

Influence of Academic streams on Career aspirations of Kashmiri Adolescents

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ABSTRACT

Choosing a career is often considered a major turning point in an adult's life. This decision alone has the potential to open the door for success or close the door of opportunity. Adolescence is the time of new challenges and new opportunities when teenagers develop certain aspirations regarding their educational and future careers. The present study was carried out to investigate the influence of Academic streams on Career aspirations of Adolescents. It was a descriptive survey study comprising of 600 adolescent respondents taken from higher secondary schools and colleges of three districts of Kashmir Division (Anantnag, Srinagar and Kulgam) by stratified random sampling method. Career Aspiration Scale of O'Brien, K. (2012) was used for the collection of data. For the statistical analysis; Percentage, ANOVA (one-way) and Tukey's post hoc were used. The findings of the study revealed that 17.83% of respondents have shown low career aspirations, 58.33% falls in moderate level, 23.84% possess high career aspirations. Significant differences were found in career aspirations (achievement aspiration, educational aspiration and overall career aspirations) of adolescents with respect to their academic streams. However no significant difference was found in leadership aspiration of the respondents in terms of their academic streams.

Keywords: *Career aspiration, Youth, Academic Streams*

Choosing a career is often considered a major turning point in an adult's life. This decision alone has the potential to open the door for success or close the door of opportunity. The imperative of careers in human life cannot be over emphasized. At the doorsteps of maturity; boys and girls start dreaming about their careers. They visualize themselves as the most prominent personality. The choice of an occupation is one of the most important decisions one makes in life, It is perhaps important as the choice of a life partner because its consequences are far reaching (Ofoegbu-1984). Career aspirations refers to what we want for the future, our desires, our dreams that once we hope to achieve and now they can be altered into reality. These aspirations include a chosen profession or occupation to which a student aspires to join. It is a cluster of needs, motives and behavioural intentions which individuals articulate with respect to different career fields. These are the goals one has set out to achieve either in his current profession or desired profession. Career Aspirations are usually future

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Received: March 12, 2019; Revision Received: April 2, 2019; Accepted: April 20, 2019

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oriented and aim to provide personal satisfaction. It is one's ambitions and thoughts about their future occupations (Sewell et al.; 1969). People who have career aspirations intend on improving their professional skills, enhancing their capabilities and advancing in the organization's hierarchy level. Hellenga et al. (2002) has rightly said that "Career aspirations provide information about an individual's interests and hopes unfretted by reality".

Career preparation has been viewed as a major developmental task for adolescents, the successful performance of which improves personal development, social adjustment and future well-being. The modern society with its scientific and technological advancement, its division of labour and specialization of functions demand the fullest use of manpower at all levels. Our adjuring need today is to harness and diversify the ways and means of proper utilization of manpower resources. Therefore, capacities and strengths require a proper direction. In recent years, career theorists and researchers have attempted to understand how children come to develop career aspirations. In the 21st century, it is imperative that educators have to learn more about the factors that influence our young people's career aspirations.

Considerable amount of research has been carried out in the area of career aspirations in India and abroad. Attempts have been made to study career choices of students in relation to Peer pressure (Sharma and Singh, 2017; Mohamed, 2015), Adjustment problems (Mallick and Dar, 2015), Gender and Parental education (Dar and Tali, 2014; Mallick and Dar, 2015; Mattoo, 2013; Meece et al., 2014; Issac and Mopelola, 2014), Socioeconomic status (Getange and Sagwe, 2016; Jamabo, 2014; Rahman and Goswami, 2013; Tejas et al., 2012; Cusick, 2007), Self-efficacy (Bindu and Padmanabhan, 2016), Domicile and Family type (Senthilselvam, 2015), School achievement (Khattab, 2015), Intelligence (Kaur, 2012), Academic risk (Adragna, 2009). The results of these studies revealed that career interests are dependent upon these variables. The gender differences have also been reported to exist. It has also been reported that domicile like rural and urban play a significant role in shaping the interest patterns of students. Wicht and Mayerhofer (2014) reported that the school context is considerably more influential on young people's career aspirations than the neighbourhood. Shumba and Naong (2012) found that the family and teachers were significant factors that influence the career aspirations of the students. While scanning the existing findings, it was found that the results are not in uniform direction. Therefore, further exploration is needed to arrive at definite conclusions.

Objectives

- To explore the level of career aspiration among Kashmiri adolescents
- To find out the difference in career aspirations of Kashmiri adolescents in terms of their academic streams.

Hypothesis

- There exist no significant difference in career aspirations of Kashmiri adolescents in terms of their academic streams

Design of the Study

Sample

A sample of 600 Kashmiri adolescents (300 male respondents and 300 female respondents) of three academic streams (Arts, Medical and Commerce) was drawn from higher secondary schools and colleges of three districts of Kashmir Division (Anantnag, Kulgam and Srinagar).

