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A STUDY ON THE LEVEL OF EDUCATIONAL ASPIRATION OF COLLEGE STUDENTS IN RELATION TO GENDER AND LOCATION

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Abstract:- Aspiration is a strong desire of a person to do something better than earlier. Educational aspiration is one's will to excel in academics, when level of aspiration is centered on the field of education we may refer to it as level of educational aspiration (LOEA). The level of educational aspiration of the students not only affects their study habits but also their academic performances. The present study laid importance to find out the level of educational aspiration of the college students of three districts of Assam viz Sibsagar, Jorhat and Golaghat. From these three districts the investigator selected 27 colleges by applying stratified random sampling method. Total 324 students have been selected as sample from these colleges which equally represented the urban, semi-urban and rural areas i.e. 108 from each. The total sample also comprises with 162 boys and 162 girls. The tools used in this study were 'Information Schedule' and 'Educational Aspiration Scale' developed and standardized by Dr. V.P. Sharma and Dr. Anuradha Gupta of Raipur. The study revealed that most of the student's levels of educational aspiration are average type in all these localities. The higher level of educational aspiration is found in semi-urban area (2.97%) than rural (1.90%) and urban (1.83%) areas.

There is a significant difference between the students of urban and rural areas but no difference is found in between the students of urban and semi-urban areas. There is no significant difference in the level of educational aspiration of the college students in regard to gender.

Keywords: Level of Educational Aspiration, Students of Provincialized Colleges, Localities, Gender.

INTRODUCTION

Aspiration is the expectation of definite achievement by the person. Aspiration and ambitions are nearly synonymous and are often used interchangeably. Both mean eagerness or an ardent desire to achieve something higher than one's present status, rank, fame or honor. In aspiration, the person has set a goal and tries to achieve it. It can be truly said that behind all aspirations there is a fundamental human need for achievement. According to dictionary of Psychology- "Aspiration is an initially motivated, sensually experienced need for an attraction towards an object. Depending on the degree of the subject's awareness, aspiration as a dynamic tendency takes the form of a drive or desire". The literary meaning of the term 'Aspiration' is a strong desire to do something better than earlier.

The level of aspiration is related to life goal. The wish of attaining any type of goal is called aspiration and the intensity of attaining the goal is called the level of aspiration. When the level of aspiration of the students is used in the field of education it is to be referred as level of educational aspiration (LOEA). Elizabeth B. Hurlock mentioned in her study that so many elements like impacts of peer group, expectation of parents, pressure of society, motivation of teachers, past experiences, culture and traditions and other ideal personalities have been influenced in the development of aspiration of the students. Besides these, locality and immediate physical and academic atmosphere of the institution also play an important role in developing students' aspiration along with their sex, age,

interest and intelligence.

Significance of the study:

In the perspective of globalization, higher education is considered to be the most powerful system of education. The strength of national economy mainly depends on the effective man-power production and management. The human resource development is integrally related with the higher education system. Today's student of college and universities will be tomorrow's efficient, productive citizen of the country. The performance and achievement of the students are definitely affected by their level of educational aspiration. Therefore, many studies have been done in India and abroad on the level of educational aspiration of the college students. These studies revealed that- 'experience of achievement play an important role in setting an individual's level of aspiration', Muthaya (1967), 'High cohesive groups were more aspirants than that of their counterparts', Bhanot (1967), 'The woman have higher educational aspiration than men' Shah et.al (1972), 'There is a great influence of sex, race and socio-economic status on aspiration for education' Steven and Michael (1974). The review of related literature shown that in North-Eastern region of India particularly in Assam very few studies have been done so far on educational aspiration of the students. Sungoh (1984) had examined educational and vocational aspiration of girls studying in pre-university classes in Shillong, Dubey (1974) made a study on educational and vocational aspiration of SC and ST college students of Assam, Das (1986) had examined peer influence and educational aspiration of secondary school students in relation to their academic achievement in Assam. From the studies reviewed, it is found that the level of educational aspiration of college students of Sibsagar, Jorhat and Golaghat districts of Assam has not been studied so far. So, the investigator wants to undertake the comparative study on the level of educational aspiration of college students of different localities such as urban, semi-urban and rural areas.

