



## Professional perception among university students

-Analytical reading of previous studies-

التصور المهني لدى طلبة الجامعة

-قراءة تحليلية-

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### Abstract:

In this article, we aim to reveal the factors influencing the professional perception of university students through an analytical reading of a group of previous studies that focused on the topic according to certain dimensions: (objectives of the study, research sample, measurement tools, and results Study). We found that the following factors: the type of specialization, the level of social popularity of the future profession, the comfortable of the profession, the living conditions, the type of profession sector, and the level of psychological health of the student are factors influencing the student's professional perception as they determined its nature between negative and positive. In addition, the university's counseling and guidance services have a positive role in shaping a positive perception of the future profession.

**Keywords:** professional perception , university students , analytical reading

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**- Abstract in Arabic:**

نهدف في هذا المقال إلى كشف العوامل المؤثرة في التصور المهني لدى طلبة الجامعة، وذلك من خلال قراءة تحليلية لمجموعة من الدراسات السابقة التي ركزت على الموضوع وفقاً لأبعاد معينة هي: (أهداف الدراسة، عينة البحث، أدوات القياس، نتائج الدراسة)، حيث توصلنا إلى أن العوامل التالية: (نوع التخصص، مستوى الرواج الاجتماعي لمهنة المستقبل، أريحية المهنة، الواقع المعيش، نوع قطاع المهنة، مستوى الصحة النفسية للطلاب) هي عوامل مؤثرة في التصور المهني للطالب، فهي تحدد طبيعته بين السلب والإيجاب، كما أن خدمات الإرشاد والتوجيه في الجامعة دور إيجابي في تكوين التصور الإيجابي لمهنة المستقبل.

**الكلمات المفتاحية:** التصور المهني، طلبة الجامعة، قراءة تحليلية

**Abstract in French:**

Dans cet article, nous visons à révéler les facteurs qui influencent la perception professionnelle des étudiants universitaires à travers une lecture analytique d'un groupe d'études antérieures qui se sont concentrées sur le sujet selon certaines dimensions : (objectifs de l'étude, échantillon de recherche, outils de mesure et résultats de l'étude). Nous avons constaté que les facteurs suivants : le type de spécialisation, le niveau de popularité sociale du futur métier, le confort du métier, les conditions de vie, le type de secteur professionnel et le niveau de santé psychologique de l'étudiant sont des facteurs influençant la perception professionnelle de l'étudiant en déterminant sa nature entre négative et positive. En outre, les services de conseil et d'orientation de l'université jouent un rôle positif en façonnant une perception positive de la future profession.

**Mots-clés :** perception professionnelle, étudiants universitaires, lecture analytique

**1-Introduction:**

The study provides the student with an advance idea about his professional future as he can draw a picture even a simple one of the profession to which he may head in the

future. Considering that perception in its broad sense, it is a way to organize our knowledge that is produced based on special laws and our lives have a system of perceptions that dictate human orientation and leadership. Specialization alone is not enough to know our professional future, but there are many factors that can affect the student's perception. (Belkhiri and Osman, 2014). Several previous studies have tackled the professional perception of university students. Based on this idea, we can ask the following question: What are the factors that affect the professional perception of students?

## **2-The concept of professional perception:**

### **Definition of perception:**

(Piaget) defines perception as being reduced to a mental image or a memory image, meaning that this retrieval is symbolic of absent facts and situations, as perception requires the presence of evidence that allows recall. (Moscovici, S 1991 P 252)

### **Definition of professional perception:**

The student who is about to graduate is thinking about his professional future which leads him to draw a picture of this future. This future depends on the external information that the student believes about his professional future either a negative or positive picture. According to his level of ambition, the specialty in which he is studying, and according to the reality in which he lives and the training received by the student. (Belkhiri and Osman, 2014)

In order to answer the question we raised, we will present and comment on previous studies that worked on the factors that affect university students' professional perception.

## **3- Previous studies on professional perception:**

### **3-1- Study (Barbar and Belkaidi, 2015)**

The study aimed to know the levels of anxiety among students about to graduate in light of the reforms taking place in the university sector that created the current system to replace the classical system. This is what push us make this search for a comparison of the images of the professional future among students of the two systems and the extent to which

this perception relates to their anxiety. This study adopted the descriptive approach and a purposive sample of (142) male and female students was selected. The study concluded that students about to graduate actually suffer from anxiety about their professional future. It also found that there are statistically significant differences between professional future anxiety among students in the humanities and natural sciences in the classical and current systems.(Barbar and Belkaidi, 2015)

### **3-2- Study (Al-Ghamdi 2000):**

The study aimed to identify the impact of social and economic factors, in addition to work-related factors in forming different attitudes towards students' future jobs. An open-ended questionnaire was used, and the study sample was composed of (517) students. The most prominent results of the study were that (86%) of the students had a lower view of students in technical colleges and technical institutes, and (96.4%) expressed a desire to obtain a financial return regardless of the nature of the work and the sector in which they work whether governmental or private, and (53.9%) support the provision of job opportunities in the professional and technical field is larger, and (80.5%) showed their interest in the advice of others regarding their future careers, and (60.6%) confirmed that government jobs are more secure for the future according to society's view, and (84.7%) confirmed the possibility of employing material and economic factors in directing young people to any profession about Through various incentives and allowances.

