

OCCUPATIONAL ASPIRATION OF ADOLESCENTS IN RELATION TO THEIR SELF-EFFICACY

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ABSTRACT

In this study, the relationships between occupational aspiration of adolescents and self-efficacy were examined. Simple random sampling technique was used in the selection of the participants. The purpose of the study was (i) to investigate the relationship between Self- efficacy and occupational aspiration and (ii) to find out the gender and locale differences in the selected variables. A random sample of 200 students (100 boys and 100 girls) from different schools of Ludhiana District of Punjab State of India was selected using Self-Efficacy Scale developed by A.K. Singh and Shruti Nara in (1998) and Occupational Aspiration Scale developed by J.S. Grewal (1975). Analysis of the results was done using correlation and 't' test. The findings revealed that (a) self-efficacy have large associations with adolescents' occupational aspiration and (b) there are significant gender and locale differences in the occupational aspiration and self-efficacy of adolescents. A Significant positive relationship was found in self-efficacy and occupational aspiration of adolescents.

KEYWORDS: *Self-efficacy, Occupational Aspiration, Adolescents*

INTRODUCTION

Career development of children has been viewed as a critical part of the overall education of the individual. Occupation selection is the developmental process in which a series of decisions are made over the period of time from preteen years to high school where interests, skills for and values of an occupational choice is defined. Occupational aspirations determined by how much value people assign to formal education and how far they intend to pursue it. This is in the sense that the type of occupation, which an individual goes into, determines the way of life.

Occupational aspirations are an individual's desire to obtain objectives or goals regarding a particular occupation or level of education. Occupational aspiration is a developmental process in which an individual may change his or her career choices to one perceived as more appropriate or accessible. Occupational aspiration has been defined as the educational and vocational dreams that adolescents have for their future. Rojewski (2005) defined occupational aspiration as an individual's expressed career-related goals or choices. Career aspirations of the adolescent are linked to their adult social status attainment (Ashby & Schoon, 2010). As one of the major determinants of career aspiration, self- efficacy plays a major role in developing career orientations among adolescent students. Mc Nutt (1989) believes that occupational aspirations of adolescents are a cause rather than an effect of educational and career attainment. Occupational aspirations are individual ambitions related to occupations (Rojewski, 2005). Adolescent occupational aspirations are linked to adult social status attainment (Ashby & Schoon, 2010).

Thus, one's level of occupational aspiration thus becomes an indicator of his/her future affluence.

Self- efficacy plays a significant role in the career development of adolescents. Self – efficacy is described as “building block” of the career development of adolescents. It refers to people's judgement about their capabilities to take actions to achieve designated types of performances (Lent, Brown, Hackett, 2002). According to Eden and Aviram (1993), self-efficacy was positively associated with looking for work. According to Bandura (1982), Self-efficacy is the confidence which enables an individual to successfully accomplish the task required to produce a particular outcome in a job. It is a judgment about how well one can unite and employ effective strategies in any situation that may include new and challenging elements. Self-efficacy can ultimately regulate whether an individual will choose to perform or refrain from performing a task. According to Flamer (2001), people with higher perceived self-efficacy fulfill their job functions and consider a wide range of occupational options. While research has explored the relationship between occupational aspirations and a number of other related variables such as age, socio economic status, self-concept in addition to family climate and school achievement but a very little work has done on the relationship with self-efficacy, locale, and gender in Indian situations. The present investigation will fill the gap of knowledge. In the light of the above discussion, the present investigation is a humble attempt to study whether occupational aspiration is affected by self-efficacy of adolescents?

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The major objective of higher education is to prepare the adolescents into enter to a career. The period of high school education is a turning point in the life of the learners; they make their career choices during this period. Most of the students develop occupational aspirations based on the information they get from different sources. However, it has been observed that psychological variables like self- efficacy may be an important determinant of occupational aspiration. Occupational aspirations influence future career of adolescents. Occupational aspiration of students is a motivating force to pursue their studies and to achieve their career goals. For students studying in higher education, it is a critical moment in their life as it is the time for choosing an occupation on the basis of their interests and aptitudes. They plan for their life at this period. Therefore, it is worthwhile to study the level of self- efficacy and occupational aspiration among adolescent students as the former is considered to be one that greatly influences the latter.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The present study investigates the “occupational aspiration of adolescents in relation to their self-efficacy.”

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

In order to carry out the present study, the following objectives were formulated -

- To compare the Occupational aspiration of male and female adolescent students.
- To compare the Occupational aspiration of rural and urban adolescent students.
- To compare the self-efficacy of male and female adolescent students.
- To compare the self-efficacy of rural and urban adolescent students.
- To study the relationship between Occupational aspiration and self-efficacy of the adolescent students.

METHODOLOGY AND PROCEDURES

Design of the Study

The descriptive survey method was employed in the present study. The study was conducted on adolescent students of Ludhiana district of Punjab State of India.

Tools Used

To ensure the accomplishment of the objective of the study the investigator selected Occupational Aspiration Scale developed by J.S. Grewal (1975) and Self-Efficacy Scale developed by A.K. Singh and Shruti Narain (1998) for the purpose of data collection.

Statistical Techniques Used

Descriptive statistics like, means, standard deviation, the coefficient of correlation and t-test were employed to draw meaningful inferences in this study.