Statement of the problem:

The problem of the present study has been selected by the investigator and stated as -"A study on the level of Educational Aspirations of college Students in Relation to Gender and Location."

Meaning of the key terms:

i.Provincialized colleges

According to 'The Assam College employees (Provincialisation) bill, 2005, Provincialised college means any non-governmental college in Assam in receipt of deficit grants-in-aid from the government and imparting general education in Arts, Commerce or Science stream in graduate level.

ii.Gender

In this study gender meant for boy and girl students.

iii.Localities

By localities, in this study meant for urban, semi-urban and rural areas.

Objectives of the study:

The objectives of the study were:

- 1.To study about the difference in level of educational aspiration of the students in relation to gender.
- 2.To make a comparative assessment of the level of educational aspiration of the students belonging to the colleges of urban, semi-urban and rural areas.

Hypotheses:

The following hypotheses were formulated to test the objectives mentioned above.

1. There is no significant difference in the level of educational aspiration of the students in relation to gender.
2. There is no significant difference in the level of educational aspiration of the students belonging to the colleges of urban, semi-urban and rural areas.

Delimitation of the study:

- i. The study is confined to three district of Assam viz Sibsagar, Jorhat and Golaghat.
- ii. The scope of the study is limited to the students of 27 provincialized colleges affiliated to Dibrugarh University.

Methodology:

In this study ‘Descriptive Survey Method’ was used to gather data from a relatively large number of samples at a particular time.

All the students of 74 provincialized colleges under D.U spreading over 7 districts of Assam were considered as the population.

In this study, 324 students were selected from 27 sample colleges by adopting stratified random sampling technique. The stratification factor taken into consideration was the location of the colleges, such as urban, semi-urban and rural. The number of boys and girls samples were equal i.e. 162 boys and 162 girls. The number of samples from all the localities were also equal i.e. 108 from each area and male – female ratio is also same (Male = 54, Female=54).

For collection of relevant data pertaining to the level of educational aspiration, the investigator used self-prepared ‘Information Schedule’ and ‘Educational Aspiration Scale’ standardized by Dr. V.P Sharma and Dr. Anuradha Gupta of Raipur University.

For analysis of the data, simple Frequency percentage, Mean, Standard Division, T-test and Post Hoc test for multiple comparisons were used.

Analysis and Discussion:

Students’ level of educational aspiration is on of the most important determinants of quality students as well as the quality institutions it is imperative to find out the significance of difference on the level of educational aspiration of the students in relation to gender as mentioned in objective no. 1.

Table 1: Range of Scores and Percentage of boys and girls on LOEA.

Level of Aspiration	Range of Scores	% of Boys	% of Girls
Low	0 – 26	20.37	19.75
Average	27 - 52	69.75	69.75
High	53 - 80	9.88	10.50

Table 1 reveals that the percentage of boys and girls on level of educational aspiration are same in average level. In higher level the percentage of girls (10.50) is slightly higher than the boys (9.88). The difference between the boys and girls in Low, Average and High level of aspiration are not so prominent. But, to test the significance of difference, t-test is more reliable than others.

Table 2: Significance of difference between boys and girls in their LOEA.

Sex	N	Mean	Std. deviation	Std. Error Mean	t-value	df	Remarks
Boys	162	38.99	11.544	0.907	-0.938	322	NS
Girls	162	40.22	12.146	0.954			

Table 2 shows that the t-value is found to be -0.938 which is less than the 1.96 and 2.58 at both levels of significance, As the calculated value is not significant at both the levels, hence the hypothesis that- “There is no significant difference in the level of educational aspiration of the students in relation to gender” is accepted. Therefore, we can conclude that no significant difference is found in the study between the boys and girls in their level of educational aspiration.

For comparative assessment of the level of educational aspiration of the students belonging to the colleges of urban, semi-urban and rural areas some statistical treatments have been done as follows.

Table 3: Range of Scores and Percentage of students on Level of Educational Aspiration of different Localities.

