

Occupational Aspirations of Secondary School Students in Relation to Their Achievement Motivation and Parental Occupation

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Abstract – Occupational aspirations are the dreams for future occupation unfettered by reality based factors like resources and constraints and adolescence is that stage where these aspirations reach their desired height. The present descriptive survey research conducted on 400 secondary school students (200 males and 200 females) studying in CBSE affiliated schools, is intended to explore the occupational aspirations of secondary school students in relation to their achievement motivation and parental occupation. It was found that majority of the students have moderate levels of occupational aspirations and achievement motivation. Significant positive correlation was found between occupational aspirations and achievement motivation of students whereas parental occupation was not having significant correlation with occupational aspirations of the students. Occupational aspirations of male students were higher than the females while female students were having higher achievement motivation than the males. Suggestions for enhancing level of achievement motivation and shaping the occupational aspirations of students were given by the investigator.

Keywords – Adolescents, gender, Occupational aspirations, secondary school students, achievement motivation, Parental occupation.

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INTRODUCTION

The transition of young people into work force marks a crucial stage of independence, the application of academic learning, social and economic productivity, as well as it sets the stage for an individual's potential in terms of earning capacity, job options and the possibility of future advancement.

Youngsters of the day are not confined to the traditional carrier choices as they are more exposed to the mass media than the older generations. The Indian youth is well informed and is having high aspirations and urges for education and employment. Since aspirations and expectations of today's adolescents will be the base for the future productive manpower of the nation, it has become the focus for national and international agenda for the holistic development of youth.

The present study specifically focuses on occupational Aspirations of adolescents which initially develop as vague representations of possible future outcomes based on societal norms and parental expectations but with development, they become more realistic, based

on their interests, perceived abilities and individual characteristics as well as the opportunities available to them.

There are many factors responsible for the formation of these aspirations including intelligence, gender, Age, interests, values, family pressures, group expectations, and cultural traditions, socio-economic status etc. Out of the major factors affecting the occupational aspirations of the students Achievement Motivation – also referred to as the need for achievement, is an important determinant of an individual's aspirations, efforts and persistence when he/she expects his performance will be evaluated in relation to some standard of excellence.

Another major variable affecting and shaping the occupational aspirations of the young ones is the family influence especially the parents who invest their time and money in activities that affect their child's well-being. Saifullah (2011) pointed out that parents' occupation which is the main work undertaken by the parents for the subsistence of the family, significantly influences students' achievement.

RATIONALE OF THE STUDY

Adolescents' occupational aspirations have been viewed as significant determinants of both short-term educational and long-term occupational choices and as a reflection of young one's future social mobility and career self-concept (Rojewski, 1995).

It would be of immense practical value to evaluate the occupational aspirations of 10th class students as students are offered electives at the higher secondary stage after passing this class and the type of course they choose will ultimately influence their future occupational choices. The parents wish to make their wards doctors, engineers etc. considering the prestige associated with these occupations and without taking into account whether they can meet the cost or not. The students too may aspire for jobs which attract them irrespective of their competence and economic conditions.

Hence the present study is a humble effort to explore the occupational aspirations of secondary school students in relation to their achievement motivation and parental occupation.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Occupational aspirations of secondary school students in relation to their achievement motivation and parental occupation

OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS OF THE KEY TERMS

- 1. Occupational Aspirations:** occupational aspirations refer to the type of occupation the students would choose at some point in the future if they were free of barriers or limiting factors.
- 2. Achievement Motivation:** Achievement motivation is the behaviour of an individual who strives to accomplish something, to do his best, to excel others in a performance.
- 3. Parental Occupation:** Parental occupation is defined as the main work undertaken by the parent/guardian in order to earn a living. Here parental occupation refers to father's occupation.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To study the level of occupational aspirations and achievement motivation of secondary school students.
2. To investigate the relationship between the occupational aspirations and achievement motivation of secondary school students.

3. To investigate the relationship between the occupational aspirations and parental occupation of secondary school students.
4. To find out the significance of gender differences in the occupational aspirations and achievement motivation of secondary school students.
5. To find out the significance of difference between the occupational aspirations of secondary school students with high, moderate and low achievement motivation.
6. To find out the significance of difference between the occupational aspirations of secondary school students with different parental occupation.

