

The professional project and its role in cultivating students' Choices

المشروع المهني ودوره في تربية الاختيارات لدى الطلبة

Dr. Miloud Khirdja^{1*}
Lecturer Professor -A-
Faculty of Law, El-Oued University
Khirdja-miloud@univ-eloued.dz

Dr. Hafdallah abdellali ²
Assistant Professor -B-
Faculty of Law, El-Oued University
hafdallah-abdellali@univ-eloued.dz

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Abstract:

The professional and personal project represents a critical field within the education system, as it enables students to form their professional project by choosing an appropriate specialization that reflects their intellectual abilities, preparedness, propensities, and skills. Given the swift scientific progress and cultural and economic shifts, the professional orientation must keep up with these changes to cultivate the student's professional choices.

Keywords: Personal project, professional project, cultivating the student's choices.

ملخص:

يعتبر المشروع المهني والشخص أحد أهم المجالات في النظام الدراسي، كونه يعتمد عليه الطالب في بناء مشروعه المهني من خلال، اختيار التخصص المناسب مع قدراته العقلية واستعداداته وميوله ومهاراته، ومع التطور العلمي والتغيرات الثقافية والاقتصادية المتسارعة، أصبح لزاما على التوجه المهني مسايرة هذا التطور من أجل تربية الاختيارات المهنية للطلاب. الكلمات المفتاحية: المشروع الشخصي، المشروع المهني، تربية الاختيارات لدى الطلبة.

Introduction:

* Dr. Miloud Khirdja.

To gain a deeper understanding of the professional project, we must first talk about the concept of the project. There are several different definitions of the concept of the project that stem from divergent approaches based on different fundamentals and are composed of diverse philosophical and cognitive perspectives.

This concept has undergone transformation, where it has been borrowed from the field of architectural engineering, industrial and commercial enterprises, and services into several other fields, such as educational, pedagogical, and even professional.

The term "project" is relatively new in French, having emerged in the 15th century from the philosophical movements that advocated for individual freedom and responsibility for one's actions in order to improve oneself.

It didn't acquire its current meaning until the 20th century, where it experienced significant expansion in France during the 1970s and 1980s. One of the psychological origins of the concept of the project, centered on the human dimension of behavior, was introduced in Boudinet's Professional Defensive Theories in the early 1980s.

There was an increasing interest from the French Ministry of Education in the educational project, leading to the issuance of eight ministerial decrees and 13 instructions on the educational action project between 1979 and 1984. In 1989, the Orientation Act mandated that all educational institutions implement the institutional project¹.

This sparked discussions on the community project, institutional project, pedagogical educational projects, personal and professional projects. Given the aforementioned topics, one may ask: what is the role of personal and professional projects in shaping students' choices?

To answer this, the study is divided into two following main themes:

First theme: The personal and professional project and its major determinants.

Second theme: Stages of Project Preparation

Third theme: The role of professional projects in developing students' choices and the major obstacles that impede them.

First theme: The personal and professional project and its major determinants

Students face a complex decision-making process when selecting their academic or careers, as they must consider their academic aptitude and potential, alongside their career aspirations. The social development institution acknowledges that numerous influencing determinants and factors contribute to a student's decision-making process when choosing their field of study. By means of it, one can ascertain their future profession. This may be determined by personal factors pertaining to the student themselves, academic achievements, familial factors, and other aspects of the profession in question. Further details will be discussed later on.

Firstly: Types and Dimensions of Projects

1. Personal Project

A personal project for a student is psychological-educational whereby it is personally adopted and psychologically and emotionally accepted, tied to a larger future perspective, and everyone works together to assist the individual in realizing it through practical implementation. The project is considered personal if the individual is actively involved in its creation.

2. Professional Project

This refers to the students's conceptualization and definition of the type of studies they want to pursue, the kind of formation they accumulate, and the type of employment they wish to practice in the future. These visions are gradually developed throughout their academic and formative paths.

This means they are based in future outlooks and ultimately stem from a desire to achieve self-actualization through reaching the individual's objectives, provided that they adapt this to various stages².

Secondly: Determinants of the Professional Project

The determination and development of a student's professional project is affected by various representations, including those pertaining to the student personally, those related to the academic side, those related to the nature and characteristics of the student's family, and also by the nature of the profession the student wants to pursue in the future.

