



ATTITUDE OF HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS TOWARDS VOCATIONAL EDUCATION IN BIRBHUM DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT Education plays a significant role for giving multiple opportunities to students to earn the capability of work with socio-economic relevance and also empower the people. Every child wants to become a productive member of the society. Furthermore, Education should not produce men and women who are fit only to take up white collar job. Education teaches us to feel every work has equal importance to maintain the balance of society. Whether Education is considered from the point of view of development, its main purpose should be to universalize or modernize attitude as well as to impart both knowledge and skill. It must establish effective linkage of all its educational streams generally agriculture and vocational with its job market. The present study wants to find out and compare the level of attitude of higher secondary students towards the vocational education in respect to the locality, stream and sex.

KEYWORDS : Attitude, Higher Secondary School Students, Vocational Education

INTRODUCTION

The term "Vocational Education" came into prominence near the being of 19th century. Some individual suggested that vocational education is for the training of workers. Another concept was vocational education is for manual work and not concerned work involving mental activity. But it is the narrow meaning of vocational education. In broad concept vocational education covers education and skill development at all levels from post primary to tertiary education through both formal and non-formal programs. Wood's Despatch (1854) first time emphasized the requirement for overview of occupational education for students in India. The report did not give any clear effect until Hunter Commission was established up in 1882 to inspect the problems of education as a whole specially of technical and vocational education. Hunter commission suggested two different streams at the high school stage to preparing the students for entrance examination to the university courses and the second for practical occupations. But these recommendations of the Hunter Commission were not implemented. Then the Calcutta University Commission suggested that "the intermediate colleges must be regarded as fulfilling a double purpose. In the first place, it must provide training such as will qualify its students for admission to the university, in different faculties or in other institutions of higher or technological training. In the second place it must provide training suitable for students, who after completing the courses will proceed directly into various practical occupations. As the system develops, we should expect to find an increasing number of students entering upon the intermediate courses solely with a view to preparing for various practical careers". The Radhakrishnan Commission (1948) suggested to direct the students to vocations after passing of Class X, a lot of number of intermediate colleges should be established. The Mudaliar Commission (1952) also suggested that the secondary education is a whole unit by itself and not merely a preliminary stage that at the finish of this period the student should be in a situation, if he/ she wishes, to join the responsibilities of life and take up some vocations. Vocational education can progress capabilities at higher secondary stage required by a specific profession or a group of profession through expanded vocational courses. It prepares a student for self-employment. Above all it has a very important role in developing any nation

RATIONALE OF THE STUDY

The vocational education is growing up with the general education in modern education system. But there is a wide gap between the supply and demand of skilled manpower. The shortage of skilled manpower is another state of unemployment. The vocational education is suitable for people from a lesser financial background. It is related to career and job market of individual. If the study will be conducted, we will be able to know the different attitudes of students towards the vocational education. So many problems should be solved like unemployment, dependents, bad economic condition etc. so, this study is very much significant.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

O₁: -To compare the level of attitude of rural and urban higher secondary students towards the vocational education.

O₂: -To compare the level of attitude of Arts and Science students towards the vocational education at higher secondary stage.

O₃: -To compare the level of attitude of boys' and girls' students towards the vocational education at higher secondary stage.

HYPOTHESES

H₀: - There is no significant difference in the level of attitude between higher secondary students of rural and urban areas towards the vocational education.

H₀: - There is no significant difference in the level of attitude between higher secondary students of Arts and Science stream towards the vocational education.

H₀: - There is no significant difference in the level of attitude between boys' and girls' students of higher secondary school towards the vocational education.

METHODOLOGY

The present study carried out with the descriptive survey method. The population of the present study includes all the students of higher secondary school of West Bengal Council of Higher Secondary Education in Birbhum district in West-Bengal. In the present study the 200 numbers of students (class XI and class XII) of higher secondary school of Birbhum district in West-Bengal were taken as sample for the collection. Cluster sampling technique was taken for selection of sample. A self-made five-point attitude scale was constructed for the collection of data. The options of the items are Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Unable to decide (UD) and Disagree (D), Strongly Disagree (SD). Out of these five options of an item, a respondent has to put a tick mark (✓) against one option to which he/she finds appropriate. The details for the scoring value of the items (both positive and negative items) of the scale are given in the below Table-

Scoring favourable Items			Scoring unfavourable Items		
Scale points (options) of the items	Short form of the points	Scoring value	Scale points (options) of the items	Short form of the points	Scoring value
Strongly Agree	(SA)	5	Strongly Agree	(SA)	1
Agree	(A)	4	Agree	(A)	2
Un Decided	(UD)	3	Un Decided	(UD)	3
Disagree	(D)	2	Disagree	(D)	4
Strongly Disagree	(SD)	1	Strongly Disagree	(SD)	5

After the collection of data, data was analysed through t-test.

MAJOR FINDINGS

The major finding of the reveal that the higher secondary school students of Birbhum district has positive attitude towards vocational education. It is found that there is significant difference between the attitude of rural and urban areas students of higher secondary schools in Birbhum district towards vocational education. The mean attitude score of rural areas students being less than the urban areas students of higher secondary schools in Birbhum district towards vocational education. We may say that urban areas students have more positive attitude than the rural areas students of higher secondary schools towards vocational education in Birbhum district. Also, this is to say

that there is no significant difference between the attitude of Arts and Science students of higher secondary school in Birbhum district towards vocational education. This is also known by the result that there is significant difference between the attitude of boys' and girls' students of higher secondary schools in Birbhum district towards vocational education. We may say that girls' students have more positive attitude than the boys' students of higher secondary schools towards vocational education in Birbhum district. It is also found that some students are not so much aware about the vocational education.

CONCLUSION

Education plays a vital role in achieving the goal of any nation. The development of any country also depends on the type of education which is given to the students. Education plays an important role in social change, economic growth, development of the quality of life of common man in many other sectors. Also, education has a close relationship with socio-economic needs. The findings of the study reveal that rural students have less level of attitude than urban students and girls' students have more positive attitude than the boys' students at higher secondary level in Birbhum district. During the data collection it was also found that most of the rural students have misconception or lack of awareness. Further step must be taken for elimination of misconception and lack of awareness such as campaigning, organising seminars, workshops. It is important to come in the knowledge of students as well as people about its advantages and future opportunities. If the proper step will be taken society will overcome the upcoming huge unemployment problem of people.

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