

# A STUDY OF OCCUPATIONAL ASPIRATION AMONG THE UNDER GRADUATE FEMALE STUDENTS OF NAGAON TOWN OF ASSAM

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**Abstract:** To facilitate individuals for assuring respectable livelihood is the most important aim of education. Aspiration is the tip of reference which persuade the career pattern and the total life of the individual. Aspirations encourage superior achievements and performances. Occupational aspiration is an goal directed notion which includes idea of the self in relation to a particular level of occupational. The researcher in the present study tried to discover the occupational aspirations of the under graduate female students studying in Nagaon Town of Assam. Descriptive survey method was applied in this study to find out the occupational aspirations of the one hundred under graduate female students studying in Nagaon Town of Assam with the help of the Occupational Aspiration Scale developed by an expert educationist Dr. J. S. Grewal (1971). The study also depicted that there was no significant difference in the levels of Occupational Aspirations among the Under Graduate Female Students of Nagaon Town with respect to streams of study (Science, Arts and Commerce). Further it stated that there is significant difference in the levels of Occupational Aspirations among the Under Graduate Female Students of Nagaon Town with respect to the localities of residence (Urban and Rural).

## 1.1 Introduction

Among the main aims of education, to enable individuals for ensuring respectable livelihood is the most important one. Ascertaining livelihood in respectable manner can create self-respect and higher self-concept. It also assists to be an asset for their society. On the other hand, educated unemployment has become a severe problem. Even though different commissions and committees in India have recommended for connecting its education system with different vocations available in the country, educated unemployment has become a severe problem in India specially when it comes to the situation in Assam is not much different.

## 1.2 Occupational Aspirations

Aspiration is the point of reference which influence the career pattern and, ultimately the total life of the individual. Aspirations stimulate superior achievements and performances (Sherwood, 1998). Aspirations may be described as an individual's want to attain a status objective or goals such as scrupulous occupation or level of education (**Kao and Thompson, 2003; Mac Brayne, 1987**).

Occupational aspiration is an objective directed thought which includes conception of the self in relation to a particular level of occupational chain of command. Occupational aspiration is the opinions, thoughts, fantasies and ambitions that people possess about their occupations that shape their motivation and pronouncements in respect of their job-related choices or their successive involvement in their livelihood. (Haller **and Miller, 1967**)

## 1.3 Significance of the study

Occupational aspirations of female students in under graduate level are a critical ingredient for achievement in occupational outcomes and play an important role in the transition from graduation to employment or to marriage. They can prompt or impede educational and career planning, guide

learning, help organize life choices, and facilitate students' preparation for occupational life (Rojewski et.al., 2012). Degree education is an important stage wherein students begin to identify their aspirations. Therefore, it is imperative to ascertain the self-efficacy and readiness of the matured students to make adaptive career choices and set appropriate occupational aspirations. Setting occupational aspirations is an important developmental task for the female students who are on the threshold of entering into social life. It is a kind of orientation in which they are able to think, dream, and plan for their futures (Blakemore & Choudhury, 2006). Occupational aspirations tend to reveal career-related goals or choices that provide important motivational impetus for the success of educational pursuits and career orientations in the near future (Rojewski, 2005). However, students with higher qualifications may have numerous options when they consider the occupational aspirations such as type of job, type of sector, self-employment preference, perception to become a teacher, under-expectation of influencing factors in occupational choice, and so on. Nonetheless, studies on occupational aspirations of students in universities are far and few between. Hence, exploring what and how occupational aspirations of students with higher potentialities are more significant. It is assumed that the results of occupational aspiration among female students at this stage are helpful for students, teachers, parents and researchers.

In the present study, the researcher is interested in investing the occupational aspiration among the under graduate female students of Nagaon Town of Assam. The researcher in the course of the present study will try to discover the occupational aspirations of the under graduate female students studying in Nagaon Town of Assam.