### **3-3- Study (Hawadif and Alili, 2015):**

The study aimed to reveal the extent of the influence of the university academic system on university students' perception of their professional future and their motivation for achievement in light of some variables related to the type of system and academic specialization (Arts - Law - Science - Economics - Agriculture). The study relied on the

descriptive approach. The researchers selected a purposive sample of students (199) male and female students. The study concluded that there are no statistically significant differences between students of the classical and current systems in the perception of the professional future and motivation for achievement. The study also found that there are differences in the perception of the professional future due to the academic specialization variable. While the study did not show differences in achievement motivation due to the academic specialization variable.(Hawadif and Alili, 2015)

**3-4- Study (Al-Rumaih 2001):**

The study aimed to identify the attitudes of Saudi university youth towards working in the private sector. The researcher used an open-ended question questionnaire on a sample of (411) students. The most important results were that academic guidance does not provide young people with sufficient information about job opportunities in the private sector especially since the majority of university youth agree that the private sector enjoys the level of return now and that the majority of the sample agrees that the private sector is better than the government sector in terms of incentives and that there are positive trends among university youth towards working in it. (Belkhiri and Osman, 2014)

**3-5- Study (Hasani and Fakani, 2022):**

The researchers aim to study the relationship of psychology students' professional perceptions to mental health and to reveal the significance of the differences between males and females in the study variables. After applying the psychological health scale and the professional perceptions scale to a sample chosen in a random simple from psychology students specializing in educational psychology and work and organizational psychology, which consisted of (130) male and female students, the results were analyzed using the SPSS program and they finally concluded the following results:

- There is a correlation between professional perception scores and mental health scores among psychology students

-There are statistically significant differences between males and females in the degrees of professional perception -

- There are statistically significant differences between males and females in mental health scores(Hasani and Fakani, 2022)

**3-6- Study (Al-Munif 2007):**

The study aimed to identify the attitudes of university youth towards working in the private sector and to know the role of prevailing social values in influencing the attitudes of university youth towards working in the private sector. The study sample consisted of (128) students and the researcher used an open-ended question questionnaire and it was one of the most important results. That: (65.5) people aspire to complete higher education, followed by those who aspire to search for government work, and their percentage was (15.8). As for searching for work in the private sector, those aspiring to it do not exceed a percentage of (15.3), and (3.5) of the study sample did not mention their aspiration towards the future in When a percentage of (1.2) aspire to self-employment because of some prevailing social values that oppose work in the private sector. Girls prefer to marry employees in the government sector more than others, with a percentage of (51.7%).

**3-7- Study (Najjar et al 2008):**

The study aimed to identify the aspirations of university youth and their reality. The study sample consisted of (200) male and female students equally divided between males and females at the University of (Aleppo). The study found that (76%) of their future aspirations do not match their reality. (58%) find that the lack of job opportunities in the field of specialization is due to weak institutions, and one of the most important basic problems they face is the presence of intermediaries in the first place, and (82%) find that the media does not play an effective role in informing society of the reality that these young people live in.(Belkhiri and Osman, 2014)

**3-8- Study of (Al-Helou Muhammad Al-A'rab):**

This study aims to investigate the social and professional perceptions of adolescents, and it tackled on the following points:

- Studying the professional details of adolescents at the end of middle school.
- Studying the mechanisms that distribute adolescents according to their ambitions in various professional settings by identifying the factors and characteristics of professional selection.

The researcher selects his research sample from a group of final-level secondary school students, and the results reached were as follows:

-It was revealed that professional preferences are that the student imagines his future profession on the basis of professions that are famous in society and because he chooses in his studies the scientific branches leading to those professions.

-There are also other factors that intervene, such as family support and guidance. (KamelFaraj 1968, p. 252).

