

# A Study on Educational Aspiration of High and Low Achievers of Secondary Schools in Udalguri District of Assam



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## Abstract

Education is a human enterprise. It is a process and activities in relation to human beings. Though education is a part of human life yet it cannot help the pursuers unless they have the required educational aspiration. In education the basic problem is how to motivate the students to learn at all level. Academic achievement is the important goal of education in case of the students. Generally it is seen that the students whose academic performance is high have higher level of aspiration and whose academic achievement is low have lower level of aspiration. But in spite of having high aspirations fail to meet their goals. So the present study has been undertaken to study educational aspiration of high and low achievers of secondary schools. The study was done on 200 secondary school students of Udalguri district. Descriptive survey method was used for data collection. The study revealed that there is a significant difference between high and low achievers in relation to educational aspiration of secondary students.

**Keywords:** Educational Aspiration, High Achiever, Low Achiever, Secondary School Students.

## Introduction

Education plays a very important role in transforming a human being into useful citizen. In every society education means life both for individual as well as teachers. At all stages of life people try for self enhancement. The aspirations during students' period influence their behaviour. An individual's aspiration level represents him not only as he is at any particular moments, but also as he would like to be at some point in the future. It is recognized as a continuous effort to develop all capacities of the students. Education is a part of human life. But the problem in education of today is the problem of motivating the students to learn at all levels. Aspirations are the strong desires to achieve something high or great. It is often believed that raising aspirations to be an effective way to motivate pupils to work harder so as to achieve the steps necessary for later success. Aspirations can be said as student's ability to set goals for the future. High level of aspiration makes the individual to put forth his sustained efforts in getting education. A student has some expectations in mind when he attempts a task. If he attains the expected results he is satisfied, if things work out so that he falls short of his expectation then he experiences some degree of failure. Though education is recognized as a part of human life, yet it cannot help the students unless they have the required educational aspirations.

Achievement is synonymous with accomplishment. The social acknowledgement of a person's skill, the range, and depth of his knowledge or his proficiency in a designed area of learning or behavior is indicative of the extent of his achievement. Sometimes academic achievement is purely quantitative. Academic achievement refers to the level of schooling one has successfully completed and the ability to attain success is one's studies. It is something we do or achieve at school, in class, in laboratory, library or field work. It also refers to knowledge attained and skills developed by the students in school subjects. High academic achievement in school builds self-esteem and self-confidence which leads

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to better adjustment with the group. High level of educational aspirations is the sign of high level of achievement and success. Scholastic success of learners is significantly influenced by educational aspiration. Aspiration is a natural phenomenon of human life. The level of aspiration plays a significant role in the scholastic achievement of the students. There is a close and one to one relationship between academic achievement and level of aspiration. Higher level of aspiration leads to higher academic achievement. The level of aspiration is generally raised when performance is equal to level of aspiration and lowered when performance falls below the level of aspiration.

Secondary stage is significant stage of discovery of talents, growth and development. In this stage the students become energetic and young. It is the period of adolescents that students begin to find their way in life. They discover their interests, aspirations and dreams. Aspirations begin to be shaped early in a child's life, but are modified by experience and the environment in this stage. At the secondary education level, students also develop realistic approaches or aspiration to achieve higher and to excel others. The aspiration during the students' academic period influences their behaviour.

The world is becoming more and more competitive .one of the burning problems of today; in the field of education is how to raise the standard of education. Quality of performance is the essential factor for personal progress. Parents expect that their children must climb the ladder of performance to as high as possible. This expectation for high level of achievement puts a lot of pressure on students. Thus, a lot of time and efforts of the schools are used for helping students to achieve better in their scholastic endeavors. In order to help the pupil having low scholastic achievement, environment should be identified. Parents should take balance approach to develop the capacities and aspiration level to make achievement high. A happy home life encourages the child the feeling of security, co-cooperativeness and the ability for achievement.

#### **Concept of Educational Aspiration**

The concept of 'Level of Aspiration' was first introduced in 1931 by Tamera Dembo, one of the Lewin's students which is the English translation of the German word "Anspruchsniveau". It means the level of performance that an individual expects of himself/herself. It refers to the goal that an individual sets for himself/herself. However, while doing so, he/she is seldom guided entirely by considerations which are realistic in nature. According to Hoppe (1930) levels of aspiration means 'a person's expectations, goals or claims on his own future achievement in a given task. Frank (1941) defined level of aspiration as the level of future performance in that task, which an individual arranged his aspiration undertakes to reach. Frank found some personality variables positively correlated with different indices of level of aspiration.

