

Relation between Caste and Vocational Aspiration of the Students

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Abstract – The caste of the student has a strong influence on our vocational aspiration too. India is a country of diverse group of people, community, cultures, languages and Institutions. Our social system is quite different and probably unique from the rest of the world. Our eighty percent population reside in villages which is poor and under privileged. Even in the cities, the people are generally traditional like rural people because of their cultural background. The recent census report revealed that in our country, education is still less in comparison to western and advanced countries. In addition to all these, majority of Indian population have same family occupations. They are generally traditional and superstitious. In such a condition, the educational and vocational goals of most of the students are not based on primary and realistic considerations like students of advanced countries. Thus, the results based on the studies made on students of an advanced country cannot be realistic for our students. In advanced countries career plans are made on primary considerations like ability, aptitude, interest, intelligence, achievements etc. But in our country, due to lack of opportunity and several other reasons, they are based on secondary considerations like parents' advice, employment opportunity, Social of family occupations etc. In another words, we can say frankly that here the career plans, education vocational goals, success in education and vocation are based on extraneous grounds and are accidental in grounds are accidental in nature. Here one is doctor or a College Teacher, or Police Officer or Military personnel by accident in most of the cases Thus it is desirable to make studies on educational and vocational aspirations of students in Indian context very few studies have come to light in Indian context (eg Joshi, 1963; Kanungo, 1960 Reddy, 1978; Saboo, 1979; Singh and Prasad, 1969 Suman, 1985) etc. These studies cannot be judged as enough So more thorough and well-planned studies on this aspect are needed. This will help us to a great extent, in understanding our students in better way in present context. The impact of caste effects the level of vocational aspiration the level of the students.

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'The term 'aspiration' is used most of the time when a decision or desire is usually out of context with reality and it is appropriately (not so appropriately) determined by fantasy level, which has minimum experiential (concrete reality) component attached to it.

The use of 'aspiration' has been made indifferent fields, (Eysenck, 1947; Encyclopedia of Religion and Ethics, 1971). In the sociological field, aspiration is used as an index of upward social mobility (Crites, 1969) in the clinical psychology aspiration (When Entirely out of touch of reality) may be taken as indicator of conflict out of touch of reality) may be taken as indicator of conflict and maladjustment (Eysenck, 1947). In religion. Aspiration is used to express the level of desire to attain 'Nirvan'/Moksh' whereas in ethics it is used for realization of higher ideas (Encyclopedia of Religion and Ethics. 1971). In educational and vocational guidance, the term aspiration has been frequently used to denote the fantasy level connected with the future goals. A number of studies have tried to correlate it with various

personality variables (Flugel, 1945; Eysenck, 1947; Bhargava and Dhir, 1980).

As pointed out earlier, the term level of aspiration has been applied in the 'vocational choice field' by various psychologists and sociologists. 'By occupational aspiration' is usually meant what the individual considers to be the ideal location for him. Defined in this way, aspiration is quite similar to, if not identical with, a person's fantasy choice' (Trow.1941) as elicited by interviews and open-ended question as "what would you do" (Crites, 1969).

The terms 'vocational', 'occupational', occupational choice' etc. have been used interchangeably in the current psychological literature.

Everett (1965) also seeks the meaning of occupation in broad terms. He stated that "an occupation, in essence, is the part of an individual in any ongoing set of activities. The system may be large or small, simple or complex. Hughes emphasizes the social relationships surrounding an occupation, not in order

to minimize the financial side, but to keep it in perspective as part of a more inclusive set of social relationships. A specific activity with a market value which an individual continually pursues for the purpose of obtaining a steady flow of income, this activity also determines the social position of the individual's occupation. In simple meaning it can be said that an occupation is the social role performed by adult members of society that directly or indirectly yields social and financial consequences and that constitutes a major focus in the life of an adult. Often social status is tagged with the occupation one holds. Occupation of father is widely accepted as the most usable single index of the social and economic status of all the members of a family. In the present decade the role of occupation has acquired an immense psychological importance in the life of an individual. A major question always arise that why do people enter in different occupations? The answer of this can be explained from various perspectives. One may investigate, foresee, the psychological characteristics of individuals and the process of motivation that govern their vocational choice. The important factors which affected people's difference in occupations are race, sex, general bodily development, facial appearance, special physical abilities, special disabilities. Another factor is psychological difference which covers intelligence, special abilities, imagery, personality and interests. Differences in social inheritance like family, social class, parent-child similarities in occupation, personality difference in social class, religion and race also affect people's entering in different occupations. Another approach would focus upon the stratified social structure, rather than upon either the psychological make-up of individual or the organization of the economy and would Analyses the effects of parental social status upon the occupational opportunities for children. Each of these perspectives, by the very nature of discipline from which it derives, excludes from consideration some important variables which may affect occupational choice and selection.

