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Analysing level of aspiration among male and female adolescents

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Abstract

Adolescence is the time when individuals are more concerned about their future than any of other developmental phases. For adolescent's future Aspirations can be conceptualized as the educational and vocational dreams-they have for their future work lives. Level of aspiration refers to where and how for individual set their targets for achievements in social setting. The present study aimed to explore level of aspiration among male and female adolescents. 800 male and female secondary school students were selected by using random sampling technique, with due representation of gender. Level of aspiration scale (LAS) developed by Mahesh Bhargava and M.A. Shah was used for data collection. For generalising the results, the collected data was put to suitable statistical treatment. Mean, SD and 't' value was calculated with the help of SPSS version 2015. The results indicate that the impact of gender seem to be significant on the level of aspiration of the respondents. Male secondary school adolescents were observed with high level of aspiration as compared to female secondary school students.

Keywords: level of aspirations, male and female adolescents

Introduction

Future Aspirations play an important role in the Educational and Perceptual attainment of adolescents. Aspirations on their hopes and expectations about what they will achieve in the future play an important role in deferring their future outcomes. Thus, our goal in this study was to learn about adolescents future aspirations and to illuminate the individual with factors influence them. Aspiration determines how much curious one is to achieve the goal. It determines the enthusiasm to perform a task. A person with low level of aspiration does not perform any task with curiosity and interest. A person with high level of aspiration intentionally puts every effort into practice to achieve the goal. Level of aspiration determines the psychological makeup of an individual. Self-efficacy and confidence in ones abilities is the results of one's level of aspiration. Achievements are largely the product of steading raising ones level of aspiration and expectation. Adolescents from areas of high deprivation are often assumed to have low level aspirations for the future, as they are observed with low level of efficacy which affects their level of aspiration. According to Kurt Lewin "The level of aspiration performance in a familiar task which an individual, knowing his level of past performance in the task, explicitly undertakes to reach". In context of same, Frank (1970) observed Level of aspiration is purely dependable upon success and failure of an individual. Social psychologists are of this opinion that level of aspiration is based on the level of personality, group standards, rewards and punishments and social classes. Thus, social classes and sects are more relatively responsible for determining the level of aspiration. Researchers are of this opinion that the level of aspiration is maximum in the period of adolescents as they are indulging and roaming into an imaginary world. Jagabandhu B., and Rebati, M. S. (2015). Carried a study on "Category (Tribe and Non-Tribe) As a Factor in Educational Aspiration of Secondary School Students: An Investigation". The category i.e. tribe and non-tribe was found an important factor in setting educational aspiration. Non-tribal adolescents were observed with high level of aspiration as compared to tribal adolescents. Because of the association with the identity crises, adolescents are more inclined towards their level of aspiration. Even some researchers generalise that the failure in maintenance of level of aspiration identity leads towards suicidal ideation. The problem of fantasy which is associated with the adolescents is the result of

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failure in the level of aspiration. Sunil, K. (2005) [54] conducted a study on “Socioeconomic Status, Cultural Diversity and the Aspirations of Secondary Students in the Western Suburbs of Melbourne, Australia”. The study revealed that this ‘aspirations gap’ is more for students from low socio-economic backgrounds. Gupta, B. (1992) conducted a study on “A Comparative Study of Self Concept, Level of Aspiration, Anxiety and Scholastic achievement of isolated and none isolated Adolescents”. Isolated and non-isolated boys differed in feeling of inadequacy and emotional instability. Isolated boys and isolated girls differed in feeling of inadequacy. Non-isolated boys and girls differed in withdrawing tendency and emotional instability. Jain Ganeshlal (1990) conducted his study on “A Comparative Study of Values, Level of Aspiration and Personality Traits of Rural and Urban adolescent girls of Rajasthan” and found that rural adolescent girls were found to score higher on religious and hedonistic values. Urban adolescent girls were found to score higher on democratic, knowledge, social and health values. Besides, knowledge value scores of both rural and urban adolescent girls and their personality traits were found positively correlated. Both rural and urban adolescent girls aspired to study science as their first preference. The aspiration level of both rural and urban adolescent girls was found to be average. Thus, the above mentioned studies provides a researcher gap for the researchers to conduct a researcher study on:

Researcher problem: The statement of the problem for the present study is as under:

Analysing level of aspiration among male and female adolescents

Objectives: The objectives of the present study are as under:

- To explore the level of aspiration of male and female adolescents.

Hypothesis: Following hypothesis has been framed for the present study:

- There exists no significant difference between male and female adolescents on their level of aspiration.

Operational definition: The operational definitions of terms and variables are as under:

- **Level of aspiration:** Aspiration determines how much curious one is to achieve the goal. It determines the enthusiasm to perform a task. A person with low level of aspiration does not perform any task with curiosity and interest. A person with high level of aspiration interest puts every effort into practice to achieve the goal. However, in the present study, level of aspiration refers to the scores obtained by the subjects on Mahesh Bhargava and M.A. Shah Level of Aspiration Scale.
- **Rural urban dichotomy:** Rural Urban Dichotomy in the present study refers residential background of the respondents.
- **Male and female secondary school adolescents:** Male and female secondary school students in the present study refers the dichotomy made on the basis of sex.

