

Vocational Interest of High and Low Creative Adolescents

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KEYWORDS Creativity; vocational interest; adolescents; gender

ABSTRACT Creativity is important because it enhances the quality of solutions to life's problem. The present study is an exploratory attempt to assess the vocational interest of high and low creative adolescent. A representative sample of 120 boys (60 high scorer on creativity and 60 low scorer on creativity) and 120 girls (60 high scorer on creativity and 60 low scorer on creativity) in the age range of 14-18 years, belonging to middle income family were randomly selected. Two major tools were used for data collection i.e. Verbal test of creativity and Comprehensive interest schedule. Both high creative boys and girls had more focused vocational interest as compared to their low counterparts. They were more expressive and self actualized. Creativity was significantly related to vocational interest of boys and girls.

INTRODUCTION

“Young people are a source of creativity, energy and initiative, of dynamism and social renewal. They learn quickly and adapt readily. Given the chance to go to school and find work, they will contribute heavily to economic development and social progress.”

-‘We the peoples’: The role of the United Nations in the 21st Century, 2000

Sophisticated and advanced technological developments are the product of mastermind of man. Scientific growth and development has made tremendous improvement in the life and quality of human beings. Creation is not an easy process nor can the society survive on scientific growth alone. The technological advancement has to match well with the cognitive and affective (emotional) aspect of the mankind. This is an exploratory study based on the recent approach of creativity – “Socially Useful Creativity”- Integrating the cognitive and psychomotor domains of human functioning – restrict anyone of the function and we reduce creativity.

Creativity is important because it enhances the quality of solutions to life's problem. Creative thinking results in original solutions to problems that continually arise in the personal and vocational spheres. Creative talent refers to a clear and distinct domain-specific creative ability. Talent is manifested in both children and adults, in socially valuable novel products in scientific,

artistic, social leadership, venturous, business or any other human endeavor.

Paplia and Olds (1993) stated that realization of creative talent often requires time to incubate and develop as a result of life's experience. It is therefore more fully manifested in adults. It may however be evident long before adulthood, if one knows where to look. One way to identify specific creative talent in children before these abilities become fully realized in their vocation is by examining their interests. If an adolescent has high level of interest in the task, this interest will often be sufficient to begin the creative process.

Today more than 1.2 billion adolescents are coming of age. Their success and happiness depend on their access to the support, the role models, the education, the skills, the opportunities and the resources that can empower them to make responsible and healthy choices. Investing in the well – being and ensuring the participation of the world's largest generation of young people will improve their lives immediately and yield dividends for generations to come and to the society. Thus, adolescent can be very productive if the parents help their children to attain vocational identity which is in accordance to their interest, aptitude and creative potentials. It would bring greater happiness and worthiness through enhanced vocational as well as general adjustments (‘We the peoples’: The role of the United Nations in the 21st Century, 2000)

Innovation is the rallying cry of this bewildering rapid change in our present nuclear and space age - far more rapid than ever before. The discoveries and innovations of the next 20 years will probably make the previous 100 years

seem to have progressed at a snail’s pace. Therefore a person cannot foresee exactly what knowledge he will need five or ten years from now to meet his life’s problem. He can however develop the attitudes and potentialities that will help him to meet any future problem creatively and inventively because person’s creativeness and personal identity both are emergent. They grow and they change and are interdependent. An individual’s decision and behavior are based on a personalized set of motivational and cognitive responses, to both self needs and perceived possibilities, this creative behavior cannot fail to engage individual on the more personal level of their identities and abilities and this holds especially true for vocational and ultimately career choices; (Albert, 1989)

Thus, if we do not comprehend the educational implications of research and development on creativity, country with great reserves of natural resources cannot raise their standard of living not just economically but socially also. We need creative adolescents – our potential future, whose problem solving ability can help us to resolve the perplexing problems of AIDS, energy crisis, overpopulation, crime, and diminishing resources etc. which are the biggest blocks in every progress of the country. Thus the present study is a step towards understanding the “vocational interest of high and low creative adolescents” thereby avoiding maladjustment and preserving our greatest natural future human resources. It will also help in smooth functioning of economy through effective use of human resources and will also result in decreased hills of psychological causalities, increased overall production and ultimately prepare our future generation to meet the threats of mechanization of man and society. Creativity can thus assumed to be important from the standpoint of personality development, mental health, acquisition and application of knowledge, vocational development and social welfare.