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The age of the subjects was 15-19 years. The sample of the study was drawn by stratified random sampling technique.

Tool Used

The data was collected by using Career Aspiration Scale (CAS) developed by O'Brien, K. (2012). The scale covers three dimensions of Career aspirations viz Achievement aspirations, Leadership Aspirations and Educational Aspirations.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

1. Results pertaining to the different levels of Career Aspiration

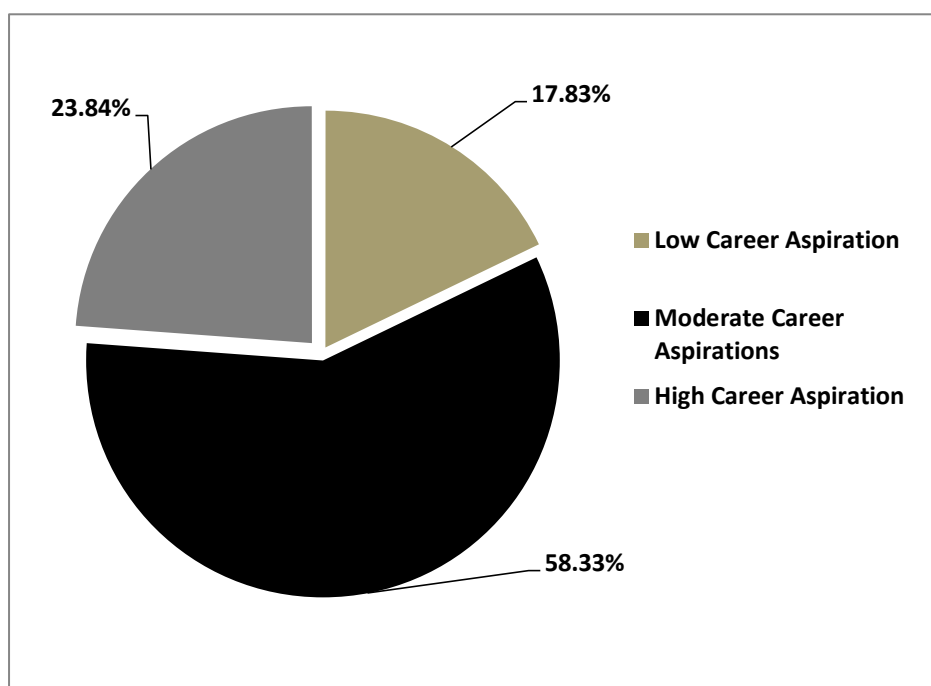
The distribution of total sample (N=600) in different levels of career aspiration has been presented in table no. 1

Table No. 1 Frequency and Percentage of Total Respondents (N=600) in different Levels of Career Aspiration

S. No	Levels of Career Aspiration	Frequency	Percentage
1	Low	107	17.83%
2	Moderate	350	58.33%
3	High	143	23.84%
Total		600	100%

The table no. 1 gives the description of the total respondents in different levels of career aspiration. The said table reveals that 17.83% of respondents have shown low career aspiration, 58.33% falls in moderate level of career aspiration, 23.84% possess high career aspiration and the same has been shown in figure no. 1

Figure No. 1 Pie Chart showing Percentage of Total Respondents (N=600) in the different Levels of Career Aspiration



2. Results pertaining to difference in Career Aspirations in terms of Academic Streams

To find out the difference in career aspirations of Kashmiri adolescents in terms of their academic streams, one way ANOVA has been used and the results has been shown in the table no. 2

Table no. 2 ANOVA table for Career Aspirations and different Academic Streams

	Source of Variation	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F-ratio	Significance
Achievement Aspiration	Between Groups	7091.680	2	3545.840	28.27**	P<0.01
	Within Groups	74873.460	597	125.416		
	Total	81965.140	599			
Educational Aspiration	Between Groups	1034.203	2	517.102	4.98**	P<0.01
	Within Groups	61919.770	597	103.718		
	Total	62953.973	599			
Leadership Aspiration	Between Groups	207.840	2	103.920	.94	N.S
	Within Groups	65550.500	597	109.800		
	Total	65758.340	599			
Overall Career Aspirations	Between Groups	12238.663	2	6119.332	14.59**	P<0.01
	Within Groups	250300.930	597	419.265		
	Total	262539.593	599			

(F-ratios at 0.05 and 0.01 levels of significance are 3.00 and 4.63 respectively)

N.S= Not Significant

It is evident from table no. 2 that the calculated F-ratios of Achievement aspiration and Educational aspiration are 28.27 and 4.98 which are significant at 0.01 level of significance. Therefore, it can be interpreted that there exists a significant difference in Achievement aspiration and Educational aspiration among Kashmiri youth in terms of their academic streams. However no significant difference exists between different academic streams of respondents on Leadership aspiration as the calculated F-ratio is 0.94 which is insignificant at both levels of significance.

