

A Comparative Study of Level of Aspiration of Senior Secondary School Students with Respect to Their Personal Background

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Abstract: Level of Aspiration (LOA) is an individual's future expectation or ambition. It refers to the estimate of one's failure in a given task. The aim of this study is to know the aspiration level of senior secondary school students in relation to their personal background. The descriptive survey method was applied in the study. The sample was included 100 students from three senior secondary schools of Kashipur block of Udham Singh Nagar, Uttarakhand by stratified random sampling. Mean, SD, t-test & f-test were used to analyze the data. In conclusion it was found that all students of three schools do not differ on aspiration in relation to educational institution & gender.

Index Terms - Level of Aspiration, Senior Secondary School Students, Personal Background

1.0 Introduction

Aspirations begin to be shaped early in child's life, but are modified by experience and the environment. Aspiration means a strong desire to achieve something high or great. Aspirations, however, usually can not the achievement of something high or great. These also address both present and future perspectives. A great deal of individual variation is found with regard to goal setting behaviour. Mehta and Pant (1985) studied influences of residential status, sex, socio- economic status, father's education and occupation, intelligence and scholastic achievement on level of occupational aspiration of adolescents & found the strong indication of sex differences on level of occupational aspiration in favours of girls among both semi- urban and urban students.

Like other psychologist phenomena, motivational factors are important in directing one's behaviour consciously and make him strive to perform certain types of activity in order to achieve a desired goal. Everyone wishes to reach a desired goal or excellence in performance and in doing so; he or she sets a desire for distinction which has an inner structure known as 'Level of Aspiration' (LOA). Looker and Thiessen (2004) examined the educational aspirations of 15-year-old Canadian youth. A two-stage sampling design was used, of schools and students within schools. Study found gender effect on educational plans: girls perform better in school and have higher educational aspirations.

The concept of 'level of aspiration' was first of all introduced in 1931 by Dembo, One of Lewin's student, in the course of an experimental investigation of anger. The first experiment directed toward the analysis of the level of aspiration—a translation from German word 'Anspruch & Niveau' was performed by Hoppe in 1930. It is now a familiar concept to the psychologists, educationalists, sociologists and others and having been the topic of extensive discussion and experimentation in this last quarter of the 20th century.

Hoppe defined the 'level of aspiration as a person's expectations, goals or claims on his own future achievement in given task'. On the basis of experimental analysis, Hoppe found that a given performance is accompanied by a feeling of failure if it falls below the LOA and a given performance is accompanied by a feeling of success if it goes above the LOA. Level of aspiration is defined as a psychological construct which reflects a cognitive type of motivation of the individual. According to Sirin, Diemer, Jackson and Howell (2004), "Aspirations have been defined as the educational and vocational dreams that students have for the future." In the present study, it refers to the aspiration level of an individual as revealed by his total GDS, (Goal Discrepancy Score) it means the extent and

direction of the difference between actual score in the previous trial and expected score in the present trial. ADS, (Attainment discrepancy) it is the difference between expected score (aspiration) and actual score (achievement) on the same trial and NTRS (Number of Times the Goal Reach Score) on the 'Level of Aspiration Measure' developed by Mahesh Bhargava and Late Professor M. A. Shah. The study has been done on the senior secondary school students in relation to their personal background. Only 12th class students are considered as senior secondary school students & type of school & gender are considered as personal background of students.

In today's world of competition, there is not a single individual who is devoid of ambition in some or other form. Everyone seems to set their aspiration to a higher level than the previous experiences and tasks. The students studying in the schools today are future citizens and leaders of the country, so their aspiration level should be high and they should also be able to achieve it. In today's tough competitive time everyone should be motivated and aspired for new goals they have set for themselves. So the present study is focused on the aspiration level of the students of secondary schools, who will be the future leaders and citizens of the society. This study will be helpful in knowing the aspiration level of students and accordingly guidance & counseling should be provided for them.

1.1 Statement of the Problem:

"a comparative study of level of aspiration of senior secondary school students with respect to their personal background".

1.2 Objectives: - The present study has been designed keeping the following objective in view:-

To study the level of aspiration of senior secondary school students in relation to- type of school and gender.

2.0 Hypotheses:-

2.1 There exists no significant difference in different measures of aspirations of all students of government, public and non government schools.

2.2 There exists no significant difference in different measure of aspiration of girls & boys of all school.

3.0 Methodology: - The methodology section outlines the plan and method that how the study is conducted.

This includes Universe of the study, sample of the study, Data and Sources of Data, study's variables and tools and statistical procedure. The details are as follows;

3.1 Population and Sample

Population of the study was students studying in Government Inter College Pratapur Kashipur, Samar Study Hall Senior Secondary School Kashipur & Kisan Inter College Kundeshwari, Kashipur. Out of 3 selected schools of Kashipur, 33, 33, 34 students were selected from each school for study by applying stratified-random sampling technique. Thus sample of 100 students was selected. This was further subdivided into different categories.

3.2 Data and Sources of Data

This study has been done in Kashipur city situated in district Udham Singh Nagar Uttarakhand. For the present study primary data has been collected. From the 3 selected schools of Kashipur city in Uttarakhand 100 students were selected for the sampling.

3.3 Theoretical framework

In the present study Independent and Dependent variables are used. Independent variables of the study are gender and type of institution and dependent variable is level of aspiration of senior secondary school students.

