



The Study of Occupational Aspiration of Secondary School Students

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Abstract: The main purpose of this study is to determine the study of occupational aspiration of secondary school students. In the present study, the descriptive survey method of investigation is employed. The present investigation aims to study occupational aspiration of secondary school students. The sample of study consists of 200 students (100 male and 100 female) students of XI class of Amritsar district. The tool used in this study is Occupational aspiration scale. It is developed by J.S Grewal (1998). The data is collected and analyzed statistically. This study reveals that there is no significant difference exists between the mean scores of occupational aspiration of male and female secondary school students.

Keywords: Aspiration, occupational aspiration

Introduction: Education is a never-ending process of learning, acquiring skills and knowledge about anything and everything. It stands for all those changes and modifications in the behaviour of the individual, which he undergoes during his lifetime. Education aims at tapping the potentialities of an individual to the maximum. Therefore education should aim at preparing students for adult life. It must develop such abilities and capabilities which make the child competent enough to deal with various challenges of life. Education should, therefore, have utilitarian aim and enables the pupil to make both ends meet in order to live happily. Life is meaningless without competency to earn one's livelihood.

Tremendous development in education are introduced since independence and newer and newer lines of training and employment has given new impetus to the awakening of occupational aspiration among the school population. These aspirations are often unrealistic and failure to achieve them leads to maladjustment. The youths of today are the adults of tomorrow and upon them rest the destiny of the nation lies. Thus the parents, teachers and counselors are now beginning to probe to how and what extent occupational aspiration develop among the children and to what extent they are influenced by some factors.

The concept of Aspiration: Aspiration means to set up a goal by one for oneself in the life which has a great personal significance. To determine one's future attainment aspiration is a most relevant factor. This could be educational or socio-economic (Trice & King, 1991). The goals of aspiration helps a student to perceive a sense of distinction of status and the standard of participation and the reference groups set in him the level of his aspiration. Raynor (1978) states that children from a very early age try-out career roles as doctor, nurse, policeman, teacher, fireman etc although

realistic striving for one of them does not be until after a whole series of identities have been explored and either some initial differentiating competence has been developed and an appropriate extrinsic motivation is roused for one path of career than another. Thus in various ways and to various extents, children and adolescents learn about the work of adults like occupations or careers. Parents, grandparents, relatives, friends, children-readers, folk images, teacher and in modern society particularly the mass media personalities are sources of information on vocations. It provides role models for the acquisition of the appropriate or not so appropriate behaviour and expects consequences of career-related activity. In psychology, aspiration level is a determinant of an individual's performance level in the future and as a level of quality of a task to be desired in for the task (Markus et al 1986). Career aspirations represent a type of mental self-selection. These are hopes and ambitions which influence by the intrapersonal and interpersonal factors (Cooper et. al 1994). It sets the goals of an individual for a task and it has an intensive personal significance for the person in whom his ego is involved (Startle 1961). It caters to the desires which an individual try to attain for future (Williams 1972). The realistic aspiration is applied when one's educational and career aspirations are tempered by knowledge of obstacles and opportunities of future (Gottfredson 1981).

So aspiration means 'to desire' or 'to wish'. In other words, it denotes ambition for something in life. It is an integral part of a person's self-pictures not only what he is but also what he would like to be. Aspirations are not static and rigid. These are changed radically under strong-conditions, even break down entirely and these cannot be cultivated in a day. Since children are taught to acquire skills, values and information of various kinds, such acquisition of knowledge helps in developing educational and vocational aspirations.

Occupational aspiration: The occupational aspirations of adolescents are a cause of educational and career attainment. They have been viewed as significant determinants of both short-term educational and long-term career choices (Looker et. al 1989). These are expressions of occupational goals which lead several authors to predict their later career attainment levels (Johnson (1995). The occupational choice is an expression of personality with the particular personality characteristics which match to a particular occupation. Occupational aspirations are "an individual's expressed career-related goals or choices" (Rojewski 2005). It refers to the students' ability and power of narrowing the gap between effort and capacity to adjust the aspired goals (Creed et al 2014). It is a motivation and goal

determination to achieve the target of life. When one does not have a clear career aspiration it may result in disorganization of potential and frustration which causes aimless wandering and a feeling of lassitude. Therefore, finding of career aspiration is very important. To find out career aspiration one should make a clear note of his or her own strengths and weaknesses and should consider financial needs, family and personal development as well as other interests. One must be aware of the possible difficulties in achieving goals and to think of some corresponding solutions. An aptitude test should be taken to know more about oneself.

