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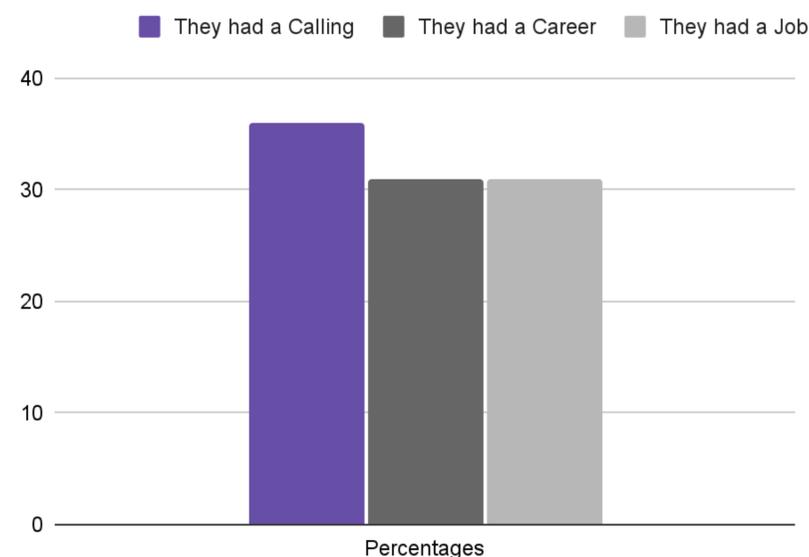
Introduction

Family influence has been shown to be related to one’s career development. Family members may convey both intended and unintended messages about what constitutes a meaningful career (Marks et al., 2018).

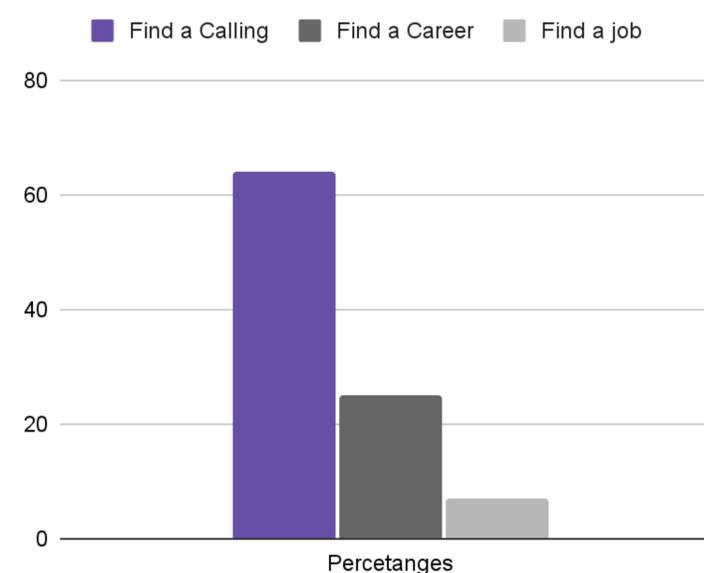
Past research has explored how parents’ influence affect their children’s decisions, however, none have focused on how the specific work-related messages and modeling behaviors affect their children’s levels of meaning and calling as adults.

This study looks at the possible roles that parents play in their children’s reported presence and pursuit of meaning and calling.

Modelling perceived from Parents



Message perceived from Parents



Results

One-way analysis of variance (ANOVAs) were conducted to test mean differences across the three groups (parents' message of calling, job, or career)

Significant group differences were revealed for:

- **Search for calling** ($F[2, 144] = 6.08, p < .01$)
- **Presence of calling** ($F[2, 144] = 6.66, p < .01$)
- **Presence of meaning** ($F[2, 144] = 7.86, p < .01$).

No significant group differences across calling or meaning were found when looking at mean differences among modeling from parents.

Discussion

Results indicate that the message that children perceive about their work futures has a significant impact on reported presence of meaning,

What parents modeled seemed to have no effect on their children regarding their presence of/search for meaning and calling while in college.

This is perhaps a positive message as parents have more ability to change the message they give than their own work reality.

According to this study it seems to be the message that matters.

Methods

- **Participants:**
 - 147 undergraduate students from Introductory Psychology courses.
- **Measures:**
 - Calling and Vocation Questionnaire
 - Meaning in Life Questionnaire
 - Message received from parents: 3-items created by the researchers.
 - Modeling from parents: Three paragraphs on Job, Career, and Calling adopted from the Wrzesniewski et al., 1997 study.

So what mattered when it came to student reported meaning and calling?

Message Was Everything.

Students that perceived the message that they should do what they loved (find a calling) ended up with higher scores for Presence of Calling, Presence of Meaning, and Search for calling.



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