



A STUDY ON THE DECISION MAKING SKILLS OF DILPOMA STUDENTS

Dr MANDALA CHANDRASHEKHAR GOUD¹

Associate Professor

MNR Rural PG College of Education
Fasalwadi, Sangareddy, TS-India 502294
Mobile: +918888988133
man_chandu@yahoo.com

R VIJAY KUMAR²

M.Ed Student

MNR Rural PG College of Education
Fasalwadi, Sangareddy, TS-India 502294
Mobile: +9190900921907
vijay_ramoji@yahoo.com

ABSTRACT: The present study focused on the study on the decision making skills of diploma students. The findings of this study will have implication value in designing curriculum. The type of the present research work is 'Applied Research' and uses the 'Survey Method' of research. 'Proportionate Sampling Method' adopted for sampling. The researcher used Decision Making Life Skills Inventory by French D J, West R J, Elander J, Wilding J M. Psychology Department, Royal Holloway and Bedford New College, University of London for collecting the data. The study covered 149 students from six branches of diploma courses. The students make decisions without considering all of the implications. Students prefer to avoid making decisions if they can. Students like to consult with others while decision making. The adolescents should be counseled or trained regarding life skills either by the teachers or by the special life skills trainers. Also, regular monitoring for life skills should be done in the school itself so that the adolescents can be educated about coping with emotions, stress or pressure.

Keywords: Soft Skills, Decision Making, Thoroughness, Control, Hesitancy, Social Resistance, instinctiveness

1. Introduction:

Decision making is the process of choosing from a number of possible solutions/ideas to a problem. There are many techniques developed that can be used to make decisions based on simple to complex problems. They are intuition, pros and cons method, and the Balance Sheet. Well, structures and informed decisions require certain stages to follow. We all certainly have to make decisions all the time. And it is really difficult to make decisions. People often make decisions using a vote, tossing a coin and choosing a one from the list with eye closed. Some people may not take their decisions by their own or ask advices from others. Among all methods developed, which one would be more appropriate depends on the nature and complexity of the decision.

2. Statement of the problem:

A study on the decision making skill in the life skills of diploma students in Hathnoora Mandal, Sangareddy District.

3. Need of the study:

With cultures and lifestyles in transition, many young people are not adequately equipped with life skills to help them deal with the augmented demands and stresses they experience. Effective use of Life-Skills can influence the way children feel about others and themselves which in turn can add to the children's self confidence and self-esteem (Life-Skills Education and CCE

Manual CBSE, 2010). Improvement in Life skills can result in individuals making informed choices to serve the interests of self and others, becoming "proactive" and change agents. They are able to resolve conflicts, cope with stress and develop negotiating skills for personal and social interests. Life-Skills play an important role in the promotion of mental well-being which contributes to our motivation to look after ourselves and others. It helps one to understand and deal with relationships, friends, parents, teachers, etc. People who do not have a clear definition of life are never happy and content. They will not be able to move ahead in life. If a child is empowered to bring an understanding and balance in life, he will grow up to be more satisfied (Khwaja, 2011).

Hence the researcher selected to study on the decision making skill in the life skills of diploma students in Hathnoora Mandal, Sangareddy District.

4. Objectives of the study:

1. To study the Thoroughness in Decision Making of diploma students.
2. To study the Control in Decision Making of diploma students.
3. To study the Hesitancy in Decision Making of diploma students.
4. To study the Social Resistance in Decision Making of diploma students.
5. To study the Optimizing in Decision Making of diploma students.

6. To study the Principled in Decision Making of diploma students.
7. To study the instinctiveness in Decision Making of diploma students.

5. Operational definitions:

Life skills: are psychosocial abilities for adaptive and positive behavior that enable individuals to deal effectively with the demands and challenges of everyday life.

Decision Making: the eight aspects namely Thoroughness, Control, Hesitancy, Social resistance, Optimising, Principled, Instinctiveness.

Diploma students: the students who studying the 2 years professional course after completion of tenth class.

Hatnoora: is the one of the revenue circle of Sangareddy District.

Sangareddy: is one of the District of Telangana State of India.

6. Review of Related Research and Literature

The researcher made an attempt to review the literature and previous studies related to the topic. The researcher reviewed Doctoral thesis as well as M.Phil dissertations of India and abroad. The researcher reviewed the studies of Prashant Thote (2015), Pujjar L L (2014), Sudhir Tomar (2012), Sandhya Khera, Shivani Khosla (2012), Swati Mujumdar (2011), Aparna N and Raakhee (2011), Ganesh B Singh (2006) and Hossein Jenaabadi (2015), Prawit Erawan (2010), Doug Couch (2009), Jessy John (2009) and Felisa Deskeo (2002).

