

An Empirical Study of the Pressure of Career on the Science Students in Rajasthan

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Abstract

Career has become a challenge to all the students, but especially to the science students studying in the senior secondary schools and colleges. The modern trend is that the parents wish their sons and daughters offer science subjects for the sake of some safe and respectable career. They force them to offer this stream with a strong hope that the study of such subjects is going to be a guarantee of some good career. While doing so they even forget the mental level of their children. Obviously, many of such students as are forced to join science stream against their desire, suffer from mental pressure and even from depression.

With the various coachings for the science students in Kota at the head, Rajasthan is one of the most leading education hubs in India. In Kota alone, there are thousands of science students making preparation for several competitions. The students join these coachings generally after passing XII or X. However, some of the over ambitious and over desirous parents send their children here even after V. Because of the over burden of studies and because of being too far away from homes, generally the students suffer from several psychological problems.

The paper is an empirical study of the science students in Rajasthan (With Special Reference to the science students in Dholpur studying in various coachings in Kota).

Keywords: Education Hub, Psychological Problems, Strain, Superiority and Inferiority Complex.

Introduction

Study of Science subjects, such as, Chemistry, Physics, Maths, Biology, Botany, Zoology etc. has always been a passion to the students. Traditionally speaking, the students who join Science horrible inferiority complex in them which later leads them to several unknown complications in the personality. With the arrival of the twenty first century, the craze for the study of science subjects has increased incredibly. These days every boy and every girl in Dholpur wants to pass the X and XII class exams with flying colours, and wants to go to Kota to join some good coaching and thus, to prepare for the various competitions associated with medical science and engineering. Day-by-day the standard of these competitions is becoming higher and higher, still most of the students are joining the science stream in order to fulfill their parents' dream of becoming doctor or engineer.

However, it cannot be denied that the pressure of the parents forces most of the children to fall prey to some psychological disease because very few of the students who join coachings in Kota succeed in achieving the goal. After spending the valuable years of their career, they come back home, and grow psychologically weak afterwards. The answer to their failure or to their return is that their parents fail to realize the educational potential in them, and wish them to work harder and harder to achieve the goal, or the students themselves fail to realize themselves. In most of the cases it is found that the journey to Kota for the coaching of science subjects results into failure, frustration and depression. The news of the suicides committed by the students from time-to-time testifies it. Despite all this, the parents send their children to Kota to detach them from the happiness and to live in pressure even to the risk of their lives.

It is true that there are several other careers, but the careers through the science stream is the first priority to most of the students and their parents. Only very few of the parents in Dholpur permit their children

to join arts, commerce, agriculture stream. No doubt, the girls' bent of mind is on the study of arts subjects, but it is just because of the approach of the parents that the girls are meant for the family of their husbands. However, in some of the advanced families, even the girls are forced to study science subjects, to join some good coaching in Kota, to make preparation there, and thus, to build up their career in the field of medicines and engineering. This trend of joining science stream is seen not only in Dholpur but all over Rajasthan. Exceptions of meritorious and successful students are there, but very few. According to the reports of the students studying in the coachings of Kota, most of the students are living under pressure just in order to please their parents.

Review of Literature

Commission on Architecture and the Built Environment. (2002)¹ rightly comments that while the building alone does not make a 21st century school, common sense suggests that the qualities of where we learn affect the quality of how we learn. Georgetown University researchers, for instance, have found that improving a school's physical environment can increase test scores by up to 11%. Padma M. Sarangapani² discusses the following three challenges which are being faced by the science education in senior secondary schools-

1. A serious lack of adequate equipment
2. A serious lack of trained teachers
3. A consensus on what should be taught in school science

A.H. Nayyar (2016)³ generalizes that teaching science requires special attention and special training of teachers in teaching methods that invoke reasoning and curiosity. It also requires laboratory equipment to let students explore and verify phenomena and learn methods of scientific inquiry. It requires textbooks that make scientific phenomena understandable through systematic exploration. End-chapter exercises in textbooks must not ask recall questions, but demand thinking, reasoning and analysis. The same is true for examinations.

