

Educational Aspiration of High School Students in Aizawl West Constituency and its Variation by Gender and Locale

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Abstract

The study investigated the level of educational aspiration among high school students in Aizawl West Constituency and its variation across gender and locale. A sample of 291 were collected from private, aided and government schools using the descriptive survey method. The sample was selected through stratified proportionate sampling and data were collected using the Level of Educational Aspiration Test (LEAT) by Dr. Yasmin Ghani Khan. Percentage, mean, standard deviation, standard error, and t-test were used for data analysis. The major findings of the study revealed that most students possessed an average level of educational aspiration, while a considerable proportion showed a high level and only a small percentage had low aspiration. The study also found no significant difference in educational aspiration in relation to gender, indicating that boys and girls had almost similar levels of aspiration. Further, no significant difference was observed with regard to locale of origin, showing that students from urban and rural backgrounds did not differ meaningfully in their educational aspirations. The study concludes that educational aspiration among high school students in Aizawl West Constituency is generally moderate and is not substantially influenced by gender or locality.

Keywords: Educational Aspiration, High School Students, Aizawl West Constituency

Introduction

Educational aspiration refers to the level of education an individual hopes to achieve and the motivation that drives them toward academic success. It reflects students' goals, expectations, and commitment to learning, shaping their academic performance and future opportunities. Educational aspiration is described as "a strong desire for high achievement, an ambition and an eagerness to learn" (Kumar & Praveena, 2023). It is also viewed as "the estimation of one's ability for future performance based on past experience and present capacity" (Bora, 2021), and as an index of the efforts an individual is willing to make to attain educational goals (Alam, 2018). Educational aspiration is influenced by factors such as family support, school environment, socio-economic background, and personal beliefs about ability. Higher educational aspirations are associated with better academic achievement, stronger career prospects, and overall personal development. Understanding students' educational aspirations is therefore essential for educators and policymakers to design effective support systems that promote equitable and meaningful educational growth.

Rationale of the Study

Educational aspiration refers to the level of education students hope to achieve and their determination to pursue goals beyond their present status. Understanding the level of educational aspiration among high school students is important as it reflects their motivation, academic commitment, and future educational plans. The present study focuses on examining the overall level of educational aspiration of high school students in Aizawl West Constituency with special reference to gender and locale of origin. Gender may influence aspirations due to differences in social expectations, encouragement, and opportunities available to boys and girls, while locale of origin may affect aspirations because of variations in educational environment, exposure, and access to resources between urban and rural areas. Investigating these factors will help determine whether educational aspiration differs according to gender and locale and will provide valuable insights for teachers, parents, and policymakers to plan appropriate guidance and support for enhancing students' educational achievement.

Review of Related Literature

Rajesh and Chandrasekaran (2014) investigated "Educational aspirations of high school students" in Chennai city and the findings reveal that boys have higher educational aspirations than girls. Additionally, rural students demonstrate greater aspirations compared to their urban counterparts. Mishra and Majumder (2015) explored "Potency Level of Academic Aspiration of Secondary Students in Malda District: A Descriptive Study," in which the findings indicated that rural students exhibited higher academic aspirations than their urban counterparts. Additionally, girls had a higher level of aspiration compared to boys; however, a greater number of girls performed at the lower end of the academic performance spectrum.

Singh and Sharma (2017) analyze "Educational Aspiration of Secondary School Students in Relation to Academic Achievement" using a descriptive survey research method on a sample of class 9 students of Jammu district. The findings revealed that most secondary school students fall within the moderate aspiration range, with fewer students expressing either very high or very low aspirations.

Senthil and Pandian (2018) in their research titled "A study on level of educational aspiration of high school students" in Villupuram District, Tamil Nadu employed a normative survey method and the findings indicated that none of the students demonstrated a low level of aspiration, with most displaying either average or high levels of educational ambition. Furthermore, no significant differences were found in educational aspirations between male and female students or between rural and urban students.

Bora (2021) conducted an insightful study on the "Educational aspirations of secondary school students in the Char areas of Barpeta District, Assam". The study found that most students exhibited a moderate level of educational aspiration, with only a small percentage demonstrating high aspirations. The study concluded that gender is not a major determinant of educational ambition in the char areas of Barpeta district, highlighting that most students in this socio-economically disadvantaged region maintain moderate aspirations.

Manger and Chettri (2024) in their study "Educational aspiration of secondary school students of Namchi District" revealed that a majority of the secondary school students in Namchi District exhibited average to above-average levels of educational aspiration. Notably, there was no significant difference in educational aspirations between genders (boys and girls) or between localities (rural and urban).