7. Limitations of the study:

Area: the researcher is limited to the selected college which are offering diploma course in Hathnoora Mandal of Sangareddy District of Telangana state only.

Theme: The researcher work is limited to the theme of studying the Decision Making skill of diploma students.

Period: The researcher is limited to conduct the research in one year that is 2017-2019

8. Research paradigm in brief:

The present research work is 'Applied Research' because, it is concerned with certain sample and the results is applicable to the field of Education. The present descriptive study used the 'Survey Method' of research. The students who studying diploma second year are the population of the study. The researcher selected 118 male and 31 female students from 228 students by **Proportionate Sampling Method**. The sample covered six branches of diploma courses. The researcher had chosen Decision Making Life Skills

Inventory by French D J, West R J, Elander J, Wilding J M. Psychology Department, Royal Holloway and Bedford New College, University of London, It has been designed for students for the measurement of their decision making skill in respect of eight aspects namely Thoroughness, Control, Hesitancy, Social resistance, Optimising, Principled, Instinctiveness respectively and 21 items in each dimension. The Validity of the inventory was established by the authors by two different approaches, namely Factorial and Criterion related approach.

Statistical Techniques:

The data was analyzed by with the help of Mean, Standard deviation, T-Test and analysis of variance.

9. Findings:

1. Thoroughness: Only 58% students never make decisions without considering all of the implications. 90% students mostly plan well ahead. 78% students mostly work out all the pros and cons before making a decision. 83% students decision making in a deliberate logical process
2. Control: 85% students enjoy decision making. 77% students remain calm when you have to make decisions very quickly. 65% students feel in control of things. 50% students prefer to avoid making decisions if they can. 34% students never find it difficult to think clearly when they have to decide something in a hurry.
3. Hesitancy: 63% students change their mind about things. 85% students take the safe option if there is one. When making decisions 68% students find themselves favoring first one option then another.
4. Social Resistance: Only 21% students never like to consult with others. 62% students make up their own mind about things regardless of what others think. Only 43% students avoid taking advice over decisions.
5. Optimizing: 41% students find one option that will just about do; they mostly never leave it at that. 67% students carry on looking for something better even if they have found a course of action that is just about OK.
6. Principled: 63% students' decision often governed by their ideals regardless of practical difficulties. 30% students' decision making practicalities more important than principles.

7. Instinctiveness: 81% students rely on 'gut feelings' when making decisions. 82% students stick by their decisions come what may.

10. Discussion on findings:

By analyzing the data collected by the researcher, findings can be summarized as follows. In this present study, the researcher found that, most of the students are thorough while decision making. Most of the students prefer to avoid making decisions if they can. Most of the students take the safe option if there is one. Hence their Hesitancy level is appreciable but, many students have to develop change their mind about things. Social development is very low. Most students have to develop optimizing their abilities of decision making. Most of the students' decision often governed by their ideals regardless of practical difficulties. Instinctiveness of the students is adequate.

11. Recommendations:

Based on the interactions of the findings of the present research and the elaborate methodology followed by the researcher, the researcher convinced that, the students have to develop decision making skill. The curriculum should provide space to enhance decision making ability of the students. Frequent interaction with specialists will effective to develop decision making skill among the students. The educational institutions have to appoint a counselor to train the students in this regard. The educational experts should incorporate the new element of Life skills along with the decision making skill in the curriculum by day to day activities.

12. Suggestion for further research:

1. The present study is confined only to Diploma students. A similar study may be conducted on Graduate and Post Graduate students.
2. The present study is confined to only to Sangareddy Dist. Hathnoora Mandal Division. A similar investigation may also be conducted in other districts of Telangana State.

13. Conclusion:

The results conclude that, the students have to develop decision making skill wise Thoroughness, Control, Hesitancy, Social Resistance, Optimizing and Instinctiveness. The study also concludes that, the colleges need to design the training programmes on life skill among the students & we can use as part of the curriculum. Impetus should be given for the training of students in decision making skill. Regular and frequent

psychological sessions will enhance the decision making skill among the students. Proper counseling facility should be there in the school regarding life skills. The adolescents should be counseled or trained regarding life skills either by the teachers or by the special life skills trainers. Also, regular monitoring for life skills should be done in the school itself so that the adolescents can be educated about coping with emotions, stress or pressure.

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