

LEVEL OF ASPIRATION IN RELATION TO SOME PERSONALITY FACTORS AMONG COLLEGE STUDENTS

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ABSTRACT

The present study examines discrepancy in the level of aspiration in relation to some personality factors. For this purpose, the present study was conducted on an incidental-cum - purposive sample consisting of 200 ((Male=100 and Female=100)) students of constituent colleges of B.R.A Bihar University Muzaffarpur. The sample consisted of only the students in the age group of 18 to 21 years. The data was collected through questionnaire schedule and the obtained data were analyzed by t-test and value of “t” was found significant at .01 level of confidence. The results have been discussed in detail by highlighting the probable reasons for obtaining such a discrepancy of results.

Keywords: Level of Aspiration, Personality Factors, Male, Female College, Students.

INRODUCTION

The level of aspiration is a very important phenomenon of motivation among the persons whether they are students, teachers of any educational institution as well as the industrial employees of large or small scale industries. Therefore, it's also very significant from the view point of researchers in the educational field. In this connection it is essential to clarify its meaning taking into account the views of a number of psychologists.

Frank, (1935) defined level of aspiration as, “level of future performance in a familiar task which an individual, knowing his level of past performance in that task, explicitly undertakes to reach.”

Gardner, (1940) defined, “Level of aspiration is a truly quantitative concept, which has two requirements that the subjects make some public indication of his aims and that, he makes this in quantitative terms.”

Chaplin, (1975) has defined “The level of aspiration is a self imposed standard against which a person judges his own performance.”

In the words of Lindzey & Aronson, (1973) “The level of aspiration may be defined as the degree of difficulty of the attainment of goal towards which the person is striving.”

According to Reber, A. S. (1995) “Literally the level of aspiration is the level to which one aspires. ‘He has further added’ “Level of aspiration refers to a standard set by which success or failure (own attainment) can be personally gauged.”

Thus, from the several studies it is found that the level of aspiration or goal setting behaviour are influenced by several factors. Because this level of aspiration or goal setting behaaviour is dependent variable which is influenced by a number of independent variables.

According to Dr. Mohsin, (1984) “Success and failure has a definite influence on the level of aspiration or goal setting behavior.” Success or failure of student subjects is very much increased. In other words success increases the level of aspiration where as experience of failure decreases the level of aspiration.

According to Dr. Mohsin, (1984) “The tendency to increase the aspiration is stronger than the decrease in the level of aspiration due to the experience of failure.

Aspirations begin to be shaped early in a child’s life, but are modified by experience and the environment. Aspirations tend to decline as children mature, in response to their growing understanding of the world and what is possible, and to constraints imposed by previous choices and achievements. This decline is particularly marked for those facing multiple barriers (Akerman, 2008). The study conducted by Dwivedi, V. (2012) showed that there was no correlation between level of aspiration and achievement. He discussed about the reason may be that most of the students were found to be over aspirant, i.e., they expect more and do less. In such a situation one may expect a negative correlation. The reason for non-significant results may be that the students are over aspirant but not so over aspirant to warrant a negative correlation.

Aspirations regarding completion of secondary school that predict achievement outcomes are related to factors amenable to intervention. Relationships were found among academic achievement and self-reported educational aspirations, motivation, affiliation with peers and teachers, and attributions. Students who indicated no aspiration to complete a school qualification were indistinguishable from those with low or moderate aspirations, and the analyses supported only two divergent groups comprising students with either low or high aspiration to complete qualifications. Aspirations were significantly related to different patterns of motivation, affiliation, and attributions predictive of academic achievement. Students of different ethnicity and gender also fell unequally across the two groups. These results suggested that promoting low or even moderate expectations and aspirations for student achievement reinforced lower academic achievement (Walkey, 2013).

In fact, the level of aspiration of an optimist or a pessimist becomes unreal, because their goal setting behavior is unreal as well as hypothetical. There is indeed, a lot of difference in the level of attainment and level of aspiration. In some persons very irregular or inconsistent goal setting behavior whose level of aspiration becomes sometimes much higher and sometimes much lower, the reason is very clear due to the variation in their self-concepts.

Like self-concept there are several other factors such as lack of organized personality, past experience of success and failure, types of grouping of persons, Strength of Ego, Self-Confidence, self-Esteem Etc.

OBJECTIVES

The objective of the present study is to examine level of aspiration in relation to anxiety, extraversion, neuroticism and self-confidence of male and female groups.

HYPOTHESES

The present study has also many theoretical and practical implications. Review of literature in this area clearly shows that several attempts have been made in Western and Indian societies to explore the dynamics of level of aspiration of students but no attempt has been made to explore the relation of anxiety, personality factors like neuroticism and extraversion, self-confidence and social factors of the respondents with level of Aspiration.

Thus a study of this type is needed for the theoretical assessment of the problem which concerns educationists, social scientists and national planners.

