Credibility in Decision Making of the Students in Choosing Engineering Domain

G. Vijay, N. Shabnam Nihar, A.Joseph Lourdu Rajah, S.Viji

Abstract— *It is obvious that decision making is instrumental in everyone's life style irrespective of colour, caste, community, belief systems, education, and designation. Everyone in the earth necessarily has to take decisions at certain juncture of personal or professional life. Wrong decisions always invite hurdles and complications that would sometimes lead to highly critical results. This paper concentrates on the credibility in the decision making of the students in choosing engineering courses. In India, right from schools, students are oriented towards medicine and engineering. It is observed that the choice of becoming doctors is being reasonable since many of the medical students settle down as doctors. Whereas, the choice of engineering courses in India is debatable since most of the engineering students are jobless. Hence it is presumed that poor decision making of in selection of the courses is the root cause for this pathetic situation of the engineering graduates. .*

Keywords: colour, caste, community, belief systems, education, designation, decision making, credibility.

I. INTRODUCTION

It should be noted that among the several professional skills decision making is a valuable skill that plays a crucial role in one's career life. Poor decision making may lead to bitter experiences both in personal and professional life.

Generally decisions made by people are like: political, personal, medicinal, professional and financial decisions. Quite often, decision making is not so easy because sometimes choices are quite simple and straight forward, while most of the time choices are complex and require a detailed and more careful approach in making right choices.

Most of the time, past experiences impact decision making. Julisson, Karlsson, and Garling (2005) indicated past decisions influence the decisions of the future because people are more likely to decide in a similar way in a similar situation. However, people ignore the past experiences because of the change in their belief system and their strong desire for a particular choice.

The other factors that may also influence decision making are socioeconomic status (SES), and cognitive abilities (de Bruin, Parker, & Fischoff, 2007; Finucane, Mertz, Slovic, & Schmidt, 2005). Age is also viewed to be an important factor that affects decision making since it is felt that cognitive functions may decline as a result of age and as a result clarity in decision making may decline as well. (Finucane et al., 2005)

II. DECISION MAKING AND PMI

A question often arises among people regarding making correct choices. Most of the people make random choices and keep grumbling over the choices made. It is expected to have a theoretical guidance or a tool that would be a significant for making correct decisions. PMI is one such simple tool that anyone can easily experiment with.

PMI (plus, minus, interesting) is a decision making tool that was developed by Dr. Edward de Bono who is a lateral and critical thinker. Through this tool one can examine ideas and concepts for making better decisions. It helps students to consider all ideas even the ideas that are rejected initially and to take their stance. (Hement Lata Sharma & Priyamvada, 2017)

III. DECISION MAKING OF THE STUDENTS TOWARDS HIGHER STUDIES IN INDIA

A student who completes tenth or twelfth standard in a school in India is facing the issue of taking decisions in the pursuit of higher level courses. It is obvious that all the students don't get proper orientation towards higher education unless they are from an educated family backdrop.

In India, nowadays, education is viewed as just a mode of getting degrees and employment opportunities and so students don't have broad vision about their career life. Their vision is limited to the nearest and available samples of life. Their seniors or family members or neighbourhoods influence them in choosing a course for higher studies.

"Heuristics are general decision making strategies people use that are based on little information, yet very often correct; heuristics are mental short cuts that reduce the cognitive burden associated with decision making" (Shah & Oppenheimer, 2008)

Similar to the opinion of Shah and Oppenheimer, students don't want to risk themselves in taking decisions.

G. Vijay*, Assistant Professor in the Department of English at PSNA College of Engineering and Technology, Dindigul., Tamil Nadu, India.

N. Shabnam Nihar,, Assistant Professor in the Department of English at PSNA College of Engineering and Technology, Dindigul, Tamil Nadu, India.

A.Joseph Lourdu Rajah, Assistant Professor in the Department of English at PSNA College of Engineering and Technology, Dindigul Tamil Nadu, India.

S.Viji,, Assistant Professor in the Department of English at PSNA College of Engineering and Technology, Dindigul. Tamil Nadu, India.

