



DO WE NEED STRUCTURED CAREER PLANNING FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS?

EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE FROM ANAHATA UE FOUNDATION & GRAAM'S

VOSTPA (Voices of Students, Teachers, Parents and Alumni) SURVEY

NEED FOR STUDY

The transition from adolescence to adulthood is a pivotal phase where individuals explore their identities, abilities, and aspirations. Recognizing the critical role of this period, the Anahata UE Foundation in collaboration with GRAAM conducted the VOSTPA survey in Karnataka.

By engaging students, parents, teachers, and alumni, the survey aimed to provide a comprehensive perspective on the effectiveness and necessity of structured career planning during these formative years.

Key Questions:

- Do students undergoing career planning find it beneficial? How is it helping?
- What are the challenges faced by teachers and parents in helping students plan their career?
- What difficulties are faced by youth when they don't undergo career planning?



Methodology- Survey Insights: A Comprehensive Overview

- **Survey Period:** January and February 2024
- **Participants:** A diverse group of 1,172 students, 242 parents, 221 teachers, and 222 alumni participated, for understanding the multifaceted aspects of career planning
- **Location:** 5 districts in Karnataka, ensuring a broad geographical representation and relevance to the region's educational landscape

Key Facts from Voices of Students

Clarity on Profession or Field

90% of students have clarity on future profession, demonstrating the program's effectiveness in providing direction. (70% have a clear idea of the type of work in their shortlisted job choices & an additional 17.61% clear on some of their choices)

Knowledge of Educational Pathways

Over 80% of students understand the education or training required for their career choices, with 89% deciding on their post-Class X academic stream.

Awareness of Strengths and Interests

Close to 59% of students are aware of their strengths, and 58% are aware of their interests, facilitating more informed career decisions.

Overall Usefulness in Career Preparation

98% found the career planning program useful, citing a better understanding of jobs and sectors as a major benefit.

Academic Motivation

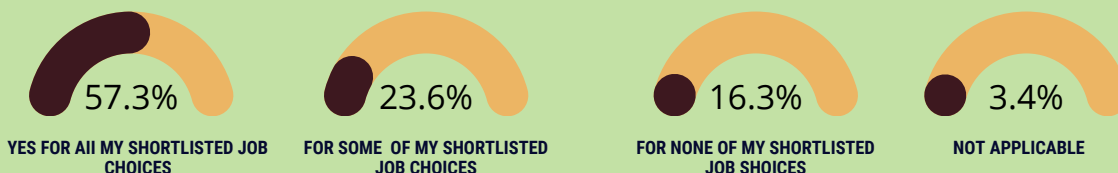
96% reported increased motivation to study, with 68% stating the program motivates them to study harder to enhance foundational skills for their career.

The career planning program has demonstrated a profound ability to guide students towards a clearer understanding of their career aspirations and the educational pathways to achieve them. By enhancing students' awareness of their strengths and interests and significantly boosting their motivation to study, the program lays a solid foundation for future success.

Clarity of students about the job/profession that they want to be in future



Students' knowledge of education course, preparation or training that they need to pursue the job/set of jobs of their choice





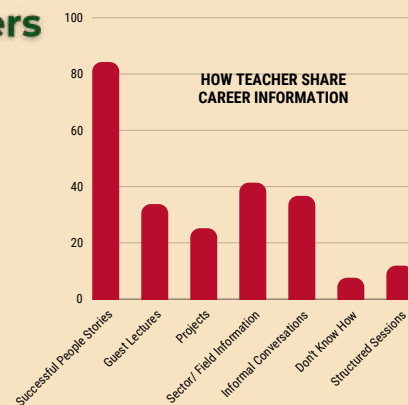
Key Facts from Voices of Teachers

Teachers feel that students should plan for career in High School

96% of surveyed teachers feel that students should plan for their career in high school, highlighting the importance of career planning interventions for this level

Teachers discuss careers but in less structured way

While majority of teachers discuss career-related matters with children, most teachers share such information or guidance in a less structured way. This highlights a need for structured career planning sessions to be institutionalized.



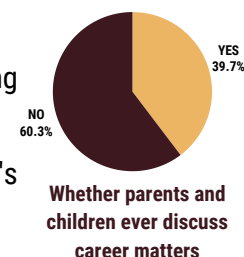
Key Facts from Voices of Parents

1. Challenges in Parent-Child Career Discussions

- The survey reveals a noticeable gap in career-related discussions between parents and children, with most parents not engaging in these conversations.
- Less than 20% of parents feel equipped to provide career-related advice upon request, underscoring a critical need for external support in career guidance.
- Only 27% of parents are knowledgeable about the job options and fields available for their child's career, highlighting the importance of accessible career information.

2. Positive Changes Observed Post-Career Planning Intervention

- A substantial 70% of parents noticed an improvement in their child's confidence following career planning sessions, indicating the program's impact beyond academic guidance.
- Additionally, 58.33% of parents reported an improvement in their child's academic performance, suggesting that career planning also contributes to enhanced educational outcomes.



Key Facts from Voices of Alumni

Would have had more clarity with career planning in school

84% alumni feel they would certainly have had better clarity in defining career goal & paths if they had received a career planning program in high school.

Confusions in aligning education with career goals

The greatest challenges alumni faced in aligning higher studies and career goals were - knowing where and how to search for jobs (82.8%), what kinds of jobs to apply for (80.5%), and what courses to take up (75%).



Conclusion

The VOSTPA survey conducted by Anahata UE Foundation-GRAAM has provided compelling evidence of the impact that structured career planning has on secondary school students in Karnataka. By offering clarity on future professions, educational pathways, and personal strengths, the career planning program serves as a crucial tool in guiding students towards their career aspirations. Moreover, the program's ability to significantly boost students' motivation to study underscores its value in laying a solid foundation for their future success. However, the survey also highlights critical gaps in parental engagement and the need for more structured career guidance sessions by teachers, pointing to areas where concerted efforts can lead to even greater benefits for students. This factsheet, grounded in the empirical evidence from the VOSTPA survey, underscores the critical importance of structured career planning in helping students achieve their academic and career aspirations. It serves as a Call to Action for educators, parents, and policymakers to prioritize and invest in career guidance as a fundamental component of secondary education.

ABOUT ANAHATA UNITED EFFORTS FOUNDATION

Anahata UNITED EFFORTS Foundation, an NGO headquartered in Bengaluru, is working to empower students from economically weaker sections to shape an Equitable India that shines through their potential. We envision High School Students from Economically Weaker Sections to take Informed Action for their Future. Our mission is to empower 2 crore high school students from economically weaker sections, with 21st century skills enabled STEAM Career planning curriculum, by 2030.



Anahata United Efforts Foundation

No 342, 38th cross, East End Main Road, 9th Block, Jayanagar,
Bangalore – 560069 | www.unitedefforts.org.in
careerplanning@unitedefforts.org.in

ABOUT GRAAM

GRAAM is a development research and public policy engagement initiative in India. GRAAM's extensive expertise spans over policy research, program evaluation, community engagement, policy engagement, impact consultation and academic engagements. GRAAM works in collaboration with all the four key stakeholders of development i.e. Government, Citizenry, Civil Society Organizations and Corporate. Complementing strengths of each sector is essential to achieve the development goals. GRAAM aims to ensure the 'voices' of the communities at the grassroots are significantly accounted for in the process of development.



Grassroots Research and Advocacy Movement (GRAAM)

CA-2 KIADB Industrial Housing Area, Hebbal Ring Road
Mysore, Karnataka, India 570016 | www.graam.org.in

+91-9686666313

graam@graam.org.in

www.graam.org.in