

Future Trends in Professional Education in the Middle Class Society of Karachi

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Abstract

The study was carried out to explore the trends in professional education in the middle class society of Karachi. The present study not only reviews the indicators of a middle class society of Karachi but also explores the interest and aptitude of parents belonging to this social class regarding the selection of professional education for future endeavors of their child. The data was collected from parents through a questionnaire to discover their views about trends, factors affecting the decision of career choice and the awareness about different programs of professional studies. The stratified random sampling technique was used to identify sample and proportional allocation method for sample size. Three hundred and fifteen (315) parents participated in the study. The study explored that Accountancy, Medicine and Engineering are more demanding these days whereas Teaching and Humanities are less demanding. A majority of parents preferred to choose Medicine or Engineering and their children were also aiming for the same profession. The study strongly recommended the appointment of qualified career counselor in secondary schools and those serious measures be taken by the government to make sure of provision of opportunities for the students preparing to join professional learning institutes.

Keywords: Professional education, career choice, counseling, middle class

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Introduction

At the start of the third millennium, we are well-attuned to considerations of the future (Gardner, 2009). There is a growing apprehension among students and parents regarding the choice of professional courses in future education. While the future is unknown, inferences being made by us are based on known facts and figures which assist in informed future-planning and decision-making. Franklin D. Roosevelt has been quoted as stating that “We might not be able to create opportunities for our youth but at least we can prepare our youth for a better future” (Reese, 2009: p.14). Unfortunately after 64 years of creation we are still unable to prepare our youth to meet the future challenges.

Discussing the overall educational scenario in Pakistan, Kazmi (2005) stated that historically education development has not been properly addressed in Pakistan and even after 57 years of independence the education system lacks cohesion. Hussain (2005) pointed out that there is a mismatch between job market demands in the light of emerging economic needs and the supply of a skilled and trained work force in the country. He further elaborated that apart of producing human resources in emerging fields such as telecommunication, financial services, information technology, oil and gas the universities and colleges are turning out thousands of graduates in arts, humanities and languages. As a result this mismatch is not only creating shortage of skilled labour to keep the wheels of the economy moving but allows a misallocating of resources. Proper planning may equip the youth to face the future challenges and contribute to the country’s economy.

Rehman, Anis and Khan (2009) stated that the decision of field of study, especially higher studies carries high costs for society and for individuals and it is the most important decision in an individual’s life, since future economic position and social status of an individual depends on this decision. People aspire for higher education which is one of the areas where they find the opportunity to advance themselves. Waseem and Zarif (2012) stated that societies have marked a shift from conventional inclination for career in medicine and engineering education towards banking, finance, human resource management, supply chain operation or accounting etc. The authors further affirm that this trend has flourished in Pakistan as well. The available opportunities and choice for professional education of students as well as of parents was revolving around two professions of which one was medical and the other was engineering both of which were offered solely in very limited, conventional and state governed institutions. With the passage of time, these two professions enhanced the scope of study.

Several measures have been taken since 1999 to bring about structural reforms in the education sector (Hussain, 2005). The government is still striving hard to achieve the targets of Universal Primary Education, Education for All and Millennium Development Goals which is evident by the provision of many incentives like free textbooks, uniforms, milk, monthly stipends to girls enrolled at middle school. Appointments of better qualified teachers and improvement in infrastructure have also brought a reasonable increase in enrollment.

In the light of this information one can well imagine that keeping the pace of education on the right track with changing trends in subject specialization is the most essential at present. Setting up new trends to fulfill the current demands of professional education and specialized higher education is the key indicator of social uplift. Unfortunately in Pakistani state of affairs the higher education and professional education areas are not getting the due importance necessary for planning with a futuristic approach for a sustainable development. The present study has far reaching effects for a futuristic approach to professional education. This study is providing an insight into the existing status with regard to professional education and how gender affects career decision. The study is identifying the areas of specialization and future trends of students' interest and the factors affecting their priorities as well. It reveals the relationship between education and industry and suggests a plan to drive education in the direction of economic needs.

