Research-Methods/a/Secondary-DataAnalysis.html>
- Correll, S. J. (2004). Constraints into preferences: gender, status and emerging career aspirations. 93-113.
- Cresswell, J. (2008). Educational research: planning, conducting and evaluating quantitative and qualitative research. New Jersey: Pearson Education Inc.

- Cresswell, J. (2009). *Research Design: Qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods approaches*. Thousand Oaks: SAGE Publications Inc.
- Davis-Kean, P. (2005). The influence of parent education and family income on child achievement: the indirect role of parental expectations and the home environment. *Journal of Family Psychology*, 294 - 304.
- Denissen, J., Zarrett, N. R., & Eccles, J. (2007). I like to do it, I'm able to do it, and I know I am: longitudinal couplings between domain-specific achievement, self-concept and interest. *Child Development*, 430 - 447. References 121
- Domenico, D., & Jones, K. H. (2006). Career aspirations of women in the 20th century. *Journal of Career and Technical Education*, 1 - 7.
- Eccles, J. (2009). Who am I and what am I going to do with my life? Personal and collective identities as motivators of action. *Educational Psychologist*, 78 - 89.
- Evans, S. (2009). In a different place: working-class girls and higher education. *Sociology*, 340.
- Field, A. (2009). *Discovering statistics using SPSS*. London: SAGE Publications Ltd. Ford, Dr. C. (2011). Gender and career aspirations. *Redress*, 2-7.
- Ford, C. (2007). Boys are doctors, girls are nurses: sustaining the stereotypes in career aspirations. *Redress*, pp. 2 - 7.
- Frenzel, A., Goetz, T., Pekrun, R., & Watt, H. G. (2010). Development of mathematics interest in adolescence: influences of gender, family, and school context. *Journal of Research on Adolescence*, 507 - 537.
- Fuller, C. (2009). *Sociology, Gender and Educational Aspirations: Girls and their ambitions*. London: Continuum International Publishing.
- Gale, P. T., & Parker, D. S. (2013). *Widening participation in Australian higher education*. Melbourne: Deakin University.
- Garg, R., Melanson, S., & Levin, E. (2006). Educational aspirations of male and female adolescents from single-parent and two biological parent families: a comparison of influential factors. *Journal of Youth Adolescence*, 1010 - 1023.
- Gillies, V. (2005). Raising the 'Meritocracy': Parenting and the Individualization of Social Class. *Sociology*, 835 - 853.
- Grenfell, M. (2008). *Pierre Bourdieu, Key Concepts*. Durham: Acumen Publishing Ltd.
- Gutman, L. M., & Schoon, I. (2012). Correlates and consequences of uncertainty in career aspirations: Gender differences among adolescents in England. *Journal of Vocational Behaviour*, 608 - 618.
- Harreveld, B. (2007). The ETRF, robust hope and teacher education: making practical reforms to the senior phase of learning. *Asia-Pacific Journal of Teacher Education*, 273-289.
- Jacobs, J., Chhin, C., & Bleeker, M.M. (2006). Enduring links: parents' expectations and their

- young adult and children's gender-typed occupational choices. *Educational Research and Evaluation*, 395 - 407.
- Joronen, K., & Astedt-Kurki. (2005). Adolescents' experiences of family involvement in peer relations and school attendance. *Primary Health Care Research and Development*, pp. 190 - 198. Doi: 10.1191/1463423605pc234oa.
- Li, C., & Kerpelman, J. (2007). Parental influences on young women's certainty about their career aspirations. *Sex Roles*, 105 - 115.
- Lovat, T. (2010). Synergies and balance between values education and quality teaching. *Educational Philosophy and Theory*, 489 - 500.
- Mills, C. (2008). Opportunity and resignation within marginalised students: towards a theorisation of the reproductive and transformative habitus. *Critical Studies in Education*, 99 – 111
- Morrison Gutman, L., & Eccles, J. (2007). Stage-environment fit during adolescence: trajectories of family relations and adolescent outcomes. *Development Psychology*, 522 - 537.
- Novakovic, A., & Fouad, N. (2013). Background, personal, and environmental influence on the career planning of adolescent girls. *Journal of career development*, 223-244.
- Padilla-Carmona, T., & Martinez-Garcia, I. (2012). Influences, values and career aspirations of future professionals in education: gender perspective. *Educational Review*, 357- 371.
- Singaravelu, H., White, L., & Bringaze, T. (2005). Factors influencing international students' career choice. *Journal of Career Development*, 46 - 59.
- Smith, A. K., Avanian, J. Z., Covinsky, K. E., Landon, B. E., McCarthy, E. P., Wee, C. C., & Steinman, M. A. (2011). Conducting high-value secondary dataset analysis: an introductory guide and resources. *Journal of General Internal Medicine*, 920 - 929.
- Somerville, M. (2013). The 'placetimemattering' of aspiration in the Blacktown Learning Community. *Critical Studies in Education*, 231 - 244.
- Somerville, M., Reid, C., Naidoo, L., Gannon, S., Brown, L., & Gray, T. (2013). Student trajectory aspiration research (STAR): A study of aspirations, enablers and barriers to further education in the Blacktown Learning Community.
- Tang, M., Pan, W., & Newmeyer, M. D. (2008). Factors influencing high school students' career aspirations. Brisbane: Queensland University of technology.