Keeping the above considerations in view, the present study addresses itself to the following objectives:

- (i) To assess whether male and female college students differ in terms of their level of Aspiration and goal setting behavior.
- (ii) To examine the effect of anxiety on the level of Aspiration among male and female students.
- (iii) To explore the role of personality factors namely neuroticism and extraversion in their levels of aspiration and goal setting behavior.
- (iv) To ascertain the impact of self-confidence on their levels of Aspiration.
- (v) Extraversion and Neuroticism would be significant factors in relation to level of Aspiration and goal setting behavior.

Keeping in view the findings of previous researches as well as the objectives of the present study, the following hypotheses were tentatively formulated for empirical verification.

- (i) Male and female will differ significantly in terms of their mean scores on level of Aspiration and goal setting behaviour groups.
- (ii) There will be significant difference between neurotic and stable group on level of aspiration and goal setting behaviour groups.
- (iii) There will be significant difference between extrovert and introvert groups on level of aspiration and goal setting behavior groups.
- (iv) There will be significant difference between high and low anxiety groups on level of aspiration and goal setting behavior groups.
- (v) There will be significant different between high and low self-confidence groups on level of aspiration and goal setting behavior groups.

METHOD OF STUDY

(a) Sample of the study

The study was conducted on 200 (Male=100 and Female=100) (Two Hundred) sample drawn by incidental-cum-purposive sampling method from constituent colleges of B. R. A. Bihar University, Muzaffarpur. Only such colleges selected from among colleges of B. R. A. Bihar University which are located in Muzaffarpur District. The age range of subject was from 18-21 years. The subjects were matched in respect of sex, and socio-economic status and the like as far as practicable.

(b) Research Tools

In the present study the following tools were used:

- (i) Personal Data Sheet
- (ii) Manifest Anxiety Scale developed by D. Sinha Manifest Anxiety Scale (1978)
- (iii) Self-Confidence Scale devolved by Agnihotri and Rekha Self-Confidence Scale (1985)
- (iv) Extraversion and Neuroticism measured by Eysenck Personality Inventory (1964)
- (v) Level of Aspiration Scale developed by Mahesh Bhargava & M.A. Shah`s (1987)

(c) Procedure

Scales along with personal Data Sheet were administered on the respondents. The data was obtained scores were analyses and scoring was done.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table : 01

Comparison of male and female students in terms of their scores on Level of Aspiration scale.

Groups	N	Mean	SD	df	t-value	Level of Significance
Male	100	5.02	2.23	198	4.35	.01
Female	100	3.67	2.14			

Table- 01 reveals that male students (Mean = 5.02) have scored higher on Level Aspiration scale as compared to female students (Mean= 3.67). It indicates that male students have higher Aspiration from female students.

It is also evident from table- 1 that male and female students ($t=4.35$, $df= 98$) differ significantly in respect of their scores on level of Aspiration scale. Thus the findings with regard to sex in the present study are in the expected direction. Moreover a common observation also prove that the male students show more 'Aspiration' and 'goal setting' behaviour than female students.

Table-02 presents statistical comparison of high and low Anxiety groups in terms of level of Aspiration and goal setting behaviour.

Table: 02

Comparison of the high and the low anxiety groups in terms of level of aspiration and goal setting behaviour.

Groups	N	Mean	SD	df	t-value	Level of Significance
HAM	60	4.38	2.14	98	3.49	.01
LAM	40	5.98	2.31			
HAF	40	2.84	2.05	98	2.37	.01
LAF	60	4.22	2.11			

Note: HAM - High Level Aspiration Male, LAM - Low Level Aspiration Male, HAM - High Level Aspiration Female, LAM - Low Level Inspiration Female

The findings as presented in table 02 show that the high level important group among male (Mean=4.38) have scored significantly higher on Taylor's Manifest Anxiety Scale (showing more anxiety) than the low Level Aspiration of male (Mean =5.98). The statistical comparison of two means has yielded ($t=3.49$) which is significant beyond .01 level of confidence. This shows that the high Aspiration and low Aspiration among male differ significantly in respect of the level of manifest anxiety. The present finding is in expected direction. A similar trend of result has been found with regard to female sample. As expected the high level among female (Mean=2.84) have also scored significantly higher on Taylor's Manifest Anxiety Scale (showing more anxiety) than the low Level Inspire group of female (Mean=4.22). The obtained value ($t= 2.37$, $df= 98$ $P= .01$) also shows that the high and the low Aspiration among female subjects differ significantly in terms of their manifest anxiety. Thus the hypothesis with regard to manifest anxiety in case of both male and female sample is in the expected direction.

The findings of the present study also support our day to day observation. As we know that feelings of insecurity, emotional instability, intolerance, depression and faulty adaptation with the stresses and strains of life are some specific qualities which are interlinked with anxiety. A

person with these qualities may him level of Aspiration in academic life as well a day to day life. However, due to the lack of research investigations in this area, the present finding cannot be generalized.

Neuroticism

Table 03 presents statistical comparison of the high and the low scores on level of aspiration scale among male and female in respect of their neuroticism scores.

Table 03

Comparison of high and the low Level of Aspiration groups in terms of their neuroticism scores.

