



A STUDY ON THE LEVEL OF EDUCATIONAL ASPIRATION AMONG GNM STUDENTS OF SELECTED NURSING COLLEGES IN WEST TRIPURA DISTRICT

Psychology

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ABSTRACT

Education plays a vital role in shaping an individual's personality, career, and future goals. Educational aspiration reflects a student's ambition and motivation toward higher learning. This study assesses the level of educational aspiration among GNM students and examines how demographic factors like gender and age influence their academic goals. **Aims & Objectives:** The present study was undertaken to assess the level of educational aspiration among GNM students and to determine whether there exists any significant difference in the level of educational aspiration with respect to their gender and age. **Method and Material:** A descriptive survey research design was adopted for the study. The population comprised GNM students from selected nursing colleges of West Tripura District. A total of 111 students were selected through simple random sampling technique. The standardized tool Level of Educational Aspiration Test (LEAT) developed by Yasmin Ghani Khan (Bhopal) was used to collect data. The collected data were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics such as mean, median, mode, standard deviation. **Result:** The study revealed that 35% of GNM students possessed a low level of educational aspiration, 47% had an average level, and 18% showed a high level of educational aspiration. The mean score of the total sample was 17.25, indicating an overall average aspiration level. Findings further showed a significant difference in educational aspiration between male and female students and between the age groups of 17–25 years and 26–35 years. Hence, the null hypotheses were rejected, confirming significant associations between demographic variables and educational aspiration. **Conclusion:** The study concluded that the majority of GNM students have an average level of educational aspiration. The results emphasize the need for teachers and institutions to implement motivational, academic counseling, and mentorship programs to enhance students' educational aspirations, thereby promoting higher academic and professional achievements in nursing education.

KEYWORDS

Educational Aspiration, GNM Students, Nursing Education, Gender Difference, Age Variation, Tripura

INTRODUCTION

Education is a continuous effort to develop students' capacities to control their environment and fulfill their needs. Educational aspiration, a strong desire for high achievement, is a vital part of this process. It refers to the goals, hopes, and ambitions that individuals have regarding their education and learning achievements, and it can be influenced by personal interests, family expectations, socioeconomic status, cultural norms, and motivation. Educational aspirations are crucial as they drive motivation, guide decision-making, and shape future opportunities.

General Nursing and Midwifery (GNM) students are a critical part of the future nursing workforce, and understanding their educational aspirations is essential for effective career planning and development. In the West Tripura District, socio-economic, cultural, and institutional factors may influence these aspirations. Limited exposure to higher education, financial constraints, and a lack of role models can be barriers, while faculty motivation and peer influence can foster higher aspirations. This study addresses a gap in region-specific research on this topic.

Educational aspiration plays a vital role in shaping the academic and professional goals of students, particularly in the field of nursing, where motivation and long-term commitment are essential. In the context of General Nursing and Midwifery (GNM) students, understanding their level of educational aspiration is crucial for identifying factors that influence their academic performance, career planning, and further studies.

West Tripura district, like many other regions in India, is experiencing growing demand for quality healthcare professionals. Despite this, limited research has been conducted to assess the educational aspirations of nursing students in this area. By studying the level of educational aspiration among GNM students in selected nursing colleges of West Tripura, stakeholders—such as educators, policy makers, and institutional heads can better understand the challenges and motivations of future nurses.

This study is essential to identify gaps between students' aspirations and available resources or opportunities, and to help design targeted interventions to enhance academic support, counselling, and career guidance in nursing education. Ultimately, fostering higher educational aspirations among GNM students will contribute to the development of a more skilled, motivated, and professionally satisfied nursing workforce in the region.

Objectives of the Study

The study's aim is to assess the level of educational aspiration among general nursing and midwifery (GNM) students and to determine if a significant difference exists in these aspirations based on the student's gender and age. **Objectives:** determining the overall level of educational aspiration, finding out the significant difference with respect to gender and finding out the significant difference with respect to age.

Research Methodology

Research Design: A descriptive survey research design was adopted to assess the level of educational aspiration among GNM students and to determine its variation with selected demographic variables such as gender and age.

Setting of the Study: The study was conducted in selected nursing colleges of West Tripura District, which offer the General Nursing and Midwifery (GNM) program and are recognized by the Indian Nursing Council.

Population and Sample: The target population comprised all GNM students enrolled in the selected nursing colleges of West Tripura District.

Sample Size and Sampling Technique: A total of 111 GNM students were selected using the simple random sampling technique to ensure each student had an equal chance of selection.

Inclusion Criteria

- Students enrolled in the GNM course during the study period.
- Students willing to participate and provide informed consent.

Exclusion Criteria

- Students absent during data collection.
- Students not willing to participate in the study.

Tools for Data Collection: The standardized Level of Educational Aspiration Test (LEAT) developed by Dr. Yasmin Ghani Khan (Bhopal) was used to measure the students' educational aspiration levels.

Validity and Reliability: The LEAT tool is a standardized and validated psychological test with established reliability through prior research applications in educational studies.

