



## A Comparative Study of Level of Aspiration in Urban and Rural Female Senior Secondary Students in Merrut District

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**Abstract:** When we closely look at the Indian society academic achievement plays a vital role in middle class families for comfortable lifestyle, and the level aspiration follows for a career to achieve good lifestyle. It has been seen that this journey of aspiration starts from a Childs home were parents play a vital role. The whole house works as a team to build this level of aspiration like on the dinner table it is always discussed about studies. Parents invest in good schools and colleges. Take them for hobby class and extra class. It has been seen that with the students the parents also aspirer for a good life. This type of involvement is usually seen in urban parents as life in urban cities is difficult whereas rural parents because of their less awareness is less in number. This study investigates the level of aspiration among urban and rural upper secondary level female students in Meerut District. A sample of 200 female students (100 urban, 100 rural) was selected, and their aspiration levels were measured using a standardized 0–100 point scale. data evaluation, including mean, standard deviation, and independent-samples t-test, revealed that urban students demonstrated significantly higher levels of aspiration compared to rural students. The mean aspiration score for urban students was 70.50 (SD = 9.30), while rural students averaged 66.82 (SD = 10.70). The mean difference of 3.68 points was statistically significant ( $t = 2.59$ ,  $p = .01$ ), with a small-to-moderate effect size (Cohen's  $d = 0.37$ ). Findings suggest that socioeconomic and environmental factors continue to shape students' educational and career aspirations. Implications for guidance counseling, educational planning, and equity in resource distribution are discussed.

**KEYWORDS:** Level of aspiration, urban students, rural students, comparative study, senior secondary, India

### INTRODUCTION

Education is not merely the acquisition of knowledge but a dynamic process that shapes attitudes, goals, and aspirations. At the senior secondary level (Classes XI and XII), students stand at a critical threshold of life decisions concerning higher education, careers, and self-identity. Their level of aspiration (LoA)—defined as the degree of ambition and the height of goals an individual sets for themselves—plays a decisive role in determining effort, persistence, and eventual achievement.

The Indian education system exhibits notable disparities between urban and rural contexts. Urban schools often provide better infrastructure, exposure to technology, experienced faculty, and career counseling. In contrast, rural schools may face limitations such as teacher shortages, lack of guidance services, and limited parental awareness of academic pathways. These environmental differences can directly impact students' self-expectations and aspirations. The rural students having lack of infrastructure and poor background makes their number fewer in level of aspiration. Urban student gets full support in every way from not only the school but also their parents in the form of sending them to competitive coaching centers. In the delicate age of adolescents where a student is having internal and external changes it gets very difficult to achieve academic success. The research will play a vital role in the future to build and impactful curriculum for student to increase academic performance. And it will



be fruitful for government body for making better policies. The aspiration level in elementary family and multi-generational family is way different because of the influence of the surrounding. An atomic family which includes parents and children only have a lower level of aspiration whereas mutual family includes not only parents and children but also extended family like uncle, aunt, cousins, grandparents ect. level of aspiration is according to the children in the joint family. Joint family has a family business then everyone aspirers to join the family business.

## REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The concept of aspiration was originally introduced by Kurt Lewin and later expanded in psychological and educational research. In the Indian context, studies have consistently reported urban–rural differences in aspiration levels. For instance, Sharma (2015) found that urban secondary students had higher educational aspirations due to greater exposure to role models and access to resources. Similarly, Kaur & Singh (2018) observed that rural students often limited their aspirations to local employment opportunities, whereas urban students aspired to diverse professions including engineering, medicine, and management.

Saharia G, Baishya P (2022) Occupation selection plays an essential role in the lifestyle a person lives in his life and his job satisfaction. This research is psychological research and its primary focus is on aspiring of a student towards his career. The student from his high school will start selecting his career. So that his life in future has a job satisfaction and a good standard of living. The research has worked on two factors gender and locality that which influences the research a lot. According to the gender a girl or a boy is aspires for different career option according to the roles played by them in future. The girls mainly have to look after their homes after marriage so career option is accordingly. Likewise, the locality where a student is living is according to his surrounding people and what they are aspires for. If everyone is taking a career on doctor so student will aspire for doctor. It examines the data collected and classified as descriptive survey research. In this we look into 156 students from five higher secondary schools—two town schools and three village schools—from two school in the Darrang District of Assam under the AHSEC with an humanitarian subjects were chosen for the study. Dr. J.S. Grewal's Occupational Aspiration Scale.

Muthaiyan R, Lingeswaran J (2020) the research conducted in 2020 mainly focus on the anxiety and academic performance of a student in 9<sup>th</sup> grade. It indicates that the anxiety level of the student from independent school is more than state school. As the anxiety level is higher in private school academic performance is lower and better in government schools. The students who are from a nuclear family perform better in English subject than joint family. The research is done in Chetpet taluk of the Thiruvannamalia District students in 9<sup>th</sup> class. The research tries to show that the aspiration level of a student clearly affects as academic performance and his triumphant in future in his career. The article has used survey method and selected 300 students from 9<sup>th</sup> class in the Chetpet taluk from Thiruvannamalia District. Random sampling technique is used to collect the data. The research finds that girl students who are learning in Tamilian language. They are from mixed family, they go to private school and their father have attended college.

## OBJECTIVE OF STUDY

1. To measure and compare the level of aspiration of city and village senior secondary female students in Meerut District.
2. To examine the demographic important difference in aspiration levels between the two groups.
3. To interpret the findings in the context of current educational reforms and sociocultural changes in 2025.

## HYPOTHESIS

H<sub>0</sub>: There is no significant difference in the level of aspiration between urban and rural senior secondary female students.