Level of Aspiration	Range of scores	Area			
		Urban %	Semi-urban %	Rural %	Total %
Low	0-26	11.11	15.74	34.26	20.37
Average	27-52	78.70	71.30	59.26	69.75
High	53-80	10.19	12.96	6.48	9.88

Table 3 reveals that the percentage of lower (11.11) and higher (10.19) levels of educational aspiration of the urban area's college students are almost equal. In semi-urban area's colleges the percentage between lower (15.74) and higher (12.96) level of educational aspiration also not very different. But the percentage of lower LOEA of rural college students (34.26) is much higher than the urban (11.11) and semi-urban (15.74) area's colleges.

Table 4: The mean value and S.D. of different level of educational aspiration (LOEA) of students in different areas.

Level of aspiration	Urban			Semi-urban			Rural		
	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
Low	12	22.33	2.74	17	21.47	1.84	37	22.38	2.17
Average	85	44.62	6.60	77	42.78	7.74	64	38.58	8.09
High	11	56.82	1.83	14	57.21	2.97	7	55.57	1.90
Total	108	43.39	10.23	108	41.30	11.89	108	34.13	11.40

As indicated in the table 4, the mean score of lower LOEA is 22.33 with SD of 2.74 in urban area, 21.47 with SD of 1.84 in semi-urban area and 22.38 with SD of 2.17 in rural area are almost equal.

In case of average LOEA, the mean score in urban area is 44.62 with SD 6.60 is much higher than the mean score 38.58 with SD of 8.09 of rural area.

In case of higher LOEA, the mean score 57.21 with SD of 2.97 of semi-urban area is more than the mean score 56.82 with SD of 1.83 and 55.57 with SD of 1.90 of urban and rural areas respectively.

For multiple comparisons Post – Hoc Tests were applied.

Table 5: Post – Hoc Tests of significance of Difference between the Students of different Areas.

(I) Area	(J) Area	Mean Difference (I – J)	Std. Error	Sig.	Remarks
Urban	Semi – urban	2.093	1.524	.356	N.S
	Rural	9.259*	1.524	.000	S
Semi – urban	Urban	-2.093	1.524	.356	N.S
	Rural	7.167*	1.524	.000	S
Rural	Urban	-9.259*	1.524	.000	S
	Semi – Urban	-7.167	1.524	.000	S

Table 5 reveals that, there is a significant difference between the means of urban and rural as well as semi-urban and rural area's college students at .05 levels. But there is no significant difference between the means of students in urban and semi-urban area's colleges. Therefore, the second hypothesis is partly accepted.

Results:

From the above analysis, findings can be drawn as following:

- i. There is no significant difference on average levels of educational aspiration between the boys and girls. From the

percentage it is seen that girls (10.50%) are more aspired than boys (9.88).

ii. t-test reveals that there is no significant difference in the LOEA between the boys and girls at both 0.05 and 0.01 levels.

iii. As a whole in semi-urban area more students have higher LOEA (12.96%) than urban (10.19%) and rural (6.48%) areas.

iv. From the Post-Hoc test, it is found that there is a significant difference between the means of educational aspiration of students in various colleges located in urban and rural areas as well as in semi-urban and rural areas at 0.05 levels. But there is no significant difference found in between the means of students in urban and semi-urban area's colleges.

Suggestions:

On the basis of the findings, the investigator would like to recommend some suggestions for improvement of students' level of aspiration.

(i) The higher education institution should improve their infrastructure and

e-learning facilities for the students so that their aspiration level can be improved.

(ii) The students have to provide up to date information about the globe without considering their gender and localities.

(iii) For proper use of internet services by the rural area's students proper provision should be ensured by the college authority and government. Because without

up-to date knowledge and information no one can improve their aspiration.

(iv) Teacher should create such an academic environment in the college which can provide adequate knowledge about contemporary competitive global world so that their students become highly aspired.

Conclusion:

The twenty first century is the age of science and technology. The technology uses in the educational institution should create techno friendly environment which will improve the aspiration level of the students. Without highly aspired students no institution can develop the quality of the students. But without quality students the quality education and quality institution are impossible.

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