



## LEVEL OF ASPIRATION AND SELF CONCEPT AMONG THE COLLEGE STUDENTS

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### ABSTRACT

#### Keywords:

#### INTRODUCTION

Since the dawn of the human history, human beings get birth with the most capacious thing known as mind. This mind is associated with five sense organs. The co-ordination of mind and five sense organs of the body gives man a special highness among all the living creatures of the earth. After the birth of an individual, these sense organs are continuously stimulated either by external stimuli or by internal stimuli, mind reacts to these stimuli and thereby comes into existence the core of the personality known as self.

As we look towards the world, we find different people performing different tasks. We find some people happy and some sullen, some are satisfied with life and work and some are disappointed with life and work, some are moving towards progress and some are still idle. All these activities are dependent on their self - concept. Whatever human beings do, they do it, according to their self concept, but the question arises, how does this self - concept develops. Cooley C. H. and Mead G. H. have stated that the self develops out of child's communicative contact with others.

Education has assumed a place of paramount importance in modern society which is becoming, more scientific and technological. It is now regarded as a potent instrument and effective development through which the standard of living of the people, their prosperity and security can be considerably improved. It furnishes the individual with basic knowledge and technical skills essential for work, productivity economic survival. It serves as the base for the exercise of all rights and privileges of a citizen and also a precondition for the effective discharge of his duties.

In India, education of masses is one of the most crucial concerns. In post-independence era, a two-pronged drive has been started to combat ignorance, illiteracy and economic insecurity of the masses and also to ensure their increasing participation in social and political life. The figures available on literacy percentage indicate that there has been some success in our attempt of eradicating mass illiteracy, but still a sizable proportion of the total

population has not been benefitted from the programme and as such dark clouds of illiteracy and ignorance are still hovering over humanity and posing threat to the very Social order.

#### NEED AND IMPORTANCE

Human beings are the ocean of the capacities and abilities. Having capacities and abilities are not assurance and seal for success, but the realization of the capacities and abilities is the guarantee for success. A person gets the concept of his abilities in the society; his concept about his own capacities, abilities and characteristics is known as self concept. The self concept plays a vital role and has a vital significance in the existence and life of an individual. If a person understands and realizes himself in a right way, he develops positive self concept and he turns into a star. If he does not understand and realize himself in a right way, he develops negative self concept and turns into a waste.

A student, who is abused, insulted, beaten etc. develops negative self concept and therefore remains academically backward. While as a student who is reinforced positively becomes a high academic achiever. We know that a student's memory, reasoning, problem solving, thinking, understanding, recall, recognition, perception, attention, memorization etc. all are influenced by his self concept, therefore self concept (the core part of the personality) should be developed in a right way, so that these abilities would achieve maximum heights in academic side.

Self concept has a major effect on the intelligence and knowledge of the students. It widens the horizon of intellect and knowledge of the student if developed in a right way.

Self concept determines the levels of aspiration of a student, whether a student has high, low or realistic level of aspiration is mostly determined by his self concept. This low, high or realistic level of aspiration of a student is the determining factor of his academic achievement.

The self acceptant person does not think of himself as a paragon of perfection. Instead, he is able to recognize his good features as well as his faults. One characteristic of a

person who is well adjusted is that he usually recognizes and emphasizes his good features rather than his faults. The more the person accepts himself; the better is his self and social adjustment.

The person who makes good personal adjustment will be happy and successful. One who makes good social adjustment will be popular, enjoy social contacts and have a full and rich life. The problem for the present investigation has been formulated as under:-**Level of aspiration and self concept among the college students.**

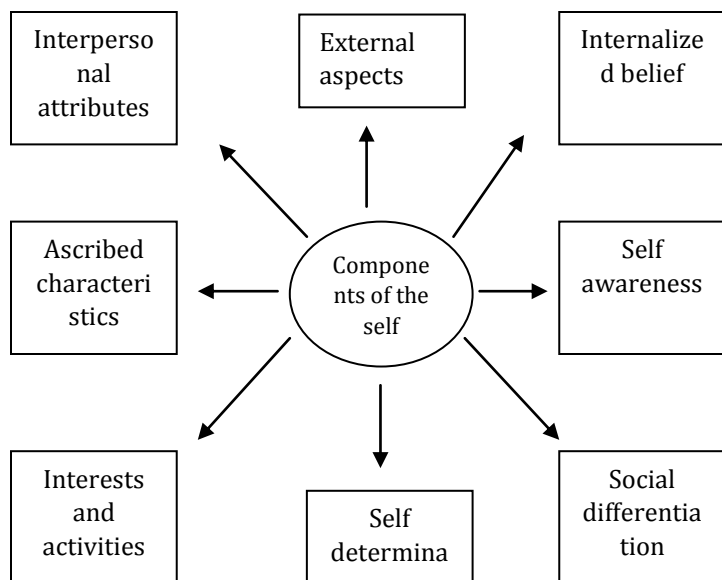
**OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS OF TERMS AND VARIABLES**

