

The Effect of Gender on Achievement Motivation

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ABSTRACT

Motivation is the driving force behind a person's actions. There are many different types of motivation, and everyone is inspired by something different. Achievement Motivation is defined as behaviors dedicated to developing and demonstrating higher abilities. Achievement motivation influences performance and participation with a standard of excellence, it has key role in career success also. The present study aims to see the effect of gender on achievement motivation among engineering entrance exam aspirants. For this purpose, 60 students (30 girls and 30 boys) from different coaching centers of Udaipur city, Rajasthan were included in sample selected by purposive sampling method. The age group was 15 to 19 years. Achievement motivation test by V.P. Bhargawa (2009) was used to measure level of achievement motivation. Result show that there was significant difference between boy and girl aspirants on achievement motivation level among engineering entrance exam aspirants. Girl aspirants appearing in engineering entrance exams were found to be having higher level of achievement motivation in comparison to the boy aspirants appearing in engineering entrance exams.

Keywords: Achievement Motivation, Gender, Entrance Exam Aspirants.

The present age is rightly known as competitive era as the competitive exams decides which student gets admitted to the popular professional courses, which can help them to make a better career than their counterparts. Entrance exam are considered as an integral part for entry into elite institution. There are a greater number of students and limited number of seats. Hence, admission test is the solution for selecting deserving students for the specific course. Through these exams the best talented candidates are selected. Entrance exams mainly evaluate quantitative aptitude, verbal reasoning, logical reasoning, aptitude, intelligence quotient, lateral thinking etc. So, Aspirants who are preparing for the entrance examination have an additional stress along with their regular studies.

Achievement Motivation

Human beings strive to achieve certain objectives throughout their lifetime. To achieve these objectives, they find motivation from different sources. Motivation is the driving force behind a person's actions. Psychologist have studied motivation extensively and classified it

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into internal and acquired motivation. Internal Motivation is important and necessary for a person's life, but achievement motivation keeps a person motivated for his lifetime. This kind of motivation necessary to maintain his social standing. Achievement motivation is an important acquired motivation.

Achievement motivation is defined as "Person's effort to master a task achieves excellence, overcome obstacles, perform better than other and taking pride of exercising talent (Murray,1938)." "Need for achievement is the desire to accomplish something to reach a standard of excellence and to expand to excel (Santrok, 2000)."

Achievement motivation is not the same in all the people, the level of achieving success in people with high achievement motivation is higher than normal (A.K. Singh, 2014). Those people are often more conscious to achieve their goal and keep striving for it continuously. It was found that boys had higher competence related belief in sports activities and math's compared to the girls, whereas, girls had higher competence beliefs in reading, English and Social activities compared to boys (Linnenbrink and Pintrich, 2002).

Gender differences in Achievement motivation have been studied widely. Achievement Motivation is not same in male and female, in other words achievement motivation is affected by gender. Studies have reported significant difference was found between genders for achievement motivation (Shekher, Chandra et al, 2016). A similar result was seen in another study where achievement motivation scores of the girls were found higher than the boys (Devakumar, Mary 2018). It was found that male and female differ significantly on achievement motivation in sport type as well as competitive level (Nathanael C.H 2019). Another study on adolescent also found that there is a significant difference between gender of the respondents with regard their to achievements motivation (Maheswari, Kavitha, K and Aruna, M. 2016).

The above - mentioned studies reveal difference in the level of achievement motivation between genders. Some studies also suggested that the difference can be influenced by the stream as well as the background of the person. Therefore, to further explore the difference between genders for achievement motivation; this study conducted on engineering exam aspirants.

The effect of gender and achievement motivation was seen in a study where girls showed higher levels of achievement motivation as compared to boys (Nikhat Kaura and Roopali Sharma 2015). A study conducted on the college students of Himachal Pradesh, comparing achievement motivation of the college students across gender, stream and locale reported significant difference in achievement motivation of male vs. female, arts vs. science and urban vs. rural college students (Pany, S. 2014). This reveals that there exists a gender related differences as well as differences across academic majors on achievement motivation. These findings were reiterated in another study which indicated significant role of gender and academic majors in achievement motivation of college students (Shekhar, Chandra and Devi Rachna 2012).

These studies suggest that gender plays an important role in deciding the level of achievement motivation.

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Objective of the study

To study the effect of gender on achievement motivation among engineering entrance exam aspirants.

Hypotheses of the study

There will be no significant difference in achievement motivation level between boys and girls engineering entrance exam aspirants.

METHODOLOGY

Sample

The study sample comprised of 60 students (30 boys and 30 girls) studying in 11th and 12th class. All respondents were preparing for engineering entrance examination taking coaching from different coaching centres in Udaipur city. Age ranged from 15 to 19 years. The samples were selected by purposive sampling method.

Instruments

Achievement motivation test was used to measure level of achievement motivation of aspirants. The scale has been constructed by Dr. V. P. Bhargava in Hindi as well as English version. Hindi form of Achievement motivation scale was used in the present study. Demographic information was also collected using the questionnaire during data collection.

Procedure

The present study has been conducted to study Achievement Motivation among male & female. Test of significance (t- test) was used to calculate the differences between boys and girls aspirant.

RESULTS

Table No.1 t” Ratio for the Significance of Difference in Means of Boys and Girls on achievement motivation

	Group	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	T
Score	Boy Aspirants	30	16.9333	4.33855	.79211	-4.57*
	Girl Aspirants	30	21.4667	3.26669		

**Significant at the 0.05 level*

Above table shows the mean, S.D. and t- value of achievement motivation in the respondents. The results of the analysis shows that the mean score on achievement motivation of engineering entrance exam aspirants is 16.93 (boys) and 21.46 (girls) with the Standard Deviation of 4.33 (boys) and 3.29 (girls). The t- value was found to be -4.57 significant at the 0.05 level of significance. It indicates that there is a significant mean difference in level of achievement motivation among boy and girl engineering entrance exam aspirants in the present study girls scored high on achievement test as compared to the boys.

The finding of the study conducted by Maheswari, K.K and Aruna M. (2016) is in line with present study. They also found that there is a significant difference between genders of the respondents with regard to their achievement motivation. The effect of gender and achievement motivation was seen in a study where girls showed higher levels of achievement motivation as compared to boys (Nikhat Kaura and Roopali Sharma 2015). A study on gender related differences as well as differences across academic majors on

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achievement motivation among college students found that Females have higher achievement motivation compared to males. (Shekhar, Chandra and Devi Rachna 2012). There was significant difference in achievement motivation scores where the girls scored higher than the boys. Similarly, other studies also indicate that gender may play a significant role in the level of achievement motivation in an individual (Devakumar, Mary 2018). Hence, these findings support the result of present study where significant difference in the level of achievement motivation between genders emerged.

DISCUSSION

The finding of the study indicates that there is significant difference between boy and girl aspirants' achievement motivation level among engineering entrance exam aspirants. The mean value of girl aspirants is found to be more in comparison to the boys. Mean value of girl aspirants is 21.46 and boy aspirants is 16.23. These values show the girl aspirants have high level of achievement motivation as comparison to the boy aspirants. This study was carried out on a small sample within Udaipur city. Therefore, the result cannot be generalized. A study to further explore the difference in the level of achievement motivation between genders streams of study, on a large sample, will help in getting a broader perspective on the topic.

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Conflict of Interest

The author declared no conflict of interests.

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