METHODOLOGY

Sample: School going adolescent boys and girls of 14-18 years belonging to middle class families constituted the sample for the present study. In the initial stage preliminary survey was conducted in various selected institutions of Udaipur city of Rajasthan. A Preliminary survey proforma was used in conducting the survey. This proforma sought information regarding

name, age, family income. In all 1000 preliminary survey proformas were distributed personally from which only 845 proformas were received back and out of this only 716 (423 boys and 293 girls) were eligible for the investigation. After the preliminary survey Baquer Mehdi Verbal Creativity test (1985) pertaining to three traits i.e. fluency, flexibility and originality was administered to 716 adolescents (423 boys and 293 girls)

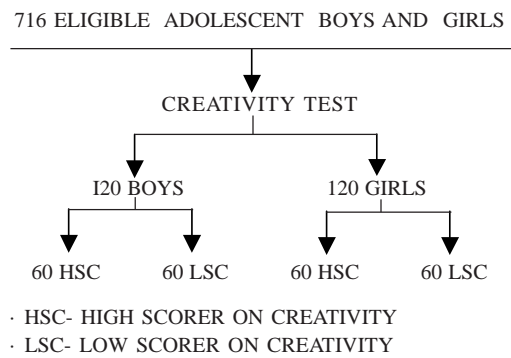


Fig. 1. Sample size

Sampling Techniques: Since the available sample was excess so the final sample was randomly selected as indicated in figure 1. 120 boys i.e. 60 high scorers and 60 low scorers on creativity and similarly 120 girls were selected. Adolescents boys and girls thus selected constituted the final sample for data collection. Home addresses of these subjects were procured and their parents were contacted personally for the data collection.

Tool used for Data Collection: On the selected subjects Comprehensive Interest Schedule by Sanjay Vohra (1992) was administered to find out the vocational interest of adolescents. It measured interests in seven areas and each occupation was divided into two sub-fields except last two fields the categorization is clearly depicted in table 1

Table 1: Different categories of occupation of CIS

Occupational fields	Sub-fields
1. Influential	AdministrativeEnterprising
2. Venturous	DefenceSports
3. Artistic	CreativePerforming
4. Scientific	MedicalTechnical
5. Analytical	ExpressiveComputational
6. Social	HumanitarianEducational
7. Nature	

Data Analysis: The responses obtained were coded, tabulated and percentages were calculated to depict the vocational interest of high and low creative boys and girls at three levels i.e. high, average and low interest. The association of relationship between creativity and vocational interest of boys and girls was measured by means of correlation coefficient

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Choosing the right vocation in the life is the ultimate challenge faced by today’s youth in an increasingly competitive world. The choice of career should not be taken in isolation to academic success alone. Very careful consideration should be given not only to scholastic achievement but also to the individuals personality and interests.

As indicated in table 2 the vocational interest areas have been divided into eight categories and each category is further divided into two sub-categories except last two i.e. nature and clerical. The above table shows that majority i.e. 53.33 per cent of high creative boys have shown high interest in medical occupational field. This occupational field includes vocations like chemist, surgeon, physician, radiologist, etc. In other words boys have greater inclination towards intellectual interest and show better judgment abilities. They show high general mental capacity in problem raising and solution offering situations. Further, 51.33 per cent boys showed high interest in defence occupational

field which includes occupations like Army, CBI, Naval, BSF officer. Boys having inclination towards this field are highly competitive and a very self confident. The least preferred occupational field was the clerical i.e. only 15 per cent boys showed high interest in this particular field.