For the collection of the data the research tool Level of Aspiration measure by Dr. Mahesh Bhargava & late Prof. M.A. Shah was used in the present study. It measures level of aspiration in terms of (a) Goal Discrepancy Score (GDS), (b) Attainment Discrepancy Score (ADS), and (c) Number of Times the Goal Reach Score (NTRS). Goal Discrepancy Score, which is obtained by subtracting the actual score on a trial from the expected score for the next trial. It is the difference between expected score (aspiration) and actual score (achievement) on the same trial and can be obtained by subtracting the expected performance from the actual performance on the same trial. This may be obtained by the number of times where the respondent's actual score is equal to or more than expected score.

3.4 Statistical tools

The data that have been gathered for the present study is of quantitative type. Hence, only quantitative approach of treating data has been used in the present context. Mean, SD, t-test and ANOVA statistical methods were employed for the analysis of data.

4.0 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Hypotheses 1:- There exists no significant difference in level of aspiration of students of government, non- government and public school in different dimensions of aspiration.

Table : 1 Summary of ANOVA on the measure on GDS

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	.281	2	.140	.010	Not significant
Within Groups	1348.529	97	13.902		
Total	1348.810	99			

It is clear from the result of ANOVA presented in Table – 1 that overall groups of all three school students do not differ significantly on GDS measure of level of aspiration. The F- ratio for this measure is .010 which is very low to reach the significance level. Thus value obtained from ANOVA clearly suggests that all the three groups of students from different schools aren't differing with each other on this measure of level of aspiration.

Hence our null hypothesis that there is no significant difference between all the school students is accepted. Now a days there is cut throat competition, prevailed in the society so if one wants to survive and wants to lead a respectable life, one has to do hard work and remain always aspired to achieve his goals. Therefore all the students are equally aspired to set their goals on the basis of their previous achievement.

Though not much research studies are conducted in line of the present study involving a comparison of level of aspiration among government, public & non- government school students, the results of few studies reported so far goes in the line of the present investigation. The present study reveals that there is no significant difference among the students of government, public and government school students. Earlier Pareek, D.L (1990) conducted a study on the self-concept, personality traits and aspirations of the adolescents studying in Central schools, state government schools and private schools in Rajasthan found that there existed no significant relationship between personality traits and level of aspiration among students from different types of schools.

Table : 2 Summary of ANOVA on the measure on ADS

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	6.342	2	3.171	.375	Not sig.
Within Groups	819.796	97	8.452		
Total	826.138	99			

From the table no. 2 it is clear that in case of ADS, another measure of aspiration the calculated f-value is less than the table value of 'f-test' at 0.05 level of significance. Hence there is no significant difference in the aspiration level of public, non government and government school students; therefore our null hypothesis is accepted in this case of aspiration.

The ADS measure of aspiration is obtained by subtracting the expected performance from the actual performance on the same trial. The results from the above table revealing that students are equally aspired on this measure of aspiration also.

Table 3 Summary of ANOVA on the measure NTRS

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	2.448	2	1.224	.194	Not significant
Within Groups	613.512	97	6.325		
Total	615.960	99			

On another measure of the level of aspiration, i.e., Number of Time Goal Reached Score, over all group differences is not significant. It is clear from the table no. 3 that the f value is far less than the table value of

f-test, so the null hypotheses that there exists no significant difference among different school students on this measure of aspiration is accepted and if any difference exists that is due to chance.

We can again say that because of today's competitive world all school students are equally aspired to reach their predetermined goals.

Hypotheses: 2 There exists no significant difference in different measure of aspiration of girls and boys of government, public & non-government schools.

Table no. 4 Summary of t-test on different measures of aspiration

Aspiration dimensions	Boys of all schools			Girls of all schools			t- value	significance
	M	SD	SE	M	SD	SE		
GDS	4.2	4.3	.60	3.57	3.0	.42	.90	NS
ADS	-2.3	3.0	.43	-2.1	2.69	.38	-.24	NS
NTRS	3.9	2.4	.35	4.1	2.5	.35	.31	NS

By evaluating table no. 4 it is clear that the boys and girls do not differ on different measure of aspiration. The calculated t values of both groups on GDS is .90, on ADS is .24 and on NTRS is .31, which is very low than the table value of t. So our null hypothesis that there is no significant difference between the two groups on different measures of aspiration is accepted. The reason behind this may be that now a days boys & girls are equally aware about their goals and not only boys but girls are also concerned for their future because of changing scenario of the society, in which parent's attitude towards girl child is changing. Now they treat both girls & boys equally.

The present study's result revealed that there is no significant difference among the girls and boys of three schools on different measure of aspiration. However the earlier study done by Dianne Looker and Victor Thiessen (2004) examined the educational aspirations of 15-year-old Canadian youth, study found gender effect on educational plans: girls perform better in school and have higher educational aspirations than boys.

Major Findings:

1. There is no difference among the aspiration level of all 3 types of school students on different measures of aspiration viz. GDS, ADS and NTRS.
2. There is also no difference between girls and boys of all 3 types of school on different measures of aspiration.

Conclusion:

From the above mentioned tables it is clear that all the students of 3 different schools are equally aspired. At the same time girls and boys are also same as far as level of aspiration is concerned. In today's competitive world there is cut throat competition, so if one wants to survive he must be highly aspired. Therefore in the schools there should be healthy competition to keep students in the race and to make them motivate for achieving high goals in their life.

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