

## ABSTRACT

Title of dissertation: BIG FIVE PERSONALITY, SELF EFFICACY AND OPTIMISM AS PREDICTORS OF CAREER CHOICE AMONG COLLEGE STUDENTS

Swati Sharma, Doctor of Philosophy, 2019

Dissertation directed by: Dr. Sushma Suri

Department of Psychology  
Faculty of Social Sciences

The prediction and moderation effects were studied in present research which comprised of variables: big five personality (Neuroticism, Extraversion, Agreeableness, Openness to Experience and Conscientiousness), self efficacy and optimism on Commitment to Career Choice (Vocational Exploration and Tendency to Foreclose), in addition to categorical variables (gender and faculty). The sample (N=400) comprised of BA third year college students (natural science and social science) studying at Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi. Following tools were used: NEO PI short form, Career Decision Making Self Efficacy Scale, Life Orientation Test revised and Commitment to Career Choice Scale. In order to get the results, Moderation analysis was carried out using Hayes process 3.0 model 3.

The results of the study indicated that: only Agreeableness and Conscientiousness had a direct effect on Vocational Exploration. On Career Choice (Vocational Exploration and Tendency to Foreclose) Self efficacy did not show any significant contribution whereas Optimism predicted career choice (Vocational Exploration and Tendency to Foreclose).

Gender was found to be a significant moderator of relationship between Neuroticism and Vocational Exploration; Agreeableness and Tendency to Foreclose between Extraversion and Commitment to Career Choice. Faculty significantly moderated the relationship between Agreeableness and Vocational Exploration and Conscientiousness and Vocational Exploration. Faculty was the significant moderator of relationship between Neuroticism and Tendency to Foreclose.

Regarding the relationship between Self Efficacy and Career Choice gender was the significant moderator only on Vocational Exploration dimension of Career Choice. Whereas the relationship between Optimism and Tendency to Foreclose gender was found to be the significant moderator. On the other hand, Faculty significantly moderates the relationship between Optimism and Vocational Exploration.