



## Level of Aspiration as Predictor of Risk Taking Tendency Among Adolescents

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### ABSTRACT

*The aim of the present investigation is to study the nature of level of aspiration as predictor of risk taking tendency among adolescents. The present study was conducted on a sample of 300 adolescence of Inter College, in three districts of Kumaun region. The sample in this study was selected on random basis. In this study the tools was used Risk Taking Questionnaire designed by Sinha and Arora (1983), and Aspiration Scale designed by Juyal (1994). Data was treated by Factor analysis, the multiple Regression Equation and coefficient of multiple correlations. On the basis of analysis, interpretation and discussion of results the following conclusions were drawn that Level of Aspiration is significantly correlated with Risk- Taking behaviour of adolescents, but does not account for generating this behaviour.*

### KEYWORDS :

#### INTRODUCTION

The word "Adolescence" has been taken from Latin word "Adolescere" means to grow or to grow to maturity. Some who have studied adolescence view it as a period of "Storm and stress". This was the view of G. Stanley Hall, an American psychologist (1904) whose book, "Adolescence", helped make this age period a focus of scientific study.

Morgan, King, Weisz and Schopler (2002) "Adolescent means the period of life from puberty to the completion of physical growth." Jersild et.al. (1975) defined adolescence "As the period through which a growing person makes transition from childhood to maturity".

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Adolescence is also an age of identity crisis, when they like to assert independence and fluctuate between dependence on parents and attempt to assert independence. This motivational desire to be an independent leads them to take the "Risk". Risk can be observed or identified in many forms.

Hobrin (1974) defines the term 'risk' as "a condition where there is a possibility of the occurrence of loss as a result of deviation from the intended or expected situation".

Risk as Layman understands may be an act which a man undertakes to earn his livelihood or does some act under compulsion, or in other words we can say that "In a dangerous or critical situation a person takes the very quick decision and follows it carefully. The results may be positive or negative, no question remains in mind in this regard".

Level of aspiration (LOA) is an important individual social motivation, which is also related to the achievement motivation. Today each and every individual who is ambitious in some or other form aims at reaching a definite goal in performance and in doing so, he sets a desire for distinction which has an inner structure known as 'Level of Aspiration (LOA)'. Green (1945) was of the view that there was a relationship of adjustment with vocational aspiration. Christenesn (1956) Empey (1958), Turner (1964), Wilensky (1959) have stated that in adulthood, sex differences in aspiration are even more marked than in childhood and adolescents. Men's aspirations concentrate on achievements while women concentrate on personal attractiveness and social acceptance. (Bennett, 1959; Turner, 1964).

According to Peel (1962) "when a person is actively involved in a task, he sets himself, a standard to conquer, which is called level of aspiration." "Aspiration means the goal that an individual desires or hopes to reach in a specified activity." (Good, 1973).

#### MAJOR OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The present study is planned to study the following objectives-

- To find out the level of risk – taking behavior and the level of as-

piration among adolescents.

- To explore the relationship of the variable level of aspiration with risk- taking behavior of adolescents.
- To compute the contribution of predictor variable like level of aspiration in determining the risk- taking behavior of adolescents.

#### HYPOTHESES

On the basis of review of related literature indirectly concerned with the investigation under taken, the following hypotheses have been formulated:

1. Level of aspiration would be significantly correlated with risk – taking behavior among adolescents.
2. Level of aspiration would be a significant predictor of risk – taking behavior among adolescents.

#### THE RESEARCH METHOD

For testing the proposed hypothesis and objectives of this investigation normative survey method was adopted to collect the data. The choice of normative survey method is made principally because the study aims at ascertaining the present information and knowledge of self – confidence as predictor of risk – taking behavior among adolescents. In this method multistage random sampling is frequently used because in normative survey large sample is selected systematic multi stage and multiple sampling can also be used in this method.

#### SAMPLE

In the present study a sample of 300 students of Inter College were drawn from different boys and girls Inter colleges in three district of Kumauni region. The sample in this study was selected on multistage random basis.

#### TOOLS USED

##### ASPIRATION SCALE

This scale was designed by Juyal (1994) for the measurement of level of aspiration of adolescents'. It is a five point scale and measures aspiration of adolescents in three main areas of aspiration namely Educational Aspiration, Personal Aspiration and Social Aspiration. The reliability of the scale was established with the help of test- re- test method which is 0.77 for the total scale. Three types of validity of the aspiration scale were determined by the author, namely. Face validity, content validity and construct validity. Face validity refers not to what the text necessarily measure but what is appears to measure (Anastasi, 1957).

##### RISK- TAKING QUESTIONNAIRE (R.T.Q)

This tool is designed by Sinha and Arora (1983). It is designed to measure the extent of risk – taking of a particular individual in his personal as well as in his social life. It is useable on male and female literates. The authors covered eight areas of risk which are considered to be the most important and affiliated areas of risk for Indian life by a number of sociologists and psychologists. These areas are Hills, Space, Sea, Commercial Trades, Police & Intelligence Services, Fire, Professional

Trade and Military Services. Risk Taking Questionnaire is a five point scale. The reliability of RTQ was computed by the method of rational equivalence using the Kuder – Richardson formula for different areas of questionnaire range from 0.66 to 0.83. The concurrent validity of the tool established by the authors is 0.82.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

**Table 1**  
**DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS FOR TOTAL SAMPLE**  
**(N=300)**

S.NO.	NAME OF THE VARIABLES	MEAN	S.D.	SKEWNESS	KURTOSIS	REMARK
1.	Risk – Taking	148.91	24.563	-.528	.607	Platy Kur.
2.	Educational Aspiration	67.19	8.067	-.397	.317	Platy Kur.
3.	Personal Aspiration	58.45	8.468	.311	.147	Lepto. Kur.
4.	Social Aspiration	66.22	7.543	-.343	.166	LeptoKur.
5.	Aspiration	191.75	17.584	-.171	.310	Platy Kur.

Table 1 indicates that the value of Skewness for Risk Taking, Educational Aspiration, Social Aspiration and Total Aspiration was negatively skewed but Personal Aspiration was positively skewed.

**Table 2**  
**INTER CORRELATION MATRIX**  
**(N= 300)**

VAR IABLES	X <sub>1</sub>	X <sub>2</sub>	X <sub>3</sub>	X <sub>4</sub>	X <sub>5</sub>
Risk – Taking (X <sub>1</sub> )	-				
Educational Aspiration(X <sub>2</sub> )	**	**			
Personal Aspiration(X <sub>3</sub> )	.01	.08	.06	-	
Social Aspiration(X <sub>4</sub> )	**	*	**	**	-
Aspiration(X <sub>5</sub> )	.26	-.12	.25	.17	*
	.20	-.13	.24	.19	.13

\*sig. at .05

\*\* sig. at .01

\* .05 level r = .11 to .14 sig. value

\*\* .01 level r = .15 and above sig. value

A close observation of results given in the Table 2 reveals that as the variable Educational Aspiration is stepped up, neither the value of R nor of R<sup>2</sup> are rising up but both are constant, whereas the percentage contribution is increasing negatively because of the contribution of supportive variables. It means that Educational Aspiration does not account for generating Risk- Taking Tendency among adolescents. This finding is also supported by Chopra (1960) who found that family background affected educational and vocational aspiration of students. Social Aspiration (X<sub>4</sub>) and another dimension of Aspiration are significantly and positively correlated with Educational Aspiration (X<sub>2</sub>) and Personal Aspiration (X<sub>3</sub>). Aspiration (X<sub>5</sub>) is significantly and positively correlated with the variables Educational Aspiration (X<sub>2</sub>), Personal Aspiration (X<sub>3</sub>) and Social Aspiration (X<sub>4</sub>).

**TABLE 3**  
**RISK – TAKING (X<sub>1</sub>) PREDICTED FROM EDUCATIONAL ASPIRATION, PERSONAL ASPIRATION, SOCIAL ASPIRATION AND ASPIRATION**

S. NO.	PREDICTOR VARIABLES	MEAN	S.D.	CORRELATION WITH CRITERION VARIABLE	BETA	R	R <sup>2</sup>	PERCENTAGE CONTRIBUTION
1.	Educational Aspiration	67.19	8.07	.188	-.033	.494	.244	-.620
2.	Personal Aspiration	58.45	8.47	.014	-.110	.489	.239	-.154
3.	Social Aspiration	66.22	7.54	.257	.163	.479	.229	4.189
4.	Aspiration	191.75	17.58	.204	.180	.494	.244	3.672

Table 3 indicates that the correlation between Educational Aspiration and Risk – taking is .188 which is significantly positive correlation. On the other hand a close observation of the results depicted in the Table 3 also reveals that the percentage contribution is increasing negatively that is -.620 it shows insignificant contribution. This negative increment in percentage contribution is due to the contribution of supportive variables means Social Aspiration, Personal Aspiration and Total Aspiration.

It is evident from Table 3 that correlation between Personal Aspiration and Risk- Taking is .014 which is insignificant at .05 level of confidence. On stepping up of variable (X<sub>1</sub>) Personal Aspiration, the multiple R and R<sup>2</sup> values have increased from .479 to .489 and .229 to .239 which is .010 increment but the percentage contribution of Personal Aspiration towards criterion variable, Risk- Taking is -.154 which refers insignificant contribution.

A glance over Correlation Matrix Table 2 reveals that the correlation between Social Aspiration and criterion variable is .257 which is significant at .01 level of significance.

It is also revealed from the Table (shows percentage contribution) that by stepping up variable in multiple regression equation the value of R and R<sup>2</sup> has increased means .023% increment which is significant. Social Aspiration contributes significantly 4.189% to criterion variable Risk- Taking. Hence it is revealed that the contribution of the variable Social Aspiration is significant in explaining Risk- Taking behavior.

A close observation of the results also reveals that the correlation between Aspiration and Risk – taking is .204 which is significant at .01 level of significance.

It is also revealed from the Table 3 that on stepping up the variable Aspiration the value of R has risen to .494 and R<sup>2</sup> rises to .244 which is insignificant difference.

The percentage contribution of the variable towards (X<sub>1</sub>) is 3.67% which is not its own contribution. This contribution is the result of its supportive three dimensions that are Social Aspiration, Personal Aspiration and Educational Aspiration.

## CONCLUSIONS OF THE STUDY

On the basis of analysis, interpretation and discussion of results the following conclusions were drawn:

- Educational Aspiration does not account for generating Risk – Taking Tendency among students.
- No significant correlation was found between Personal Aspiration and Risk- Taking Tendency among adolescents.
- Personal Aspiration does not account for generating Risk – Taking Tendency among adolescents.
- Social Aspiration is significantly correlated with Risk- Taking behaviour among adolescents.
- Social Aspiration is positively significant in explaining Risk- Taking behaviour and significantly contributes to generating Risk – Taking Tendency among adolescents.
- Level of Aspiration is significantly correlated with Risk- Taking behaviour of adolescents, but does not account for generating this behaviour.

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