

A COMPARATIVE STUDY THE LEVEL OF ASPIRATION AMONG THE ADOLESCENTS

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Abstract

The present study was undertaken to study the level of aspiration of adolescent in relation to gender, locale and stream. The study was conducted on a sample of 200 students (100 boys and 100 girls) of +1 class randomly selected from rural and urban schools from science and arts stream of Moga District in Punjab. To test the level of aspiration, Level of Aspiration Measure Developed by Dr. Mahesh Bhargava and Late Prof. M.A. Shah was administered. The findings of the study revealed that no significant difference was found in the level of aspiration of adolescent's boys and girls but significant difference was found in the level of aspiration of rural and urban adolescents. The study further showed that no significant difference was found in the level of aspiration of science and arts stream adolescents. It is suggested that teachers should develop a positive attitude, encouragement and sense of vision among the adolescents.

Key words: *Aspiration, Adolescents, Gender, Urban, Stream*

We are living in troubled times. The age of Enlightenment, the age of reason and the age of progress have given place to the age of anxiety. Economic recessions, racial prejudices, population explosion, terrorism, nuclear war and acid rain - all these are sufficient to keep humanity in a state of perpetual insecurity and anxiety. It is harbinger to the prosperity of humanity. So our educational system must change its goals, objectives, and strategies according to the new patterns of globalized context. It should provide freedom, promote new technological knowledge, dignity, and ensure liberation of mind of the individual. While people of all ages aspire for something, aspirations are especially strong during the senior secondary stage. Typically adolescence is a time of idealism and romanticism. It is a time of dreaming about the future when the adolescent aspires to reach the moon and confidentially expects to do so. On the other hand similarly adolescence is a complex and often difficult period in development both for adolescents and for their families. Because of rapid physical, physiological and cognitive changes, and by an accelerating succession of urgent social demands, adolescents face formidable challenges in the essential task of deciding who they are, what they are going to be, and how they are going to get these. Impulsivity, misbehaving, ill mannerism, lying, disinterest in studies, disobedience, high in attentiveness, and argumentation, etc. are some problem behaviour characteristics among adolescents.

Aspiration means a longing for what is above one with advancement as its end. Aspiration means the goal the

individual sets for himself in a task which has intense personal significance for him or in which ego is involved. The dictionary meaning of the word aspiration is "to desire eagerly to a certain higher goal and to lower up". Webster's Third International Dictionary defined (1976) aspiration is strong desire for realization (as an ambition, idea or accomplishment). Backer (1987) referred level of aspiration as individual strives for a particular goal or level of achievement. Aspirations are strong desires to reach something high or great. Young people's aspirations guide the students learn in their future.

Aspiration reflects individuals' ideas of their possible selves, what they would like to become, what they might become, and what they do not wish to become. Realizing aspirations requires the investment of time, energy, and resources - both from the young person and from others. Trusty and Niles (2004) found that career aspirations have a significant positive relationship with students' achievement and that higher expectations lead to higher educational and occupational attainment. Sharma, Kaushik (2008) investigated level of aspirations and home conditions of distant learners in the context of their sex. Finding revealed that the male distant learners have high level of aspiration as compared to female distant learners. Female distant learners have better home conditions as compared to male distant learners.

Adolescence is the period of career selection. The child has to make decision about the subjects he wants to study. In the present era of globalization, there is fierce

competition in every sphere of life. On academic side, there is no place anywhere for the average and below average students. Excellence in the academic achievement becomes the pre requisite for each career what so ever it may be. Level of aspiration plays an important role in moulding child's character, personality and career selection. Adolescents aspire for those careers which hold high status in the society. They may or may not have the capabilities of doing it. Parental and peer pressures too help in raising the level of aspiration. This in turn prompts the adolescents to mould their ways of studying to meet the target they have set. Aspirations are the pool of individual constructed alternative dreams, hopes and desires for one's future and continually modified by both internal and external influence. When adjusted to reflect and conform to individual and social realities, aspirations become goals and serve as motivation for behaviour designed to reach those goals. It is felt that boys have higher aspiration then the girls. It is also felt that urban students have higher degree of aspiration, then the rural students. All the conclusions lack adequate scientific evidence higher to accept or to reject. No level of aspiration can help unless consistent and persistent efforts are done to reach the target. The present study intends to investigate this angle and will go a long way to study the level of aspiration in relation to gender, locale and stream.