#### 1.4 Statement of the Problem

Hence the present study is entitled as "A Study of Occupational Aspiration among the Under Graduate Female Students of Nagaon Town."

#### 1.5 Operational Definitions of Terms Used

##### a. Occupational Aspiration

Aspiration refers to the act of wanting and desiring which has intense personal significance. Occupational aspiration is concerned with occupation or profession regarding the students or any person of society which they would like to be in future.

##### b. Under Graduate Female Students

The female students studying in the Three Year Degree Course in different colleges of Nagaon town of Assam is considered as Under Graduate Female Students of Nagaon Town.

##### c. Nagaon Town

Nagaon (previously Nowgong), is a city and a municipal board in Nagaon district in the Indian state of Assam. It is situated 121 kilometres (75 mi) east of Guwahati.

#### 1.6 Objectives of the Study

- To study the level of Occupational Aspirations among the Under Graduate Female Students of Nagaon Town
- To study the level of Occupational Aspirations among the Under Graduate Female Students of Nagaon Town with respect to streams of study (Science , Arts and Commerce)
- To study the level of Occupational Aspirations among the Under Graduate Female Students of Nagaon Town with respect to localities of residence (Urban and Rural).

#### 1.7 Hypotheses of the Study

- There is no significant difference in the level of Occupational Aspirations among the Under Graduate Female Students of Nagaon Town with respect to streams of study (Science , Arts and Commerce).
- There is no significant difference in the level of Occupational Aspirations among the Under Graduate Female Students of Nagaon Town with respect to locality of residence (Urban and Rural).

## 2.0 Review of Literature

Early research reports that females aspire toward traditionally female occupations such as teacher, nurse, and secretary (Berman, 1972; Frost & Diamond, 1979), nursing, hairdressing, and clerical work (Furlong, 1986), or clerical, sales, and service positions (Looker & Magee, 2000; Powers, & Wojtkiewicz, 2004). Females have also been reported to have more restricted occupational aspirations than males and they are likely to aspire for the same kind of occupations irrespective of their stream of study (Furlong, 1986; Kenkel & Gage, 1983; Looft, 1971a, 1971b; Phillips, Cooper, & Johnson, 1995). Recent research, however, reports females more likely to aspire toward male dominated occupations and males less likely to aspire toward female dominated occupations (Alpert & Breen, 1989; Bobo, Hildreth, & Durodoye, 1998; Davey & Stoppard 1993; Francis, 2002; Wahl, & Blackhurst, 2000).

Change in female's aspiration toward well-paying, prestigious jobs has been linked to the women's movement of the early 1960's and 1970's (Shu & Marini, 1998) and reduction in gender segregation in occupations (Reskin, & Padavic, 1994). Because of their willingness to cross gender lines, females are entering prestigious occupations (Furlong, & Biggart, 1999), some of which require university degrees (Francis, 2002; Phipps, 1995; Rojewski & Yang, 1997). Ultimately, this has resulted in higher occupational aspirations for females than for males (Andres, Anisef, Krahn, Looker, & Thiessen, 1999; Apostol, & Bilden, 1991; Conroy, 1998; Dunne, Elliott, & Carlsen, 1981; Mau and Bikos, 2000; Rojewski & Yang, 1997). This attitudinal change in females does not seem to be culturally bound. In a study by Reyes, Gillock, & Kobus (1999) both male and female urban Mexican- American adolescents overwhelmingly aspired to male-dominated careers.

