

LESSON 21

PREPARATION FOR THE VOCATIONAL ROLE

SUMMARY

The present-day world is highly competitive. To compete for the emerging opportunities the need for preparation of vocational choice as well as vocational role is felt at an early age. It is necessary for each and every student to properly plan for a vocation. It is better to choose a vocation than merely to hunt for a job.

Meaning of Vocational role

The term “Vocation” refers to the world of work and occupational opportunities. Over the decades understanding of career choice has expanded to include “persons in search of a job” rather than the “job itself”. Hence, the term occupational choice and vocational choice has been replaced by career choice.

Need for preparation for right Vocation

If after choosing a vocation we come to realise that our ability and aptitude do not fit for the same we will lose money, time and so on. Hence, it is necessary to prepare oneself and make the right choice. Choosing the appropriate stream of education is a process which needs serious thinking.

There are two options for the students—**general education** and **special training**. General

education is education aimed at providing students with elementary skills in reading, writing, knowledge of physical, social, cultural, environmental values, and motivation. The goal of general education is to develop positive attitude and respect for all types of work to be carried out for the proper functioning of society. When one makes the choice, it is from general level of education to specialized training. Generally, the qualification for entry to occupation or for admission to higher education or various special training courses is secondary/senior secondary level.

Special Training

The special training required for different occupations is useful for the students who are preparing for entry into those occupations. A list of institutions that provide special training:

Professional Institute

- graduate/post graduate level
- fields - medical, engineering, management, IT, law, etc.

Polytechnique

- technician level
- E.g. - junior engineer, draughtsman, other technical staff

Commercial Institutions

- provide training in typing, short-hand, book keeping etc.

Craft training school

- Provide training in cutting and tailoring, weaving, handicrafts and wood carving

Special institutions

- Provide training in professions such as film making, merchant navy, hotel management etc.

Correspondence institutions

- Provide distance education
- Such as - IGNOU, NIOS, AMU etc.

Concepts of career, vocation and occupation

Career is more inclusive than the term vocation and broader than occupation. **Career** refers to “the course of events that constitute a life. It involves the sequence of occupations and other life roles which combine to express one’s commitment to work.

Occupation is a group of similar jobs in several establishments. It differs from job which stands of a group of similar position in one plant, business, institution or other work place.

A **vocation** is an occupation, either professional or voluntary, that is carried out more for its altruistic benefit, than for income, which might be regarded as a secondary aspect of the vocation, however beneficial.

General Requirements for a Vocation

It is necessary to understand the world of work. The world of work comprises unlimited number of occupations. Each job has some requirements. These include:

Age requirement
Gender requirement
Citizenship requirement
Physical requirement
Personality requirement
Educational and training requirements
Experience requirement
Legal requirement
Licensing requirement

To fulfil the motives of choosing a vocation is dependent on educational and vocational planning. The importance of planning cannot be overlooked. It is necessary for each and every person to plan his or her education beforehand.

Emerging perspective on vocational choice

For choosing a vocation, it is necessary to know one’s interest. It is also essential to know aptitude and personality. Before making vocational choice, one should know the correlation between ability and interest, along with personality characteristics. One must also remember that interest changes with time, and abilities as well as personality characteristics are not entirely fixed. So, one can also make an alternative choice because, if he or she is not able to achieve the first one must try for other alternatives.

Career Choice: Its problems and prospects

Assess yourself

- For this, self-assessment tools, called career tests, are used with the help of career counsellors.

Make the lists of different occupations

- preparing a list of at least five to ten occupations that seem interesting and plausible.

Narrow down your list

- Out of various occupations, sort it out and limit to 2 or 3 based on the different requirements.

Set your goals

- Now is the time to put a plan in place, which requires some goal setting.

Prepare an action plan

- A career action plan will guide in reaching the set goals, as you pursue your long and short- term goals.

Given below are certain myths about career choice, which you should always avoid while making a career choice:

Myths about career choice

- “Choosing a career is a simple task”.
- “A career counselor can tell, what occupation to pick.”
- “I cannot make a living from my hobby.”
- “Making a lot of money will make me happy.”
- “Once I choose a career, I will be stuck in it forever.”
- “If I change my career my skills will go waste.”
- “If my best friends/relatives are happy, I will be too.”
- “All I have to do is to pick an occupation.”
- “There is very little I can do to learn about an occupation, without actually working on it.”

Evaluate yourself

1. List the steps for a good career choice and also any three myths about career choice.
2. Describe general education and special training.
3. List the different institutes to pursue special training.