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Educational aspiration of high school children: Influence of parental encouragement

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Abstract

Adolescence is the time of transition from childhood dependence to early adulthood freedom and responsibility. Educational aspiration is explained as a psychological construct, which reflects a cognitive type of motivation of the individual. Educational aspiration reflects educational goals an individual set for himself/herself. Parental encouragement is the inspiration or extra-boosting given by the parents to the children for their active involvement in academic life. The present study was conducted in Hisar and Fatehabad district of Haryana state. The sample of study included 120 respondents from Hisar and 120 from Fatehabad district, thus total sample comprised of 240 respondents. Educational Aspiration Scale by Sharma and Gupta (2015) was used to assess educational aspiration and Parental Encouragement Scale by Sharma (1997) was used to assess parental encouragement of students.

The results of study revealed that majority of respondents belonged to moderate category of educational aspirations and majority of respondents perceived moderate level of parental encouragement. There was significant relationship found between educational aspirations and parental encouragement of high school children.

Keywords: educational aspiration, high school children, parental encouragement

Introduction

Adolescence is the time of transition from childhood dependence to early adulthood freedom and responsibility. Adolescence is a period of rapid transition that often leads to a decline in positive self-worth or self-esteem. It is a time of major neurological, cognitive, and sociopsychological progress, as well as biological, cognitive, and social change. Adolescence is a period in which a person must develop a sense of personal identity while avoiding the dangers of position and identity diffusion. When a student is in high school, he or she chooses which subjects to take, and this choice is based on his or her interests for further education. To make an informed decision, one must have a reasonable understanding of who he is and will become. Children in their early adolescence begin to consider the professions they want to pursue so that they can choose a suitable educational path that will lead them to their desired profession. Children's career and occupational choices are informed by their aspirations (Gera and Suvitha, 2019) [6].

Parkash and Hooda (2018) [11] revealed that aspiration is something, which we desire or want in our life. We can say that aspiration is a fantasy world which is always different from real world 'Level of Aspiration' is a psychological construct which reflects a cognitive type of motivation of the individual.

Educational aspiration is explained as a psychological construct, which reflects a cognitive type of motivation of the individual. Educational aspiration reflects educational goals an individual set for himself/herself. It is important as it encourages and energizes the individual to achieve them. In another way it is taken as level of future performance in a future task which is individual, knowing his level of past performance in that task explicitly undertakes to reach. The term level of aspiration shows the estimation of an individual's ability for his future performance on the strength of his past experience his ability and capacity, the efforts that he can make towards attaining the goal are consequences of his past experience, whether failure-oriented or success-oriented level of efforts made by him in that direction, and his capacity to pursue the goal (Singh and Sharma, 2017) [16].

Parents desire only the best for their children. They help their children and guide their path to survive in this complex world. Parents encourage children to pick them up, move in a new direction, learn from the experience and also to try again whenever there seems its need. In fact, the primary role of a parent is to offer encouragement, support and proper guidance to

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their ward especially during the secondary school years as it is the time when students begin to find their way in life (Arya and Kumar, 2017) [11]

Parental encouragement is the inspiration or extra-boosting given by the parents to the children for their active involvement in academic life. Parental encouragement plays an important role in the formation of life of children. It also enables them to face the future challenges of life. It involves a number of things like deep understanding of developmental process and learning of temperaments, intelligent, personality patterns, inter personal action and socialization etc. (Lawrence and Barathi, 2016) [10].

