



# A Comparative Study of Career Preference among Graduates

Dr. Jitendra Singh Goyal<sup>1</sup>, Aditi<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Assistant Professor, Department of Education, Chaudhary Charan Singh, University, Meerut (U.P)

<sup>2</sup>Research scholar, Department of Education, Chaudhary Charan Singh University, Meerut (U.P)

<sup>2</sup>Corresponding E-mail Id: [aditimalik281@gmail.com](mailto:aditimalik281@gmail.com)

## ABSTRACT

*Who we are today solely depends on the choices we made in the past. Regarding our careers, what we pursue in our professional lives is the outcome of the decisions/preferences we made previously. This research examines the career choices of graduates in science, arts, and commerce. Multistage sampling was employed to choose 150 graduates from both aided and Self-Financing Colleges in Meerut City. The instrument employed for data gathering was the "Career Preference Choice Record" created by Prof. Arun Kumar and Dr. Jitendra Singh Goyal. Mean (M), Standard Deviation (SD), and Critical Ratio (CR) were utilized for analyzing and interpreting the aims and the hypotheses. The outcome indicates a distinction in career choices among graduates of science compared to those of arts, as well as between science and commerce graduates. Additional findings indicate that there is no distinction in career choices between graduates of commerce and those of arts.*

**Keywords:** Career Choice, Graduates, Multistage Sampling, Statistical Analysis, Stream Differences

## INTRODUCTION

We ought to examine the idea of education through different viewpoints. This is the method by which the knowledge, skills, and values accumulated by society are transmitted from one generation to another. It strives for the complete advancement of all people. They respond to community needs by promoting positive habits, skills, and mindsets that enhance responsible citizenship. Education helps people adjust to their social and environmental surroundings. Numerous job opportunities have become available through education in today's world. In this highly competitive landscape, students have a wide array of job opportunities. These careers offer students a new obstacle in their lives. In today's era of swift scientific progress and globalization, students across the globe encounter various challenges in selecting and organizing their career paths. Selecting a profession is among the most important and challenging decisions an individual will ever confront. As a result, a key aim of career counseling is to help individuals make occupational choices and improve the quality of the outcomes that arise from such decisions. Career development is the ongoing process of getting ready for, selecting, and often continuing to choose from the vast array of occupations present in society. A key choice that students face when beginning college is which career path to follow. Upon graduating from school and entering the realm of professional education, selecting a career was previously regarded as a significant choice. The decision made at that time would have lasting impacts on a person.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) has published the Employment and Social Trends 2026 report, predicting the worldwide unemployment rate to be 4.9% in 2025. A contributing factor believed to be behind the elevated unemployment and underemployment rates in the country is mismatched graduates. There are two

potential reasons: either the graduates' programs don't align with the demands of today's economy, or they lack the skills that industries require. This could be due to the fact that many college students tend to choose their courses randomly, resulting in poor selections. This is shown by reports indicating that a significant share of the country's unemployment and underemployment results from graduates' insufficient skill sets and inability to fulfill workplace demands.

The decisions or preferences an individual makes significantly influence their development in life, making it essential to select a career based on personal inclination. An individual will be more enthusiastic and invested if they participate in activities they enjoy.

## REVIEW OF LITERATURE

**Singh, Kumar, M, (2025).** researched on the topic entitled "A Comparative Study of Career Preferences & Career Conflicts among the Secondary and Senior Secondary School Students" The purpose of the study that was presented was to examine the career conflicts and preferences of secondary and senior secondary school students. it was found that there were no appreciable distinctions between secondary and senior secondary school pupils' profession inclinations. Additionally, it was shown that there was a notable distinction between secondary and senior secondary school pupils' career conflicts. The fact that senior secondary school students experienced more career conflicts than secondary school students should also be mentioned. To prevent career conflicts, it is recommended that the school administration, instructors, and counselors create a system that will assist kids in choosing the best career paths for them.

**Gopal, (2023).** researched on the topic entitled "A Study on Career Preference of Adolescents in Relation to their Educational Aspiration Parental Involvement and Academic Achievement." According to their academic performance, parental participation, and educational aspirations, teenagers' preferred careers varied, according to the study. Furthermore, the study discovered a substantial difference in the parental involvement of male and female teenagers, as well as a significant difference in the educational aspirations of adolescents according to gender and social category.

**Unadkat. (2021)** researched on the topic entitled "A Study on Impact of Personality on Career Preference for Young Adults of Saurashtra Region" The focus of the current study is on young adults 'preference for careers and personalities. For the study 556 young adults from various Saurashtra districts were taken into consideration. They were asked about their preferred careers and personality qualities. The IPIP scale was used to measure personality traits. According to research, conscientiousness and agreeableness- two of five personality traits were found to be substantially correlated with career selection. Demographic Characteristics like gender, education, occupation, age, yearly income, and geographic zone also had an impact on Career preference. The findings can give teachers valuable information about pupil's, job preference.