Purpose of the study

The general purpose of the study is to identify the current trends in and future prospects for professional education in Karachi. The present study also reveals the parents' perception regarding the factors affecting the priority of choice for professional education and suggests for bridging education and industry to uplift the socio-economic status of the country.

Objectives of the study

The specific objectives of the study are:

- i. To formulate the indicators to distinguish the different stratum of society.
- ii. To identify the current trends in professional education in Karachi.
- iii. To discover the future trends in professional education.
- iv. To explore the parent preferences for career choice of their child.
- v. To reveal the factors affecting the priority of choice for professional education.

Research questions

The following research questions were formulated:

- i. What is the most preferred choice of profession by parents for their child?
- ii. What are the changing trends in professional education?
- iii. What are the factors influencing decisions regarding career choice?
- iv. What are the emerging professions in the present educational scenario of Karachi?

Review of literature

Historically, the professions were characterized by training and testing of applicants by those already in the profession, usually after a period of apprenticeship (Beaton, 2010). Though there are variations both within and across professions, each profession demonstrates general tendencies that differentiate it from the others (Kennedy, 1998).

Lester (2010) discussed that a profession may be considered as a well-defined occupation that meets justifiable standards for being a profession no matter if derived from a social construct, trait or societal perspective. At this point there may be a debate as to whether or not an occupation may be termed as a profession and Lester (2010) argued that it is totally dependent on the perspective and hence it is essential to state the perspective and standards clearly.

The Oxford English Dictionary (1998) defined a profession as a paid occupation, especially one that involves prolonged training and a formal qualification and in its definition of a professional; the dictionary uses the words competent, skillful, or assured.

Karachi is not only the largest metropolis of Pakistan and its commercial hub, but also it is known as a 'mini-Pakistan' (Budhani, Gazdar, Kaker, Mallah, 2010). The recent development pattern proclaims it as one of the most fashionable and futuristic global cities (Qureshi, 2010). Since Karachi is the most populated city of Pakistan, it is the industrial and commercial hub to a largely agriculture country. A most vibrant middle class is the main force behind all the hustle and bustle of this mega city in which one will find industry, businesses, education and offices. It is the middle class that is actually running the show. In fact Karachi city has a very strong, vibrant, ambitious and growing middle class whose hard work not only turned it in to a mega city but established standards for others to follow.

Haq (2010) defines the middle class as a set of people in a society who are neither rich nor poor. The middle class is seen and regarded as essential to a country's strength and development. The rich and the poor simply mistrust each other too much to let the other administer. Nations with huge middle class populations find it easier to maintain good, democratic governance.

The concept 'middle class' is one of the most commonly used terms in the social sciences, including economics, sociology and political science (Nayab, 2011). Hardworking is one major characteristic of middle class that distinguish it from other segment of the society. In all circumstances, the middle class members strive hard to fulfill their desire of getting education as if the education is a basic need of their lives. The report published by the Asian Development Bank (2010) said "Not only is the middle class more educated on average than the poor, they also are more likely to invest for schooling of their children." Haq (2010) stated (as cited in Husain, 2007) in a recent report estimated that there were 30 to 35 million Pakistanis earning an average of \$10,000 a year. Of these, about 17 million are in the upper and upper middle class. Roughly, 75% of the households fall in the category of poor and low income groups and 25% constitute the middle and high income groups (Qureshi, 2010). Professional education is the core concern of the middle class when it is the matter of improving economic status of self and the country at large.

The career choice is an important decision having an impact on economic outputs at the individual and national levels (Reman, Anis & Khan, 2009). Career aspirations are influenced by factors such as gender, socioeconomic status, race, parents' occupation and education level, and parental expectations (Domenico & Jones, 2006). Trends in professional education have been investigated and several previous studies have demonstrated the multiple factors which may influence the career choice decision either with respect to specific subject area or the career in a broader term. Many factors affect career choices of high school students. Identifying these factors would give parents, educators, and industry an idea as to where students place most of their trust in the career selection process (Borchert, 2002).

Borchert (2002) found another factor geography that affects career choice. Geography can have an influence on career in a number of ways to young adults, male or female. Careers that require moving to a certain area or living in a certain region can adversely affect career choice. Young adults may also have a personal preference for where they want to live, be that in a bustling city or a rural area. Chope (2006) concluded that a supportive family will educate for the possibility of creating new connections and networks. The youth who have developed a sense of connectedness and partnerships through family networking are in a better position to develop stronger social connections and employment networks.