Objectives of the study

1. To find out the level of educational aspiration of High School Students in Aizawl West Constituency.
2. To compare the level of educational aspiration of High school students in Aizawl West Constituency in relation to their gender.
3. To investigate the difference in the level of educational aspiration of High School students in Aizawl West Constituency in relation to their locale of origin.

Hypotheses of the study

1. There is a significant difference in the level of educational aspiration of male and female high school students in Aizawl West Constituency.
2. There is a significant difference between rural and urban origin of high school students in Aizawl West Constituency in their level of educational aspiration.

Methodology and Procedure

Method of the study: The present study employed a Descriptive Survey Research Method.

Population: The population of the present study comprises of high school students enrolled in Class 9 and 10 across government, private, and aided schools in Aizawl West Constituency, based on enrollment records from the DEO, Aizawl as of November 2024.

Sample: A total of 291 high school students were selected using a stratified proportionate sampling technique.

Tools used: The investigator used the Level of Educational Aspiration Test (LEAT), a standardized tool developed by Dr. Yasmin Ghani Khan (2011).

Procedure for data analysis: The investigator visited a total of sixteen schools and collected necessary data through questionnaires. For analyzing the data, statistical tools such as Percentage, Mean, Standard Deviation, Standard Error and T-test were employed.

Analysis and Interpretation of the study

Objective 1: To find out the level of educational aspiration of High School Students in Aizawl West Constituency.

The trends in the educational aspiration of high school students in Aizawl West Constituency are analysed using percentage and the level has been differentiated into high, average and low. The following table presents the level of educational aspiration among high school students in Aizawl West Constituency.

Table 1: Frequency distribution of the Level of Educational Aspiration of High School Students.

Level	Frequency (N)	Percent (%)
High	109	37.45%
Average	171	58.77%
Low	11	3.78%
Total	291	100%

The table illustrates that 37.45% of students from the total sample had high educational aspiration level while 58.77% possess average educational aspiration level and only 3.78% students had low educational aspiration level. Evidently, majority of the high school students exhibit average educational aspiration level.

Objective 2: To compare the level of educational aspiration of High school students in Aizawl West Constituency in relation to their gender.

The following table presents the educational aspiration levels of high school students in Aizawl West Constituency based on their gender. It shows how male and female students differed in having high, average or low levels of aspiration.

Table 2: Frequency distribution of the Level of Educational Aspiration of High School Students in relation to their gender.

Level of Educational Aspiration	Gender	
	Male	Female
High	49 (39.2%)	60 (36.14%)
Average	72 (57.6%)	99 (59.64%)
Low	4 (3.2%)	7 (4.22%)
Total	125	166

The table shows the distribution of educational aspiration levels among male and female participants. Among males, 39.2% have high educational aspirations, 57.6% fall into the average category, and only 3.2% have low aspirations. Similarly, among females, 36.14% have high aspirations, 59.64% have average aspirations, and 4.22% have low aspirations. This indicates that the majority of both males and females exhibit average educational aspirations, followed by high aspirations. A very small proportion of both genders fall into the low aspiration category. Overall, the pattern of educational aspiration is quite similar across genders, with only slight differences in percentages. The total number of male participants is 125, while females number 166.

To examine the difference between the Educational Aspiration of male and female High Schools of Aizawl West Constituency, a null hypothesis was formulated which is as follows-

Null Hypothesis: There is no significant difference in the level of educational aspiration of male and female high school students in Aizawl West Constituency.

To examine the above hypothesis, 't' test was used to compare the student's level of educational aspiration in relation to their gender.

Table 3: Comparison of the educational aspiration of male and female high school students.

Gender	N	M	SD	Standard Error	t- value	DF	Inference
Male	125	20.55	3.07	0.27	0.72	289	Not significant
Female	166	20.29	3.02	0.23			

The table present a comparative analysis of educational aspiration scores between male and female participants. Males (N=125) had a mean score of 20.55 with a standard deviation of 3.07 and a standard error of 0.27. Females (N=166) had a mean score of 20.29, a standard deviation of 3.02, and a standard error of 0.23. The t-test yielded a t-value of 0.72 with 289 degrees of freedom, indicating that the difference in mean scores between genders is not statistically significant. This suggests that there is no meaningful difference in educational aspiration scores between male and female participants in this sample at both 0.05 and 0.01 level. Thus, the null hypothesis is accepted.

Objective 3: To the study the difference in the level of educational aspiration of High School students in Aizawl West Constituency in relation to their locale.

The following table shows the educational aspiration levels of high school students in Aizawl West Constituency based on their locale of origin. It compares students from urban and rural backgrounds to see how their levels of aspiration differed.

