

Level of Knowledge and Attitude in Career Choice of Undergraduates Students

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Abstract

In 2020, the economic environment is less encouraging and as a result the number of unemployed graduates will increase significantly by 22.5%. In addition, the graduate unemployment rate in 2020 increased by 4.4% compared to 3.9% in the previous year. Therefore, this study aims to identify the level of knowledge and attitude in the career selection of final year Bachelor of Technology students at the Faculty of Technical and Vocational Education, Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia. This study examines the relationship between the level of knowledge and attitude in the career choice of final year Bachelor of Technology students at FPTV, UTHM. This study is quantitative in nature. A questionnaire was used as a data collection method and distributed to 60 respondents among final year Bachelor of Technology students FPTV using a Likert scale that measures from scale one to scale five. The scale is used as an instrument to collect information about the level of knowledge and attitude in the career selection of students in the final year of Bachelor of Technology students, FPTV, UTHM. Next, the data obtained was analyzed using the Statistical Packages for Social Science (SPSS) 25.0 program to show the frequency, percentage, mean and standard deviation. The researcher also conducted a T-test to examine the relationship between the level of knowledge and students' attitudes in the career selection of final year Bachelor of Technology students, FPTV, UTHM. In general, the results of the study show that the mean for knowledge and attitude is high, and there is a relationship between the level of student knowledge and attitude in the career selection of students in the final year Bachelor of Technology students, FPTV, UTHM.

Keywords: Level of Knowledge, Attitudes, Students' Career Choice, Economic Environment

Introduction

Working means that a person must be active in the field of work performed which can lead to changes in himself, others and the field in which he is engaged. According to Qudrotin et al. (2018), Work is said to affect a person's self - concept, sense of value, well -being and personality identity. The career choice chosen by the graduates must be in accordance with their perception of the job to be pursued, therefore, this will have implications for education at the university. The nature of career choice must be in line with the desires and interests of the individual.

Knowledge encompasses skills in technical or academic terms (Falconer and Pettigrew 2003), or based on scientific theories relevant to a particular field of work (Jorgensen 2004). Next, in other words to find a new theory, principle, or meaning. However, the selection of a suitable and accurate career has become a problem for university graduates, especially for graduates who venture into courses that have less career exposure. Among the factors identified were graduates who were weak in English proficiency and did not understand the needs of employers as well as the jobs offered. This problem has made it difficult for employers to hire them even though there are many vacancies.

The government under the Ministry of Human Resources has implemented the Unemployed Graduate Training Program to help address the issue of unemployment faced by over 18,000 graduates in the country (Ngah, Halid and Rosli, 2019). As such, graduates should prepare career planning because the career market nowadays is more dynamic and more concerned with the quality of a graduate.

Objectives of Study

The Objectives of the Research Conducted are:

- a) Identify the level of knowledge regarding career selection for final year Bachelor of Technology students FPTV, UTHM.
- b) Identify student attitudes towards career choices for final year Bachelor of Technology students FPTV, UTHM.
- c) Identify the relationship between knowledge and attitude towards career choice final year Bachelor of Technology students of FPTV, UTHM.

Background of Study

Knowledge on Career Choice of Final Year Bachelor of Technology Students, FPTV, UTHM.

According to Ridwan, Syukri and Badarussyamsi, (2021), knowledge is information that is already known by someone whose truth has not been tested and studied knowledge is also something we know about something so that the knowledge becomes science if it has been tested and studied. According to Zagzebski (2017) meanwhile, Knowledge is a highly valued condition in which a person relates to cognitive reality. Knowledge can also be defined as the ability to do something, or refrain from doing something, or believe, or want, or doubt something, with reason (Hyman, 2003).

Knowledge refers to human understanding of a thing, which is a systematic and consciously pursued understanding. Thus, a person's level of knowledge is interpreted according to the knowledge tasted (Mahmud et al., 2022). In general, knowledge has the potential to be utilized for the good of mankind. Knowledge is a meaningful understanding or something that

gives meaning to the individual when it comes to a source of information that is said to be related to a study or requires understanding (Bolisani and Bratianu, 2018).

In this study, the researcher examined the level of knowledge of students in career choice. Every student needs to have a high level of knowledge in career suitability because students need to have adequate career readiness before venturing into the world of work.

Attitudes Towards Career Choice of Final Year Bachelor of Technology Students, FPTV, UTHM.

Attitudes from psychological perception are a person's behavior, temperament and morals. Usually, a person's attitude is based on his heart. However, sometimes our attitudes also describe how our emotions are. Attitudes are influenced by love and the environment. The attitude of most people will change when dealing with loved ones (Dittborn et al. 2021). According to Notoatmodjo (2003), attitude is a reaction or response that is still closed from a person to an object. Moreover, attitudes cannot be seen but can be interpreted from closed behaviors.

In choosing a career, the attitude to choose a career is very important for a student. This is because, a good career can guarantee a comfortable future for a human being because of course he will have a good income as well (Ismail et al., 2016). As such, students' attitudes also play an important role in appropriate career selection.

Career selection is a very complex process (Shahid, Asma and Akhlaq, 2017). The attitude that will be taken into account when a graduate student wants to enter the world of work is closely related to the knowledge, attitude and actions of a student. Therefore, a student will take into account the suitability factors of the job to be undertaken and then will enter the field of employment only if all factors are in accordance with the student's personal wishes.

Methodology

The methodology section describes all the necessary information that is required to obtain the results of the study. It consists of Research Design, Research Procedure and Research Instruments or other important information related to methodology. The most suitable study design used for this study was a survey study. Accordingly, data collection was done using a quantitative approach. The quantitative approach adopted by the researcher in this study uses a questionnaire form. For this study, the study sample consisted of respondents' demography, the level of knowledge and attitudes towards career choice for final year Bachelor of Technology Students, Faculty of Technical and Vocational Education (FPTV), Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia (UTHM).

To determine the required sample size, the researcher has referred to the sample size determination table of Krejcie and Morgan (1970). Thus, this set of questionnaires can be used in real studies because it successfully surpasses the pre-determined Cronbach's Alpha values. The actual questionnaire was distributed to the respondents after the pilot study had conducted to meet the required standards. Data analysis was performed using descriptive analysis that included frequency, mean, and standard deviation values. The minimum score is an average value that represents a range of values and is method of measuring the level of agreement. Mean values are used to describe the level of agreement about the matters raised in the question. This study uses a Likert scale that has five levels to facilitate the researcher to analyze the detail data obtained from the questionnaires were analyzed using Statistical Package for the Social Science version 25.0 (SPSS) software. All data obtained from the

questionnaires were analyzed using Statistical Package for the Social Science version 25.0 (SPSS) software.

Results and Discussion

The findings of this study are divided into three (3) parts, namely Part A, Part B and Part C. Descriptive analysis was used in the form of percentage (%), mean, and standard deviation to see the distribution of feedback in the study sample. The data will be described in the form of a table that contains the percentage, mean value and standard deviation and then commented and described clearly to meet and meet the objectives of the study. In this study, the respondents are comprised final year Bachelor of Technology Students, Faculty of Technical and Vocational Education (FPTV), Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia (UTHM) were selected to fill out this questionnaire. The items discussed in this include the level of knowledge and attitude in choice career path of final year Bachelor of Technology Students, Faculty of Technical and Vocational Education (FPTV), Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia (UTHM).

Table 1, A total of 17 respondent (28 %) were male students while 43 respondents (72 %) were female students. A total of 8 respondents (13.3%) aged around 20 years to 22 years while 41 respondents (68.3%) aged 23 to 25 years. There are also respondents aged around 26 to 28 years old as many as 8 respondent (13.3%) and those aged 29 years and above as many as 3 respondents (5%). While in terms of race, a total of 49 respondents (82%) who are Malays while 4 respondents (7%) are Chinese. Others, there is 2 respondent (3%) in Indian race and 5 respondents (8%) were in others race. Table 1 also shows, an academic qualification of the respondents. There have 57 respondents (95%) were in diploma and 3 respondents (5%) in others academic qualifications.

Table 1

Respondent Demographics

SUBJECT	TOTAL	PERCENT
Gender		
Male	17	28
Female	43	72
Age		
20 years- 22 years	8	13.3
23 years - 25 years	41	68.3
26 years - 28 years	8	13.3
29 years and above	3	5
Races		
Malay	49	82
China	4	7
India	2	3
Others	5	8
Academic Qualification		
Diploma	57	95
Others	3	5

Based on Table 2, the findings of the study indicate that the level of knowledge in career choice among final year Bachelor of Technology students at FPTV, UTHM is notably high.

Based on the results of the study, the researchers found that the statement 'I know the criteria that need to be in place before venturing into my chosen career field' have a high mean which is 4.62. The analysis shows that all items are at a high level This is supported by Hollander, Astrid, and Naing (2020), stated that perfect skills and traits must be present in graduates to ensure the future. Sermsuk, Triwichitkhun and Wongwanich (2014), highlight that the importance of graduates possessing a combination of academic, technical, and employability skills. Besides, Fajaryati et al. (2020), supported that these skills are critical for adjusting to the demands of the workforce, particularly in a rapidly changing job market. The results of the item analysis, 'I'm aware that there are many different types of career choices in my field' obtained the highest mean value of 4.67. This means, students are aware of the career choices available in their field when they are in the final year. The internal and external impact may be influenced the students' career choice, whereas students are mainly influenced by the professions of their parents, siblings or other close contacts (Ali, Baloch, and Shah, 2014).

The question item 'I'm aware that there are many different types of career choices in my field' recorded the highest mean score with a value of 4.67. Additionally, the other items also received high mean scores. These findings show that all respondents had a high level of knowledge about choosing a career in the future. This high level of awareness can be supported by past literature that emphasizes the significance of career awareness in technology education. For instance, study by Jaafar, Abd Rahman, & Nor Anuar (2023) examines the influence of career knowledge and adaptability on students' career choices, specifically within the tourism industry. It suggests that students with greater career knowledge are better equipped to make informed decisions about their futures. This is aligned to this studies which indicating that a high level of knowledge contributes positively to career decision-making. Career choice also does impacted from multiple factors that attained from different scenario. Study by Borchert (2002) revealed that were various factors such as environment, opportunity, and personality influence students' career choices. It emphasizes the importance of self-knowledge and confidence in making career decisions, suggesting that students who engage in career research and understand their personalities are more likely to feel assured in their career choices. This aligns with this study where respondents possess a high level of knowledge regarding career selection, as it highlights the role of informed decision-making in the career choice process.

Table 2

Mean Score of Level Knowledge in Career Choice of Final Year Bachelor of Technology Students of Fptv, Uthm

Num.	Question Item	Mean	Std Deviation	Level of Agreement
1.	I aware that there are many different types of career choices in my field.	4.67	0.509	High
2.	I have knowledge in my career choices.	4.48	0.700	High
3.	Careers should be chosen based on the knowledge possessed.	4.48	0.676	High
4.	I realized my chosen career would determine my future.	4.62	0.523	High
5.	I find that choosing a career requires a lot of physical energy.	4.42	0.696	High
6.	I use variety of reference sources in career selection.	4.58	0.590	High
7.	I know the criteria that need to be in place before venturing into my chosen career field.	4.62	0.523	High
8.	I confident the knowledge I have is enough for me to choose a career.	4.62	0.717	High

Based on Table 3, the findings of the study showed that the attitudes towards career choices among final year Bachelor of Technology students at FPTV, UTHM are at a high level, with a mean score value of 4.58 for the item 'I will continue to strive in choosing the best career for me.' A total of 61.7% of respondents had voted strongly agree for the item. Conversely, the item 'I would choose a career without asking my family for advice' received the lowest mean score of 3.13. These results indicate that students possess a strong determination to choose the best career for themselves, while still valuing family input. A literature review on the impact of careers guidance indicates that effective guidance enhances self-confidence, decision-making skills, and overall career planning (Borchert, 2002). The findings imply that individuals who receive proper guidance are more likely to develop positive attitudes towards their career options, aligning with the observation upon final year undergraduates having favourable attitudes about career choices.