Computational and performing arts were the fields where more of high creative boys showed low interest i.e. 36% and 41% respectively. Low interest means that adolescent has no interest or little interest in that particular field. It is equally important to have an understanding of the dislikes or low interest because when adolescent makes his future plans he may be tempted to avoid work or subject in which he has no interest but he may not be able to escape all that he finds uninteresting. There are some tasks which he must include in his plans as they are necessary for the development of an individual as he has to live and work harmoniously with others. Knowledge of low interest will require extra determination on his part if it necessary for his progress.

When we have a look at the low creative boys 28% of the low creative boys showed high interest in the administrative occupational field followed by medical field where 26% showed high interest. Among low creative boys also clerical was the least preferred occupational area where only 10% showed high interest.

Regarding preference of high creative girls as shown in table 3,60% girls showed high interest in creative occupational field which includes occupations like costume designer,

Table 2: Percentage distribution of vocational interests of high and low creative boys

S. No.	Interest field	Sub field	High Creative Boys (N=60)			Low Creative Boys (N=60)		
			H.I.	A.I.	L.I.	H.I.	A.I.	L.I.
1	Influential	Administrative	33.3	40.0	26.6	28.3	35.0	36.6
		Enterprising	30.3	41.6	28.0	18.3	45.0	36.6
2	Venturous	Defense	51.6	30.0	18.3	21.6	45.0	33.3
		Sports	30.6	43.3	26.0	20.0	41.6	38.3
3	Artistic	Creative	28.3	38.3	33.3	18.3	33.3	48.3
		Performing	20.0	38.3	41.6	13.3	45.0	41.6
4	Scientific	Medical	53.3	23.3	23.3	26.6	35.0	38.3
		Technical	38.3	33.3	28.3	25.0	36.6	38.3
5	Analytical	Expressive	41.6	36.6	21.6	18.3	38.3	43.3
		Computational	31.6	31.6	36.6	18.3	48.3	33.3
6	Social	Humanitarian	38.3	35.0	26.6	21.6	35.0	43.3
		Educational	31.6	45.0	23.3	15.0	36.6	48.3
7	Nature		28.3	46.6	25.0	20.0	36.6	43.3
8	Clerical		15.0	50.0	35.0	10.0	48.3	41.6

H.I. – High Interest L.I. – Low Interest A.I. – Average Interest

Table 3: Percentage distribution of vocational interests of high and low creative girls

S. No.	Interest field	Sub field	High Creative Boys (N=60)			Low Creative Boys (N=60)		
			H.I.	A.I.	L.I.	H.I.	A.I.	L.I.
1	Influential	Administrative	53.3	23.3	23.3	20.0	41.6	38.3
		Enterprising	38.3	31.6	30.0	16.6	48.3	35.0
2	Venturous	Defense	36.6	35.0	28.3	13.3	40.0	46.6
		Sports	18.3	36.6	45.0	15.0	40.0	45.0
3	Artistic	Creative	60.0	16.6	23.3	15.0	50.0	35.0
		Performing	41.6	30.0	28.3	20.0	41.6	38.3
4	Scientific	Medical	46.6	18.3	35.0	11.6	46.6	41.6
		Technical	38.3	28.3	33.3	13.3	41.6	45.0
5	Analytical	Expressive	41.6	30.0	28.3	15.0	51.6	33.3
		Computational	30.0	28.3	41.6	18.3	36.6	45.0
6	Social	Humanitarian	41.6	26.6	31.6	20.0	31.6	48.3
		Educational	40.0	31.6	28.3	20.0	38.3	41.6
7	Nature		33.3	40.0	26.6	18.3	35.0	46.6
8	Clerical		15.0	43.3	41.6	11.6	43.3	45.0

H.I. – High Interest L.I. – Low Interest AI. – Average Interest

dress designer, graphic designer, beautician etc. Girls depicting high interest in the creative field have good insight and tend to be intellectually adaptable. 53% of the girls showed high interest in the administrative field, including occupations like IAS, Magistrate, Probationary officer etc. Girls showing high interest in the administrative field tend to be active, participative and competitive. They are self assured about themselves and are expressive.

