

OCCUPATIONAL ASPIRATION OF YOUTH IN COLLEGES – A STUDY

Author

Dr. Himesh Chowdhary Ph.D
Department of Psychology

ABSTRACT:

The present paper was aimed at exploring the occupational aspiration of youth in different colleges in Siliguri city brought out by the variables such as faculty and sex. Job aspiration is directed a young student towards correct path according their ability. It helps to move an individual from one socio-economic position to other. For occupational mobility college youths need to have corrected planning and correct training through proper guidance. The major attempt of this paper is to find out the effecting factors which are responsible behind the job ambition or occupational planning of youth in colleges. Youths in colleges are most powerful and realistic to create change than any other generation. They are the agent of social mobility. Constructive aspiration of youth has positive consequences in society. Thus the major thrust of this study was to analysis in details the future ambition of college youth in Siliguri city.

KEYWORDS: Achievement, Aspiration, Ambition, Frustration, Hope, Occupation

Background of the Study:

Youth are the most vital and concrete section of population. Today youth are growing up with more power and potentiality to create a new world than any previous generation. In the developing societies, youth have a major role to play in transforming their society (Lakshminarayana, 1985). They are full of energy and enthusiasm and are more adventurous. There have certain definitional problems of youth. The census of India treats people in the age group of 15 to 29 years age as youth. They constitute some million and represent 22% of the Indian population. Youth is the transition from childhood to adolescence and from adolescence to maturity (Ahuja, 1996). Generally youth defined people in the age group of 15 to 29 years. India is a youthful population. In 2003 National Youth Policy of India defines the youth population as those in the age group of 15 to 29 years. There is considerable ambiguity and variation of opinion to identifying the period of youth hood. Sekhar (1999, p-36) has identified that persons in 15 to 24 years age are considered as youth. Ahuja (1996) says that the youth group chronologically is made up persons from 16 to 25 years of age. Youths have been generally identified all over the world as a group of human beings who have reached the end of puberty but have not yet acquired the full right and duties of adult life. Youth have concrete form of aspiration, like- occupational. Professional, marital and career.

The present study focused on key determinants of young people's subsequent professional choice, level of qualification and future planning. Aspiration of an individual may be valid index of subjects feeling of success or failure in a situation where he is free to change his goal from one trial to the next (Prakash, 1987). Occupational aspiration of a mature person is very much correlated with his/ her educational attainment. The study also tries to find out how far present generation in colleges adjust with available infrastructure and adopt methodology to

reach their occupational aspiration in Siliguri city. There have great variety of aspiration among the college students studying in different courses. The notion of level of aspiration is invoked in reference to the goal-striving behavior of an individual presented with a task, outcome of which can be measured on an achievement scale (Prakash, 1987).

Objectives:-

The objectives of this study is to understand the occupational aspiration of college students in Siliguri city and to find out the appropriate factors which shaped their aspiration. Thus the major objectives are-

- i) to find out occupational aspiration of the college students in different courses,
- ii) to find out the factors affecting to form occupational aspiration,
- iii) to know the strategies and plans adopted by the college students to reach the aspiration.

Area of the Study:-

Siliguri is the biggest city in Darjeeling District of North Bengal. It is an unique city as 15 out of 47 wards of Siliguri Municipal corporation falls with in the territorial jurisdiction of Jalpaiguri District. This city is famous for trade and commerce, tourism, tea industry, games and education in whole North East Region. Siliguri city is called as a gateway of North East Region.

Review of Literature:

Ginzberg (1952) has categorized human development in three phases in his theory of vocational development. According to him career decision making is a process which occurs from childhood to young age. Ginzburg's theory of vocational development includes three periods; namely, the fantasy period of childhood, the tentative period of adolescence, and the realistic period of young adulthood (Gannaway, 1972). He believed that future career planning of an individual begin from childhood or about the age of eleven. In adolescence period (Age 11 to 18) children begin to make tentative choices based upon information. The tentative period is divided into the following four developmental stages: interests, capacities, values and transition; while the realistic period are the exploration state, the crystallization stage and the specification stage (Gannaway, 1972). Later on his theory, Ginzberg (1984) stressed that career choice is a lifelong process of decision making for those who seek major satisfactions from their work. The realistic period is more dynamic and meaningful. As children mature and approach adulthood they become more and more specific and conscious of the need for choosing their vocation (Mahale, 1987). Ginzberg (1952), Ginsburg, Axelrad (1951), the group career theorist believed that choosing a career is one of the most important decision which one make in his/ her life.

