

Do they differ in occupational aspiration? Exploring the occupational aspiration of higher secondary students in relation to their gender and locality

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Abstract:

The selection of an appropriate occupation is an important task which ensures a person's standard of living, personal satisfaction and social recognition. The present study is an attempt to find out the occupational aspiration of higher secondary students in relation to their gender and locality of schools. The study falls under descriptive survey method. The study selected 156 students from 5 higher secondary schools (2 urban and 3 rural) from two blocks of Darrang District, Assam under AHSEC having arts stream. The Occupational aspiration Scale by Dr. J.S Grewal has been used to collect data for the study. For data analysis percentage, mean, standard deviation and t test are used. The result of the study found high occupational aspiration of H.S students and no differences are found between boy and girl students as well as urban and rural students in respect to occupational aspiration.

Key words: Occupational Aspiration, Gender, Locality of Schools, Higher Secondary Students.

Introduction:

Work is essential to earn livelihood, without work no individual can live a life of good condition and enjoyment. In today's world of work, due to diverse opportunities and different alternatives individuals are insisted constantly towards high level of occupational aspirations and dreams followed by a productive future. Here, the term occupational aspiration refers to one's preferences, willingness, liking and inclination towards a particular occupation.

Students start aspiring for a particular occupation right from their high school stage and gradually it paves the way to choose an occupation in this big world of work. Especially in higher secondary stage of education, occupational aspiration plays an important role in choosing a right vocation considering the interests, aptitudes and needs of adolescents' boys and girls. Occupational aspiration of the students has been influenced by different environmental and personal factors. The environmental factors such as, student's academic performance, socio-demographic background, parental pressure, peer pressure, school environment, cultural expectation, social value etc. The personal factors which influence the

occupational aspiration of the students are interest, aptitude, intelligence, motivation, gender etc.

Concept of occupational aspiration:

Occupational aspiration can be defined to as expectations, dreams and goals that an individual possesses about their future occupation. Occupational aspiration can be described as realistic and idealistic in the sense that in realistic occupational aspiration person prefers to choose an occupation by considering every possible obstacle which could hinder the person in choosing his career, in idealistic occupational aspiration person prefers an occupation if there is no limiting factor.

Occupational aspirations are “expressed career related goals or choices” that provide important motivational momentum for career-related behaviors and future educational and career success (Rojewski,2005,p.132).

Tylor and Wems(1994) defined occupational aspiration as “a variable that describes the occupation that an individual desires or idealistically would like to have.”

Need and significance of the study:

Occupational aspiration is the key factor of one’s career decision-making process which directs an individual towards his/her career related goals. The adolescents studying in higher secondary stage of education have diverse and unlimited expectations and choices related to their educational and occupational life. Occupational aspiration of the students is influenced by different factors. Gender and locality of the school also have paramount influence in occupational aspiration of the students. The diverse needs, expectations and interests of the boys and girls in higher secondary stage create variation in their occupational aspiration too. Likewise, locality of the school also stimulates the occupational aspiration of the students differently. The need of the present study lies in the essence that it will reveal the fact whether and how occupational aspiration of higher secondary students differs in relation to gender and locality of the school.

Statement of the Problem:

On the basis of main concern, the present study is entitled as

Do they differ in Occupational Aspiration?

- Exploring the Occupational Aspiration of higher secondary students in relation to their gender and locality.

Objectives of the Study:

The objectives of the present study are

1. To find out the level of occupational aspiration of higher secondary students.

2. To find out the difference in occupational aspiration of boy and girl higher secondary students.
3. To find out the difference in occupational aspiration of urban and rural higher secondary students.

Hypotheses of the Study:

Ho1 There exists no significant difference in occupational aspiration of boy and girl higher secondary students.

Ho2 There exists no significant difference in occupational aspiration of urban and rural higher secondary students.

Operational Definitions of the terms used:

Occupational Aspiration: In the present study occupational aspiration refers to the H.S student's goals, expectations, wishes, dreams and thoughts related to their future occupation.

Gender: In the present study gender denotes the boy and girl higher secondary students.

Location of School: Here, in the present study location of school indicates schools situated in rural area and urban area of Darrang District.

Higher Secondary School: In this study, a higher secondary school refers to the schools in which students receive education after passing high school leaving certificate examination.

Higher Secondary Students: Here, in the present study Higher secondary students means the students studying in plus 2 stage of secondary education.

Delimitation of the study:

- The area of the present study has been delimited to Pub Mangaldai and Paschim Mangaldai blocks of Darrang district, Assam only.
- The study has been delimited to government/provincialised higher secondary schools of Pub- Mangaldai and Paschim Mangaldai blocks of Darrang district under Assam Higher Secondary Education Council (AHSEC).
- The present study has been delimited to the XI standard students studying in arts stream only.

Review of Related Literature:

Bajema, Harold Duane (1999) conducted a study on a topic entitled as “ Educational and Occupational aspirations of rural high school seniors in the private and public schools in northwest Iowa” Here the study revealed a significant difference based on where the students lived and where they studied i.e. private or public schools. The study also found that educational aspiration was very high for all students.

Sunaina (2017) in her study “Occupational Aspiration of Adolescents in relation to their Self-Concept.” attempted to study the gender difference of adolescents in relation to occupational aspiration and the relationship between occupational aspiration and self-concept of the adolescents. The study was conducted on 200 senior secondary students of Ferozepur. The study found gender difference in occupational aspiration of adolescents and revealed a relationship between occupational aspiration and self-concept of adolescents.

Negel, Sonali; Pramanik; Chandra, Dr. Kartik (2019) in their study on “Level of aspiration and its relation to academic performance of higher secondary school students” aimed at measuring the level of aspiration and academic performance of 200 students of class XII from different schools of Howrah and Hoogly district. The study revealed a relationship between the level of aspiration and academic performance of higher secondary school students. The study found no significant difference between level of aspiration and academic performance of H.S male and female students.

Methodology:

Method:

The present study falls under Descriptive Survey Method as the study deals with the large sample of higher secondary students. The present study demands descriptive method because it involves systematic collection, classification, analysis, comparison, presentation and interpretation of data concerning the existing phenomena.

Population of the study:

- All the students of higher secondary (10+2) stage are the universe of population of the study.
- There are 5 government/provincialised higher secondary schools (2 urban and 3 rural schools) in Pub-Mangaldai and Paschim Mangaldai block of Darrang District under AHSEC having arts stream and the total numbers of arts students of 5 schools i.e. 445 H.S students consisting of 240 urban and 205 rural students are considered as population of the present study. Apart from this out of 445 total population total boys and girls are 177 and 268 respectively.

Sample of the Study:

Proportionate stratified random sampling has been used to draw a sample of 35% of the total population. Thus, the total sample is 156 (urban-84 and rural-72) HS students are selected and out of 156 students 62 boy students (24 urban and 38 rural) and 94 girl students (34 rural and 60 urban) are selected for the present study. The total rural sample is 72 and total urban sample is 84.

Tools of Data Collection:

In the present study Occupational Aspiration Scale developed by Dr. J.S Grewal is used for data collection. The present scale was adopted to get the prestige rating of 80 occupational

titles taken from the dictionary of Occupational Titles of India. An individual's score for the whole inventory ranges from 0 to 72. The tool has been translated into Assamese language for the convenience of Assamese medium students and reliability and validity have been calculated accordingly.

Statistical Techniques Used:

In this present study Percentage, Mean, Standard Deviation, t-test and Graphical Representation have been used for treatment of the data.