Meanwhile, a literature review on the influence of career knowledge and adaptability on students' career choices suggests that students with greater career knowledge are better equipped to make informed decisions about their futures. This supports your finding that final year undergraduates demonstrate a high level of positive attitudes towards career choices, as increased knowledge contributes to more favorable perceptions of career decision-making (Priyashantha, Dahanayake, & Maduwanthi, 2023). With a high percentage, we can see that students are confident in the abilities they have in career choice. It is clear that most students are cleared knows what scope of work they need to make sure that their future is always good.

Table 3

Mean Score of Attitudes in Career Choice of Final Year Bachelor of Technology Students Fptv, Uthm

Num.	Question Item	Mean	Std Deviation	Level of Agreement
1.	I will choose a career based on the field I'm interested in.	4.45	0.832	High
2.	I value the views of peers in career choices.	3.78	1.075	High
3.	I value the abilities I have in choosing a career in my chosen field.	4.55	0.565	High
4.	I will think about the career prospect I want in my career choice.	4.50	0.504	High
5.	I would choose a career without looking at the background of the company to be chosen as a career.	3.58	1.344	High
6.	I would choose a career without asking my family an advice.	3.13	1.545	medium
7.	I will continue to strive in choosing the best career for me.	4.58	0.590	High
8.	I'm more interested in making career choices in social media. 1	3.92	1.093	High
9.	I'm confident in myself in my career choices.	4.55	0.594	High
10.	I will choose a career according to the field I studied at the university.	4.35	0.798	High

Table 4 shows the inferential analysis of sections b and c. This inferential analysis is used to answer the third question of this study which is what is the relationship between the level of knowledge and attitude in the career choice of final year Bachelor of Technology students of FPTV, UTHM. T test was conducted to see the relationship between the level of knowledge and attitudes of students towards career choice based on the analysis of the questionnaire answers that have been answered by the respondents. Before the researcher determined whether the two questions have a relationship or vice versa, the researcher conducted a T test to ensure that the two questions have a strong relationship.

The results of the T test showed that the first and second study questions were equally correlated with a correlation reading of 0.395 with a Sig reading of 0.333. Study by (Priyashantha, Dahanayake, & Maduwanthi, 2023) shows consistency with this finding. Their study highlights a systematic literature review synthesizes research on career indecision, identifying various determinants that influence students' career choices. It discusses how individuals' readiness for career decisions is affected by their knowledge and attitudes. The review suggests that students who possess a strong understanding of their career options are more likely to have positive attitudes towards their choices, indicating a correlation between knowledge and attitude in the context of career decision-making. Additionally, study by Hassan (2015) focuses on the factors affecting career choices among undergraduate students and discusses how personal interests, family influence, and economic considerations impact students' attitudes towards their career decisions. The literature indicates that as students gain knowledge about their options, their attitudes towards these choices become more

favorable. This relationship suggests that increased knowledge can enhance positive attitudes towards career selection, aligning with your findings of a correlation between knowledge and attitude.

Table 4

Paired Samples Correlations

Paired Samples Correlations		N	Correlation	Sig.
Pair 1	MB & MC	8	.395	.333
Pair 2	MC & MB	8	.395	.333

Conclusion

Based on the results of the study, it is clear that A high level of knowledge will result in a good career choice attitude. Therefore, we can see that the first objective 'the level of knowledge of students' and the second objective 'the attitude of students in career choice' have a high relationship. This can be proven by looking at the value of the mean average score where the results are at a high level. Respondents agreed that students need a high of knowledge to get a great job in the future. For the whole, it can be concluded that students need knowledge before choosing a career. Students need to have a discussion with someone who they trust to make a decision before they entering a new phase of life.

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