

# A Study on Career Awareness among Senior Secondary School Students in North Lakhimpur Area of Lakhimpur District

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## Abstract:

Career awareness plays a crucial role in helping individuals make informed decisions about their professional paths. It involves understanding one's skills, interests, and values, as well as exploring the various career options available. By fostering career awareness, individuals can align their ambitions with their personal strengths and find fulfilling and rewarding career paths. It plays a significant role in helping individuals make informed decisions about their future careers. This study find out the career awareness level among the secondary school students. The total 200 sample was drawn for the study, and the analysis and interpretation was done by computing Mean, Standard Deviation and also t-test.

**Keywords:** Career awareness, Secondary School students.

## Introduction:

Today's globalized world provides countless plots of opportunities. But at the same time, the present world has become very complex and competitive for the rapid advancement of science and technology. So, that adjust in such situation the individual need to specialised abilities, skills and potentials are in demand for any occupation. The society and it demands are changing time to time. So, every individuals should prepare or aware the changing demands and challenges of the society to selecting a career or a future occupation.

To choosing a career is one of the most important decisions in the life of a human being. The problem of selecting, preparing and entering into right careers or occupations is a very crucial problem that faced by many young people. In today's rapidly changing world, career choices have become increasingly complex and diverse. The transition from secondary school to higher education or the workforce is a critical juncture in an individual's life. During this period students must make important decisions about their future career paths. However, many senior secondary school students often find themselves ill-equipped to make informed choices due to lack of career awareness and guidance.

The significance of career awareness among senior secondary school students cannot be overstated. It plays a vital role in shaping their future, enabling them to align their interests, skills, and aspirations with suitable educational and vocational opportunities. When students are aware of various career options, their decision-making becomes more informed, leading to greater satisfaction and success in their chosen paths. The choice of a career is seen to be highly influenced by cultural, social and economic.

**Concept of Career:**

The concept of a career refers to an individual's professional journey and the series of occupations, jobs, or roles they undertake throughout their working life. It encompasses the various positions, experiences, and achievements that contribute to a person's overall professional growth and development.

A career typically involves long-term employment, where individuals pursue their chosen field or industry, gaining knowledge, skills, and expertise over time. It often includes progression, advancement, and the pursuit of higher-level responsibilities and positions. A successful career involves setting goals, acquiring relevant education and training, building a network, and adapting to changing circumstances and opportunities.

**Concept of Awareness:**

Awareness can be understood as the state of being conscious of something or having knowledge or perception of it. It is the ability to recognize and understand the world around us, as well as our own thoughts, emotions, and experiences.

In simple terms, awareness is like a flashlight that illuminates our thoughts, feelings, and surroundings. It allows us to be present in the moment and to observe and make sense of our experiences. It involves being attentive and mindful of what is happening both externally and internally.

According to **Cambridge Dictionary**, "*Awareness is the knowledge that something exists, or understanding of a situation or subject at the present time based on information or experience.*"

**Concept of Career Awareness:**

Career awareness is the initial and stage to choose a right career. The concept of career awareness is crucial for individuals at different stages of their lives, including students in schools, college graduates, and individuals looking to make career transitions. It helps them make informed decisions about their education and training, identify suitable career paths, and develop the necessary skills and competencies to succeed in their chosen fields.

Career awareness is the knowledge of various issues and opportunities related to a person's career. In the present world the emergence of more and more divers career options and professional opportunities. Career awareness helps individuals to make the right decision regarding to selecting their career path, career development and career transformation. As we know that, education prepares today's generation for tomorrow. Schools or educational institutions are the agents of change and prepares the future nation builders. Secondary education serves as a link between the elementary and higher education. And higher secondary school is a very important stage of career choice for students. At this stage if the student chooses the right career according to his interest and ability and gets proper guidance for it then he can be successful in future life. For this it is very important for the student to have career awareness at this school.

**Review of Related Literature:**

**Perrino, (1985)** studied the relationship between career maturity for low and high achievers in a vocational and academic high school and locus of control. The sample consisted of 190 vocational and academic high school students in grade twelve. Class rank and academic achievement determined if they were low or high achievers. The Nowicki- Sticidand Locus of Control Scale for children (CNSIE)

and the Crites Career Maturity Attitudinal Scale (1978) were used. The results of the study reported a relationship between career maturity, locus of control, and achievement.

**Kumar, S (2000)** Studied about Study of career maturity of 10+2 students of the academic and career streams in relation to personality, achievement motivation and socio-economic status. The sample of the study consisted of 583 students derived from three schools of Chandigarh. It was confined to only those schools which offered both academic and career courses. It was also co relational and comparative in nature, since it focused on the relationship of career maturity with various variables and comparisons between the career maturity of students of academic and career streams and of boys and girls. Descriptive statistics, inter-variable correlations, 't' test for significance of differences between the groups under study, step-wise multiple correlations and regression analysis were employed for the analysis of the data.