### **3-9-Study (MishriSulaf, 2022):**

This article aims to shed light on the problem of choosing a future profession among students about to graduate, the resulting anxiety, review the various personal and peripheral factors that play a pivotal role in raising the problem of graduate unemployment, revealing the concept of the personal project as a proactive mechanism that enables the student to be The effective person in determining his destiny based on his knowledge of himself and his educational and professional environment, and clarifying the role of guidance and guidance in accompanying the student from the early stages of his academic life in order to build and realize this project.(Mishri Sulaf, 2022)

### **3-10- Study (Whitey et al 1981):**

The study found that adolescents prefer professions with social popularity, and the reason for this is due to the strong need to escape from social reality. This study also showed that

adolescents who are subject to overwhelming social pressures always try to compensate for this through the desire for social fame (Mustafa Hegazy, 1981, p. 465)

#### **4- Analysis of previous studies:**

##### **In terms of objectives:**

Previous studies varied in their objectives. Some studies aimed to identify students' future, professional, scientific, and social perceptions in terms of specialization, age of marriage, and number of family members. Others aimed to identify youth trends, values, and their role in influencing trends, while others aimed to study university youth's aspirations and reality, and others examined social and professional perceptions and the choice of professions.

They also tried to compare the images of the professional future of the students of the two systems and the extent to which this perception relates to their anxiety and reveal the extent of the influence of the university academic system on the perception of their professional future and their motivation for achievement in light of some special variables. They also aimed to study the relationship of the professional perceptions of psychology students to mental health and reveal the significance of the differences between males and females in the variables of the study as well as shedding light on the problem of choosing a future profession among students about to graduate and the anxiety resulting from it. Most of the previous studies focused on the youth segment especially students to know about their future perceptions.

##### **In terms of sample:**

The studies differed in terms of the size of the sample used ; The smallest sample was (128) participants and the largest size was (517) participants. They were also conducted on both genders, while others were limited to males.

##### **In terms of research tools:**

Most studies used open-ended questionnaires, and others relied on a measure of professional perceptions prepared by the researchers themselves..

**In terms of results:**

Most of the previous studies have fulfilled their hypotheses and concluded that there are differences between the professional perception and specialization, including the study of (Kanaan and Majidel 1999) and the study of (Lahlou Muhammad Laarab), which concluded that the student chooses to study scientific branches that lead to a comfortable future profession. And the study of (Whitey and his assistants) also concluded that the teenager aspires to choose a profession that is socially popular. The study of (Najjar et al. 2008) concluded that the student's future ambitions are not commensurate with their reality. while the studies of both (Al-Rumaih 2001) and the study of (Al-Munif 2007) concluded that young people tend to work in the private sector. As for the study (Barbar and Belkaidi, 2015), it found that there were statistically significant differences between professional future anxiety among students of the humanities and natural sciences in the classical and contemporary systems.

Contrary to that, the study (Hawadif and Alili, 2015) did not find statistically significant differences between students of the classical and contemporary systems in the perception of the professional future and motivation for achievement.

It also found that there are differences in the perception of the professional future due to the academic specialization variable, while the study did not show differences in achievement motivation due to the academic specialization variable.(Hassani and fakani ) indicated that there is a correlation between the degrees of professional perception and the mental health scores of psychology students, and statistically significant differences between males and females in the scores of professional perception and statistically significant differences between males and females in the degrees of psychological health. The last study by (MishriSulaf, 2022) confirmed the effective role of guidance and psychological counseling in

accompanying the student from the early stages of his academic life in order to build and realize this project.

**5- Conclusion:**

Based on the analytical reading of previous studies that have been interested in students' professional perception, we have discovered the factors affecting the professional perception of university students and we can summarize them as follows:

The student's professional perception varies between negative and positive based on the specialization of the studying (scientific, literary, social, technical.).

The student develops a positive perception if the specialization is directed to a socially popular profession.

- The student prefers the specialization that leads to a comfortable career in the future.
- Real life negatively affects the student's perception if he does not find a respectable career in the future.

Students who have a high level of mental health gain a positive professional perception, regardless of their type of specialization, gender, or living conditions.

The availability of counseling and guidance services in university institutions is an essential factor and strong support for students in their attachment to their specialty, creativity, and pride in their future profession.

**6- *Suggestions.***

- The necessity of concluding joint internship agreements between the university and work institutions so that the student gets a real idea about the future profession
- The authority must provide privileges and rewards in public sector institutions in order to motivate students towards them
- The student must study the desired specialty without regard to his level of social popularity, because desire achieves intellectual creativity

- The student must realize that most comfortable professions do not achieve a good social status for the individual
- The necessity of providing guidance and counseling services in university institutions in order to convince students of their specialization, creativity in it, and pride in their future profession.
- Psychological assistance centers must implement guidance programs to develop the leadership personality of students in order to establish projects to create job opportunities and not search for work.

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