

Theoretical and methodological background on vocational guidance in the choice of university career

Antecedentes teóricos y metodológicos sobre la orientación vocacional en la elección de carrera universitaria

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Abstract

Vocational guidance is a fundamental development in the career choice of young high school graduates, which is far from capitulating at the conceptual level, given the winds of change that exhale inside and outside the subject. In this situation, this article aims to find out and break down which are the most common approaches, hypotheses, methodologies, variables and corollaries in the circulation of scientific articles that link career selection and vocational guidance, to identify the attributes or variables that support future analyzes and settle a quick consultation synopsis on the subject for locals and strangers. Therefore, a conceptual mapping was made, locating three main thematic veins: 1) The importance of a good vocational orientation for the adequate choice of career and consequent professional satisfaction; 2) theoretical-historical studies about the concepts, categories, teaching method and instruments to identify aptitudes and attitudes in a psychological context of transformation inside and outside the subject; 3) medium-term challenges in vocational guidance. Among the findings, although diverse, attitudes, aptitudes and personal goals predominate as the most important elements in the choice of career.

Vocational orientation, Career choice

Resumen

La orientación vocacional es un desarrollo primordial en la elección de carrera de los jóvenes bachilleres, misma que se encuentra lejos de capitular en el plano conceptual, dados los vientos de cambio que exhalan dentro y fuera del sujeto. En dicha tesitura, este artículo lleva por objetivo averiguar y desglosar cuáles son los planteamientos, hipótesis, metodologías, variables y corolarios más comunes en el tiraje de artículos científicos que vinculan la selección de carrera y orientación vocacional, para identificar los atributos o variables que sustentaran futuros análisis y zanjar una sinopsis de rápida consulta sobre el tema para propios y extraños. Por lo que se confeccionó un mapeo conceptual, ubicando tres vetas temáticas principales: 1) La importancia de una buena orientación vocacional para la adecuada elección de carrera y consecuente satisfacción profesional; 2) estudios teórico-históricos acerca de los conceptos, categorías, método de enseñanza e instrumentos para identificar las aptitudes y actitudes en un contexto psicológico de transformación dentro y fuera del sujeto; 3) desafíos a mediano plazo en la orientación vocacional. Entre los hallazgos aunque diversos predominan las actitudes, aptitudes y metas personales como los elementos de mayor peso en la elección de carrera.

Orientación vocacional, Elección de carrera

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Introduction

Basically, the theoretical association between vocational guidance and career choice is currently facing the following research problems: 1) the importance of good vocational guidance for adequate career choice and consequent professional and job satisfaction; 2) theoretical-historical studies about concepts, categories, teaching method and instruments to identify the aptitudes and attitudes of the bachelor in a psychological context of transformation inside and outside the subject; 3) medium-term challenges in vocational guidance, such as the correspondence between the forms and contents of the subject with current needs, as well as the growing interest of young people in the labour market, sometimes even over and above their real aptitudes and attitudes in the professional dilemma.

Assisted by concepts, categories and variables specific to vocational guidance, such as aptitudes and attitudes of the high school graduate, the correspondence in curricular contents, teaching systems, current empirical needs of educational guidance, psychological maturity, personal goals, social, interpersonal and learning goals and motives, the correlation of good vocational guidance with appropriate career choice and career satisfaction.

Among the most common assumptions within this paradigm are: 1) a suitable vocational orientation is the best tool for appropriate career choice; 2) young people within the same faculty show similar patterns in their decision motives; 3) career selection depends on factors internal and external to the young person about to graduate as a bachelor; 4) the methods and contents taught in the subject of vocational orientation are not relevant to the current globality, hypotheses tested via conceptual mappings, regression and simple correlation models, aided by standardised and proprietary instruments.

- 1) The importance of a good vocational orientation for an adequate career choice and consequent professional and job satisfaction.