**Kumar, (2020)** researched on the topic entitled "A Comparative study of career preference between rural and urban students at higher secondary schools at Howrah district' 'As a result, it was determined that urban students' preferred careers are significantly influenced by their family's monthly income. Only two fields (Artistic & Designing and Mass Media & Journalism) were significantly impacted by the monthly income of rural students' families.

## RATIONALE OF THE STUDY

**"The only way to do great work is to love what you do. If you haven't found it yet, keep looking. Don't settle." – Steve Jobs**

A career following the completion of education. Selecting a profession represents the principal challenge facing adolescents. In the modern era of science and technology, a student is confronted with numerous employment

options, and identifying a suitable career can be difficult. Inadequate career decisions and frequent changes in employment can adversely affect an individual's mental health. Choosing a career based on one's interests and abilities not only yields job satisfaction but also fosters ongoing advancement within the chosen field. An individual's career choice profoundly influences their life. The selection of employment impacts levels of success, fulfillment, and happiness. Personal job satisfaction arises when professional choices align with one's own interests and capabilities. A person's entire life is shaped by their employment decisions. There is a shared obligation to address the employment challenge. An effective solution requires a comprehensive understanding of the issue. The problem assessment includes surveying young people's career preference trends, their efforts toward their goals, obstacles encountered, and the current availability of job opportunities. Subsequently, all variables can be addressed by creating appropriate career opportunities and providing suitable guidance to capitalize on the available openings. In essence, it is akin to directing traffic along the correct route to prevent congestion. Understanding students' job preferences enables teachers and counselors to guide them more effectively and to propose extracurricular activities or specialized courses aligned with those preferences. Aligning educational programs with students' career aspirations can reduce stagnation and dropout rates. Parents exert considerable influence over their children's professional choices. Parents who are aware of their children's career interests can assist them in making well-informed decisions. The study's findings can aid curriculum designers in creating curricula that account for students' diverse professional interests. Educational institutions should contemplate offering elective courses aligned with the predominating interests of the student body to enhance relevance and learner engagement.

## **STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

‘A Comparative study of Career Preference among Science, Commerce and Arts Graduates’

## **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

- To Compare the Career Preference between Science and Arts graduates.
- To Compare the Career Preference between Science and Commerce graduates.
- To Compare the Career Preference between Arts and Commerce graduates.

## **HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY**

- There is no Significant difference in Mean Scores of Career Preference between Science and Arts graduates.
- There is no Significant difference in Mean Score of Career Preference between Science and Commerce graduates.
- There is no Significant difference in Mean Scores of Career Preference between Arts and Commerce graduates.

## **DELIMITATION**

- This Study is delimited to Meerut city of Uttar Pradesh.
- This study is delimited to Graduates.
- This study is delimited to 150 Students.

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

A descriptive survey method was adopted by the researcher due to the nature of the study.

## **POPULATION OF THE STUDY -**

The population of the study consists of all Aided and self-financed colleges of Meerut District of Uttar Pradesh.

## SAMPLE AND SAMPLING METHOD -

A multistage sampling technique was used for this study. For the sample, 150 graduates were selected from all Aided and self-financed colleges of Meerut District of Uttar Pradesh as respondents of the study purposely.

## TOOLS

“Career Preference record’ tool was used in the Study developed by Prof. Arun Kumar and Dr. Jitendra Singh Goyal.

## STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES

Mean(M), Standard deviation (SD) and Critical Ratio (CR) were employed for the analysis and interpretation of the objectives and the hypotheses.

## ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

- **Hypothesis 1-** There is no Significant difference in Mean Scores of Career Preference between Science and Arts graduates.

Table –1.1 Mean, SD, C-R Value Regarding Career Preference record between Science and Arts Graduates.

S.NO	Name of Group	N	Mean	Standard Deviation (S.D)	df	Critical Ratio (CR)	Level of Significance
1.	Science	50	76.2	25.4	98	t=3.4573	Significant
2.	Arts	50	91.16	17.06			

## Interpretation –

Table 1.1 shows the mean, Standard Deviation and CR Value of Career Preference of Science and Arts Graduates. Arts Graduates have High Mean Score(M=91.16) compared to Science Graduates(M=76.2). The tabulated t-Value at 0.05 Level of significance and df =98 is 1.98. Hence, the calculated t- Value =3.457 is found to be statistically significant at 0.05 level of significance and df= 98. Therefore, the null hypothesis i.e. “There is no significant difference in mean scores of Sciences and Arts graduates of Career Preference” is rejected.

