

Educational Aspiration of the Secondary School Students in Char Areas of Barpeta District Of Assam

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ABSTRACT

Educational Aspiration is an integral part of the student life; it is always related to the future of the Academic life of the students. Educational aspiration means the level of formal schooling that one would like to complete. Educational aspiration is the estimation of his ability for future performance. The study was conducted in the Secondary Schools of the char areas in Barpeta district of Assam. The main purpose of the study was to find out the level of Educational aspiration of the Secondary School students. For the study 5 schools were selected as sampled Schools by using simple random sampling technique and 463 Class-X students from the sampled schools were selected as sampled students by using incidental sampling technique. Educational aspiration scale (EAS) was used as tool of the study. The result shows that most of the Secondary School students of the char areas in Barpeta district of Assam have Average level of Educational aspiration.

KEY WORDS- Educational aspiration, Secondary School students and Char Area.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Aspirations are developed and achieved in certain context and they are influenced by family background, peer groups, gender, socio-economic status, urban/rural location and neighbourhood. There is an ongoing debate upon the prevalence of aspiration among the people and their effort to achieve them. One views that the poor people may lack the capability to aspire because they have a limited vision of the future. The assumption that poor people have lower aspiration leads to another argument. One can see the existence of 'aspiration gap' which is difference between the standard of living that's aspired to and the standard of living that one already has among the poor people. Since, Char areas are the isolated and backward places consisting of large number of uneducated and poor people. Therefore, it becomes obvious on part of the researcher to study on the educational aspiration of the Secondary School students who are the youth of tomorrow.

2.0 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The statement of the present study is as follows-

“EDUCATIONAL ASPIRATION OF SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN CHAR AREAS OF BARPETA DISTRICT OF ASSAM”

3.0 RESEARCH QUESTIONS OF THE STUDY

The following research questions have undertaken to test the objectives of the study-

- 1) What is the level of Educational Aspiration of Secondary School students in Char areas of Barpeta District of Assam?
- 2) Do the boys and girls studying in the Secondary Schools of Char areas in Barpeta of Assam District differ in case of their Educational Aspiration?

4.0 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The Objectives of the study are as follows-

- 1) To study the level of Educational Aspiration of Secondary School Students in Char Areas of Barpeta District of Assam.
- 2) To make a comparative study of the Educational Aspiration of boys and Girls studying in Secondary Schools in Char Areas of Barpeta District of Assam.

5.0 HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY

The following Hypotheses have formulated in null form to study the objectives mentioned below-

- 1) There is no significant difference between the Educational Aspiration of boys and girls studying in Secondary Schools in Char Areas of Barpeta District of Assam.

6.0 OPERATIONAL DEFINITION OF THE KEY TERMS USED IN THE STUDY

6.1 Educational Aspiration

Educational Aspiration refers the level of aspiration or ambition of a person to achieve education in a School, College and University. (Oxford English Dictionary, Volume 7th Edition)

The Educational Aspiration Scale developed by V.P Sharma and Anuradha Gupta describes Educational aspiration on the following dimensions. These are i) Past Experience in terms of marks obtained estimate of goal set, success or failure experienced ii) Amount of efforts made in the examination iii) Ability and capacity to study for the examination have a direct bearing upon setting a future goal.

In the present study, Educational aspiration is interpreted as the score obtained in the Educational aspiration scale developed by V.P Sharma and Anuradha Gupta which is based on the above dimensions. High score of the scale denotes high level of Educational aspiration of the respondents.

6.2 Secondary School Students

Secondary school students are the students between the ages of 14 to 16, admitted in secondary school for secondary education after primary school and before higher education. Here we have taken students studying in class-X.

6.3 'Char' Areas

The Directorate of Char Areas Development, Assam (1996) coined a purposive definition of Char area. The definition runs as follows-“The sandy land area extended from Sadia to Dhubri of Assam within the river Brahmaputra, where people can live and cultivate the land is included in the first category of Char Area. Moreover, either sides of the river Brahmaputra extended up to the nearby embankment, which is recurrently affected by flood and where people live and cultivate the land is regarded as Secondary category of Char.”