HYPOTHESIS

1. There is likely to be a significant relationship between the occupational aspirations and achievement motivation of secondary school students.
2. There is likely to be a significant relationship between the occupational aspirations and parental occupation of secondary school students.
3. There is likely to be significant gender differences in the occupational aspirations and achievement motivation of secondary school students.
4. There is likely to be significant difference in the occupational aspirations of secondary school students with high, moderate and low achievement motivation.
5. There is likely to be significant difference in the occupational aspirations of secondary school students with different parental occupation.

SAMPLE OF THE STUDY

Sample of the present study comprised of a total of 400 secondary school students (200 male and 200 female) studying in class Xth of CBSE affiliated schools of the Haryana State selected randomly from four districts (choosing one district from each division by lottery method) of the state.

RESEARCH TOOLS USED

Occupational Aspiration Scale by Dr. J. S. Grewal (2011) and Achievement Motivation Scale (n-Ach) by Prof. Pratibha Deo and Dr. Asha Mohan (2011). Information regarding parental occupation will be obtained from students and by consulting school records.

RESULTS

Level of occupational aspirations and achievement motivation of secondary school students

Table 1 and Figure 1: Showing levels of occupational aspirations and achievement motivation of secondary school students.

Level	Occupational Aspirations		Achievement Motivation	
	N	%	N	%
High	64	16	86	21.5
Moderate	280	70	180	45
Low	56	14	134	33.5
Total	400	100	400	100

Table 1 and Figure 1 show that the majority of secondary school students are having moderate level of occupational aspirations and achievement motivation.

Relationship of occupational aspirations with achievement motivation and parental occupation of secondary school students

Table 2:- Correlation of occupational aspirations with achievement motivation and parental occupation of secondary school students

Sr. No.	Variables	N	r	Sr. No.	Variables	N	r
1.	Occupational Aspirations	400	0.207**	1.	Occupational Aspirations	400	0.075
2.	Achievement motivation	400		2.	Parental Occupation	400	

** Significant at the 0.01 level of significance

It is depicted from the table 2 that the coefficient of correlation between occupational aspirations and achievement motivation of secondary schools students is 0.207 indicating that the occupational aspirations and achievement motivation of secondary schools students are significantly and positively correlated. It is also depicted that correlation between occupational aspirations and parental occupation of secondary schools students is 0.075 indicating that there is insignificant negligible positive correlation between occupational aspirations and parental occupation of secondary school students. This means parental occupation has almost no effect on the occupational aspirations of secondary school students.

Gender differences in the occupational aspirations and achievement motivation of secondary school students

Table 3:- Mean, SD and t-value for occupational aspirations and achievement motivation of male and female secondary school students

Variables	Gender	N	Mean	SD	t-ratio	df	Level of Significance
Occupational Aspirations	Male	200	55.76	7.002	2.426	398	p<0.01
	Female	200	54.13	6.378			
Achievement motivation	Male	200	142.9	17.908	3.492	398	p<0.01
	Female	200	149	16.988			

Figure 2:- Means and t-ratio for occupational aspirations and achievement motivation of secondary school students

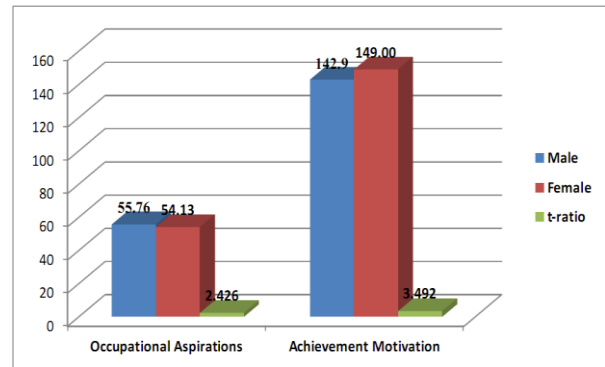


Table 3 and figure 2 clearly depicted that the obtained t-value for occupational aspirations and achievement motivation are significant at .01 level. Also the Calculated mean shows that occupational aspirations of male secondary school students are higher than that of female secondary school students while on the variable of achievement motivation, female secondary school students excels their male counterparts.

