

Educational Aspiration of Secondary School Students in Relation to Gender and Location

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Abstract

The purpose of the study is to investigate educational aspiration of secondary schools students, to explore whether there is any difference in educational aspiration of male and female students and to find out the difference between urban and rural secondary school students with regard to educational aspiration. The descriptive survey method is used with total sample of 570 students. The research is conducted in Udalguri district of Assam, India in which the sample used were secondary school students of class-X. Level of Educational Aspiration Test of Yassmin Ghani Khan is used for collecting data. For analyzing the data percentage, mean, standard deviation and t-test are applied. The study revealed that there is significant difference between male and female students with regard to educational aspiration and there is also found significance difference between urban and rural students with regard to educational aspiration.

Keywords: Educational Aspiration, Secondary, Gender, Location.

INTRODUCTION

Educational aspiration means level of education which an individual wants to reach. Educational aspiration has played very important role in the field of education. Success in education cannot be evaluated properly without the knowledge of educational aspiration. It reflects the idea of an individual. What they would like to become, what they would not like to become, all are reflected on educational aspiration. Therefore educational aspiration has strong positive effects on educational attainment of the students.

Educational aspiration is important from social perspective also. It includes courses like medicine and engineering, science and technology, civil services, social sciences to sculpture, tailoring to trade and so on. There are various factors that influence educational

aspirations. Byrne (2014) concluded that the factors are educational intentions, attitudes, academic performance, parental expectations, student background, peer plan and appear to be particularly influential factors in young people's educational choices.

Mudaliar Commission of 1952-53 has realized the importance of secondary education. The Commission suggested four aims of secondary education - (a) development of democratic citizenship, (b) improvement of vocational efficiency, (c) development of personality, and (d) development of qualities of leadership. After that the Kothari Commission of 1964-66 recommended that education should relate it to the life, needs and aspirations of the people and make it a powerful instrument of social, economic and cultural transformation necessary for the realization of national goal.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Saikia, P. (2017) made a study on 'A Comparative Study on Educational Aspiration of Tribal and Non-Tribal Higher Secondary Students in Sonitpur District of Assam'. The study aimed at comparing the educational aspiration of the tribal and non-tribal higher secondary students. The sample was consisted of 100 students. The investigator used stratified random sampling technique to select the students. Level of educational aspiration test scale developed by Yasmin Ghani Khan was used for collecting data. The data were analyzed with the help of percentage and t-test. The study showed that there was no significant difference between tribal and non-tribal students in their educational aspiration.

Senthilselvam, S. and Subramonium, G. conducted a study on 'Level of Aspiration Among Higher Secondary Students of Coimbatore District.' The study intended to investigate the level of aspiration among higher secondary students. Descriptive survey method was used in the study. The sample was of 150 students. The results show that boys, students from urban area, joint family, Arts discipline NCC students and whose parents are having college level education have better level of aspiration.

Chawla, Mamta. (2018) studied entitled "A Study of Educational Aspirations of Secondary School Students in relation to their Achievement Scores." The main objective of the study was to explore the significant relationship between the educational aspirations and achievement scores of secondary school students. In the study stratified and simple random sampling method has been used to select the sample. 200 students were taken randomly as

sample. It was found that there exists a moderate degree positive correlation between educational aspirations and academic scores of secondary school students

Rajesh, V.R. and Chandrasekaran, V. (2014) studied on 'Educational Aspirations of High School Students. The main objective of the study was to explore the Educational Aspirations of high school students in relation to certain personal and demographic variables. The sample consisted of 300 students selected from Chennai city. Educational Aspiration Test developed by Yasmin Ghani Khan was used to collect the data. The study revealed that significant difference in high school students' educational aspirations with respect to their gender, class studying, medium of instruction, residential locality, and type of family and occupation of mother.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Educational aspiration is the key factor of one's educational life of the students. It directs the students towards their career related goals. The students in secondary stage of education are the adolescents. Aspirations are beginning to develop in this stage. Educational aspiration of the students is influenced by different factors. Environmental factors like parental ambitions, social expectations, peer pressure, culture, social value, competitions influence educational aspiration. Educational aspiration is also influenced by gender and locality. The students in this stage have different needs, interests and expectations related to educational aspiration. They are facing new challenges in their life. The way in which they form their aspiration affects their behaviour. The need of the present study lies that whether educational aspiration of secondary school students differs in relation to gender and location of the school.

