

A Study of Communication between Parents and Teenagers Regarding Teenagers' Career

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Abstract—A huge gap is been found in the kind of education an individual receives during his/her initial years and the type of skills and equipped man power the job market demands. It all begins from the ambience an individual is provided right from the inception in his growth years. The socio-economic condition and parents approach have far stretch implications on an individual's life and career. Parental support and communication has a crucial role to play within the career decision of a student. This study investigates the extent of parental guidance and parenting approach having an effect on a teenaged student's decision regarding career. A particular trend is seen to be followed by the parents as well as the students. Most of the students are found to be taking science by their willingness and parents being happy considering that science is a prestigious stream and the belief that it can earn a sustainable future. The parents as well as the students have not given it a thought about the futuristic implication of following the rat race. This study has brought to notice various insights regarding the importance of fruitful discussion and communication between parents and teenagers for teenager's career.

Index Terms—Parental communication, adolescence parenting, career counselling, career guidance.

I. INTRODUCTION

Education is a pioneer for any developing country where skilful man-power resource is a pre-condition to carry forward the process of development rapidly. India with nearly more than half of the population being youth has a greater chance to be a developed economy if the energy of young India is channelized in the proper direction. Skilful and rather employable man-power resource is generated by quality education with practicalities being included in the syllabus being taught in schools and colleges. It is quite essential that each and every student chooses subject or field of his/her choice and interest so that they can excel in the field and pursues their career with passion and vigour. Young girls and boys in their teenage undergo certain physiological and hormonal changes as well as the psychological and mental progress also happens rapidly. If all of these synchronised development processes occur smoothly and positively, it has far fetch impacts on the individual's career development. Rather than being concerned for nurturing a teenaged child's career, the stream which the teenager selects and the way the teenager and their parents aspire regarding the child's career are

majorly prestige driven.

Schools and coaching classes also play a major role and each parent intends to provide the best possible coaching to their children in their crucial years of career building.

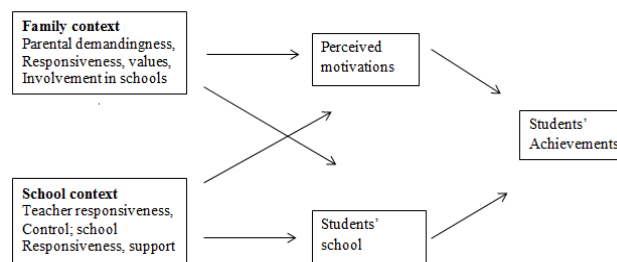


Fig. 1. Proposed relations between family and school context variables and students' achievement. From Marchant et al (2001).

All of the factors represented in the figure (Fig.1.), combine to determine the over-all progress and growth of an adolescent student's achievements and career.

II. RATIONALE

It is necessary that certain unexplored fields must be explored as far as parenting is considered so that each child is given an opportunity to explore his/her own field of interest. Even today the conventional professions of Doctor, Engineer and C.A. (Chartered Accountant) are considered to be very prestigious and each decade brings a trend where a larger loop of teenaged children follow the trend just because that is what will yield them temporary good impression in eyes of their parents, their peer group and the society. Considering the population of the country and the level of cut throat competition, each one wants a position by which all materialistic basic amenities are taken care-off and further up-lifting their life style by choosing an appropriate and secure career option. But looking at the current market scenario, there is unskilled educated youth who is unemployed. There were 3345 total engineering colleges been recorded in India in 2014-15 which were merely 1511 in 2006-07. Corporates have claimed that out of 1.5 million engineering pass outs from the country every year, 80% of them are unemployable. The problem area lies in the initial years of teenage and parenting in those growth years of a child's career.

Based on the findings of Robinson, C., Mandleco, B., Olsen, S. F., & Hart, C. H. (1995) [1] the following major parental practices are categorised:

- 1) Authoritative parenting
- 2) Authoritarian parenting
- 3) Permissive parenting

By the study of communication between parents and

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teenagers, it can be brought to notice where the thrust area lies as far as parental communication regarding career is concerned.

III. OBJECTIVES

To study the basic characteristics of teenagers and their communication with their parents.

To analyse extent and quality of communication between parents and teenagers affecting the teenager's career.

