

CHAPTER 1
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1.1 INTRODUCTION

In any society, the education plays important role for the development of human resources. Education is a process and kind of activity in relation to human beings. It is a continuous effort to develop all capacities of the student.

Individuals will have aspiration, all stages of life people try for self enhancement. The aspiration during student period influences their behavior.

The aspiration level of an individual is an important motivating factor. It is a frame a reference involving self esteem or alternatively experiences, that is the feeling of failure or success. 'Level of Aspiration' is a psychological construct which reflects a cognitive type of motivation of the individual. Frank defines it in terms of the level of future performance in a familiar task which an individual, knowing his level of past performance in that task explicitly undertakes to reach. James Drever explains it as a frame of reference involving self-esteem or alternatively as a standard with reference to which and individual experiences, i.e., has the feeling of success or failure. Thus, the term level of Aspiration involves the estimation his ability (whether over, under or realistic) for his future performance on the strength of his past experience (goal discrepancy), his ability and capacity, the efforts that he can make towards attaining the goal, thus set by him. The goal setting behavior as well as the process of attaining the goal are consequences of his past experience, whether failure-oriented or success-oriented, level of efforts made by him in that direction, and his capacity to pursue the goal.

Social status is the position of the individual within the social relationships. It is that specific position of the individual in his relationships with other individuals by virtue of which he derives respect and prestige and whereby he exerts influence it being known by the symbols or signs and actions of the respect tendered to him (1964). The status in a group may be inherited but in modern society, the status is achieved. The economic factors play an important part in determining social status, which includes the total income of the family, saving, capacity to collect money in emergency etc. Therefore, it is better to call this factor as socio-economic factor, rather than social or economic factor status. Above introduction stated about the socio-economic status and educational aspiration, both factor interrelated to each other and influence

student's educational aspiration on the socio-economic status of the student vice versa.

Hence this research is titled as *"RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS AND EDUCATIONAL ASPIRATION AMONG HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL SUDENTS – A STUDY"*

1.2 NEED OF THE STUDY

Education is a human enterprise. It is a process and kind of activity in relation to human beings. It is a continuous effort to develop all capacities of the students to control their neighboring environment and to fulfill their needs. Though education is a part of human life, it cannot help the pursuers unless they have the required amount of educational aspiration. In this, education is playing important role. But effective role of education depends on the achievement levels of all the students. Here, researcher takes a socio-economic and educational aspiration to examine the relationship between socio-economic status and educational aspirations of the students. And to examine the effects of socio-economic status and educational aspirations among students of higher secondary school. This study was not conducted in recent time, so Researcher takes the study. We also find out the result in relation to socio-class status and educational aspiration among students of higher secondary school.

1.3 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS AND EDUCATIONAL ASPIRATION AMONG HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL SUDENTS – A STUDY

1.4 OPERATIONAL DEFINATION OF VARIABLES

Certain terms and words have been frequently used in the title and report of the study. These terms and words have been used with specific meanings and purposes. In order to avoid possibility of any ambiguity or difficulty in their understanding, these are defined here as follows.

➤ Educational Aspirations:–

The concept of educational aspiration has been explained differently by different educationists and psychologists but some of the definitions are as under.

In the words of James Drever as quoted by Sharma and Gupta (1980) the term “Level of aspiration” is best explained as a frame of reference involving self esteem as a standard with reference to which an individual experience his sense of achievement.

According to English Dictionary (1968) Level of aspiration may be defined as “The standard by which failure or as being up to what he expects of himself.”

Wood (1959) as quoted by Singh (1975) has described ‘Level of aspiration’ as the level of performance for the goal that a person or hopes to reach in a specified activity. High level of aspiration is essential for accomplishing one’s aim without strong aspiration it is not possible for a person to reach his goal.

Hurlock (1967) has defined aspiration as a longing for what is above one’s achievement level.

In other words aspiration means the goal an individual sets for himself in a task which has intense personal significance for him or in which his ego is fully involved.

Bisrell (1977) defined “Educational aspiration or expectations as individuals expressed desire to continue his formal schooling beyond high school”.

So, the term aspiration was defined as fantasy level with or without any touch of reality. The term level of aspiration involves the estimation of one’s ability for his/her future performance on the strength of his/her past experience, his/her ability and capacity. Here researcher takes a term educational aspiration for study because educational aspiration help an individual to achieve his/her goal set by him/her. Educational Aspiration depends on awareness about educational mobility, opportunities and one’s interest among known educational opportunities.

➤ **Socio-Economic Status:-**

The term ‘Socio-economic Status’, we mean, any group of persons coming closer to each other on continuum of Occupation, Education, Income, Caste and Culture. Chapin (1928) has offered most widely used definition of Socio-economic Status as “the position that an individual or family occupies with reference to the prevailing average standards of cultural possessions, effective income, material possessions and participation in group activity of the community.”

Socio-economic status is often measured as a combination of education, income and occupation. It is commonly conceptualized as the social standing or class of an individual or group.

One's social position is determined by income, wealth, occupational prestige and educational attainment.

Socio-economic status is the total of a combination of a person work experience, income, education and occupation measured against others. There are high, middle and low categories.

Socio-economic status is evaluated as a combination of factors including income, level of education and occupation. It is a way of looking at how individuals or family's fit into society using economic and social measures that have been shown to impact individuals health and well being. (By ELIZABETH BOSKEY, PhD updated Feb 06, 2009)

SANTROCK (2004) defines it as "the grouping of people with similar occupational, educational and economical characteristic."

WOOLFOLK (2007) calls socio-economic status "the relative standing in society based on income, power, background and prestige".

Here researcher take a term socio-economic status because the socio-economic status, family background Parental education have the significant influence on the educational aspiration of the students. So, the present study had been taken to assess and analyze the educational aspiration of students and relationship with socio-economic status which is responsible for the shaping of student's educational aspiration

1.5 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The present problem endeavors for the realization of the following objectives.

- 1) To study the relationship between the Socio-Economic Status and Educational Aspiration among higher secondary school students.
- 2) To study the relationship between Socio-Economic Status and Educational Aspiration among girls.
- 3) To study the relationship between the Socio-Economic Status and Educational Aspiration among boys.

1.6 HYPOTHESIS

According to Mouley Co. J. "A hypothesis is a tentative generalization about the problem under investigation. It is an assumption or preposition, whose tenability is to

be tested on the basis of the compatibility of its implication with empirical evidence and with previous knowledge”.

To summarize, Hypotheses are suggested problems, Solutions which are expressed as generalization or preposition. The hypotheses for the present study are:-

- 1) There will be no significant difference between higher secondary school students of government and private school in their Educational Aspiration.
- 2) There will be no significant difference between higher secondary school students of government and private school in their Socio-Economic Status.
- 3) There will be no significant difference between boys and girls of higher secondary school students in their Educational Aspiration.
- 4) There will be no significant difference between boys and girls of higher secondary school students in their Socio-Economic Status.

1.7 DELIMITATION OF THE STUDY

1. Socio-Economic Status and Educational Aspiration depends on and influenced by many factor like psycho-social, cultural, economic, those factors are neither considered nor neutralized in this study. Therefore relationship that examines this study is formed on weak foundation. This is important limitation of the study.
2. The study was restricted to the higher secondary schools of Bhopal District.
3. This study was delimited to students studying in class 11th.
4. This study was delimited to 200 students.
5. The study was restricted to four schools of Bhopal Dist.
6. The study was completed in the duration of 15 days.