

A Study on Level of Aspiration of High School Students

V.R. Rajesh^{1*}, Dr. V. Chandrasekaran²

¹Ph.D. Research Scholar, ²Associate Professor, Department of Education, Institute of Advanced Study in Education (Autonomous), Saidapet, Chennai – 600 015, Tamil Nadu, India.

***Corresponding Author:**

V.R. Rajesh

Email: vr.rajesh332@gmail.com

Abstract: Level of aspiration is the estimation of an individual's ability for his future performance on the strength of his past experience his ability and capacity, the efforts that he can make towards attaining the goal are consequences of his past experience, whether failure-oriented or success oriented level of efforts made by him in that direction, and his capacity to pursue the goal. This current investigation was also aimed to study the Level of aspiration of high school students in relation to the background variables such as sex, residential locality, medium of instruction and school management. The sample consisted of 300 high school students selected from Chennai city for this study. Level of Educational Aspiration Test developed by Dr. Yasmin Ghani Khan (1999) was administered to collect the data. Collected data were subjected to suitable statistical analysis and scores of the sample were computed. The result reveals that girls had higher aspiration than that of boys. The study further reveals that aspiration levels of English medium students are higher than that of Tamil medium students.

Keywords: Level of Aspiration, High School Students, Sex, Residential Locality, Medium of Instruction, School Management.

INTRODUCTION

Education has been defined as a preparation for life. Since the life of the student involves many desires, interest, success, failure, motivation and aspiration level. The core purpose of education unquestionably, is human development. Achievement, success and failure play an important role in the lives and activities of students. Aspiration as goal striving behaviour is essential feature of modern competitive world. The word 'aspiration' is a translation from German word 'Ansprush' & 'Niveau'. The concept of level of aspiration was first introduced by Hoppe [1], while making a reference to the degree of difficulty of the goal towards which a person is striving. The presentation of the theoretical concept of level of aspiration was elaborated by Festinger [2], Dembo & Sears [3], Sinha [4], Talwar [5] etc.

Level of aspiration is usually influenced by two types of factors. They are: (i) Environmental factors and (ii) Personal factors. Environmental factors include determinants like parental ambitions, social expectations, peer pressure, social value, competition, group cohesiveness etc. In early childhood, before the child is old enough to know what his abilities, interests and values are, his aspirations are largely shaped by the environment. On the other hand, personal factors play dominant role in determining his level of aspiration as

the child grows older and become more aware of his abilities and interests. These personal factors include determinants such as wishes, personality, past experiences, values, interests, sex, socio-economic background, racial background etc [6]. Further, four kinds of events are involved in a level of aspiration situation. They are: (1) Last performance, (2) Setting of level of aspiration for the next performance, (3) New performance, (4) Psychological reaction to the new performance [7].

REVIEW OF RELATED STUDY

Owuamanam DO in their research on relationship between academic motivation and occupational aspiration of Nigerian adolescents they found that motivation and occupational aspiration seemed to complement each other. Both motivation and aspiration were higher among males [8].

Shan, Schrawat in their study on Self-concept and level of aspiration among physically challenged students they found that socially, the different categories of physically challenged school students with high level of aspiration and low level of aspiration differ significantly from each other [9].

Hamid MM *et al* conducted a study on Self-concept, level of aspiration and academic achievement

of physically challenged and normal students at secondary level[10]. The result of the study highlight that the normal secondary school students have high real self, level of aspiration and academic achievement as compared to physically challenged students. On the other hand, physically challenged students were found to have high ideal self as compared to normal students .

Yeung et.al in their research on students' school motivation and aspiration over high school years they found that 7th graders had significantly higher scores in task and effort orientations and career aspirations than 9th graders and higher scores in praise orientation than 11th graders [11].

Statement of the Problem

Considering the above issues, it was realized to identify the level of aspiration of high school students and to examine its relationship with demographic variables in our own context. As such the present study is stated as "A Study on Level of Aspiration of High School Students."

Operational Definitions

Aspiration: Aspiration is an expression of the desire to achieve and improve. It's a level of motivation that overcomes task complexity with perpetual efforts and push one's to work toward those goals.

Level of Aspiration: Hurlock defined it as a longing for what is above one's achieved level with advancement on it as its end [12]. In other words, aspiration means the goal an individual sets for himself in a task, which has intense personal significance for him or in which his ego-involved.

Objectives of the Study

The following objectives have been formed for the purpose of the study:

1. To find out there are any significant differences in the Level of Aspiration based on the following categories: (i)Sex, (ii) Residential Locality, (iii)Type of School Management, (iv) Medium of Instruction.
2. To provide the suitable environment to increase students level of aspiration.

