

**A Study of Educational Aspirations of Secondary School Students in relation to their Achievement Scores**

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**Abstract**

*In today's world, education is a necessity, and for that reason, it has assumed an increasingly important role in future plans, especially for young people. During the educational process people gain necessary skills and competencies to be able to function on different competitive markets. Higher levels of education are associated with higher income, a more prestigious career, lower risk of unemployment and an improved well-being. Education plays a vital role in preparing the newer generation of India, In general to face the challenge of a developing system. Education, in real sense is to humanize humanity and to make life progressive, cultured and civilized. It is through education that a man can develop his thinking and reasoning problem solving and creativity, intelligence and aptitude, positive sentiment and skills, good values and attitudes. The aspirations level of an individual is an important motivating factor. It is a frame of reference involving self-esteem or alternatively experiences that is the feeling of failure or success. In the present study, investigator has tried to explore the significant relationship between the educational aspirations and achievement scores of Secondary school students.*

**Key-words:** Educational Aspirations, Achievement level.

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## **Introduction**

Educational aspiration reflects educational goals an individual sets for himself/herself. It is important as it encourages and energizes the individuals to achieve them. Education is an important variable in forming student aspirations in that it serves to help students become more knowledgeable about the world, more sensitive and understanding of their relationship to it, and more eager to contribute to the community. Aspirations begin to be shaped early in child's life, but are modified by experience and the environment. Aspirations tend to decline as children mature in response to their growing understanding of the world and constraints imposed by previous choices and achievements. 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. **According to Sirin, Diemer, Jackson and Howell (2004)**, "Aspirations have been defined as the educational and vocational dreams that students have for the future."

## **Academic achievement**

Academic achievement has been considered as an important factor in the educational life of the students. It encourages the students to work hard and learn more. Academic achievement of the pupils continues to be primary concern in education and main area of educational research. High academic achievement in school builds self-esteem and self-confidence which leads to better adjustment with the group.

There are various factors accounting for various in academic achievement. Academic stress and self-concept are one of these factors. Academic stress makes a significant contribution to the prediction of subsequent school performance and acts as a negative predictor of academic hazards, problems both physical and mental stress diseases. Stress makes a significant contribution to the prediction of subsequent school performance and acts as a negative predictor of academic performance of school children.

## **Educational Aspirations**

All individuals have some aspirations. At all stages of life people try for self-enhancement. The aspirations during student period influence their behavior. The term educational aspiration or vocational choice is based on knowledge of traits. The aspirations level of an individual is an important motivating factor. It is a frame of

reference involving self-esteem or alternatively experiences that is the feeling of failure or success.

There are three groups of educational aspiration: Background factor, Personal factors and Environmental factors. Background factors comprised of social and demographic attributes such as age, gender, socio-economic status and family structure. The personal factor is psychological in nature and is composed of an individual's personal attitude towards education, school and work. The environmental factors include aspects of social support as parental involvement, affecting the individual.

### **Review of Related Literature**

**Prakash, V. (1994)** examined that the students belonging to rich school environment were significantly higher on social value than their counterparts from poor environment in all the three groups. **Gupta, V. (1998)** conducted a comparative study of Self Concept and Level of Aspiration of secondary school trainees before and after the teaching practice. It was found that after the teaching practice students increased their high level of aspiration from 18% to 30%. Sex wise comparison shows that there was inverse relationship between the self concept and level of aspiration, because males were good in self concept and females were good in level of aspirations. **Kalluri and Rao D.Bhaskara (2000)** explored that the variables sex, medium of learning, level of schooling and age may be influencing the educational aspirations and scientific attitude of urban students. **Buchman, Clandia and Datan. Ben (2002)** conducted a study on interpersonal influences and educational aspirations in 12 countries and the results of the study indicate that peers and parents influence educational aspirations in countries with relatively undifferentiated secondary schooling like USA while the influence of educational aspirations is negligible in societies with more differentiated secondary education. **Seginer, Rachel and Vermulst, Ad. (2003)** conducted a study to see effect of educational aspirations and academic achievement, family background and academic achievement, to see effect of educational aspirations in two cultural i.e. Israeli Arab and Israeli Jews. It was found that the indirect family background, academic achievement path showed gender difference only Arab adolescents via. Educational aspirations for girls and parental demanding for boys and parental demanding were directly related to the academic achievement of Arab boys and Jews adolescents. **Rathon (2011)** examined the relationship between Education Aspiration and Achievement of secondary education

in deprived area of London and found girls were more likely than boys to express a wish to remain in education beyond the age of 16 and also ethnic differences, socio-psychological variables particularly self-esteem and psychological distress associated with high educational aspirations.

### **Justification of the study**

The formation and maintenance of educational aspirations among youth may infer that high educational aspirations are important or necessary for high academic achievement and career success. Educational aspirations have a positive influence on academic achievement among the secondary school students. As parents help define these rewards to their children, and with their support and motivation, students are likely to set high aspirations.