**Miles (2008)** conducted a study to find out the impact of career development program on career Maturation and academic motivation. Academic Motivation Scale and Career Development Questionnaire (CDQ) scale were combined 58 items were used to collect the data. The sample taken from students of Alfendale High School comes from disadvantaged ethnic group. 65 students of class 11th were exposed to career intervention programmed to form experimental groups. In the second group of 30 students, 24 students were taken for control group. Results show career intervention programme helps improve in students' career maturity and academic motivation.

**Sethy, R (2015)** examined the level of career awareness of student at secondary level. Survey method was used on 200 secondary school students selected from four secondary schools of Khordha District, Odisha. Self-developed questionnaire based on different careers was used as tool for collection of data. The study reveals that the level of career awareness of boys and girls is moderate and very few students have high level of career awareness. The study suggested that career talk and class talk must be organised in school for creating awareness among secondary school students.

### **Significance of the Study:**

The significance of career awareness among senior secondary school students cannot be overstated. It plays a vital role in shaping their future, enabling them to align their interests, skills, and aspirations with suitable educational and vocational opportunities. Unfortunately, many students face challenges in gaining comprehensive career awareness. Some may not have access to adequate information about different occupations, while others may be influenced by societal expectations or limited exposure to diverse career paths. These factors can significantly impact the students' ability to make well-informed decisions and hinder their overall career development.

### **Objectives of the Study:**

1. To study about the career awareness levels among senior secondary school students in North Lakhimpur area of Lakhimpur district, Assam.
2. To study and compare about the career awareness levels among male and female senior secondary school students in North Lakhimpur area of Lakhimpur district, Assam.
3. To study and compare about the career awareness levels among government and private senior secondary school students in North Lakhimpur area of Lakhimpur district, Assam.
4. To study and compare about the career awareness levels among Arts and Science stream senior secondary school students in North Lakhimpur area of Lakhimpur district, Assam.

**Hypothesis of the Study:**

**Ho1-** There is no significant difference existing in the career awareness between male and female students of senior secondary school in North Lakhimpur area of Lakhimpur district, Assam.

**Ho2** - There is no significant difference existing in the career awareness between Government and private senior secondary school students in North Lakhimpur area of Lakhimpur district, Assam.

**Ho3-** There is no significant difference existing in the career awareness between art and science stream senior secondary school students in North Lakhimpur area of Lakhimpur district, Assam.

**Methodology:**

**Method:** In the present study Descriptive Survey Method was used by the investigator. The - Survey method has been selected to study the Career awareness among senior secondary school students in North Lakhimpur area of Lakhimpur District, Assam.

**Population:**

The population of the study is comprised of all the students of class XII of senior secondary schools studying in arts and science streams in North Lakhimpur area. The population included both male and female students studying in private and government school. The researcher already included that there are 4 government and 8 private schools in North Lakhimpur area. The total number of population of this study was 5253 students of senior secondary school in North Lakhimpur block.

**Sample:**

The study is conducting in North Lakhimpur area of Lakhimpur district, Assam. The sample for the present study involves 200 students studying in Arts and Science streams of class 12th at senior secondary schools in North Lakhimpur area by using Stratified random sampling method. The investigator has selected two government and two private senior secondary schools. 50 students have been recruited from each school. The study is conducting in North Lakhimpur area of Lakhimpur district, Assam. The sample for the present study involves 200 students studying in Arts and Science streams of class 12th at senior secondary schools in North Lakhimpur area by using Stratified random sampling method. The investigator has selected two government and two private senior secondary schools. 50 students have been recruited from each school. The study involves 100 male and 100 female students' i.e. total 200 students studying in Government and Private senior secondary schools of North Lakhimpur block. And also 100 students (50 male and 50 female) of Arts and 100 (50 male and 50 female) of Science stream students were selected as sample.

**Tools for data collection:**

The investigator used self-constructed questionnaire to know the career awareness level of students. The questions were prepared by going through different areas or dimensions like -

- Attitude towards selected course
- Knowledge about various career options
- Knowledge about various jobs or occupations
- Knowledge about various vocational courses

To know their awareness regarding different career. The questionnaire is consisted of 30 questions or statements, 20 are positive and 10 are negative.

**Procedure of data collection:**

Data collection is the actual process of collecting data that the researcher wants to study, analyse and interpret. The investigator first visited the senior secondary schools and sought permission from the school authorities for data collection. After permission was given, researcher went to class 12 and gave the necessary instructions. Then questionnaire given to the students and collected after completion, the necessary data were collected.

**Analysis and Interpretation of Data:**

The collected data were analysed by using appropriate statistical techniques such as mean, S.D, t-test with the help of the Microsoft Excel software.

The results are given in the following tables

**Table 1: Career awareness between male and female students of senior secondary school:**

Sample	N	Mean	SD	df	T Value	T Critical	Level of Significance	S/NS
Male	100	105.19	6.73	196	-1.508	1.652	0.05	NS
Female	100	106.56	6.09					

S: Significant

NS: Not significant

The table 1 indicate that the total number of male and female in which the mean of male is 105.19 and females mean is 106.56. The SD of male is 6.73 and of female is 6.09 and degree of freedom of both is 196. The value of T-statistical is -1.508 and the value of T critical is 1.652 and it is not significant at 0.05 level. Therefore the Null hypothesis 1 is accepted and it is concluded that there is no significant difference existing in the career awareness between male and female students of senior secondary schools. In other words, both male and female students have similar level of career awareness.