To find out the existence of Authoritative and Authoritarian parenting styles in teenage parenting and its relation with communication related to the teenager's career.

IV. HYPOTHESES

H₀₁: There exists a relation between authoritative type of parenting and quality of communication regarding career.

H₀₂: There exists a relation between authoritarian type of parenting and quality of communication regarding career.

V. OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS

Authoritative parenting is a more balanced approach in which parents expect kids to meet certain behavioural standards, but also encourage their children to think for themselves and to develop a sense of autonomy.

Authoritarian parenting is the one which emphasizes blind obedience, stern discipline, and controlling children through punishments. It may also include the withdrawal of parental affection.

VI. DE-LIMITATIONS

The study is limited to Ahmedabad city.

Teenagers between the age-group of 15years-19years are taken into consideration as these are the crucial years where their career path is selected.

Among the parents, mothers have been asked to fill-up the questionnaire in order to maintain uniformity.

VII. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

As a part of literature review for the study, various studies on parenting of a child which is a topic, majorly been considered under the subject of psychology is been studied. As coined by the American Psychological Association (APA) [2], parenting practices around the world share three major goals: ensuring children's health and safety, preparing children for life as productive adults and transmitting cultural values.

Diana Baumrind's (1966) [3] Prototypical Descriptions of 3 Parenting Styles include:

- 1) Authoritative
- 2) Authoritarian
- 3) Permissive

As shown in figure (Fig. 2.), in homes where instead of restricting their children, parents re-design their homes making most of the living area safe for the newly mobile babies, the latter develop good intellectual abilities by

having access to a large, interesting, learning environment in which they experiment with and explore a whole world of exciting and enriching objects at their own will. Parents can make the greatest difference in the future academic prospects of tiny tots if they reach them during the first two to three years, when the foundations for later development are laid. [4].

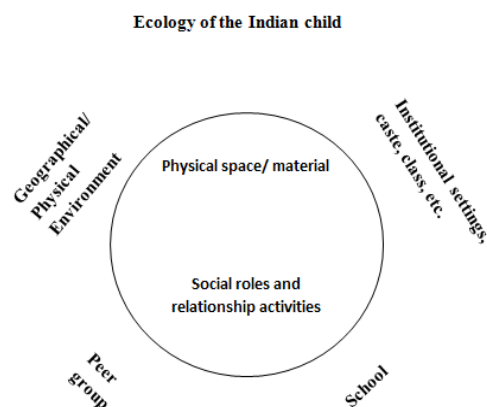


Fig. 2. Parent-child relationship from 'The challenges of parenting' by Mathur, K. (2001).

Hota (Talent and creativity, 2001) [5] interestingly narrates how parenting affects child's achievement and motivation. He says that the attainment of success in any area of human endeavour including art, craft, science, literature, technology should be the principal aim of an aspiring society, which depends on appreciating and fostering achievement need in children. Hence, we the parents and elder members of the society should consciously strive towards fostering achievement need in our developing children.

Navin (2009) [6] suggested that exploring career options before committing to a career increases future career success and satisfaction. Families, parents and guardians in particular (Taylor, Harris, & Taylor, 2004) [7], play a significant role in the occupational aspirations and career goal development in children. Although parents do acknowledge parental role, attempting to support career development of their children, parental messages contain an underlying message of — 'don't make the same mistakes that I did' or 'what do you want to be when you grow up?' [8]

The significance of parental values as perceived by students as a mechanism for both manifesting and explaining the impact of parental involvement has been validated in a number of studies. Examples include, a study by Fan (2001) [9] who established the significant impact of parental expectations and aspirations on the general academic achievement of US adolescents; Ma (2001) [10] whose study brought to notice that there was a strong impact of parental expectation on achievement in advanced mathematics; Carr and Hussey (1999) [11] showed that 'parents were the most influential socially, considering children's task orientations, intrinsic motivation and physical competence' in a study of English adolescents' competence at and commitment to physical education; Lynch (2002) [12] showed that mothers' beliefs in their

ability to help their children (age range 8 – 9 years) learn to read, had a positive effect on their children’s self-beliefs as a learner and reader; Garg *et al* (2002) who showed that the impact of family factors had their influence on shaping educational aspirations of students’ through their impact on extracurricular reading, attitudes towards school and homework and students’ perceptions of their parents’ educational aspirations. Garg *et al* considered this to be an important part of the students’ ‘educational self-belief’ and showed that ‘The parental involvement factor was found to be of greater importance as a predictor of adolescent educational self-belief’. The self-belief phenomena proved to be a powerful predictor of achievement.

