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An Exploratory Study of Vocational Aspirations of Muslim Girls

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ABSTRACT

This study has attempted to explore vocational aspirations of Muslim girls pursuing graduation level course in Bareilly region. A sample of 2000 muslim girls was selected randomly from four districts of Bareilly region i.e. Bareilly, Budaun, Pilibhit and Shahjahanpur. Vocational aspirations of Muslim girls were explored deeply in relation to their academic stream, their parents' occupational status and type of family. The resulted showed that parents' occupational status and academic stream had produced significant impact on vocational aspirations of Muslim girls while type of family i.e. single /joint did not effect their aspirations.

Key words: Vocational Aspirations, Occupational Status, Academic Stream

1) INTRODUCTION

Muslim women in India are potential catalysts for development. Their emancipation may be a crucial step in the development of the community. Their present status by and large reflects the dominance of traditional attitudes. An improvement in their present day status will not only contribute in the progress and modernization of the community, but also the development and modernization of the entire nation. The work participation rate among Muslims is lower as compared to other social-religious communities both in rural and urban areas. The aggregate works participation rate in economic activity by women is lower in the Muslim community.

Career aspiration is a major driving force in the female's career development, continued research on women's career aspirations and career development is necessary to explain their occupational paths (Rainey & Borders, 1997; Schon, 2001). Several studies show that vocational aspirations are influenced by factors such as gender, socioeconomic status, race, parents' occupation and education level, and parental expectations (Khallad, 2000; Watson et al., 2002).

Since in India the rate of women's participation in the workforce has been very low, especially Muslim women are at the lowest rate. Therefore the researcher has decided to explore the vocational aspirations among Muslim girls belonging to arts, science and commerce group and tried to ascertain whether their aspirations are influenced by their type of family and occupational background of their parents.

2) OBJECTIVES

- To study the difference of vocational aspiration of Muslim girls in relation to their parents' occupational status.

- To see the differences in vocational aspiration of graduate Muslim girls pursuing different courses of studies, e.g. Arts, Science and Commerce.
- 3-To see the difference in vocational aspiration of Muslim girls pursuing a graduate level course in relation to their type of family (single and joint).

3) HYPOTHESES

Following null hypothesis are formulated for the purpose of the study.

- There will be no significant difference in vocational aspirations of Muslim girls pursuing graduate level courses in relation to their parents' occupation.
- There will be no significant difference in vocational aspirations of Muslim girls pursuing different courses of studies, e.g. arts, science, commerce.
- There will be no significant difference in vocational aspirations of Muslim girls pursuing graduate level courses in relation to their type of family.

4) RESERCH METHODOLOGY

The present study has been conducted through a survey method in which questionnaires were given to the sample Muslim girls in the study.

Population: For the purpose of the present study, target population was comprised of all Muslim girls pursuing graduate level courses in Bareilly region.

Sample: Sample for the present study was selected through random sampling technique. A sample of 2000 Muslim girls

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was selected randomly from four districts (Bareilly, Budaun, Shahjahanpur, Pilibhit) of Bareilly region, giving proper representation to their courses of studies, type of family, and occupational status of their parents.

Tool: In this present study to measure vocational aspirations of Muslim girls occupational aspiration scale (OAS) developed by Dr. J.S. Grewal was used.

3) RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Table-1: Significance of mean differences between Scores of Vocational Aspirations of Muslim Girls in relation to occupational level of their Parents

