

**Name of the Researcher -** Deepti Dhawan

**Name of the Supervisor -** Dr.Jessy Abraham

**Department –** IASE

**Title of the Study -** “A study of the influence of ICT Competencies on Life Skills in relation to Vocational Preference of Higher Secondary Students.”

**ABSTRACT-** In the age of Information and communication technology and technological advancement, “Which Child for What Job” is the real issue for all. Vocational choice has been a complex science with the advent 21<sup>st</sup> century skills like ICT competencies, Life skills, emergence of post industrial evolution and job competition. The problem of choosing a vocation is a critical problem of today. Development in science and technology has caused manifold specialization in every field than ever before. The students need to learn the 21<sup>st</sup> century skills like Life skills and ICT competencies in order to deal with this crucial period of decision making weighing pros and cons and dealing with the sources of information and communication technology. The objective of the study was to study and compare the 11<sup>th</sup> class boys and girls on Life skills, ICT Competencies and Vocational preference. The study also explored the influence of ICT competencies and Life Skills on Vocational preference of higher secondary students. 400 science stream students (200 girls+200 boys) of class 11<sup>th</sup> constituted the sample for the study. The data collected was quantitatively analyzed through the statistical techniques of t test, Analysis of variance (one way and two ways) and Scheffe test.

The findings of the study revealed that the majority of science stream 11th class students of private schools, situated in North Delhi, have medium level of ICT competencies. 11th class boys and girls were found to be differed in ICT competencies. It was explored that the majority of 11th class science stream students of private schools, situated in North Delhi, have medium level of Life Skills. 11th class boys and girls were found to be differed in Life skills . It was also found that the boys possessed better life skills than girls. Significant difference was also found at .01 level, between the mean scores of Life skills of 11th class boys and girls. The study revealed that there was significant difference between boys and girls of 11th class students in all the dimensions of life skills. The result showed that boys and girls differed significantly at .01 level in all the dimensions of Life Skills viz. Decision making, Problem solving, Self awareness and Critical thinking. The boys were found to be better in all the dimensions of life skills. There was no significant difference at 0.05 level between the mean scores of Vocational preference of 11th class boys and girls. However in the areas of Vocational preference viz. Literary, Scientific and Executive vocational areas boys and girls differed significantly at .05 level. In household vocations boys and girls differed significantly at .01 level where as in the vocational areas such as commercial, constructive, artistic, persuasive and social areas, boys and girls did not differ significantly. The results revealed that the 11<sup>th</sup> class boys were found to prefer more of Executive and Scientific areas whereas girls were found to be more inclined towards Literary and Household areas. No significant difference was found between the Vocational preference of different Life skills groups (of dimensions) of 11<sup>th</sup> class students. Thus the study revealed that the dimensions of Life skills viz. Decision making, Problem solving self awareness and critical

thinking do not influence significantly the vocational preference of 11th class students. Life skills of low ICT, medium ICT and high ICT groups of 11th class students differed significantly. Significant difference was found at 0.05 level between the Life skills of different ICT groups of 11<sup>th</sup> class students. Life skills of low ICT, medium ICT and high ICT groups of 11th class boys differed significantly. Thus it can be concluded that ICT Competencies has significant influence on Life Skills of 11th class boys. Life skills of low ICT, medium ICT and high ICT groups of 11th class girls differed significantly. Thus it can be concluded that ICT Competencies has significant influence on Life skills of 11th class girls. No significant interaction effect of ICT competencies and Life skills was found on vocational preference of 11<sup>th</sup> class students.