Educational aspiration means the highest level of education to which and individual want to achieve. It means the goal, the individual sets for him

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or her in educational task. Educational aspiration refers to the early impressions of one's own academic abilities and the highest level of education an individual expects to attain has also been linked to academic achievement (Hanson, 1994). Every student has educational aspirations. The individual should take decision about his aim in life and what course he wants to study. The students who have high academic aspirations are more likely to take advantage of educational opportunities that may lead to academic success. On the other hand the students with low academic aspirations are less likely to take advantage of these opportunities.

#### **Review of Literature**

Rajesh, V.R. and Chandrasekaran, V. (2014) studied on 'Educational Aspirations of High School Students. The objective of the study was to explore the Educational Aspirations of high school students in relation to certain personal and demographic variables. The study concluded that significant difference in high school students' educational aspirations with respect to their gender, class studying, medium of instruction, residential locality, and type of family and occupation of mother. The study revealed that there was no significant difference in high school students' educational aspirations with respect to their type of school management, educational qualification of father, educational qualification of mother, occupation of father and family income.

Kumari, B. (2015) conducted a study on 'Level of Aspiration on Academic Performance of School Students'. The main objectives of the study were to measure the self- actualization in school student in relation to their social economic status; to measure the academic performance in school student on level of aspiration and to measure the correlation between male and female on academic performance. The study revealed that home played a significant role in shaping students' level of aspiration, no matter what the income level or background of the family was. The study also revealed that low aspirations among tribal and non-tribal school students were a problem which exists nationally.

Paliwal, A. and Rathi, N. (2016) made a study on 'Academic Performance as a Function of Level of Aspiration and Gender -A Comparative Study amongst Different Streams of Education'. The study aimed at examining the level of aspiration of students belonging to different streams of education and its impact on academic performance. It also revealed that there was no significant difference between academic performance of boys and girls with respect to Level of Aspiration in engineering stream. However significant gender differences in academic performances were revealed with respect to level of aspiration in management and legal streams of education.

Abdelrazek, O.H.G. (2016) conducted a study on 'Level of Aspiration, Critical Thinking and Future Anxiety as Predictors for the Motivation to Learn among a Sample of Students of Najran University'. The study aimed to examine the relationship of critical thinking and the level of

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aspiration and future anxiety to motivation to learn among the students. The result of the study revealed that there was significant relationship between motivation to learn and the level of aspiration, critical thinking and future anxiety.

#### **Justification of the Study**

There are several factors which influence the academic performance in education. Among them level of aspiration has special significance. It is an essential parameter that how much a student aspires. Academic performance can be considered as how they perform in their school including the co-curricular activities. It is essential to know the level of aspiration and how it influences their academic performance. Educational aspiration is important as it encourages and energizes the students to achieve them. It is an important aspect of personality. The level of aspiration of an individual might reflect his personality patterns.. In developed countries the school system is well organized. The student can make some anticipating or actual vocational decisions at the end of each stage of education. But in India the students have no freedom to choose from different curricular in the secondary schools. The students have no freedom to choose the curriculum that suits with and made only at the beginning of higher secondary stages, that too mainly or the basis of his academic achievements. Generally it is seen that the students whose academic performance is high have higher level of aspiration and whose academic achievement is low have lower level of aspiration. Therefore, it is considered relevant to study of educational aspiration among secondary school students.

#### **Statement of the Problem**

On the basis of the discussion held so far the present study is entitled,

A study on Educational Aspiration of High and Low Achievers of Secondary Schools in Udalguri District of Assam

#### **Objectives of the Study**

The following objectives were formed for the present study-

1. To study the educational aspiration of high achievers of secondary schools students.
2. To study the educational aspiration of low achievers of secondary schools students.
3. To find out whether there is any significant difference in educational aspiration of high and low achievers of secondary school students.

#### **Hypothesis**

Ho<sub>1</sub> There exists no significant difference in educational aspiration of high and low achievers of secondary school students.

#### **Operational Definitions of the Key Terms**

In the present study the following terms have been used:-

#### **Level of Aspiration**

In the present study level of aspiration refers the expected level of achievement of the secondary school students.

#### **Educational Aspiration**

Educational Aspiration in the present study refers to the total score obtained by the secondary

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school students on standardized scale of Level of Educational Aspiration scale prepared and standardized by Yasmin Ghani Khan in 1999.

#### **High Achievers**

High achiever in the present study refers to the students who obtained 60% and above on the basis of the percentage of marks in the HSLC Examination, 2018.