Groups	N	M	SD	t
Service	1400	53.70	7.30	6.76**
Business	600	51.11	8.08	

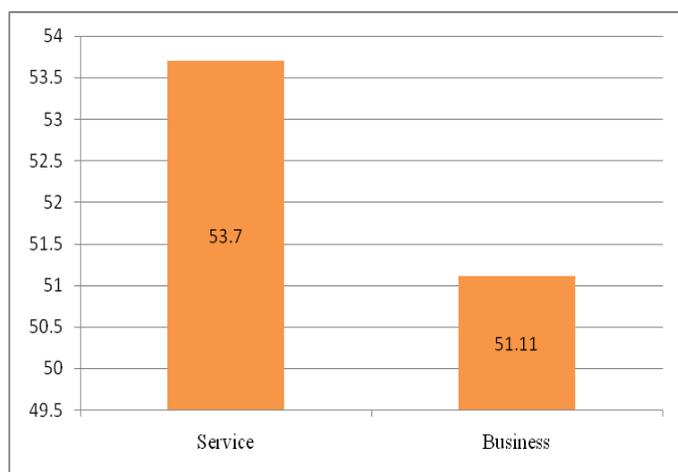


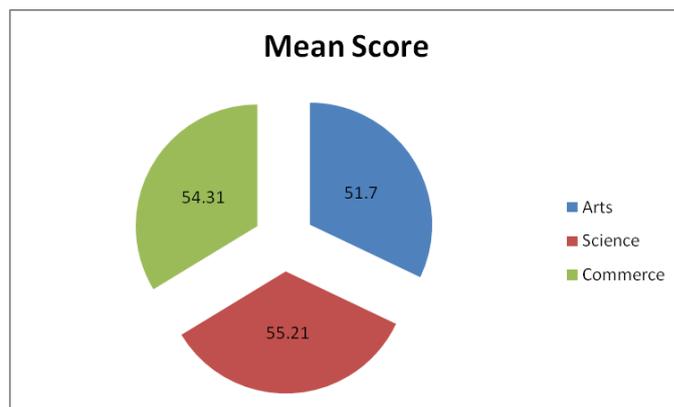
Fig-1: Comparison of Mean Score of Vocational Aspiration Of Muslim Girls Belonging To Service Class And Business Family

It is apparent from the above table and figure that occupational level has produced significant effects on vocational aspirations of Muslim girls as t value 6.76 for this group is found to be significant at 0.01 level of confidence. Further the study of mean scores makes it clear that girls belonging to the service class family have greater aspirations than their counterpart belonging to business class family. This finding is also in line of several previous research studies which concluded that occupational status of parents have had a significant impact on their children career aspirations and career choice (Berlin, 1976). Wahl and Blackhurst (2000) indicated the children's career aspirations were more closely related to parental occupations. Among adolescent females in particular, career choice was strongly influenced by the mother's occupation (Burlin; Wahl & Blackhurst). The mother's occupation was credited with impacting children's aspirations because children often attended work with their mothers and were more likely to know what their mothers did for a living. Likewise, Berlin (1976) deduced career choices and aspirations in females were significantly predisposed by the parents' type of work. Similarly, Signer's and Saldana's (2001) study found the social status of mothers' occupations, as opposed to the social status of fathers' occupations, had a stronger correlation with the social status of female students' career aspirations. Therefore, in the present study it might be

possible that daughter of service class family has been influenced by their parents' occupation that why they are found to have greater aspirations for their career.

Table-2: Significance of mean differences between scores of Vocational Aspirations of Muslim Girls belonging to Arts, Science and Commerce Streams

Groups	N	M	SD	Groups of Comparison	t
Art	900	51.70	6.39	Arts Vs science	12.04**
Science	700	55.21	8.13	Arts Vs Commerce	5.33**
Commerce	400	54.39	8.08	Science Vs commerce	1.61



The data presented in above table makes it clear that vocational aspirations of Muslim girls belonging to the arts, science and commerce differ significantly from each other as t values for these groups are found significant. The study of mean scores shows that girls of science group have greatest aspirations for their career as compared to other groups. Further, it is noteworthy that girls belonging to arts groups have the lowest level of aspirations as compared to other groups. Vocational aspirations of Muslim girls belonging to science and commerce do not significantly differ from each other. As per the study of their mean scores both are having greater level of vocational aspirations. The reason behind the girls of the arts group having lower levels of vocational aspirations might be that the arts stream has a low scope of varied careers such as doctors, engineers, medical rep., chartered accountant, company secretary, etc. while science group students have a wider scope of careers in medical, engineering etc. that's why science students have greater aspirations for their careers compared to other streams.

Table- 3: Significance of Mean Differences between scores of Vocational Aspirations of Muslim Girls in relation to their type of Family i.e. Single/ Joint

Groups	N	M	SD	t
Single	850	52.15	9.52	0.60
Joint	1150	51.90	8.50	

It is apparent from the above table that there is no significant effect of the type of family on vocational aspirations of Muslim girls as the t value for this group (0.60) is found to be insignificant.

5) EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

The findings of the present study has several educational implications such as the findings indicate that parent's occupational level is the major factor which significantly influenced their daughters' vocational aspirations. This finding supports this fact parents are the primary source of advice to students in helping them to select their career. Therefore, apart from students, their parents should also be guided properly so that they could help their children in selecting of their career. Further the finding, that girls belonging to science stream are greatly aspired for their career in comparison to those who belong to arts and commerce group implicate that girls of all groups especially of arts and commerce need motivational and guidance programme pertaining to their career aspirations so that participation rate of Muslim girls may be raised in Indian workforce.

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