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About the Presenters:

Dr. Kamini Rege received her Ph.D. in Home Science [Human Development] from the University of Mumbai, where she researched in the area of Home-School Partnership (parent involvement in preschools and primary schools), in 2010. She is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Human Development at the College of Home Science Nirmala Niketan affiliated to University of Mumbai, India. She has developed innovative techniques for introducing curriculum, such as Developmentally Appropriate Practices, Early Childhood Education as a tool for learning and creative expression through role play, anecdotes demonstrations, workshops and hands on experience for the graduate and post graduate students. She has guided research students and presented several research papers and posters at the National and International level in the area of Early Childhood Education, Parenting, Marriage and Family Relations, Celebrating Festivals and Multiculturalism, Innovative Teaching Techniques etc.

She has been a consultant to several institutes and organizations associated with teacher training and education and deeply involved in the development of policy, programming and planning for young children. She has associated herself as a member of multiple organizations, such as AECED (Association for Early Childhood Education and Development) HSAI (Home Science Association of India); Bal Shikshan Parishad; ARAHE (Asian Regional Association for Home Economics) etc.

Title of Paper: “When I grow up, I want to be ...” An examination of pre-school children’s orientation to the world of work

Abstract:

Dreams are hard to grasp at the best of times. But what's the harm in trying? What did you dream of doing? What do you want to be? Ask kids what they want to be when they grow up, and you're likely to get a chorus of colourful—and improbable—responses. A 2007 survey of several hundred



children between the ages of 5 and 12 revealed Spider-Man was the number one job choice among kindergartners. And why not? Childhood may be the only time when a fulfilling career as a princess or rock star seems easily within grasp. But by the time adulthood rolls around, most of us find ourselves settling into far less glamorous occupations (Ewalt, 2008).

Kids usually have a pretty good idea of what they want to be when they grow up, and no idea at all how much those jobs get paid. According to Donald Super (1953) developmental theorist, this could be the result of the psychological characteristics of this life stage that includes childish innocence or fantastic imaginations. Perhaps as they grow older, most kids are in for repeated heartbreak for example when they realize how hard ballerina jobs are to come by, and when they find out what dancers (<http://www.bookofodds.com>, 4th July 2010).

The developmental approaches indicate that awareness of work and career unfold in steps and stages following clearly defined developmental milestones (Super, 1990). There is very little in the Indian literature that provides information on how orientations to career develop over the life span. This study focuses on the early years and attempts to explore the following: a) to ascertain the type of profession/career that the Indian preschooler (4 ½ - 5½ years) is imagining him/ herself and the reasons for this preference; b) to explore the preschooler's understanding about what the benefits (e.g. how much money) that imagined career/ profession will offer them c) to recognize the influence of role models on preschoolers' perception of work (mother, father or any significant other) for choosing the imagined profession and d) to compare the differences in orientation to work of preschool children from lower and upper socio-economic status homes. The sample will consist of a matched group 20 preschool children, drawing 10 individuals each from lower and upper socio-economic status homes. Socio economic level would be defined by the income level of the family. Children with an understanding of English and Hindi languages will be selected. A questionnaire comprising close-ended and open-ended questions tapping the above mentioned objectives will be administered through a face-to-face interview. Children will also be asked to draw/ sketch/ illustrate/ describe their "Dream Job" on a sheet of paper and this will be labelled with their comments about the same. The data will be analyzed quantitatively and qualitatively. This paper will be relevant to those who are interested in viewing career development as integral to the lifespan of human development. It is anticipated that this data will contribute to considering models new models for career development.