

Occupational Preferences among Students in India and Malaysia: A Cross-Cultural Study

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ABSTRACT This study attempts to find out the preferences of occupational choice among the boys and girls in India and Malaysia. The questionnaire used for the study was California Occupational Inventory, which was modified to suit the Indian and the Malaysian context. The sample consisted of 80 boys and 80 girls drawn from English medium schools in India. Similar sample were drawn from 63 boys and 57 girls from English medium schools in Malaysia. The data was analyzed using 't' test to compare the differences in the occupational choices among the boys and girls. It was found that significant differences existed in the preferences among the Indian students on eight of the fourteen occupational choices classified. Similar differences were also seen in five factors among the Malaysian students. The results showed skilled and linguistic skilled occupations compared to boys in Malaysia who showed greater preference in technical and business profession. On the other hand girls in India showed a greater preference for business profession and business skills compared to girls in Malaysia who showed greater preferences in science and aesthetic profession. This study also found that cultural difference might influence boys' and girls' occupational aspirations.