Table 4: Frequency distribution of the Level of Educational Aspiration of High School Students in relation to their locale.

Locale	Level of Educational Aspiration			
	High	Average	Low	Total
Urban Origin	74 (38.95%)	109 (57.37%)	7 (3.68%)	190
Rural Origin	63 (62.38%)	35 (34.65%)	3 (2.97%)	101

The table shows the level of educational aspiration based on the locale of origin—urban and rural. Among students from urban areas, 38.95% have high aspirations, 57.37% have average aspirations, and 3.68% have low aspirations. In contrast, among students from rural areas, 62.38% have high aspirations, 34.65% have average aspirations, and 2.97% have low aspirations. A higher percentage of rural students exhibit high aspirations compared to urban students, while urban students are more likely to have average aspirations. The total number of students is 190 from urban areas and 101 from rural areas.

To examine the difference between the Educational Aspiration of High School Students of Aizawl West Constituency in relation to their locale of origin, a null hypothesis was formulated which is as follows-
Null Hypothesis: There is no significant difference between rural and urban origin of high school students in Aizawl West Constituency in their level of educational aspiration.

To examine the above hypothesis, ‘t’ test was used.

Table 5: Comparison of the educational aspiration of rural and urban origin high school students.

Locale	N	M	SD	Standard Error	t-value	DF	Inference
Rural	101	20.25	3.06	0.30	0.61	289	Not significant
Urban	190	20.48	3.03	0.22			

The table presents a comparative analysis of educational aspiration scores between students of rural and urban origin. Students from rural backgrounds (N=101) had a mean score of 20.25 with a standard deviation of 3.06 and a standard error of 0.30. Students from urban backgrounds (N=190) had a mean

score of 20.48, a standard deviation of 3.03, and a standard error of 0.22. The t-test yielded a t-value of 0.61 with 289 degrees of freedom, indicating that the difference in mean scores between rural and urban origin students is not statistically significant. This suggests that there is no meaningful difference in educational aspiration scores between students from rural and urban origins in this sample at both 0.05 and 0.01 level. Thus, the null hypothesis is accepted.

Major findings

The study reveals that majority of the high school students in Aizawl West Constituency (55.77%) have an average level of educational aspiration. It has been found that 37.45% have high educational aspirations while only 3.78% of the population have low level of educational aspiration.

In relation to gender, there is no difference in the level of educational aspiration of high school students in Aizawl West Constituency, although boys seem to show a slightly higher mean score of 20.55 compared to the mean score of girls of 22.29.

The study also revealed that there is no difference in the level of educational aspiration of high school students in Aizawl West Constituency with regard to their locale of origin. Although those of urban origin show a slightly higher mean score of 20.48 compared to 20.25 mean score of those of rural origin.

Discussions

The findings of the study indicate that the educational aspiration of high school students in Aizawl West Constituency is predominantly at an average level. This suggests that most students possess a positive orientation toward education and hold reasonable goals for their academic future. The small percentage of low aspiration reflects that only a few students lack motivation or confidence regarding higher educational achievement.

With regard to gender, the study found no significant difference in the educational aspiration of boys and girls. Although boys recorded a slightly higher mean score than girls, the difference was not statistically meaningful. This indicates that both male and female students in the constituency share similar hopes and ambitions related to education. The finding suggests that gender-based disparities in educational aspiration are minimal and that students, irrespective of being boys or girls, view education with almost equal importance.

Similarly, the study revealed no significant difference in educational aspiration based on locale of origin. Urban students showed a marginally higher mean score than rural students, but the difference was negligible. This implies that students from both urban and rural backgrounds possess nearly the same level of aspiration toward education. The result reflects that access to schooling and exposure to educational opportunities in the region may be relatively balanced, reducing the influence of locality on students' ambitions.

Overall, the findings highlight that high school students in Aizawl West Constituency generally maintain moderate to high educational aspirations and that these aspirations are not significantly affected by gender or locale of origin. This suggests a positive educational environment where students, regardless of background, are encouraged to pursue their academic goals.

Conclusion

The study concludes that the educational aspiration of high school students in Aizawl West Constituency is generally moderate, with the majority of students possessing an average level of aspiration and a

considerable proportion showing high aspiration, while only a small percentage reflect low aspiration. The findings further indicate that there is no significant difference in educational aspiration in relation to gender, as both boys and girls demonstrate almost similar levels of aspiration. Similarly, no significant difference was found with regard to locale of origin, showing that students from urban and rural backgrounds share comparable educational goals. Overall, the study suggests that students in the constituency hold positive and reasonably strong aspirations toward education, and these aspirations are not substantially influenced by gender or locality.

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