Objectives of the study

- Assessing the educational aspiration and parental encouragement of high school children
- Finding the influence of parental encouragement on educational aspiration of high school children

Hypotheses of the study

- There is moderate level of educational aspiration and parental encouragement among high school children
- There is significant association and correlation between educational aspiration and parental encouragement

Methodology

The present study was conducted purposively in Haryana state. Two district that is Hisar and Fatehabad of Haryana state were selected randomly for the present study. The study was conducted in rural and urban area. Two government schools were selected rural area and two government schools were selected from urban area. From the selected schools, lists of students in the age group of 13-15 years was prepared from all four schools (two from rural and two from urban

area). From each school thirty boys and thirty girls were selected at random, thus a total of sixty students from each school. Total sample was consisted of 240 students which comprised 120 students from rural area and 120 from urban area. Self-developed questionnaire was used to obtain information on personal and socio-economic variables. Parental encouragement was assessed with the help of Parental Encouragement Scale developed by Sharma (1997) [14]. Educational Aspiration Scale (form-P) by Sharma and Gupta (2015) [15] was used to assess educational aspirations.

Statistical analysis of the data

To draw the inferences as per different objectives data analyzed using appropriate statistical tests i.e., frequency and percentage, chi-square test, coefficient of correlation.

Results

Assessment of educational aspirations of high school children

The selected 240 respondents were assessed to determine their educational aspirations. Educational aspiration was assessed with the help of Educational Aspiration Scale (form-P) by Sharma and Gupta (2015) [15]. The scale had 45 items with two response alternatives. In this section, frequency distribution of respondents in different categories of educational aspirations was displayed.

Table 1: Sex -wise educational aspirations of high school children

Level of educational aspiration	Male (n=120)	Female (n=120)	Total (N=240)
Low (12-22)	18(15.0)	13(10.8)	31(12.9)
Moderate (23-33)	84(70.0)	87(72.5)	171(71.3)
High (34-44)	18(15.0)	20(16.7)	38(15.8)

Note: Figures in parentheses indicate percentages.

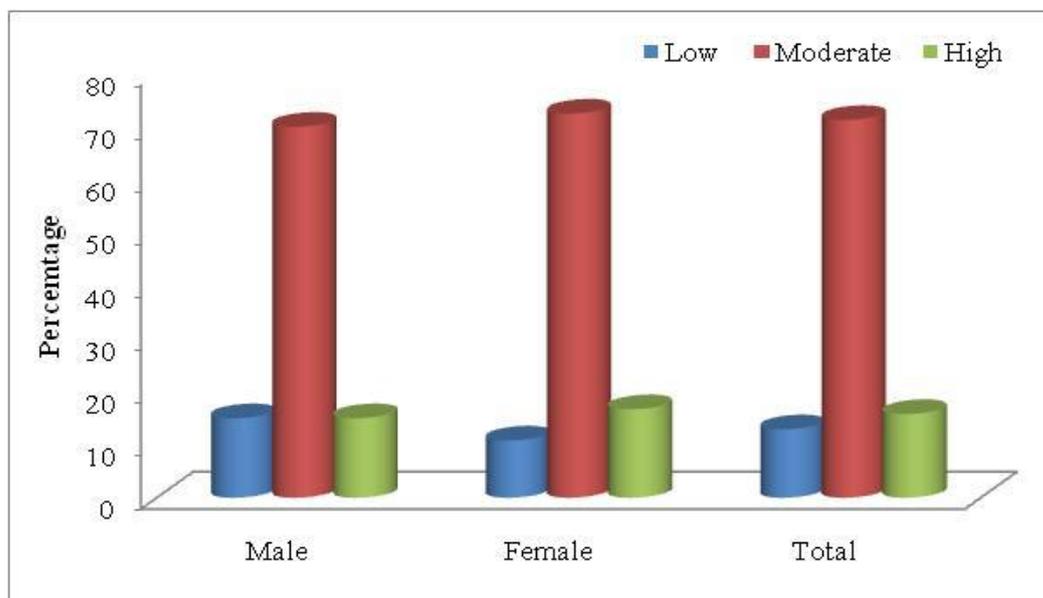


Fig 1: Sex-wise educational aspirations of high school children

Table 1 throw light on the assessment of level of educational aspirations among male and female respondents. It is clear from the results that majority (70.0%) of male respondents had moderate level of educational aspirations, 15.0 percent had high and 15.0 percent had low level of educational aspirations. Further, results indicated that 72.5 percent of female respondents had moderate level of educational aspirations, 16.7 per cent had high and 10.8 percent had low

level of educational aspirations.