With regard to the interest areas of low creative girls 20% of the low creative girls showed high interest in the administrative, performing and educational field. Among low creative girls also clerical was the least preferred occupational area where only 11% of the girls showed high interest.

When we have a look at the description of interest oriented activities in association with the personality orientation they speak of creativity or in other words we can say that they are the qualities we want in our adolescent so that they can manage their life successfully.

Both high creative boys and girls showed higher interest in all the seven areas as compared to low creative boys and girls (Figs. 2 and 3) in other words it can be said that high creative boys and girls have more focused interest than their low counter parts. This may be attributed to the fact that creativity labeled as Divergent Thinking by Guilford, which includes traits like fluency, flexibility and originality, high creative individuals having fluency of expressions are able to express their interest areas in a more focused way. Directly or indirectly they gather information of their interest areas and retrieve it when needed. They

do not confine themselves to the information at hand. This permits a richer flow of ideas and expressions and as a result it opens a way towards solutions that are creative. They are flexible i.e. versatile this is evident from their high interest in two or more areas. High creatives at all ages show a willingness to take risks and are resourceful and versatile. They tend to learn through experience, they are willing to try several possibilities, guessing and testing outcomes in a very experimental way. Having originality trait their expressions are also original.

“Creativity Treated as Self Realization” the results are also in line with theory by Maslow (1963) assumes creative behaviour as an attempt to attain self realization. Realization of potentials and interests in an individual is the first step towards self realization it leads to creative acts and results in creative products.

When an adolescent chooses a vocation he is solving an important personal problem. If he is to choose wisely he must work out for himself a balance among his educational and vocational goals, values, his interests, his abilities and opportunities. In terms of creativity all this includes traits i.e. fluency, flexibility and originality and creative individuals having scored high on creativity are able to correlate well with real life creative achievements. The results are in line with Maitra and Mehta (1992) they emphasized that self actualization is the basic determinant of creativeness, high creatives do not suppress their inner feelings and means of expressing them constructively.

