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About the Presenter:

Maxim Pereira, after Post –graduate Studies in Counselling Psychology pioneered a Counselling Centre (in Goa) working with individuals, couples, families and groups. Since a year, he is a Lecturer and counsellor at Montfort College, Bangalore. He is involved in teaching and training students of Counselling Psychology at the Post-graduate level. He sees individual clients of all age groups, couples and families for counselling at the Family Counselling Centre attached to the above institute. Family Counselling and HIV/AIDS counseling are his areas of specialization. Spirituality and Environmental Protection are his other interests/passions. His educational qualifications include M.Sc. Psychology from University of Madras, PGDHRM from Karnataka State Open University, Mysore, M. Sc. Counselling Psychology from Bangalore University, Certificate Course in Family Therapy from NIMHANS, Bangalore, and Master Trainer – HIV/AIDS Counselling – GFATM, Round 7, from Bangalore University.

Title of Paper: **When to decide about a career? A case study of the influence of parental guidance on career choice**

Abstract:

Career choice is becoming increasingly a complex issue these days with a wide variety of options available. Should parents direct the child in choosing the career, and does the conduct influence in making right career choice?

Background

A 13 year old boy from urban middle socio-economic class studying in 7th standard, who was suspended from the school for conduct problems, was brought for counselling by the mother. After collecting the background information about the boy, the family etc. from the mother, the whole family was interviewed once and the boy too was seen for a few sessions, until the revocation of the suspension by the school, leaving the options for further counselling sessions open.

Career Choice

Among other issues around the presenting problem, one significant dimension was career planning at even at this stage of development.

The client was an average student academically. He was into sports like golf, swimming and basketball which was encouraged by the parents. His parents were Post-graduates in Science. His mother was into same job since the beginning in the field of her qualification. His dad had switched jobs 3 times in the science field and currently was into own business of production and marketing of some specialized building material. His older sister had taken an aptitude test after her 10th standard and based on the same had opted for Commerce stream in her I.P.U.C (11th Std.). Moreover, according to his parents, he was brilliant at troubleshooting any mechanical problem in an automobile/electrical gadget, like though he did not know to drive, he would intuitively work at fixing the problem in the car.

Observations

- His parents did not have a clear and definite goal for the future of their child. They were supportive of any of his career choices – be it a sportsperson like a Golfer, or anything else.
- The boy wanted to be successful in life. He mentioned that though he likes sports and though his father did tell him that to be a golfer he should play in a tournament, he did not want to choose sports as his career. His vague idea was that he should do MBA Studies.
- His bad conduct resulted in his suspension from the school.
- He is in his last class in the primary level.

Conduct and, parental guidance and career choice - questions for thought

- When is the right time for choosing a career?
- Does conduct influence in choosing a career?
- Does bad conduct thwart one's selection of career of one's choice?
- Should the parents guide the child to focus on his/her choice of career than merely providing different options?