In this study, several factors are pointed out but literature evidences that parental influence, gender discrimination and socioeconomic status are the most influential.

Methodology

The study was descriptive in nature. The researcher adopted survey design to conduct research using a quantitative paradigm.

Population and sampling

In order to understand the various perspectives about the topic the population comprised parents of the students attending colleges offering all pre-medical, pre-engineering and commerce groups at intermediate level.

According to Zuberi (1992) Nazimabad, North Nazimabad and Gulshan-e-Iqbal are middle income brackets. The researcher had chosen only Gulshan-e-Iqbal as the accessible population because at that time in 1992 it was simply an area with reasonable population but now according to the new administrative structure Gulshan-e-Iqbal is recognized as a thickly populated town. The researcher preferred to select the sample from all boys and girls colleges of Gulshan-e-Iqbal town offering both science and commerce programs. This was just a caution to avoid rescheduling appointments with respondents owing to city unrest.

The sample was selected through multistage stratified random sampling and the sample size was identified through proportional allocation method. There were four (4) male and four (4) female colleges with population of 5800 students. Krejcie and Morgan (1970) stated "as the population increases sample size increased at diminishing rate and remain relatively constant at slightly more than 380 cases." On the basis of aforementioned views the investigator decided to take a sample of 400 participants. However, for a greater accuracy 500 questionnaires were distributed in order to collect the data. The rate of returned questionnaires was very much satisfactory since three hundred and fifteen (315) forms were returned.

Description of instrument(s) and pre-testing

The questionnaire designed for parents included two sections. Section one was focusing to elicit the demographic information with both open and closed ended items. Section two determined the response variation about the various aspects of professional education choice decision and influential factors on five point likert scale.

In order to ensure the reliability, Cronbach's alpha test was used to measure internal consistency of the instrument. George and Mallery (2003) provide the following rules of thumb:

"> 0.9 Excellent, > 0.8 Good, > 0.7 Acceptable, > 0.6 Questionable, > 0.5 Poor, and < 0.5 Unacceptable" (p. 231). The reliability coefficient for the survey forms of present study was 0.7, which is fairly acceptable. To ensure the face validity and content validity of the questionnaires, pre-testing was conducted on a group of 20 participants. In parents' questionnaire item 2b was revised with addition of one more option of 'house wife' and income slots of item 11 were also revised.

Procedure of data collection and data analysis

The data was collected through personal administration of survey forms. The data was compiled and analyzed through the statistical package for social sciences (SPSS). The data was displayed using frequency distribution and percentage tables for item by item analysis.

Data analysis

Data was analyzed using SPSS – 17. Following are the tables of frequency distribution for each item of the instrument.

Table 1
Earning Family Member

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Father	196	62.2	63.4	63.4
	Mother	15	4.8	4.9	68.3
	both	98	31.1	31.7	100.0
	Total	309	98.1	100.0	
Missing	System	6	1.9		
Total		315	100.0		

The above data shows that the response rate for this item is 98% and out of which 62% of parents marked father as an earning family member and 31% of parents supported both as earning family member, however 5% responses favor mother as earning family member.

Table 2
Monthly Income Range

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Below 25000	61	19.4	20.1	20.1
	25000-45000	95	30.2	31.3	51.3
	46000-65000	78	24.8	25.7	77.0
	66000-85000	48	15.2	15.8	92.8
	86000 and above	22	7.0	7.2	100.0
	Total	304	96.5	100.0	
Missing	System	11	3.5		
Total		315	100.0		

The above data shows that response rate for this item was 96%. Among all five categories 30% of parents' monthly income ranges in Rs. 25000-45000, 25% of parents' income ranges in Rs. 45000-65000, 19% of parents' income ranges in Rs. below 25000 and 15% of parents' income ranges in Rs. 66000-855000 whereas only 7% of parents' income ranges in Rs. 86000 and above.