Here, in the present study the char areas imply the sandy land area within the river Brahmaputra under Barpeta district where people can live and cultivate.

7.0 DELIMITATION OF THE STUDY

The study has been delimited from the following aspects:-

- 1) There are four developmental blocks in the Char areas of Barpeta district. They are-
 - a) Mandia Developmental Block.
 - b) Chenga Developmental Block.
 - c) Rupasi Developmental Block
 - d) Manikpur Developmental Block

Two Developmental Blocks are selected for investigation. They are-

- a) Mandia Developmental Block
- b) Chenga Developmental Block
- 2) Only the Government schools under Board of Secondary Education, Assam (SEBA) were included in the study.
- 3) The Secondary level includes the students of Class IX-XII. For the present study only the Class X students were selected.

8.0 KNOWLEDGE GAP

The above reviews of related literature have made it clear that a lot of studies on Educational aspiration were already conducted in International, National and Regional level. In abroad, studies on Educational aspiration were conducted with some associated variables like Social class, Parental encouragement, Socio-economic condition, Educational attainment, Intelligence, Parent's education, Family background, Gender differences etc. In India, studies

were conducted on Educational aspiration and Vocational aspiration, Academic performance, Intelligence etc. Moreover, Beal and Crockett (2010) conducted a study on Adolescent's Educational and Occupational aspiration in Abroad. Again Bakar, Rahim, Mohmed and Shamsiah (2004) conducted a study on Educational and Occupational aspiration of Technical Secondary School Students in abroad.

Apart from that whereas the 'Char' area of Assam is another focus of the present study, few studies were conducted in the 'Char' area of Assam. Chakraborty (2009) conducted a study 'Assam's Hinterland: Society and Economy in the Char Areas' in regional level. Goswami (2014) conducted a study on 'Char Settlers of Assam: A Demographic Study' at the regional level.

From the foregoing review of related literature, no study was found on Educational aspiration of Secondary School Students in Char areas in general and in particular to Assam. So, it can be regarded as the knowledge gap between the previous study and the present study.

9.0 POPULATION AND SAMPLE

The population or the universe of the study is divided into two parts-

- ❖ Population and sample of the Schools

All the High Schools which fall under the four Development Blocks in Char areas of Barpeta District of Assam are the population of the schools. There are total 17 High Schools under the four development blocks. Simple Random Sampling technique has been adapted for collecting the sampled schools from the total population. Five High Schools were selected randomly by using Lottery method.

- ❖ Population and sample of the Students

All the students of Class X of the schools under four development Block of Char areas in Barpeta district are the population of the students. There are almost 1677 students studying in the High Schools of Char areas in Barpeta district of Assam. For the present study, Incidental sampling technique has been adapted for collecting the data from the five sampled Students. There are total 500 Class X students enrolled in the High Schools of the Char areas. But the time of visiting

in the Schools, only 463 Class X students were present. The Researcher was collected the data regarding Educational and Occupational aspiration scale from the 463 students. Out of that 216 were boys and 247 were girls. These are the sample size of the present study. There is no official data available regarding the enrolment of the number of boys and girls in the Class X of the High Schools, so above sampling technique has found appropriate for the present study.

10.0 VARIABLES USED FOR THE STUDY

The variables of the study are as follows-

- ❖ Educational Aspiration
- ❖ Gender (Boys and Girls)

11.0 TOOLS USED FOR DATA COLLECTION

In the present study, standardized scale was used as Tool. Hence, keeping in view the main objectives of this study, the investigator used two types of tools:

- ❖ Educational Aspiration Scale (Form P) developed by V.P. Sharma and Anuradha Gupta.

12.0 ADAPTATION OF SCALE

The medium of instruction of the sampled schools is Assamese. Therefore the scales were translated into Assamese language and Reliability and Validity were calculated. For testing the reliability of the scale Split-half method was used and for testing validity face validity is used.