Contextualised the challenges and challenges faced by employees of some public ministries in conjunction with vocational guidance in Costa Rica. A study was developed with a naturalistic, qualitative and phenomenological paradigm, which obtained relevant information through interviews and a research workshop, structuring the first two a theoretical contextualisation with the help of the Atlas Ti package, highlighting among the corollaries the need to update plans and programmes to give greater weight to advanced approaches such as life design and the use of new technologies. Vargas-Hernández, E. Y., & Salas-Pérez, K. V. (2023).

The literature on vocational guidance studies has historically discriminated between students' medium and long-term goals. Through a quantitative research developed from an original instrument, a factorial analysis is derived where academic, personal and social development goals are considered as an explanatory factor in the university decision, the results of the work are categorical in most cases. Psychologists adopt the career for academic and personal reasons, while, in lawyers and biologists, social reasons were the most important, followed by power in the case of law and prestige for biology, but there is also a small group that did not consider these aspects at the time of choosing a degree. Gámez, H & Marrero, H (2003).

All agree that vocational guidance is of utmost importance for future career development. There are many studies on techniques to identify and evaluate the student's predominant aptitudes and attitudes, however, few studies focus on the reciprocity of what the counsellor identifies as the student's strengths and their final choice, therefore, this explanatory diagnosis aims to identify the best career or careers for each final year high school student, by means of a questionnaire modified from the original version, proposed by Rimada Peña & De León (2012.), to emphasize the "correlation between their interests, aptitudes and specific areas with the career chosen by the students of CBTA N° 1 of La Partida, Coahuila", highlighting the strong connection between aptitudes and attitudes and interests with the career finally developed. De León, M T., & Briones, D. L. R. (2012).

By means of a longitudinal quantitative examination, the a priori notion that vocational identity is reinforced with maturity during the transition from high school to university is verified. To this end, the evolution of the vocational identity of a group of young people at two points in time, the last year of high school and the fifth semester of undergraduate studies, is addressed, to determine whether or not the psychological evolution of the young people reaffirms their decision to go to university, applying the test (EIVO) that measures psychosocial maturity and vocational identity proposed by (Jones, Akers & White, 1994), subjecting the results to the chi-squared test, it is observed that academic performance and vocational identity are explained in terms of the certainty of commitment that the young person has with their current career Jara, L. (2010).

With the aim of evaluating the teaching and learning exchange in virtual environments in the Faculty of Humanities of the National University of Salta, the modified form of dialogue is problematised from a critical perspective with emphasis on technical and social components. Martín, P. J. (2023)

Social dominance orientation (SDO) is a personality variable that refers to the degree to which an individual desires a social group to dominate and establish as superior to other masses. The aim of this thesis is to determine the index of social dominance in the psychology faculty of the UNAM, by replicating European instruments, although in this case the sample is doubled to more than 1000 respondents given the size of the population. Individuals prone to being dominated tend to make decisions that allow them to accompany their dominator, whom they interpret as a reference point, someone who can make difficult decisions for them, and they may even delegate their career choice to others. Hermida, A. (2016)

Based on a previous research: "entrance to psychology, choice, continuity and abandonment of the university career", using the quantitative method of semi-structured interviews with first, third and last year students in the faculty of psychology in Córdoba Argentina and young people about to choose a career, it is concluded that the attitudes and aptitudes to be a psychologist are determinant in the choice and permanence within the institution. Ortega & Duarte (2012).

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The following article addresses uncommon elements in research on career choice, since most of the axes tending to this catalogue, focus their attention on the gender, attitudes and aptitudes of the boy, without regard for the ultimate goals of the student. Using a qualitative analysis to interpret the aspirations of young people, it was found that friends, parents or previous training are not predominant in the choice of medical careers in Chile, as are the vocation of service and altruistic spirit. Troncoso & Garay. (2016).

This thesis represents the implementation of the topics learned in the school of social work at the UNAM and the CCH East of the CDMX. Through a representative sample, we inquired about the motives or variables that influence the next career decision of young people in their sixth semester. The results of the study show that the interests and aptitudes of the young person, identified through a good vocational orientation, are the variable that best explains the university failure, in second place is the duration of the chosen degree, curiously, the lack of explanation expressed through don't know or don't answer, was the third cause followed by the labour market. Rodriguez & Inda & Peña. (2014).