Sample: The study was conducted on a sample of 200 adolescents (100 boys and 100 girls) studying in higher secondary schools situated in rural and urban areas of Ludhiana district of the state of Punjab (India).

HYPOTHESES

- There is no significant difference in the Occupational aspiration of male and female adolescent students.
- There is no significant difference in the Occupational aspiration of rural and urban adolescent students.
- There is no significant difference in the Self-efficacy of male and female adolescent students.
- There is no significant difference in the Self-efficacy of rural and urban adolescent students.
- There is no significant relationship between the Occupational aspiration and Self-efficacy of adolescent students.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Comparison of the Occupational Aspiration of Male and Female Adolescents

To compare the Occupational aspiration of male and female adolescents the researcher formulated the hypothesis as “there is no significant difference in the Occupational aspiration of male and female adolescent students” and tested the hypothesis.

Table 1: Significance of difference in the Occupational Aspiration of Male and Female Adolescents

Group	N	Mean	S.D.	t-value	Inference
Male adolescents	100	45.67	11.58	1.90	Significant at 0.05 level
Female adolescents	100	42.75	8.99		

Table-1 shows that

The t-value 1.90 which is significant at 0.05 level of confidence. Thus, the null hypothesis is rejected and it is concluded that there is a significant difference in the Occupational aspiration of the male and female adolescent students.

Comparison of the Occupational Aspiration of Rural and Urban Adolescent Student

To compare the Occupational aspiration of rural and urban adolescents the researcher formulated the hypothesis as “there is no significant difference in the Occupational aspiration of rural and urban adolescent students” and tested the hypothesis.

Table 2: Significance of difference in the Occupational Aspiration of Rural and Urban Adolescent Students

Group	N	Mean	S.D.	t- value	Inference
Rural adolescents	100	42.58	10.85	2.23	Significant at 0.05 level
Urban adolescents	100	45.84	9.80		

Table-2 shows that

The t- value is 2.23 which is significant at 0.05 level of confidence. Thus, the null hypothesis is rejected and it is concluded that there is a significant difference in the Occupational aspiration of rural and urban adolescent students.

Comparison of the Self-efficacy of male and Female Adolescent Students

To compare the Self-efficacy of male and female adolescents the researchers formulated the hypothesis as “there is no significant difference in the Self-efficacy of male and female adolescent students” and tested the hypothesis.

Table 3: Significance of difference in the Self-efficacy of Male and Female Adolescent Students

Group	N	Mean	S.D.	t- value	Inference
Male adolescents	100	80.14	6.87	2.65	Significant at 0.01 level.
Female adolescents	100	77.34	8.03		

Table-3 shows that

The t- value is 2.65 is significant at 0.01 level of confidence. Thus, the null hypothesis is rejected and it is concluded that there is a significant difference in the Self- confidence of male and female adolescent students.

Comparison of the Self-efficacy of Rural and Urban Adolescent Student

To compare the Self-efficacy of rural and urban adolescents the researcher formulated the hypothesis as “there is no significant difference in the Self-efficacy of rural and urban adolescent students” and tested the hypothesis.

Table 4: Significance of difference in the Self-efficacy of Rural and Urban Adolescent Students

Group	N	Mean	S.D.	t- value	Inference
Rural adolescents	100	77.10	7.93	3.12	Significant at 0.01 level.
Urban adolescents	100	80.38	6.88		

Table-4 shows that

The t- value is 3.12 which is significant. Thus, the null hypothesis is rejected and it is concluded that there is a significant difference in the Self-efficacy of rural and urban adolescent students.

Relationship between the Occupational Aspiration and Self-efficacy of the Adolescent Students

To study the relationship between the Occupational aspiration and Self-efficacy of the of adolescent students the researcher formulated the hypothesis as “There is no significant relationship between the Occupational aspiration and Self-efficacy of adolescent students” and tested the hypothesis.

Table 5: Coefficient of Correlation between the Occupational Aspiration and Self-Efficacy of the Adolescent Students

Variable	N	Coefficient of	Inference
Occupational aspiration	200	0.29	Significant at 0.01 level
Self-efficacy	200		

Table-5 shows that

The value of correlation between the Vocational attitude maturity and Self-efficacy of the adolescent students is 0.29. The value is significant at 0.01 level of confidence so, the null hypothesis that “There is no significant relationship between the Occupational aspiration and Self-efficacy of the adolescent students” is rejected and it can be inferred that Occupational aspiration of the adolescent students is significantly and positively related with the Self-efficacy.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

- There was a significant difference in the Occupational aspiration of the male and female adolescent students.
- There was a significant difference in the Occupational aspiration of rural and urban adolescent students.
- There was a significant difference in the Self-efficacy of male and female adolescent students.
- There was a significant difference in the Self-efficacy of rural and urban adolescent students.
- Occupational aspiration and Self-efficacy of adolescents were significantly and positively related with each other.

The results showed the significant and positive relationship between Occupational aspiration and Self-efficacy of adolescents. This significant relationship determined that the Self-efficacy will positively change the Occupational aspiration of the adolescents. Result is in line with the studies of Austin (2009), Scott (2010), Akanbi (2013) and Reddan (2014) who reported the substantial positive relationship between self- efficacy and career aspiration of adolescent students.

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