CHAPTER-V
FINDINGS, DISCUSSION AND SUGGESTIONS

The objective wise findings of the study are presented in this chapter and the findings are discussed. Some suggestions for further studies are also recommended.

5.01. FINDINGS RELATED TO CAREER CHOICE OF ADOLESCENTS BOYS AND GIRLS.

1. The career choice of adolescent boys and girls reveal marked contrast between the choice of boys and girls.

2. It has been observed that Science and Technology is the most preferred choice among boys being selected by 28 percent (42) of them. Commerce and Management is also seen as a preferred career by 20 percent (30) of boys.

3. It has also been observed that only a small percentage of women – 4.7 percent (7) chose Science and Technology.

4. The career choice of adolescent girls reveals that a career in teaching is preferred by most girls being chosen by 34.7 percent (52) girls. A sizeable percentage of girls 14 percent (21) preferred Social Work as a career.

5. A Career in the Hospitality Industry was preferred by 12.7 percent (19) of girls while only a small percentage of boys 1.3 percent (2) chose this career.

6. Only a single boy (0.7 percent) chose Social Work as a career.

7. A career in Defence is preferred by 20 percent (30) of boys while only 2 percent (3) girls prefer it.

8. Very few number of boys choose a career in Tourism, Hospitality, Industry, Teaching and Law, accounting for 2 percent (3), 1.3 percent (2), 2 percent (3) and 3.3 percent (5) of boys respectively.
9. Similarly, very few girls choose careers such as Mass Media and Journalism (2.7 percent), Commerce and Management (2.0 percent) and Tourism (2.7 percent).

10. A career in Medicine is preferred by 15.3 percent (23) of boys while the corresponding figure for girls is 8.7 percent (13).

5.02 FINDINGS RELATED TO CAREER CHOICE OF RURAL AND URBAN ADOLESCENTS.

1. The career choice of urban and rural adolescents area-wise reveals that there exists observable difference in career choice between adolescents from rural and urban areas.

2. Science and Technology and Medicine are the most preferred career choices of the urban adolescents accounting for 20.7 percent (31) and 18.7 percent (28) respectively.

3. However, a career in Science and Technology was preferred by only 12 percent (18) of rural adolescents.

4. Defence was the most preferred career among the rural adolescents being selected by 26.7 percent (40) while only two adolescents (1.3 percent) from urban areas chose their career.

5. A sizeable percentage of rural adolescent – 20.7 percent (31) chose teaching as a career while the percentage in the same category for urban adolescents was 16 percent (24).

6. The number of adolescents choosing Commerce and Management as a career from the rural and urban areas was 16 (10.7 percent) and 17 (11.3 percent) respectively.

7. A career in Tourism was least preferred by both rural and urban adolescents as it was selected by only 2.3 percent (7) of the total (i.e. 300).

8. Agriculture was another career which was least preferred by the rural adolescents (2.7 percent).
9. Among the urban adolescents careers in Mass Media and Journalism and Law had less preferences accounting for 3.3 percent in both.

10. The figures for Commerce and Management as a career between rural and urban adolescents was almost the same being chose by 10.7 percent (16) and 11.3 percent (17) of adolescents respectively.

5.03 FINDINGS RELATED TO PARENTAL ASPIRATIONS IN THE CAREER CHOICE OF ADOLESCENT BOYS AND GIRLS.

1. Parental aspirations for their adolescents boys and girls career have been categorised into three levels as Low Aspirations, Average Aspirations and High Aspirations.

2. Parental aspiration have been analysed in terms of Parental beliefs and Parental Behaviours for their adolescent boys and girls.

3. It is observed that in respect of Parental beliefs by gender in the low category 31.3 percent (47) of parents belonged to boys while 38.7 percent (58) to girls. Again in the Average category, 18 percent (27) of parents belonged to boys while the girls had a similar score. In the High category, 50.7 percent (76) of parents belonged to boys while 43.3 percent (65) to girls.

4. In respect of Parental behaviours by gender, in the low category, 31.3 percent (47) belonged to boys and 38.7 percent (58) to girls. In the Average category 32 percent (48) belonged to girls while 26 percent (39) belong to girls. In the high category, 36.7 percent (55) belong to boys while 35.3 percent (53) belong to girls.

5. The total parental aspirations (beliefs and behaviour) for their adolescent boys and girls reveals that 31.3 percent (47) of parents of adolescent boys had low aspirations while the corresponding figure for girls was 38.7 percent (58).

6. In the Average aspiration category, 33.3 percent (50) of parents belonged to boys while 32.0 percent (48) belonged to girls.
7. In the High aspiration group of parents 35.3 percent (53) belonged to boys whereas 29.3 percent (44) belonged to girls.

