

"Who are you?" - To such a question, a first thought is to answer with occupation. "I'm a lawyer", "I'm a doctor," "I'm an astronaut" - there are few choices in our lives that in such a comprehensive manner determine who we are or even what we feel we are. The choice of profession is therefore unique in many ways. Admittedly, the decision is taken in high school, but also undeniably it becomes a turning point in the lives of virtually everyone.

What are the drivers of the choice of profession? Why do we want to be a dancer and not a scientist? A doctor and not a firefighter? While there are possibly many factors, in economic theory it is assumed that the decision is based on two pieces of information: the cost of acquiring education and future earnings. If we were all alike, the logic of this model implies we would all choose the same profession. But we are not - we differ in ability to learn various subjects and acquire specific skills, finally we also differ in how productive we are at many tasks.

Although the theoretical model shows the way, to achieve highest gains for individuals and economy at large - perfect assign of people to occupations in practice does not happen. Not everyone who has the ability to perform very complex work has the means to learn them. Some workers are (sometimes even at the level of education) discriminated against because of characteristics that do not affect their productivity, for example due to gender or race. These factors have already been at the interest to economic research.

This study takes a different starting point, focusing on internal factors, most notably: preferences. So far, majority of the literature takes the preferences as given, a "black box". Yet, preferences are not something we are born with, but rather an outcome of formation during childhood and adolescence. They are thus undoubtedly affected by parents.

Our study will inquire the extent to which parents' example and beliefs have an impact on the shaping of preferences and, consequently, the choice of occupation by youth. Parents listening, watching and giving advice build an image of the world. Why this mechanism may be important? It affects the perception of costs and benefits evaluated at the moment of choosing the profession.

Analyzing the impact of parents on children's career decisions seem particularly relevant to the so-called. "problem of self-selection". When we look at the labor market and then who goes to which the profession, we can easily extract the professions dominated by men and those dominated by women. So the question arises: whether the distribution stems from preferences or maybe influenced by other factors? The labor market is changing - both men and women are increasingly opting for professions traditionally reserved for representatives of the other sex. This would suggest that differences in preferences are not only nature, but also nurture. At the same time the gap in participation, in some professions still remains wide. Moreover, women often choose lower paid professions, resulting in the wage gap between women and men. From this perspective, exploring the mechanism of formation of the professional preferences seems not only interesting but also important from the point of view of development.