

## “TO MEASURE LEVEL OF ASPIRATION IN HEARING IMPAIRED & NON-HEARING IMPAIRED INDIVIDUALS”

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### ABSTRACT

**Topic:** To measure Level of Aspiration in Hearing Impaired and Non-Hearing impaired people.

**Objectives:** The objectives of the present study were as follows:

- To measure the Aspiration levels through Level of Aspiration test.
- To compare the scores of level of aspiration between hearing impaired and non-hearing impaired individuals.
- To find the nature of motivation in hearing impaired and non-hearing impaired people through the test.

**Sample:** The sample comprises of Vadodara, Gujarat, India based N=60 young adults (age- 15-30 years male/female) Hearing and Non-Hearing impaired people individually matched on the basis of Age range, I.Q scores, Socio Economic Status. Both the groups were tested on Level of Aspiration test, developed by Dr. M.A Shah and Dr. Mahesh Bhargava, in 1983.

**Result & Conclusion:** There is a significant difference between Hearing Impaired and Non-Hearing impaired on Level of Aspiration test.

**N.B:** (Henceforth, HI & NHI used for Hearing Impaired and Non Hearing Impaired).

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## INTRODUCTION

Hearing is vital to every aspect of our daily existence. From the environment of birth, children learn a great deal by using their hearing but most children with hearing impairment, however are not able to participate in this process. They may acquire a good deal of information about the world but miss out on many early and critical opportunities for developing basic communication skills.

The impact of hearing loss on the individual is one of the great areas in human behavior that science has scarcely more than probed gingerly here and there. The overwhelming proportion of research in hearing has centered in its medical and physiological ramifications with heavy emphasis on cause of impairment, prevention, cure, alleviation, and the nature of hearing. Levine (1960).

The very important matter of how man adjusts to such major sensory deprivation has been investigated by only a handful of earnest searchers. Though in recent years it has been an area of interest and attention, psychologists, counselors, teachers, audiologists, medical workers, in fact all diagnosticians and planners finds too many behavior problems of the HI. Levine (1960).

Due to hearing impairment the child becomes unable to hear, speak and acquire language. Communication barriers present problems and make them feel frustrated. In the school setting towards achievement, expectations of HI students are far below that of their potential. This puts young HI individuals at a major disadvantage in competition for professional, higher paying jobs since they are not given equal opportunities. (Kochkin et al 2007) have found that HI children had issues in a number of areas like social interaction, language, communication and education. Another important aspect of the problems of the HI for which the psychologists must be prepared concerns social maturity and its related adjustments and a healthy psychic structure that provides wholesome, well balanced motivation. Polat(2003).

Role of motivation is the most important and underlying all aspiration is the fundamental human need for achievement. To fulfill this need, a person is motivated to direct his behavior toward a goal. All human beings are constantly striving to establish a satisfactory relationship with their environments. (Adler, 1935) In other words, they are trying to adjust to the environment, fulfill their needs in order to live happily and function effectively. But the process of adjustment or of attaining and enjoying mental health is not always easy Tao XinHua (2007).

In fact there are barriers or obstacles in satisfaction of needs or desires. These barriers and obstacles cause frustration and produce tension. The feeling results from disparities between what is wanted and what is available. When the level of aspiration exceeds the level of achievement it is likely to experience frustration. Frank (1935).

Almost everyone would like to rise above his /her present status. While people of all ages aspire to better themselves, aspirations are especially strong during adolescence. But if his/her aspirations are unrealistic, the path may lead to failure and disappointment. (Shah & Bhargava (1983).

'Aspirations' means the goal the individual sets for himself in a task which has intense personal significance for him or in which he is ego-involved. Because aspirations are ego involved, success leads to increase self-esteem, while failure brings embarrassment remorse and feelings of personal inadequacy and inferiority. Zahn, Kelly (1995).

The concept of level of aspiration was introduced by Lewin, (1931), Dembo (1976). Level of Aspiration is the standard a person expects and hopes to reach in a given performance. It is the discrepancy between his achieved and stated goals. It may be realistic in the sense that the person has a good chance of success or it may be unrealistic if his chance of reaching the stated goal is in doubt.