**Discussion:** The above result indicates that there is a difference in Career Preference between arts and science graduates. The main reason for this could be that Science graduates may be more lucrative in terms of job prospects. While arts graduates can help individuals develop creativity and emotional intelligence.

## Hypothesis 2-

- There is no Significant difference in Mean Score of Career Preference between Science and Commerce graduates.

Table 1.2 -Mean, SD, Critical ratio of Career Preference record between Science and Commerce Graduates.

S.NO	Name of Group	N	Mean	Standard Deviation (S.D)	df	Critical Ratio (CR)	Level of Significance
1.	Science	50	76.2	25.4	98	t=3.0282	Significant
2.	Commerce	50	88.66	13.9			

## Interpretation –

Table 1.2 Shows the mean, Standard Deviation and CR Value of Career Preference of Science Graduates and Commerce Graduates. Commerce Graduates have High Mean Score(M=88.6) compared to Science Graduates(M=76.2). The Tabulated t- Value at 0.05 Level of significance and df =98 is 1.98. Hence, the calculated t- Value =3.0282 is found to be statistically significant at 0.05 level of significance and df= 98. Therefore, the null hypothesis i.e. “There is no significant difference in mean scores of arts and science graduates of Career Preference” is rejected.

## Discussion:

The above result indicates that there is a difference in Career Preference Choice between Commerce and Science graduates. The main reason for this could be Science graduates shows in Scientific, Mathematical activities whereas Commerce graduates have Interests in Business and Management activities.

**Hypothesis 3-** There is no Significant difference in Mean Scores of Career Preference between Arts and Commerce graduates.

Table 1.3 - Mean, SD, Critical ratio of Career Preference record between Arts and Commerce Graduates.

S.NO	Name of Group	N	Mean	Standard Deviation (S.D)	df	Critical Ratio (CR)	Level of Significance
1.	Arts	50	91.16	17.06	98	t=0.8226	Not Significant
2.	Commerce	50	88.66	13.9			

## Interpretation-

Table 1.3 Shows the mean, Standard Deviation and CR Value of Career Preference of Arts Graduates and Commerce Graduates. Arts Graduates have High Mean Score(M=91.16) compared to Commerce Graduates(M=88.66). The Tabulated t- Value at 0.05 Level of significance and df =98 is 1.98. Hence, the calculated t- Value =3.0282 is found to be not statistically significant at 0.05 level of significance and df= 98. Therefore, the null hypothesis i.e. “There is no significant difference in mean scores of Arts and Commerce graduates of Career preference” is accepted.

## Discussion-

The above result indicates that there is no Significant difference in Career Preference between Arts and Commerce graduates. The main reason for this could be that both Commerce and Arts graduates develop critical thinking ability, and both focus on qualitative study.

## Conclusion

The study reveals that there is a significant difference in career preference between Science and Arts graduates. The main reasons for this could be that Science graduates may be more lucrative in terms of job prospects. While arts graduates are indulging in developing creativity and emotional intelligence, other results indicate that there is significant difference in career preference between Science and Commerce Graduates. The main reason for this could be that Science graduates show interest in Scientific, Mathematical activities whereas Commerce graduates have Interests in Business and Management activities. Other results show that there is no significant difference in career preference between Arts and Commerce Graduates. The main reason for this could be that both commerce and arts graduates focus on qualitative study.

## EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS:

A career path that fails to align with a student's interests and abilities should not be pursued. Students should carefully consider and discuss both the advantages and disadvantages of the chosen profession. Job selections should be grounded in the students' own interests. It is important that parents do not pressure students to pursue careers misaligned with their aptitudes and passions. Rather than pursuing immediate gratification, students should base their career decisions on long-term benefits. Course selection should reflect individual abilities, interests, and competencies while also accounting for evolving trends. Students ought to maintain curiosity to acquire broader knowledge about the subject that will influence their future employment. They should be aware of their own capabilities and characteristics.

National seminars and workshops are required to address questions related to career preferences. A welcoming, high-quality environment should be cultivated within the college to benefit the students. The curriculum should be designed to foster professional awareness and task-related understanding. The college should conduct a career fair at least twice annually to expose students to a wide range of employment opportunities. Additionally, emphasis should be placed on developing skills at the college level. Colleges should endorse programs aimed at skill development. School authorities should encourage parental involvement in their children's overall development. To raise awareness of various career options, frequent meetings with parents should be organized. Government bodies and universities ought to provide equal educational facilities for urban and rural adolescents. When formulating policies regarding the establishment of new institutions and the introduction of new courses, governments and universities should consider students' preferences. Counselors and teachers should acknowledge individual differences when guiding students.

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