As shown in the above figure (Fig.3.), De Garmo *et al* (1999) found support for the model of parental influence on educational achievement of young children. Another crucial aspect which makes or mars child’s life is parent’s child-rearing practice. This child-rearing practices are responsible for growth oriented behaviour in children, this is why psychologists, sociologists, behaviourist are interested to study the child rearing practices of parents of maladjusted and talented children. Parents should, however realise the very fact that the child-rearing practices variables in several cases proved to be significant predictors of both grade and standardised achievement scores (Barton, Dilman, Cattell, 1974) [13].

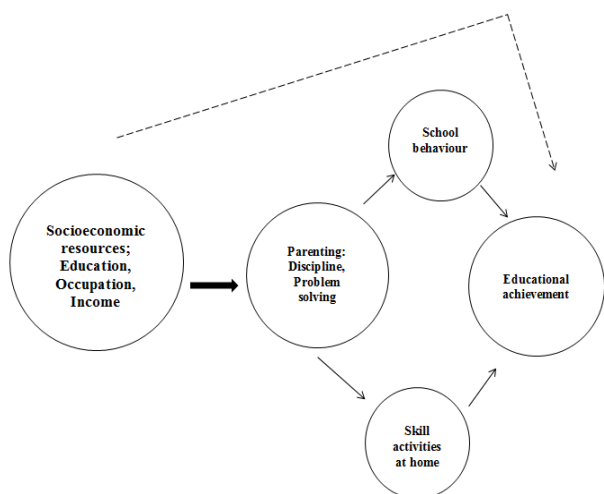


Fig 3. De Garmo *et al*'s model of parental influence on educational achievement.

As given by Prof. Hota (2001) in ‘Talent and Creativity’, importance of parental guidance and communication is rightly summed up and leads to further scope for the research study being taken up which is **communication between parents and teenagers regarding career.**

VIII. METHODOLOGY

Research design: This relational study was descriptive and comparative as well as exploratory in form so as to investigate the possible relationships between the phenomena of communication between teenagers and their parents and the teenager’s career to establish if correlation exists or not and the interpretation based on acquired correlation coefficient. An analytic survey was conducted and questionnaire was used as a tool to study the

phenomena mentioned above and about them being affected by the style of parenting in this quantitative research.

Conceptual Framework: A conceptual framework was designed to better understand and explain the different variables and their relationship with each-other in the study. Both independent and dependent variables were part of this figure and it served as a roadmap to further investigation. The design made was (Fig. 4.)