OBJECTIVES

1. To study educational aspiration of secondary school students.
2. To find out the difference between male and female secondary school students with regard to educational aspiration.

3. To find out the difference between urban and rural secondary school students with regard to educational aspiration.

HYPOTHESES

H₀₁ There exists no significance difference between male and female students with regard to educational aspiration with regard to gender.

H₀₂ There exists no significance difference between urban and rural students in educational aspiration with regard to location.

OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS OF THE KEY TERMS

In the present study the following terms have been used:-

Level of Aspiration

In the present study level of aspiration refers the expected level of achievement of the secondary school students.

Educational Aspiration

Educational Aspiration in the present study refers to the total score obtained by the secondary school students on standardized scale of Level of Educational Aspiration scale prepared and standardized by Yasmin Ghani Khan in 1999.

Secondary School students

In the present study the students of class-X were considered.

DELIMITATION OF THE STUDY

The present study is delimited in the following way:-

1. The study will be delimited to class X students (Assamese medium) studying in provincialized secondary and higher secondary schools in the year 2017-18 both urban and rural area under SEBA.
2. Only the HSLC Examination passed students under SEBA of the year 2018 are considered.
3. The study will be delimited to Udalguri district only

METHODOLOGY

The researcher used descriptive survey method in this study. This method has been used because it includes collecting the data, process of measurement, classification, analysis, comparison and interpretation of the data.

POPULATION

In the present study all the students of class-X of secondary schools (Assamese medium) of Udalguri district constitute the population. The total number of govt. /provincialized secondary and higher secondary school (Assamese medium) is 67; total number of students is 2850.

SAMPLE AND SAMPLE SIZE

To study educational aspiration of the students, disproportionate stratified random sample was preferred. In the present study 20 schools i.e. 30% from total 67 Govt. as well as provincialized secondary schools were selected as sample for present study. The sample is consisted of 570 students (20% of the total population).

TOOLS USED IN THE STUDY

In the present study the following tool is used for the purpose of collecting data.

1. **Level of Educational Aspiration Test (for Students):-** The Level of Aspiration Test for Students developed and standardized by Yashmin Ghani Khan.

PROCEDURE OF DATA COLLECTION

The investigator personally visited the selected schools for collecting data from the students.

STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES

In the present study the following statistical techniques have been applied for analyzing and interpretation of the collected data:

- (1) Mean (2) Standard Deviation (3) t-test and (5) Graphical Representation (6) Simple percentage

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Objective 1: To study educational aspiration of secondary school students.

Table-1

Percentage distribution of level of Educational Aspiration scores of secondary school students

Variable	N	Scores	Level of Educational aspiration	No. of students	Percentage
Educational Aspirations	570	Above 22	High	219	38.42%
		15-22	Average	254	44.56%
		Below 15	Low	97	17.02%

Interpretation:

Table-1 has shown that out of 570 students, 38.42% students possess high level of educational aspiration, which means they all want to complete their academic goals and highly realistic to define it. 44.56% possess average level of educational aspiration, which are realistic, normal, well adjusted and optimistic. Again 17.02% have low level of educational aspiration, which shows that they are unrealistic, carefree towards their academic achievement. It can be concluded that the number of students who possess average educational aspiration is higher than that of the other two categories. It can also be concluded that the combined percentage of high and average category shows that 82.98% of entire secondary students are realistic, normal, well adjusted and optimistic. This table is shown in the fig-1.

