





offers 28 major occupations and an open-ended item on the first preferred occupation, whether stated among the main 28 occupations or not with all the possibilities of 3 choices, yes, no, and not decided. In the next section, there are ten items about school and schoolwork with 4- Likert scale, strongly agree, agree, disagree, and strongly disagree. In the final section, there are three items about the time to start working, before or after completing high school or after college and university. The CEAQ, therefore, measures different key aspects of schooling, educational and career desires along with demographic and contextual areas to allow collection of wide information on participants and their aspirations. For the purpose of this study, only some of the career related items are presented and discussed.

#### IV. RESULTS, DISCUSSION, & CONCLUSION

A large convenient nationwide sample of 5320 students from grades 8, 10, and 12 included in the study. The governmental school administrators, mainly principals who delegated communication to social workers or teachers who were responsible of facilitating activities such as this, agreed to have their school participate in the study and routed the questionnaire packets to be distributed to students in all or selected classes on grades, 8, 10 and 12. The Ministry of Education, delegated to the Educational Zones in the seven Emirates in the UAE granted the permission to collect the data from selected governmental public schools, which are segregated, into boys and girls schools.

TABLE 1.  
RANKED ORDER OF PREFERRED TOP CAREERS

#	Job	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Engineer	662	15.90%
2.	Police	603	14.50%
3.	Doctor	493	11.80%
4.	Pilot	351	8.40%
5.	Army, navy, air force	316	7.60%

Table 1 above indicates the future five top job preferences by all participating students of 28 jobs stated in the CEAQ instrument in descending order. The three top jobs included two of top jobs , engineer and doctor (15.90% & & 11.80%, respectively), that are similar to results of previous studies. Engineering is STEM job. This result is not unusual for students at this age where interest and actual ability to achieve such interest are not correlated. However, it is interesting to know that both boys and girls at the middle and secondary levels, in the UAE, are interested in becoming engineers, police officers and doctors. In particular, the high interest to become a police is indicated by both boys and girls as seen as a lucrative job with many benefits in the country.

By applying the paired test, to know if there is a difference in students' responses about deciding for themselves or influenced by others such as parents, family, it is found that there is significant difference between the two ideas. Students

preferred to depend on themselves in selecting their future job and were open to advice from others. By introducing the gender factor in this part we found result as in table 6 below which indicated equal opinions from boys. Yet, girls showed more independence on deciding about future careers.

TABLE 2  
MEANS OF OPINION ON DECIDING FUTURE JOB BY GENDER

Gender	Advice from others	Students' own thinking
Male	3.33	3.32
Female	3.16	3.42

The majority of UAE boys and girls equally decide on their own future jobs and can accept advice from others. Yet, there was not a significant difference regarding gender, Table 2, and only girls showed slightly preference on deciding for themselves when it comes to the interest in future jobs. However, in contrast, according to [9] Afro-Caribbean students found to shy away from science, and preferred to pursue degrees in the social sciences.

While most of the findings of the career aspirations are not far from those findings indicated by international research studies, the Emirati students seem to be influenced by other societal realities by indicating preference of other jobs such as police, army forces, and business, as many of their parents and others pursue such jobs. The desire of the STEM related jobs is still shay which may be affected by limited lack of awareness of such jobs, programs, and career counselling. In conclusion, as indicated by [2] that with such challenges, the Emirati youth will continue to follow step of their fathers and close role models.

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