



Occupational aspiration of tribal students of higher secondary level : a study

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Abstract

Occupational aspiration is one of the important and indispensable objectives of one's life. Because it is the occupational aspiration which largely affect the whole gamut of human life. Occupation plays an important role in individual's life. It not only predicts and determines his life style, position in society, happiness in life but also shapes his personality and morality. The aspiration of the individual at young age has a definite impact on choice of occupation at later years. A student without any aspiration for occupation is like a ship without a rudder. Choosing a vocation is the most important and an inevitable event in the life of an adolescent and that too in modern society. Due to individual differences some students are more attuned to a certain occupation and others are less attuned to that occupation. In the modern society each student is to be equipped with adequate knowledge and skill to earn his/her daily subsistence. After completing education, specially after secondary education, students are confused regarding their earnings. Occupation is one of the primary concern of every student passing 10+2. Understandingly, occupational aspiration at this stage is a crucial factor as it gives direction to one's future. For the present study, students of disadvantaged group i.e., scheduled tribes have been selected. Because tribal people constitute 12.4% of the total population of Assam and 8.2% of India's population (Census 2001). But in many respects they lag behind their non-tribal counterparts. To ameliorate their condition, it is important to give attention to education and economic aspect that help to overall development of their situation. As such an attempt has been made to study the occupational aspiration of the tribal students of higher secondary level.

Keywords: Occupational aspiration, tribal students, higher secondary level.

1. Introduction

The objective of vocational education is to prepare students for certain vocations that enable them to enter the world of work with the necessary skills. The term 'occupation' is generally used in same sense as vocation, except that it does not imply a commitment or calling. "It signifies the nature of ones work, what one spends his working hours doing, what occupies his time and energy. It is his trade, business or profession, the activity through which he earns his livelihood." In this context the words 'work' and

'occupation' are often used interchangeably. But the word 'occupation' is used mostly to refer to the specialized and established kind of work. It refers to some kind of work with which an individual becomes completely engaged. In modern connotations it means an instrument of livelihood. People pursue one occupation or other in order to earn their livelihood. On the other hand, aspiration means an eagerness for honour, superior power or attainment, it suggest a personal upliftment. It is defined as an individuals desire to obtain a status, object or goal such as a

particular occupation or level of education. Everybody has certain ideas about their near future. As human beings people are different in choice and temperament of goal. The goal which is set by an individual to immediate future is aspiration. For achievement of this remote aspiration, the individual sets many intermediate goals.

Occupational aspiration is one of the important and indispensable objectives of one's life. Because it is the occupational aspiration which largely affect the whole gamut of human life. Occupation play an important role in individual's life. It not only predicts and determines his life style, position in society, happiness in life but also shapes his personality and morality. The aspiration of the individual at young age has a definite impact on choice of occupation at later years.

2. Rationale of the study

A student without any aspiration for occupation is like a ship without a rudder. Choosing a vocation is the most important and an inevitable event in the life of an adolescent and that too in modern society. Due to individual differences some students are more attuned to a certain occupation and others are less attuned to that occupation. In the modern society each student is to be equipped with adequate knowledge and skill to earn his/her daily subsistence. Moreover, the modern economic system has opened up various occupations many of which are lucrative from the point of view of salary and status.

With the advancement of scientific knowledge and gradual development of man's outlook, it is believed that education should enable the individual to earn his/her living. After completing education, specially after secondary education, students are confused regarding their earnings. Occupation is one of the primary concern of every student passing 10+2. Understandingly, occupational aspiration at this stage is a crucial factor as it gives direction to one's future. According to needs and changing social circumstances educational programmes have been changing. As a result students are often confused and need help in the occupational aspiration. The occupational decisions and choices made early in one's life have a direct bearing on subsequent success and satisfaction. For the present study students of disadvantaged group i.e., scheduled tribes have been selected. Because tribal people constitute 12.4% of the total population of Assam and 8.2% of India's population (Census 2001). But in many respects they lag behind their non-tribal

counterparts. To ameliorate their condition, it is important to give attention to their education and economic aspect that help to overall development of their situation.