The results are supported by Schmiede

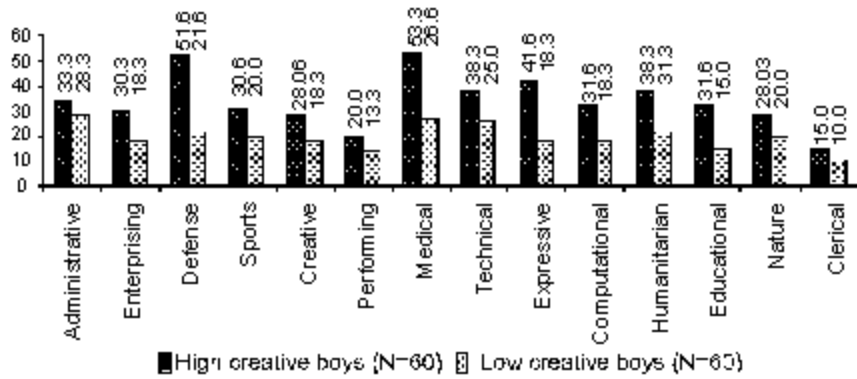


Fig. 2. High vocation interest of adolescent boys

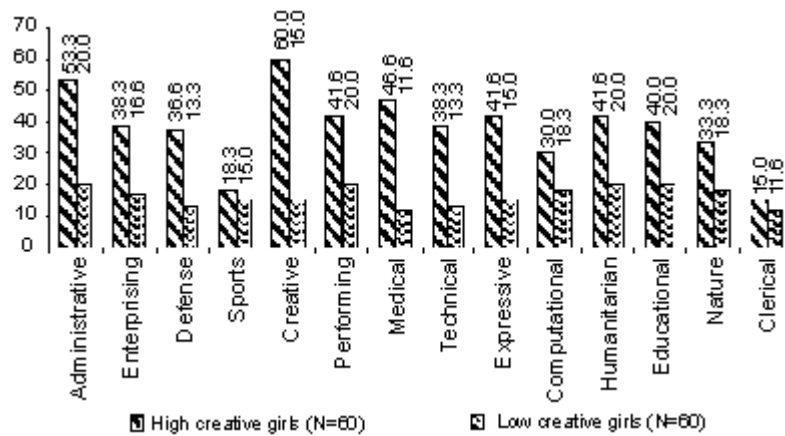


Fig. 3. High vocational interest of adolescent girls

(1997) also who pointed out that creativity is not restricted to artistic work. High creatives tend to have interest in one or more fields. They actively search for information and ideas, so they obtain unusual amount of skill and understanding. Not only they concentrate in the area of interest, they also have multiplicity of interest in the field.

The data are also in consistent with the observation by Rogers (1963) pointing that creative person is more open in his self expression than non creative person. Epstein (1980) also emphasized that Interests and ideas of creative adolescents tend to be original, imaginative and radical.

The values in table 4 indicate that there is significant relationship between creativity and vocational interest of adolescents among high

creative boys and girls. Hurlock (1980) also stated that during adolescence achievement is of major importance in the adjustment to life. Creativity that helps them to achieve success in areas that are of their interests and are favorably viewed by people who are significant to them will be a source self reliance and satisfaction to them. Thus, few

Table 4: Relationship between creativity and vocational interest of high and low creative boys and girls

Dimension	Creativity and vocational Interest
High creative boys	2.966*
Low creative boys	0.144
High creative Girls	2.634*
Low creative boys	0.6573

* Significant at 0.01 percent

guide points are suggested for the significant adults in the life of the adolescent for enhancing creativity and thereby making effective choices for the benefit of self and society.

Parents cannot design the adolescents future. Instead they must have the courage to believe that with nurturing support their adolescent will be able to design a future for himself. Parenting of adolescent is a matter of responding to adolescents, their abilities, and talents, teaching them right skills of creative problem solving and innovative thinking and developing within them the attitudes of responsibility and independence so they become contributing members of the society and fulfilled persons in their own right.

- 1 Provide adolescent with a state of mental health that will enable him to function as happily and effectively as possible. For this the parents should be well adjusted themselves.
- 1 Warm acceptance of the child along with his strengths and weaknesses, provides positive self concept and a sense of adequacy and security.
- 1 Encourage decision in small areas to built decision making power in adolescent and teach him to bear the consequences of decisions made.
- 1 Don't overprotect the adolescent as overprotected children do not get enough opportunities of making decisions, making mistakes and learning from them. Likewise cold and rejecting parental behaviour will create a sense of insecurity in the minds of adolescents.
- 1 Parents should use logic based disciplinary practices.

CONCLUSION

It is very essential to conserve and utilize the man power in a country like India - is on the developing stage where economic, social, educational and occupational set up are changing very fast, vocational availability is limited but at the same time huge human resources with varied ability, aptitude, and interest are available in abundance. There is lack of proper guidance at every educational field. The large percentage of failures in different jobs and dropouts is an

immeasurable waste of money and energy. The life of misfits in a vocation is tragic resulting in heavy loss to individual and to the society. Hence to overcome this problem it is essential to give due weightage to the adolescents interest factor. Vocational interest of adolescents should be deeply understood in order to minimize the maladjustments in their vocational spheres because life satisfaction and happiness to a large extent depend upon work satisfaction which is the outcome of interest which one takes in one's vocation in addition with their creativity. Therefore supporting young in achieving their full potential means improving prospects for young- and their society's and ultimately countries' - well being.

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