Pilot Study: A pilot study was conducted on 10% of the sample to check the feasibility and clarity of the tool, and necessary modifications were made accordingly.

Data Collection Procedure: After obtaining institutional permission, data were collected using the LEAT questionnaire administered to students in classroom settings. Confidentiality and anonymity were maintained throughout the process.

Ethical Considerations: Ethical approval was obtained from the concerned institutional authority. Informed consent was taken from participants, and confidentiality of responses was ensured.

Data Analysis: Collected data were analyzed using descriptive statistics (mean, median, mode, percentage, and standard deviation) and inferential statistics (t-test) to determine significant differences between groups.

Study Results

Table 1: Frequency and Percentage of Level of Educational Aspiration. (n=111)

Scores	Level of Educational Aspiration	F	%
Above 22	High	20	18%
15 to 22	Average	52	47%
Below 15	Low	39	35%

Table 1 presents the distribution of GNM students according to their level of educational aspiration. Out of 111 participants, 20 students (18%) demonstrated a high level of educational aspiration, 52 students (47%) showed an average level, and 39 students (35%) exhibited a low level of educational aspiration. The findings indicate that the majority of GNM students possess an average level of educational aspiration, reflecting moderate academic ambition and goal orientation.

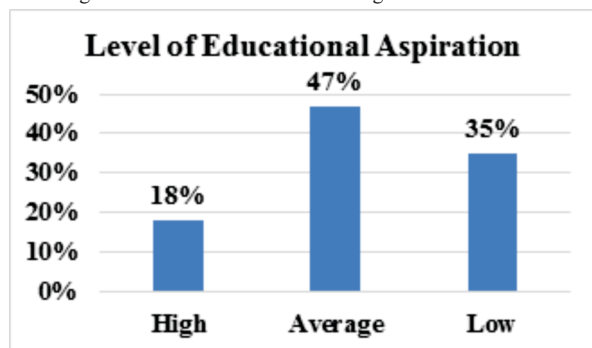


Table 2: Comparison of Educational Aspiration Between Male and Female and Age Among GNM Students (n=111)

Variable	N	Mean	SD	df	t-value
Male	30	18.40	6.56	109	1.22
Female	81	16.83	5.83		
17 to 25 yrs	104	17.24	6.09	109	0.67
26 to 35 yrs	07	18.86	6.77		

Significant at 0.05 level of significance.

Table 2 shows the comparison of educational aspiration scores between male and female GNM students using the t-test. The mean score of male students (18.40 ± 6.56) was slightly higher than that of female students (16.83 ± 5.83). The calculated t-value of 1.22 at 109 degrees of freedom was found to be significant at the 0.05 level, indicating a statistically significant difference in the level of educational aspiration between male and female GNM students. This suggests that gender has an influence on students' educational aspirations.

CONCLUSION

The present study was conducted to assess the level of educational aspiration among GNM students and to determine whether significant differences exist based on demographic variables such as gender and age. The findings revealed that the majority of students (47%) possessed an average level of educational aspiration, while 35% demonstrated a low level and only 18% exhibited a high level of aspiration. This indicates that while most GNM students have moderate educational goals, there remains considerable potential for motivation and academic enhancement.

The analysis showed a significant difference in educational aspiration between male and female students, where male students had slightly higher mean scores than female students. This finding highlights the potential influence of gender-related factors, such as societal

expectations, confidence, and access to opportunities, on educational ambition. Furthermore, a significant difference was also found across age groups, with students aged 26–35 years showing higher aspiration levels compared to younger students (17–25 years). This may be attributed to greater maturity, life experience, and awareness of career prospects among older students.

DISCUSSION

The present study aimed to assess the level of educational aspiration among GNM students and to identify differences based on gender and age. The findings revealed that most of the students (47%) had an average level of educational aspiration, followed by 35% with low and only 18% with high aspirations. This suggests that while a substantial number of students possess moderate academic goals, there is still a need to foster higher levels of educational motivation and ambition among nursing students.

Gender-wise analysis in the present study revealed that male students (mean = 18.40) scored slightly higher than female students (mean = 16.83) in educational aspiration, and the difference was statistically significant at the 0.05 level. This finding is partially consistent with Singh (2011), who observed that boys demonstrated higher educational aspirations than girls at the secondary level. The gender difference may be attributed to societal expectations, self-confidence, or exposure to career-related information.

Age-wise comparison also showed a significant difference, where students aged 26–35 years had higher aspiration scores than those aged 17–25 years. This may be because older students possess greater maturity, self-awareness, and career orientation due to prior experiences and understanding of professional growth opportunities.

Future Recommendations

- Career awareness workshops to inform students about further educational opportunities (e.g., B.Sc. Nursing, M.Sc. Nursing, PhD).
- Mentorship programs to pair students with faculty or senior nurses.
- Academic counseling and support to help students overcome self-doubt.
- Financial guidance about scholarships and loans for higher studies.
- Creating a positive learning environment that celebrates curiosity and critical thinking.

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