Frank (1935), defined level of Aspiration as "level of future performance in a familiar task which an individual, knowing his level of past performance in that task, explicitly undertakes to reach".

Gardner (1940) defined as, "level of aspiration is a truly quantitative concept, which has two requirements that the subjects make some public indication of his aims and that, he makes this in quantitative terms." The factors which affect the level of aspiration are success and failure, motivation, school environment, past experiences, values, parental ambitions, culture etc.

Sheehan, Joseph G.; Zelen, Seymour L. (1955). In a study concluded that females who stutter do indeed suffer from low self-esteem, as reflected in their greater reluctance to bid for scores promising higher achievement.

Muthayya (1960) conducted a study on adolescents to study the level of aspiration and its relation to modes of reaction to frustration.

Prakash (1984) conducted a study of the factors affecting level of aspiration. Mathur (1985) conducted a comparative study between crippled and normal children to check their adjustment problems, level of aspiration, self-concept and academic achievement.

Suman (1986) conducted a sociopsychological study on female students to study their goals and aspirations.

Basumallik, Banerjee and et al (1984) have reported findings that showed no relationship between level of aspiration and achievement motivation.

Choudhary (1990) studied the vocational aspirations of IX Standard students of English Medium Schools in Pune City and found that forty percent of the sample students wanted to be either doctors or engineers, and no relationship was found between occupation of fathers and the occupational choices of the students.

Javed (1990) found that, students of science, arts and commerce faculties preferred white collar vocations and they showed low interest in vocations requiring physical labor.

Kaur (1990) studied the educational and vocational aspirations of students belonging to different socio-economic locales of Jammu division and found that both educational and vocational aspirations were influenced by sex, socio-economic status and locality.

The above discussion based on review of literature suggests that an individual may largely differ and suffer because of the hearing loss and because of the disability they show, maladjustment within their peer group and also with the society. They need special care and training to cope up with this problem. They should have real goal in their life as it will help them to adjust properly in the society. These individuals are exceptional, though they have the same characteristics as that of the normal individuals. The only difference is that they lack the hearing or speech power. Due to their differences they have variations among them also. Hence, they have certain limitations in their life. If they aspire without considering their limitations they can become the victims of frustration and maladjustment. Many a times the society compares them without considering their limitations and it results into higher expectations and wrong setting of goals. Hence there is a need to know their motivation and aspirations and also to compare, so that they can be directed into right direction for their all-round development and also for the betterment of society and nation.

The present study hypothesizes that there will be no significant difference between Hearing Impaired and Non Hearing Impaired individuals on level of Aspiration test.

## METHOD

**Sample :** In the following study the sample comprises of 60 young adults, (30-30) both (male /female), Hearing Impaired and Non-Hearing Impaired.

Age-15 to 30 years

I.Q- 5 to 75 percentile i.e. Average and

Socio-economic status -Middle class –Upper Middle class. All samples were from Vadodara,Gujarat,India.

**Tools :**Following tests were used in the study and each has been described below:

**Standard Progressive matrices (SPM):** The standard progressive matrices developed by John C. Raven(1936) sets A,B,C,D,and E is a test of a person's capacity at the time of test to comprehend meaningless figures presented for his observation, see the relations between them, conceive the nature of the figure and completing each system of relations presented, and , by so doing , develop a systematic method of reasoning.Each scale consists of 60 problems divided into five sets of 12 which progressively becomes difficult. The five sets provide five opportunities for grasping the method and five progressive associates of a person's capacity for intellectual activity. The scale has a test-re-test reliability varying, with age , from 0.83 to 0.93. it correlates 0.80 with the Terman Terrill scale , and has been found to have a "c" saturation of 0.82.

**Socio-Economic Status Scale (SES):** The Socio-economic status scale (urban) by B. Kuppuswamy (1962) the scale is used for collecting information on the socio-economic variables regarding an individual or his father. There are two forms of the inventory. Form A and Form B.

The inventory is self-explanatory and requires students in schools and colleges to fill up the particulars regarding their various items relating to education, occupation and income may be completed. The social classes are divided into following groups:Upper,Upper Middle,Lower Middle, Upper Lower, and Lower.