Noteworthy Starting in the 1970's, research studies on occupational aspiration of Hispanics found that they consistently expressed high occupational aspirations (Evans & Anderson, 1973; Kuvlesky & Patella, 1971; Kuvlesky, Wright, & Juárez, 1971; Marshall & Miller, 1977) but tended to hold lower expectations of achieving their aspirations than their Anglo peers (Evans & Anderson, 1973; Kuvlesky & Patella, 1971; Kuvlesky, Wright, & Juárez, 1971). In more recent research Yowell (2012) also focused on "conspicuous and concrete consequences of poverty as obstacles to the child's educational and occupational aspirations and expectations", including keeping children out of school to work in the fields or to take care of younger siblings. Other subtle consequences proposed by Gecas included such obstacles as not having enough money for school supplies, or being embarrassed about one's clothing, or not being able to understand the teacher due to cultural and language differences. Finally, factors such as limited life experiences (Arbona, 1990; Albert & Luzzo, 1999) and lack of opportunities (Kuvlesky & Juárez 1975) have been suggested as possible factors for this change in aspiration-expectation.

The researcher in the course of the present study will try to discover the occupational aspirations of the under graduate female students studying in Nagaon Town of Assam.

### 3.01 METHODOLOGY

Research methodology is a procedure which is helpful for researcher in the identification, selection, comparison, analysis and interpretation process of data.

### 3.02 METHOD

Descriptive survey method was applied in this study to find out the occupational aspirations of the under graduate female students studying in Nagaon Town of Assam.

### 3.03 POPULATION AND SAMPLE

The total population of the under graduate female students studying in Nagaon Town of Assam formed the universe of population. For this study a sample of 100 female students were purposively selected from three different colleges of Nagaon Town of Assam as per the convenience of time and money of the researcher.

**TABLE 1**  
**Sample of Students from the Different Colleges of Nagaon Town of Assam**

NAME OF THE INSTITUTIONS	NO. OF FEMALES
Nowgong College	40
Anandaram Dhekial Phookan College	25
Nowgong Girls' College	35
TOTAL	100

### 3.04 Tools Used

In the present study, occupational aspirations of the female students were calculated with the help of the Occupational Aspiration Scale developed by an expert educationist Dr. J. S. Grewal (1971). The present scale consisted of 80 occupational titles taken from the Dictionary of Occupational Titles of India.

### 3.05 Data Collection Procedure

The researcher went individually to each selected sample colleges of Nagaon district of Assam for gathering data with the help of the standardized tool applying on students.

### 3.06 Statistical Techniques Used

Collected data were tabulated and analyzed to realize certain inferences by applying some statistical techniques that were

1. Percentage
2. Mean
3. Median
4. Mode
5. Standard Deviation
6. T Test

## 4.1 Analysis and Interpretation of the Data

The data were analyzed and interpreted in the following ways:

### OBJECTIVES

- I. To study the level of Occupational Aspirations among the Under Graduate Female Students of Nagaon Town

**Table 2**  
**Occupational Aspirations among the Under Graduate Female Students of Nagaon Town**

Occupational aspirations	Number of sample	Mean	median	mode	Standard Deviation	Skewness	kurtosis
	100	1 6 2	1 6 5	1 6 2	- .7 8	-.113	17.80



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The table I reveals that the mean, median, mode, skewness and kurtosis of scores of Occupational Aspirations among the Under Graduate Female Students of Nagaon Town of Assam are found to be 161.84, 165, 162, -.784 and -.113 respectively with a standard deviation 17.8. The above table 1 shows that the value of skewness was -.784. Thus scores were negatively skewed and majority of Under Graduate Female Students of Nagaon Town of Assam scored high in SPSS 14 scale. Again the value of kurtosis for the sample was -.113 which was lower than the normal curve (.263). It indicates that the distribution was leptokurtic in nature i.e. more peaked than the normal curve.

