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## ‘Making career choices early is denying opportunities to the child’



V.P. Niranjana Aradhya

While coaching centres seem to be luring parents to enrol their children early, V.P. Niranjana Aradhya, fellow at the Centre for Child and the Law, National Law School of India University, Bengaluru, speaks of the need to allow the child to develop all their faculties at least till class twelve so that they are better equipped to make their own career choices.

### **Is it necessary for parents to push their child for coaching classes at such a young age?**

At class six, the child will have limited understanding of concepts... training the child will only encourage learning by rote. Imposing this on children at such a young age will be a burden on their psychological and mental health. Unfortunately, the education system has been reduced to a rat race.

It would be appropriate to join these classes at class nine, when the child can understand and build some kind of reasoning and think critically.

**Can students concentrate on what is taught in school and also cope with what is taught at these coaching centres?**

It is very difficult to strike a balance between the two and the child will be burdened. This will also leave the child with hardly any time for leisure and entertainment. Until class twelve, students need to be taught all subjects and topics so that all their faculties develop and they are free to make career choices later.

**What are the disadvantages of making career choices early?**

If a person is pushed to engineering or science streams by their parents early, they would hardly explore sports, music, drawing and other arts courses. This goes against the multiple intelligence theory, which states that each child has different potential. Making career choices early is denying opportunities to the child.