Table 3
The group you like most for your child

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Science	249	79.0	82.7	82.7
	Arts	4	1.3	1.3	84.1
	Commerce	48	15.2	15.9	100.0
	Total	301	95.6	100.0	
Missing	System	14	4.4		
Total		315	100.0		

The above data interpret that the response rate for this item is 95%. Most of the parents i.e. 79% preferred to choose Science Group for their children. 15% of parents like to select Commerce Group for their children whereas only 1% of parents like to choose Arts Group. This clearly indicates that in parents view Science Group is a better choice for a strong foundation of professional education.

Table 4*Your monthly expense on food, clothing, housing, health, utilities and education*

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	20000-40000	177	56.2	59.6	59.6
	41000-60000	99	31.4	33.3	92.9
	60000 +	21	6.7	7.1	100.0
	Total	297	94.3	100.0	
Missing	System	18	5.7		
Total		315	100.0		

The above data shows that the response rate for this item is 94% and a majority of 56% of parents respond that their monthly expense on food, clothing, housing, health, utilities and education ranges in Rs. 20000-40000. 31% of parent said that they spend around Rs. 41000-60000 whereas only 7% parents confirm that their expense is more than Rs. 60000.

Table 5*The profession you think has more career potential*

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative
Valid	Accountancy	47	14.9	14.9	14.9
	Armed forces	2	0.6	0.6	15.9
	Banking	13	4.1	4.1	20.0
	Business	53	16.8	16.8	36.8
	Engineering	60	19.0	19.0	55.9
	IT	16	5.1	5.1	61.0
	Media	5	1.6	1.6	62.5
	Medicine	75	23.8	23.8	86.3
	Teaching	16	5.1	5.1	91.7
	U	26	8.3	8.3	100.0
	Total		315	100.0	100.0

The data show that parents are identifying some significant professions which have more career potential. A majority of 23.8% of parents think that Medicine has more career potential and 19% of them believe that Engineering has more career potential. 16.8% of parents feel that Business Studies whereas 14.9% of parents said that Accountancy has more career potential.

Table 6

The parents should be involved in the decision of profession choice.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly Agree	143	45.4	46.1	46.1
	Agree	129	41.0	41.6	87.7
	Undecided	11	3.5	3.5	91.3
	Disagree	19	6.0	6.1	97.4
	Strongly Disagree	8	2.5	2.6	100.0
	Total	310	98.4	100.0	
Missing	System	5	1.6		
Total		315	100.0		

The response rate for this item is 98% and a large number of parents feel that there should be parental involvement in decision making for selecting a profession. 9% parents do not agree to this whereas 3% are undecided. This clearly indicates that 86% parents are very much concerned about the career education of their child and they think that while taking this important decision they should be involved.

Table 7

There is gender discrimination for various professions

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly Agree	36	11.4	11.6	11.6
	Agree	183	58.1	58.8	70.4
	Undecided	29	9.2	9.3	79.7
	Disagree	48	15.2	15.4	95.2
	Strongly Disagree	15	4.8	4.8	100.0
	Total	311	98.7	100.0	
Missing	System	4	1.3		
Total		315	100.0		

The above data table shows that majority of the parents have a strong feeling that there exists gender discrimination in various professions. 70% of parents agreed to this statement whereas only 20% of them do not agree, however, 9% of parents are undecided. This clearly indicates that in some professions there exists monopoly of specific gender for which parents become very much concerned when their child select any such profession against the trend or norm of the society.

Table 8*Children select profession because of any role model.*

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly Agree	50	15.9	16.2	16.2
	Agree	129	41.0	41.7	57.9
	Undecided	45	14.3	14.6	72.5
	Disagree	77	24.4	24.9	97.4
	Strongly Disagree	8	2.5	2.6	100.0
	Total	309	98.1	100.0	
Missing	System	6	1.9		
Total		315	100.0		

The response rate for this statement is 98% out of which 57% of parents respond as agreed and 27% of parents do not agree to this whereas 14% of parents are uncertain about it. This shows that role model may also be a factor influencing the decision of selecting a profession.

