

# A Study of Academic Achievement of Higher Secondary School Students

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## Abstract

In the present study an attempt is made by the investigator to study the academic achievement of higher secondary school students on the basis of gender and locality. 1,000 higher secondary school students from district Dehradun of Uttarakhand were drawn by employing stratified random sampling technique. The results revealed that male and female students differ significantly in their academic achievement. Further the findings indicate that there exist significant differences between rural and urban higher secondary school students in their academic achievement.

**Keywords:** Academic achievement, gender, locality, higher secondary students.

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### Introduction

Education is the right of every human being. It is very necessary for each and everyone in order to improve their knowledge, their abilities, confidence, decision making, way of living as well as social and economic status throughout their life. Quality education develops human personality, thoughts, social skills and the opportunities for better and easier employment that leads to a successful future.

Education being the subsystem of society plays a key role in moulding, reforming, shaping and reconstructing it from time to time. Proper and Quality education is very important for the development of the individual and the progress of the society. People with good academic and educational backgrounds tend to get well paid jobs, become better citizens, and improve their confidence level all through their life.

### Academic Achievement

Is generally regarded as the display of knowledge attended or skills developed in the school subjects (Busari, 2000). It is the level of performance in school subjects as exhibited by an individual (Iseo Bhu, 1992). In The school setting it is referred to as the exhibition of subject knowledge attained in numbers or grade displayed report cards or skills developed through co-scholastic activities. Test scores, marks or grades assigned by teachers are the best indicators of this achievement. It is the school evaluation of the pupils' class work as qualified on the basis of marks or grades (Adedipe, 1985). These marks assigned by School could either be high or low, which means that academic achievement could either be good or bad.

Thus academic achievement is an indication of how successful a student is at different tasks and responsibilities. It is the final outcome after educational goals are achieved. Academic achievement is measured through cumulative score in all subjects attended after a particular time period (unit wise, quarterly, half yearly or annually), but there is no general agreement on how it can be perfectly measured so that it includes all aspects of achievement

### Review of Literature

Bae, D & Wickrama, K.A.S. (2015) studied family socio-economic status and academic achievement of Korean adolescents. The objective of this study was to examine the way by which family socio-economic status influences adolescents' academic achievement. 441 Korean adolescents of 12 to 14 years age group were the sample of the study. The findings revealed that family's socio-economic status directly or indirectly affected adolescents' academic achievement.

Kainthola, R (2016) studied academic achievement and SES on the basis of locality, stream of study and gender. 400 higher Secondary students taken from government schools of district Pauri Garhwal of Uttarakhand selected through stratified random sampling were undertaken for study. The results showed a significant relationship between SES and academic achievement. It was also revealed that a significant difference existed in academic achievement on the basis of locality (rural & urban) and gender (girls & boys).

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Bachhar, S.(2017) studied academic achievement of 62 students (13 Rural, 32 Urban) of secondary level from Kalyani block of Nadic district West Bengal in case study. Mean, SD, and t- tests were employed to analyse the data. Findings of the study revealed that a significant difference existed in academic achievement between rural and urban students and urban students performed better than rural students.

Rabgay, T. (2018) in his research on influencing factors of academic performance of higher secondary school students were determined to study the following points:

1. Do student demographic characteristics affect students' academic performance?
2. Does parents' socioeconomic status affect students' academic performance? 297 higher secondary school students of class 9th, 10th, 11th & 12th were selected through random sampling technique. For analysing the data correlation, t- test and descriptive analysis were used. Findings of the study showed that insignificant differences existed between girls and boys in their academic achievement. Further, the social economic factors like parents' occupation, parent's education and family income showed significant differences in academic performance. Family income and parents' education showed a moderate effect on a student's academic performance. Students with higher parental occupation were better than students with lower parental occupation.

**Objective of the Study**

1. To find out the academic achievement of higher secondary school students on the basis of gender.
2. To find out the academic achievement of higher Secondary School students on the basis of locality.

**Hypotheses**

1. There is no significant difference between male and female higher secondary school students in their academic achievement.
2. There is no significant difference between rural and urban higher secondary school students in their academic achievement.

**Research Methodology** This research was done on the basis of descriptive survey method, stratified random sampling technique has been used to select the sample.

**Sample** The study was conducted with a sample of 1,000 students of class 11th and 12th higher secondary schools from Dehradun district of Uttarakhand. Out of six blocks of Dehradun district two blocks viz. Raipur and Doiwala were selected randomly. Then both rural and urban students were selected as a sample with equal distribution of 500 rural students and 500 urban students. A sample of 500 rural students was further divided into 250 male and 250 female students , same as urban students.

**Tools** In the present study, the total marks scored by students in the last annual exam has been considered as their academic achievement.

