

Assessment of Knowledge and Attitudes of Adolescents in Advanced Level Classes towards Their Future Career: A Case Study at Piliyandala Area, Colombo

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The research study assessed the knowledge and attitudes of adolescents studying in A/L classes about their future careers. Piliyandala central college, Colombo district was selected for the study as it is a mixed secondary school with a large A/L student population. Assessment of existing knowledge, attitudes about future career among adolescents and their information sources would be very helpful to find out related factors for unemployment.

The objectives of the study were to assess the knowledge and attitudes of the adolescents towards their future career and to identify their sources of knowledge regarding future careers and the factors which influenced their decision making regarding future careers.

This was a quantitative cross-sectional descriptive study involving 290 adolescents in A/L classes. Data was collected via a self-administered semi-structured questionnaire with sections on demographic data, knowledge on career choice, attitudes towards future career and sources of information regarding future career and factors which influenced their choice of future career. About 36% of students hoped to study up to degree level to get a job. Majority of the students (51.7%) preferred government jobs and 41% of students preferred office work as their future career. When assessing in relation to the A/L subject stream, most of the Biology (73%), Commerce (37.8%) and Art (65.9%) students showed preference for government jobs while more Math students (30.9%) preferred work in the private sector. Many of the students (80%) include respect from society when considering their career choice. Many students get information regarding their future career from their parents (75.2%). More than half of the study population (57.9%) said that they had not got enough information from information sources such as parents, schools, career guidance programs. The Students mentioned parents as influencing factor for their decision making in 55.5%. The most influencing factor for decision making is the interest of the student toward their future career (81.7%).

In conclusion, most of the students had some idea about their future careers, but that knowledge was not organized. The study showed that these A/L students are not receiving adequate information regarding future job opportunities.

Key words: *Knowledge, Attitudes, Adolescents, Future career*