

## A study about impact of classmates in college studies period

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### Abstract

Classmates have a more important influence as they have a significant impact on child's behaviour and his attitude, performance and success in college. Students spend much time at college; classmates have many things in common such as age, interests, classes and experiences. So, they discuss their impressions, solve problems together, learn their field work, gain new knowledge, experience and even make their own discoveries. Sharing all these makes them closer. In addition, they tend to copy each other's habits and manners, shared their dreams and exciting moments. This paper presents research work about the influence of classmates in college studies period.

**Keywords:** classmates, subject stream, career field

### Introduction

Classmates are regarded as people studying in same class, have similar age group, belonging same thinking level. There is no significant difference in profile of students as classmates. They promote independent thinking, self-confidence and self-dependence. Classmates form a group of fairly close friends sharing the activities. They develop a sense of responsibility and help themselves to build a sense of identity. They provide each other an opportunity to interact, emotional support and sense of belonging. They prepare a platform to discuss problems, share information and practice of social skills. Teens learn that they aren't alone in feeling scared and insecure and others have problem too. When classmates are influenced by each other they adopt a particular type of behavior, dress and attitude.

These days' students spent much time in company of friends, peers as compare to family. The upcoming gadgets, smart mobile applications as whats app, face book, twitter, instagram, linkedin bring them much closer. They enjoy, share much more with them. Hence, irrespective of their mode of residing they come under influence of class mates easily. Being of same age they have same questions, problems or same vision differ from parents, teachers. Sometimes they feel happy to share their views with friends rather than parents.

Classmate's influence each other in taking decisions also. Generally students select subject stream, study institute, coaching and field of career in influence of each other. Classmates help each other to decide mobile, vehicle, wrist watch, dresses etc. Teenagers influence each other in fulfillment of hobbies also. Participation in college events also depend on classmates circle. Dress pattern, fashion styles, attitude are also influenced by group. Their attitude becomes style of college. Other student groups also follow them.

To observe classmate groups, the parents should develop strong communication with their children to discuss their problems openly at home. The educational institutions should provide opportunity in form of debate/ discussion/ group talk to students to discuss their views openly. The parents should know friend circle of their children. Teachers should assign constructive projects/ assignments to keep students busy in positive way. A group of classmates formed for developmental work helps members in personality development. Difficult works become easy with the help of each other.

### Methodology

200 govt. and private college students of Katni district of Madhya Pradesh were selected randomly for study. Girls and boys both were included in data. They were interviewed regarding their classmates and their impact. A questionnaire was prepared having questions related to impact of classmates in various aspects. Student data is categorized into two categories as rural and urban further it is divided for male and female. To find impact of classmates on subject stream selection, students were asked why they have opted current subjects. Students who selected subject stream because of impact of class mates were calculated for each subject separately as humanity, commerce, computers, management and science. Similarly data found regarding career field selection due to classmate's impact is classified into 5 classes as administrative, academic, marketing, designing and self-employment. To found this data college students were asked that in which field they will make career and why? To get data related to selection of study institute, students were asked why they have selected this college. Colleges are divided into govt. and private college. Collected data is tabulated and converted into percentage for analysis.

**Finding and Analysis**

**Table 1:** Influence of Classmates on Subject Stream Selection

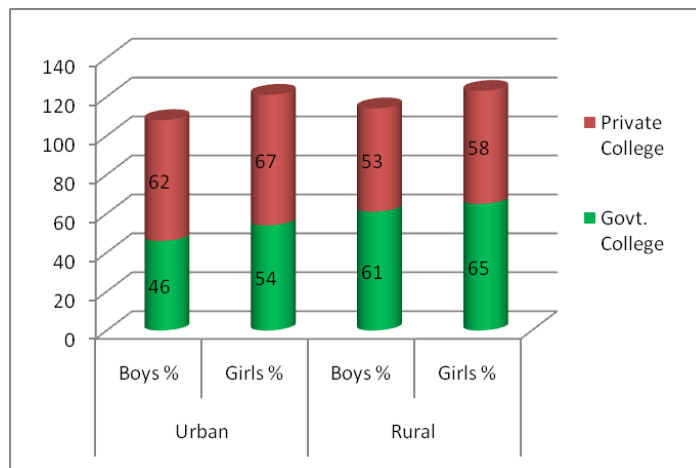
Subject Stream	Urban		Rural	
	Boys %	Girls %	Boys %	Girls %
Computer	53	57	59	61
Management	48	50	51	54
Commerce	61	64	63	65
Humanities	34	35	39	42
Science	42	44	46	49

