

Impact of Parents' Occupation on Students Self-Concept at Secondary Level

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Abstract

This study examines the impact of parents' occupation on the self-concept of 10th grade public school students. The objectives of this study were (a) to find out the level of education of parents in the six southern districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, (b) to find out the level of self-concept of students in the six southern districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and (c) to determine whether the occupation of parents has any impact on the self-concept of students. The data were collected from a sample (N =400) of 10th grade students in the urban and rural secondary public schools. A partially adapted questionnaire was used for measuring the parents' level of education and the students' self-concept. The data collected were analyzed through SPSS 20. Regression and β (coefficient of impact) were used as statistical techniques. The findings of the study revealed that parents' occupation had a consistent and positive impact on students' self-concept.

Keywords: Parents' Occupation, Self-Concept, Academic Competence

Introduction

Occupational prestige is the third most important variable of a family socioeconomic status. It entails both education and income. It means that the occupational prestige of an individual is the reflection of the education he has acquired for that very occupation and the income he receives from that occupation. Job characteristics, decision making ability and the psychological demands of the job are the factors that decide the occupational status of an individual. Occupation also plays a role in saving you from physical and mental illnesses to which the unemployed people are more likely to fall victim (Jin, Shah, & Svobada, 1995). In addition to financial rewards, one can have a number of fringed benefits of one's occupation such as expanded social networks, meaningful identity and occupational pride which one rejoices on. Occupations of higher status are usually more challenging but at the same time provide more opportunities for control over working conditions and expression of personal skills and abilities (Marmot et al 1997). Contrary to that, occupations of lower status are generally easy going but at the same time more hazardous and monotonous and allow less autonomy.

Occupation is really very difficult to measure because there are countless occupations and there are so many instruments to measure. It is not as simple in measurement as income and education are. The different measuring instruments are based on different theoretical grounds." The widely used scale in the Great Britain is the Registrar General's Scale. It is based on the notion that an occupation is a better indicator of socioeconomic status for a considerable time period. This scale covers occupations right from unemployed, through unskilled and skilled manual labor, to professional degree holders Freud, S, 1961).

Hollingshead Index of Social Position is another scale which measures occupations on the basis of the basic qualifications required for the job and the return income of that job; some other scales measure the occupational prestige (O. D. Duncan, 1961). Erikson and Goldthorpe in Britain and Erik Olin Wright in the United States developed scales on Marxian analysis used to measure ones access to capital and production. Their scales were aimed at finding out whether a person in the occupation is the owner, supervisor, or worker etc. (Wright & Perrone, 1977).

Branden (1994) contended that it is the self-concept that controls our internal and external worlds. He further observes: "I cannot think of a single psychological problem—from anxiety to underachievement at school, to drug abuse, to passivity, to suicide and other deviances—that is not caused by, at least in part, deficient self-concept".

Literature Review

Occupation:

Occupation: A job or post held by someone which is his means of earning Occupation is the third variable of SES which is related both with income and education. Various occupations require varying credentials and offer varying income levels in the form of payments. The occupational position of an individual in a profession is measured by the nature of the duty he performs, his authority and decision making power and the psychological demands required of him on the job. Doctors, surgeons, lawyers, engineers and university professors are some of the most prestigious occupations. They are termed as high SES occupations. In these jobs you have greater control over working conditions but at same time you have to have high ability. Contrary to that the lower SES jobs include workers, counter attendants and helpers, dishwashers, maids, housekeepers and vehicle cleaners. These jobs require less ability and are low paying, more laborious, hazardous, with no independence (Scott et

al. 2005). Family has a vital role in socializing the child and providing him the basic needs (Okorodudu, 2010; Mezieobi and Opara, 2007). Parents who are jobless or whose income is low find themselves in hot water when they are to meet the needs of their families. Lack of resources causes tension in a family. Such a condition in the family adversely affects the household atmosphere and finally puts the holistic development of the children including education at stake (Singh, 1996).