Hypothesis of the Study

To carry out the study smoothly the following null hypothesis is formed:

There is no significant difference in high school students' Level of Aspiration with respect to the following background variables:(i) Sex, (ii) Residential

Locality, (iii)Type of School Management, (iv) Medium of Instruction.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

This investigation adopts the survey method of research as it is most suitable for the present study.

Tool used in the Study

Level of Educational Aspiration Test developed by Dr. Yasmin Ghani Khan was used for gathering the data[13].

Sample of the Study

The students from selected high schools (Government; Government Aided and Private Schools) in Chennai city were chosen as sample for the study by using simple random sampling technique. Thus, a total of 300 high school students both boys (150) and girls (150) were selected for this study.

Collection of the Data

Collection of data was done by the investigator by personally meeting with students and distributing the questionnaire by giving important directions. A proper rapport was established to collect the pertinent data.

Statistical Techniques Used

In the present study following statistical techniques were used

- Descriptive Analysis (Mean & Standard deviation)
- Inferential Analysis (t-test & F-ratio)

Analysis and Interpretation of the Data

The collected data were subjected to statistical analysis and it is analyzed using SPSS package. The mean and standard deviation for the variable Level of Aspiration scores were computed for the entire sample.

Testing of Hypothesis

There is no significant difference in high school students' Level of Aspiration with respect to the following background variables:(i)Sex, (ii)Residential Locality, (iii)Type of School Management, (iv) Medium of Instruction

RESULTS

The result of the mean score presented in table-1 revealed that girl students have higher aspiration with mean value of 21.67 than the boy students 18.38. As such our first hypothesis stating "There is no significant difference between boy and girl students in their level of aspiration" is rejected.

Table 1: Significance of Difference in the Mean Scores of Level of Aspiration between Boy and Girl High School Students

Sex	Mean	SD	t – value	LOS
Boys	18.38	4.57	6.72*	S
Girls	21.67	3.87		

* indicates 0.01 Level of Significance

Table 2: Significance of Difference in the Mean Scores of Level of Aspiration and Residential Locality of High School Students

Locality	Mean	SD	t – value	LOS
Urban	20.86	4.59	0.2424	NS
Rural	20.74	3.89		

The result of the mean score presented in table-2 revealed that urban students have higher aspiration with mean value of 20.86 and rural students have 20.74. As

such our second hypothesis stating “There is no significant difference between urban and rural students in their level of aspiration” is accepted.

Table 3: Significance of Difference in the Mean Scores of Level of Aspiration & Type of School Management of High School Students

Source of Variation	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F – ratio	LOS
Between Groups	45.09	2	22.545	1.357	NS
Within Groups	4934.00	297	16.612		
Total	4979.09	299			

The result of the mean score presented in table-3 revealed that there is no significant difference in Level of Aspiration of high school students in relation to type of School management. As such our third hypothesis

stating “There is no significant difference between Types of school management of high school students in their level of aspiration” is accepted.

Table 4: Significance of Difference in the Mean Scores of Level of Aspiration between Tamil and English Medium Students

Medium of Instruction	Mean	SD	t – value	LOS
Tamil	19.90	4.83	2.65*	S
English	21.26	3.81		

* indicates 0.01 Level of Significance

The result of the mean score presented in table-4 revealed that students studying in English medium have higher aspiration with mean value of 21.26 than students studying in Tamil medium 19.90. As such our fifth hypothesis stating “There is no significant difference between Tamil and English medium students in their level of aspiration” is rejected.

Major Findings of the Study

After analysis of tabulated data the investigator found out the following major findings:

1. Sex is influencing the overall Aspiration level. The Aspiration levels of girls are higher than that of boys.
2. No significant differences are observed in high school students Level of Aspiration with respect to their residential locality.
3. No significant differences are observed in high school students Level of Aspiration with respect to their school management.
4. Medium of learning is influencing the Aspirations. The Aspiration levels of English medium students are higher than that of Tamil medium students.

Educational Implications

As the study revealed the findings among high school students, as such all the stakeholders-government, policy makers, educational institutions, teachers and primarily the parents should work hard to help the offspring to set the aspiration level in perfect consonance. The education system should be so designed that it helps the students to realise their own capabilities and to direct accordingly, instead of imposing from outside irrespective of individual differences.

Suggestions for the Further Study

1. This study can also be conducted to other cities with a large sample.
2. This study may be conducted to higher secondary school students.
3. This study can be used to know the level of aspiration of students.

CONCLUSION

The above mentioned results shed light on the nature of aspiration of high school students. The findings revealed that girl students have higher aspiration than the boy, which offers implication to take-up and direct special efforts to improve the Aspiration level of boys, strengthen their self-esteem and self-confidence which in turn help them to aspire and achieve their optimum. The present study also realises the necessity to investigate separately the educational aspiration, vocational aspiration, economic aspiration etc. of high school students and factors determining them in order to have a better understanding of the children and help them to guide in the right direction without losing the most precious resource i.e. effort.

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