

## **A Study of Occupational Aspiration Level of Higher Secondary School students of Aizawl District in relation to Parental Education and Gender.**

Lalrintluangi<sup>1</sup>, Susan Lalthanpuii<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Asst. Prof. Dept of Education Pachhunga University College*

<sup>2</sup>*Asst. Prof. Dept of Education Pachhunga University College*

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**Abstract:** This study tested the occupational aspiration levels of higher secondary school students. Occupational aspiration uttered career related choice, preference of ideal jobs or career goals. Home environment and parental guidance and monitoring plays a significant role in the children education and career ambition. The present study tries to find out the impact of parents education on the higher secondary school children aspiration levels, and the possible influence of variation in their locality and gender on occupational aspiration. The study was conducted to 340 higher secondary school students of 145 male and 195 female. For the investigation the researcher administered standardized tool of occupational aspiration prepared by Dr. J. S.Gerwal. The study reveals that most of the respondents (71.17%) have average occupational aspiration, and there is evidence that parental education has positive influence on the youth career preference. The study also exhibits the variations in the locality of the respondents; students from urban area have slightly higher occupational aspiration as compared to their counterparts with students from rural area. However, the study concluded that there is no significance difference on the basis of the respondent's gender.

**Keywords:** Occupational aspiration, Parents education, locality, education, career

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### **I. INTRODUCTION**

We lived in a society where education becomes one of the most important factors for living. Education plays a significant role in the future development of the nation and the individual as well. In our present day society the responsibility of parents is challenging and important. Parent's played most crucial role in the children's education, securing occupation and building satisfaction latter in life. Children required nurturing, support, monitoring and most of all education from reliable and responsive parents. Educated individuals understand the value of education and therefore they laid the best plan for their children and their education. "Parents' expectations for their children's eventual educational attainment have been related to children's own educational expectations and self-concepts, as well as to their actual academic performance" (Halle, Kurtz-Costes, & Mahoney, 1997; Phillips, 1987). Parent's active concern results in the child success in every aspects of life. The beneficial effects of parental educational level when the child is young are not limited to academic achievement throughout the school years, but have long-term implications for positive outcomes into middle adulthood. (Dubow et al..2009).

Rojewski (2005) defined occupational aspirations as "an individual's expressed career related goals or choices". Occupational aspirations are that dream job, an ideal career which one is likely to choose. A study of occupational aspiration is important as diverse courses are accessible right from higher secondary school, career decision are normally happened at secondary school stage. Study is important because a student who is well prepared for the challenging modern society and its demand, and who received proper guidance from his parents, will understand the important of choosing the right occupations, to enjoy the world of work, to have job satisfaction and to render his service to the community. Adolescence is a period where youth's plans and dreams about their future career, consulting parents as well as teachers for career guidance, college education, and technical course of various kinds (Bardick and Bernes 2005) found that adolescents as young as 11 are thinking about their future career by considering a variety of occupational aspirations and rationales for their choices. The occupational aspiration at a tender age has a significant impact on choosing a career and jobs at later years.

#### **1.1 Review of related literature**

Occupational aspirations are the dreams for future career inspired by reality based factors like resources and constraints and adolescence is the stage where these aspirations reach their desired height. (Gupta

and Kumari 2017). Some studies reveals that education plays a significant role in the future of young people, it is considered as an essential tool that facilitates the decision making process on one's future career. (Uka 2015). Andleeb and Ansari (2016) found that students do not differ on the variable of occupational aspiration in relation to gender, however male students were found better at high occupational aspiration level while female had higher career maturity.

## **II. RATIONALE OF THE STUDY**

Parental education and their motivation, involvement and monitoring creates ties and strengthens bonds with children, and build confidence in decision-making when it comes to higher education and occupational choice. Study of occupational aspirations of higher secondary student is important as they are the resource and assets of the nation, the future of the nation depend on the achievement of the youth in terms of their education and occupations they are likely to pursue. The adolescence period is where most students build the foundation of their preference occupation, and it is crucial that during this period they received parental support and education to fulfil their ideal jobs in the later life. This study could highlight about the factors involving in youths career choice and their decision, and the extent to which occupational aspiration are motivates by parents educational background.

## **III. OBJECTIVES**

1. To find out the occupational aspiration level of higher secondary school students of Aizawl district.
2. To study relationship between occupational aspiration level and parental education among higher secondary school students of Aizawl district.
3. To study relationship between occupational aspiration level and locale among higher secondary school students of Aizawl district.
4. To compare the occupational aspiration level of higher secondary students in Aizawl district with reference to their gender.

### **Hypothesis**

1. There is a significant relationship between occupational aspiration level and parental education of higher secondary school students of Aizawl district.
2. There is a significant relationship between occupational aspiration level and locale among higher secondary school students of Aizawl district.
3. There is a significant difference between occupational aspiration levels of higher secondary students with reference to their gender.

### **Operational definition of the key terms used in the study**

**Occupational aspiration:** Occupational aspiration is the level of aspiration of a learner to attain a career or a profession after his or her school days are over. It refers to the educational goals set by an individual to achieve through education.