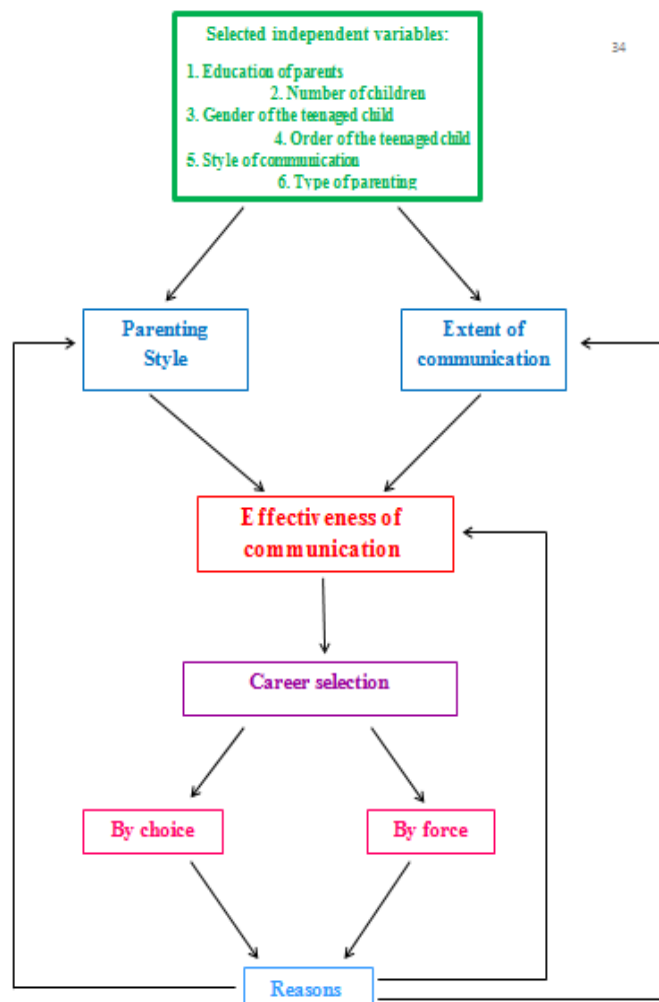


Fig. 4. Conceptual framework.

Selected independent variables: Background information containing certain demographic parameters which are mentioned in the framework having an effect on parenting style and extent of communication.

Parenting style: Includes authoritative and authoritarian parenting styles which are standard in parenting in general as well as parenting related to career.

Extent of communication: The time spent between parents and teenagers to discuss regarding the teenager’s career.

Effectiveness of communication: To find out the effectiveness of communication taking place between the parents and teenagers.

Career selection: To find out the implications of communication between teenaged students and parents on career selection.

By choice: To find out whether the teenaged student has selected his/her career by choice.

By force: To find out whether the teenaged student has

selected his career by parental force.

Reasons: To find out the reasons for career selected by choice and by force.

A. Variables

The depend variables of the study were:

- 1) The extent of communication between parents and teenagers regarding the teenager’s career
- 2) Quality of communication between parents and teenagers regarding the teenager’s career.

The independent variables considered for the study included:

- 1) Education of parent
- 2) Number of children
- 3) Gender of the teenaged child
- 4) Order of the teenaged child
- 5) Style of communication
- 6) Type of parenting

B. Development of Tool

The survey method was applied and questionnaire was selected as a tool. A three point scale was used to test the type of parenting style as well as for communication regarding career. Respondents marked one of ‘Always’, ‘Sometimes’ or ‘Never’. These responses were marked 3, 2 and 1 respectively and reverse marking was used for negative options. Teenaged students and their mothers were given different sets of questionnaire in which the background information been asked to both of them was different in order to include some more questions in the mothers’ questionnaire to know about certain demographic parameters. The other two sections had the questions to explore circumstantial happenings with children as well as parents. A standardize parenting scale developed by Robinson, C., Mandleco, B., Olsen, S. F., & Hart, C. H. (1995) was adopted to measure authoritative, authoritarian parenting styles.

C. Sampling Procedure

The research population included teenaged students studying between 10th Standard of school to college 1st year and their mothers respectively, from urban Ahmedabad. A sample of 80 pairs of teenaged students and their mothers (i.e. 80 teenaged students and 80 mothers) was chosen. The sample was chosen using simple random sampling so as to avoid any bias.

D. Data Collection and Analysis

The sample selected consisted of 80 pairs of teenaged students and their mothers, thus the questionnaire sets were distributed and students and their mothers were given their respective questionnaire. 160 questionnaires- 80 pairs of teenaged students and their mothers was the final sample size.

Different methods of analysis were used to study every aspect of the data collected with the objectives set for this research. Frequency, percentage, means and correlation analysis were used.

IX. FINDINGS

Samples from different areas like Navrangpura, Satellite,

Vastrapur, Maninagar and Thaltej of Ahmedabad city were part of the study. The questions in this section were kept separate for the questionnaires given to the students and their mothers in order to know about certain different demographic parameters and trends.

Parents belonging to lower income groups (20%) had their children studying in Gujarati (vernacular language) medium schools. The level of exposure and education been provided to the children was seen to be dependent on the income earning factor of the family. No great disturbances were observed in the higher income family groups (18.75%) as far as their children’s education is concerned except that they majorly had prestige issue in the school their child is sent for education and the stream they select was quite a prestige issue for the family as well as the child. Each of the parents in the middle class families (61.25%), had higher aspirations for their children but lack of exposure to various other fields except the conventional ones consisting of medical, engineering and chartered accountancy.

