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About Presenters:

Ms. Rhonda Divecha is an Assistant Professor at the Nirmala Niketan College of Home Science, Mumbai, India where she teaches in the Senior College and guides Post- Graduate Students' Research Dissertations. She specializes in the fields of Psychology and Human Development. The subjects she has been teaching include among others, Social Psychology; Development in Adulthood; Issues in Early Childhood, School and Special Education; Psychological Assessment: Theory and Practicals; Practicals in Counselling (where career guidance and career counseling feature in the latter two), for which she constantly develops innovative teaching methodology using Learning Theories and Multiple Intelligences. Besides teaching, she conducts workshops/ seminars for Degree and Polytechnic students of several colleges, as well as for parents and other adult groups. Her research interest areas include Media Influence on Children, Learning Disabilities, Self-Perceptions and Innovations in Teaching Methodology, in which she has presented and published several papers.

Ms. Krupa Umesh Bhatt, a student of Nirmala Niketan College of Home Science, is currently pursuing her Masters in Human Development. Being in this field of Human Development has given her many opportunities to grow, know herself, her strengths and weakness. Her interest area in research is understanding the perception of the concept of work among preschoolers.

Ms. Rinku Gala is currently pursuing Master's Degree in Home Science (Human Development). Human Development is a field which studies individuals from conception to death, covering all the developmental domains. This course has been divided into two parts. Her current course content includes theory subjects: Advanced Research in Human Development; Advanced Family Studies; Human Exceptionality; and practical work involving Research as well as Supervision of the under-graduate students. Her area of interest in research is Health Psychology and in that she is currently studying 'Quality of Life, Coping Strategies and Coping Effectiveness of Caregivers of Individuals with Parkinson's Disease.' Her interests include drawing, painting, reading (fiction), and listening to music.

Ms. Ushna Vora is currently pursuing her Masters in Human Development from College of Home Science, Nirmala Niketan. She has done her graduation in B.Sc. in Human Development specialization in Early Childhood Care and Education from Sir Vithaldas Thackersay college of Home Science. As a part of her course she has to complete a dissertation and her research topic is "Awareness, Attitude and Use of Hookah among Adolescents". She plans to open and run a remedial centre.

Title of Paper: Perception of Work among Preschoolers

Abstract:

This paper encompasses the varying perceptions that preschool children (3 to 6 year olds) have towards the world of work/concept of careers /occupations both from the theoretical perspective as well as from available research. Parents and teachers are often amused by the daily changing decisions made by preschoolers when asked what they would like to become when they grow up. Often within the same week or even day, they shift from wanting to be a doctor to a pilot or a zoo-keeper. Perception of work among preschoolers centers on their experiences with parents and other adults they consider significant to themselves. Activities and events in which they participate, both in their school as well as outside, as well as media influences also play a role in their perceptions and fantasies with regard to the world of work. Understanding these fantasies is of major importance during this stage of development as they act as the foundation for decisions made subsequently. Recent advances in career theory have resulted in widespread acceptance of the lifespan perspective on development. Although several theories like that of Donald Super, John Holland, Ann Roe, Ginzberg, etc., focus briefly on the early years and cover mainly the later years, they have been used in this paper to explain this process in preschoolers. These theories have been supplemented by developmental theories like those of Freud and Erikson; cognitive theories by Piaget and others; and by learning theories given by Bandura, Krumboltz, etc. Finally, guidelines have been given for parents and teachers to enhance preschoolers' awareness and understanding of work roles in the community around them. The paper has immense value for those in the fields of Early Childhood care and Education; Child Development; career counsellors understanding the choices individuals make; as well parents and teachers who may be unaware of the significant way in which their interactions with children have an impact on those same children's later choice of a career.