Several methods were used to test the validity of the scale: Matching against outside criterion,Distribution Pattern, Comparison of dichotomous groups.

**Level of Aspiration test (LOA):** The measure was developed by Dr. M.A Shah and Dr. Mahesh Bhargava, in 1983. Three types of scores are obtained: Goal Discrepancy score (GDS), Attainment Discrepancy Score (ADS), the number of times the goal reached score (NTR). The reliability of this measure is calculated by the test-re-test method and split-half method. Validity of the test with some tests card sorting tray tasks N=30, GDS=0.58, ADS=0.52, Level of aspiration N=50, GDS=0.67, ADS=0.62, Occupation aspiration scale by Grewal N=60, GDS=0.76, ADS=0.6, Educational Aspiration scale Form V. by Sharma & Gupta N=45, GDS=0.48, ADS=0.56.

To validate the information a questionnaire was prepared wherein following information were collected to understand the psychosocial aspects: Preliminary Information, Family Information, Personal information. The data was subjected to analysis using descriptive and Non-parametric statistics using “Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS Version 13.0).

**Procedure:** Firstly, the screening tools i.e. Standard Progressive Matrices, Socio-economic status scale was administered on HI individuals and scores were obtained. Then the NHI individuals were matched with the HI on these screening tools. An interview schedule was also administered to get the demographic details.

After the screening test, the Level of aspiration test were administered on the HI and NHI individuals.

## RESULT & DISCUSSION

### Table of Aspiration Levels:

Aspiration level	H.I	N-HI
High Aspiration	-	1
Average Aspiration	19	20
Low Aspiration	11	9

**Score tables of level of Aspiration test**

<b>H.I.</b>			
<b>Sr. no.</b>	<b>GDS-Score</b>	<b>ADS-score</b>	<b>NTR</b>
1	1.9	-0.8	4
2	-6	0.1	7
3	2.5	1.7	2
4	3.1	-1.8	2
5	0	0	5
6	-2.9	3.4	9
7	-0.2	1.5	9
8	2.1	-1	8
9	2.1	-1.5	2
10	1.7	-0.9	3
11	0.9	-0.2	4
12	3.1	-2.2	1
13	3	-2.6	3
14	0.3	-0.2	6
15	2.1	-0.7	5
16	2.3	-0.9	5
17	3.1	-1.7	3
18	2.5	-1	5
19	3.4	-2.3	3
20	3.9	-2.8	4
21	-3.9	4.1	10
22	0	1.3	6
23	0.7	0.1	7
24	2.4	-0.7	1
25	-2.5	3.8	10
26	0	1.1	8
27	0.2	-2	2
28	2.5	-3	8
29	1.6	-0.6	4
30	2.2	-1.4	2

<b>N-H.I.</b>			
<b>Sr. no.</b>	<b>GDS-Score</b>	<b>ADS-score</b>	<b>NTR</b>
1	-3.5	-3	2
2	-2.5	1.3	9
3	-1.7	-1.8	2
4	1.1	0.2	5
5	0	-	-
6	3.4	-0.5	4
7	0.2	-	-
8	5.6	4.3	0
9	2.2	-1.3	3
10	1.3	-1.3	2
11	1.6	-0.1	5
12	-0.3	0.1	5
13	-0.5	1.5	8
14	2.2	-1.3	3
15	3.8	-0.3	1
16	2	-1.6	3
17	1.9	-1.3	2
18	2.1	-1.3	4
19	1.2	-0.9	4
20	1.5	-1.4	3
21	2.1	-1.1	4
22	2.4	-1.5	3
23	2.1	-1	3
24	2.2	-1.6	3
25	1	-1	3
26	2.6	-1.8	4
27	2.2	-1.1	2
28	3.5	-2.3	2
29	1.7	-1	4
30	0.8	-0.6	4

The above table, shows the aspiration scores of both the groups where N=60. By analyzing the data we see that there is not much difference between the scores of aspiration levels of the 2 group as the difference is of 1 score only.

