This paper attempts to identify the perception and expectations of students (pursuing class xii) regarding new avenues in career. Aptitude tests (consists visual, numerical, verbal, spatial, three dimensional, vocabulary) were conducted for sixty students and they were given options, based on their respective areas, like-fashion designing, dance , catering, ecology, economics, drama etc. This paper also reveals the reasons why the students are not 'open' to accept the 'new opportunities'.

**Key Words:** Aptitude, career, new opportunities.

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**NEW OPPORTUNITIES IN EDUCATION**

Education is the process by which an individual is encouraged and enabled to develop fully his or her innate potential; it may also serve the purpose of equipping the individual with what is necessary to be a productive member of society. Every society has some form of educational institution; the culturally standardized form of deliberate instruction. In modern societies, this instruction is largely performed by the formal bodies like schools, colleges etc. The word education comes from the Latin term ‘educare’ which means to bring up. The genuine idea of education is not merely to lead the pupil in the acquisition of knowledge and experience, but also to bring up, develop in him those habits and attitudes with which he may successfully face the future.

The growth of formal education institutions for the past hundred years is best explained by the growth of technologies, bureaucracies and mass production. The transition from nomadic or agrarian society means that the more informal traditional methods of socialization are no longer adequate. Primary or close group (family, friends etc.) can no longer teach the young, the skill they need. The schools require more and more time to prepare the young for adult roles.

Universalization of primary education is possible only by making it legally compulsory. Compulsory education was introduced earliest in protestant countries, where there was widespread belief in the importance of reading the Bible. In France anti-clericalism was a major factor in creating a state-run secular education system. Japan introduced compulsory education in 1872 and the other Asian countries, North and South Korea, Taiwan and the People’s Republic of China made education compulsory shortly. India, Pakistan, Bangladesh are the only Asian countries which have not made primary education compulsory, with the result, they have a high percentage of illiterates, world’s largest number of child laborers.

For nearly half a century, the Indian Government has given a higher budgetary priority to the expansion of higher education than to mass elementary education, because of its low investment in primary education. There are not enough schools to meet the demands. The quality of education is also poor and the design of the education system is such that it does not send the needs of society while the teachers blame parents and children for the high drop out problem and parents blame their education and teachers, the children indicate that they have problem with schooling process.

A high quality education is imperative for nation’s economic growth. A sound higher education system enhances the progress of Indian economy India has one of the largest higher education systems in the world with 311 universities and 15,600 colleges as of 2004 producing 2.5 million Graduates every year. However, the system has failed to produce creative intellectual leaders.

The demand has grown very high. Today the world has moved to knowledge economy era. With the emergence of MNCs there are huge demands. In this era of globalization India needs to adopt international standards. Increased competition is calling for increased demand of educators. India’s higher education sector has failed to map the future demand for various skills and it has not kept pace with industries’ growth. For instance, a Merrill Lynch report in Feb. 2005 suggest that 75-80% of India’s graduates are not employable in IT enabled services which could lead to qualified labor shortage. Another McKinsey’s survey
finds that 81% of Indian managers expect talent scarcity to limit growth. India has a large demography of people 120 million between ages of 17 to 22 in 2001 who are hardworking motivated and ambitious. Nalanda, Taxila and Vikramshila were the seats of education. Indians have a civilizational ethos for learning and demand for success. But still there are 48 million registered unemployed of these about 8.1 and 3.9 have graduate and PG degree. Clearly the higher education system in India is to be blamed for substandard class of workers in job market. That is why the role of psychologists has become important in this era and various private and missionary schools are conducting interests and psychological tests to make the students realize about their appropriate career path.

VARIOUS TESTS AND INTERPRETATIONS

Visual Reasoning — This is one of the tests that is closest to measuring ‘Natural’ intelligence that is intelligence that we are born with, rather than abilities we acquire.

Numerical Reasoning — It is much more than a test of arithmetic’s since it involves working out the relationship amongst numbers and detecting a pattern. The test measures mathematical potential in a broader way than the skill of arithmetic.

Sequential Reasoning — The purpose the sequential reasoning test serves as a further check on underlying potential although most people find this test very demanding indeed, if not downright difficult, it can after show potential that does not appear on the visual, numerical or verbal reasoning test.

Spatial Recognition Test — People, who do well on this test, are: seen as original or imaginative because they seem to create new possibilities or outcomes.

Three-D Test — This test demands many of the same attributes as the test of spatial recognition. This test is often an indicator of creative potential in the same way as the spatial recognition tests, it is usually predictive of success in areas that are more formal and require a more structured, technical approach.

Vocabulary Test — It may be regarded as a test of knowledge like any learnt skill. It is not measuring innate intelligence but it measures a means by which intelligence is choosing to express itself.

OBJECTIVES

1. To make students aware about the various new opportunities for their career.
2. To investigate the reasons of “inertia” of students for not opting new opportunities.

Research Methodology — The universe of the study consists of students whose parents details were listed under. ‘Deep Vihar Association Directory (residents of association). Tests were conducted on 65 students of Lucknow. (Class IX to class XII, studying in the public schools in ICSE, ISC, CBSE & UP Board). The data, then collected was analyzed with the help of suitable statistical techniques and interpretations were made.

Following tests were conducted — verbal reasoning test, numerical reasoning test, verbal analyses test, spatial recognition test, three-D test & vocabulary

FINDINGS:
Out of 65 students:
• 5 students have got maximum marks in numerical tests and they were suggested for Accounts and Finance related fields.
• 3 students have got maximum in spatial and 3D test and they were suggested for agriculture and land management fields.
• 6 students have got maximum marks in verbal, vocabulary test and they were suggested for Archeology and Anthropological related fields.
• 7 students have got maximum marks in 3D and visual test and they were advised for architecture related fields.
• 4 students have got maximum marks in spatial and visual tests and they were suggested for art and design related fields.
• 6 students have got maximum marks in sequences, numerical with verbal tests so they were suggested for management related fields.
• 4 students have got maximum marks in spatial and then in numerical and sequences tests so that were advised for Information Technology related fields.
• 5 students have got maximum marks in visual and then in numerical tests so they were advised for economics and environment related fields.
• 2 students have got maximum marks in spatial and were suggested for dance and drama related fields.
• 5 students have got maximum marks in numerical and spatial tests and they were suggested for textiles and related fields.
• 6 students have got maximum marks in verbal and then in visual and vocabulary tests so they were advised for library and related fields.
• 7 students have got maximum marks in visual and verbal tests and then in vocabulary tests and they were advised for media and related fields.
• Students have got maximum marks in sequences and quite low at other tests so they were advised to opt for music and related fields.
• 5 students have got maximum marks in visual and spatial tests so they were advised for sports.

More than 75% of the respondents were studying in private schools. 50% of the respondents have the background of arts. Only 10% of the respondents have the background of arts. 70% (approx.) respondents’ fathers were from service class. 80% of the respondents are taking coaching/professional help. More than 50% respondents are studying in Class XII. 60% (approx.) respondents are studying in private schools, 25%
respondents in missionary schools. More than 75% of students think their parents impose their ideas on them. Only 10% of the respondents think about themselves whether they are doing in the right direction. 40% of the respondents are influenced with their friends.

Less than 10% students dream (Q. No. 13) match with the results of tests.

Only 25% of the respondents think that psychologists may be helpful in deciding their career field. More than 50% of the respondents feel that they cannot follow the recommendations of psychologists because of their parents’ expectations.

15% of the respondents feel they will not follow the recommendations of psychologists as they know where to go. Rest of the respondents has firm faith in psychologists.

Let us take the null hypothesis that samples came from populations (those studying in the missionary schools and those in the government schools) having the same variance in the 15th question of questionnaire.

The value of F at 5% level of significance was found more than table value. The hypothesis hold false. Hence the samples came from populations having the different variance. It means that students studying in the missionary schools have more exposure than the students studying in the other schools.

Let us take the null hypothesis that samples came from populations (those studying in the missionary schools and those in the government schools having the same variance in the 8th question of questionnaire.

The value of F at 5% level of significance is 3.18. The calculated value is less than table value. The hypothesis hold true. Hence the samples came from populations having the same variance. It means all the students (including private, public, missionary etc.) have firm faith in coaching, in their opinion class room teaching is not effective.

Let us take the null hypothesis that samples came from populations (those studying in the ICSE schools and colleges and those in the UP board schools) having the same variance in the 16th question of questionnaire.

The value of F at 5% level of significance was found more than table value. The hypothesis hold false. Hence the students studying in ICSE board believe in these psychological tests on the other hand students studying in UP board do not have faith in these tests.

**CONCLUSION**

It is the major responsibility of schools and colleges to take necessary steps to make students realize about their appropriate career path according to their interest and this is only possible when schools hire the services of professional psychologists who can test the students’ interests through psychological tests and counsel them accordingly.

**QUESTIONNAIRE**

1. Age:
2. Gender
3. Studying in (std.)
4. Father’s Occupation
5. Studying in — Public School/Private School/ missionary/ Other
6. Subjects – Maths/Bio/Arts/Commerce
7. How many brothers and sisters
8. Do you take coaching – Yes/No
9. Your parents impose their ideas – Yes/No
10. You feel good to pursue what friend are doing – Yes / No
11. How much time do you give to yourself in a week.
   (i) 1 hr (ii) 2 hr (iii) 4 hrs (iv) more than 4 hrs
12. Your area of interest is —
13. After five years I will be —
14. My parents’ dream is — I shall be ………
15. Do you think that psychologists may be helpful in choosing the subjects of graduation?
16. The aptitude test are beneficial — Yes / No
17. I cannot follow the recommendations based on psychometric tests because —
18. Any suggestions

**REFERENCES**

