

OCCUPATIONAL ASPIRATIONS OF ADOLESCENTS IN RELATION TO THEIR SELF CONCEPT

Sunaina

Assistant Professor, Dev Samaj College Of Education For Women Ferozpur City

bsunaina92@yahoo.co.in

Abstract

Life is full of struggles and a person has to face many challenging situations where he/she needs to make right decisions. With the advancement of scientific knowledge and gradual development of materialistic outlook, it is believed that education should enable the individual to earn his living. Occupational aspirations in the formative years of life influence the vocational choice in the later life, which determine individual's success in regard to job satisfaction, productivity and adjustment. So, it is imperative for the teachers to know their occupational aspirations, interest, self concept etc. A sample of 200 senior secondary school students was randomly drawn from govt. and private schools located in Ferozpur. Significant difference has been found in the level of occupational aspirations of adolescent boys and girls. Insignificant difference has been found in the level of self concept of adolescent boys and girls. Insignificant relationship has been found between occupational aspirations and self concept of adolescents.

Keywords: Adolescent, occupational aspiration, self concept.



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Introduction

Our nation now stands on the threshold of the 21st century. Whether the nation can face the internal and external challenges successfully will decide the quality of the citizen's life tomorrow. Education is the most effective instrument to meet the challenges. Education to be meaningful should not only aim at the physical, mental and social growth of the individual, but also take into accounts the needs and aspirations of a developing society.

Occupational aspiration

Occupational aspiration has been regarded as an integral aspect of human life. It helps in shaping the career of the individual and planning for future life. It is a goal directed attitude which involves conception of self in relation to a particular level of the occupational prestige hierarchy. Gottfredson (2005) viewed occupational aspiration as the assimilation of an individual's assessment of the compatibility and accessibility of an occupation. Rojeswki (2007) described occupational aspiration as individual's desired occupational aims or objectives given optimal circumstances.

Self-concept

Self-concept is best conceived as a system of attitudes about oneself. It is a dominant element in developing personality patterns and behaviour. Self-concept means how individual perceives himself and how he perceives his environment in relation to himself. It governs the individual's reaction to people and situation as that determine the qualities of his behavior. Glang and Watson (1969) opined that what a person does, how he behaves is determined by the self-concept; and as an individual grows he not only forms concepts about his surroundings and other individuals but gradually he forms an image about himself. Saraswat and Gaur (1981) explained self-concept as, "The individual's way of looking at himself. It also signifies his way of thinking, feeling and behaving. Self-concept covers all the traits of individual behavior pattern." Chadda (1985) opined that "self-concept is one's own image in one's eyes and it is very important in decision making and decision implementation.

Need of the study

Life is full of struggles and a person has to face many challenging situations where he/she needs to make right decisions. With the advancement of scientific knowledge and gradual development of materialistic outlook, it is believed that education should enable the individual to earn his living .Occupation is one of the primary concerns of every student passing +2 classes. Occupational choice at the adolescent stage is a crucial factor as it gives direction to one's future .The choice has a far reaching impact on one's future in terms of life style, status, income, security and job satisfaction.

Occupational aspiration is influenced by several factors such as age, gender, marital status, emotional intelligence etc. Though a lot of researches have been done on these variables independently but very few studies have been done on their association with each other. So, these endeavours need to know more about these variables in relation with each other i.e.to study occupational aspirations in relation to self-concept among adolescents.

Objectives of the study

1. To investigate the significance of difference between means of occupational aspirations of adolescent boys and girls.
2. To investigate the significance of difference between means of self-concept of adolescent boys and girls.
3. To investigate the relationship between occupational aspirations and self-concept of adolescents.

Hypotheses of the study

1. There will be no significant difference in occupational aspirations of adolescent boys and girls.
2. There will be no significant difference in self-concept of adolescent boys and girls.
3. There will be no significant relationship between occupational aspirations and self-concept of adolescents.

Tools used

Occupational aspiration scale by Dr. J.S Grewal
Self concept questionnaire by Dr. Raj Kumar Saraswat

Sample of the study

A sample of 200 senior secondary school students was randomly drawn from govt. and public schools located in Ferozepur.