Here the first need is to define what is meant by choice? Does it mean what a person would like most to do, assuming that he had the capacities, training and opportunity? What he will try to do? To some extent the meaning of the word changes with the age of life period with which we are concerned. With small children "choice of an occupation means something quite different from what it means even in high school, and choice means something also again when one is actually faced with the necessity for taking a job. The term preference, in place of choice may be used for all stages up to the final one of actually entering upon an occupation.

Parents influence occupations of their children by the direct inheritance of the Father's occupation. Caplow (1960) believes "inherit" formal education and social status as important determinants of vocational choice. He suggests that vocational guidance has a selective role in occupational choice.

Students are the future of the nation and they are undoubtedly an important force in the process of national building. All children are born to achieve. All have unique talents and extraordinary potentiality. All children have brain with tremendous capacities for achieving sky in their limit. Unfortunately, now students are not ideal because they don't have real Knowledge regarding to social contexts, but they are behind jobs only. This is not so bad but bad is the aspiration of that vocation which is beyond their capacities.

Influences in the family like parental ambition's parental occupation and family-status may also play a significant role in vocational aspirational aspiration. Parental motivation has been found to be significantly related to student's aspiration level, even when social –class, status and IQ are held constant. In general students whose parents ranked high on aspirational motivation (i.o. high educational and occupational goals for children and rewarded good schoolwork) tended to have high aspiration level themselves (Havel & Frese, 1982). Father's occupation exerts a significant influence on the career choice of sons, though apparently not of daughters. The number of sons following in their father's footsteps greatly exceeds what one would expect by chance, even if social class influences are taken into account (Mortimer, 2009). For example, sons of physicians, lawyers and industrialist are far more likely to enter these occupations than are other young men of similar socio-economic status. This due to some obvious factors as (i) greater opportunity to become familiar with father's occupation, greater like hood of access to the occupations and (iii) at least in some cases strong parental and sometimes pressure for the sons to enter the same occupation. Parental expectations and aspirations may also influence the career decisions aspiration of their children (Majoribanks, 2003) found that family background individuals characteristics and proximal learning setting combines to have large associations with adolescence aspirations. In a more recent study, Ritche et.al (2005) have concluded that children aspirations and career decision are influenced by the parental expectations but are not determined by them.

The parental views and expectation for their sons about the future job placement and sons 'own intellectual capacity, the personality, need achievement and adjustment might be helpfull in understanding vocational aspirations of adolescents. Moreover, a comparison of rural urban boys would be of practical importance in understanding their vocational planning problems and to offer counseling assistance in a more effective way.

Many studies have been conducted relating the concept of level of vocational aspiration social class. Stephenson (1955) found that aspirations were relatively unaffected by social class, but actual plans were affected cockram (1968) report that other researchers did not make a distinction

between aspirations and plans. They found a consistent positive relationship between the student's social class and his level of occupational. Haller (1963) thinks that the person's level of occupational aspiration is determined, in part, by his conception of himself in relation to the style of life ascribed to that occupational level.

Here we find that socio-economic status is important factor in relation to vocational inspirational aspiration and goals. Persons differ in their career planning with their socio-economic condition.

The caste of the students has a strong influence on our vocational aspirations to. In the light of this background, it was hypothesized that the impact of effects the level of caste effects the level of vocational aspiration level of the students. In order to test this hypothesis also chi-square test was applied. The obtained results are presented in table-

Relationship of caste and vocational aspirations of the students.

Vocational Aspiration Group	Caste		Total
	High	Low	
Higher	71	49	120
Lower	52	68	120
Total	123	117	240

Chi-square=6.01
 significant beyond <.01 level.

It is relevant from table that the obtained chi-square value is 6.01 which is highly significant. It means that vocational aspirations are also associated with caste of the student. The cell frequencies further indicate that that the relationship is positive, as the students of high caste have generally set higher vocational aspirations. So, these students of different castes differ in vocational aspiration. Thus, on the basis of results presented in above table one may conclude that students of high caste set higher aspirations while students of low caste group set lower level of vocational aspiration.

Significant relationship has been also found between higher and lower vocational aspirants with respect with respect to their caste. The students of high caste have exhibited higher vocational aspirations whereas the students of lower caste have exhibited lower level of vocational aspirations.

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