Significance /Rationale of the Study: In the present set up where society is ever changing with new advancements in science and technology, an individual's life is in the chaos of selecting occupations due to which some students are uncertain about

their future. With rapid industrialisation, urbanisation, technical advancement, cut-throat competition, the life of an individual has become more confused and insecure to compete with manifold influences which impinge on his personality. Thus, the behaviour and personality of a person are greatly affected by the occupational aspirations.

Occupational aspiration is conceptualised as a major career developmental task for adolescents. When adolescents become more occupationally mature they should know their abilities, interests as per their occupational aspirations (Super, 1990). Many students have a limited knowledge of occupations and a very narrow range of alternatives are available to them. In many of the cases, an individual makes choice of an occupation as a result of the parental pressure, or as an influence of friends or prestige value of that occupation, not on the basis of his/her interests, abilities, and values. Students, who do not know the routine features of work like nature of work, tasks involved, skills and eligibility required for various careers, end up making unrealistic occupational aspirations. Therefore, it is important to understand the level of students' occupational aspiration so that career and occupational guidance programmes, interventions and modules can be developed further accordingly.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

OCCUPATIONAL ASPIRATIONS OF SECONDARY SCHOOL MALE AND FEMALE STUDENTS

OBJECTIVES

1. To study the Occupational Aspiration.
2. To study the Occupational Aspiration of secondary school male and female students.

HYPOTHESIS:

There exists no significant difference between Occupational Aspiration of secondary school male and female students.

DELIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

1. The present study was delimited to Government Schools of Amritsar.
2. The present study was delimited to class XI students.
3. The present study was delimited to class XI students of Humanities/Arts Stream only.

METHODOLOGY:

In a research, there are numerous methods and procedures to be applied but it is the nature of the problem under investigation which determines the adoption of a particular method. Methods selected should be appropriate to the problem under investigation, feasible, well-planned and well-understood. Following design and sample are used in this study.

1. Design of the study

In the present study, the descriptive survey method is employed to collect the data to obtain pertinent and precise information concerning the current status of the phenomenon and to draw valid conclusions from the facts discovered.

2. The sample of the study

The sample of the study is Male and Female Students of class XI in Government Secondary Schools of Amritsar. The sample of the study is selected randomly. The

sample of the study comprises of 100 male and 100 female students of class XI. The total number of students is 200.

The sample for this study is taken from the secondary schools from district Amritsar. List of secondary schools are shown in the table no.1.1

Table 1.1: Showing the school wise and sample wise breakup of the sample

Sr. No.	Name of the School	Male	Female
1.	Govt. secondary school Town Hall, Amritsar	30	-----
2.	Govt. secondary school Shiwala	25	30
3.	Govt. secondary school Merankot	25	25
4.	Govt. secondary school, Raja Sansi	20	25
5.	Govt. secondary school for girls mall road, Amritsar	-----	20
TOTAL		100	100

Tools used in research: Keeping in view the main objectives of this study, the investigator used the Occupational aspiration scale developed by J.S Grewal (1998).

Statistical techniques used:

The collected data was coded, tabulated and analyzed using various statistical techniques. The statistical tests are used to know the relationship between dependent and independent variables among the various group of study. Different statistical tests are used for different purposes. Mean, median, mode, skewness and kurtosis is used to check the normality of the data. Arithmetic Mean is used to study the central value. Standard deviation is used to know the variability among the observations. The t-test is used to test the mean difference between two means. The correlation coefficient is used to determine the relationship between dependent and independent variables.

Results and Discussion:

The present study is undertaken with the purpose of finding the comparison between the self-concept of urban and rural adolescents. The data pertaining to the self-concept of 200 adolescents (100 Urban and 100 Rural) is collected. In order to screen the data for the meaningful purpose and to test the hypotheses, the data is analyzed with the help of various statistical techniques. Two types of statistical analysis are carried out for this purpose:

- (i) **Descriptive Statistics:** Description of the scores presented in terms of the frequency distribution, mean, median, mode, S.D.
- (ii) **Inferential Statistics:** t-test was used to compare the means of the self-concept of urban and rural adolescents.