To understand the nature of scores and aspirations more precisely reflecting on the process and going trial wise of both groups, we see that in the both groups, the subjects having Average aspiration level has positive goal discrepancy score(GDS), which indicates that the subjects attained the expected goal he/she sets for himself/herself.

It also indicates that they are neither over aspirant nor under aspirant. They set their goals as per their capabilities and also try to attain them.

Also from the interview taken and questions asked about their achievement areas, from HI group 60 different areas including extracurricular activities had achievements in sports and other areas, whereas in NHI the score was only 6, which was significant noticeable difference.

By analyzing the low aspiration scores of both the groups we see that, some goal discrepancy scores are negative and also very low and therefore fall under Low Aspiration level. It does not indicate that they are not realistically motivated. As, due to practice trial and first 2-3 trails wherein, the subjects trying to adjust and take judgment the scores may inflate. Again, as following the scoring formula; the score may reduce as they are average out. So, there may be the potential sources of errors contributing to the present results of both the group.

By reflecting the information obtained from Interview Schedule, taken from both the groups and analyzing we see that some of the subjects does have low aspiration as it can be seen from the nature of responses given on expected Income. In HI group their preference for expected income ranges between 5000-15000 whereas none showed the preference for 20000 and above as they find less scope and expects to earn less. While in NHI it's not the case.

This detailed information obtained also suggest that the nature of responses differ in comparison which supports the findings that in HI subjects does have Low Aspiration. While in NHI we see that the subjects on comparison differ on the same questions. The scores reflect better aspiration compared to HI on these but the test finding does not show difference.

By reflecting on the scores of high aspiration, we see that in HI, no subject has shown high aspiration, while in NHI group one subject has high aspiration.

By analyzing this individual case, we see that the subject's goal discrepancy score (GDS) are consistently positive and as reflecting trial wise, we see that the subject is realistically



motivated. As, the subject's expected score rise so does the actual score. As he tries to attain to the expectation he sets for himself, therefore .It can be indicative of having high aspiration. Also, from the Interview schedule us, see that the subject has realistic motivation and the responses does suggest that he understands his potentials and caliber and is motivated.

As mentioned above, Attainment Discrepancy score (ADS) scores are positive when Actual performance is more than expected performance; in the HI group subjects having Average aspiration we see that these subjects have their ADS score in negative i.e their expected performance is higher than the actual performance (here actual performance is treated as criterion level) but ,their expected scores are not very high and so their aspiration level is average in both HI and NHI group.

While those in low aspiration level we see that, both the groups' have more positive scores suggesting that they may be performing more than expected.

The discrepancy may be due to the possible reasons:

- Subjects tendency to achieve the set goal
- subject's feeling of failure of not achieving the goal.
- subject's unrealistic motivation.

The NTR score or the no. of times the goal reached score suggests that subjects with minimum NTR scores showed a very high fear of failure while those with maximum NTR scores are ready to take risk of failure. The same can be observed in the present findings also.

## CONCLUSION

Thus, test findings of the present study indicate that there is a significant difference between HI and NHI on Level of Aspiration test and hence the hypothesis is not confirmed. The HI individuals have the main problem in their communication skill. They can communicate with only those people who know the sign language and that is known only by few people, hence their area for communication is confined. A normal person feels handicapped in communicating with them.

The present study shows that though the aspiration of HI is low with respect to NHI but it is realistic. The HI lack the communication skill, this make them less interactive. Their limitations hinder them to comprehend the things around them. The atmosphere which they get is not very motivating as compared with NHI. Also the higher education facility, job opportunities available,

seems to be limited and therefore they show low aspiration. The changes should be made in the education system and a more encouraging and supportive environment should be provided by the teachers and parents so that HI individuals could also aspire to their fullest.

### IMPLICATIONS

By getting better information on Aspiration levels it may be helpful in following ways

To understand the Self-concept, emotional aspects.

To plan better interventions

To help at planning level so that Hearing impaired gets more vocational opportunity.

It helps understand their psychological aspects more deeply and it will help to mental health professional to plan and give relevant interventions.

It will help any further studies that would be conducted on the samples who have some working experience.

Other tools of level of aspiration may be able to bring further robust results.

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