13.0 COLLECTION OF DATA

For collection of data the researcher were visited the schools beforehand and take permission from the principal for collection of data. The researcher had conversation with the teachers and students in order to develop a good rapport with them. After 3 days from 1st visit the researcher went to School to start collect

data by personally visiting the schools. Firstly the researcher requested the principal to make a separate sitting arrangement for the sampled students in a classroom. After that the researcher got necessary instruction to the students about the questionnaire and allows filling up the questionnaire. As per the instruction of the booklet of Educational Aspiration Scale (EAS), the researcher gave sufficient time to the students for filling up the questionnaire. The researcher was visited two schools in one day. In the same procedure researcher was collect data for Educational Aspiration Scale (EAS).

14.0 ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

14.01 LEVEL OF EDUCATIONAL AND ASPIRATION OF THE SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN CHAR AREAS OF BARPETA DISTRICT OF ASSAM

The result of the study regarding level of Educational Aspiration of the Secondary School students and the Statistical Properties of obtained scores of the Secondary School Students in Char areas of Barpeta district of Assam have been presented below-

Table: 1.0 shows the total number of students along with the percentage falling under different levels of Educational aspiration.

	1.26			
7	-2.00 and Below	EXTREMELY LOW	13	2.81%
TOTAL			463	100%

Table: 1.0 reveals the total number and the percentage of the students falling under different levels which are ‘Extremely High’, ‘High’, ‘Above Average’, ‘Average/Moderate’, ‘Below Average’ and ‘Extremely Low’ respectively. The result has shown that maximum number of students which is 203 (43.84%) have Average/Moderate level of Educational aspiration. On the other hand no student has fallen under the category of Extremely High level of Educational aspiration. The study also reveals that 97 students (20.95%) have Above Average level of Educational aspiration which is less in number than the Average/Moderate level. From the study it has been found that 63 students (13.61%) have Below Average level of Educational aspiration, 47 students (10.15%) have High level, 40 students (8.64%) have Low level and 13 students (2.81%) have Extremely Low level of Educational aspiration.

The graphical presentation of the above data has shown as follows-

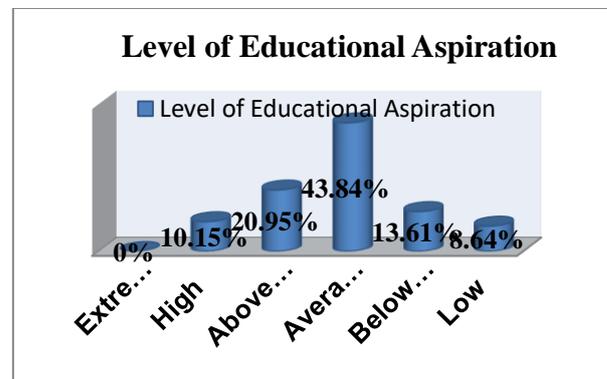


Table: 1.0

Level of Educational aspiration of the Secondary School Students in ‘Char’ areas

S. No.	RANGE OF Z SCORES	LEVEL OF EDUCATIONAL ASPIRATION	TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS	PERCENTAGE
1	+2.01 and Above	EXTREMELY HIGH	0	0%
2	+1.26 to +2.00	HIGH	47	10.15%
3	+0.51 to +1.25	ABOVE AVERAGE	97	20.95%
4	-0.50 to +0.50	AVERAGE/MODERATE	203	43.84%
5	-1.25 to -0.51	BELOW AVERAGE	63	13.61%
6	-2.00 to -	LOW	40	8.64%

FIGURE 1.0: Level of Educational Aspiration of the Secondary School Students in Char areas of Barpeta District

Table 2.0 shows the Mean, Standard Deviation, Skewness and Kurtosis of the scores obtained by the Secondary School Students in the Educational aspiration scale.

TABLE: 2.0
Some Characteristics of the Distribution of Educational Aspiration score

Variable	(Sample)	Me	Standa	Skewn	Kurto
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	Students) N	Mean	Standard Deviation	Skewness	Kurtosis
EDUCATIONAL ASPIRATION	463	28.01	6.98	-0.37	-0.16

The above mentioned data reveals that the Mean and Standard Deviation of N= 463 have found 28.01 and 6.98 respectively.

From the statistical calculation of the obtained scores by the Secondary School Students regarding Educational aspiration Negative value of Skewness (-0.37) has found. Here, in this study Negative skewness value indicates that the distribution of the Educational aspiration scores is massed at the high end of the scale.