Below are the most important determinants that highly influence the formation and development of the student's professional project.

1. Personal Determinants:

Some of the most notable include:

- **Mental Abilities:**

Abilities are an essential determinant that assists individuals in planning and setting goals they aspire to achieve. They provide a particular framework for individuals to work within where they can utilize their abilities. Abilities determine what is feasible and what is not. They comprise a combination of basic physical and mental skills necessary for working in various occupations and activities.

- **Propensities and tendencies:**

Propensities are the interest or attraction towards a specific matter. These interests involve talking about the subject, becoming absorbed in it, and being compelled to pursue it, making significant efforts with great enthusiasm. We are attracted to what we lean towards, and these propensities evolve and grow with time and are affected by the environmental factors that either strengthen or weaken them.

Excelling in a certain mental ability as a student does not always indicate triumph in the field that relies on that ability unless accompanied by a propensity to pursue that same track. The student's performance in particular academic subjects will be influenced by their propensity and tendency towards them.

- **Preparations:**

Uncovering the potential abilities of the student aids in determining the most fundamental preparations that can be developed through training, thereby increasing the likelihood of foretelling their future success in particular profession more than others.

2. Academic Achievements:

Academic excellence in certain subjects is considered a crucial factor for success in the field of specialization, given the close relation certain

professions and specializations have with academic, scientific, or technological subjects.

3. Family Determinants: Some of the most notable include:

- **Attributes and Characteristics of the Student's Family:**

The family plays a significant role in child-rearing, forming their habits and values. Through their family, the students gain numerous experiences that prepare them to respond positively or negatively to future experiences.

- **Parental attitudes:**

The attitudes and support provided by parents to develop certain behavioral techniques have a deep impact on forming and nurturing their child's propensities. As the child grows, the influence of parental attitudes decreases in importance, as the child is exposed to external factors beyond the family³.

4. The nature of the profession the student intends to pursue in the future: some examples include:

- **Incentives and possibility of promotion:**

The presence of incentives and advantages in a profession usually plays a significant role in directing university students towards a specific field, thus enabling them to build their future professional projects accordingly.

- **Additionally, studying a variety of professions:**

Is extremely important in expanding a student's knowledge of the business world and helping them to explore different possibilities for their future rather than being limited to a single option from the start.

The second theme: Stages of Project Preparation

The student's professional project passes through a range of stages, which the student must respect in order to choose the specialization they wish to study, and then choose the profession they desire to pursue. There is a complementary relationship between the academic and professional projects, and several stages can be summarized as follows:

Firstly, The stage of thinking about the project:

At this stage, the student is creating the project idea and researching its feasibility and priority. Factors that the student considers when choosing project priorities include:

- How well the idea supports the project's goals and mission.
- Whether the project satisfies the student's psychological needs.
- The student's capabilities and willingness to achieve the desired outcome.⁴

Secondly: Project Planning Stage:

This stage is when the project moves from being just an idea to a work plan that is created to achieve its goals and satisfy its desires and objectives, through the use of the necessary resources.

In general, planning is thinking about the future and preparing for it, and outlining what needs to be done to accomplish it within a specific time period. Personal and professional planning refers to the professional vision that the student aims to achieve by providing all the means necessary to attain it and satisfy their psychological desires⁵.

Thirdly, the subject monitoring stage:

This stage involves monitoring the material and human resources required for the successful implementation of the professional project. Human resources consist of the student's family on whom they rely to assist in selecting a specific specialization. The student's family can have a positive or negative effect on their choice of specialization and, as a result, their future job selection. Financial resources refer to the money necessary for the student to pursue their studies, including tuition fees, private lessons, purchasing books and publications, and other necessities that aid in their education.

Fourthly: Project Implementation Stage:

The success of this process is dependent on the previous stage, which is good planning, as it eases the implementation of the project and guarantees control over the different stages of its achievement. This stage encompasses the execution of various activities required by the project based on the pre-

defined plan, while adhering to set deadlines and ensuring the desired quality of the project outputs.⁶

Fifthly: Evaluation Stage:

Ultimately, an evaluation is carried out to verify that the personal and professional project is progressing in the right direction, and if any issues arise during project implementation, they can be addressed by addressing the most crucial gaps.