Aspiration is not a static aspect but it a dynamic one as it may undergo modification as a result of newer experiences. It is seen that aspiration is fully the by product of environmental condition, family condition and other forces of the society. As aspiration is the by product of different factors of the society, so an attempt has been made to study the occupational aspiration of tribal students of Higher Secondary level.

3. Review of related literature

(1) **Emer, Smith (2012)** made a study on "Gender and Occupational aspiration: A Longitudinal Analysis." The findings of the study indicate a significant degree of gendering in the jobs to which they aspire, with the majority of both males and females aspiring to gender – typical jobs. Male occupational preferences are largely stable over the course of secondary education. Female preference tends to centre on a narrower range of occupational groups and become more gendered as they become older.

(2) **Kaur, Kiranjit and Sharma, Deepti (2012)** made a study on Occupational Aspiration of Senior Secondary School Students in Relation to their Home Environment. The study revealed that there was significant difference in the home environment of senior secondary school students studying in government and private schools.

(3) **Dr. Shashikala, M.S. (2012)** made a study on "Occupational Aspiration of Secondary School Students in Relation to Their Academic Achievement Motivation." The study revealed that the significant positive relationship was observed between Occupational Aspiration and Academic Achievement Motivation at 0.05% level of significance.

4. Statement of the problem

The statement of the problem has been made as "Occupational Aspiration of Tribal Students of Higher Secondary Level."

5. Objectives of the study

1. To study the occupational aspiration of the tribal students of Higher Secondary level.
2. To compare the occupational aspiration of tribal students of Higher Secondary level with regard to gender.

3. To compare the occupational aspiration of tribal students of Higher Secondary level studying in provincialized and private educational institutions.

6. Hypotheses

1. There is no significant difference in occupational aspiration of tribal students of Higher Secondary level with regard to gender.
2. There is no significant difference in occupational aspiration of tribal students of Higher Secondary level studying in provincialized and private educational institutions.

7. Delimitation of the study

1. The study is limited to the tribal students of higher secondary level only. So the findings can not be generalized to other stages of education.
2. The study is limited to the educational institution (both provincialized and private) having Higher Secondary level of Rampur Development Block of Kamrup District (Rural) only.

8. Methodology

The present study falls under the 'Descriptive Survey Method'. This method is used to obtain pertinent and precise information concerning the current status of phenomena and to draw valid conclusions from the facts discovered.

9. Population and sample

The present study is related with the tribal students of Rampur Development Block of Kamrup (Rural) District studying in Higher Secondary level. Hence, the study includes all the tribal students of Higher

Secondary level of Rampur Block as its population.

In the present study stratified random sampling technique has been employed. The sample consists of 120 tribal students of Higher Secondary level of Rampur Block. Out of the total 120 students, 60 students are from 2 provincialized educational institutions having Higher Secondary level (30 from each institution) and remaining 60 students are from 2 private junior colleges (30 from each college). It is further stratified as 15 boys and 15 girls from each institution.

10. Tool used

In the present study a standardized tool has been used to collect the required data. The tools used for the present study is known as Occupational Aspiration Scale by J.S. Grewal.

10.1 Description of the tool

The scale consists of eight questions. Each one asks the respondent to choose one job out of ten presented. Responses are scored with the help of a scoring key. The scores of item ranges from '0' (lowest) to '9' (highest). An individual score for the whole inventory ranges from 0-72. Co-efficient of stability as determined by the test retest method was found to be 0.84.

11. Statistical application

Following technique is used for interpreting and analyzing the collected data –

- (i) Percentage
- (ii) t – test.

12. Analysis and interpretation of data

The data collected for the present study have been analyzed and interpreted according to the objective in the following way.

Objective No.1 : To study the occupational aspiration of the tribal students of Higher Secondary level.

Table No. 1 : Showing the Distribution of Tribal Students' Occupational Aspiration according to different category

Sl. No.	C.I.	Category	Provincialized (60)	Private (60)	Total (120)	Boys (60)	Girls (60)
1.	49-72	High	15%	35%	25%	30%	20%
2.	25-48	Average	85%	65%	75%	70%	80%
3.	0-24	Below average	-	-	-	-	-

The above table shows that 25% respondents are under high category of occupational aspiration of which 30% are boys and 20% are girls and again 15% are of provincialized and 35% are of private educational institution. Again 75% respondents are under average category of which 70% are boys and 80% are girls and 85% are of provincialized and 65% are of private educational institution. But none of the

respondents' occupational aspiration is below average category.

Objective No. 2 : To compare the occupational aspiration of tribal students of Higher Secondary level with regard to gender.

Hypothesis : There is no significant difference in occupational aspiration of tribal students of Higher Secondary level with regard to gender.

Table No. 2: Showing Mean, Standard Deviation, Mean Difference, Standard Error of Difference and t value in occupational aspiration with regard to gender.

Sex	N	M	S.D.	M _D	SE _D	t	Remark
Boys	60	41.45	9.18	0.78	1.58	0.49	Not significant
Girls	60	42.43	8.08				

- M_D = Mean Difference
- SE_D = Standard Error of Difference
- N = No. of respondents
- M = Mean
- S.D = Standard Deviation.

It is found from the table that the t-value in occupational aspiration of boys and girls is 0.49. As the calculated t-value is much lower than the table value 1.96 at 0.05 level, so it is not significant at both the 0.05 level and 0.01 level. That means there is no significant difference in occupation aspiration of tribal students of Higher Secondary level with regard to gender. This implies that boys and girls do not differ significantly on the area of

occupational aspiration.

Objective No. 3: To compare the occupational aspiration of tribal students of Higher Secondary level studying in provincialized and private educational institutions.

Hypothesis: There is no significant difference in occupational aspiration of tribal students of Higher Secondary level studying in provincialized and private educational institutions.

Table No. 3: Showing Mean, Standard Deviation, Mean Difference, Standard Error of Difference and t value in occupational aspiration of tribal students studying in provincialized and private educational institution.

Management	N	M	S.D.	M _D	SE _D	T	Remark
Provincialized	60	40.37	7.66	2.95	1.56	1.89	Not significant
Private	60	43.32	9.32				

The above table reveals that the t-value in occupational aspiration of tribal students studying in provincialized and private educational institution is 1.89. As the calculated t-value is lower than the table value 1.96 at 0.05 level, so it is not significant

at both the 0.05 level and 0.01 level. That means there is no significant difference in occupational aspiration of tribal students of Higher Secondary level studying in provincialized and private educational institutions.

13. Findings

1. Most of the respondents' (i.e. 75%) occupational aspiration is under average category.
2. Occupational aspiration of boys is higher than the girls in the high category.
3. It is found that occupational aspiration of respondents from private institution is higher than the respondents from provincialized institutions in the high category.
4. None of the respondents' occupational aspiration is under below average.
5. There is no significant difference in occupational aspiration of tribal students of H.S. level with regard to gender.
6. There is no significant difference in occupational aspiration of tribal students of H.S. level studying in provincialized and private educational institution.

14. Suggestions

1. The study reveals that as most of the respondents have average occupational aspiration so, proper guidance should be given to them in this direction.

2. Career and guidance cell should be opened in the educational institutions specially, in the higher secondary schools and junior colleges.
3. For fulfillment of their aspiration facilities should also be provided in the educational institution.
4. Curriculum of secondary stage should be diversified and different vocational subjects relevant to the present situation should be introduced to fulfill their aspiration.
5. Parents should be made aware about different occupations relevant to the present situation.
6. Parents should be encouraged for accepting different occupations.

15. Conclusion

Today's students are the citizen of tomorrow. That means the future of the nation depends on the today's students. After completing education each student has to fulfill not only their personal needs but also the social needs. It is the vocational education that helps in the fulfillment of social aspiration. Secondary stage is proper time or suitable period to produce efficient workers in different fields.

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