8. Out of a total of 300 parents, 35 percent (105) belonged to the Low aspiration category, 32.7 percent (98) belonged to the Average aspiration category while 32.3 percent (97) belonged to the High Aspiration category.

5.04 FINDINGS RELATED TO PARENTAL ASPIRATIONS IN THE CAREER CHOICE OF RURAL AND URBAN ADOLESCENTS.

1. Parental aspirations for their rural and urban adolescents career have been categorised into three levels as Low aspirations, Average aspirations and High aspirations.

2. Parental aspirations have been analysed in terms of Beliefs and Behaviours for rural and urban adolescents.

3. It is observed that 49.3 percent (74) parents of rural adolescents scored low in beliefs while 20.7 percent (31) scored the same belonging to the urban areas. In the average belief category 16 percent (24) belonged to the rural areas while 20 percent (30) belonged to the urban areas. In the high in beliefs category, 34.7 percent (52) belonged to the rural areas while 59.3 percent (89) belonged to the urban areas.

4. Regarding parental behaviours by area 49.3 percent (74) of rural areas and 20.7 percent (31) of urban belonged to the low category. In the average category 37.3 percent (56) of parents belonged to the rural adolescents, 20.7 percent (31) to the urban adolescents. In the high in beliefs category, 13.3 percent (20) of parents belonged to the rural adolescents while 58.7 percent (88) belonged to the urban adolescents.

5. The total parental aspirations (beliefs and behaviours) reveals that 35 percent (105) of parents had low aspirations of which 49.3 percent
(74) belonged to the rural adolescents and 20.7 percent (31) belonged to the urban adolescents.

6. Out of a total of 32.7 percent (98) parents in the average aspirations category, 43.3 percent (65) belonged to the rural adolescents while 22.0 percent (33) belonged to the urban areas.

7. In the last category is the High Aspiration category 7.3 percent (11) belonged to rural adolescents, 57.3 percent (86) belonged to urban adolescents adding up to a total of 32.3 percent (197) of parents in this category.

5.05 FINDINGS RELATED TO WHETHER DIFFERENCES EXIST IN THE PARENTAL ASPIRATIONS BETWEEN ADOLESCENT BOYS AND GIRLS.

1. The findings regarding whether differences exist in the parental aspirations between adolescent boys and girls have been presented in respect of differences in beliefs of parents and differences in behaviours of parents.

2. The t value (1.384) in respect of parental beliefs by gender reveals that there is no significant difference in the beliefs of parents between adolescent boys and girls.

3. The t value (1.406) in respect of parental behaviours by gender reveals that there is no significant difference in parental behaviours between adolescent boys and girls.

4. The total parental aspirations (beliefs and behaviour) in respect of adolescent boys and girls reveals a t value of 1.573 at 0.05 level of significance.

5. The above result signifies that there is no significant difference in the parental aspiration between adolescent boys and girls.

6. Thus, the null hypothesis that there is no significant difference in the parental aspiration between adolescent boys and girls is accepted.
7. The above result signifies that parental aspirations were found to be similar for all adolescents irrespective of their gender.

5.06 FINDINGS RELATED TO WHETHER DIFFERENCES EXIST IN THE PARENTAL ASPIRATIONS BETWEEN URBAN AND RURAL ADOLESCENTS.

1. The findings regarding whether differences exist in the parental aspirations by area have been presented in respect of differences in parental beliefs by area and differences in parental behaviours by area.

2. The t value (6.686) in respect of parental beliefs reveals that there is significant difference in parental beliefs between urban and rural adolescents at the 0.05 level of significance.

3. The t value (9.379) in respect of parental behaviours reveals that there is a significant difference in parental behaviours between rural and urban adolescents at 0.05 level of significance.

4. The total parental aspirations (beliefs and behaviour) in respect of rural and urban adolescents reveals a t value of 9.460 at the 0.05 level of significance.

5. The above result signifies that there lies a significant difference in the parental aspirations between rural and urban adolescents.

6. Thus, the null hypothesis that there is no significant difference in the parental aspiration between rural and urban adolescents is rejected.

5.07 FINDINGS RELATED TO THE INFLUENCE OF PARENTAL ASPIRATIONS IN THE CAREER CHOICE OF ADOLESCENTS BOYS AND GIRLS.

1. The influence on an adolescents career choice by their parental aspirations have been categorized under three levels as less influence, moderate influence and high influence.
2. It is observed that all adolescents were found to be influenced by their parental aspirations.

3. In the low parental aspiration category, 66.6 percent (70) of adolescents were less influenced, of which 72.3 percent (34) were boys and 62.1 percent (36) were girls, 17 percent (18) were moderately influenced while 16.2 percent (17) of them were highly influenced by their parental aspirations of which 10.6 percent (5) were boys and 22.4 percent (13) were girls.

4. In the Average aspiring category of parents, 31.6 percent (31) of adolescents were less influenced of which 29.2 percent (14) were girls and 34.0 percent (17) were boys. 25.5 percent (25) of adolescents were moderately influenced while 42.9 percent (42) were highly influenced while making their career choice.

5. The adolescents belonging to the high aspiring parents were also influenced differently. A total of 10.3 percent (10) of adolescents were less influenced, 28.9 percent (28) were moderately influenced while 60.8 percent (59) were highly influenced while making their career choice.

6. In the above category i.e. high parental aspirations, a total of 13.2 percent (7) boys are less influenced while 6.8 percent (8) girls belong to the same level. In the moderately influenced category, 28.3 percent (15) are boys while 29.5 percent (13) are girls. 58.5 percent (31) boys are highly influenced while 63.6 percent (28) girls have also been highly influenced whose parents had high aspirations for their career choice.
5.08 FINDINGS RELATED TO THE INFLUENCE OF PARENTAL ASPIRATIONS IN THE CAREER CHOICE OF RURAL AND URBAN ADOLESCENTS.

1. The influence on an adolescents career choice by their parental aspirations have been categorized under three levels as less influence, moderate influence and high influence.

2. It is found that all adolescents by area were influenced by their parental aspirations while making their career choice in different degrees.

3. In the Low parental aspiration category, out of the 66.7 percent (70) of adolescents who were less influenced, 58.1 percent (18) belonged to the urban areas while 70.3 percent (52) belonged to the rural areas. In the moderately influenced category, 13.5 percent (10) belonged to rural areas while 25.8 percent (8) belonged to the urban areas. In the highly influenced category 16.2 percent (12) belong to the rural areas while 16.1 percent (5) belong to the urban areas.

4. In the Average aspiration category, 31.6 percent (31) were less influenced of which 12.3 percent (8) were from rural areas and 69.7 percent (23) were from urban areas, 25.5 percent (25) were moderately influenced of which 29.2 percent (19) belonged to rural areas and 18.2 percent (6) to urban areas and 42.9 percent (42) were highly influenced of which 58.5 percent (38) belonged to rural areas and 12.1 percent (4) to the urban areas.

5. In the High Aspiration category there was no adolescent from the rural areas is the less influenced category while 11.6 percent (10) adolescents from urban areas fall under this category.

6. In the High parental aspiration category, 27.3 percent (3) of adolescents from rural areas are moderately influenced, while 29.1 percent (25) of adolescents from urban areas are in this category.
5.09 FINDINGS RELATED TO WHETHER DIFFERENCES EXIST IN THE INFLUENCE OF PARENTAL ASPIRATION IN THE CAREER CHOICE BETWEEN ADOLESCENTS BOYS AND GIRLS.

1. All adolescents (boys and girls) are seen to be influenced by their parental aspiration while making their career choice.

2. There were three categories of influences – less influenced, moderately influenced and highly influenced by parental aspirations.

3. It is found that 38.7 percent (58) of boys are less influenced so also 35.3 percent (53) of girls. In the moderately influenced category, 20.7 percent (31) are boys while 26.7 percent (40) are girls. In the high influence category, 40.7 percent (61) are boys while 38 percent (57) are girls.

4. In order to find out whether differences exist in the influence of parental aspiration in the career choice between adolescent boys and girls the t value is calculated.

5. The t values i.e. 0.084 in respect of influence of parental aspiration in the career choice between boys and girls reveals that there is no significant difference in the influence between adolescent boys and girls at 0.05 level of significance.

6. Thus, the null hypothesis that there lies no significant difference in the influence of parental aspiration in the career choice between adolescent boys and girls is accepted.
5.10 FINDINGS RELATED TO WHETHER DIFFERENCES EXIST IN THE INFLUENCE OF PARENTAL ASPIRATION IN THE CAREER CHOICE BETWEEN RURAL AND URBAN ADOLESCENTS.

1. All adolescents (both rural and urban) are seen to be influenced by their parental aspirations while making their career choice.

2. There were three categories of influence less influence, moderate influence and highly influenced.

3. It is found that 40 percent (60) adolescents from urban areas and 34.0 percent (51) from rural areas fall under the less influenced category, 21.3 percent (32) from urban areas and 26.0 percent (39) from rural areas fall under the moderately influenced category. In the highly influenced category, 38.7 percent (58) belong to the urban areas while 40 percent (60) belong to the rural areas.

