

## **Occupational Aspiration And Academic Performance Of Higher Secondary Students: A Correlational Study**

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### **Abstract:**

Occupational Aspiration is an important factor of career decision making. Occupational aspiration refers to the goals, fantasies, expectations of a person related to his occupation. Academic performance of a student also plays an important role to set the aspiration of the students towards their future occupations. The present study attempts to find out the relationship between occupational aspiration and academic performance of higher secondary students. The study is descriptive in nature. The study selected 200 students from 7 higher secondary schools of Sipajhar block of Darrang district under AHSEC. Occupational Aspiration Scale by J.S Grewal has been used to collect data. For academic performance, the investigator collects the HSLC examination's marks of target students. For data analysis percentage, mean, standard deviation and Karl Pearson's Coefficient of Correlation test have been used. The result of the study revealed that there is no significant relationship between occupational aspiration and academic performance of higher secondary students.

**Keywords:** Occupational Aspiration, Academic Performance, Higher Secondary students.

### **Introduction:**

Occupational Aspiration is one of the important factor of career decision making. Out of many aspirations one of the important aspiration of individual is to have an appropriate occupation according to his/her own need, interest and capacities. Occupational aspiration refers to the goals, fantasies, expectations of a person related to his occupation. Academic performance of a student also plays an important role to set the aspiration of the students towards their future occupations. Especially the achievement of Xth class examination determines the educational and career related goals of the students. It is proved that the higher occupational aspiration is backed by higher academic performance. (Omwango25 Kiche, Anne 2010). The occupational aspiration of the students starts growing right from their high school stage. Higher secondary stage of education is considered as the best period to follow a specific career goal as in this period multiplicity of subjects and interest of the students have been taken place.

### **Concept of Occupational Aspiration:**

Occupational aspiration refers to the goals, dreams, urges and expectations of an individual related to his/her occupation. Occupational aspiration is one dimensional approach that a person expects to have a job without considering the limitation of job market. Occupational aspiration may be described as realistic occupational aspiration in the sense that a person would select an occupation considering every possible obstacles which could hinder his entry into his work. But, in idealistic occupational aspiration a person chooses an occupation if there is no limiting factor.

According to Rojewski (2005) "Occupational aspirations constitute a person's desired work-related goals under ideal circumstances: these goals can reflect information about self-concept, perceived opportunities and interest and hopes." (Kainthola, Renu,2016)

### **Need and significance of the study:**

Occupational aspiration is of great importance in selection of an appropriate career. Occupational aspiration of an individual reflects his self-concept, interest and expectation which are necessary to select a job. Academic performance of a student always works as a key factor of occupational aspiration. Especially students of higher secondary stage start aspiring for their occupation on the basis of their academic performance of class Xth examination. Subject-related performance of students also helps in choosing a particular stream or subject and accordingly they proceed to select an appropriate occupation in this big world of work. Different studies prove that occupational aspiration and academic performance of the students are interrelated. Students having good academic performance possess high level of occupational aspiration. Therefore, the need and significance of the present study lies in the essence that it will reveal the fact whether occupational aspiration and academic performance of the students are correlated or not. While studying the relationship between occupational aspiration and academic performance of the students, the investigator will study the overall occupational aspiration and academic performance of the target students.

### **Statement of the Problem:**

On the basis of main concern, the present study is entitled as-

OCCUPATIONAL ASPIRATION AND ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF HIGHER SECONDARY STUDENTS: A CORRELATIONAL STUDY'

### **Objectives of the Study:**

The objectives of the present study are-

1. To study the occupational aspiration of higher secondary students.
2. To study the academic performance of higher secondary students.
3. To study the relationship between occupational aspiration and academic performance of higher secondary students.

### **Hypotheses of the Study:**

**Ho1:** There exists no significant relationship between occupational aspiration and academic performance of higher secondary students.

### **Operational Definitions of the terms used:**

**Occupational Aspiration:** In the present study occupational aspiration refers to the goals, wishes, dreams and fantasies of H.S students related to their future work life.

**Academic Performance:** In the present study, academic performance refers to the results of the target students in H.S.L.C examination.

**Higher Secondary School:** Here, in the present study, higher secondary school refers to the schools in which students receive education after passing high school leaving certificate examination.

**Higher Secondary Students:** In the present study, higher secondary students means the students of age group of 17-18 who receives education in plus 2 stage of secondary education.

### **Delimitation of the Study:**

The present study has been delimited in the following way-

- The area of the present study has been limited to Sipajhar block of Darrang district, Assam only.
- The study has been limited to government/provincialized higher secondary schools of Sipajhar block of Darrang district under Assam Higher Secondary Education Council (AHSEC).
- The present study has been limited to the XI standard students studying in arts stream only.

### **Review of Related Literature:**

Debnath, Manika and Singh, Ajay Kumar (2020) conducted a study on occupational aspiration and academic achievement: a comparative study on higher secondary school students in relation to their gender. The study attempted to find out the relationship between occupational aspiration and academic achievement of higher secondary students. The study revealed that there is a significant relationship between occupational aspiration and academic achievement of H.S students.