Objectives of the Study

The study was made with the following objectives:

1. To learn about the conditions under which the science students of Dholpur are sent to Kota for further studies.
2. To be familiar with the interest of the students of Dholpur in the coachings in Kota.
3. To explore the socio-cultural and educational factors that force them to leave Dholpur and to continue their further studies in some other city
4. To learn about the educational environment in the coachings of Kota that draws every year tens of thousands of students from all over India.
5. To attempt to know about the willingness of the science students to join the coachings.
6. To have an idea about the parents and other family members of such students why they take interest in sending the children particularly to Kota.

7. To know about the educational environment in the coachings in Kota, the teachers, the facilities and infrastructure, fee structure, teaching methods adopted for the purpose.
8. To learn about the fooding and lodging of the students who join the coachings in Kota for further studies and for engineering and medical competitions.
9. To be familiar with the situations in which the students live there.
10. To attempt to know whether they find comfortable or uncomfortable in the changed socio-cultural and educational environment.
11. To know about the psychological problems that are caused as a result of the students' living there away from home and family members, and with and among the strangers from different family and cultural backgrounds.
12. To learn about those students in Kota who fail to adjust themselves there, and who fail to adapt themselves there to the changed environment.
13. To know about the educational, health and psychological problems faced by the students studying there.
14. To have an idea of the factors of depression in the students and the factors of suicide.
15. To get an idea about the realities of the coachings.

Hypothesis

The following hypotheses formed the basis of the study:

1. Among the boy-students in Dholpur district of Rajasthan there is an incredible craze to join Science stream after passing X, and to build up their career in the field of engineering and medical.
2. Since every year, several students from Dholpur district are selected in various competitions, and particularly in engineering and medical, the parents and other family members nurture and develop a desire in the boys and girls in the family to be successful in such competitions in future.
3. Dholpur is an education-hub where several coachings are imparting competitive knowledge of subjects that can help the students get some job in future.
4. The coachings in Dholpur are generally unauthorized, the teachers in them are generally unqualified to teach the subjects they are teaching, and they fail to provide the proper teaching-learning environment required for a legitimate coaching.
5. For engineering and medical, there is no coaching in Dholpur, though some of the tutors give tuition of the various science subjects.
6. The Coachings in Kota, like Resonance, Allen, Career Point, Fit-Z and many others are popular with the parents and science students in Dholpur.
7. The parents as well as the science students in the district have a set mind to make preparation for the competitions in Kota.
8. In most of the cases, parents decide what the children to do next after X or XII.

9. In most of the cases, the students are not mentally prepared to leave Dholpur and their circle, but under the pressure of the parents or other family members they have to leave it.
10. Most of the students are not intelligent enough to study science subjects and fit to be selected in engineering or medical field, still the parents impose their desire to see them as doctors or engineers on them.
11. Kota and its coachings with a changed socio-cultural and educational environment bring several unknown problems to such students as go there.
12. The teaching methods and the teaching situations with around 200 students together for the study of a subject make it difficult for all to grasp what is being taught to them.
13. Being away from home and parents, most of the students join the coachings, but fail to concentrate on their studies, and generally get strayed.
14. Most of the students studying there fail to fulfill their emotional needs, as a result of which they suffer from emotional starvation, and seek all this through the strangers.
15. Most of them remain unhappy, and finally fail to succeed. Hence, they return without achieving their target.

Research Methodology

With the sample size about 50, the study was conducted on 15 students of Dholpur city who are studying in Kota or making preparation for engineering and medical competitions. For the study, both the primary data and the secondary data were used. The primary data were collected through the interview technique while the secondary data were collected from the newspapers and magazines. The mode of sampling was random. In order to keep up the scientific spirit of the study, all the steps of research prescribed by the various social scientists, were observed. Observation method was adopted for the purpose; personal individual interviews of the science students studying in Kota were taken on various occasions when they visited their parents; views of the parents of such students and of some other prominent persons associated with the field of education were known.