Comparison of the occupational aspirations of secondary school students in high, moderate and low achievement motivation groups

Table 4:- showing summary of Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) for difference in Occupational Aspirations of secondary schools students with high, moderate and low achievement motivation

Source of Variance	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Significance
Between Groups	358.726	2	179.363	4.009	.019
Within Groups	17761.171	397	44.738		
Total	18119.898	399			

Significant at 0.01 level of significance

Figure 3: Showing Comparison of mean Occupational Aspirations of secondary schools students having different Achievement Motivation levels

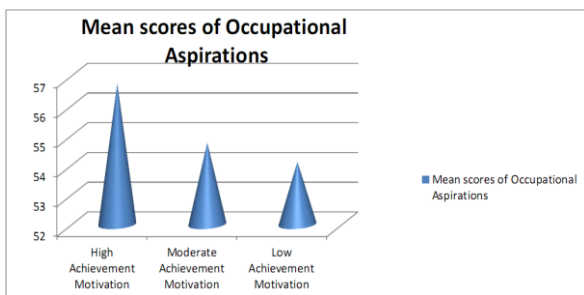


Table 4 and figure 3 shows that the calculated F-value 4.009 is significant at 0.01 level. This implies that there is a statistically significant difference in the mean occupational aspirations of secondary school students with high, moderate and low achievement motivation levels.

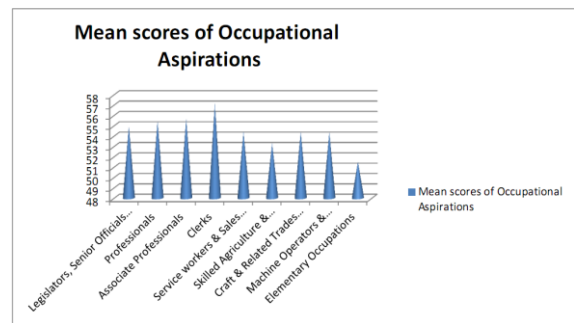
Comparison of the occupational aspirations of secondary school students with different parental occupation

Table 5:- showing summary of Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) for difference in Occupational Aspirations of secondary schools students with different parental occupation.

Source of Variance	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Significance
Between Groups	33.275	2	16.6375	0.919	.501
Within Groups	17785.623	397	44.800		
Total	18119.898	399			

Not significant at .05 and .01 level

Figure 4: Showing Comparison of mean Occupational Aspirations of secondary schools students having different Parental Occupations



From the table 5 and figure 4, it is clear that the calculated F-value of 0.919 is not significant at 0.01 and 0.05 level. It indicates that there is no variability caused due to different parental occupation of secondary school students.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

- i. Findings revealed that maximum number of the secondary school students have moderate levels of occupational aspirations and achievement motivation.
- ii. It was found that there is significant positive correlation between the occupational aspirations and level of achievement motivation of secondary school students.
- iii. No significant correlation was found between the occupational aspirations and parental occupation of secondary school students.
- iv. It was confirmed that there exists significant gender differences in the occupational aspirations and achievement motivation of secondary school students. Male students are having higher occupational aspirations as compared to the females but the female students are having higher levels of achievement motivation than their male counterparts.
- v. It was observed that the occupational aspirations of secondary school students in high, moderate and low achievement motivation groups differ significantly from each other. But no significant difference was found in the occupational aspirations of secondary school students with different parental occupation.

CONCLUSION

The present paper concluded that majority of the students have moderate levels of occupational aspirations and achievement motivation and also

significant positive correlation was found between the two, hence teachers should try to organise more co-curricular activities like debate, drama, role play etc. to expose the hidden talents of the students and use various reinforcement techniques to raise their achievement motivation level. It is evident from the results that the females have low occupational aspirations than males probably due to gender stereotype society and limited experiences available for them. Teachers, parents and career counsellors should provide adequate career related information and encourage the girls to raise their aspirations in accordance with their interests and abilities. Moreover findings of the present study will be helpful in developing a deeper understanding of adolescent's occupational aspirations in order to assist in the exploration of available occupational options, help them seek career-related information and obtain support for their career plans.

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