Harrison, Forest (1969) Studied on Aspirations as related to school performance and socioeconomic status. The study attempted to find out the relationship of educational and occupational aspiration to school performance and socioeconomic status. The result of the study revealed that aspiration of successful students are higher than those of unsuccessful students.

Madasamy, Velusamydr and Arulnathan, Prabhu (2021) conducted a study on educational and occupational aspiration of rural youth in Dharampuri District. The study aimed at finding out the role of educational aspiration in achievement motivation of Dharampuri District. The study was conducted on 60 rural youth and the study found a significant relationship between achievement motivation and educational aspiration of rural youth.

### **Methodology:**

**Method:** The present study is descriptive in nature.

**Population of the study:**

- All the students of higher secondary (10+2) stage are the universe of population of the study.
- There are 7 government/provincialised higher secondary schools in Sipajhar block of Darrang District under AHSEC having arts stream and the total numbers of arts students of 7 schools are 571 which are considered as population of the present study. (Source: Inspector of Schools, Darrang District)

**Sample of the Study:**

Proportionate stratified random sampling has been used to draw a sample of 35% of the total population i.e. 571. Thus, the total sample is 200.

**Tools of Data Collection:**

In the present study Occupational Aspiration Scale developed by Dr. J.S Grewal has been used for data collection. The present scale was adopted to get the prestige rating of 80 occupational titles taken from the dictionary of Occupational Titles of India. An individual's score for the whole inventory ranges from 0 to 72. The scale has been translated into Assamese language for the convenience of the Assamese medium students and reliability and validity have been tested.

The academic performance scores of the students taken from the result of H.S.L.C examination. The higher secondary students whose academic achievement scores of H.S.L.C examination fall 75<sup>th</sup> percentile and above are considered as high achievers and the higher secondary students whose academic achievement scores of H.S.L.C examination fall 25<sup>th</sup> percentile and below are considered as low achievers and the students falls between high and low achiever are considered as average achievers.

**Statistical Techniques Used:**

For analysis of data collected percentage, mean, standard deviation and Karl Pearson's Product Moment Coefficient of Correlation have been used.

**Analysis and Interpretation of Data:**

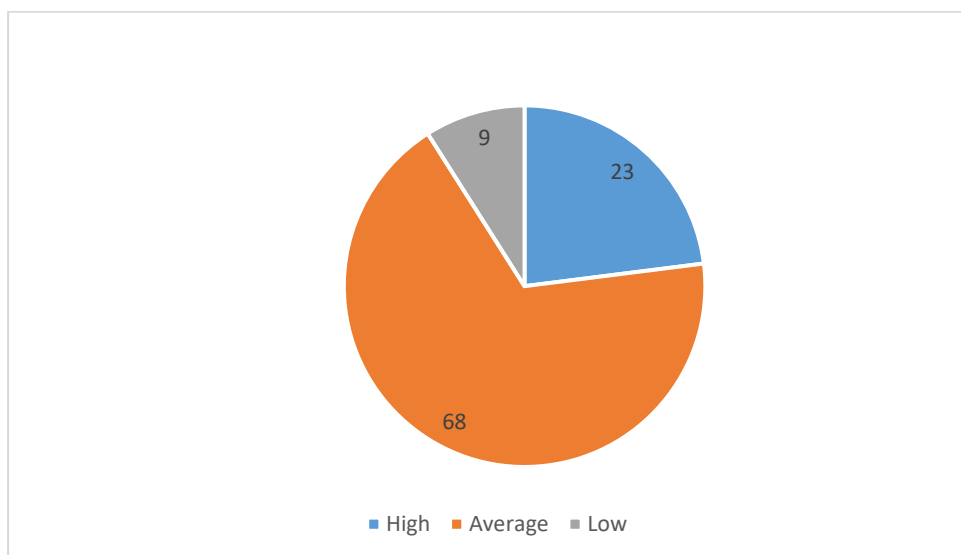
**Objective 1:** To study the occupational aspiration of higher secondary students.

**Table 1** Showing the percentages of scores of H.S students in relation to their occupational aspiration

Scores	Levels	No. of Students (n=200)	Percentage (%) of Students
49-72	High	46	23
25-48	Average	136	68
0-24	Low	18	9

	<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100</b>
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**Figure 1** Representing the occupational aspiration of H.S students on the basis of their percentage of scores:



**Interpretation:**

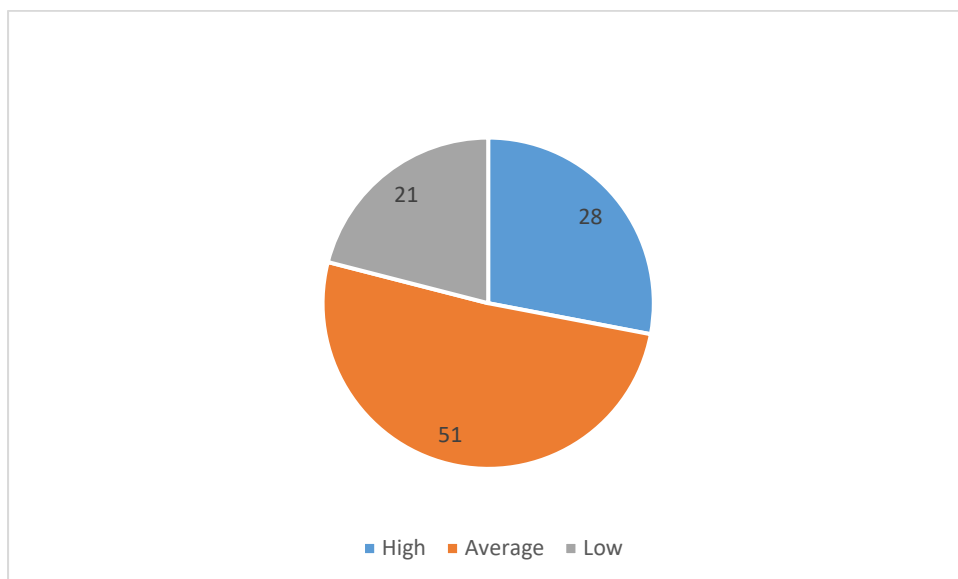
From the table and figure 1 it can be interpreted that the occupational aspiration of higher secondary students is average. Most of the H.S students i.e. 68% possess average occupational aspiration, 23% H.S students possess high occupational aspiration and only 9% students have low occupational aspiration.

**Objective 2:** To study the academic performance of higher secondary students.

**Table 2** Showing the percentage scores of academic performance of higher secondary students:

Levels	No. of students (n=200)	% of scores
High	56	28
Average	102	51
Low	42	21
Total	200	100

**Figure 2** Representing the academic performance of H.S students on the basis of percentage of scores:



**Interpretation:**

From the table and figure 2, it can be interpreted that 51% H.S students possess average academic performance, 28% have high academic performance and 21% student shows low academic performance. It is seen that H.S students as a whole have obtained average academic performance.

**Objective 3:** To study the relationship between occupational aspiration and academic performance of higher secondary students.

**Ho1:** There exists no significant relationship between occupational aspiration and academic performance of higher secondary students.

**Table 3** Showing the relationship between occupational aspiration and academic performance of H.S students.

Variables	n	Mean	SD	df	r value	Level of Sig.
Occupational Aspiration	200	40.42	13.1	198	0.051	Not Significant
Academic Performance	200	52.19	7.69			

**Interpretation:**

From the table 3 it can be interpreted that the r value of occupational aspiration and academic performance is 0.051 which is quite smaller than the table values at 0.05 and 0.01 levels of significance. Hence, the calculated r value is not significant at both levels and consequently the null hypothesis can be accepted that there is no significant relationship between occupational aspiration and academic performance of H.S students.

**Major Findings:** The major findings of the study are:

- In the present study, it has been found that the occupational aspiration of higher secondary students is average. Most of the students possess average level of occupational aspiration.
- From the result of the present study, it is found that the academic performance of H.S students is average. Most of the H.S students have shown average performance in their examination.
- From the result of the study it is revealed that there exists no significant relationship between occupational aspiration and academic performance of H.S students.

### **Results and Discussion:**

From the findings of the study it is found that the H.S students possess average level of occupational aspiration which is supported by the result of Debnath, Manika and sing, Ajay kumar's study. He also found that secondary students possess above average level of occupational aspiration. The major finding of the present study that there exists no significant relationship between occupational aspiration and academic performance. But in contradiction of the result of the present study Debnath, Manika and Sing, Ajay Kumar; Harrison, Forest etc. that they found a significant relationship between occupational aspiration and academic performance of higher secondary students. Here, in the present study it is revealed that the students having poor academic performance also possess high level of occupational aspiration.

### **Conclusion:**

Occupation is a prerequisite for a standard life. Without occupation no one can lead a productive and happy life. Likewise the academic performance of a student acts as an important determinant of one's occupational life. Therefore, in most of the cases the relationship between both variables has been considered. In the present study while going to study the relationship between occupational aspiration and academic performance of H.S students, the level of occupational aspiration and academic performance have been studied and average level of occupational aspiration and academic performance of H.S students have been found. Although many studies proved that there exists a significant relationship between occupational aspiration and academic performance of the students but in this present study it is revealed that academic performance is not always a dependent factor of occupational aspiration and vice versa. The students having poor academic performance also possess high level of occupational aspiration. In this present study the relationship between occupational aspiration and academic performance is not found. But, at the time of data collection with the help of some informal talk to the students it is seen that due to the lack of knowledge, awareness about different occupations and subject of study, students do not possess high educational and occupational motivation. Hence, it can be said that the findings of the present study have a great application in providing career guidance and counselling to the students. Teachers and guardians should take initiative to make the students aware about different career options and to motivate them for good academic performance so that their occupational aspirations can be made true.

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