Again, from the statistical calculation of Kurtosis of the obtained scores by the Secondary School Students regarding Educational aspiration Negative value (-0.16) has found. So, the distribution of scores of Educational aspiration is Platykurtic. It indicates relatively flat distribution of the Educational aspiration scores.

14.02 COMPARATIVE STUDY OF EDUCATIONAL ASPIRATION OF BOYS AND GIRLS OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN CHAR AREAS OF BARPETA DISTRICT OF ASSAM

The result of the comparative study regarding the level Educational aspiration of boys and girl, calculation of t-value of their obtained scores has been presented below-

14.02 A) LEVEL OF EDUCATIONAL ASPIRATION OF BOYS AND GIRLS OF THE SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN CHAR AREAS OF BARPETA DISTRICT OF ASSAM

Table 3.0 shows the comparison of boys and girls of the Secondary Schools in Char areas of Barpeta district of Assam regarding their level of Educational aspiration.

TABLE:

3.0

Level of Educational aspiration of Boys and Girls of the Secondary Schools in Char areas of Barpeta District of Assam

Sl. No	Range of Z Scores	Level of Educational Aspiration	Number of Boys	Percentage	Number of Girls	Percentage
1	+2.01 and Above	EXTREMELY HIGH	3	1.39 %	0	0%
2	+1.26 to +2.00	HIGH	18	8.33 %	36	14.57%
3	+0.51 to +1.25	ABOVE AVERAGE	44	20.37%	44	17.82%
4	-0.50 to +0.50	AVERAGE/MODERATE	97	44.90%	105	42.51%
5	-1.25 to -0.51	BELOW AVERAGE	30	13.89%	29	11.74%
6	-2.00 to -1.26	LOW	12	5.56 %	24	9.72 %
7	-2.00 and Below	EXTREMELY LOW	12	5.56 %	9	3.64 %
TOTAL			216	100 %	247	100 %

From the Table 3.0 it has been found that highest number of boys and girls have Average/Moderate level of Educational aspiration. Total numbers of boys under this category are 97 (44.90%) and girls are 105 (42.51%). In the Extremely High level category no girls were found whereas 3

number of boys (1.39%) have Extremely High level of Educational aspiration. On the other hand in the category of High level the number of girls is greater than the boys. 36 numbers of Girls (14.57%) and 18 numbers boys (8.33%) have High level of Educational aspiration. The result has also shown that the percentage of boys (20.37%) falling under the category of Above Average which is higher than the girls (17.82%). Apart from that 30 numbers of boys (13.89%) and 29 numbers of girls (11.74%) have Below Average, 12 Numbers of boys (5.56%) and 24 numbers of girls (9.72%) have Low level and 12 numbers of boys (5.56%) and 9 numbers of girls (3.64%) have Extremely low level of Educational aspiration respectively.

The graphical representation of Educational aspiration of boys and girls studying in Secondary Schools of Char areas has shown in Figure 2.0 and 3.0

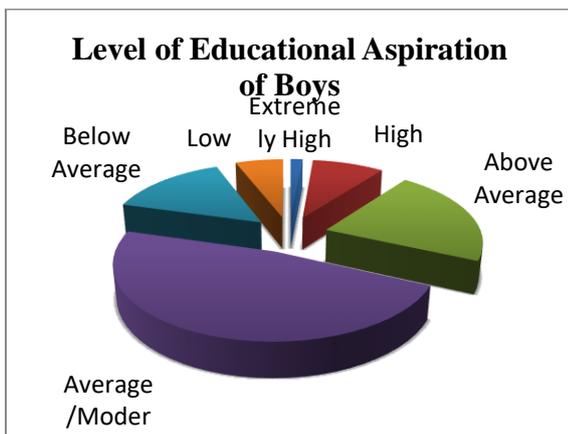


FIGURE 2.0 Shows the Level of Educational Aspiration of Boys Studying in Secondary Schools of Char areas in Barpeta District.

