A STUDY ON DECISION MAKING STYLES AMONG THE INDIVIDUALS OF SAVEETHA DENTAL COLLEGE

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ABSTRACT:

AIM & OBJECTIVE:
To analyse and assess the decision making styles among the individuals of Saveetha dental college

BACKGROUND:
Decision making is a mental process which depends on gathering information about making choices. Arriving at a decision is not a simple activity. This involves three main categories which include decision, decision maker and process of deciding. Finding the right solution to a problem is very important in this present society.

REASONS:
Many people in this present complex world make hasty decisions which mostly end up in failure. This study is conducted to aid individuals to take acceptable decisions and to make best out of their decisions.

INTRODUCTION:
Every person in this society have to make choices in their life which include their career, their life partner and a course to lead their life. Arriving at decisions is not simple and straightforward activity. It is complex and depends on the gathered information and making an appropriate choice. This involves three main categories which include Decision, Decision maker and process of deciding. People always find difficulty to find the right solution to their problems. Jants and Mann proposed a theory which confronts the decision making styles of the people. This conflict theory states that, the decision making is mostly influenced by the person’s attitudes, motives, values etc. They concluded that a person adopts a lifestyle in accordance with conflict which causes stress.

A decision is made after a long drawn effort consisting of many stages called as Decisional stages. Decision making involves five stages. The first stage is the recognition of the challenge and simplification of that complex problem. The second stage involves the gathering of relevant information about the alternatives which requires openness. The third stage is evaluation of the listed alternatives for its practical applications and consequences since the alternatives have both merits and demerits. The fourth stage is choosing the appropriate alternative which has more benefits to the specific person. The final stage is the commitment of the decision maker to the decision despite its uncertainty. This includes the decision maker’s views, critics and rationality.

Usually, the decision always depends on the decisional stages which in turn is influenced the Decision maker. In this society, many people lack the ability to make right decision which will turn out in depression, anti-social behaviour, poor attitude, self-esteem issues etc. It leaves to the fact that Making appropriate decisions can help in the individual’s personal well being. By promoting their personal health, we can expect them to make clarified and best decisions. This study was conducted to analyse the decision making styles of the individuals.

MATERIAL & METHODS:

MATERIAL:
Flinder’s Decision Making Questionnaire by Leon Mann was used in this study.
METHOD:

The students of Saveetha Dental College were made to sit in comfortable environment without any disturbances. They were provided with decision making questionnaire, pen and a score key. The questionnaire contains twenty four questions. Each question consists of five alternatives which are Strongly disagree, Disagree, Neutral, Agree and Strongly Agree. People differ in making their decisions. There was no time limit and they are assured with the confidentiality about their answers. Once the subject completes answering the questions, the questionnaire was collected and scored according to their answers.

RESULT:

![Graph 1: Decision Making Styles Among Individuals](image1)

![Graph 2: Decision Making Styles-Avg](image2)
Graph 3: Bar graph showing the total number of male and female individuals across different categories (Low, Moderate, High).

Graph 4: Pie chart showing the distribution of male and female individuals across different categories.
DISCUSSION:

The scores provided to the answers of the students was classified into three categories namely; Low, Moderate and High. From Graph:1, we come to know that, the scores under moderate category was tend to be higher followed by low and then high. In Graph:2, the average of the decision making styles was plotted. From the result, we found that the average of high category was higher than the moderate and low. The result from Graph:3 shows the highest and the lowest values of each categories. The highest value was greater than the lowest value in the categories low and moderate, the highest value and the lowest value were equal in the category high. The results from Graph:4 shows that the total number of females participated in the survey was tend to be greater than the total number of males participated in this study. From Graph:5, we can see that the average of the decision making styles among females was more than that of males. The Graph: 6 shows the highest value and the lowest value of the decision making styles among females and males. The lowest values were found to be greater in male category than the female category while the highest values were found to be higher in female category than male category. From this we can conclude that the decision making styles of females tend to be higher than that of males. Males fail to take appropriate decisions due to stress and other social impacts. On the other hand, Females take correct decisions at the correct time mostly because of their family situation and the stress level was lower in females than males. From the datas we collected, we come to conclusion that the predominant
decision making style of the individuals is moderate, the number of females took part in this study is greater, the lowest value was more in males and the highest value was more in females.

CONCLUSION:
Stress from various factors in today’s environment, say family, peer pressure, social behaviour, attitude, society norms, physical health is more. Decision making styles and quality differ from individuals to individuals. They say “never make promises when happy and never make decisions when depressed” Individuals need a proper mental health and guidance to take up a decision which favours their achievements positively. This study helps the individuals to know about their decision taking levels and the counsellor can help them to improve the quality of decision by giving various suggestions. Decisions taken at the right time with right guidance can bring so much of positive changes in individuals, which is the goal of this study.

REFERENCES: