

# CAREER ASPIRATIONS AMONG KASHMIRI YOUTH WITH RESPECT TO THEIR ACADEMIC STREAMS

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## ABSTRACT

*Adolescence is the time of new challenges and new opportunities when teenagers develop certain aspirations regarding their educational and future careers. Aim: The present study was carried out to investigate the career aspirations of Kashmiri youth with respect to their academic streams. Methodology: It was a descriptive survey study comprising of 600 youth respondents taken from higher secondary schools and colleges of three districts of Kashmir Division (Anantnag, Srinagar and Kulgam) by stratified random sampling method. Career Aspiration Scale of O'Brien, M. K. (2012) was used for the collection of data. For the statistical analysis; Percentage, ANOVA (one-way) and Tukey's post hoc were used. Results: The findings of the study revealed that 25% of respondents have shown low career aspirations, 26.3% falls in moderate level, 25% possess high career aspirations and 23.7% of respondents have displayed very high aspirations for their future careers. Significant differences were found in Career aspirations (Achievement aspiration, Educational aspiration and Overall Career Aspirations) of Kashmiri youth with respect to their Academic Streams. However no significant difference was found in Leadership aspirations of Kashmiri youth in terms of their academic streams.*

**Keywords:** Academic Streams, Career aspiration, Youth

## I.INTRODUCTION

Aspiration is a complex concept that can be defined as anything from abstract wishes and dreams to concrete plans and expectations. In the words of Silvia (2005) [1], aspiration refers to an individual's expressed career related goals or intentions and also include motivational components which are not present in mere interests. It means a strong desire to achieve something high or great. Choosing a career is often considered a major turning point in an adult's life. This decision alone has the potential to open the door for success or close the door of opportunity. The imperative of careers in human life cannot be over emphasized. At a certain stage in human development, the need to have a career becomes so apparent that individuals cannot but begin to plan, explore, choose and begin to seek ways of how to develop on a chosen profession or explore other opportunities that come one's way in order to have a fulfilling career and live a life full of joy and satisfaction. The choice of an occupation is one of the most important decisions one makes in life, It is perhaps important as the choice of a life partner because its consequences are far reaching (Ofoegbu-1984)[2].

Career aspiration is associated with academic excellence of the student Khattab (2015) [3] conducted a longitudinal study to examine how different combinations of aspirations, expectations and school achievement can influence student's future educational behaviour. The findings of the study showed that students with either

high aspirations or high expectations have higher school achievement than those with both low aspirations and low expectations. Irvin et al. (2011) [4] investigated the relationship of school characteristics and schooling experiences to the educational achievement and career aspirations of youth from high and low poverty rural communities. The results showed that student's family background, school characteristics and Schooling experiences were predictive of educational achievement and future career aspiration for rural youth from high and low poverty communities.

Career aspirations refers to what we want for the future, our desires, our dreams that once we hope to achieve and now they can be altered into reality. These aspirations include a chosen profession or occupation to which a student aspires to join. It is a cluster of needs, motives and behavioural intentions which individuals articulate with respect to different career fields. Career aspirations of every individual are to learn and grow in terms of knowledge in the given field. These are the goals one has set out to achieve either in his current profession or desired profession. Career Aspirations are usually future oriented and aim to provide personal satisfaction. Career aspiration is one's ambitions and thoughts about their future occupations (Sewell et al.; 1969)[5]. People who have career aspirations intend on improving their professional skills, enhancing their capabilities and advancing in the organization's hierarchy level. Career aspirations represent an individual's orientation towards a desired career goal under ideal conditions. Hellenga et al.(2002)[6], has rightly said that "Career aspirations provide information about an individual's interests and hopes unfretted by reality." Shapka et al. (2006) [7] traced the trajectory of the prestige dimension of career aspirations from Grade 9 through to 3 years after high school, as a function of gender and early high school math achievement. The results support the notion that math achievement functions as a "critical filter" to subsequent career aspirations, with youth who performed poorly in Grade 9 math aspiring to careers that were of lower prestige.

Career preparation has been viewed as a major developmental task for adolescents, the successful performance of which improves personal development, social adjustment, and future well-being. The modern society with its scientific and technological advancement, its division of labour and specialization of functions demand the fullest use of manpower at all levels. Our adjuring need today is to harness and diversify the ways and means of proper utilization of manpower resources. Therefore, capacities and strengths require a proper direction. In recent years, career theorists and researchers have attempted to understand how children come to develop career aspirations. In the 21st century, it is imperative that educators have to learn more about the factors that influence our young people's career aspirations.

Schaefer and Meece (2009) [8] examined the influence of socioeconomic status, residential preferences, and schooling experiences on the career expectations and achievement of rural youth. The results revealed that socioeconomic status and curriculum program had direct and indirect effects on educational and career expectations and mathematics achievement of rural youth. Patton and Creed (2007) [9] explored measures of career maturity, career indecision, self-esteem, career goals and school achievement. The findings showed Occupational status aspirations were associated with school achievement, self-esteem, and career maturity. Students who reported achieving well at school, were more career maturity and had higher self-esteem were more likely to aspire to professional status occupations than students who held skilled status aspirations, and students who held semi-professional aspirations having more career knowledge than students who held skilled aspirations. Salami (2008) [10] revealed that specific personality, interest dimensions, academic achievement,

socio-economic status and demands from extended family were significantly related to the students' educational aspirations.

## II.OBJECTIVE

- To explore the level of career aspiration among Kashmiri youth.
- To find out the difference in career aspirations among Kashmiri youth in terms of their academic streams.

## III.HYPOTHESIS

- There is no significant difference between career aspirations and academic streams of Kashmiri youth.

## IV.DESIGN OF THE STUDY

### 4.1 Sample

A sample of 600 Kashmiri youth (300 male youth respondents and 300 female youth respondents) of three academic streams (Arts, Medical and Commerce) was drawn from different higher secondary schools and colleges of three districts of Kashmir Division (Anantnag, Kulgam and Srinagar). The age of the subjects was 17-21 years. The sample of the study was drawn by stratified random sampling technique.

### 4.2 Tool Used

The data was collected by using Career Aspiration Scale (CAS) developed by investigator from the adoption of O'Brien, M. K. (2012). The scale covers three dimensions of Career aspirations viz Achievement aspirations, Leadership Aspirations and Educational Aspirations.

## V.RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### 1.1 Results pertaining to the different levels of Career Aspiration

The distribution of total sample (N=600) in different levels of career aspiration has been presented in table no 1.1, it gives the description of the respondents based upon their level of career aspiration. The said table reveals that 25% of respondents have shown low career aspiration, 26.3% falls in moderate level of career aspiration, 25% possess high career aspiration and 23.7% of respondents have displayed very high aspiration for their future careers and the same has been shown in figure 1.1

**Table No. 1.1**  
**Frequency and Percentage of Total Respondents (N=600) in different Levels of Career Aspiration**

S. No	Levels of Career Aspiration	Frequency	Percentage
1	Low	150	25%
2	Moderate	158	26.3%
3	High	150	25%

4	Very High	142	23.7%
<b>Total</b>		<b>600</b>	<b>100%</b>

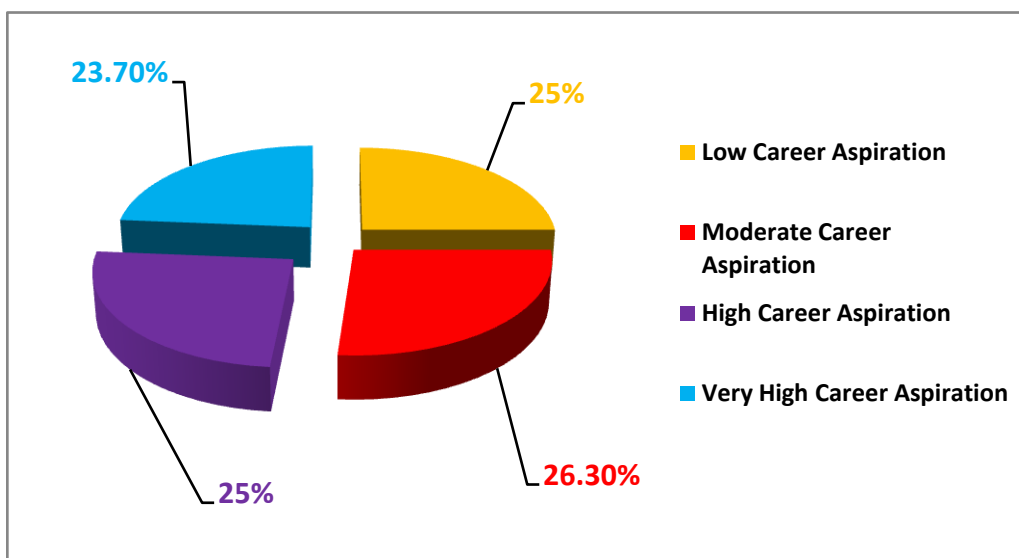


Figure 1.1 Pie Chart showing Percentage of Total Respondents (N=600) in the different Levels of Career Aspiration

1.2 Results pertaining to difference in Career Aspirations in terms of Academic Streams

To find out the difference in career aspirations of Kashmiri youth in terms of their academic streams, one way ANOVA has been used and the results has been shown in the table 1.2

Table no. 1.2

ANOVA table for Career Aspirations and different Academic Streams						
	Source of Variation	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F-ratio	Significance
<b>Achievement Aspiration</b>	Between Groups	7091.680	2	3545.840	28.27**	P<0.01
	Within Groups	74873.460	597	125.416		
	Total	81965.140	599			
<b>Educational Aspiration</b>	Between Groups	1034.203	2	517.102	4.98**	P<0.01
	Within Groups	61919.770	597	103.718		
	Total	62953.973	599			
<b>Leadership Aspiration</b>	Between Groups	207.840	2	103.920	.94	N.S
	Within Groups	65550.500	597	109.800		
	Total	65758.340	599			

<b>Overall Career Aspirations</b>	Between Groups	12238.663	2	6119.332	14.59**	P<0.01
	Within Groups	250300.930	597	419.265		
	Total	262539.593	599			

(F-ratios at 0.05 and 0.01 levels of significance are 3.00 and 4.63 respectively)

N.S= Not Significant

It is evident from table no. 1.2 that the calculated F-ratios of Achievement aspiration and Educational aspiration are 28.27 and 4.98 which are significant at 0.01 level of significance. Therefore, it can be interpreted that there exists a significant difference in Achievement aspiration and Educational aspiration among Kashmiri youth in terms of their academic streams. However no significant difference exists between different academic streams of respondents on Leadership aspiration as the calculated F-ratio is 0.94 which is insignificant at both levels of significance.

The perusal of table no. 1.2 shows that the calculated F-ratio of Overall Career aspirations is 14.59 which is significant at both the levels of significance indicating that there exists a significant difference in total career aspirations of Kashmiri youth with respect to their academic streams. Hence, the hypothesis which reads "There is no significant difference between career aspirations and academic streams of Kashmiri youth" is thus rejected. However, a significant F-ratio does not tell us which of the academic streams means differ significantly. In order to find out where these differences exist, Tukey's post hoc comparisons have been used in which all possible comparisons have been taken into account. The results of post hoc have been shown in table no. 1.3

It reveals that Kashmiri youth of different academic stream groups like Arts-Medical and Medical-Commerce Groups differ significantly with each other on achievement aspiration. While as Arts-Commerce Group do not differ significantly on achievement aspiration. The table further reveals that there exists a significant difference in Educational aspiration of Medical-Commerce Group while as Arts-Medical and Arts-Commerce Groups do not differ significantly on educational aspiration. Significant differences were found in Arts-Medical and Medical-Commerce Groups in terms of their overall career aspirations. However no significant difference was found between Arts-Commerce Group on overall career aspirations.

**Table No. 1.3 Tukey's post hoc multiple comparisons**

<b>Dependent Variable</b>	<b>Academic Stream (I)</b>	<b>Academic Stream (J)</b>	<b>Mean Difference (I-J)</b>
<b>Achievement Aspiration</b>	Arts	Commerce	.80000
		Medical	-6.86000*
	Commerce	Arts	-.80000
		Medical	-7.66000*
	Medical	Arts	6.86000*
		Commerce	7.66000*
	Arts	Commerce	2.00500
		Medical	-1.17500

<b>Educational Aspiration</b>	Commerce	Arts	-2.00500
		Medical	-3.18000*
	Medical	Arts	1.17500
		Commerce	3.18000*
<b>Leadership Aspiration</b>	Arts	Commerce	-1.44000
		Medical	-.78000
	Commerce	Arts	1.44000
		Medical	.66000
	Medical	Arts	.78000
		Commerce	-.66000
<b>Overall Career Aspirations</b>	Arts	Commerce	1.36500
		Medical	-8.82500*
	Commerce	Arts	-1.36500
		Medical	-10.19000*
	Medical	Arts	8.82500*
		Commerce	10.19000*
*. The mean difference is significant at the 0.01 level			

## VI.CONCLUSION

Young people are major human resource for development and driving force for economic development. While youth face enormous challenges, particularly with regard to employment and livelihoods, they nevertheless represent the opportunity of today and tomorrow- as educationalists and innovators, entrepreneurs and investors, health professionals and scientists, politicians and peacemakers. Kashmir has been a major issue of conflict between government of India and Pakistan since its partition in 1947. Youth are contemplated to be the future of nation, so the constructive development of youth is very important for any nation to develop. Due to incessant exposure to an environment filled with terrorizing events of massacres and distress of conflict, a large number of youth in Kashmir participated in the ongoing struggle. This combat resulted in loss of lives of numerous young ones, loss of their beloved ones and a deteriorated future of many others and overall has led to serious medical as well as psychological issues. Youth are more vulnerable to depression as already they are trying to cope with the changing complexities of adolescence and when they face conflict related problems, their adjustment and coping becomes difficult.

In the present study 25% of respondents have shown low career aspirations, 26.3% falls in moderate level of career aspirations, 25% possess high career aspirations and 23.7% of respondents have displayed very high aspirations for their future careers. When we compared career aspirations of Kashmiri youth with respect to their academic streams we find significant difference exists in Achievement aspiration and Educational aspiration of Kashmiri youth with respect to their academic streams. However no significant difference was found between Leadership aspiration and academic streams of Kashmiri youth. While as significant difference was found between overall career aspirations and academic streams of the respondents. While comparing their mean

differences it was found that Kashmiri youth of different academic stream groups like Arts-Medical and Medical-Commerce Groups differ significantly with each other on achievement aspiration. While as Arts-Commerce Group do not differ significantly on achievement aspiration. Significant mean difference was found in Educational aspiration of Medical-Commerce Group while as Arts-Medical and Arts-Commerce Groups do not differ significantly on educational aspiration. However significant mean differences were found between academic stream groups like Arts-Medical and Medical-Commerce Groups on overall career aspirations. While as no significant mean difference was found between Arts-Commerce Group on overall career aspirations.

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