Retrieval Number: D5260118419/2019©BEIESP
DOI:10.35940/ijrte.D5260.118419
Journal Website: www.ijrte.org

7171

Published By:
Blue Eyes Intelligence Engineering
& Sciences Publication

They follow the readymade decisions made by others and apply the same in their life. They blindly obey to the prescriptions of the others. This attitude continues up to choosing colleges, courses, even life partners.

IV. PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

According to 'National Employability Report' 2016, which is based on a study of more than 1,50,000 engineering students who graduated in 2015 from over 650 colleges, 80% of them were unemployable and only 3% had suitable skills to be employed in software or product market. (Arunima Srivastava, 2017). CP Gurnani, CEO & MD of Tech, has said that 94% of engineering graduated were not fit for hiring." The top 10 IT companies take only 6% of engineering graduates. What happens to the remaining 94%?" he said in an interview.

The authors of this research paper intended to find reasons for such kind of complaints. In India, it is observed that the choice of becoming doctors is reasonable since many of the medical students settle down as doctors. Whereas, the choice of engineering courses is debatable since the current situation of the engineering students are pathetic because many are jobless. Hence, an attempt is made in the study expecting that the poor decision making skills of the students could be a route cause.

V. METHODOLOGY

Questionnaire method is carried out in this research. Students who pursue engineering course in the workplace of the authors are selected for this study. Questionnaires were distributed and the opinions were analyzed.

VI. FINDINGS & RESULTS

(i). Whose choice?

Filled in questionnaires were collected from I year engineering students and analysed. One of the major questions in the questionnaire was 'motivation towards choosing the course'. The responses were consolidated and given below in table: 2.

Any choice of higher studies should be from the inner motivation of the learner. However, this study revealed that only 30% of the students in a classroom chose the course from their own interest and 45% of the students chose the course because of the parents'interest. 13% of the students selected because of the motivation of their relatives. The other 12% of the students did not have any other options for other courses.

In India there is culture widespread that children are not allowed to make their own choices. Parents interfere in all parameters including the dressing of their children. They are ready to invest any amount in finding a solid space for their children in their professional life. As engineers are well paid, parents motivate their children to select engineering courses. According to them earning money is the only priority in choosing the course. Moreover, students also don't have clarity in their academic cycle, they accept to the suggestions and recommendations come from the second or third parties.

Table-1: Motivation towards the choice of the course
Total number of respondents: 60

	Own Interest	Parents' Interest	Relatives interest	No better option
No of respondents	18	27	8	7
Percentage	30%	45%	13%	12%

(ii) Awareness of PMI

Since, PMI is viewed to be a reliable tool for making better decisions, the awareness of it among students before choosing the course was included as one of the questioning components of the questionnaire. The responses were consolidated and given in the table: 2

Table-2: Awareness on PMI
Total number of respondents: 60

	Fully aware of	Partly aware of	Totally unaware of
No of respondents	0	0	60
Percentage	0%	0%	100%

It was found that none of the students were aware of the tool. When enquired it was found that it was not included in the syllabus. Any kind of technical or physical problems are solved today with the availability of tools. Since decision making is a psychological problem, people are not aware of psychological tools. If students had been introduced of this PMI tool, at least students would have been able to identify plus, minus and interesting criteria of engineering courses. Schools should have introduced such tools and educated the students well in advance.

(iii). Post decision making response

Post decision making responses were included in the questionnaire and responses were collected and analysed. The details are given in table: 3

Table-3: Post decision making response
Total number of respondents: 60

Own Interest (18)			Parents' Interest (27)			Relatives interest (8)			No better option (7)		
H	S	U	H	S	U	H	S	U	H	S	U
10	6	2	5	6	16	1	2	5	3	4	-
56%	33%	11%	19%	22%	59%	12%	25%	63%	43%	57%	-

*H-Happy, S- Satisfied, U- Unsatisfied

From the responses it was found that the 56% of the students who selected the course out of their own interest were happy about their decision and 33% of the same students were satisfied with their decision.