Self-concept

The term Self-concept refers to as how one thinks about oneself, evaluates ones unique qualities or sees oneself. Ones this awareness of oneself is termed as self-concept. The "self" has got a high place in the theories of personality in psychology. Generally, the self has two aspects, I and me. 'I' refers to as how we evaluate while 'me' refers to as how we see over ourselves (Funder, 2007). As a child grows in age, his self-concept also becomes richer with respect to both 'I' and 'me'. 'I' separates him from other people and objects while 'me' confers on him distinct qualities and features (Mischel, Shoda, and Smith, 2004). Thus, self-concept refers to those attitudes which are typical of an individual (Demo, 1992). Baumeister (1999) opines that Self-concept of an individual is his belief about himself which embodies his personal attributes and who and what he is. Self-concept is dealt as an important construct both in social and humanist Psychology. It is our awareness of our own abilities and individuality. Our self-concept is very much general in the beginning but with the growing age, it becomes more organized and specific (Pastorino and Doyle-Portillo, 2013). McGraw (2008) sees self-concept as a person's cumulative perception of himself or herself across multifunctional set of domains. It is the self-knowledge and appraisal of the strength of the capabilities of a person. This knowledge comes through experience and understanding of setting around. This knowledge covers the past self and the future self or possible self. Past self refers to bygone experiences while the possible self represents an individual's ideas of what he might become. Weiten, Dunn and Hammer, (2012) reflect that self-concept is the total sum of beliefs that a person holds about his typical qualities and behavior. Your self-concept is your mental picture that you bear about yourself. It is the collection of your various self-understandings, for instance, your beliefs that "you are easy going" or "you are not pretty" or that "you are hardworking" etc.

Statement of the Problem

Through this study the researcher attempted to find out whether the parents' occupation directly or indirectly affects the self-concept of students in the six southern districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa".

Objectives of Study

Following were the main objectives of study

1. To determine whether the parents' occupation directly or indirectly affects the self-concept of students.
2. To put forward recommendations for action and future research

Research Questions

Following was the research question:

Whether the parents' occupation directly or indirectly affects the self-concept of students?

Methodology

This study was carried in the form of a descriptive survey focusing on finding out the impact of the parents’ occupation on the self-concept of the students. This was a survey type study in which a self- developed questionnaire for measuring the impact of parents’ income level on students self-concept at secondary level. Population is the group of interest to the researcher to which she or he would like the results of the study to be generalizable. The population of this study was all 10th –grade students in the six southern districts, Bannu, Karak, D.I.Khan, Lakki ,Kohat and Tank. The target population of this study was all the 10th-grade students of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Sampling is the process of selecting a number of individuals for a study in such a way that the individuals represent the larger group from which they were selected. The individuals selected comprise a sample and the larger group is referred to as a population. For the purpose of selecting a sample for this study from the above population, stratified random sampling technique was used. Stratified sampling is the process of selecting a sample in such a way that the identified sub groups in the population are represented in the sample in the same proportion that they exist in the population. The population was divided into two strata i.e. Urban and rural. To select different secondary schools from each stratum, proportional allocation was used and different schools were selected by simple random sampling technique.

Results

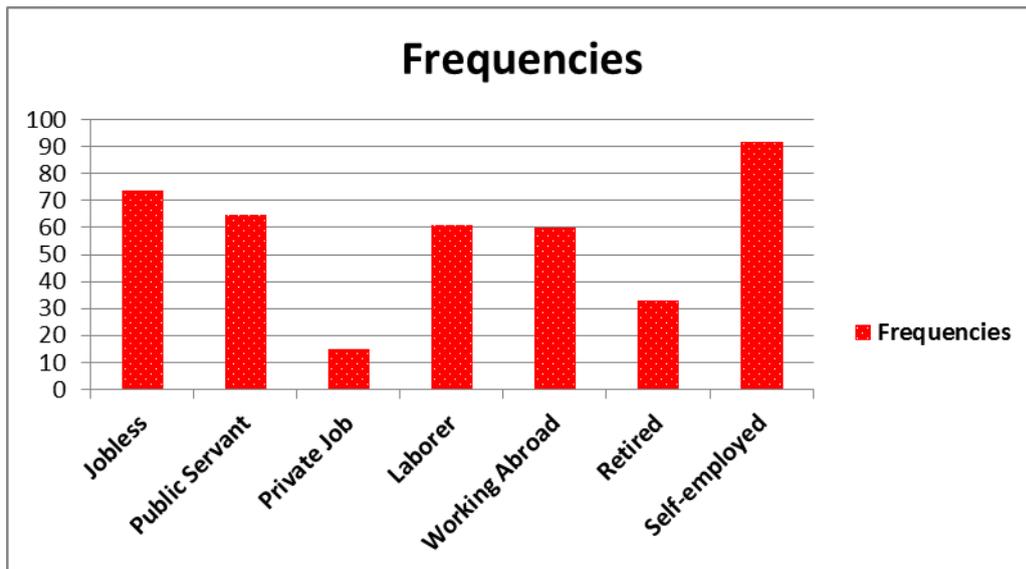


Figure 1: Views of Students about Their Father’s Occupation

Table 1:

Views of Students about Their Father’s Occupation

	Jobless	Public Servant	Private Job	Laborer	Working Abroad	Retired	Self-employed
Frequencies	74	65	15	61	60	33	92

Total respondents = 400

Table 4.12 points out that total respondents are 400 in which 74 of their fathers are jobless, 65 are public servants, 15 have private jobs, 61 are laborers, 60 are working abroad, 33 of their fathers are retired while 92 are self-employed.

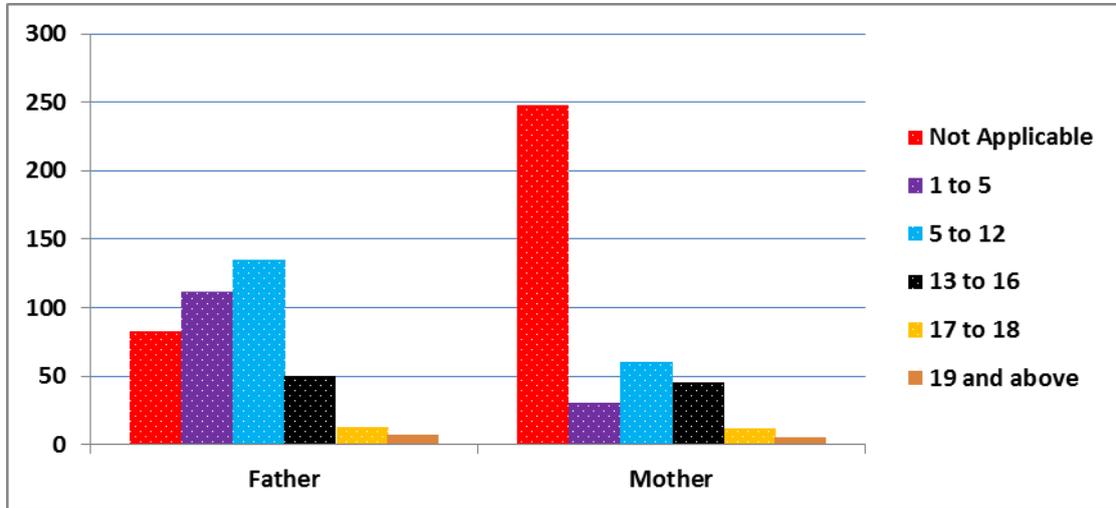


Figure 2: Views of Students about Their Parents' Pay Scale

Table 4.13:

Views of Students about Their Parents' Pay Scale

	Not Applicable	1 to 5	5 to 12	13 to 16	17 to 18	19 and above
Father	83	112	135	50	13	7
Mother	248	30	60	45	12	5

Total respondents = 400

Table 4.13 demonstrates that total respondents are 400 in which the views of students about their parents pay scales are that the pay scales of 83 fathers and 248 mothers are not applicable as being unemployed or retired from service, similarly 112 of the students fathers and 30 mothers are working in scale 1 to 5, 135 fathers and 60 mothers are in scale 5 to 12, 50 fathers and 45 mothers are working in scale 13 to 16, 13 fathers and 12 mothers are in scale 17 to 18 while 7 of the students fathers and 5 mothers are in pay scale 19 and above.