Students felt that their parents least encourage speaking out freely to them when they disagree with them (2.62- lowest score) (Fig. 5.). While in contrast the parents felt that they encourage their children to talk about their feelings and problems (2.91) and that their child’s opinion is respected by them (2.86), (Fig. 6.)

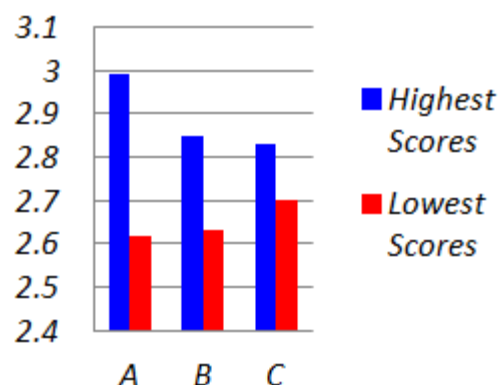


Fig. 5. Authoritative parenting rating by students.

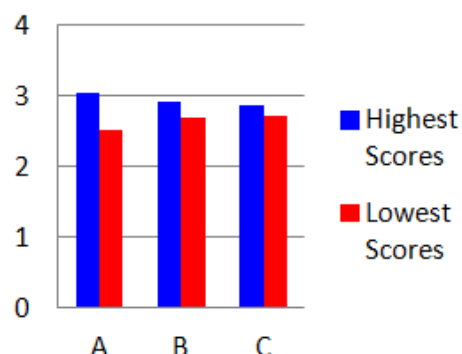


Fig. 6. Authoritative parenting rating by mothers.

Difference was seen where parents believe they do not openly criticise their children while students did believe that they are openly criticised by their parents.

Among the students, more than 1/2 (57.50%) of them reported that career related communication with their parents had taken place for 2 hours or less in a week. While, 38.75% parents felt that they communicated minimum with

their teenaged children regarding career. Among the parents, 21.25% of them felt that they communicate with their children regarding career for more than 4 hours in a week while only 8.75% of the teenagers felt their parents communicate with them regarding career for more than 4 hours in a week (Table I AND Table II).

TABLE I: EXTENT OF COMMUNICATION IN A WEEK ACCORDING TO PARENTS AS RESPONDENTS

hours	frequency	percentage
0-2	31	38.75
2-4	32	40.00
more than 4	17	21.25
total	80	

TABLE II: EXTENT OF COMMUNICATION IN A WEEK ACCORDING TO STUDENTS AS RESPONDENTS

Hours	Frequency	Percentage
0-2	46	57.50
2-4	27	33.75
More than 4	7	8.75
Total	80	

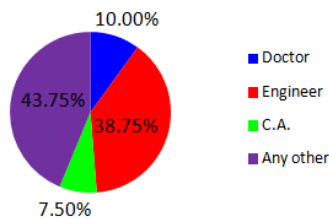


Fig. 7. Aspirations of student respondents.

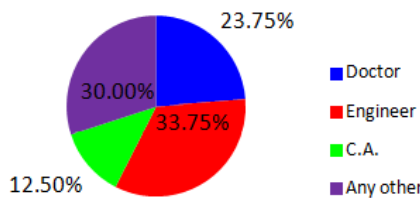


Fig. 8. Aspirations for child of mothers as respondents.

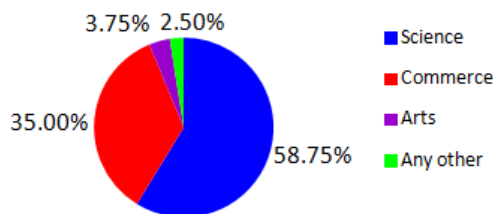


Fig. 9. Stream selection according to student respondents.

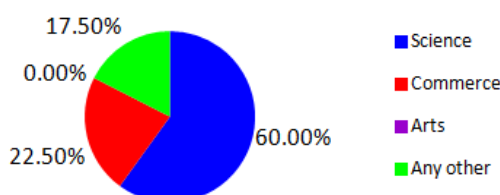


Fig.10. Stream selection according to mothers as respondents. Maximum number of students wanted to opt for science

stream (58.75%) and parents also had wished/wished the same for their children (60.00%). After the semester system has been introduced in the science stream; there has been an increasing trend of opting for the science stream. None of the parents wanted their children to select arts stream & merely 3.75% of the students wished to select arts stream. When asked to parents about reasons for not wanting their child to select arts stream, they revealed that there were more options and better career prospects in other streams compared to arts (Fig. 7 and Fig. 8).