Methodology:-

The present study was confined among the college students of Siliguri city. Students enrolled in the faculties of social sciences, sciences and professional courses were selected for the research. On the basis of stratified random sampling method the variables are selected by faculty and gender. The actual number of units included in this study are 208 units. Equal number of male and female are selected from each courses. The sample size was 26 from each courses or faculties. The interview method was conducted by use of questionnaire.

Findings:-

The present investigation was aimed to explore the differences in respect of faculty and sex on the occupational aspiration. Globalization is a complex process through which the present generation in school and colleges has adversely motivated towards new experiences, new ambition and finally new competition. There have significant impact of globalization among the college students on socio-cultural, economic and psychological aspects of Siliguri city. Siliguri city has two Government colleges, five Government aided and ten Private colleges or institution. But there have considerable number of distance educational institutes catering their courses. Table No. 1 shows the total number of educational institutes in Siliguri city.

Aspiration in the field of employment projected a mixed trend, though its correlated factor, educational institute had a uniform positive approach. However there have great variety in aspiration of male and female college students as well as students of vocational and traditional courses. The present investigation was carried out upon the students of some specific college of Siliguri city. During my observation, I have noticed that the female informant are very much particular about their occupation. On the other hand male students have diversity in respect of their career choice. Over all their occupational aspiration positively correlated with their present courses.

Table-1**PUBLIC AND PRIVATE COLLEGES IN SILIGURI CITY**

Govt. Colleges	Govt. aided Colleges	Private Colleges
1) Government Polytechnic College	1) Siliguri College	1) Siliguri Institute of technology
2) Acharia Prafulya Chandra Science College	2) Siliguri College of Commerce	2) Gyan Jyoti College
	3) Women's college	3) Indian Institute of Legal Studies
	4) Suryasen Mahavidhyalaya	5) Surendranath Institute of Technology and Management
	5) Munsii Premchand college	6) Alpha Institute of Business Management
		7) IIAS School of Hotel Management
		8) NIS Academy
		9) Camellia Institute of Aviation
		10) The North Bengal Dental College

All the college students aspire their career planning keeping in view their ability to achieve a certain target. Realistic view and self realization has been noticed on their future career. It implies that students having concrete knowledge about their career are less frustrated and more energetic for better adjustment. They try to extent their ability to achieve their target career. So that they join in different coaching centre or training centre to enrich their quality for occupational settlement. More over they have complete planning regarding future education to achieve occupational aspiration and they receive information relating employment simultanaclly from various media, such as- internet, employment news and teachers, seniors and friends. They accepted that to achieve their objectives they need to train themselves in more comprehensive and in complete order. Thus in Siliguri city there have large number of vocational training and coaching centre running in bigger way. They widely accepted that after completion their present

education they wish to start any type of job and want to continue it till the day they achieve their dream job. Thus there have a new trends found in Siliguri city among the college students. It has been shown below-

(Earning + Educating + Training for employment + Planning)-----→ to achieve dream job Trends of Occupational Aspiration:-

In global era, college students are playing totally new roles and acquiring new knowledge because globalization leads high competition and demands high talents from each individuals. It has been noticed that college students in Siliguri city expect job according their present course, result quality and land of security.

From table no. 2 it is clear that all the respondents have concrete idea about their future job that they want to take up. A large portion of college students from traditional courses (B.A., B.Sc., B.Com) both 10.1 per cent male and 18.3 per cent female wants to become a school teacher. Similarly 10.6 per cent male and 13.6 per cent female respondent aspire for Government or Private engineering services because they are studying in Engineering, polytechnic and B.Sc course. 5.3 per cent male and 1.9 per cent female students of Honours courses have admitted that they want to be a college teacher, followed by 4.3 per cent male and 2.9 per cent female from all courses want to be a official job in West Bengal Civil Service or Police or Banking or Indian Railways. Table No. 2 shows that 4.8 per cent male and 7.2 per cent female wants to build their future career as a manager or human resource in Multi National Companies or in tea management or tourism sector. 3.9 Per cent male and 1.9 per cent female wants to become a Charter Accountant because they are studying in Hons. in Department of Commerce. Out of 208 respondents only two male (0.9 per cent) and two females (0.9 per cent) want to be a famous theater actor because they are passionate in this occupation. Trade and commerce is fundamental occupation for inhabitation of Siliguri city. In spite of this only 6.3 per cent male and 3.4 per cent female want to start business after completion of Graduation. Surprisingly, 3.9 per cent male respondent admitted that any type of job they can accept and they have no special choices. So we can say that there have less differences between occupational choices between male and female in Siliguri city. Female have opinion that we need job to satisfy financial needs and our family have no restriction or prejudice regarding women employment.