1.2 Showing frequency distribution of scores of occupational aspiration of the total sample (N=200)

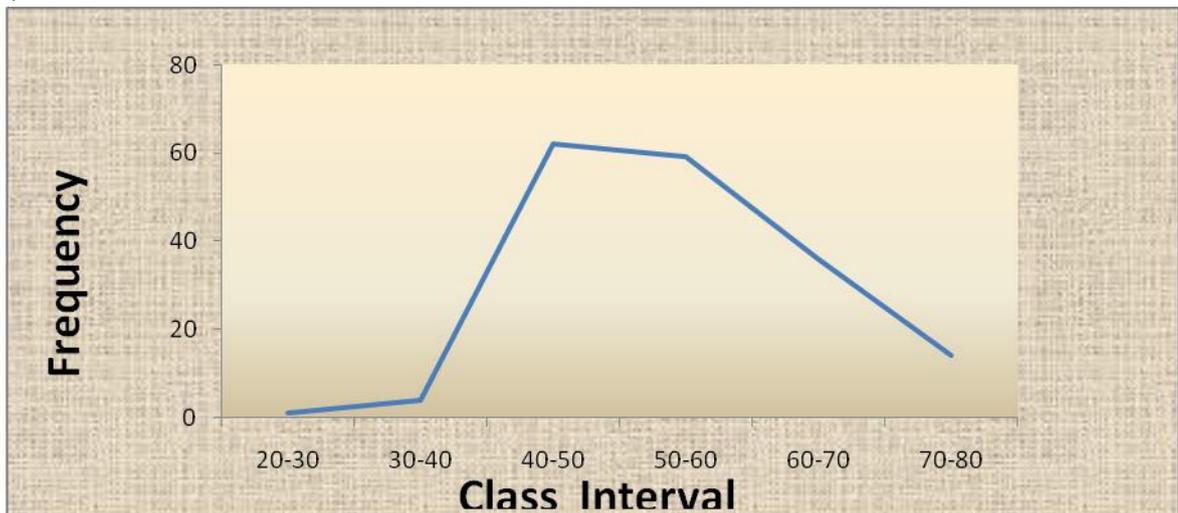
Class Interval	Frequency
20-30	1
30-40	4
40-50	62
50-60	59
60-70	36
70-80	14
TOTAL	200

1.3 Showing mean, median, standard deviation, skewness and kurtosis of occupational aspiration for the total sample (N=200)

Mean	Median	S.D.	Skewness	Kurtosis
48.75	50.50	11.46	-.155	-.647

Above Table 1.3 is showing that the values of mean, median and S.D. of occupational aspiration of secondary school students are 48.75, 50.50 and 11.46 respectively. The value of skewness and kurtosis for occupational aspiration of secondary school students are -.155 and -.647. This shows that the distribution is negatively skewed and platykurtic. The skewness and kurtosis are negligible. Hence sample can be considered as normally distributed. The figure 1.4 given below shows the frequency polygon to get the normal picture of data.