Delimitations of the study: The present study will be confined to the following aspects:

- 1) The present study will be confined to secondary school students reading in 11th and 12th standard.
- 2) The present study will be delimited West Tripura District of Tripura. In the same district, the researcher will selected sample from Mohanpur, Hezamara, Dukli and Jirania blocks only.

Research limitation of the problem: Because of time, budget and financial constraints, it was impossible for the researcher to include all adolescents from all districts of Jammu and Kashmir. So the present study will be delimited to following domains:

- a) The study will be delimited to only adolescents within the age group of 12-20.
- b) The study will be delimited to two districts of the North Kashmir namely Kupwara, Baramulla and one district of main Kashmir viz. Srinagar.
- c) The present study will be delimited to adolescents reading in different secondary school within the age group of 12-20, managed and organised by local bodies or government.

Methodology and procedure: Keeping the nature of the study under consideration, descriptive study had been used for the presents study.

Sample: A representative sample 800 secondary school students will be selected by using stratified cum random sampling technique. Whole data was selected from the West Tripura District of Tripura. In the same district, the researcher selected sample from Mohanpur, Hezamara, Dukli and Jirania blocks only.

Research tool: Level of Aspiration Scale (LAS) developed by Mahesh Bhargava and M. A. Shah was used for data collection.

Analysis and interpretation of the data: The collected data was analysed to statistical treatment by inferential statistics. Further description is given as under:

Table 1: Showing mean significant difference between male and female adolescents on Level of Aspiration. (N=400 each)

Category	Male		Female		‘t’ value
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	
Level of Aspiration	5.95	1.44	5.05	1.43	8.94

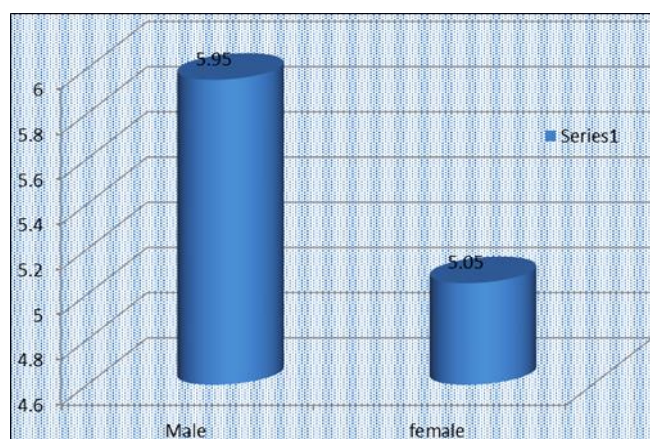


Fig 1: Showing graphical representation of mean significant difference between male and female adolescents on level of aspiration

The perusal of the table 1 (Fig 1) reveals the mean significance difference between male and female secondary adolescents. The comparative analysis of the table depicts high level of mean among male adolescents ($M=5.95$) as compared to female adolescents ($M=5.05$). The calculated t -value came out to be 8.94, which exceeds the tabulated t -value at 0.01 level of significance. Thus, it can be said that there is significant difference between the two groups of respondents under discussion. Male adolescents were observed with high level of aspiration as compared to female adolescents. Male adolescents were observed more curious towards achieving their goal. They were observed with more enthusiasm to perform their task. Male adolescents were observed more carrier conscious and were found intentionally making every effort into practice to achieve their goal. The aspirational identities of male secondary school students were observed high as compared to female secondary school students. The results may attribute to this fact that female secondary school students fell doubt in their capacity as compared to male secondary school students. Therefore, from the confirmation of the results from the above table, the null hypothesis which reads as, "There is no significant difference between male and female secondary school students" stands rejected. The results are carried in consonance to host of the researchers notable among them are; Kumar, Yogesh (1989), Ashan, H. H. (2012) [4], Rajesh, V. Chandrasekara, N. (2010), Kumar, Yogesh (1989) found that the tribal and non-tribal differed in terms of their levels of aspiration, non-tribal showed higher level of aspiration as compared to tribal adolescents. In addition to this it was found that male adolescents possess high level of aspiration as compared to female adolescents. Ashan, H.H. (2012) [4] found a significant difference between male and female adolescents on their level of aspiration. Male students were found with more level of aspiration as compared to female adolescents. Urban adolescents were found with high level of aspiration as compared to rural adolescents. Rajesh, V. Chandrasekara, N. (2010) found that secondary school students belong to urban area has significantly high educational aspirations than rural areas. In addition to this it was found secondary school students studying in private schools have significantly high educational aspirations than the secondary students studying in the government schools. Further, male adolescents were observed high level of aspiration as compared to female adolescents.

Conclusions of the study

Any research work can be considered effective only when the fund of knowledge generated through it is applied to improve the existing practices. Impact of gender was found significant on the level of aspiration of adolescents. Male adolescents were found to be high achievers on level of aspiration as compared to female adolescents. So impact of gender seems significant on the level of aspiration of adolescents.

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