**Self Concept:** - In the present study, self concept refers to the scores obtained by the subjects on Sagar Sharma’s Self Concept Inventory on the following dimensions:-

- i. Real self
- ii. Ideal self

**Level of Aspiration:** - In the present study, level of aspiration refers to the scores obtained by the subjects on Shah and Bhargava Level of Aspiration Scale on the following determinants: -

- Environmental
- Personal
- Career Aspiration
- Social Aspiration
- Economical Aspiration
- Personal Aspiration
- Educational Aspiration



**Components of the Self-concept**

**METHODOLOGY**

"Research design is the plan, structure and strategy of investigation conceived so as to obtain answers to the research questions. The plan is, an overall scheme or programme of research. It includes an outline of what the investigator will do from writing the hypotheses and their operational implications to the final analysis of the data. The structure of research is more specific. It is the outline, the scheme, the paradigm (diagrams, graphs and verbal outline) of the operation of variables. Strategy is also more specific than the plan. it includes the methods to be used to gather and analyze the data. In other words, strategy implies how the research objectives will be reached and how the problems encountered in the research, will be tackled".

**ASPIRATION OF LEVEL**

The level of aspiration is influenced by two determinants which includes environmental and personal.

**Environmental Determinants**

- Parental ambitions
- Social expectations.
- Peer pressure
- Culture
- Social value
- Competition
- Group cohesiveness

**Personal Determinants**

- Wishes
- Personality
- Past experiences
- Values and interests
- Sex
- Socio economic background
- Racial back ground.

**I. GOAL DISCREPANCY SCORE (GDS)**

The extent and direction of the difference between actual score on the previous trial and goal set up of the next trial is known as goal discrepancy or G. D Score, which is obtained by subtracting the actual score on a trial from the aspiration, score (Goal Set up score) for the next trial. Thus, in other words, goal discrepancy is the gap between aspiration for the next trial (expected score) and the immediate performance on previous trial. According to Frank (1935) this goal discrepancy is permanent characteristic of personality.

A positive goal discrepancy suggests that one’s goal is higher, in relation to one’s previous performance and a negative goal discrepancy indicates that one’s goal is lower than one’s previous performance. It means if expected

score on the next trial is more than the actual score on the previous trial, the GDS is termed as positive where as if it is less than the immediate past performance the GDS will be negative.

## II. ATTAINMENT DISCREPANCY SCORE (ADS)

Related to the concept of goal discrepancy is the attainment discrepancy (Lewin et. al., 1994). It is the difference between aspiration (expected score) and the achievement (actual score) on the same trial.

Thus in order to obtain ADS expected performance is subtracted from the actual performance. Therefore, ADS is positive when actual performance is more than expected performance and negative when expected performance is higher than the actual performance (here actual performance is treated as criterion level). The size of the discrepancy shows the extent to which one surpasses or fails to reach his goal.

## III. NUMBER OF TIMES THE GOAL REACH SCORE (NTRS)

This may be obtained by the number of times where his actual score is equal or more than the expected score. Though subjective probability of success is measured indirectly from goal discrepancy and attainment discrepancy score, but it can also be measured directly by NTR score which provides an index of subjects actual probability of reaching his stated goal. These may be minimum and maximum score with reference to the number of trials and it is expected of a subject with relatively high motivation to avoid failure, to approach these two limits-minimum and maximum. An important feature of high discrepancy score is the strategy that the goal should never be reached with minimum. The subjects with minimum NTR scores showed a very high fear of failure while those with maximum NTR scores are ready to take risk of failure when NTRS is correlated with GDS, ADS and NTRS is negatively related to GDS and positively related with ADS.

## CONCLUSION

Schools are organs of the nation's life which are ultimately responsible for the development of well integrated, all round, wholesome personalities, intelligence and values of their pupils physically, socially, morally, emotionally, personally and intellectually. They have to develop moral as well as national character. The role of students in fostering emotional intelligence should in no way be underestimated. They have a magnificent role to play by making use of all opportunities in and out of the school to develop the level of aspiration. Unless the students make conscious efforts in this direction, it will prove to be unserviceable. The present study also realizes the necessity to investigate separately the educational aspiration, vocational aspiration, economic aspiration etc. students and factors determining them in order to have a better understanding of the children and help them to guide in the right direction without losing the most precious resource.

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