

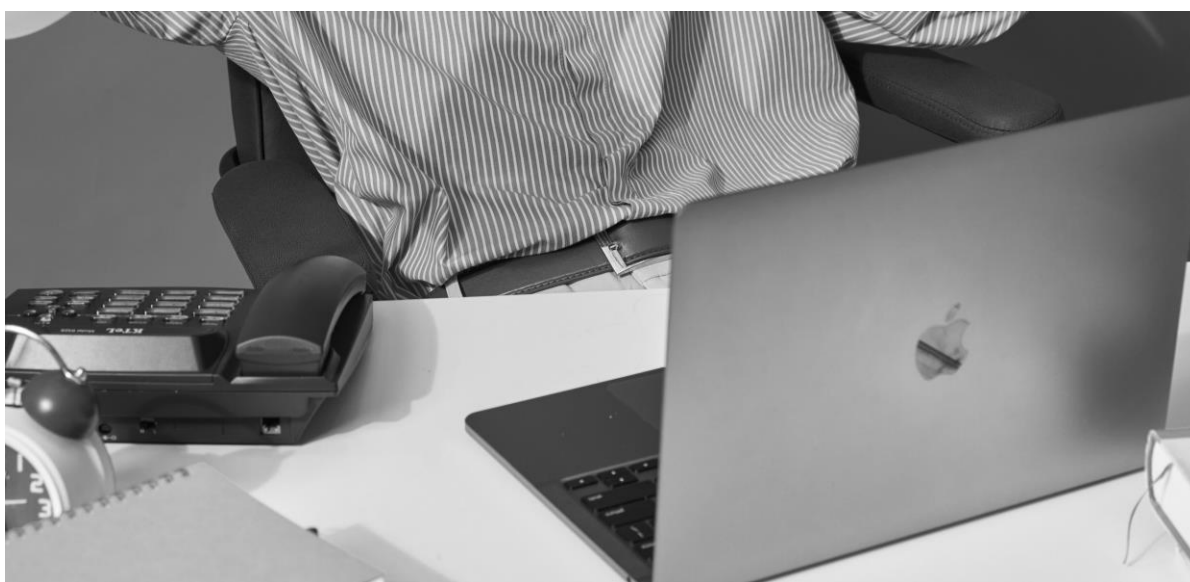


WHO DO YOU WANT TO BE IN THE FUTURE?

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Career Choice Difficulties Among Generation Z Adolescents

Abstract

This article analyzes the increasing complexity of the career choice process among modern adolescents. It

The findings indicate that young people are increasingly interested in multiple fields simultaneously, which makes it



examines the uncertainties experienced by representatives of Generation Z when selecting a future profession, as well as the influence of the internet, social media, and technological development on their decision-making.

more difficult to define their future profession with a single word.

Keywords:

Generation Z, career choice, adolescents, internet, social media, technology, globalization.

Introduction

The question “*Who do you want to be in the future?*” has long been a common question asked of adolescents. In the past, answering this question was relatively straightforward: some aspired to become doctors, others teachers or engineers. However, many adolescents today find it difficult to respond to this question with a single-word answer.

One of the main reasons is that modern youth are growing up in a far more complex and rapidly changing environment compared to previous generations. In particular, members of Generation Z (approximately those born between 2007 and 2013) are growing up in a period characterized by the widespread development of the internet and digital technologies. These factors significantly influence their way of thinking, interests, and perceptions of the future.



Main Causes and Factors

1. Development of the Internet and Technology

One of the most influential factors shaping adolescents' worldview is the rapid development of the internet and technology. Today, young people can access almost unlimited information online. While this allows them to explore many different fields, it can simultaneously make the process of choosing a single profession more challenging.

2. Social Media and Globalization

Social media platforms such as Instagram, YouTube, Telegram, and Snapchat experienced rapid growth between 2005 and 2015.

Through these platforms, young people are exposed to success stories from different parts of the world. As a result, their interests may change frequently, making long-term career decisions more difficult.

3. Changes in Learning Methods

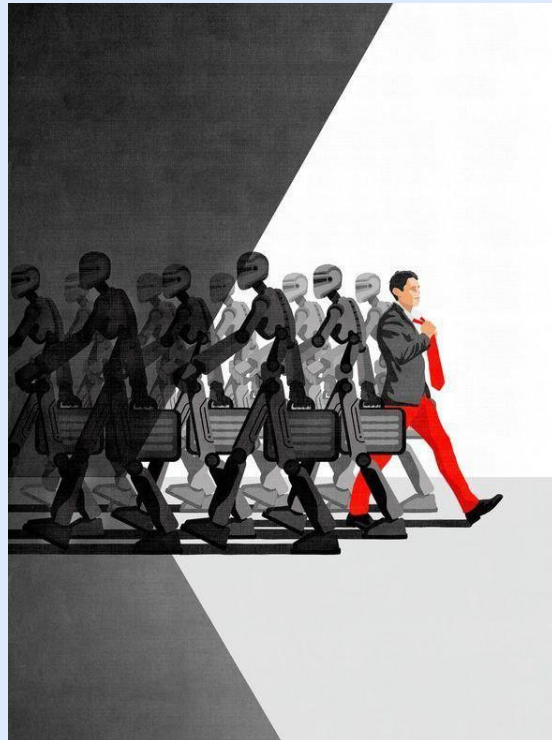
Previous generations primarily acquired knowledge through libraries and traditional educational systems. In contrast, today's adolescents increasingly rely on online platforms such as YouTube and other digital learning environments to independently explore topics of interest. This provides them with broader exposure to various career paths.



Differences Between Generations

Research conducted in public universities located in the TR61 region of Turkey also demonstrates significant differences among generations. The study revealed notable variations among Generation X, Y, and Z in areas such as expectations of fairness, achievement motivation, and the need for comfort in the workplace.

The research involved 228 *participants from Generation X*, 360 *participants from Generation Y*, and 477 *participants from Generation Z*, and the data were collected through an online survey (Sarıkaya, Uzunbacak & Akçakanat, 2024).





Career Choice

Difficulties

Contemporary adolescents often express interest in several fields simultaneously. Since they are still in the process of personal development and self-discovery, identifying a single future career path can be challenging.

Furthermore, the rapid advancement of technology is leading to the disappearance or automation of certain professions. This situation encourages

particular career will remain stable in the future.

In addition, the vast amount of information available on the internet can divide young people's attention among many different areas. As a result, they may struggle to focus on one specific field for a long period of time.

Research Findings

Within the scope of this study, a survey was conducted to identify the

indicated that many respondents expressed a desire to gain knowledge in multiple fields simultaneously.

One respondent stated:

“I want my life to be meaningful and filled with diverse experiences.

Therefore, learning several professions is important for me.”

This statement reflects the tendency of modern youth to pursue multidimensional personal and professional development.



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results

Conclusion

Modern adolescents are growing up in an environment with significantly broader access to information and opportunities than previous generations. While the internet and social media provide extensive knowledge about various professions, they also make the process of selecting a single career path more complex.

Therefore, it is important to provide adolescents with guidance during the career selection process, support the development of their interests, and encourage them to gain deeper knowledge in specific fields.

References

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