Educational Aspiration in Secondary School Students

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Abstract:

Education is a continuous process to develop all capacities of the students to control their environment and to fulfil their needs. The main objective of this study is to investigate the educational aspirations of secondary school students. Descriptive survey method is adopted. The sample consists of 190 students in which 95 boys and 95 girls from the government secondary schools of Bihar were taken as sample. Simple stratified random sampling technique was used to collect the data. To measure the educational aspiration, Yasmin Ghani Khan's Level of Educational Aspiration Test (LEAT) was used. The finding reveals that there is no significant association in the level of educational aspiration of government secondary schools. The level of educational aspiration was high in the secondary school students. Boy’s students had high educational aspiration than girl’s students.

Introduction:

Education is a continuous process to develop all capacities of the students to control their environment and to fulfil their needs. Educational Aspiration as a concept is referring to orientation towards educational goals spaced in a continuum of difficulty and arranged in an educational hierarchy. When level of aspiration is centred on the field of education we may refer to it as level of educational aspiration. The educational aspiration is the educational goal which students set for themselves. Operationally, Educational Aspiration may be defined as the student’s ability to identify and set goals for the future, while breathing in the present to work toward those goals. There are many factors affecting the educational aspiration of the student’s namely environmental factors and personal factors. These factors determine the abilities and interests in the student’s education. Many researchers showed that environmental factors related to physical infrastructure, medium of instruction, teachers and socio-cultural background shows their negatively effect on educational aspiration of the students.

This research aimed to examine the nature and level of pupils’ educational aspirations. An educational aspiration carries a resource value in the quest for higher education. From a societal and national perspective, then, high educational aspirations can be seen as desirable, as they can contribute to an increase in the educational level of the population. Education is very important in the societies because the allocation of social position relies heavily on higher education. Therefore educational and Level of educational aspirations of students are an important phenomenon to be studied.

Review of literature:

Samir Kumar Lenka & Rashmi Ranjan Mishra (July 2006), studied the Educational aspirations of visually challenged children in relation to their visual status and learning environment. The overview of the results revealed the level of educational aspirations of visually challenged children is low, the level of educational aspirations of partially blind children is higher than the totally blind, and the level of educational aspirations is higher in case of visually challenged children who are studying in regular schools than in special schools.

Vaidya, S.A. (2006) found that gender, area and socio-economic status of the students have a significant group effect on their Educational Aspiration. There is no significant group effect in standard of students, stream and type of schools on their Educational Aspiration.

Abmavara and Houston (2007) studied the effect of self concept on adolescent’s academic aspirations and revealed that academic aspirations indirectly with effects being mediated by self concept.

Kashmiri Boruah & Minoti Phukan (2010) studied the, Gender differences in parental aspirations in the choice of vocation of their children. The study revealed that there is no significant gender differences existed in parental aspirations on choice of vocation of their children.

Conway, K.M. (2010) explored educational aspirations of immigrant and native students in urban colleges and found that immigrant students who were educated in United States high schools were more likely than other students groups to aspire to college.
Singh, Y.G. (2011) studied on educational aspiration and found that the secondary school students had high Level of Educational Aspiration. The Educational Aspiration Levels are higher in boys than girls and the educational aspiration of English medium students are higher than Marathi medium students.

Vishnu M.Shinde (2011) conducted the level of aspiration among primary school going tribal children and found that the tribal Boys and Girls do not differ in the level of aspiration and there is significant relationship between the level of aspiration and academic achievement.

Rothon. C. (2011) examined the relationship between education aspiration and achievement of secondary schools in deprived area of London and found girls were more likely than boys to remain in education beyond the age of 16. He concluded that ethnic differences, socio-psychological variables are associated with high educational aspirations.

Sunil Kumar & Mohan Gupta (2014), in his study on a comparative study of level of educational aspiration of secondary class students of Govt. and Non-Government Schools. They found that there is significant difference between XII standard students of govt. and non-govt. schools with respect to the Level of Educational Aspiration. They also found no significant difference in the Level of Educational Aspiration of XII standard rural and urban students of govt. and non-govt. schools.

Rajesh V.R. & Dr. Chandrasekaran V. (2014); they studied Educational Aspirations of High School Students. The result shows significant difference in high school student’s Educational Aspirations with respect to their Gender, Class Studying, Medium of Instruction, Residential Locality, Type of Family and Occupation of Mother.