#### **Low Achievers**

Low achiever in the present study refers to the students who obtained 30% to 44.99% on the basis of the percentage of marks in the HSLC Examination, 2018.

#### **Secondary School students**

In the present study the students of class-X were considered.

#### **Delimitation of the Study**

The present study is delimited in the following way:-

1. The study will be delimited to class X students (Assamese medium) studying in provincialized secondary and higher secondary schools in the year 2017-18 both urban and rural area under SEBA.
2. Only the HSLC Examination passed students under SEBA of the year 2018 are considered.

#### **Methodology of the Study**

The descriptive survey method is applied in the present study.

#### **Population of the Study**

In the present study all the students of class-X of secondary schools (Assamese medium) of Udalguri district constitute the population. The total number of govt. /provincialized secondary and higher secondary school (Assamese medium) is 67; total number of students is 2850.

#### **Sample**

The representative proportion of the population is called sample. The disproportionate stratified random sampling technique is used by the investigator. The disproportionate stratified random sampling technique was used by the investigator because the population of the male, female, rural and urban students of sub-strata is not of equal in size. The present study was attempted to investigate the level of aspiration of secondary school students on the basis of high and low achievers of secondary school. In the present study 8 schools and 200 secondary school students of Udalguri district were selected as sample.

#### **Tools Used in the Study**

In the present study the following tools and techniques are used for the purpose of collecting data.

1. Level of Educational Aspiration Test (for Students) the Level of Aspiration Test for Students developed and standardized by Yashmin Ghani Khan.
2. Regarding academic achievement of the students, the investigator collected the marks of the students of HSLC examination from the office of the respective schools.

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**Procedure of Data Collection**

The investigator personally visited the selected school and collected data from the students.

**Statistical Techniques**

In the present study the following statistical techniques have been applied in interpreting and analyzing the collected data:

(1) Mean (2) Standard Deviation (3) t-test and (5) Graphical Representation (6) Simple percentage

In the present study computer is used for analyzing the data. Mean, standard deviation, and t-

**Table-1 Percentage distribution of level of Educational Aspiration scores of High Achievers students**

Variable	N	Scores	Level of Educational Aspiration	No. of students	Percentage
Educational Aspirations	100	Above 22	High	82	82%
		15-22	Average	12	12%
		Below 15	Low	06	6%

**Interpretation**

Table-1 has shown that out of 100 students, 82% students possess high level of educational aspiration, which means they all want to complete their academic goals and highly realistic to define it. 12% possess average level of educational aspiration, which are realistic, normal, well adjusted and

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test all were computed with the help of Microsoft office excel 2007.

**Analysis and interpretation****Objective 1**

To study the educational aspiration of high achievers of secondary schools students.

For measuring the high achiever students, percentage of marks obtained in HSLC examination was considered. High achievers have been assigned from 60% and above on the basis of the percentage of marks obtained by the sample students.

optimistic. Again 6% have low level of educational aspiration, which shows that they are unrealistic, carefree towards their academic achievement. It can be concluded that majority (82%) of the high achiever students are realistic, normal and well adjusted. This table is shown in the figure-1.

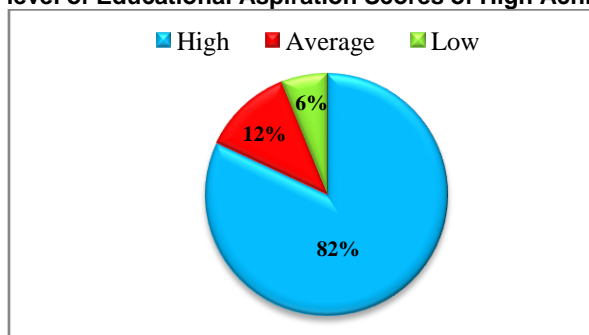
**Figure- 1****Percentage of level of Educational Aspiration Scores of High Achievers Students**

Fig-1 has clearly shown the percentages of level of educational aspiration scores of the high achiever students

**Objective 2**

To study the educational aspiration of low achievers of secondary schools students.

For measuring the low achievers students, percentage of marks obtained in HSLC examination was considered. Low achievers have been assigned from 30% to 44.99% on the basis of the percentage of marks obtained by the sample students.