Aspirations (or expectations) are a set of social and academic goals that students, parents, teachers, or education agencies establish to obtain student-specific desired educational and career achievements. Students, parents, and teachers may collaborate to set or influence specific academic goals for a student, but their own desire in setting educational aspirations. Education is a part of human life; it cannot help the pursuers unless they have the required amount of educational aspirations. Individuals will have aspirations, all stages of life people try for self enhancement. The aspiration during student's period influences their behavior. An individual's aspiration level represents him not only as he/she is at any particular moment, but also as he would like to be at same problem in the future.

Investigator has chosen this topic for the study for exploring the relationship between educational aspirations and academic achievement among the secondary school students.

### **Statement of the Problem**

A Study of Educational Aspirations of Secondary School Students in relation to their Achievement Scores.

### **Operational Definitions of the key-terms used:**

#### **Aspirations**

The term 'Aspirations' is one which is often used synonymously with goals, ambition, objectives, purposes, dreams, plans, designs, intensions, desire, longings, w

ishes, yearnings, cravings or aims. Aspirations are what drive individuals to do more and more than they presently.

In the present study the investigator will take Educational Aspirations of Secondary school students.

### **Secondary school**

A school for students intermediate between elementary school and college; usually grades 9 to 12.

In the present study the investigator will take 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> class students.

### **Achievement scores**

Achievement test scores are often used in an educational system to determine what level of instruction for which a student is prepared. High achievement scores usually indicate a mastery of grade-level material, and the readiness for advanced instruction. Low achievement scores can indicate the need for remediation or repeating a course grade. In the present study the investigator will take percentage of previous class of the students.

### **Objectives of the study**

- To study the educational aspirations of secondary school students with respect to their type of school.
- To study the educational aspirations of secondary school students with respect to their gender.
- To study the relationship between educational aspirations of secondary school students with respect to their achievement scores.

### **Hypotheses of the study**

The hypotheses of the present study are as follows:

- There exists no significant difference in educational aspirations of secondary school students with respect to type of school.
- There exists no significant difference in educational aspirations of secondary school students with respect to gender.
- There exists significant relationship between educational aspirations of secondary school students with respect to their achievement scores.

### **Delimitations of the study**

- The present study was delimited to Panipat city only.
- The present study was delimited to Secondary school students only.

- The present study was delimited to 200 students only.
- The present study was delimited to educational aspect of the aspirations of secondary school students.

## **Plan and Procedure**

### **Population**

On the basis of objectives of the study, the senior secondary school students of the Panipat city constituted the population for the purpose of the present study.

### **Sample**

In the present study stratified & simple random sampling method has been used to select the sample.

### **Design of the Study**

A research design is an arrangement of condition for collection and analysis data in a manner that aims to contribute relevance to the search purpose with economy in procedure". Firstly the total population of the study (Schools of Panipat city) was divided in two stratas: Govt. & Pvt. Schools, after that using convenient sampling 2 Govt. schools & two private schools were chosen and 200 students were taken randomly as sample (100 students from both types).

### **Tool used for data collection**

In the present study the investigator used a standardized research tool i.e. "Level of Educational Aspirations Test" given by Yasmin Ghani Khan.

### **Administration of tool used**

The investigator collected the data from students of Panipat City. In order to collect the data, the investigator made contact with the student and explained the purpose of collecting data before supplying the investigator established good support which was very necessary to get accurate and correct results. The investigator adopted a confidence measure towards the students to win their trust. The investigator read the instruction carefully and as keen the students to consult, if there is any difficulty in the understanding of the instructions.

### **Statistical techniques**

Statistical techniques are extensively used in educational research. Data collected by measuring tools is very important because these techniques help in analyzing the data

and only after we can test are hypothesis. In the present study Mean, S.D, t-test & Correlation techniques were used for Data-Analysis.

### **Main Findings**

- The t-value for testing the significance of mean difference in educational aspiration among government and private school students came out to be 1.86, which is not significant at 0.05 & 0.01 level of significance, which implies as “There exists no significant difference in educational aspiration of government and private secondary school students”.
- “There is no significant gender difference in educational aspiration of secondary school students with respect to gender,” as the t-value came out to be 1.12, which is not significant at 0.05 & 0.01 level of significance.
- The findings of the present study indicate that value of “r” is 0.68 and approximately 0.7 therefore; there exists a Moderate degree positive correlation between Educational Aspirations and Academic Scores of secondary school students studied.

### **Educational Implications**

- The school teacher should give special attention to students with high educational aspiration and academic achievement to enhance performance.
- The school teachers should be oriented to take care of students’ characteristics especially with regard to educational aspiration in order to make teaching learning process more interesting and effective.
- It is observed from the results that students with low educational aspirations have low academic scores. In order to enhance the educational aspiration of adolescents, teachers should give due importance to increase aspirations level of adolescents by using suitable strategies.

### **Suggestions for further studies**

Following suggestions are offered for conducting further studies:

- In the present study only 200 school students, comprising 100 govt. school students and 100 private school students have been taken up. Similar study can be conducted with large samples selected from different geographical areas.

- The educational aspiration may be linked with Socio-Economic Status, adjustment, personality, interest, study habits etc.
- A study may be taken up considering various stages of education.

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