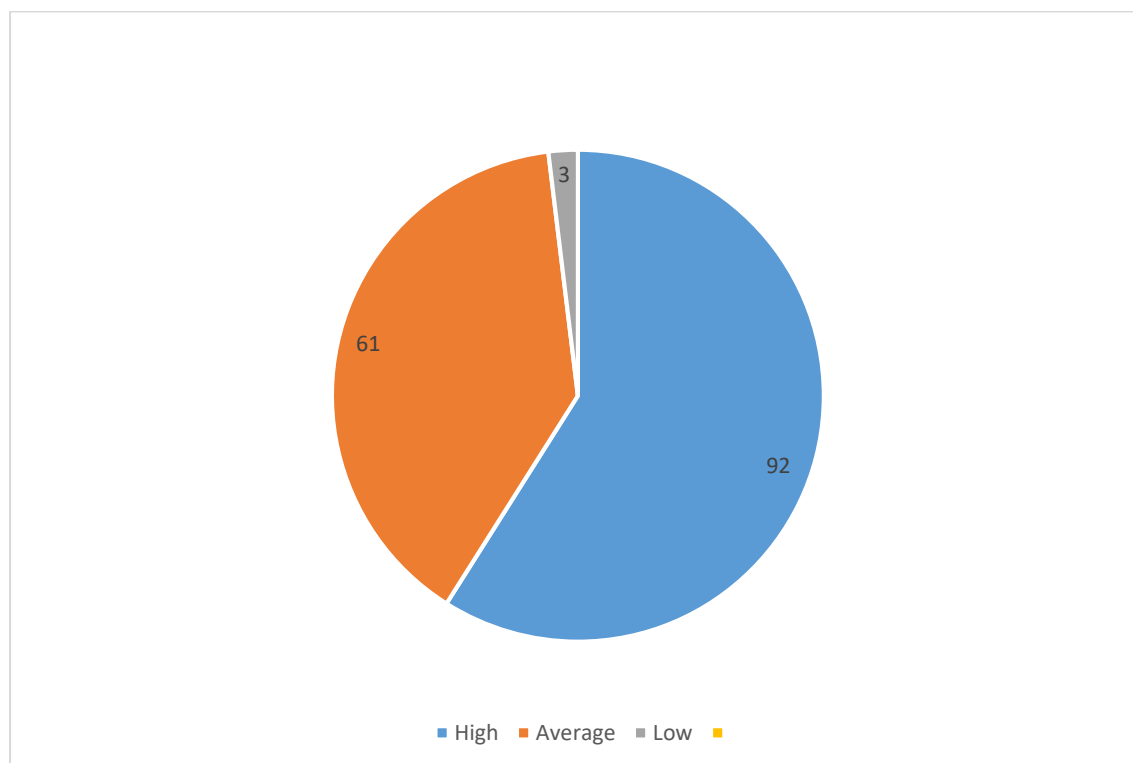
Analysis and Interpretation of Data:

Objective 1: To find out the level of occupational aspiration of higher secondary students.

Table 1: Showing the percentage scores of H.S students in relation to their occupational aspiration. (n=156)

Scores	Levels	No. of Students (n=156)	Percentage (%) of Students
49-72	High	92	58.98
25-48	Average	61	39.10
0-24	Low	3	1.92
	Total	156	100

Figure 1 Representing Occupational Aspiration of H.S students on the basis of percentages of total Scores:



Interpretation:

From the table 1 and figure 1 it has been found that 58.98% H.S students have high occupational aspiration, whereas 39.1% H.S students possess average occupational aspiration and only 1.92% H.S students possess low occupational aspiration. That means the percentages of Student having high occupational aspiration are more than the students of other levels. So, here, it is clear that the H.S students possess high level of occupational aspiration.

Table 2: The Mean and Standard Deviation of Scores of H.S students in relation to different levels of Occupational Aspiration are as follows:

Scores	Categories	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
49-72	High	92	54.19	4.53
25-48	Average	61	40.19	6.3
0-24	Low	3	14.33	7.76
	Total	156	47.96	9.84

Interpretation:

From the Table 2 it has been revealed that the mean and SD of H.S students in high category of occupational aspiration are 54.19 and 4.53, the mean and SD of students in average category are 40.19 and 6.3 respectively. In low category the mean and SD of H.S student's scores are 14.33 and 7.76 respectively. Total mean and standard deviation of H.S students in occupational aspiration are 47.96 and 9.84 respectively. So, it is evident that H.S students as a whole have obtained high level of occupational aspiration.

