**10.3 Career Counseling**

**What is Career-counseling?**

* It is for making the students aware about the variety and diversity of courses and streams to choose from and enable them to prepare to acquire the eligibility requirements for these courses
* It is an effort for students’ career guidance right from their school about the available career options as per their interest and stream of academics. Through career counseling, an analysis can be done for students which will help them find out their interests and also their strength and weaknesses

**Why Career-counseling is important for high school/secondary school students?**

* Career-counseling should be done in school itself at least from class 9th and 10.th
* Especially because these are the levels where students choose a particular stream as their specialization, and also it will be helpful for them to decide the stream they should opt for.
* This is because many students are not satisfied with the stream they choose and tend to change it.
* This happens in the absence of proper guidance about options available as per their interest and different education streams.
* Nowadays many counselors prefer psychometric tests to analyze interests of students, because generally students are confused between their various interests but these psychometric tests help find out students’ capabilities towards each of their interests.
* Organize career guidance with students of terminal classes.
* Career talks with students along with their parents.

**With Career-counseling students will be aware of.**

* Their aptitude and interests, strength and weakness for a particular stream/subject.
* Necessary for making choice of stream for education after class 10th.
* Career options are available as per the student’s academic choice.
* Students should begin their career planning right from 10th class, because after this level, only a particular stream could be followed and career options will be limited to their choice of stream only.
* The stream choice also depends on career planning and interest of student.
* For a successful career, careful planning and a well carved path are must.
* It is known that selection of stream/course depends upon the students’ aptitude, grade and marks, yet most important factor is one’s keen interest in the subject and the purpose of selecting the course.
* Further guidance for every student as per the performance in class 12th for admission in different Colleges, institutions either in Delhi or elsewhere.
* Guidance about the information available at different websites.
* Professional and vocational guidance to the students who fail to seek required marks for their further education.
* Financial guidance and guidance for other available benefits.
* Guidance for those who failed to get admission in regular colleges.
* Guidance about the information available at different websites.
* Distant education, (online education): Traditionally job-market requires as many as possible number of degrees along with the talent and the capabilities of the job seeker. But the fact is that it is not possible to go on studying for years. On-line education seems to have resolved the problem. Just a computer with a connection of internet, It is what one needs to study a range of subjects. No wastage of time, minimum hassles.
* What the student needs in this method of learning is recorded video lectures and down loadable course material. This replaces the live lectures and the burden of consulting the huge no. of books at most of the time. This enables the learner to stay at home during his learning process, at a pace one can comprehend at the suitable/preferable time. The teachers and the students who are involved in teaching-learning process in online education are required to remember that it is a new concept so the teachers have to be cautious before they start imparting education online.
* It is imperative for an online teacher to give a brief idea about the program and the web domain. It helps the student adjust themselves to this new system.
* Students need to plan and give some fore-thoughts to make their learning a successful process.

**How can the students choose a career?**

Students are required to know certain things while choosing a career. The first and most important is;

**Knowledge of oneself**

* A student is required to know about him as a person.
* What is his strength?
* What is his weakness?
* Everybody is composed of individual character traits.
* Everyone is different from the other, blood relatives or the friends.
* Just remember that everyone is unique as a person.
* So, first and the most important thing is “identification of oneself.”

**What are the likes and potentials?**

* Most of the students think that they are interested in certain things, or certain work fascinates them. It could be their interest, but not their potential.

**Potentials are;**

**Aptitude**, a natural ability to do something

**Intelligence**, the ability to acquire and apply knowledge and skills

**Interest and**

**Personality**,

* The combination of characteristics or qualities that forms an individual’s distinctive character set of behaviors.
* Cognitions and emotional patterns that evolve from biological and environmental factors.
* There is no set definition of personality, most theories focus on motivation and psychological interactions with one’s environment.
* A student is required to remember that he is unique as a person;
* First and the most important thing is to identify himself;

**What is that he likes?**

* Should try to differentiate between his interests and potentials;

**How to know about self**

* Professional career counselor or school career counselor helps those students who cannot make analysis of their strength, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.
* There are two major aspects of counseling and vocational guidance
* Psychometric assessment
* Career counseling

**Psychometric assessment:**

* There are certain psychological tests and certain set norms.
* It doesn’t mean that someone in psychologically depressed or suffering from psychological disorder.
* It means simply the standardized tests.
* For vocational guidance there are certain tests which the students need to give. These are;
* Aptitude tests,
* Intelligence test,
* Interest assessment, and
* Personality test.
* These are the four different aspects and have to be tested, administered and counseled by qualified persons, people who have the psychological background and undergone some ‘counseling course’, not by someone who has done some course or someone who can speak better.
* Psychology people have in-depth knowledge about distress, about people and about courses.

**Required knowledge**

* Students need to know the available courses.
* About the location of colleges
* Whether the college is inside the city, outside the city or out of the country?
* What is their admission process?
* Need to know about the alternate courses too.
* What are the allied courses, that information is also required?
* Applicability of the course in various industries deserves to be known.

**Proper backup plan:**

* We need to be focused in practical and realistic world with a competition we are facing,
* There exists a need to have a proper backup plan, first selecting the course option and then going for the backup plan. Not because “I could not do and do not have any other option, so this is my backup plan”, not this kind of backup plan.
* And also not too many plans, we need to know one backup plan only.
* If plan A fails, then there is plan B. It should be something very handy, “last minutes decisions have to be avoided”.
* It sometimes happens that the selection of a course is regretted at a later stage. To avoid all these situations, a proper backup plan and awareness of the alternate route with similar sectors and similar careers are all big wider, scientific, logical and practical ways of choosing a career.

**Differentiate between interest and aptitude**

* A career is not selected because of interest only. Interest may change with advancing age, and experience.
* Interest/I.Q. level is something which is to be considered for selection of the career. Once we know our self, the next part is the consideration of available options. Obviously the competition is increasing day by day, new entrance exams are coming to fore, selection process is changing, and we have to be extra vigilant.

**Resources**

* Include the duration of ‘course’ and
* Availability of financial resources.
* Consideration about the maximum or minimum time is essential because cost of private education is too much and always increasing. That is why financial consideration is an important factor. Expenditure will naturally increase if we study in another city or another country.

**Scope**

* Scope is not about the salary or designation. It is about potential and how it will be used to the maximum. When we talk about scope, it means about the student’s potential and how it can be used to the maximum. Scope is something which a student is made for and that can enhance on the move. It is nothing to do with the position or payback. Scope is wider thing than one is thinking.

**In short**

* When students are thinking to study any course they need to have four things in mind
* They need to know about their self,
* Need to know the options,
* Very much clear about the availability of resource/s,
* Scope of the subject,

***Once these are in place, it is sure that students can make a very wise career decision and come to a logical conclusion where there can be no confusion at all and it can take them a long way ahead.***