**Table 2:** Influence of Classmates on Career Field Selection

Career Field	Urban		Rural	
	Boys %	Girls %	Boys %	Girls %
Administrative Job	34	29	30	24
Academic Job	41	44	47	51
Marketing Job	37	31	41	30
Designing Job	32	28	28	31
Self-Employment	44	16	46	12

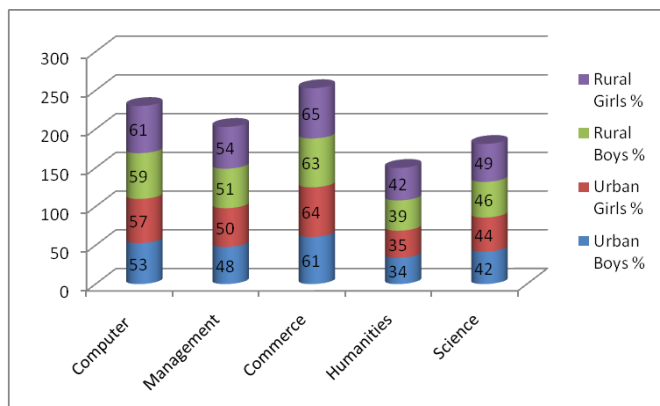
**Table 3:** Influence of Classmates on Study Institute Selection

Study Institute	Urban		Rural	
	Boys %	Girls %	Boys %	Girls %
Govt. College	46	54	61	65
Private College	62	67	53	58

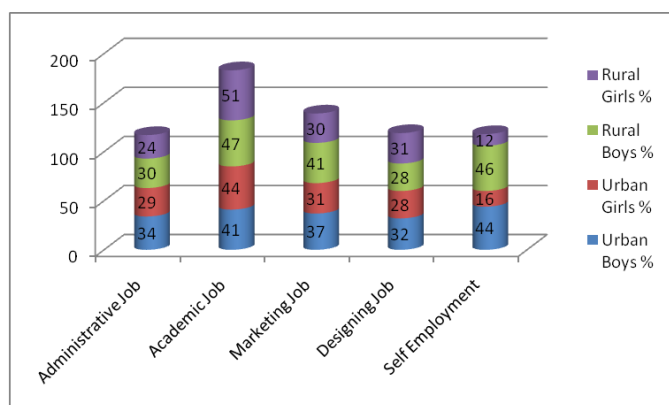


**Fig 3:** Influence of Classmates on Study Institute Selection

Data of table-1 shows that follow up of classmates is higher in rural girls and lower in urban boys. Impact of class mates is found greater in case of selection of commerce subject. Data of table-2 indicates that classmate influence is lower in case of rural girls for self employment as it is just 12%. Impact of classmates is observed larger for academic job opted by rural boys. College selection related data exhibits that influence of classmates is higher in urban girls to choose private college i.e., 67% and lower in urban boys i.e., 46%.



**Fig 1:** Influence of Classmates on Subject Stream Selection



**Fig 2:** Influence of Classmates on Career Field Selection

**Conclusion**

Classmate influence is significant among college students. Large no. of students select subject stream, study institute, career field under influence of their classmates. If classmates group is keenly observed by parents and teachers then group may work effectively in positive direction. Classmates group provide opportunity to each member, help every member to understand difficult topics, to solve field assignment problems, to apart adolescent hesitation, to support each other in developmental context.

**References**

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