Statistical techniques used

Mean, Standard deviation, t-ratio and co-efficient of correlation were used for the analysis of data.

Analysis and interpretation of data

To give the authenticity and credibility to work of research, analysis and interpretation is always done in the light of objectives and hypotheses.

Hypothesis- I

There will be no significant difference in occupational aspirations of adolescent boys and girls.

For this purpose ‘t’ value between the mean scores of adolescent boys and girls was calculated.

Table-1: Showing the difference between the level of occupational aspirations of adolescent boys and girls

Sr.No. Sex	N	Mean	S.D.	t-value	Level of Significance
1 Boys	100	47.96	8.09	2.43	Significant at both levels
2 Girls	100	50.21	8.29		

It is evident from the table that the t- value between the mean scores of boys and girls is 2.43 that is significant at both 0.05 and 0.01 levels. This shows that there is significant difference in occupational aspirations of boys and girls. So, our hypothesis stands rejected.

Hypothesis II

There will be no significant difference between self-concept of adolescent boys and girls. For this purpose 't' value between the mean scores of adolescent boys and girls was calculated.

Table-2: Showing difference in self-concept of adolescent boys and girls

Sex	N	Mean	S.D.	t-value	Level of Significance
Boys	100	180.46	16.70	0.347	Insignificant at both levels
Girls	100	183.26	17.59		

Hypothesis III

There will be no significant relationship between occupational aspirations and self-concept of adolescents.

For this purpose, the co-efficient of correlation was calculated by using Pearson Product moment method.

Table-3: Showing coefficient of correlation between occupational aspirations and self-concept of adolescents

Variables	N	r-value	Level of Significance
Occupational aspirations	200	0.08	Insignificant at both levels
Self-concept			

It is evident from the table that the r-value between occupational aspirations and self-concept was found to be 0.08 that is insignificant at both 0.05 and 0.01 levels. This shows that there is no relationship between the occupational aspirations and self-concept of adolescents. So, our hypothesis stands accepted.

Major findings and Conclusions

- The 't' value of occupational aspirations between boys and girls mean scores is found to be 2.43 which is significant at 0.05 and 0.01 levels. There is difference in the occupational aspirations of boys and girls. It may be inferred from the findings that girls too got opportunities to choose occupations, courses of study of their choice and have equal opportunities to get educations. Their aspirations too get affected from positive reinforcement they receive at home and from society
- The 't' value between mean scores of self concept of adolescents (boys and girls) is found to be 0.347 which is insignificant at both 0.05 and 0.01 levels. There is no significant

difference in the self concept of boys and girls, which is again due to equal treatment being given to girls and boys at home, school and in the society. Awareness through girl child campaign through government and non government agencies; has helped a lot in creating awareness among girls and boys about their identity, being and personality. Thus, no difference is found in the self concept of boys and girls.

- The ‘r’ between the scores of occupational aspirations and self concept of a adolescents has been calculated to be 0.08 which is not significant at 0.01 and 0.05 levels.

Educational implications

The youth of today are leaders of tomorrow. Occupational aspirations in the formative years of life influence the vocational choice in the later life, which determine individual’s success in regard to job satisfaction, productivity and adjustment. Students usually plan for their future at this stage. So, it is imperative for the teachers to know their occupational aspirations, interest, self concept etc. With this, the teachers can help the students to flourish their occupational aspirations in proper direction and assist them in vocational planning at this stage. Sometimes parents wish to make their children doctors, engineers etc. but if the students have no aspiration, they will never be able to work properly in different areas of life. Their success in life depends much upon what they think of themselves and how much do they understand themselves. In other words “self-concept” is an instrumental factor in determining their success. This will help the students in developing positive and right type of thinking and self-concept.

Delimitations of the study

1. The present study is restricted to the schools of Ferozepur city and cantt only.
2. The sample is delimited to 200 adolescents only.
3. In the present study, relationship is studied between two variables only i.e. occupational aspirations and self-concept.

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