The perusal of table no. 2 shows that the calculated F-ratio of overall career aspirations is 14.59 which is significant at both the levels of significance indicating that there exists a significant difference in overall career aspirations of Kashmiri youth with respect to their academic streams. Hence, the hypothesis which reads “There exist no significant difference in career aspirations of Kashmiri adolescents in terms of their academic streams” is thus rejected.

However, a significant F-ratio does not tell us which of the academic streams mean differ significantly. In order to find out where these differences exist, Tukey’s post hoc comparisons have been used in which all possible comparisons have been taken into account. The results of post hoc have been shown in table no. 3

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Table No. 3 Tukey's post hoc multiple comparisons

Dependent Variable	Academic Stream (I)	Academic Stream (J)	Mean Difference (I-J)
Achievement Aspiration	Arts	Commerce	.80000
		Medical	-6.86000*
	Commerce	Arts	-.80000
		Medical	-7.66000*
	Medical	Arts	6.86000*
		Commerce	7.66000*
Educational Aspiration	Arts	Commerce	2.00500
		Medical	-1.17500
	Commerce	Arts	-2.00500
		Medical	-3.18000*
	Medical	Arts	1.17500
		Commerce	3.18000*
Leadership Aspiration	Arts	Commerce	-1.44000
		Medical	-.78000
	Commerce	Arts	1.44000
		Medical	.66000
	Medical	Arts	.78000
		Commerce	-.66000
Overall Career Aspirations	Arts	Commerce	1.36500
		Medical	-8.82500*
	Commerce	Arts	-1.36500
		Medical	-10.19000*
	Medical	Arts	8.82500*
		Commerce	10.19000*

*. The mean difference is significant at the 0.01 level

The table no. 3 shows Kashmiri adolescents of different academic stream groups like Arts-Medical and Medical-Commerce Groups differ significantly with each other on achievement aspiration. While as Arts-Commerce Group do not differ significantly on achievement aspiration. The table further reveals that there exists a significant difference in Educational aspiration of Medical-Commerce Group while as Arts-Medical and Arts-Commerce Groups do not differ significantly on educational aspiration. Significant differences were found in Arts-Medical and Medical-Commerce Groups in terms of their overall career aspirations. However no significant difference was found between Arts-Commerce Group on overall career aspirations.

CONCLUSION

Young people are major human resource for development and driving force for economic development. While youth face enormous challenges, particularly with regard to employment and livelihoods, they nevertheless represent the opportunity of today and tomorrow- as educationalists and innovators, entrepreneurs and investors, health professionals and scientists, politicians and peacemakers. Kashmir has been a major issue of conflict between government of India and Pakistan since its partition in 1947. Youth are contemplated to be

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the future of nation, so the constructive development of youth is very important for any nation to develop. Due to incessant exposure to an environment filled with terrorizing events of massacres and distress of conflict, a large number of youth in Kashmir participated in the ongoing struggle. This combat resulted in loss of lives of numerous young ones, loss of their beloved ones and a deteriorated future of many others and overall has led to serious medical as well as psychological issues. Youth are more vulnerable to depression as already they are trying to cope with the changing complexities of adolescence and when they face conflict related problems, their adjustment and coping becomes difficult.

In the present study 17.83% of respondents have shown low career aspirations, 58.33% falls in moderate level of career aspirations, 23.84% possess high career aspirations. Academic streams have produced a significant impact on the career aspirations of Kashmiri adolescents as when we compared career aspirations of the adolescents with respect to their academic streams we find significant differences exists in achievement aspiration and educational aspiration. The findings were in accordance with the findings of Singh and Dogra (2015) who also found that academic streams influence the occupational aspirations of students. However no significant difference was found between leadership aspiration and academic streams. However significant difference was found between overall career aspirations and academic streams of the respondents. While comparing their mean differences it was found that adolescents of different academic stream groups like Arts-Medical and Medical-Commerce differ significantly with each other on achievement aspiration. While as Arts-Commerce group do not differ significantly on achievement aspiration. Significant mean difference was found in educational aspiration of Medical-Commerce group while as Arts-Medical and Arts-Commerce groups do not differ significantly on educational aspiration. However significant mean differences were found between academic stream groups like Arts-Medical and Medical-Commerce on overall career aspirations. While as no significant mean difference was found between Arts-Commerce group on overall career aspirations.

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Acknowledgements

The authors profoundly appreciate all the people who have successfully contributed in ensuring this paper in place. Their contributions are acknowledged however their names cannot be mentioned.

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Conflict of Interest

The authors carefully declare this paper to bear not conflict of interests

How to cite this article: I A Dar (2019). Influence of Academic streams on Career aspirations of Kashmiri Adolescents. *International Journal of Indian Psychology*, 7(2), 38-45. DIP:18.01.006/20190702, DOI:10.25215/0702.006