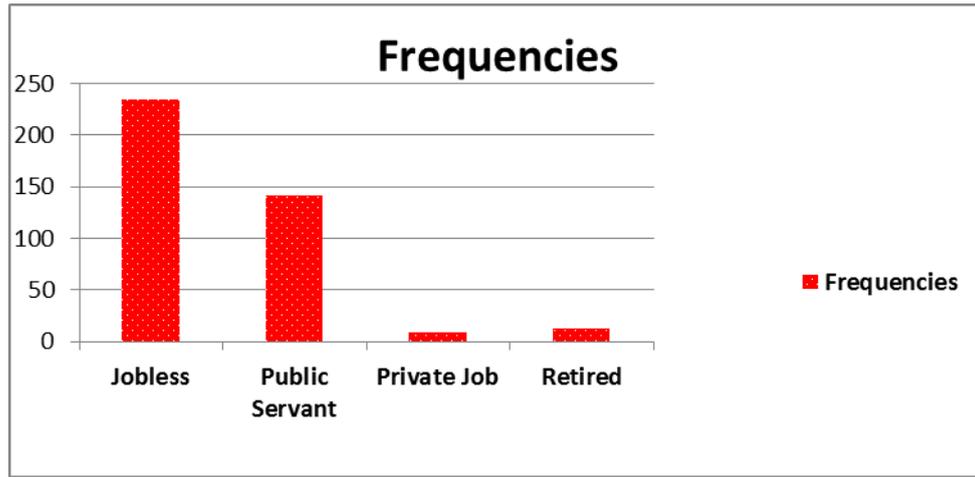


Figure 3: Views of Students about Their Mothers' Occupation

Table 3:
 Views of Students about Their Mothers' Occupation.

	Jobless	Public Servant	Private Job	Retired
Frequencies	235	142	10	13

Total Respondents = 400

Table 3 illustrates that total respondents are 400 in which 235 of the students mothers are jobless, 142 are public servants, 10 are engaged in private jobs while 13 of the students mothers are retired.

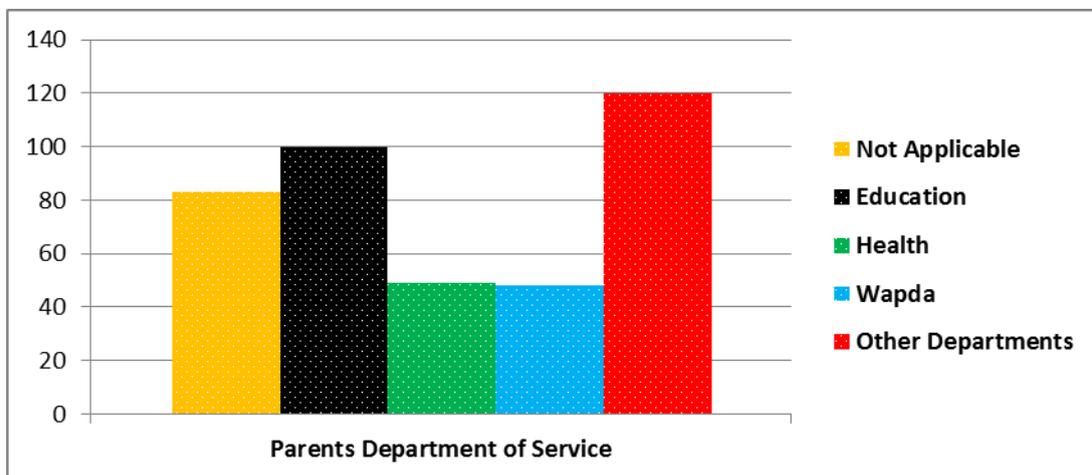


Figure 4: Views of Students about Their Parents Department of Service.

Table 4:
 Views of Students about Their Parents Department of Service.

	Not applicable	Education	Health	Wapda	Other Departments
Frequencies	83	100	49	48	120

Total Respondents = 400

Table 4 reflects that education is the most abundant department where 100 of the students' parents are employed. 120 of them are employed in departments other than the three most abundant departments-Education, Health and WAPDA. 83 are those parents to whom department of service is not applicable that is, they are not employed.

Results, Findings

A positive impact of the father's occupation was observed on the academic competence, financial capacity and family relationship of the students while the autonomy and independence, goal setting, social competence and friendship and affiliation domains were found to have not been affected by the father's occupation. A positive impact of the father's occupation was observed on the academic competence, financial capacity and family relationship of the students. Similarly father Pay Scale showed positive impact on Students Self Concept with respect to Financial Capacity, Goal setting and Family relationship .Mother Occupation did affect the students Self Concept about Academic Competence, Autonomy and independence, Family relationship and Social competence, and did not affect Financial capacity, Goal setting and Friendship and affiliation of the respondents

Students Self Concept about Academic Competence, Autonomy and Independence, Goal setting, Family relationship and Social competence showed a positive impact of Mother Pay Scale while Financial Capacity and Friendship and affiliation did not change. A positive impact of parents working department is observed on Autonomy and independence, financial capacity, Goal setting, Family relationship of the students while the Academic Competence and Social competence were not affected by the parents department.

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