Assessment of parental encouragement of high school students

Parental encouragement was assessed with the help of parental encouragement scale developed by Sharma (1997) [14]. The scale had 40 items with three response alternatives. To attain this objective, questionnaires were filled by 240

high school students. These students included 120 respondents from Hisar and 120 respondents from Fatehabad district. In this section, frequency distribution of respondents in different categories of parental encouragement was demonstrated.

Level of parental encouragement on the basis of male and female respondents was assessed. It is apparent from results that majority (71.7%) of male respondents attained moderate level of parental encouragement, followed by high (16.6%) and low (11.7%) level of parental encouragement. Further perusal of data pointed up that 69.2 per cent of female

respondents had moderate level of parental encouragement, followed by high (21.7%) and low (9.2%) level of parental encouragement.

Table 2: Sex -wise parental encouragement of high school children

Level of parental encouragement	Male (n=120)	Female (n=120)	Total (N=240)
Low (0-26)	14(11.7)	11(9.2)	25(10.4)
Moderate (27-53)	86(71.7)	83(69.2)	169(70.4)
High (54-80)	20(16.6)	26(21.7)	46(19.2)

Note: Figures in parentheses indicate percentages.

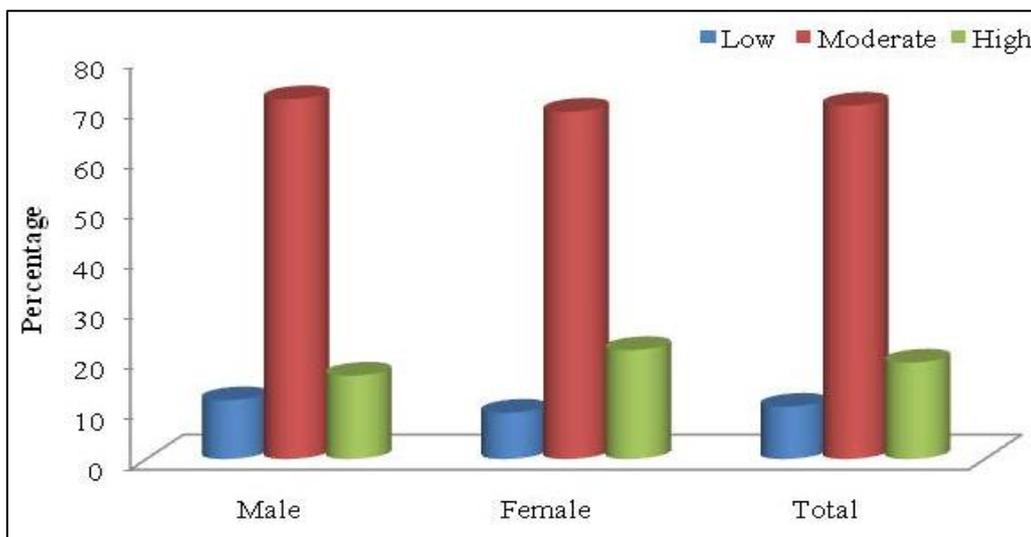


Fig 2: Sex -wise parental encouragement of high school children

Relationship between educational aspirations and parental encouragement of respondents

To assess the relationship between educational aspirations and parental encouragement correlations were computed between educational aspirations and parental encouragement. chi-squares were also used to find out the relationship between parental encouragement and educational aspirations.

Correlations between educational aspiration and parental encouragement

It is apparent from Table 3 that correlation coefficients were

examined between educational aspiration and parental encouragement. Coefficient of correlations for rural area, urban area and total sample were 0.18*, 0.23* and 0.17* respectively. Table 3 rendered that educational aspiration was significantly positively correlated with parental encouragement of respondents. It can be concluded that there was significantly positive relationship of educational aspirations with parental encouragement of respondents. It was interpreted that higher the parental encouragement then, higher the educational aspirations.