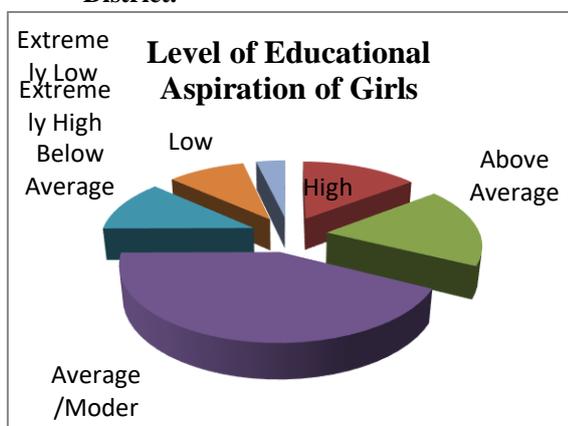


FIGURE 3.0 Shows the Level of Educational Aspiration of Girls Studying in

Secondary Schools of Char areas in Barpeta District of Assam

14.02 B) THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE EDUCATIONAL ASPIRATION OF BOYS AND GIRLS STUDYING IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS OF CHAR AREAS OF BARPETA DISTRICT OF ASSAM

To examine the difference between the Educational aspiration of boys and girls of the Secondary Schools of Char areas a null hypothesis was formulated which is as follows-

Null Hypothesis: There is no significant difference between the Educational aspiration of boys and girls studying in Secondary Schools of Char areas in Barpeta District of Assam.

To examine the above hypothesis, t-test was used. The Table 4.0 shows the N, Mean, Standard Deviation, t-value and the level of significance of the obtained scores by the boys and girls of Secondary Schools in Char areas of Barpeta district of Assam in case of Educational aspiration.

TABLE: 4.0

The Difference between the Educational aspiration of boys and girls studying in Secondary Schools of Char areas of Barpeta District of Assam

Group	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	t-value	Significance
Boys	216	27.43	5.67	1.7	Not Significant
Girls	247	28.51	7.92		

The above data reveals that the Mean of the boys and the girls is 27.43 and 28.51 respectively. The data also shows the Standard Deviation of the boys and girls which is 5.67 and 7.92 respectively. The t-value of the obtained scores by the boys and girls is 1.70 which is not significant at the 0.01 level of significance. Therefore the null hypothesis "There is no significant difference between the Educational aspiration of boys and girls studying in Secondary Schools of Char areas in Barpeta District of Assam" is accepted.

15.0 FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

- 1) The present study reveals that majority of the Secondary School Students (43.84%) have Average/Moderate level of Educational Aspiration whereas no students have fallen into the category of the Extremely High level.
- 2) It has found that only 10.15% Secondary School Students of Char areas have High level of Educational aspiration. Moreover only 20.95% students have Above Average level of Educational aspiration. The rest of the students have fallen into the category of the Below average, Low and Extremely low level of Educational aspiration.
- 3) From the present study it has been found that Mean score of the girls (28.51%) is higher than the boys (27.43%) studying in the Secondary schools of Char areas in Barpeta District of Assam in case of their level of Educational aspiration.
- 4) It has also been found that only 3 numbers of boys (1.39%) have Extremely High level of educational aspiration whereas no girls have fallen under the category of Extremely High level.
- 5) The study also reveals that 8.33% boys have High level of Educational aspiration which is less than the girls (14.57%).
- 6) Most of the boys (44.90%) and girls (42.51%) have average level of Educational aspiration. The percentage of boys in this category is slightly greater than the girls. It means more boys have average level of Educational aspiration than the girls.
- 7) From the present study, it has been found that greater number of boys have fallen in the categories of Above Average, Below Average and Extremely Low level of Educational aspiration than the girls but in the category of Low level of Educational aspiration percentage of boys (5.56%) are less than the girls (9.72%).
- 8) The study also reveals that there is no significant difference between Educational Aspiration of boys and girls studying in the Secondary Schools of Char areas in Barpeta District of Assam.
- 9) Thus, it is evident that the Objective No.2 completely accepts the Null Hypothesis No.1 i.e. *there is no significant difference between Educational Aspiration of boys and girls studying in the Secondary Schools of Char*

areas in Barpeta District of Assam. It implies that there is no significant difference between Educational Aspiration of boys and girls studying in the Secondary Schools of Char areas in Barpeta District of Assam.