Objectives

1. To study the difference between the level of aspiration of adolescent boys and girls.
2. To study the difference between the level of aspiration of rural and urban adolescents.
3. To study the difference between the level of aspiration of science and arts stream adolescents.

Sample

The study was conducted on 200 students (100 boys and 100 girls) of +1 class randomly selected from rural and urban senior secondary school students from science and arts stream of Moga District in Punjab.

Measures

Level of Aspiration Measure Developed by Bhargava and Shah.

Statistical Technical

Mean, SD and t-test were employed to find the difference in level of aspiration of different categories of

samples like boys, girls, rural and urban, science and arts students.

Results and Discussion

Table 1 : Difference between level of aspiration of adolescent boys and girls

Category	No. of students	Mean	S.D.	t-ratio
Boys	100	83.45	20.67	1.55
Girls	100	78.3	25.99	

Table 1 the statistical findings revealed that the mean score of boys is 83.45 with S.D. 20.67 and mean score of girls is 78.3 with S.D. 25.99. the mean score of boys students is higher than the mean score of girls students. The t-value 1.55 has been found to be not statistically significantly. Therefore the hypothesis that there is significant difference between the level of aspiration of adolescent boys and girls is rejected. The reason may be due to the fact that these days male and females are equally career oriented parents are provided equally opportunities of education both for boys and girls for their career advancement. So it is natural that the level of aspiration of girls is almost equal to the boys in the present study.

Table 2 : Difference between level of aspiration of rural and urban adolescents

Category	No. of students	Mean	S.D.	t-ratio
Rural	99	70.51	26.66	9.068**
Urban	98	94.89	0.71	

**Significant at 0.01 level

Table 2 shows that the mean score of level of aspiration of rural students is 70.51 with S.D. as 26.66 and mean score of urban students is 94.89 with S.D. as 0.71. The mean score of level of aspiration of urban is higher than the mean score of level of aspiration of rural students. The t-ratio is 9.068 which is significant at 0.01 level. So it is found that level of aspiration of urban students is higher than level of aspiration of rural students. Hence the hypothesis that there is significant difference between level of aspiration of rural and urban adolescents is accepted. Reasons for the result may be due the fact that parental ambitions influence the level of aspiration of the children. In cities parents are educated and they always expect more from their children then the rural parents. Moreover, the educational environment is a good contributing factor in this regard. The better facilities for education like good schools, excellent coaching centers, well equipped libraries supported by latest information

technology and competent teachers prompt them to have higher level of aspiration.

Table 3 : Difference between level of aspiration of science and arts stream adolescents

Category	No. of students	Mean	S.D.	t-ratio
Science	100	82.7	22.93	0.72
Arts	99	80.35	23.11	

In table 3 the statistical findings revealed that the mean score of science students is 82.7 with S.D. as 22.93 and mean score of arts students is 80.35 with S.D. as 23.11. The mean score of science students is higher than the mean score of arts students. The t-ratio is 0.72 which is not found to be significant. Therefore the hypothesis that there is significant difference between the level of aspiration science and arts stream adolescents is rejected. The reasons may be due to **the fact that not only science stream students are goal oriented but.** Arts students are also goal oriented. Arts stream students have many opportunities for their career advancement. These days there are various type of competitions in which arts stream students can compete. So they aspire towards their destination and they have almost equal level of aspiration of science stream students.

Conclusions

There is no significant difference between the level of aspiration of adolescent boys and girls. There is significant difference between the level of aspiration of rural and urban adolescents. There is significant difference between the level of aspiration of science and arts stream adolescents.

Educational Implications

The findings of the study are significantly useful for the teachers, parents, policy makers and society at large. They will be able to set appropriate goals for the child by properly integrating child's capabilities with the aspiration and plan properly for meeting those targets. Teacher should motivate parents to promote the development of their children and should create an environment which stimulates higher aspirations. Parents have to promote their children aspirations to a high level, through proper support and care. The educational process should be aimed at developing ambition, dreams, goals, expectations, and aspirations among children. This can be achieved among children. This can be achieved by acquainting teachers, parents, policymakers, and curriculum designers, with the real meaning of 'aspirations', and the ways and means of developing and nurturing aspiration activities.

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