

A Study of the Career Aspirations among Senior Secondary School Students

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Educated manpower is the early need of every nation as educated and talented individuals are assets for every country (Chetri, 2014). It is education that makes a difference people to create their contemplations and thinking capacity; problem-solving aptitudes and creativity; intrigued, insights, potentialities, positive state of mind; and capability to meet life's challenges. Academic performance is critical for each child, for our society, for the community, for the guardians, for everybody. The creation of our schools and colleges is to extend our academic development. By progressing to instructive teach, the person gets numerous sorts of learning encounters. It is due to academic performance children take advance higher education and last mentioned settle down with a great work, along with this, their status also increases. In the current world, a career is considered as an active advancement of development and learning. Career aspiration happens in children from the starting and we got to put a few career aspirations in children through career counselling. As the environment will be, there will be the same kind of execution fair as someone needs to gotten to be a specialist, he will work difficult within the same way, as someone wants to be an engineer, he will too attempt to ended up a design in the same manner. This research aim to analysis the career aspirations of boys and girls and urban and rural senior secondary school students. The descriptive survey method was used. Career Aspiration Scale by Anand, Sarita (2015) was used. The result show that, there is a significant difference in the career aspiration of girls and boys of senior secondary school students. Further, Results also shows that there is significant difference in career aspiration of urban and rural senior secondary school students.

1. Introduction

A person's career decisions carry the greatest weight and major responsibility in their lives since they determine their identity, perspective of life, and way of living. As a result, students' job aspirations and professional decisions are closely linked. A career is thought of as a series of events that develop over time and shape an individual's work-life balance. The Oxford Dictionary (2010) defines a career as an occupation or job that a person holds for a significant period of time in their life and that may give opportunities for progress. A person's career, then, is the path or advancement they make in life based on their skillful labour. Selecting a proper career is therefore one of the most important decisions in a person's life. A person's career decisions carry the most significant and essential responsibility in their lives since they

define their notion of life, identity, and means of subsistence. Because of this, students' employment choices and aspirations are strongly related. One way to gauge a student's career aspirations is to ask them to anticipate their test-taking success, make plans for their future schooling, and express their outlook on pursuing further education. It is during adolescence when important decisions must be taken. The subjects that a student must take in high school are determined by their goals for postsecondary study. A true understanding of oneself and one's potential as a person is necessary to make an informed decision. Secondary education can upgrade a student's employability and open up superior career opportunities. It gives experiences and information that can offer assistance or progress your career. Career progression can offer assistance to a person for accomplish their life objectives because it propels them to way better utilize modern opportunities, instead of getting into their consolation zone and proceeding to where they are for as well long. A progressing career gives everybody extra confidence in all strolls of life.

2. Literature Review

The review of related studies is an essential requirement for the planning and execution of any research work .This review examines the literature associated with studies that closely align with the current research . Khan (2007) compared the career goals of Delhi students attending senior secondary schools, both male and female. In the academic stream of senior secondary schools, the study also sought to determine the primary career goals of students in the scientific, social science, and commerce groups. There was not a significant gender disparity in the students' desired careers, according to the research. Additionally, it was shown that while students in the social sciences and sciences of commerce shared similar levels of aspiration, there is a notable disparity in two groups' goals for their careers. Das and Bhagabati (2016) examined the career goals of 222 female upper secondary students in grades XI and XII from 17 schools located in the Nagaon district. The findings presented that there was not a substantial difference in the career goals of female students from rural and urban locations. The career goals of female students in classes XI and XII do not significantly differ from one another. Moreover, a significant distinction was discovered in the career goals of girls belonging to the General, OBC, SC, ST, and Minority categories. Nisad and Fatima (2017) examined, "The relationship between adolescent girls' and boys' academic achievement and their level of career aspiration". The study's findings showed that among the three socioeconomic groups, adolescents' aspirations for their careers were generally higher. Across their socioeconomic group, adolescents' academic achievement varies from good to fair. The study also discovered a strong correlation between academic achievement and degrees of career aspiration. Bashi, Liyaquat, and Kaur (2017) studied the relationship between secondary school students' educational aspirations and the school environment in an effort to determine how different secondary school students' aspirations and school environments were depending on where they attended school. According to the study's findings, secondary school pupils in the rural and urban areas differ significantly in their learning environments. The study concentrated on the positive and important relationship that exists between secondary school students' educational goals and the school environment. Tazien & Roy (2024) studied career aspiration among students of higher education. 108 students were sampled randomly. The findings of the study, which was carried out in Kolkata, showed that female students in higher

education have somewhat higher professional aspirations than do male students.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The present study had the following objectives:

- 1 To study the significant difference in career aspirations with respect to gender.
- 2 To study the significant difference in career aspirations with respect to locality of home.

HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY

- 1 There exists no significant difference in the career aspirations of senior secondary school students with respect to gender.
- 2 There exists no significant difference in the career aspirations of senior secondary school students with respect to their locality of the home.

SAMPLE OF THE STUDY

A Sample of 600 senior secondary school students of class 10+1 were selected. The total number of school in Amritsar district affiliated to P.S.E.B is 161. The sample was selected randomly from urban and rural senior secondary schools of Amritsar district in Punjab. In Amritsar district the rural senior secondary schools are 97 and urban senior secondary schools are 64. Equal number of schools from rural(3) and urban (3) were selected.

TOOL USED

Career Aspiration Scale by Anand, Sarita (2015)

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

Difference between secondary school gender wise in their Career Aspirations

Table 1

Gender	N	Mean	SD	t- ratio	Level of significance
Girls	300	127.02	9.542	2.095*	0.05 level
Boys	300	125.53	7.790		

Difference between Senior Secondary School boys and girls in their Career Aspirations

*significant at 0.05 level

Table 1 depicts that mean score of girl's senior secondary school students is 127.02 with S.D.9.542 and mean score of boys of senior secondary school students is 125.53 with S.D. 7.790. The t-value is 2.095 which is significant at 0.05 level. This indicates that, there is a significant difference between girls and boys of senior secondary school students. This shows that girls and boys of senior secondary school students differ significantly in their career aspiration. The reason may be that teachers seem to perceive school attitudes, behaviors, and achievements of female students more positively than they do for male students. Therefore we expect that teacher's positive evaluations encourage and motivate girls to develop more ambitious, or having a high career aspiration as compared to boys.

Difference in Career Aspirations with respect to locality

Table 2 Difference in Career Aspiration of rural and urban Senior Secondary School Students

Locality	N	Mean	SD	t-ratio	Level of significance
Urban	300	128.19	8.671	5.490**	0.01 level
Rural	300	124.37	8.386		

** significant at 0.01 level

Table 2 shows that mean score of urban senior secondary school students is 128.19 with S.D.8.671 and mean score of rural senior secondary school students is 124.37 with S.D. 8.386. The t-value is 5.490 which is significant at 0.01 level. This indicates that, there is a significant difference between urban and rural senior secondary school students. This shows that urban and rural senior secondary school students differ significantly in their career aspiration. The reason may be that urban areas have better access to educational resources, on the other hand rural schools may struggle with such resources, that can impact the quality of education and career aspirations of the students

3. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Finding shows that, there is a significant difference in the career aspiration of girls and boys of senior secondary school students. Difference is significant at 0.05. From the finding of the study it is found that boys of senior secondary school students have low mean score than the girls of senior secondary school students. Hence the null hypothesis “There exists no significant difference in the career aspiration of senior secondary school students with respect to gender” is rejected.

Results shows that there is significant difference in career aspiration of urban and rural senior secondary school students. The difference is significant at 0.01. Finding show that rural senior secondary school students have low mean score than the urban senior secondary school students. Hence the hypothesis “There exists no significant difference in the career aspirations of senior secondary school students with respect to locality i.e urban and rural” is rejected.

EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

- Study also shows that school boys have low career aspiration as compared to girls. Proper care should be taken for their study so that they can become more ambitious. Moreover teachers and parents both have to play their positive roles in the life of adolescents and should be kept away from the bad things, and in this way they could flourish well in their lives. Schools should arrange program for career guidance of the adolescents. Career counselling should also be done time to time for not only students but for their parents also.
- Study also has shown that rural school students have performed low in academic performance than the urban school students, so empowering the rural schools and students, we have to equip the younger generation with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to contribute

actively to the nation's progress, irrespective of their geographical location. Policy of exchange of urban and rural students and teachers can be build up so as to shorten the gap between these two. Good healthy libraries, upgraded laboratories, knowledgeable teachers and other infrastructural facilities including clean toilets and drinking water facilities should be provided to rural students and from time to time care of these may also be done.

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