

CHOOSING A CAREER- BARRIERS AND THE STEP AHEAD

“Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid.” Albert Einstein.

Every child is a genius with unique strengths. But the point is how do we discover it and unlock his/ her full potential.

The choice of Career is a life changing event which is influenced by innumerable factors. A world of possibilities is also marked by fast paced changes in the trends which are relative and dynamic.

The lack of awareness clubbed with over exposure often leads to confusion.

What is the right time to start the Career Choice. Is it class IX or is it a dream hardwired into a being from childhood. Is it biological decision by DMIT or is it Psychological based on the students passion and abilities.

The decision is based on the clarity and practicality along with intelligence, personality, skill set, values , aptitude, social pressures, monetary gain, respect to name a few. The brunt is on the children who have creativity or social skills or want to follow their passion but end up fitting in for conventional and academic careers.

The dream to live college life is yet another barrier which prevents students from getting into Professional, skill based or vocational courses.

Another issue is the rigidity in subject choice offered or the down treatment that Humanities is showered with. But yes the Liberal Arts now has emerged as interdisciplinary alternative changing the mindset of students and parents alike.

Another aspect is students get into a course because it is popular but do not have clarity on what they would do 10 years down the line.

Everybody is into counseling these days or rather marketing with the communication skills the experience and exposure gained over the years. How many are genuinely trained professionals who can do psychometric assessment with a background in psychology are few.

Marks and academic performance too is a determining factor in choosing the subjects. But is it a guarantee that the student who has done well in secondary level subjects may be due to cramming or simple content will be able to do the same at the senior secondary level.

The trends to go with DMIT is also been in for a few years but has not been backed by research evidence which determine career choice as well.

Howards Gardner s Multiple Intelligence can still be linked to Career Choice practically which is being followed in many societies and so is systematic Psychological assessment on different parameters.

There so much indecisiveness related to the choice of Career and thereafter the frequent changes due to high level of dissatisfaction or a degree of mismatch say it all.

New fields have emerged but the conventional mindset is still dominant forcing people to still hang on to comfort zone of conventional careers for the safe space it has to offer.

Particularly when a student is not doing well in a certain field then it rings a bell that may be he / she is not meant for that field. Then the experimentation starts. The initial barrier of not being able to fulfill the parents' desire or not being able to have the courage to follow the heart s desire is bypassed to rethink for the right fit.

Is the Career choice able to bridge the gap between what society has to offer in terms of employment and the skills that are honed.

Is CWSN taken into consideration or is it only a selected , elite group that can benefit from the exorbitant Psychometric assessment offered by trained professionals.

We need to find the right professionals who can guide with research backup and professional skills. At the same time the Helicopter view needs to be considered rather than bird s eye view.

Anais Nin said- We don't see things as they are, we see things as we are. So true for Career choice as well. A regular exposure in terms of Webinars, Seminars, Assessment, Involvement with Alumni, Industry experts and hands on will go a long way to making the clear road map for a wise career choice.

Compiling the information from newspapers and books and matching it with one's own personality and priority in life will also go a long way to a satisfactory career choice.