16.0 DISCUSSION ON THE FINDINGS

The present study on 'Educational aspiration of Secondary School Students in Char areas of Barpeta district of Assam' reveals that most of the Secondary students (43.84%) studying in the Schools of char areas have average level of Educational aspiration. The review of related literature reveals that no previous study is found in support with this finding of the present study. Bakar, Rahim, Mohmed and Shamsiah (2004) in their study found that the Technical Secondary School Students had high level of Educational aspiration. Again Steve and Winston (2008) found that British students of 12-14 age group have lower level of Educational aspiration whereas Black pupil have higher level of Educational aspiration.

The present study also reveals that there is no significant difference between Educational aspiration of the boys and girls studying in the Secondary Schools of Char areas in Barpeta district of Assam. Similar findings have been reported by Steve and Winston (2008) and Feifei (2014). They also found in their study that there was no significant difference between Educational aspiration of boys and girls. On the other hand, study conducted by Tina and Taylor (2013) opposed this finding of the present study. They found that girls have more positive Educational aspiration than the boys.

The foregoing discussion has shown that the present study has some similarities and dissimilarities with the previous studies related to Educational aspiration. The rationale behind the fact may be the geographical area of study, age level of students, and their type of school, level of education, socio economic condition and background of family etc.

17.0 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE STUDY

- ❖ Secondary stage of the students is the threshold of their future occupation and work. So, Guidance and Counselling cell should be established in every School especially in the Schools of Char areas where the students need it urgently. Through

Guidance and Counselling we should assist them to set high aspiration towards proper education and occupation.

- ❖ State Government of Assam should give priority to develop the Schools situated in the Char areas of Assam. Regular training should be given to the teachers that they can able to create where the students will develop their aspiration and able to setting high aspiration towards education according to their capabilities.
- ❖ Secondary Schools of the char areas can play a major role in arranging awareness programme on higher education. Local people and parents should be invited and try to aware them about the necessity of higher education for betterment of life. It will help the students to set higher aspiration.
- ❖ Parents should always aware about their children's aspiration for future education. If a child has low level of educational aspiration, the parents should analyze their problems and try to provide proper environment which may be fruitful for their children in setting their higher aspiration.
- ❖ The most of the people in Char areas of Assam is illiterate. The literacy of those area people is only 19.31%. So, state govt. co-operation with the Schools should make arrangement for adult education programme. Parent's better education encourages the children to set their higher aspiration.

18.0 SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY

It is customary and essential also to make suggestions for further research after a research work is completed a researcher having worked with a problem gains a lot of insight into the problem and its methodology. Consequently he moves into a position in which he can see how the study could be improved or how the researchers who wish to work in this area can be benefited from their suggestions. Here a few suggestions are given for further research study.

- ❖ A study may be taken up covering all students studying in all Secondary Schools under the total four blocks in Char areas of Barpeta district of Assam to find out the level of Educational aspiration.

- ❖ Besides the variable Educational aspiration, study can be taken up with some other variables like
 - Institutional facility and Academic achievement
 - Effect of Examination anxiety on the Academic achievement
 - Depression and Academic achievement
 - Intelligence
 - Value dimension
 - Parental Encouragement and Career Expectation
 - Child rearing practice and emotional development etc.

A study may be conducted to find out the problems affecting the level of aspiration of the Secondary School students of Char areas in Barpeta district of Assam.

19.0 CONCLUSION

Provision of equality of educational opportunity is the demand of modern times. Education is the only tool which moulds and brings shapes in the personality of the School students. On the other hand 'Char' areas are those places which are still remained isolated from the towns and cities of the state and the Schools situated in those areas are also lagging behind from the up to date facilities of science and technology. The School environment is also an important factor which helps in shaping the aspiration of the students. The present study has shown the level of aspiration of the Secondary School students in Char areas of Barpeta district of Assam towards education which is average. Therefore, to rise up their aspiration, it is very necessary to find out the problems and take an immediate action, because the Secondary School students are the future citizen of the country and progress of the students leads to the progress of the Nation.

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