The variables of self-sufficiency and gender as a central argument in career choice are compared, defining a sample of close to one thousand first and second year undergraduate students at the University of Oviedo. The results on the influence between genders are opposite, therefore, it is concluded that the orientation should be as well. Fernández, G (2014).

A fundamental part of a bachelor's graduation profile is the mathematical ability to face and solve specific problems. This research compares mathematical performance by gender in relation to career choice. The solution found was that the mathematical ability of women and men who study technological careers is similar, although the majority of women who study in the area of health sciences would also have been competent in technological careers, unlike men, since the vast majority of profiles suitable for engineering are enrolled in these careers. Pérez & Castro (2011)

- 1) Theoretical-historical studies about the concepts, categories, teaching methods and instruments to identify the aptitudes and attitudes of the bachelor in a psychological context of transformation inside and outside the subject.

The high drop-out rate and the low satisfaction in professional development are unequivocal proof of the importance of accompanying young high school students in their choice of university. The following article presents a historical overview of the emergence and evolution of vocational guidance, with the ideal of serving as a quick reference manual for scholars (González, Maura, 2009).

In order to evaluate the pedagogical training of medical assistants in the Cuban environment, a documentary analysis was carried out using various methodologies: dialectical, historical-logical, historical-logical, analytical-synthetic and its consequent systematisation under the qualitative mantra, locating historical-logical regularities in the pedagogy of training and the entry profile of medical assistants. Martínez, K. E., Díaz, A. A. D., & Llano, J. C. M. (2023)

The theory of vocational orientation bases its axioms on the unequivocal premise that the subject is an autonomous entity in terms of decisions, and rational in the sense of knowing one's own context (attitudes, aptitudes, goals, limitations) and external (labour market, the society in which one lives), however, evidence from psychoanalysis shows that many subjects are not entirely independent and/or rational. This qualitative work approaches the perspective of the self from the theories of Freud and Lacan, in order to understand and contextualise individuality in a broad sense, far from abstract reductionisms that only serve to arbitrarily define guidelines that in practice are more exception than rules. Inevitably, the self is a personal and social construct, which accompanies the individual in all his or her judgments, including the career judgment (Morales, D. (2018) Hernández, J. A., & Chádez, I. E. (2023).

In order to identify the elements that participate in the professional choice of adolescents close to higher education, a representative sample of young high school graduates from public schools was defined, to whom "a vocational orientation questionnaire developed by the didactic centre of the La Salle University was applied, to which some adjustments were made in terms of its structure", inferring from this three main topics in the adoption of career: friends, prestige of the school, price. Rosales Vishnú (2012).

Making a fundamental choice such as the professional field on which a whole working life will depend is not easy, and even less so if one does not have the elements to make the right choice. There are many contradictions in the youth sector about what they really want to be throughout their professional life, sometimes, there is desertion for lack of elements that really exploit the aptitudes of the students, there are places, as the technical baccalaureates that offer of required ultimate formation for the work, this generates indecision, because the students that come from a formative stage face a determinant election for the future, introductory courses can be realised, These courses can define an area but in reality the student does not have that empathy, or it comes from home and is confronted with what these courses or workshops provide, thus generating an emotional conflict. For this reason, beyond theory, these courses should be oriented more towards the explosion of skills and attitudes rather than forcing the choice by guidelines already determined by a small quota of choice. De León, T., & Rodríguez, R. (2008)

- 1) Medium-term challenges in vocational guidance

In order to corroborate whether the way vocational guidance is taught in COBACH Sonora does not correspond to current labour needs, a conceptual mapping was carried out to establish the relevance between the educational guidance given in the institution and the curricular level. Finally, some of the necessary adjustments in the curriculum needed to activate more complex cognitive processes are presented, followed by a proposal to formalise psychological variables such as self-esteem and maturity. Camarena, G. B. O. (2009)

The document collects information from more than 300 students enrolled in the journalism degree at the UCM virtual university in Madrid, based on an instrument generated by ITEMS related to the theories of vocational orientation, the information will serve as a basis for consolidating the institution in academic matters, as well as establishing more clearly the faculty's market niche. Peinado, M. F. (2011).