When the respondents were asked about their aspirations, rather than aspiration it was found that they followed a particular trend. The engineering field did hold a considerable percentage among students (38.75%) as well as parents (33.75%) because of a large pool of engineering colleges having seats in various branches of engineering. Among the parents, 23.75% wanted their child to be a doctor while only 10% of the students wanted to be doctors. Students, 43.75% wanted to select other streams rather than the conventional streams, while 30% of the parents wanted their children to opt for other options which included fashion designing, interior designing, I.A.S. , & M.B.A. (Fig. 7 and Fig. 8)

Among students, 3.75% of them revealed that they had not selected/ would not select a stream of study of their own choice. (Fig. 9.) while among parents, 5% of them told that their children had not/would not necessarily select the stream of their own choice. (Fig. 10.) This indicates a positive trend where students have selected a stream of their own choice. This is also a possibility as they follow a particular trend where a particular stream or profession is given utmost important and yields good prospects or at least admission in a reputed college. For example, due to the existence of a trend of students pursuing engineering, maximum students' opt. for the science stream and A (Mathematics) group in their 11th and 12th Standards of school. Student scorings (230) for parental communication regarding career also indicated that their parents pressurised them by narrating achievements of others of their age. While according to parent's score (215), most of them revealed that they do pressurise their child to perform in studies.

A. Hypotheses Testing

H₀₁: No relationship was found between authoritative parenting and quality of communication regarding career by students.

Correlation analysis was performed to find out if a relationship existed between the two variables mentioned in the hypothesis. Correlation coefficient($r = 0.56$) having a positive value suggested that there existed an average correlation between authoritative parenting and quality of communication regarding career by students.

This suggested that students strongly believe that their career related communication is affected by authoritative parenting which is considered to be the most appropriate form of parenting. For instance, authoritative parenting includes about parents explaining to their children regarding the expectations they have from them. If parents are able to communicate this to their children, career related communication becomes swift and more effective. It can

also be interpreted that authoritative parenting style when followed in general has impact on the teenager’s career related communication with their parents.

H₀₂: There is no relationship between authoritarian parenting and quality of communication regarding career by students.

Correlation analysis was performed to find out if a relationship exists between the two variables mentioned in the hypothesis. Correlation coefficient ($r = 0.41$) was found to be having a positive value and it suggested that there was no correlation between authoritarian parenting and quality of communication regarding career by students.

Therefore, the null hypothesis has been accepted. Hence, there existed no relationship between authoritarian parenting and quality of communication regarding career by students. Students in this age-group are found to be quite rebellious and during the study while collecting the data it was observed that they don’t really bother if their parents are authoritarian. Hence, it could be concluded that authoritarian parenting doesn’t affect the quality of communication regarding career according to students.

H₀₃: There is no relationship between authoritative parenting and quality of communication regarding career by parents.

Correlation analysis was performed to find out if a relationship exists between the two variables mentioned in the hypothesis. Correlation coefficient ($r = 0.39$) was found to be having a positive value and it suggested that there was no correlation between authoritative parenting and quality of communication by parents.

Therefore, the null hypothesis has been accepted. Hence, there existed no relationship between authoritative parenting and quality of communication by parents.

This suggested that according to parents, authoritative parenting has no effect on quality of communication regarding career. They believed that the general parenting style could be different from quality of communication regarding career. For instance, under authoritative parenting style, if parents take the child’s wish into consideration before asking them to do something it might not be the case while they initiate career related communication with them. This was contrasting with what their teenaged children felt as according to teenagers there did exist a relationship between authoritative parenting style and quality of communication regarding career.

H₀₄: There is no relationship between authoritarian parenting and quality of communication regarding career by parents.

Correlation analysis was performed to find out if a relationship exists between the two variables mentioned in the hypothesis. Correlation coefficient ($r = 0.39$) was found to be having a positive value and it suggested that there was no correlation between authoritarian parenting and quality of communication regarding career by parents.