**Table-2 Percentage Distribution of Level of Educational Aspiration Scores of Low Achievers Students**

Variable	N	Scores	Level of Educational Aspiration	No. of Students	Percentage
Educational Aspirations	100	Above 22	High	04	4%
		15-22	Average	31	31%
		Below 15	Low	65	65%

**Interpretation**

Table-2 has shown that out of 100 students, 4% students possess high level of educational aspiration, which means they all want to complete their academic goals and highly realistic to define it. 31% possess average level of educational aspiration, which are realistic, normal, well adjusted and optimistic. Again 65% have low level of educational aspiration, which shows that they are unrealistic, carefree towards their academic achievement. It can

be concluded that majority (65%) of the low achiever students are unrealistic and not well adjusted. This table is shown in the figure-2.

**Figure-2**  
**Percentage distribution of level of Educational Aspiration Scores of Low Achievers students**

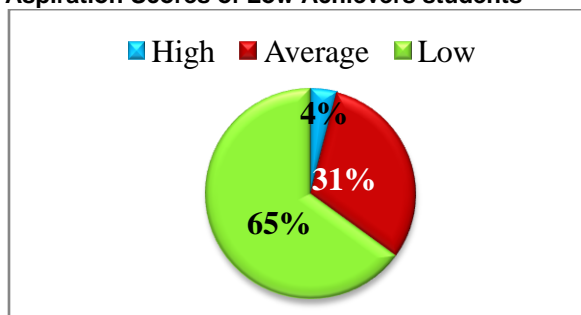


Fig-2 has clearly shown the percentages of level of educational aspiration scores of low achievers

### Objective 3

To find out whether there is any significant difference in educational aspiration of high and low achievers of secondary school students.

### Ho<sub>1</sub>

There exists no significant difference in educational aspiration of high and low achievers of secondary school students.

**Table-3**  
**t-value of Educational Aspiration Scores of High and Low Achievers**

Variables		N	Mean	Standard Deviation	Std. Error Mean	t-test
Educational Aspiration	High	100	26.55	1.88	0.19	3.86 S
	Low	100	14.63	3.58	0.36	

**S= Significant**

### Interpretation and Testing the Hypothesis

From table-3, it has been found that value of Mean is 26.55 and SD is 1.88 in case of educational aspiration of high achiever students. Again the table has also shown that the value of Mean is 14.63 and SD is 3.58 in case of educational aspiration of low achiever students. From the obtain t-value (3.86), it has been found that this value is significant at both the level (5% and 1%) of level of significance as the table value is 1.96 at 5% and 2.58 at 1% level of significance. So it is save to interpret that there is significant difference between high and low achiever secondary school students in case of level of educational aspiration. Therefore the null hypothesis 'there exists no significant difference in educational aspiration of high and low achievers of secondary school students' can be rejected.

### Major Findings

The major findings of the study are presented below:-

1. 82% high achiever students possess high level of educational aspiration. It means they all want to complete their academic goals and highly realistic to define it.
2. 12% possess average level of educational aspiration, which means they are realistic, normal, well adjusted and optimistic.
3. 6% have low level of educational aspiration, which shows that they are unrealistic, carefree towards their academic achievement.
4. Majority (82%) of the high achievers students have high educational aspiration.
5. 4% of low achievers students possess high level of educational aspiration.
6. 31% of low achievers possess average level of educational aspiration.
7. Again 65% of low achievers have low level of educational aspiration.
8. Majority (65%) of the low achiever students are unrealistic and not well adjusted.

9. There is significant difference between high and low achiever secondary school students in case of level of educational aspiration.

### Suggestions

The study revealed that 6% of high achievers and 65% of low achievers have low level of educational aspiration. So for encouraging the students to have realistic educational aspiration, the teachers should provide guidance and counseling to the students. Remedial and special classes should be arranged in the schools so that the students can be benefitted. The teacher should take measures to increase educational aspiration by using suitable strategies in such way that the students can easily understand the lesson and can attain their level of academic achievement. The study revealed that there is significant difference in educational aspiration between high and low achievers students. The students should be counseled to concentrate on their career and future perspective which will enhance their aspiration level and academic achievement.

### Conclusion

From findings of the present study it has been found that higher mean score of high achievers means that high achievers are having higher education aspiration level than low achievers. The investigator has felt the need to improve the conditions of the various aspects of education which may be the causes of low academic achievement and educational aspiration of the students. Special measures should be taken to improve achievement and educational aspiration. Awareness among the parents of students should be created about the psychological traits of their wards. The parents should provide more attention, co-operation and facilities for their children which will be fruitful to improve their aspiration level. The central government/ state government/concerned authorities should take measures for encouraging and recognizing the best students.

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