Objective 2: To find out the difference in occupational aspiration of boy and girl higher secondary students.

Ho1 There exists no significant difference in occupational aspiration of boy and girl higher secondary students.

Table 3: Showing the gender differences in occupational aspiration of H.S students

Sl.No.	Gender	N	Mean	SD	t value	Level of Significance
1	Boy	62	47.03	9.93	1.06	Not Significant
2	Girl	94	48.71	9.47		

Interpretation:

From Table 3 it has been found that the mean and standard deviation of H.S boys in Occupational Aspiration are 47.03 and 9.93 respectively and again the mean and SD of H.S girls are 48.71 and 9.47 respectively. The calculated t value of the scores of H.S boys and girls in occupational aspiration is 1.06 which is quite smaller than the critical t value of 1.96 at 5% level and 2.58 at 1% level of significance. Hence the calculated t value of 1.06 is not significant

at both levels of significance. So, the null hypothesis is accepted that there is no significant gender difference between H.S boys and girls in case of Occupational Aspiration.

Objective 3: To find out the difference in occupational aspiration of urban and rural higher secondary students.

Ho2 There exists no significant difference in occupational aspiration of urban and rural higher secondary students.

Table 4: Showing the difference in occupational aspiration of urban and rural higher secondary students.

Sl.No.	Locality	N	Mean	SD	t value	Level of Significance
1	Urban	84	47.08	9.75	1.57	Not Significant
2	Rural	72	48.90	9.81		

Interpretation:

From table 4 it has been found that the mean of urban and rural H.S students in Occupational Aspiration are 47.08 and 48.9 respectively and the SD of urban and rural H.S students are 9.75 and 9.81 respectively. The calculated t value of the scores of urban and rural H.S students in occupational aspiration is 1.57 and it is smaller than the critical t value of 1.96 at 5% level and 2.58 at 1% level of significance. Hence the calculated t value of 1.57 is not significant at both levels of significance. So, the null hypothesis is accepted and no difference is found in occupational aspiration between urban and rural H.S students.

Major Findings

On the basis of the analysis and interpretation of data, the following major findings have been found:

- In the present study from the analysis of objective 1 it is found that H.S students possess a high level of occupational aspiration. They want to achieve the occupations which have higher prestige rating.
- The study also reveals that there is no significant difference in occupational aspiration of boy and girl higher secondary students.
- In the present study it is also found that there exists no significant difference in occupational aspiration of higher secondary students in relation to the locality of the schools.

Results and Discussion:

From the major findings of the study it is found that students studying in arts stream of higher secondary schools possess high level of occupational aspiration, this findings gets support from the study conducted by Bajema, Harold Duane (1999), he also found high OAS of the students.

Another finding that there exists no significant difference in occupational aspiration of boy and girl higher secondary students is supported by the study conducted by Andleeb, Ansari and prof. Mehnaz (2016) that they did not find gender difference in case of occupational aspiration. Another major finding of the present study which is supported by the study conducted by Das Archana and Bhagabati, Nilima (2016) is that there exists no significant difference between urban and rural students in case of occupational aspiration.

Conclusion:

From the study it has been revealed that the higher secondary students have high level of occupational aspiration regarding their future occupations. Although many studies showed a significant gender difference in case of occupational aspiration of the students, the present study found no significant difference in occupational aspiration of boy and girl H.S students. Likewise, the study also showed that locality of schools doesn't have significant impact on occupational aspiration of the H.S students. The study proved that gender and location of the schools have no significant impact on occupational aspiration of the students. The study revealed high occupational aspiration of the students so, from secondary education stage importance should be given on guiding the students towards selection of a right career according to their occupational aspirations. The findings of the study have a great application in providing proper career guidance and counselling to the students keeping the diverse career options in mind. Teacher should take initiative to provide more career exposure to the students for making their occupational aspiration true.

Suggestions and Future Direction:

For further research focus can be made on studying the occupational aspiration of the students in relation to different streams and management of schools. The study also paves the way of studying the occupational aspiration of special-abled children with a larger sample.

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