



# Career Preferences and Entrepreneurial Skills of Junior High School Learners in the City Schools Division of Antipolo City

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## Abstract:

This study researches on the career preferences and entrepreneurial skills of selected junior high school learners in five schools in the city of Antipolo. The Oxford English Dictionary defines the word "career" as a person's "course or progress through life". Career describes an occupation or a profession that usually involves special training or formal education. In this case "a career" is seen as a sequence of related jobs, usually pursued within a single industry or sector. On the other hand, preference is the fact that you like something or someone more than another thing or person. Career preference is a developmental process and a free opportunity to select a desired career. Entrepreneurship is the activity of setting up a business, taking on financial risks hoping for profit. A person has to possess the skills of an entrepreneur to be successful. It certainly helps to have strong technical skills or expertise in a specific area; however, this is not the sole characteristic that constitutes entrepreneurship. Rather, traits such as ingenuity, perseverance, and social skills needed to build great teams are as important. The author aims to obtain the profile of junior high school students in terms of career preferences and entrepreneurial skills and determine whether there is a significant relationship between career preference and entrepreneurship skills. This study will use a mixed method wherein quantitative analysis involves a descriptive-correlational approach to determine the relationship of the two presented variables. It will attempt to determine whether entrepreneurial skills influence the career preference of the learners. To ascertain this, the researcher will collect the National Career Assessment Examination (NCAE) Results of the respondents. This will be followed by a 20-item survey questionnaire on entrepreneurial skills. To obtain a more wholistic picture of the responses, the researcher will conduct a focus group discussion which will constitute the qualitative aspect of the research. Most of the literature gathered talks about the factors affecting learners' career choice, track choices, effect of early entrepreneurship education, and educational practices for the improvement of entrepreneurial skills.

**Keywords:** career preferences, entrepreneurial skills, junior high school learners, employment rates, Philippines Statistics Authority, entrepreneurial traits, career guidance, entrepreneurship education and development

## I. INTRODUCTION

Global citizens must be equipped with the necessary skills to survive in a fast-paced world today. According to the April 2018 Labor Force Survey conducted by Philippine Statistics Authority, employment rates increased to 94.5% from 94.3% in April 2017 ([www.psa.gov.ph](http://www.psa.gov.ph)). With a population of 71,014 of 15 years and above with a labor force participation rate of 60.9%, the numbers look good. However, PSA reported that more Filipinos who are employed are still searching for more work (Rivas, 2018). It is with this in mind that the researcher has decided to embark upon a study on the career preferences and entrepreneurial skills of selected junior high school learners in five schools in the city of Antipolo. Specifically, it aims to investigate the profile of the respondents in terms of their career preferences as identified in their National Career Assessment Examination (NCAE) Results and their entrepreneurial skills as will be reflected in a survey to be conducted among them.

## II. RESULTS

### Career Preferences

Schools generally design their educational programs based on the demands that arise in the field of work. A student's choice of future career is influenced by different factors. Curricular Offering of Senior High Schools in Region XI were influenced by the career choices of students and parents. Academic track

strands such as Humanities, Education, and Social Sciences (HESS), Liberal Arts (LA), Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and Business, Accountancy and Management (BAM) are the preferred choice of career or future employment. In the said study, Nursing or BEED, Communications, Civil Engineering and Accountancy, respectively, rank highest as the preferred courses (Limjoco, 2018). Similarly, Pascual (2014) conducted a study among fourth year high school students in the Laboratory School of the University of Rizal System in Morong, Rizal where she ascertained that the main factor that students consider in choosing a course is the availability of work after graduation. Using Brainard's Occupational Preference Inventory (BOPI) to determine the relationship of the factors affecting students' preference of course to their career preference, she found out that students' choices are also influenced by their fathers' occupation. Scientific-related courses were among the popular choices, with engineering, ICT, and medical-allied grossing to more than a million which is also reflected in CHED enrolment statistics as of academic year 2016-2017 (<https://new.mb.com.ph>). Based on the study by Abarro (2016) there is a significant association between the career track choices and profile of the students in terms of sex, average family income, occupation of the head of the family, school preference and average scholastic rating in Grade 8 and no significant association between the career track choices and the highest

educational attainment of the head of the family and person influential in the choice of career track.

### Employment Readiness

The Department of Education rationalized the implementation of the enhanced K to 12 Basic Education Program in the country (2010). Low achievement of Filipino students as reflected in scores in standardized examinations such as the National Achievement Test and Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS), as well as employer feedback that there is a “serious gap in critical skills of graduates such as problem-solving, initiative and creativity, and job-specific technical skills” were listed among the reasons for the need to optimize basic education in the country. In fact, the Human Development Department of East Asia and Pacific Region reported in 2010 that while educational attainment increased in just under two decades as reflected in higher shares of workforce with higher education levels, the demand for skills has steadily increased and that emerging skill gaps may become a constraining factor for the economy. Another study indicates that graduate program completers who had internship and assistantship were significantly different from those who did not experience the said activities in terms of their perceived work readiness (Doe, 2015).

### Entrepreneurial Skills

Entrepreneurial knowledge and skills are very important to be transferred to young people especially in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. In the demand of choice between white-collar jobs and building a business, the latter is the least choice. In a study by Nchu (2015) it is stipulated that small business owners recommended that aspects such as creativity, self-reliance and problem-solving skills should be incorporated in the curriculum of entrepreneurship education. Furthermore, all stakeholders, business owners, and parents should be involved in entrepreneurship education. In a study on the entrepreneurial skills among students in Chennai by Rengamani and Ramachandran (2015) entrepreneurs are not deemed to emerge on their own. Entrepreneurial development is a multifaceted spectacle and such process is the summation of social setting from which a person comes, family-imbibed personal attitudes, caste system, educational system, parental income, occupation and so on. Besides, educational institution is a perfect place in motivating learners to venture self-employment rather than being employed. The teachers and school in any level really has a vital role in developing not only the basic skills of the youth today but also the entrepreneurial skills needed to be a successful entrepreneur and fight poverty.

### III. SUMMARY

This study has analysed research articles related to entrepreneurship education, factors of career preferences and entrepreneurial skills of junior high school learners that were published in various journals from 2009 to present. These articles were found by searching databases available on the internet. The purpose of the study is to obtain a profile of the junior high school students in terms of career preferences and entrepreneurial skills and determine whether there is a significant relationship between career preference and entrepreneurial skills. Given the logical evaluation, this study will use mixed methods, including frequency analysis, survey, and focus group discussion.

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