Percentage of level of Educational Aspiration Scores of secondary school students

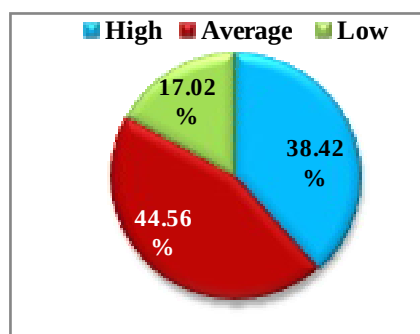


Fig-1 Showing the percentages of the students of different categories in case of educational aspiration.

Table-2
Mean and Standard Deviation of Students on the basis of
Different levels of Educational Aspiration

Levels of Educational Aspiration	No. of Students	Mean	Standard Deviation
High	219	25.62	1.91
Average	254	19.04	2.35
Low	97	12.99	1.32
Total	570	20.53	5.00

Interpretation:

The mean value and standard deviation for the students who have the high level of educational aspiration is 25.62 and 1.91 respectively. The mean value of the average level of educational aspiration is 19.04 and standard deviation is 2.35. Again the mean value for the students of low level of educational aspiration is 12.99 and standard deviation is 1.32. It is found that the mean value for the total students is 20.53 and the standard deviation is 5.00. It can be concluded that the students as a whole have obtained average level of educational aspiration. It can also be concluded that the students are realistic, normal, well adjusted and optimistic

Objective-2: To find out the difference between male and female secondary school students with regard to educational aspiration.

H₀ There exists no significance difference between male and female students with regard to educational aspiration.

Table-3
Percentage Distribution of Level of Educational Aspiration
Scores of Male and Female Students

Scores	Levels of Educational Aspiration	N		Percentage	
		Male	Female	Male	Female
Above 22	High	91	128	31.93%	44.91%
15-22	Average	143	111	50.18%	38.95%
Below 15	Low	51	46	17.89%	16.14%
	Total	285	285	100 %	100 %

Interpretation:

From the table-3 it has been seen that the percentage of male students in high level is 31.93% whereas female student is 44.91%. On the other hand, the percentage of the male students (50.18%) who possess average level of educational aspiration is higher than female students (38.95%). Again the percentage of male students in low category (17.89%) is higher than the female students (16.14%). The combined percentage of high and average category of female (83.86%) is higher than the combined percentage of male (82.11%). Hence it can be concluded that the level of aspiration of female students is better than male students. It can also be concluded that female students are realistic, normal, well adjusted and optimistic than male students. This table is shown in the fig-2.

Percentages of Level of Educational Aspiration Scores of Male and Female Students