Findings

1. 80% - 90% parents of the science students who are studying in various schools in Dholpur are desirous of sending their wards to other cities for further studies.
2. 90%-100% of them want to send them to Kota because they believe that it is only through the admission in some coaching in Kota that a student can succeed easily in the engineering and medical competitive exams.
3. 70%-80% of the parents desirous of sending their wards to Kota for further studies, do not want to keep them in Dholpur because of the non-competitive environment, lack of coachings for engineering and medical competitive exams.
4. 10%-20% of the students from Dholpur studying in Kota and preparing for the various competitions

were sent there immediately after they had passed X.

5. 80%-90% of them after they had passed XII or one year after they had passed XII.
6. All the parents want to keep their children with them, but since the selection is too tough and too difficult, they have to send them there for the sake of some bright career and future.
7. At the beginning, all the students face problem of adjustment because of the changed environment.
8. 50% -60% fail to adjust themselves because everything is new to them, and they suffer from home sickness and emotional starvation; 10%-20% fail to adjust because of the crowded classes; 10%-20% fail to adjust there because of the fooding and lodging problems; 10%-20% fail to adjust themselves because they do not have means of recreation; 10%-20% fail to adjust themselves because of isolation.
9. Only 0-10% of the students of Dholpur preparing for various competitive exams in Kota finally get selection.
10. Only 0-10% of the students of Dholpur preparing for various competitive exams in Kota finally get selection after the first attempt.
11. About 70%-80% students take more than one attempt.
12. Repeated failure causes frustration to the students in Kota, and it makes them depressed.
13. Every student in Kota with an exception of very few of them, is bound to live there in stress and problems.
14. Because of the adjustment problem, repeated failure, straying and joining the company of bad students, 0-10% of them suffer from deviation and turn to smoking, drinking and drugs.
15. No student from Dholpur in Kota coachings has ever attempted to commit suicide, but according to the interviewed students, every month in Kota, about one student preparing for engineering and medical competitive examinations, commits suicide because of several factors, but particularly, because of isolation, over-pressure of studies, over-expectation of the parents and family members and repeated failure in attempts.

Conclusion

Kota is a hub of preparation for Medical and Engineering competitive examinations. Hundreds and thousands coachings running in Kota attract thousands of Science students from all over India. It will not be wrong to call it a Mini-India as the students from all the parts of India representing all the cultures of India known to the people, are there. It is true that some of the coachings are serving the students well and linking them with the main stream of the competition world through their infrastructure and qualified faculties. As a result, every year the coachings in Kota give very good result and most of the students selected in these competitions are enrolled in the Kota coachings. However, it cannot be denied that all those who join these coachings fail to get selection.

As in the other parts in India, in Dholpur too, there is an incredible craze among the science

students and their parents for the coachings in Kota. Many students from Dholpur have been studying and preparing there. Some of them have been there since they passed X; some of them since they passed XII; some of them even settled there and joined some other courses when they were not successful in their efforts.

The study confirms that most of the students from Dholpur in Kota are suffering from emotional starvation, malnutrition, isolation. Most of the hypotheses that formed the basis for the study, more or less, turned true. Such students get frustrated and depressed. The Kota coachings, the promising science students' paradise at first, is turning to be a hellish place to those who fail to adjust in the changed environment, and who has to study and pass their time making futile preparation in these coachings because of their non-understanding the study material. Psychologically speaking, such students fall prey to unbearable inferiority complex. Obviously, failing to adjust and willing to satisfy their emotional needs, they seek them through the strangers most of whom misuse them for the sake of money and company, and finally throw them into a situation which fails to prevent them from spoiling their life.

Hence, It should not be forgotten that there are several careers in Science other than medical and engineering. In order to avoid catastrophic situation, such careers should be chosen for which the student is fit. Neither the parents nor the students should have an over expectation.

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