1.4 Figure: showing the frequency polygon of occupational aspiration for the total sample (N=200)



COEFFICIENT OF CORRELATION

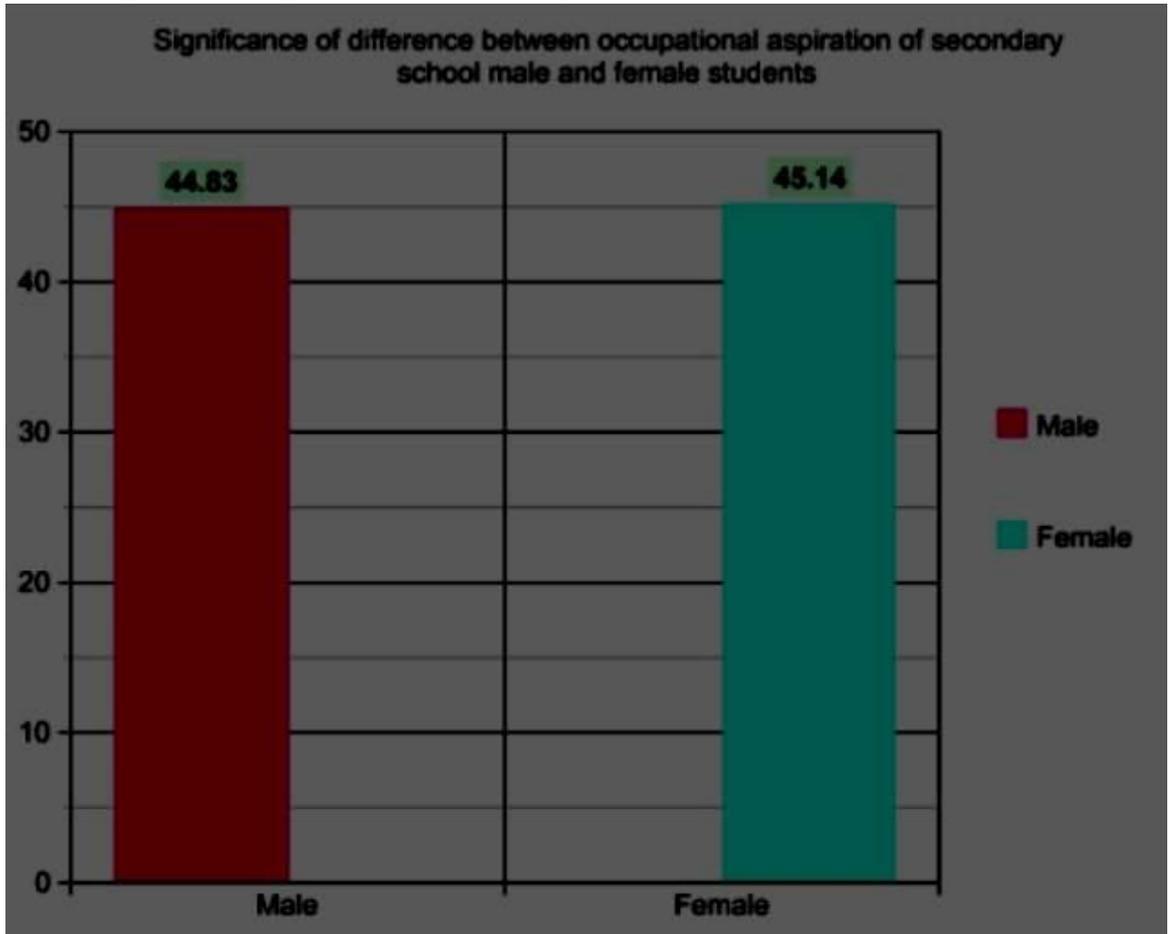
SIGNIFICANCE OF DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MEANS

Hypothesis: There exists no significant difference between Occupational Aspiration of secondary school male and female students.

1.5 Table showing the significance of the difference between Occupational Aspiration of secondary school male and female students.

Variable	Group	N	Mean	S.D.	t
Occupational aspiration	Male	100	44.83	14.14	0.152
	Female	100	45.14	14.56	

1.6 Figure showing the bar graph of the significance of the difference between Occupational Aspiration of secondary school male and female students.



Above Table 1.6 reveals that the mean scores of occupational aspiration of secondary male and female students come out to be 44.83 and 45.14 respectively and their standard deviation as 14.14 and 14.56 respectively. The t-ratio is 0.152 with $d_f = 198$ which is not significant at 0.05 and 0.01 level of confidence.

Conclusion

There exists no significant difference between Occupational Aspirations of secondary school male and female students because there is no significant difference exists between the mean scores of occupational aspiration of male and female secondary school students. The null hypothesis is accepted in this study. It concludes that all the secondary male and female students have the same ideas, goals, and fantasies to make the decision about their future occupations. Occupational aspiration is almost the same in the male and female secondary students. There are no gender differences in their occupational aspirations.

- **Educational Implications of the Study:** Career decisions are generally made at secondary school stage. It would help the students to know their occupational aspiration.
- It would help to the choice of occupation in later years.
- Students can be made aware of their potential and abilities to choose the right profession for their livelihood and nation.

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