The project's evaluation should center around comparing it with previous stages and identifying the key results achieved. One of the biggest issues facing professional and personal projects is the failure to attain the desired outcomes, leading to a dead-end. Accordingly, if there is a way to overcome these obstacles and continue the project, it is necessary to do so in order to achieve the proper results, which involve fulfilling human psychological needs.⁷

Third theme: The role of professional projects in developing students' choices and the major obstacles that impede them

Regardless of whether a student is in secondary school or university, one of their main focuses is to create a personal and professional project that enables them to fulfill their desires, drive their ambitions, and express their psychological and social identity through it. However, certain problems may hinder their ability to choose an academic and professional project, such as social issues, economic issues, or familial problems, which we will discuss in-depth in the future.

Firstly: Definition of Personal and Professional Project

It is the process of motivating the student to take responsibility and think about their future as a personal project. The personal project is an interactive process that embraces psychological, educational, social, and cognitive dimensions. It is an opportunity for the individual to interact with their environment, express themselves, prove their existence, identify their role, and determine their personal and social identity within the context of the content of this personal project, as every project is ultimately an idea.

Therefore, it can be concluded that an individual's personal project (as a university student) is an opportunity to engage creatively with their future and open themselves up to new prospects by identifying themselves and their environment and setting a clear goal and an approved plan to achieve it. This plan should incorporate forecasting and providing vital resources and measures to accomplish their endeavors fully.⁸

Secondly: The importance of the professional project

Self-Esteem: Self-esteem refers to an individual's ability to retain ambition and respect for themselves, which drives them to achieve their goals and pursue excellence and perfection. Positive interactions occur between an individual's self-esteem and their level of ambition, and by achieving and building their professional project, they satisfy the needs that once caused them anxiety and stress.

- **Psychological Needs Satisfaction:**

These needs hold great importance in an individual's life and achieving them results in happiness and contentment.

- **The need for excellence and control over things:**

people, and ideas, and the effort to gain approval and a respected position are vital components⁹.

Thirdly: Challenges faced the professional project

- **Academic obstacles:**

One of the most significant obstacles young people encounter at the beginning of their professional journey is academic challenges. This refers to the field of study that a student may choose to pursue in higher education and subsequently leads to professional challenges. Studies have concluded that a considerable percentage of young people experience concerns regarding their future, especially upon finishing their university education.

- **Economic and professional obstacles:**

Among the pressing issues that students encounter, the economic and professional obstacles are the most critical, especially in Algerian society. The absence of economic development projects and job opportunities, coupled

with no foresight for future career development, weigh heavily on the minds of prospective graduates.

- **Social obstacles:**

By this we mean family problems and the challenges that students face in the early stages of their lives from problems within their immediate environment, which they have known and been part of since their birth, namely their family. This includes the laws enforced by the family, the differences in opinions between generations, and the living conditions the student experiences within their family. All of these factors can have an impact on the student's choices of academic specialization and future career paths¹⁰.

Conclusion:

Based on what is presented, it can be said that the personal and professional project has become a successful tool in evaluating individuals' abilities and predicting their future prospects. It is an activity that covers all individual and collective aspects of life and has become a necessary pursuit for all members of society, particularly students, who represent the elite class. Through their evaluation of abilities and readiness to pursue a certain major, students can achieve their desired profession. The aim of the personal and professional project is to fulfill students' psychological needs and ensure their future success.

Firstly: Results:

1. The personal project is a psychological vision of a professional future that the student endeavors to realize through the provision of necessary resources.
2. The personal project has now come to encompass all members of society at various academic and social levels, making it an effective means of evaluating individuals' self-efficacy and predicting their future prospects and potential for success.

Secondly: Suggestions:

1. Examining some of the challenges that impede students from realizing their professional projects and ultimately leading to a dead-end, such as familial, social, or economic difficulties.
2. Empowering university students to take ownership of their personal and professional projects as they are considered the elite of society.
3. Encouraging families to carefully consider the appropriate specialization for their children as they play a significant role in guiding and educating their choices for building their professional project.

margins:

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