**Higher Secondary School Students:** Higher Secondary school students are the students studying in class IX and XII after completing matriculation, between the ages of 16-18 in the academic session 2017-2019 were taken for the study.

### **Sample of the study**

The sample of the study consists of 340 higher secondary school students of 145 male and 195 Female students studying in 8 different higher secondary schools in Aizawl district in the academic year 2017-2019.

### **Tools used**

Dr. J.S. Grewal Occupational Aspiration Level (OAS-G) National Psychological Corporation was administered on the sample subjects to elicit their response on eight sets of questions concern their interest in different kinds of occupations.

Questionnaire developed by the researchers about parent's educational background and locality was administered to find out about parents educational qualification and their locality.

### **Analysis and Interpretation**

Analysis of the present study is done in accordance with the objectives of the study.

**Objective No 1:** To find out the occupational aspiration level of higher secondary school students of Aizawl district. The occupational aspiration level of the sampled students in accordance with the norms provided in the manual.

**Table No.1** Frequency and percentage of occupational aspiration level of all respondents on occupational aspiration level.

No of students	High occupational aspiration level	Average occupational aspiration level	Below average occupational aspiration level
340	96 (38.23%)	242(71.17 %)	2 (0.58%)

The above table shows that 38.23 % of students have high occupational aspiration level. The table also indicate that 71.17 % or most of the students have average occupational aspiration level and only 0.58 % of students have below average occupational aspiration level.

**Objective no 2:** *To study relationship between occupational aspiration level and parental education among higher secondary school students of Aizawl district.*

The following table show the occupational aspiration level of higher secondary students in Aizawl district in relation to their parent’s educational qualification.

**Table No.2** Occupational aspiration level of higher secondary students in Aizawl district in relation to their parent’s educational qualification.

Parents Educational qualification	No of students	Mean	SD	MD	SEMD	t-value	Sig level
HSSLC and above	181	51	7.77	2	0.89	2.24	**
Below HSSLC	159	49	8.60				

\*\* Significant at 0.05 level.

Table no 2 indicates that the ‘t’ value is significant and the hypothesis “There is a significant relationship between occupational aspiration level and parental education of higher secondary school students of Aizawl district’ is accepted.

**Objective No. 3:** *To study relationship between occupational aspiration level and locality among higher secondary school students of Aizawl district.*

The following table show the comparison of occupational aspiration level and the student’s locality.

**Table No. 3** Comparison of occupational aspiration level among higher secondary school students of Aizawl district based on their locale.

Locality	No of students	Mean	SD	MD	SEMD	t-value	Sig level
Urban	189	51	8.25	3	0.89	3.37	**
Rural	151	48	8.17				

\*\* Significant at 0.05 level.

The above table highlights that the ‘t’ value is significant and there is a relationship between occupational aspiration level of higher secondary students in Aizawl and their locality, and therefore the hypothesis “There is a significant relationship between occupational aspiration level and locale among higher secondary school students of Aizawl district” is accepted.

**Objective No .4:** *To compare the occupational aspiration level of higher secondary students in Aizawl district with reference to their gender.*

The table below show the comparison of occupational aspiration level of male and female students of higher secondary students in Aizawl district.

**Table No. 4** Comparison of occupational aspiration level of higher secondary students in Aizawl district with reference to their gender

Category	No of students	Mean	SD	MD	SEMD	t-value	Sig level
Male	145	49	9.69	1.63	0.96	1.69	NS
Female	195	50.63	7.60				

NS: Not significant

Table no 5 reveals that there are no significant differences in occupational aspiration level between male and female higher secondary students in Aizawl district. The hypothesis “There is a significant difference between occupational aspiration levels of higher secondary students with reference to their gender” is rejected.

#### IV. DISCUSSION

Most of the respondents are having average occupational aspiration level, and only a negligible percentage of 0.58 have below average occupational aspiration level. Students whose parents are educated exhibit slightly higher occupational aspiration level than students with less educated parents. Parental education plays a role in guiding students towards setting educational goals and helping them in realising the purpose of education. Educated parents offered assistance to their child’s education and are capable of appreciating the outcomes of education which in turn helps the children in developing occupational aspiration.

Students from urban area possess high occupational aspiration levels than their peers from rural area. Living in urban areas resulting in higher standard of living, fast pace life and competition from early ages, leads students the desire to hold respectable jobs and high paid jobs as well. People living in urban areas are more civilised than people from rural area and this helps the students in seeking more technological oriented jobs.

Gender difference does not make many differences in occupational aspiration level among youth. Male and female respondents show similar aspiration level. Nowadays female students received the same education, female students has the same opportunities and therefore aspire for jobs which are also favourable and popular among the male students.

#### V. CONCLUSIONS

The present study investigated the occupational aspiration levels of Higher Secondary School students of Aizawl District based on socio economic status, locality, parental education and gender difference. In this study occupational aspiration levels is used as an indicators to know the relation between children education and parental education, socio economic status and students’ aspirations. In this study, it is clear that parental education and their keen interest and intervention in their children’s education has a positive impact on the occupational aspiration level of the children and, children living in a more refined areas has possess higher aspiration. It is obvious that social atmosphere and living conditions also has an encouraging impact on high occupational aspiration levels among the youths.

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