TABLE – 2
Occupational Aspiration of College Students

Total No.208	School Teacher	College Teacher	Officials	Management	Govt./ Private Engineer	Charter Accountant	Theater Actor	Business	Any Job
B.A.(H)26									
a) Male	6 (23.1)	4 (15.4)	2 (7.7)	0					1 (3.8)
b) Female	10(38.5)	2 (7.7)	0	1 (3.8)					0
Total	16(61.5)	6 (23.1)	2 (7.7)	1 (3.8)					1 (3.8)
B.A (G)26									
a) Male	4 (15.4)		1 (3.8)				2 (7.7)	3 (11.5)	3 (11.5)
b) Female	9 (34.6)		0				1 (3.8)	3 (11.5)	0
Total	13(50.0)		1 (3.8)				3(11.5)	6 (23.1)	3 (11.5)
B.Sc(H)26									
a) Male	1 (3.8)	7 (26.9)	5 (19.2)		0				
b) Female	8 (30.8)	1 (3.8)	0		4 (15.4)				
Total	9 (34.6)	8 (30.8)	5 (19.2)		4 (15.4)				
B.Sc(H)26									
a) Male	9 (34.6)		0	2 (7.7)	0				2 (7.7)
b) Female	9 (34.6)		1(3.8)	1 (3.8)	2 (7.7)				0
Total	18(69.2)		1(3.8)	3 (11.5)	2 (7.7)				2 (7.7)
B.Com(H) 26									
a) Male									
b) Female	1 (3.8)	0	0	1 (3.8)		8 (30.8)		3 (11.5)	
Total	2 (7.7)	1 (3.8)	1 (3.8)	5 (19.2)		4 (15.4)		0	
	3 (11.5)	1 (3.8)	1 (3.8)	6 (23.1)		12 (46.2)		3 (11.5)	
6.B.Com (G) 26									
a) Male			0	4 (15.4)				7 (26.0)	2 (7.7)
b) Female			3 (11.5)	6 (23.1)				4 (15.4)	0
Total			3 (11.5)	10 (38.5)				11(42.3)	2 (7.7)
Enginer26									
a) Male				3 (11.5)	10				
b) Female				0	(38.5)				
Total				3 (11.5)	13				
					(50.0)				
					23				
					(88.5)				
Polytech 26									
a) Male			1 (3.8)	0	12		0		
b) Female			1 (3.8)	2 (7.7)	(46.2)		1 (3.8)		
Total			2 (7.7)	2 (7.7)	9 (34.6)		1 (3.8)		
					21				
					(80.8)				
Total	59(28.4)	15 (7.2)	15 (7.2)	25 (12.0)	50	12 (5.8)	4 (1.9)	20 (9.6)	8 (3.9)
Male	21(10.1)	11(5.3)	9 (4.3)	10 (4.8)	(24.0)	8 (3.9)	2(0.9)	13(6.3)	8 (3.9)
Female	38(18.3)	4 (1.9)	6 (2.9)	15 (7.2)	22	4 (1.9)	2(0.9)	7 (3.4)	0
					(10.6)				
					28				
					(13.5)				

- (H) means Honours course,
- (G) means General course

Factors of Occupational Aspiration:-

Global education is an instrument of progress and mobility. College youth are more energetic, realistic and mature. They are making future job plan according their capacity. It has been observed after detail study that college youth wants to move up ward direction in class based society to achieved secure life. Those college youth who want high class job (like- School Teacher, College Teacher, Management, Engineer and Charter Accountant) are intended to continue their studies after graduation whereas the youth who want to be a Theater Actor or Business are intended to stop their studies after graduation.

Table No-3
Factors of Occupational Aspiration of Youth in Colleges

Occupational Aspiration	Factors						Total
	Parents/ Family	Self Interest	Land of Security	Easy to get Job	No Option According Result	Glamour and Money	
1. School Teacher	23 (38.0)	19 (32.0)	18 (30.0)				59 (100.0)
2. College Teacher	5 (33.3)	10 (66.7)					15 (100.0)
3. Officials				11 (73.3)	4 (26.7)		15 (100.0)
4. Management		3 (12.0)		4 (16.0)		18 (72.0)	25 (100.0)
5. Govt./ Private Engineer	5 (10.0)	25 (50.0)	1 (2.0)	10 (20.0)		9 (18.0)	50(100.0)
6. Charter Accountant		5 (41.7)				7 (58.3)	12 (100.0)
7. Theater Actor		4 (100.0)					4 (100.0)
8. Business	2 (10.0)	6 (30.0)			12 (60.0)		20 (100.0)
9. Any Job					8 (100.0)		8(100.0)
10. Total	35 (16.8)	72 (34.6)	19 (9.1)	25 (12.0)	24 (11.5)	34 (16.3)	208 (100.0)

From Table No. 3 it has been clear that in Siliguri city 34.6 per cent youths wish to select their occupation according their interests. They are very much aware about their capability. 16.8 per cent youth admitted that they are highly motivated by their parent's occupation or their wishes. Few of them accepted that due to poor financial family condition they have to join in job.