Table 9*Selection of profession is based on monetary benefits.*

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly Agree	58	18.4	19.0	19.0
	Agree	137	43.5	44.9	63.9
	Undecided	50	15.9	16.4	80.3
	Disagree	49	15.6	16.1	96.4
	Strongly Disagree	11	3.5	3.6	100.0
	Total	305	96.8	100.0	
Missing	System	10	3.2		
Total		315	100.0		

The majority of parents agreed upon the statement that decision for selecting a profession is based on monetary benefits. The response rate for this statement is 97% and 62% of parents are in favor of this whereas 19% of parents do not support the statement. However, 16% of parents are uncertain to agree or disagree with this statement. It indicates that most of the parents do associate the probable income of a particular profession while thinking about the career of their child.

Table 10

You believe that trends in professional education are changing day by day.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly Agree	101	32.1	32.9	32.9
	Agree	145	46.0	47.2	80.1
	Undecided	28	8.9	9.1	89.3
	Disagree	32	10.2	10.4	99.7
	Strongly Disagree	1	.3	.3	100.0
	Total	307	97.5	100.0	
Missing	System	8	2.5		
Total		315	100.0		

The response rate for this statement is 97% out of which 78% of parents believe that trends in professional education are changing day by day and 10% of parents do not favor the statement, however, 9% of parents are uncertain to go for agree or disagree. It may be concluded that most of the parents have clear understanding about the rapid changes of trends in professional education.

Table 11

The present trends in professional education match with industry demands.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly Agree	21	6.7	6.9	6.9
	Agree	89	28.3	29.1	35.9
	Undecided	117	37.1	38.2	74.2
	Disagree	62	19.7	20.3	94.4
	Strongly Disagree	17	5.4	5.6	100.0
	Total	306	97.1	100.0	
Missing	System	9	2.9		
Total		315	100.0		

The response rate of this statement is 97% and only 35% parents are in favor of this statement. There is an amazing finding that majority of the parents i.e. 37% of parents are uncertain to show their inclination in agreement or disagreement of this statement, however, 25% of parents do not support the statement and respond in disagreement. This reveals the situation that parents lack awareness about relationship of industry demands and professional education trends whether the both complement each other or not.

Table 12*Professional education choice has become very limited for the children from middle class families.*

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly Agree	86	27.3	27.7	27.7
	Agree	150	47.6	48.2	75.9
	Undecided	21	6.7	6.8	82.6
	Disagree	45	14.3	14.5	97.1
	Strongly Disagree	9	2.9	2.9	100.0
	Total	311	98.7	100.0	
Missing	System	4	1.3		
Total		315	100.0		

The majority of the parents believe that professional education choice has become very limited for the children from middle class families. The response rate for this statement is 99%. 75% of parents are agreed upon the statement and only 17% of parents do not agree whereas only 7% of them are uncertain to give their opinion. This clearly indicates that a majority of parents think that there are limited opportunities of professional education for children of middle class families.

Table 13*Govt. should mention future need of all professions while making policies.*

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly Agree	132	41.9	42.6	42.6
	Agree	150	47.6	48.4	91.0
	Undecided	19	6.0	6.1	97.1
	Disagree	4	1.3	1.3	98.4
	Strongly Disagree	5	1.6	1.6	100.0
	Total	310	98.4	100.0	
Missing	System	5	1.6		
Total		315	100.0		

The response rate for this statement is 98% and almost all parents support the statement that government should mention future need of all professions while making policies. 90% of parents agreed upon the statement and only 2% of parents do not agree whereas 6% of parents are uncertain to show their viewpoint. This reveals that all the parents unanimously believe that it is important to identify the future demand of professionals while policy development process.

Table 14

Govt. should appoint education counselor for every school and college.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly Agree	150	47.6	48.2	48.2
	Agree	100	31.7	32.2	80.4
	Undecided	32	10.2	10.3	90.7
	Disagree	18	5.7	5.8	96.5
	Strongly Disagree	11	3.5	3.5	100.0
	Total	311	98.7	100.0	
Missing	System	4	1.3		
Total		315	100.0		

The above data illustrate that majority of parents support the statement that government should appoint education counselor for every school and college. The response rate for this statement is 99% out of which 80% of parents agreed upon and only 9% of parents do not agree whereas 10% of parents are uncertain to respond as agree or disagree. This reflects that parents do understand the important role of counselor and expect that government should take action in this regard.

Table 15

At Govt. level there should be a comprehensive plan for promotion of profession like Nursing, teaching, Law, scientist, Writer and poet, etc.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly Agree	139	44.1	44.4	44.4
	Agree	154	48.9	49.2	93.6
	Undecided	11	3.5	3.5	97.1
	Disagree	8	2.5	2.6	99.7
	Strongly Disagree	1	.3	.3	100.0
	Total	313	99.4	100.0	
Missing	System	2	.6		
Total		315	100.0		

The majority of the parents believe that government should have appropriate plan for the promotion of some professions like nursing, teaching, law, scientists, writer and poet etc. The response rate for statement is 99% out of which 93% of parents do support the statement and only 3% of parents do not support whereas only 3% of parents are uncertain to give their views. This unveils the fact that in our society there are certain professions need serious attention at government level to flourish.

Findings

The major findings of the study are as follows:

- Seventy five percent (75%) of parents do agree that there are limited opportunities of professional education for children of middle class families. Only seventeen percent (17%) of parents do not agree however, seven percent (7%) of parents are uncertain to give their opinion.
- There is an amazing finding that majority of the parents i.e. thirty seven percent (37%) are uncertain to show their inclination to agreement or disagreement whether the present trends match with the industry demands whereas only thirty five percent (35%) of parents are in favor of this statement. However, twenty five percent (25%) of parents do not support the statement and respond in disagreement. This reveals the fact that parents do not understand the relationship of industry demands and present professional education trends which identify lack of career counseling session and seminars at school level.
- Seventy eight percent (78%) of parents believe that trends in professional education are changing day-by-day and fifty one percent (51%) of parents are satisfied with the changing whereas only thirty five percent (35%) of parents think that these trends match with industry demands which may be concluded as insufficient support to these statements. Twenty five percent (25%) of parents did not respond however; approximately thirty percent (30%) of parents are not sure about the direction of these trends which also indicates their concerns and dissatisfaction.
- Seventy percent (70%) of parents do agree that there is gender discrimination in various professions whereas only twenty percent (20%) do not agree. However, ninety percent (90%) of parents are undecided. This clearly indicates that in some professions there is monopoly of a specific gender for which parents become very much concerned when their child selects any such profession against the trend or norm of the society.
- Thirty eight percent (38%) of parents are of the opinion that their children are aiming for medicine and twenty one percent (21%) of parents respond that their children are aiming for engineering whereas eleven percent (11%) of parents confirm that their children are aiming for accountancy.

Discussion

The study is focusing on the perception of people residing in Karachi regarding professional education or the career prospect. Karachi is the largest cosmopolitan city of the country which boasts a mixed populous of all income brackets and ethnic shades (Zubery, 1992). According to the report “The rise of Asia’s middle class (2010)” there is no criterion to classify middle class. Some Investigators used absolute criteria to define the middle class while others adopted relative criteria. The present study is also considering the absolute approach which refers to the middle class which has a spending of a minimum of \$2 and maximum of \$20 per head a day referenced in the report 2005 PPP\$.

The profile of the middle class is defined by the same report in that job and career is a significant feature of a middle class. They are not only educated but also they likely invest more on the schooling of their children. Generally, a tendency in a middle class is observed that family expense on health and education are a major part of their budget. The ultimate outcome of spending on the schooling of children leads towards a safe and secure employment and occupation from them. At this stage, importance of career options and professional education becomes an essential need of parents as well as children. The participants of the study include students and parents. There were two different questionnaires for students and parents. The demography section of both parents’ and students’ questionnaires show that almost they all qualify to represent the middle class.