**Table 2: Career awareness between government and private senior secondary school students**

Sample	N	Mean	SD	df	T Value	T Critical	Level of Significance	S/NS
Govt.	100	105.11	5.644	188	1.687	1.652	0.05	S
Private	100	106.64	7.097					

S: Significant

NS: Not significant

The Table 2 indicates that total number of government and private senior secondary school students in which the mean of government school is 105.11 and private school mean is 106.64. The SD of government school is 5.644 and of private school is 7.097 and degree of freedom of both is 188. The

value of T-statistical is 1.687 and the value of T critical is 1.652 and it is significant at 0.05 level. Therefore the Null hypothesis 2 is rejected and it is concluded that there is significant difference existing in the career awareness between government and private students of senior secondary schools in North Lakhimpur block. This may be because both government and private school students at senior secondary schools are not getting similar opportunities to develop career awareness. Private school students are getting more opportunities to develop career awareness than Government school students.

**Table:3 Career awareness between art and science senior secondary school students**

Sample	N	Mean	SD	df	T Value	T Critical	Level of Significance	S/NS
Arts	100	105.11	5.644	188	-1.687	1.652	0.05	S
Science	100	106.64	7.097					

S: Significant

NS: Not significant

The Table 3 indicates that total number of Arts and Science stream senior secondary school students in which the mean of Arts students 105.11 and Science students mean is 106.64. The SD of Arts student is 5.644 and of Science student is 7.097 and degree of freedom of both is 188. The value of T- statistical is -1.687 and the value of T critical is 1.652 and it is significant at 0.05 level. Therefore the Null hypothesis 3 is rejected and it is concluded that there is significant difference existing in the career awareness between Art and Science stream senior secondary school students in North Lakhimpur area. This may be because both arts and science stream students at senior secondary schools are not getting similar opportunities to develop career awareness. Science students are getting more opportunities to develop career awareness than arts students.

**Table: 4 The total career awareness level of Male and Female in percentage**

Level of Career Awareness	Male (N & %)	Female (N & %)	Total Students (N & %)
<b>High</b>	<b>27 (27%)</b>	<b>29 (19%)</b>	<b>56 (28%)</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>73 (73%)</b>	<b>71 (71%)</b>	<b>144 (72%)</b>
<b>Low</b>	<b>0 (0%)</b>	<b>0 (0%)</b>	<b>0 (0%)</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>200</b>

The Table 4 indicates that only 28% of secondary school students have high career awareness, 72% of students have moderate awareness and 0% of students have low awareness. Further, the table also indicates that both male and female have similar level of high career awareness. The table also depicts the moderate career awareness of 73% of males and 71% of females and low career awareness of 0%

and 0% respectively.

### Findings:

- Out of 200 students, 28% of students have high career awareness level, 72% of students have average career awareness level while 0% of students have low awareness.
- In Males, 27% having high, 73% having average and 0% have low career awareness level. In Females 29% having high, 71% having average and 0% have low career awareness level. Both male and female students have similar level of career awareness. But the career awareness levels of Female students are better than Male students.
- In Government schools, 23% of students have high career awareness level, 77% of students have average career awareness level while 0% of students have low career awareness level. In Private schools 33% of students have high career awareness level, 67% of students have average career awareness level while 0% of students have low career awareness level. The study showed that Private school students have more career awareness rather than Government school students. It is found that there is significant difference existing in the career awareness between Government and Private senior secondary school students.
- In Art stream, 24% of students have high career awareness level, 76% of students have average career awareness level while 0% of students have low career awareness level. In Science stream 34% of students have high career awareness level, 66% of students have average career awareness level while 0% of students have low career awareness level. It is found that there is significant difference existing in the career awareness between Government and Private senior secondary school students. The Science stream students have more career awareness.

### Conclusion:

The present study aims to contribute to play an important role in nation building through the selecting right career for the future citizens. Career awareness plays a crucial role in shaping the future of secondary school students. It helps students explore various career options, understand the necessary skills and qualifications, and make informed decisions about their future.

Developing nations like India, there is a lack of awareness and information about the various career options available for students after passing out of school education. Various research studies say that 93 per cent of the students were aware of less than ten career options, mainly the basic ones like engineering, medicine, law, finance, IT, etc. In contrast, there are more than 600 career options available today. Therefore, the awareness levels of all the available career options for a student need to be increased.

So, career awareness is a valuable tool for individuals to explore and understand their career options. By enhancing decision-making abilities, maximizing potential, facilitating effective goal setting and planning, adapting to a changing job market, and promoting lifelong learning, career awareness empowers individuals to create fulfilling and successful professional paths.

The findings of this study will provide valuable insights for policymakers, educators, and career counsellors to develop effective strategies and interventions that can empower senior secondary school students with the necessary knowledge and skills to make informed career choices. Ultimately, it is hoped that this research will contribute to the overall enhancement of career readiness among students, leading to a more fulfilling and successful transition into higher education and the workforce.

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