For the question of security 9.1 per cent youth like to join in School as a Assistant Teacher and as a Engineer in Government Offices or in MNCs. 12.0 respondent said that jobs in Management, Bank, Indian Railway, Post Office and in Police is easy to achieve because the process of examination in these sector is very comfortable for us. Very per cent of youth (11.5 per cent) accepted that due to poor result they have no option to choose other than business or clerk in offices or any type of job. These youth are quite frustrated and are suffering tension. Out of 208 respondent only 8 respondent said that they are suffering by poorest condition because their financial condition in family is very poor, at the same time their academic result also very bad, at any time any condition they can join any type of job. They have no dream job or no aspiration. On the other hand, attraction of glamour and to lead high standard of living or need for high salary job 16.3 per cent youth want to join in Management, Engineering and Charter Accountant. This shows that youth are much eager to enter the traditional form of jobs, like-teaching or engineering. Furthermore, though they are aware about the political practices in the country it is rather interesting to notice that none preferred to become a politician (Lakshminarayana, 1985).

It has been notified that only 2 respondent have large family business, so they want to join in family business to hold parental occupation. Girls want to start their own business as because they have interest in Beauty Parlors, Boutiques and Costume Jewelry Business. Beside this 12 respondent are in tension because they want to start business individually or jointly by lending loan from Private Banks or from father. They have opinion that they are help less so they are taking high risk. These respondent want to start computer software or hardware business or Motor vehicle shop or Xerox shop or grocery shop. Female respondents have high preference to join in schools as a teacher. They admitted that they love to teach small and young students and to want taking care of them. Thus there have less gender differences in preference of job.

Conclusion:-

It has been notified that majority of youth have clear view about what they intended to do after their graduation. At the same time they have opinion that it may not always be possible to achieve one's goal due to several factors which may be both exogenous and endogenous (Lakshminarayana, 1985). Everywhere youth are suffering due to excessive competition and lack of opportunities. They have to survive on limited resources. In India every citizen experienced high discrimination in every aspects of life. Unequal development in economy, culture, education leads regional, racial, religious disparity. These disparity adversely effect our young citizen. But every year siliguri market opens new scope of education and economy which gives them new ideas and chances of achieving goal in life after education. Now all the respondent of present study are ready to compromise with their aspiration at the end of hope. Job below of his or her aspiration can be accepted in worst condition. Thus the chances of achieving aspiration in life do not seem to be very satisfactory for present generation. In spite of these hopeless situations they have hope and ambition for peaceful and happy future.

References

- i) Gore, M.S., "Indian Youth : processes of socialization", vishwa yuvak Kendra, New Delhi-1977.
- ii) Jain, Sushil, "Youth, Media and social change", sublin publications, Jaipur,2005.
- iii) Kaila, H.L., "Indian youth @ Workplace", the Associated publishers, Ambala Connt, 2007.
- iv) Lakshminarayana, H.D, "College Youth Challenge and Response", Mittal Publications, Delhi, 1985.
- v) Mehrotra, N & Anjula, "An analysis of Temperamental and social Adjustment problem" Indian Journal of Social Research, Vol xxxiii, No.1, march 1992.
- vi) Mukharjee, D., "Youth : Change and Challenge", firma KLM private Limited, Calcutta, 1997.
- vii) Nair, Vemuri & F. Ram, "Indian Youth: A Profile", Mittal Publications, New Delhi, 1989.
- viii) Prakash, V., "Student Aspiration : Some Misconception", Mittal Publications, Delhi, 1987.
- ix) Sekhar, K., " Indian Rural Youth some Issues" Kurukshtre, A journal of Rural Development, Vol-47, No.7,ApriL-1999.
- x)Uplaonka T.A., "Social Background and occupational Aspirations of College Students", the Indian Journal, July 1982.
- xi)Vijayalakshmi G., "Preparing Youth of the future – role of Adults", social welfare, vol -54, No.10, January 2008.