The trends have been studied by various investigators in a variety of situations. Garet, Michael and others (1982) conducted a study to review the recent trends in Doctoral studies in Arts, Science, Humanities and Engineering. Luis, Areal & Rothes (2003) studied the new trends in professional formation and updating in occupations associated with adult learning. David R Wetzel (2010) investigated what are the future trends in continuing education and concluded that future trends in continuing education are changing by offering increased e-learning and online learning opportunities. Yuri Demchenko (2006) in a paper discusses about general trends and problems of Education development in conditions of emerging new technologies and Global Information Environment. Georgive, T.; Stepanjan, E.; Fichorov, I. (1996) examined the new trends in Bulgarian higher education. Cervero, Ronald M. (2000) investigated trends and issues in continuing professional education. The present research is focusing on an absolutely a new dimension to study the future trends in professional education in the middle class society of Karachi. Seventy eight percent (78%) of parents believe that trends in professional

education are changing day-by-day and fifty one percent (51%) of surveyed parents are satisfied with the changing whereas only thirty five percent (35%) of parents think that these trends matches with industry demands, which may be concluded as insufficient support to these statement. Twenty five percent (25%) of parents did not respond however; approximately thirty percent (30%) of Parents are not sure about the direction of these trends which also indicates their concerns and dissatisfaction.

The responses for career choice preference is very much similar among parents and students, both preferred the traditionally recognized profession like medicine and engineering but a growing trend for accountancy has been discovered. None of the parents but a single student has shown an inclination in the law studies whereas a least no. of parents and students are interested in the teaching profession. A number of students and parents are still undecided for selecting a profession. There is another observation that careers in police, armed forces and civil superior services couldn't get the attention of parents and students.

There are several factors influencing the decision making of students for selecting a profession. The family unit in our society is dominated by parents and they influence career choice decision positively in some cases but also negatively as well. According to the parents who participated in this study, there should be parental involvement in this decision making process. In addition student interest should also be given due importance. As far as other factors are concerned peer pressure and role model are not very influential but teachers and monetary benefits do influence this process. Research studies show the relationship of gender with career aspirations. Correll (2006) presented a social psychological model which explains how gender stereotypes beliefs bias the formation of self-assessments and, consequently, emerging career-relevant aspirations. According to Holland (1985) the choice of a career is an extension of one's personality in to the world of work. The career selected by an individual is basically matches with personal orientation. Holland (1997) believes people develop stereotypes or typical images of occupations.

Although there is a great deal of research supports Holland's typology, however, some criticized his theory on the basis of gender biasness as most female tend to score in artistic, social and conventional type of personality which he connected to society who forced to direct females in careers dominated by females. Career aspirations are influenced by factors such as gender, socioeconomic status, race, parents' occupation and education level, and parental expectations (Domenico, & Jones, 2006).

Conclusion

The trends in professional education for the middle class have become limited to certain traditional professions like medicine and engineering, however, a growing trend in commerce studies has been observed. The complex human personality, modern industrial problems, influx of educational disciplines and diversity of various professions/occupation/vocations have made the counseling system almost compulsory for seeking the advice of experts in order to understand the nature of profession/occupation/vocations for making the right decision.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are made on the basis of major findings:

- There is need to establish Government funded Career Counseling Centers as a test case in Karachi then the model may be applied to other cities in Pakistan.
- Government should introduce career counselors in public schools as its first priority and at the same time government must pass regulation to enforce privately managed educational institutions for appointment of professionally trained career counselors and advisors. Creation of these jobs would prove to be a great incentive for the new comers to choose career counseling as their careers.
- It is strongly recommended that subjects such as Sculpture, carving, showbiz professions (singing/dancing) and professional writing (poetry/story) and other courses should be included as regular curriculum in our schooling system.
- It is suggested that parents should also be involved during the career counseling process of their children so that the parents may be convinced to think about their children's own aptitude
- Career counselor should have access to the latest information along with the job survey so they could predict the job growth in different sectors of the economy.
- Opportunities and choices should be available for all people, regardless of gender, socioeconomic class, religion, disability, sexual orientation, age and culture.
- Government should promote state of the art career learning centers equipped with IT, internet facilities across the country in the private sector. This may be accomplished by giving incentives.

- Career counseling certificates and degree programs should be introduced in order to have certified career counselors in the market. Colleges/universities should be equipped to offer the programs of degrees/certificates courses.
- There should be full day school offerings after elementary level for grade IX – XII with the introduction of some completely skill-based vocational courses of four-year duration.

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