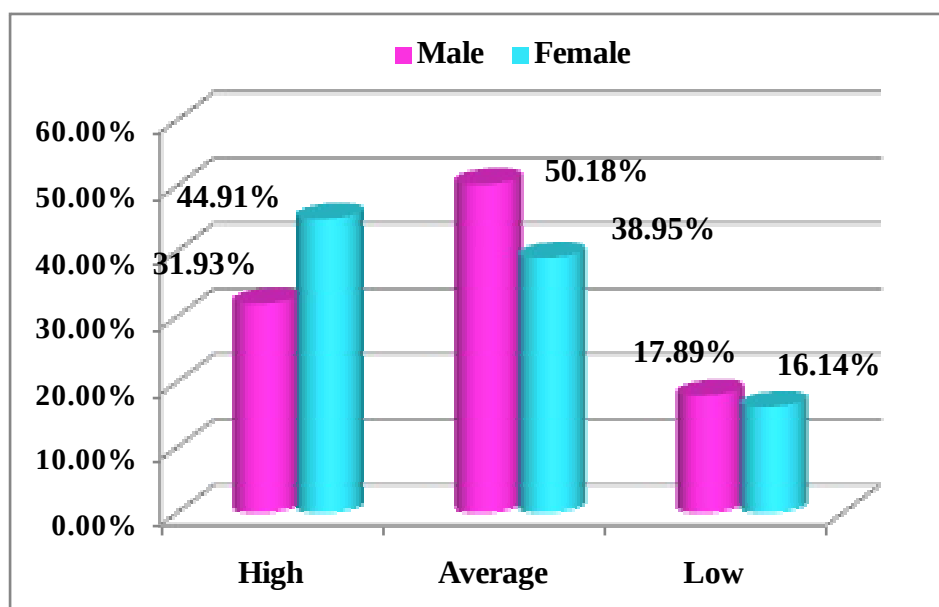


Fig-2 has clearly shown the percentages of the students of different categories in case of level of aspiration of male and female students.

Table-4

t-value of Educational Aspiration Scores of Male and Female students

Variables	Sex	N	Mean	Standard Deviation	Std. Error Mean	t-test
Educational Aspiration	Male	285	19.98	4.95	0.29	2.64 S
	female	285	21.08	5.01	0.30	

S= Significant

Interpretation and Testing the Hypothesis

From table-4 it has been found that value of Mean is 19.98 and SD is 4.93 in case of educational aspiration of male students. Again the table has also shown that the value of Mean is 21.08 and SD is 5.01 in case of educational aspiration of female students. From the obtain t-value (2.64), it has been found that this value is significant at both the level (5% and 1%) of level of significance as the table value is 1.96 at 5% and 2.58 at 1% level of significance. So it is save to interpret that there is significant difference between male and female secondary school students in case of educational aspiration. Therefore the null hypothesis 'there exists no significant difference between male and female students with regard to educational aspiration' can be rejected.

Objective-3: To find out the difference between urban and rural secondary school students with regard to educational aspiration.

H₀2 There exists no significance difference between urban and rural students in educational aspiration with regard to location.

Table-5

**Percentage Distribution of Level of Educational Aspiration
Scores of Urban and Rural Students**

Scores	Levels of Educational Aspiration	N		Percentage	
		Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
Above 22	High	64	155	32%	41.89%
15-22	Average	94	160	47%	43.24%
Below 15	Low	42	55	21%	14.87%
	Total	200	370	100 %	100 %

Interpretation

From the table-5, it has been seen that the percentage of urban students in high level of educational aspiration is 32%; which means they are highly realistic. Average educational aspiration is 47%; which means they are realistic and normal. The combined percentage of the two is 79%. Again the percentage of rural students in high level is 41.89% who are highly realistic. The average level is 43.24% i.e. they are realistic and normal. The combined percentage is 85.13%. On the other hand 21% urban and 14.87% rural students are found in low level of educational aspiration which means 21% urban students and 14.87% rural students are unrealistic, carefree towards academic achievement. It can be concluded that rural students are better than urban students in their level of educational aspiration. It can also be concluded that rural students are realistic, normal and optimistic than urban students. This table is shown in the fig-3