- II. To study the level of Occupational Aspirations among the Under Graduate Female Students of Nagaon Town with respect to streams of study (Science , Arts and Commerce)

**Table 4.2**

**Level of Occupational Aspirations among the Under Graduate Female Students of Nagaon Town with respect to streams of study (Science, Arts and Commerce)**

Stream	N	Mean	Median	Mode	Skewnwss	Kurtosis	SD	F	remarks
Science	34	162	166	130	-.711	-.328	19.60	0.774	Not Significant (0.01 Level)
Arts	46	162	165	162	-.914	.323	16.67		
Commerce	20	160	167	177	-.711	-.326	19.60		

The table No 4.2 depicts that the mean, median, mode, skewness, kurtosis of scores and SD of the level of Occupational Aspirations among the Under Graduate Female Students of Nagaon Town with respect to Science streams of study are found to be 162, 166, 130, -.711 and -.328, with respect to Arts streams they are found to be 162, 165, 162, -.914, .323 and 16.67 and the same with respect to Commerce stream are 160, 167, 177, -.711, -.328 and 19.60. Thus scores show that all the distributions are negatively skewed and majority of female students scored high in the scale. Again the values of kurtosis for the sample were higher than the normal curve (.263). It indicates that the distribution was platykurtic in nature i.e. more flattened than the normal curve with respect to streams of study (Science, Arts and Commerce).

Again, the table No 4.2 also shows that the computed F value (0.774) was not significant. Therefore the null hypothesis that “There is no significant difference in the level of Occupational Aspirations among the Under Graduate Female Students of Nagaon Town with respect to streams of study (Science, Arts and Commerce)” is accepted.

- III. To study the level of Occupational Aspirations among the Under Graduate Female Students of Nagaon Town with respect to localities of residence (Urban and Rural)

Locality	N	Mean	Median	Mode	Skewnwss	Kurtosis	SD	t Value	Critical value at 0.05 level	Remark
Urban	33	170	169	142	-.815	-.461	19.60	6.3	2.18	S
Rural	67	171	168	145	-.926	.329	16.67			

**Table 4.3**

**Level of Occupational Aspirations among the Under Graduate Female Students of Nagaon Town with respect to locality of residence (Urban and Rural)**

Table 4.3 reveals that the mean, median, mode, skewness, kurtosis of scores and SD of the level of Occupational Aspirations among the Under Graduate Female Students of Nagaon Town with respect to locality of residence (Urban) are found to be 170, 169, 142, -.815, -.061 and 19.60 and with respect to locality of residence (Rural) are 171, 168, 145, -.926, .329 and 16.67. Thus scores show that all the distributions are negatively skewed and majority of female students scored high in both the localities of residence (Urban and Rural). Again the values of kurtosis for the sample were higher than the normal curve (.263). It indicates that the distribution was platykurtic in nature i.e. more flattened than the normal curve with respect to the localities of residence (Urban and Rural).

Again, the table No 4.3 also shows that the computed T value (2.18) was significant. Therefore the null hypothesis that “There is no significant difference in the level of Occupational Aspirations among the Under Graduate Female Students of Nagaon Town with respect to the localities of residence (Urban and Rural).” is rejected.

## 4.2 Findings and Conclusion

The study showed that the scores of Occupational Aspirations among the Under Graduate Female Students of Nagaon Town of Assam were negatively skewed as majority of Under Graduate Female Students of Nagaon Town of Assam scored high. It also reported that the distribution was leptokurtic in nature i.e. more peaked than the normal curve. The study also depicted that there was no significant difference in the levels of Occupational Aspirations among the Under Graduate Female Students of Nagaon Town with respect to streams of study (Science, Arts and Commerce). Further it states that there is significant difference in the levels of Occupational Aspirations among the Under Graduate Female Students of Nagaon Town with respect to the localities of residence (Urban and Rural). These findings were supported by Furlong, 1986; Kenkel & Gage, 1983; Looft, 1971a, 1971b; Phillips, Cooper, & Johnson, 1995 who concluded that the females are likely to aspire for the same kind of occupations irrespective of their stream of study. Kuvlesky & Juárez, 1975 also reported difference in the levels of Occupational Aspirations among the Students of with respect to the localities of residence (Urban and Rural) and revealed the factors such as limited life experiences and lack of opportunities (Arbona, 1990; Albert & Luzzo, 1999) have been suggested as possible factors for this variation in aspiration.

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