**Variables of the Study**

**Main Variable** Academic Achievement

**Background Variables** Gender(Male & Female), Locality(Urban & Rural).

**Statistical Techniques Used** The investigator used Statistical techniques like mean, SD, and t- test analysis.

**Data Analysis**

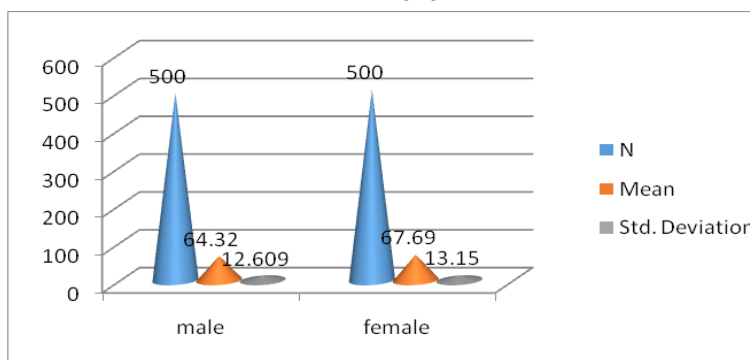
Comparative analysis of academic achievement on the basis of gender (Male&Female)

**Table - 1 Calculation of mean, S.D. and t- value of academic achievement of male and female students at higher secondary level.**

Variable	Gender	N	Mean	SD	t	df	Sig. Value
Academic Achievement	Male	500	64.32	12.609	4.131	998	.000
	Female	500	67.69	13.15			

Significant at 0.01 level

**Figure 1 : Graphical representation of Number, Mean and S.D. of Academic Achievement of male and female students at higher secondary level.**



**Table 1** : indicates that the t value of academic achievement of male and female students is 4.131, which is significant for df = 998 at 0.01 level of significance. It means that male and female students significantly differ in their academic achievement at higher secondary level. The mean score on academic achievement of female students (M = 67.69) is higher than the male students( M = 64.32) . It means that the female students have higher academic achievement than the male students at higher secondary level

Comparative analysis of academic achievement on the basis of locality (Urban & Rural)

**Table - 2 Calculation of mean, standard deviation and t- value of academic achievement of urban and rural students at higher secondary level**

Variable	Locality	N	Mean	SD	T	df	Sig. Value
Academic Achievement	Urban	500	67.28	13.174	3.086	998	.002
	Rural	500	64.76	12.689			

Significant at 0.01 level

**Table 2** displays that t- value of academic achievement of Urban and rural students is 3.086, which is significant at 0.01 level of significance with df= 998. It means that a significant difference is found between Urban and rural students in their academic achievement at higher secondary level. The mean scores of academic achievement of urban students (M = 67.28)is higher than the rural students (M= 64.76). It means that the urban students have higher academic achievement than the rural students at higher secondary level.

**Main Findings**

1. There existed a significant difference between male and female higher secondary school students in their academic achievement.
2. A significant difference was found between the academic achievement of rural and urban higher secondary school students.

**Conclusion and Discussion**

1. Result indicates that female students have better academic achievement than the male students at higher secondary level. It may be due to the sincere, hardworking and more studious nature of girls than their counterparts. It is well reflected in their worries regarding academic achievement. Parenting plays an important role in scaffolding academic achievement among girls. Thus girls are more increased by their loving

and caring parents. The result of the present study goes in line with the findings of Negi, A. & Maikhuri, R. (2016) who found that Male and female students were significantly different in their academic achievement and female students were higher academic achievers than the male students. The findings of Nnamani, S.C. & Oyiba, O. A. (2016) are similar to the findings of the present study which state that achievement scores of female students were higher than the scores of male students in Social Studies. The findings of Gausiya, & Gupta, K. (2015) do not lend support to this finding as they found that no significant difference existed between academic achievement of girls and boys. Alordiah, C.O.et.al (2015) found that the achievement of male students is better than female students in mathematics which shows controversy to the findings of the present study. Similarly the findings of Upadhyay, S. K. (2017) exposed controversy to the findings of the present study. Who stated that insignificant differences existed in the academic achievement of male and female higher secondary school students.

2. Results indicate that students from rural localities are low achievers as compared to the students from urban localities in terms of academic achievement. The possible reasons behind the cause may be lack of parental concern, favourable School environment, encouragement and necessary facilities. Rather, students from urban localities are high achievers due to a healthy environment. The result of the present study goes in line with the finding of Alordiah, C.O.et. al. (2015) who found that urban school students were better than rural school students in mathematics. Kainthola, R. (2016), Negi, A. (2016) and Gausiya, & Gupta, k. (2015) lend support to the findings of the present study, as they found that urban students showed better academic achievement than the rural students. The findings of Bachhar, S. (2017) lend support to the findings of present study as they found that academic achievement (education subject) of rural students was significantly lower than urban students. The findings of Subramanaian, A. (2016) do not lend support to this finding, as they found that rural students had better academic achievement than urban students.

#### **Educational Implications**

1. A Teacher plays an important role to inspire and lead a child to the path of success. Thus a teacher should be committed and responsible towards his profession.
2. Teachers should focus on low achievers and help them in every way.
3. Teachers should adopt new innovative and technologically advanced method of teaching
4. Parents and teachers should be made aware of the use of Technology related to studies
5. Parents should motivate and increase their children to achieve higher goals in life
6. Parents should participate and cooperate in day to day activities related to study of their children.

#### **Suggestions for further studies**

1. My study may be taken with any other background variables like study stream, type of school etc.
2. Academic achievement may be linked with self-confidence, creativity, School environment, socio-economic status, adjustment etc.
3. This study may be conducted in different geographical areas

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