Table 3: Correlations between educational aspiration and parental encouragement

Educational aspiration	Parental encouragement
Rural (120)	0.18*
Urban (120)	0.23**
Overall (240)	0.17*

Note: ** Significant at 1% level of significance and * Significant at 5% level of significance.

Associations between educational aspiration and parental encouragement

Chi-squares were also used to examine the relationship between educational aspirations and parental encouragement. Chi-squares were observed between level of educational aspirations and parental encouragement of the total respondents.

Data in Table 4 displayed that there was significant association between educational aspirations and parental encouragement as ($\chi^2=161.1^{**}$) (d.f.=4), $p<.01$. A look at the result revealed that students who attained low level of

parental encouragement belonged to low level of educational aspiration followed by moderate and high level of educational aspiration. On the other hand, respondents who attained moderate level of parental encouragement belonged to moderate category of educational aspiration followed by high and low level of educational aspiration. Further data showed that respondents who received high level of parental encouragement had high level of educational aspirations followed by moderate and low level of educational aspirations.

Table 4: Associations between educational aspiration and parental encouragement

Parental encouragement	Level of educational aspiration			χ^2 test
	Low (12-22)	Moderate (23-33)	High (34-44)	
Low (0-26)	6(2.5)	14(5.8)	5(2.1)	161.1**
Moderate (27-53)	20(8.3)	125(52.1)	24(10.0)	
High (54-80)	5(2.08)	32(13.3)	9(3.8)	

Note: ** Significant at 1% level of significance.

Discussion

The results of the present investigation are reviewed and discussed in the light of the existing literature as per objectives framed for the present study:

Results of present investigation from the total sample depicted that maximum number of children (71.3%) attained moderate level of educational aspiration followed by high (15.8%) and low (12.9%).

The findings are supported with various studies, George (2014) ^[5] examined the level of educational aspiration of higher secondary school students and findings portrayed that the higher secondary school students possessed moderate level of educational aspiration. Katara and Balda (2018) also, found majority of respondents had moderate level of educational aspiration.

Results of the study illustrated regarding to parental encouragement that majority of students from the total sample, 70.4 per cent of respondents perceived moderate level of parental encouragement followed by high (19.2%) and low (10.4%).

The result can be supported referring the researches done by Deepika and Singh (2021) ^[4] and Katara and Balda (2018) ^[7] reported that majority of the adolescents perceived moderate level of parental encouragement.

Findings of the study depicted that educational aspiration was significantly positively correlated with parental encouragement of children. Chi-square results also demonstrated that there exists significant association of educational aspiration with parental encouragement of children. Children who perceived high parental encouragement attained high educational aspirations.

These findings get support from previous literature Buchmann and Dalton (2002) ^[3], Rahim and Azman (2010) ^[12], Kazmi *et al.* (2011) ^[9] and Bashir and Bashir (2016) ^[2] also revealed that there exists the significant positive relationship of fathers' involvement with academic achievement of children.

In relation to academic achievement, Kaur (2013) ^[8] explored that child who possessed high parental encouragement performed better academically than children who possessed low parental encouragement. Rathore and Sangwan (2014) ^[3] examined the effect of parental encouragement on academic achievement of students and it was reported that adolescents' academic performance was improved as a result of a higher level of parental encouragement. Suslu (2014) ^[17] studied academic achievement and educational aspirations of adolescents and showed that the achievement and aspiration of students are influenced by parental expectations, optimism, and the perceived value of education. Katara and Balda (2018) ^[7] found the significant positive relationship and association of educational aspiration with parental encouragement of high school students.

Conclusion

It can be concluded that majority of respondents belonged to moderate category of educational aspirations and majority of respondents perceived moderate level of parental

encouragement. There was significant relationship between educational aspirations and parental encouragement of high school children.

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