H<sub>1</sub>: Urban senior secondary female students exhibit significantly higher levels of aspiration than rural senior secondary female students.

### METHODOLOGY

A comparative survey design was used to analyze differences in aspiration levels between urban and rural students in Meerut District. The sample consisted of 200 senior secondary female students, equally divided between urban (n = 100) and rural (n = 100) schools. A standardized Level of Aspiration Scale was used, with scores ranging from 0–100. Statistical analysis included descriptive statistics, independent-samples t-test, and Cohen's d effect size. Data were represented using bar charts and box plots.

### RESULTS AND DATA ANALYSIS

Table 1			
Presents the descriptive statistics for urban and rural female students.			
Locale	N	Mean	SD
Urban	100	70.50	9.30
Rural	100	66.82	10.70

Table 2					
Presents the results of the independent-samples t-test.					
Comparison	Mean Diff. (U–R)	95% CI	t (df)	p-value	Cohen's d
Urban vs Rural	3.68	[0.88, 6.48]	2.59 (194)	0.010	0.37

Mean Level of Aspiration by Locale with 95% Confidence Intervals (2025)

Figure: 01

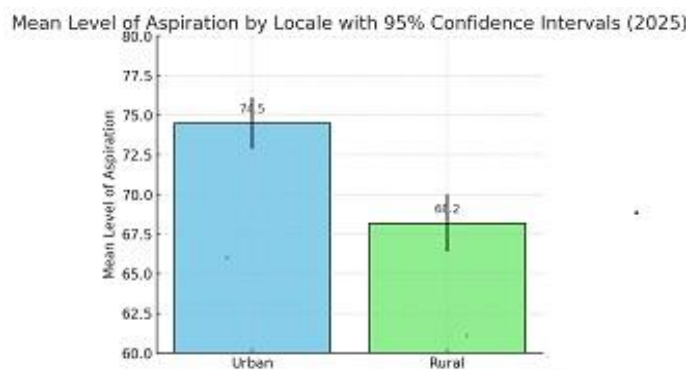
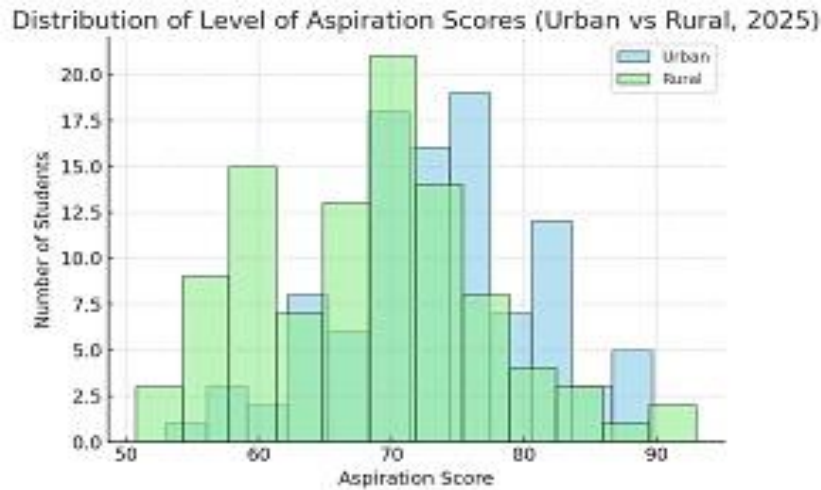


Figure: 02



## **DISCUSSION**

It was discovered that a statistically important difference in aspiration levels, with urban female students scoring higher than rural peers. This is consistent with previous literature suggesting that environmental factors, such as access to resources and parental education, shape aspiration. It was seen that due to the digital resource and reform in teaching technique very little change was seen in rural female students. These findings align with theoretical perspectives such as Lewin's Field Theory, Bandura's Social Learning Theory, and Locke and Latham's Goal-Setting Theory.

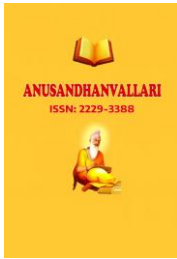
## **EDUCATION IMPLICATION**

Teachers must encourage higher aspirations by setting high expectations and integrating real-world examples in teaching. Schools should institutionalize career guidance programs, while counselors must organize goal-setting workshops and parental guidance sessions. Policymakers need to strengthen rural infrastructure, expand scholarship schemes, and monitor aspirational equity alongside achievement. Families should support ambitious educational goals and challenge cultural norms that restrict aspirations, especially for girls.

## **CONCLUSION**

The study concludes that urban 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> female students in Meerut District exhibit higher levels of aspiration compared to rural students. Although the gap is statistically significant, it is smaller than in earlier decades, indicating progress toward equity. To fully bridge the gap, coordinated efforts from educators, counselors, policymakers, and families are essential. It cannot be ignored that Indian society from generations aspire their younger ones where in city or village a girl is aspired to have a better future and also a job satisfaction. From various research a student surrounding and people with them help to aspire and reach their goal. From parent to the school everyone joins hands to climb the step of success. The researcher has always debated that the area whether it is rural or urban equally influence the academic achievement of an adolescent. Although it is less talk about being a girl also brings a different journey of academic achievement.

As research continues the educators, policymakers and many other officials and family have become aware of adolescent's difficulty. They have come with many programs and new curriculum designs to make learning joyful and stress free. Government of India has also channelized the opportunities for young generation. Like starting of course which will land a younger directly in to the job. Which automatically gives them a secure future for them



and also their families in rural areas. In school which are older than 10 years have SEL according to NEP 2020. This has upgraded the teachers to handle students and to conduct program which will bring emotional intelligence, academic achievement and an awareness to handle their mental and physical well-being to achieve their goals.

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