Statement of the problem:
Educational Aspiration of Secondary School Students

Research Questions:
The present study attempted to examine two research questions

- What will be the level of educational aspiration at secondary school students?
- Is there any significant association between the levels of educational aspiration of secondary school students with respect to gender?

Operational Definition:
Educational aspirations: It refer to students’ hope and desire for their education after high school.

Objectives:
1. To find out the level of Educational aspiration of Secondary school students.
2. To find out the significant association between the level of educational aspiration with respect to gender.

Null Hypothesis: There is no significant association between the level of educational aspiration of secondary school students with respect to gender.

Delimitation of the Study:
The study is delimited to katihar district of Bihar.

Methodology:
Descriptive survey method is adopted for the study.

Population:
Secondary schools of Katihar district of Bihar were are considered as the population.

Sample and sampling technique:
The sample consists of tenth class students from Katihar district of Bihar. The sample comprised of 190 students in which 95 were girls and 95 were boys.

Tool:
The tool used in this study was the level of educational aspiration test (LEAT) prepared by Dr. Yasmin Ghani Khan. The reliability of the tool is 0.83 and validity 0.66.

Statistical Techniques: For analysing the data, percentage and chi-square was used.
Data Analysis:

The following table shows the level of educational aspiration of secondary school students.

**Table-1: Levels of Educational Aspirations of Secondary Level Students**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Secondary school students</th>
<th>Level of Educational Aspiration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>%</td>
<td>54.21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table-1 shows the percentage distribution of level of educational aspiration of secondary school students of Kathiar district in Bihar. The data shows that 54.21 percent of students were Highly Realistic having well defined Academic goals. On the other hand, 44.21 percent students scored below the Average or Realistic (optimistic) category. It was found that and 1.57 percent of students students were Unrealistic and carefree towards academic achievement. On the basis of the data it may be said that most of the students possess average level of educational aspirations and that they are realistic in their approach.

![Educational Aspiration of Secondary School Students](image)

The educational aspiration of secondary school students with respect to gender is shown in the following table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Level of Educational Aspiration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>56.84%</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>51.57%</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From the table, it is inferred that the highly realistic level of educational aspiration in boys students (56.84%) is more than that of girls students (51.57%) whereas average or optimistic level of educational of girls students is (48.42 %) more than boys students (40 %) and low or unrealistic level of educational aspiration of boys students is (3.15%) and no unrealistic low level of educational aspiration is found in the girls students.

The following graph shows the level of educational aspiration of secondary school students with respect to gender.
There is no significance association between the boys and girls student’s educational aspiration of secondary school students.

**Table No- 2**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>df</th>
<th>Calculated value $\chi^2$</th>
<th>Critical value of $\chi^2$</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Average</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>54(51.5)</td>
<td>38(42.0)</td>
<td>3(1.5)</td>
<td>95(95.0)</td>
<td>4.005</td>
<td>5.991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>49(51.5)</td>
<td>46(42.0)</td>
<td>0(1.5)</td>
<td>95(95.0)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>103(103.0)</td>
<td>84(84.0)</td>
<td>3(3.0)</td>
<td>190(190.0)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

At Level of Sig. 0.05 Hypothesis accept,

From the table, it is informed that there is no significant association between the boys and girls secondary school students in their level of educational aspiration as calculated chi-square is less the critical value. Hence the hypothesis is accepted.

**Findings:**

1. The highly realistic educational aspiration of the students is found.
2. It is found that there is no significant association between the levels of educational aspiration of students with respect to gender.

**Conclusion:**

Level of Educational Aspiration is a strong desire for high achievement and it is influenced by family background, status, and the ways in which family interacts, communicates, and behaves another. Students’ level of Educational Aspirations plays an important role in guiding their achievement and future. Students who have high Level of Educational Aspirations are more likely to take advantage of high educational opportunities that may lead to good academic performance. Otherwise, students with low Level of Educational Aspirations are less likely to take advantage of these opportunities, thus limiting their future educational opportunities.

Educationists, governments and policy makers have to realize the importance of one’s expectations of the outcome and not only for children themselves but also for families, teachers and the communities in order to help them to support their children, students and friends so, the children can realize their potential and expectations.
References: