



Aspirations and Motivations among Government Higher Secondary School Students: A Sociological Analysis

KEYWORDS

Aspiration, Motivation, Hurdles ,career

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ABSTRACT *Aspiration and motivations are two important as well as powerful words we come across in our day to day life. Really these two are all magical terminology which decides our career and advancement. This paper examines the career aspirations of the government higher secondary school students in Salem district. It studies the socio-economic background of the students, their aspirations and possible hurdles as perceived by the students.*

Introduction

Life is a long travel wherein an individual's aspiration keeps them to very active and live. Aspiration makes the life very meaningful. An aspiration is a wish or ambition and efforts are being taken to achieve the perceived goal. The motivation is the internal driving force to accomplish the target before us. In another way, it is commonly understand us goal setting and achievement. Abraham H. Maslow's need hierarchy theory indicates the needs pave the way to individuals' path. Frederick Herzberg rightly pointed out in his two factor theory that there were differential motivating factors which vary to individual. The days of Schooling are very fundamental where most of the aspirations are formed and induced to form. The later days of schooling i.e., higher secondary crucial since career direction is going to be determined.

Materials and Methods of the Study

There is a perception and general understanding that government school students are very poor in their performance. The study was conducted among the eleventh standard students who belong to mathematics and biology groups of government higher secondary school. The school is located at Pannapatti, Kadaiyampatty block, pannapatti panchayat of Salem District, Tamil Nadu State. The school is located in rural area. The respondents are selected purposefully by using purposeful sampling methods. The interview schedule is used to get the necessary information. Besides, the focus group discussion is contacted among the respondents to get the clarifications and deep understanding. The descriptive research design was adopted to describe the relevant information. The objectives of the study are to study the socio-economic background of the school students; to find out the future aspirations and motivations to pursue the aspirations; to examine the factors that impede the furtherance to culminate the aspiration. The simple percentage and cross tables were used to draw the inference for this study.

Results and Discussion**Socio Economic profile of the Respondents**

Sixty students were contacted to gather the information regarding their aspirations and motivation. Out of sixty respondents, girls out number boys. As far as this study was concerned, Girls constitute more (63 per cent) than boys (37 per cent). Social background was one of the important yardsticks to determine the opportunities and threat of the individual in Indian social set up. The educational attainment of the individual sometimes warranted by his social strata. The Backward class constitute 47 per cent followed by most backward class 28 per cent and scheduled caste 28 per cent. We can explicitly understand that Hindu's constitute 93 per cent followed by Muslim 5 per cent and Christian 1 percent. Education of the parents plays a vital role in providing education and creating good ambience to their wards. However, the mother's education was not taken into consideration, though it played crucial role. The researcher found that majority of

(76.67 per cent) the respondents' parents were illiterate and 16.66 per cent of the parents just reached primary level of education. About 3.34 per cent of the respondents' parents attained middle and higher secondary level of education. On the other hand hardly 3.33 per cent of the parents got collegiate education. The calling of the parents determine the economical position of the family. It opens the various avenues to have an education at any cost. The aspiration of individual was conditioned by their economical condition. Out of sixty respondents, 70 per cent of the respondents' parents were practicing agriculture. It was known that the most of the land were rain fed lands. They also reported that the vagaries of nature made havoc to the harvest. The respondents said that the government's educational loan was the prime source for pursuing higher education. It was reported that handful of the parents, 23 per cent, to eke out their living through doing coolie work. About 2 per cent of the parents were beneficiaries of MGNREGS and 2 per cent of the parents were indulging in government service. Hardly 3 per cent of them worked in the private sectors. Economy is the super structure which decides everything. About 70 per cent of the respondents' parents earn 4001-5000. There was a handful of parents (11.67 per cent) form anther extreme i.e., below 3000. Only hardly 5 per cent earn above 6001. (Table 1.)

Table 1. Socio economic profile of the respondents

S.No	Sex of the respondents	Total
1	Boys	22 (37)
2	Girls	38 (63)
	Total	60
Social Background(community)		Total
1	BC	28(47)
2	MBC	17 (28)
	SC	15 (25)
	Total	60 (100)
Religion		Total
1	Hindu	56 (93)
2	Christian	1(2)
3	Muslim	3 (5)
	Total	60
Parents' Education		Total
1	Illiterate	46 (76.67)
2	Primary	10(16.66)
3	Middle level	1(01.67)
4	Higher Secondary level	1(01.67)
5	Collegiate	2(03.33)
	Total	60(100.00)
Parents' calling		
1	Farmers	42(70)
2	Coolie	14 (23)
3	MGNREGS	1(2)

4	Government job	1(2)
5	Private job	2 (3)
	Total	60(100)
	Parents' Income (PM) □	Total
1	Below 3000	7 (11.67)
2	3000-4000	5(08.33)
3	4001-5000	42(70.00)
4	5001-6000	3(05.00)
5	6001 and above	3(05.00)
	Total	60(100.00)

Respondents by their future Aspiration

The identification the future aspiration was the core research area of the study. The different aspirations were found among the students. The popular destination was becoming engineers (48.33 per cent). The status, engineer has high regard in the society, according to the respondents. On the other hand, 18.34 per cent of them expressed that becoming a doctor was their dream. They said that it was the life saving occupation and people regard the doctors as demigod on the earth. Imparting knowledge and moulding the individual were only possible in the profession of teaching. It is noble profession since we can influence the mind of the disciples. 15 per cent of the students aspired to become the teacher. Ironically, 10 per cent told that they needed any jobs to resolve their immediate issues such as settling down the financial crisis's of the family. It was noted that 5 per cent of them shown the keen interest on UPSC services especially IAS and IPS. They attributed that these positions were highly acknowledged and offer a position in the society. The remaining 3.33 per cent replied that they would like to join in the media world. The filmdom offers centre of attraction since it involved money and popularity. Very interestingly the researcher found that no one aspire to choose sports as their career. The researcher also found that there were a task oriented behaviour among the students in order to accomplish the target such as watching news channels, updating general knowledge, doing physical exercise, participating in competition and so forth (Table 2.)

Table 2. Respondents by their future Career aspirations

S.No	Aspirations	Total
1	Teaching	9 (15)
2	Medicine	11(18.34)
3	Engineers (including all streams)	29(48.33)
4	UPSC (IAS and IPS)	3(5)
5	Media	2(3.33)
6	Any jobs	6(10)
	Total	60(100)

Table 3. Parents' income vs students' aspirations

The researcher tried to find out the parents' income had any influence on aspirations of the students. It was found that 31.66 per cent of the students' parents earned below 3000 followed by 20 per cent 6001 and above, 33.34 per cent 4001-6000 and 15 per cent 300-4000. It was inferred that income had no role in setting aspirations on the part of students.

Table3

Income (PM) In	Aspirations						Total
	Teaching	Medicine	Eng.	UPSC	Media	Any job	
Below 3000	5	3	5	1	-	5	19 (31.66)
3000-4000	1	2	6	-	-	-	9(15.00)
4001-5000	1	2	6	-	-	1	10 (16.67)
5001-6000	1	2	7	-	-	-	10(16.67)
6001 and above	1	2	5	2	2	-	12(20.00)
Total	9	11	29	3	2	6	60 (100.00)

Table 4. Respondents by their motivating factors towards their aspiration

The motivation was the driving force which propels the individuals towards their respective destinations. There was a different motivational factor which differs according to the interest of the individuals. As far as this study was concerned money was the prime motivational factors for 48.3 per cent of the respondents. They acknowledged that by money makes everything possible. There was a possibility of doing social service through certain positions. According to the available data, 15 per cent said the ingredient of service component motivate them. 16.6 per cent expressed that they would like to enjoy the power, authority and they needed popularity. It was noted that the power and authority made them to more visible to the society and people always respect them with fear. This gives them a psychological appeasement. High status was the intention regardless of job for the 13.30 per cent. They reiterated that status alone they like rather than the power and authority. On the other hand, 8.3 per cent of respondents like to live with lime light. Leading a peaceful life was the motivational factor for 06.70 per cent the students.

S.No	Motivating factors	Total
1	Power and Authority	05(08.30)
2	Money	29(48.30)
3	Social service	09(15.00)
4	Peaceful life	04(06.70)
5	Status	08 (13.30)
6	Popularity	05 (08.30)
	Total	60(100)

Respondents by their perception of hurdles to achieve their destination

There were a myriad of bottlenecks in our life to achieve the perceived destination. For the students it was the double burden since they depended on their parents even for their daily requirements. The data revealed that 48.33 per cent of the students expressed that dearth of economy situation of the family disturb them drastically. Even the families are struggling to meet both ends since most of the parents had meagre earning. It was also reported that the students did some economic activities during their holidays as a supplementary income. The situation of the students was very worst if they had unmarried sisters. About 21.67 per cent reported that they would like to have a congenial atmosphere both at schools and families. The turbulent family situation and hitches detract their aspiration. It diluted their concentration, they reiterated. The lack of proper guidance was attributed by 15 per cent of students. The rural backwardness and hesitations to discuss with their teacher acted as a stumbling block. They felt as bewildered regarding to establish an aspiration. It was observed that 08.33 per cent expressed the prevailing social structure hamper their aspiration. It was very obvious with regard to girl students. Under patriarchal system, there was a perception that offering high level education was double burden to their parents. Interestingly there was a peer group de-motivation for 06.67 per cent of the students.

Table .5. Respondents by the perception of Hurdles

S.No	Perception of Hurdles	Total
1	Social structure	5 (08.33)
2	Dearth of Economy	29(48.33)
3	No guidance	9 (15.00)
4	De-motivation from peer group	4(06.67)
5	Lack of Conducive atmosphere in family and school	13(21.67)
	Total	60(100)

Respondents by their source of inspiration

There is an inspiration in every aspiration. It was found that the icons and celebrities were the source of inspiration for 38.33 per cent of students. 31.67 per cent expressed that the parents mentor them. The sufferings and grief of the parents goad the students to achieve something in their life. Teachers constitute 11.67 per cent as mentors. It was found that in rural areas there were some people who reached certain

heights of life. These people acted as reference for the 10.00 per cent of the students. There were self motivated respondents (8.33 per cent).

Table 6. source of inspirations

S.No	Source of inspiration	Total
1	Parents	19 (31.67)
2	Teachers	07(11.67)
3	Celebrities	23 (38.33)
4	Peer group/ local references	6(10.00)
5	Self	5 (8.33)
	Total	60 (100)

Conclusion

Aspirations add fuel to our life at every stage. There were various motivational factors to keep our aspirations very alive. As far as this study was concerned, socio economic situation had now influence. It was found that money, power and authority, and media light pulled the students to set aspirations.

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