19% of the students who chose the course out of parental decision were happy and 22% of the same students were satisfied and 59% of the students were not satisfied.

Similarly, 63% of the students who selected the course based on the suggestions of the relatives were not satisfied with the decisions made.

The students who chose the course out of no other option were found to be either happy or satisfied. Hence, it can

be concluded that the majority of the students who selected the course out of the direction of the family members or relatives were not satisfied with the decision taken. The students who chose out of their own interest were found to be relatively happy or satisfied.

VII RECOMMENDATION AND CONCLUSION

It is found that there is no clarity of decision making techniques instilled among the students in schools. Students need to have good decision making strategy to avoid confusions in choosing a particular course and so they may study at ease. The students of engineering are worst affected because of this inconsistency. Hence it is recommended that the syllabus and curriculum at the higher secondary level should include the necessary decision making skills.

In addition, students should be given freedom in choosing a right course matching with their calibre. A student may be financially funded by parents but only the student has to undergo all sorts of pressures in successfully completing the course. If the students choose course from their own interest they may shine well or at least get a pass the course. The students who are not able to secure a pass mark are the victims of second or third party's decision making in the academic pursuit..

WORKS CITED

1. De Bruin, W.B., Parker, A.M., & Fischhoff, B. (2007). Individual differences in adult decision-making competence. Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 92(5), 938-956.
2. Finucane, M.L., Mertz, C.K., Slovic, P. & Schmidt, E.S. (2005). Task complexity and older adults' decision-making competence. Psychology and Aging, 20(1), 71-84.
3. Hement Lata Sharma & Priyamvada, (2017), "PMI (Plus-Minus-Interesting): A creative thinking strategy to foster critical thinking". International Journal of Academic Research and Development, Volume 2; Issue 6; November 2017; Page No. 974-977
4. Jullisson, E.A., Karlsson, N., Garling, T. (2005). Weighing the past and the future in decision making. European Journal of Cognitive Psychology, 17(4), 561-575.
5. Shah, A.K., & Oppenheimer, D.M. (2008).Heuristics made easy: An effort-reductio framework. Psychological Bulletin, 134(2), 207-222

WEB SOURCES

1. Arunima Srivastava, How to bridge the gap between academia and industry?
   https://www.peoplematters.in/article/campus-recruitment
2. A McKinsey report-"94% of engineering graduates are not fit for hiring, says this IT stalwart". ET online June, 04, 2018.
3. https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/jobs/only-6-of-those-passing-out-of-indias-engineering-colleges-are-fit-for-a-job/articleshow/64446292.cm

AUTHORS PROFILE

G.Vijay, is working as an Assistant Professor in the Department of English at PSNA College of Engineering and Technology, Dindigul. He has published 10 research papers in various national/ international journals/conferences. He is interested in language teaching

A.Joesph Lourdu Rajah , is working as an Assistant Professor in the Department of English at PSNA College of Engineering and Technology, Dindigul. He has published 10 research papers in various national/ international journals/conferences. He is interested in Indian writing in English and ELT

N.Shabnam Niher is working as an Assistant Professor in the Department of English at PSNA College of Engineering and Technology, Dindigul. She is pursuing Doctoral degree from Mother Teresa University, Kodaikanal. She taught Technical English, Communicative English for all branches of Engineering pupil. She published more than 10 research article in well reputed International and National journals. Her current research focus on Flipped Learning Methods and techniques. She has actively participated in many International amd national conferences, workshops and seminar. She is one of the Text Translators (English to Tamil) in NPTEL, She has successfully completed reviewed NPTEL course **Softskills** offered by IIT, Rookee. She has promoted as a Direct translator of Tamil and presently working on **Patent Drafting for Beginners,** from IIT, Madras.

S.Viji, is working as an Assistant Professor in the Department of English at PSNA College of Engineering and Technology, Dindigul. She has actively participated in many International and national conferences, workshops and seminar. She has successfully completed NPTEL course