Therefore, the null hypothesis has been accepted. Hence, there existed no relationship between authoritarian parenting and quality of communication regarding career by parents. This indicated that parents do not really relate their parenting style with career related communication with their children in their teenage. For instance, according to parents openly criticising the child for his/her bad behaviour or poor

eating habits did not have any relation when further communication regarding career was initiated.

H₀₅: There is no relation between quality of communication regarding career by students and quality of communication regarding career by parents. Correlation analysis was performed to find out if a relationship existed between the two variables mentioned in the hypothesis. Correlation coefficient ($r = 0.5$) was found to be having a positive value and it suggested that there is an average relation between quality of communication regarding career by students and quality of communication regarding career by parents.

Therefore, the null hypothesis has been rejected. Hence, there existed a relationship between the quality of communication regarding career by students and quality of communication regarding career by parents. This indicated that both teenaged students as well as parents believed that their communication regarding career was crucial and should be productive enough to bring the teenaged students and their parents on a platform where quality communication regarding career is initiated.

TABLE III: HYPOTHESES TESTING

Variable 1	Variable 2	R value	Existence of relationship
Authoritative parenting	Quality of communication regarding career by students	0.56	✓
Authoritarian parenting	Quality of communication regarding career by students	0.41	✗
Authoritative parenting	Quality of communication regarding career by parents	0.39	✗
Authoritarian parenting	Quality of communication regarding career by parents	0.39	✗
Quality of communication regarding career by students	Quality of communication regarding career by parents	0.50	✓

The following table (TABLE III) summarises the results of hypotheses tested:

X. SUMMARY

Parents as well as students still have a limited exposure to diverse career options which can be explored to provide a

wide range of options to the students. Even today the conventional professions of Doctor, Engineer and C.A. (Chartered Accountant) were considered to be very prestigious and each year brings a trend where a larger loop of teenaged children follows the trend. At major instances it was obvious that middle-class and lower middle class families' parents and their children preferred a career stream which provides them first and foremost financial security.

XI. CONCLUSION

This study aimed to find out whether the parenting style and communication between parents and teenagers had an effect on the teenager's career choice or not.

Authoritative parenting style is the most ideal and appropriate parenting style especially in the teenage.

Both teenaged students as well as parents believed that communication regarding career is crucial and should be productive enough to bring the teenaged students and their parents on a platform where quality communication regarding career is initiated.

It was found that a particular trend is being followed by the teenagers which was also market driven. Students in their crucial years of career selection, rather than brain storming on various interest zones, simply followed a trend being followed by their peer group or family.

The number of children opting for engineering as a stream was alarming. Parents and students both being resilient to opt for the arts stream as they believed it has limited options compared to other streams.

Most parents have readily agreed to provide their children career related counselling. Students as well as parents needed to seek professional counselling at the right phase of the teenaged student's crucial years of career.

Road ahead: This study clearly showed that parental communication in the teenage is crucial when the student is in his/her 10th to 12th standards. It further shapes their career path. Both parents and students had to be provided wide range of diverse fields which were existent other than the conventional fields which will not even fetch a self-sustainable future in the coming years.

It is essential for the educationalist and policy makers to think upon and look-through the various trends being followed in the country regarding a particular stream being chosen by the students.

Provision for quality education impartment is crucial by the education system and institute in order to produce skilled man-power resource for the work force to lead the country towards a sustainable growth.

XII. RECOMMENDATIONS

This study focused on urban Ahmedabad and students belonging to all types of socio-economic groups. Rural area scenario of the same situation would bring in a clearer picture of the trends being followed and changes in the education scenario and parenting for education.

Most importantly a study can be initiated regarding the implications of the economic situation of the household upon the student's education and career selection in the era

where self-finance education is being highly promoted.

The educationalists and policy makers must think about the larger picture of producing quality youth which is employable, rather than temporary commercial gains by self-finance education.

Human resource is the biggest asset a country can have and investment in imparting quality education will lead the country towards its path of development.

Various programs for orientation of the students as well as parents could be initiated in order to provide them a wider exposure to various existent fields which can be opted as a career option.

A study could be done on the currently emerging trend of the youth going to study abroad as huge financial diversion as well as brain drain is taking place. Being a developing country, students from here are going to the developed countries for study and huge money is being earned by these foreign universities.

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