Percentages of Level of Educational Aspiration Scores of Urban/ Rural Students

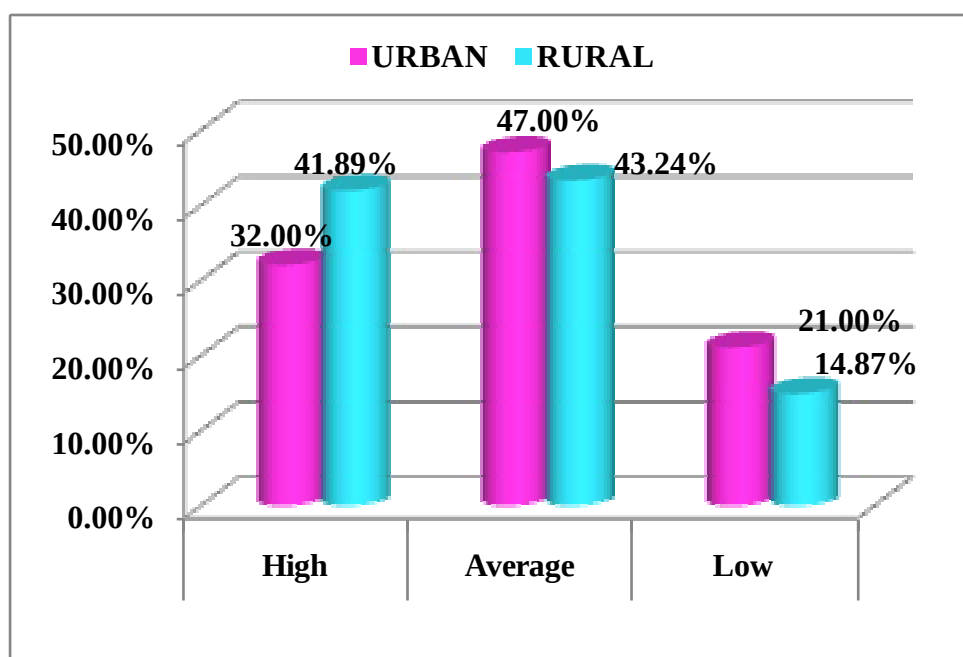


Fig-3 has clearly shown the percentages of various categories in case of educational aspiration of urban and rural students.

Table-6
t-value of Educational Aspiration Scores
of Urban and Rural students

Variable	Category	N	Mean	SD	Std. Error Mean	t-test
Educational Aspiration	Urban	200	19.76	5.05	0.36	2.71 S
	Rural	370	20.95	4.93	0.26	

S = Significant

Interpretation and Testing the Hypothesis

From table-6, it can be observed that the mean value of urban students and rural students are 19.76 and 20.95. The values of SD are 5.05 and 4.93 respectively in educational aspiration of the students. Again, the t-value of urban and rural students in case of educational aspiration is 2.71 which is significant at both 5% and 1% level of significance as the table value is 1.96 at 5% and 2.58 at 1% level of significance. Hence it is save to interpret that there is significant difference between urban and rural secondary school students in their educational aspiration and the null hypothesis 'there exists no significance difference in educational aspiration of secondary school students on the basis of location' can be rejected. It can be concluded that there is difference between urban and rural secondary school students in educational aspiration in Udalguri district.

Findings of the Study

1. The study revealed that a large number of students have average educational aspiration.
2. It has been found that 82.98% of entire secondary students are realistic, normal, well adjusted and optimistic.
3. The study also revealed that educational aspiration of female students is better than male students. It has been also found that female students are realistic, normal, well adjusted and optimistic than male students.
4. The study revealed that there is significant difference between male and female secondary school students in case of educational aspiration.

5. The study also revealed that rural students are better than urban students in their level of educational aspiration. It has been found that rural students are realistic, normal and optimistic than urban students.
6. It has been found that there is significant difference between urban and rural secondary school students in their educational aspiration.

Results and Discussion

On the basis of findings of the study it has been found that significant difference between male and female secondary school students in case of educational aspiration. Singh, Y.G. (2011) also found that sex influenced the educational aspiration level. Another major finding of the present study gets support from the study conducted by Talwar, V. (2006). He also found that rural students of arts and science group had better educational aspiration than the urban and sub-urban students.

SUGGESTIONS AND FUTURE RECOMMENDATIONS

The investigator has felt that the various aspects of education which may be the causes of low educational aspiration should be improved. Special measures should be taken for the development of urban schools. The investigator hopes that the present study will create awareness among people, concerned authorities towards educational aspiration. The students should try to make self-assessment and try to understand the causes of low educational aspiration. So the students should be encouraged for better educational aspiration.

CONCLUSION

From findings of the present study the investigator has felt the need to improve the conditions of the various aspects of education which may be the causes of low educational aspiration of the students. Awareness should be created among the parents of students about the psychological traits of their wards. The parents should be careful and give more attention, co-operation and facilities for their children which will be helpful to improve their aspiration level.

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