Groups	N	Mean	SD	df	t-value	Level of Significance
NM	55	4.73	2.04	98	1.43	0.01
SM	45	5.37	2.35			
NF	45	4.32	2.22	98	2.66	0.01
SF	55	3.14	2.18			

Note: NM- Neurotic Male, SM - Stable Male, NF - Neurotic Female, SF- Stable Female

The findings as summarized in table 03 show that high level of aspiration scale male group (Mean= 4.73) has scored higher on the neuroticism dimension of personality than the low Level of Aspiration male group (Mean= 5.37). The statistical comparison of high and low Level of Aspiration among male has yielded a significant t value ($t=1.43$, $df=98$, $p=.01$). Needless to mention that high level aspiration among male are more neurotic than low level of aspiration male. A similar trend of result has been found with regard to female sample. The obtained t value ($t= 2.66$, $df=98$, $p=.01$) also substantiate that the high and the low level aspiration among female subjects differ significantly in terms of their neuroticism trait of personality.

Extraversion

In the present case it was hypothesized that there would be significant difference in extraversion with high and low level of inspiration among the male and female students. Table 04 summarizes statistical comparison of the high and the low level of aspiration males and females in respect of their extraversion scores.

Table: 04

Comparison of the high and the low Level of Aspiration groups in terms of their Extraversion scores.

Groups	N	Mean	SD	df	t-value	Level of Significance
EXM	64	4.68	2.04	98	2.05	0.01
INM	36	5.62	2.28			
EXF	36	2.79	1.92	98	3.32	0.01
INF	64	4.16	2.07			

Note: EXM- Extrovert Male, INM- Introvert Male, EXF- Extrovert Female, INF- Introvert Female

It is evident from table 04 that the high level of aspiration of male group (Mean = 4.68) has scored slightly less than the low level of close male group (Mean= 5.62). The statistical comparison between high and the low level of aspiration group among male has yielded significant t-value ($t=2.05$, $df= 98$, $p= .01$). The result according to mean score shows that low level of aspiration among male have been found more extraversion trait of personality than high dissatisfied male group. More or less a similar trend of result has been found with regard to female sample. The high level of aspiration of female group (Mean =2.79) has scored less than low level of aspiration female group (Mean=4.16). The statistical comparison of high and the low level of aspiration group among female subjects has also yielded significant t-value ($t= 3.32$, $df= 98$ $p= .01$).

To examine the relationship between the scores on level of aspiration scale and extraversion product moment correlations have been used. The findings are presented in table 07.

Self-confidence

To verify this hypothesis, data have been subjected to statistical analysis. The statistical comparisons of the four groups in terms of their self-confidence have been presented in table 05.

Table: 05

Comparison of the high and the low Level of Aspiration among male and female on self-confidence scores.

Groups	N	Mean	SD	df	t-value	Level of Significance
HSCM	58	5.91	2.19	98	4.98	0.01
LSCM	42	3.79	2.03			
HSCF	42	4.55	2.16	98	3.67	0.01
LSCF	58	3.03	1.87			

Note: HSCM- High Self-Confidence Male, LSCM- Low Self-Confidence Male, HSCF- High Self-Confidence Female, LSCF- Low Self-Confidence Female.

It is apparent from table 0.5 that the high Level of Aspiration male group (Mean = 5.91) has scored higher on Self-confidence (indicative of self-confidence) than low level of Aspiration male group (Mean= 3.79). The statistical comparison of high and the low level of aspiration group among female subjects has also yielded significant t-value ($t= 4.98$, $df= 98$ $p= .01$). Similarly the high Level of Aspiration female group (Mean= 4.55) has scored higher than low Level of Aspiration group (Mean = 3.03). The statistical comparison of the high Levels of Aspiration among male as well as female has yielded significant t-value. ($t=3.67$, $df= 98$, $p= .01$).

The trend of data is however inconsistent as well as unexpected in case of male and female sample. As expected the high and the low Level of Aspiration group among males and females differ significantly in terms of their scores on Self Confidence. Since, high scores on the Self-confidence behaviour indicative of poor self-confidence, it seems safer to conclude

that high Level of Aspiration group among males and females have poor self-confidence. This contention is also substantiated by the direction and magnitude of correlation surprisingly enough; the value of correlation does not meet the probability levels of .05 or less. However, the present hypothesis is not supported from the present result.

The present findings are supported by the findings of (Ray and Boral, 1973). For example, Ray and Boral, (1973), have found poor self-confidence among level of aspiration dissatisfied students. On the other hand Krishna (1981), compared Male and Female students on some personality factors a significant difference between the two groups with respect to various aspects of their Self-confidence. But the present findings are supported by the findings of (Sinha, 1996). She also found poor Self-Confidence among high Level of Aspiration males and females and insignificant differences between two groups with respect to self-confidence. There has been however, a paucity of empirical research to examine the effect of self-confidence on Level of Aspiration. Thus, further research is needed to ascertain the self-confidence on academic life before any conclusion can be drawn.

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