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Educational Aspiration of Secondary School Students of Namchi District, Sikkim

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Abstract

Educational aspiration is a lifelong process which reflects one's desire to achieve educational goals. It provides hope, encouraging individuals to strive for success. The present study aims to study the level of educational aspiration among secondary school students of Namchi district of Sikkim. And also to find out the difference between gender, locality and management with regard to educational aspiration of secondary school students of Namchi district. Descriptive Research Method was used in the present study. Secondary School Students from both the private and government schools of Namchi District were taken as the population of the study. 100 sample consisting 25 girls and 25 boys from both the private and government schools were taken as sample by applying simple random sampling technique. It was found that the majority of secondary school students of Namchi District of Sikkim has average and above average level of Educational Aspiration. There was no significant difference between Gender (Girls and Boys) and locality (Rural and Urban). However, there was significant difference between private and government secondary school students with regard to Educational Aspiration.

Keywords: Educational aspiration, secondary school students

Introduction

Education is a crucial aspect of human life, fulfilling basic biological needs. It goes beyond formal schooling, encompassing various aspects essential for daily living. In ancient India, education was believed to positively influence the mind and mental health. The Gurukul system, influenced by religion, focused on practical and oral teachings, emphasizing individuality. Over time, different education systems emerged, such as Buddhism and Islamic education. During the Mughal rule and British colonization, various schools were introduced, shaping the modern education system (Tomar & Jalpa, 2015) [20].

Historically, formal education excluded females, emphasizing domestic roles. Despite efforts to empower women, challenges persist due to limited awareness. Education, a continuous process, involves a two-way exchange of knowledge. John Dewey described education as developing individual capabilities to control the environment and fulfil potential.

According to Sirin, Diemer, Jackson and Howell (2004), "Aspirations have been defined as the educational and vocational dreams that students have for the future" (cited in Kaur & manral, 2018) [10]. Educational aspiration, a lifelong process, reflects one's desire to achieve educational goals. It provides hope, encouraging individuals to strive for success. Aspiration includes pursuing higher education, careers, and

personal growth. Formal and non-formal activities, like seminars and competitions, contribute to educational aspirations. Sociological theories, such as status attainment, explain the significance of educational aspirations in predicting achievement.

Nurturing student aspirations is crucial, as individuals with high goals tend to be more motivated and resilient. The concept of the "level of aspiration" was introduced in 1931, reflecting expectations and goals for future achievements. Parents play a vital role in guiding and encouraging their children's aspirations during their formative years. The level of aspiration involves setting goals based on past experiences and evaluating the success or failure of achieving those goals. It shapes an individual's personality and self-esteem, influencing their reactions to new performances.

Aspiration isn't only to find or seek out the respect from the society but also with self-satisfaction by achieving or aiming that particular thing is very important. Generation before our parents didn't know the value of education and they only aspired to work which profit them in the form of money and they didn't know the importance of education to aspire to achieve many goals short or long term. The first-generation students are those whose parent possess education level of secondary school and they haven't been to institutions of higher learning (Horn & Kunez, 2000) [9]. Those parents are aspired to send their children to school for education who had

willing to go to school but because of their problems they couldn't able to go. In today's world parents really push their child to go to school and have educational aspiration, most of the child are aspired by their parents and with the changing world modern parents encourages everything which are good for child's development, as they know the importance of everything. There are many researches done on educational aspiration among students of different level of school like Rajesh and Chanrasekaran (2014) found that educational aspiration of girls are higher than boys, Chawla (2018) [3] also found that there is no significant differences between any gender and there are many studies analysed that many students aspired or have educational aspiration to achieve their goal through education.

Review of Related Literature

Review of literature is the overall summary of the studies that have been investigated in past and it is the part or chapter of dissertation or thesis. From the above review researcher came into conclusion that Bora (2021) [2], Debnath and Singh (2020), and Zomunmawaii, Ralte, Sailo & Chinzah (2020) [21] found that there is no significant difference in educational aspiration among boys and girls. Mushtaq, Singh & Bhat (2021) [15], Hooda & Devi (2018) [8] and Kumar & Phoghat (2017) [12] found that there is significant difference between boys and girls in educational aspiration. Kumar & Selvakumar (2018) [13], Singh & Sharma (2017) [18], and Devi & Wargaisy (2017) found that there is average level of educational aspiration between boys and girls. Devi (2018) [8] and Lbramhim (2019) [14] found that there is no significant difference between rural and urban students. Bhalla (2016) [1] found that there is high level of educational aspiration among students, Gupta & Kaur (2020) [7] revealed that there is positive relationship between students and educational aspiration. Therefore, above mention are the conclusion that some researcher found similar finding, there are also different findings found by researcher or investigator.

Rationale of the Study

Secondary education is a crucial stage that sets the foundation for an individual's future. This study aims to assess the level of educational aspirations among secondary school students, recognizing their potential to drive positive developments at both individual and societal levels. By understanding these aspirations, the research seeks to provide insights for better resource allocation and subsidies to enhance students' educational journeys. While existing studies have explored educational aspirations in various regions, the absence of research in Sikkim prompts this investigation. Through a comparative study, the research aims to fill this gap, contributing unique insights to the understanding of educational aspirations in Sikkim and adding to the broader knowledge base.