Documentary analysis of the curriculum of the Universidad Nacional del Mar del Plata 1989-2010, in order to compare the contents 2009-2015 with a synchronic cut, evaluating the fluctuations in the areas of: subject; disciplinary affiliation of the author; nationality of the author; type of document and theoretical orientation of the document. The mapping was strengthened with interviews with teachers in order to justify the changes in the academic plans. Moya, L. A. (2023).

A quantitative cross-sectional study is presented which evaluates students from four public and private high schools in terms of attitudes and aptitudes, but also interviewed counsellors, in order to find out, according to their experience, what are the fundamental elements according to the students for the choice of career, both warn that the economic context and family influence are more important than the orientation in the decision, the boys are more interested in technical conferences and the labour market of the careers, than in the results of their own vocational orientation test. Moreno, Etrada, P. (2011)

With the aim of improving and updating the subject of vocational guidance at the Oviedo University in Seville. The reciprocity between vocational guidance and its resulting tests with the final choice of the young person is reviewed, the results are that there is a large gap between the recommendations of the counsellors and the alternative finally taken by the students. Although young people value their vocational guidance courses and consider them well structured, at the end of the day the labour market is more important to them, so it is recommended to include some of these topics in the subject. Fernandez, G. (2013)

Conclusions

The types and sizes of sample designed to evaluate the nexus of vocational orientation and career choice, except for the case of De León, M. T., & Briones, D. L. R. (2012), who conducted a census to identify the aptitudes and attitudes of final year high school students in relation to career choice, the rest of the articles reviewed use stratified samples with high confidence intervals Camarena, G. B. O. (2009), Jara, L. (2010), Gamez, H., & Marrero, H. (2003), Rosales (vishnú.) (2012), Peinado, M. F. (2011), Fernández, G (2013), who apply their own or canonical instruments to size the instruments to determine the size of the sample, & Marrero, H (2003), Rosales (vishnú. (2012), Peinado, M. F. (2011), Fernández, G (2013), who apply their own or canonical instruments to measure the importance of vocational guidance and career selection. With the aim of evaluating and understanding the importance of vocational guidance in career choice, scholars have used different techniques such as: qualitative analysis of personalised interviews and responses to semi-structured instruments through focus groups and workshops on students in their last year of secondary school and first year of Bachelor's degree in Córdoba, Argentina. Ortega & Duarte (2012).

Reviewing and obtaining indicators from indirect sources such as official data and working documents of the Colegio de Bachilleres del estado de Sonora. Camarena, G. B. O. (2009). Stratified sampling and derived frequency distribution table to infer measures of central tendency and dispersion, absolute and relative numbers Barrón et al (2022) Jara, L. (2010). Gámez, H., & Marrero, H. (2003), Rosales, vishnú. (2012), Peinado, M. F. (2011), concentrated evidence based on a Likert scale, Domínguez (2013). The corollaries that analyse the impact of vocational guidance on university choice differ according to the context and the variables assessed. The first group of studies is devoted to the etymological and epistemological aspects of the contents and teaching methods and instruments used in vocational guidance. Camarena, G. B. O. (2009), González, Maura, (2009), Ortega & Duarte (2012).

Although most of the texts, by means of case studies with their own or standardised instruments in the area, discriminate the main factors in career choice among an extensive glossary of variables, in which the aptitudes and attitudes of young people stand out, expressing the results in simple percentages. Rosales vishnú, (2012), or correlations from regression models De León, M. T., & Briones, D. L. R. (2012) psychological reasons encompassing personal, academic, social and economic goals Peinado, M. F. (2011), personal goals such as power and prestige versus more altruistic goals depending on career and gender Gámez, H., & Marrero, H. (2003), the influence of parents and relatives, friends, teachers, guidance counsellor, partner etc. (Moreno, Etrada, P. (2011), job market, professional outlet, expected future income differentiating between public and public schools. The decreasing interest in vocational guidance in the face of the economic reductionism of the labour market. Fernández, G. (2013)

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