Statement of the Problem

The present problem of the study selected by the Investigator as-“Educational Aspiration of Secondary School Students of Namchi District, Sikkim”.

Operational Definition

Educational Aspiration: Educational aspiration is desire willingness of secondary school students to achieve goal through educational aspects.

Secondary School Students: Secondary school students are the one who studying in class 9th and 10th in the secondary school in Sikkim.

Objectives of the Problem

Thus, following are the objectives of the present study:

- To find out the level of educational aspiration among secondary school students of Namchi district of Sikkim.
- To find out the difference between gender, locality and management with regard to educational aspiration of secondary school students of Namchi district.

Hypothesis

- There is no significant difference between boys and girls in the level of educational aspiration of secondary school students.
- There is no significant difference between Government and Private secondary school students with regard to educational aspiration.
- There is no significant difference between rural and urban students studying in secondary school with regard to educational aspiration.

Research Method

Descriptive Research Method was used in the present study. Secondary School Students from both the private and government schools of Namchi District were taken as the population of the study. From the total population 100 sample consisting 25 girls and 25 boys from both the private and government schools were taken as sample by applying simple random sampling technique. Educational Aspiration Scale constructed and standardized by V. P. Sharma and Anuradha Gupta was used for the collection of relevant data for the study. Analysis and interpretation was done with the help of t-test.

Findings

Table 1: Level of Educational aspiration of the secondary school students of Sikkim

Range of Z-Score	No of Students	Grade	Level	Percentage (%)
+2.01 and above	3	A	Extremely High	3%
+1.26 to +2.0	5	B	High	5%
+0.51 to +1.25	23	C	Above Average	23%
-0.50 to +0.50	42	D	Average	42%
-1.25 to -0.51	18	E	Below Average	18%
-2.00 to -1.26	7	F	Low	7%
-2.01 and below	2	G	Extremely Low	2%

Table 1 displays the distribution of students across different levels of educational aspirations. The results indicated that the majority of students, constituting 42% (42%), fall into the 'Average' level of educational aspirations. Conversely, 23% of students are classified as 'Above Average,' 18% fall into the 'Below Average' category, 7% are categorized as 'Low,' 5% fall into the 'High' category, while only 3% and 2% of students are classified under 'Extremely High' and 'Extremely Low' categories, respectively.

Table 2: Showing the mean difference between gender, locality and management with regard to educational aspiration of secondary school students of Namchi district.

	<i>Variable</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>t(98)</i>	<i>p</i>
Management	Government	50	24.78	4.69	3.41	0.00
	Private	50	27.80	4.13		
Locality	Rural	35	26.05	4.53	0.36	0.72
	Urban	65	26.41	4.75		
Gender	Girls	50	26.38	4.65	0.19	0.24
	Boys	50	26.20	4.70		

An independent sample t-test was performed in table 2 to compare the mean difference between gender, locality and management with regard to educational aspiration of secondary school students of Namchi district. In terms of the Management, there was significant difference between Government and Private schools as the findings showed a significant mean difference with $t(98) = 3.41, p < 0.05$. Finding showed that Private School Students exhibited higher mean score ($M=27.80, SD=4.13$) than Government School Students whose mean score were ($M=24.78, SD=4.69$).

On the other hand, there was no significant difference in Locality with $t(98) = 0.36, p > 0.05$ with regard to Educational Aspiration. Likewise there was no significant difference in Gender with $t(98) = 0.19, p > 0.05$. The finding revealed that there are no significant difference between Rural and Urban Secondary School Students as well as there are no significant difference between Girls and Boys Secondary School Student with regard to Educational Aspiration.

Conclusion

It was found that the majority of secondary school students of Namchi District of Sikkim has average and above average level of Educational Aspiration. There was no significant difference between Gender (Girls and Boys) and locality (Rural and Urban). However, there was significant difference between private and government secondary school students with regard to Educational Aspiration.

Suggestions

- The present study is delimited to Namchi district of Sikkim similar research can be conducted to other state wise and district wise.
- In the present only 100 students, comprising 50 government and 50 private secondary school students have been taken. Similar study can be conducted with large number of samples selected from different geographical area.
- Research can be extended over greater number of samples including different stream.
- Research can be conducted to students of non-formal institution.
- The present study delimited to secondary school students. Similar study can be conducted to college students of different streams.

Recommendations

- i). Design targeted programs for 'Below Average' and 'Low' aspiration students.
- ii). Implement mentorship, career counselling, and motivational sessions.
- iii). Improve resources, infrastructure, and programs in Government schools.

- iv). Address the aspiration gap between Government and Private school students.
- v). Encourage both genders to aspire for higher educational goals.
- vi). Focus to address rural and urban challenges.
- vii). Promote equity in educational aspirations based on local context.
- viii). Implement continuous monitoring for effective intervention adjustments.
- ix). Encourage collaboration among administrators, teachers, parents, and policymakers.
- x). Develop programs considering individual needs and interests.
- xi). Incorporate extracurricular activities and skill-building initiatives.

By implementing these recommendations, educational stakeholders can create an environment fostering higher educational aspirations among secondary school students in Namchi district.

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