4. In order to find out whether differences exist in the influence of parental aspiration in the career choice between urban and rural adolescents the t value was calculated.

5. The t value i.e. 0.412 in respect of influence of parental aspiration in the career choice between urban and rural adolescents reveals that there is no significant difference in the influence between urban and rural adolescents at 0.05 level of significance.

6. Thus, the hypothesis that there lies no significant difference in the influence of parental aspiration in the career choice between rural and urban adolescents is accepted.

5.11. FINDINGS RELATED TO WHETHER RELATIONSHIP EXISTS BETWEEN TOTAL PARENTAL ASPIRATIONS AND ITS INFLUENCE ON ADOLESCENTS CAREER CHOICE.

1. The findings whether relationship exists between total parental aspirations and its influence on adolescents career choice reveals that
there is a relationship between total parental aspiration and its influence on an adolescents career choice.

5.12 MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE STUDY :
On the basis of the findings related to the various objectives, the following major findings have been observed.

1. There is marked contrast between the career choices of adolescent boys and girls.
2. Science and Technology is the most preferred choice among boys.
3. A career in teaching is preferred most by adolescent girls.
4. There exists observable difference in the career choice between urban and rural adolescents.
5. Science and Technology and Medicine are the most preferred career choice among the urban adolescents.
6. Defence was the most preferred career among the rural adolescents.
7. All parents had aspirations (beliefs and behaviour) for their adolescents career choice.
8. Parental aspirations are of three levels – Low Aspirations, Average Aspirations and High Aspirations.
9. Out of the total of 300 parents of adolescents, 105 had low aspirations, 98 had average aspirations while 97 had high aspirations for their adolescents career.
10. There is no significant difference in the parental aspiration between adolescent boys and girls.
11. There is significant difference in the parental aspiration between rural and urban adolescents.
12. All adolescents were influenced by their parental aspirations while making their career choice. This finding is in agreement with the findings of studies by Ferry (2006), Chhin, Blecker and Jacobs (2008) and Rathge, Mullis and Mullis (2009) all of whom were of
the opinion that parents are a major influence in the career choice of children.

13. Adolescents were however influenced differently by their parental aspirations – some were less influenced, some moderately influenced while some were highly influenced while making their career choice.

14. Out of a total of 300 adolescents – 37 percent (111) were less influenced, 23.7 percent (71) were moderately influenced while 39.3 percent (118) were highly influenced.

15. There is no significant difference in the influence of parental aspiration in the career choice between adolescent boys and girls.

16. There is no significant difference in the influence of parental aspiration in the career choice between rural and urban adolescents.

17. There is a significant relationship between total parental aspirations and influence on adolescents career choice.

5.13 DISCUSSION ON THE FINDINGS:

The objective of the present study is to find out of the influence of parental aspirations in the career choices of adolescents. The choice of career is an important decision in an adolescents life. All parents more or less have aspirations for their children career. This study throws light on how parental aspirations influence the career choice of their adolescents.

One of the objective of this study is to find out the career choice of adolescent boys and girls. It is found that adolescent boys and girls differ in their career choice. While boys prefer Science and Technology as a career, girls show teaching as a much preferred career. The findings imply that girls prefer careers which have fixed working hours, provide facilities for child rearing and where they can balance both home and work. Boys are more interested in science related careers. Thus, it shows that career choice differs by gender.

The career choice of adolescents by area also shows marked contrast. While Science and Technology and Medicine are preferred by urban
adolescents, adolescents from the rural areas preferred Defence as a career. This choice of the rural adolescents may be due to socio-economic condition of the family. It may be also due to the fact that the rural adolescents were more exposed to information related to career in Defence than other careers, as army recruitments rallies were often held in the rural areas.

All parents in this study had aspirations (beliefs and behaviour) for their adolescents career. All parents had wishes, desires and hopes for their children’s career which were reflected in their behaviour. However, their level of aspirations were different. Out of a total of 300 parents, 105 had low aspirations, 98 had average aspirations whereas 97 parents had high aspirations for their adolescents career.

This study further reveals that parental aspirations are similar for all adolescents irrespective of their gender as there is no significant different in the parental aspiration between boys and girls.

On the contrary, parental aspiration differed according to area. There is a significant difference in the parental aspiration between rural and urban adolescents. While 49.3 percent of rural parents had low aspirations, the percentage of parents having high aspiration was 7.3 percent. This may again be attributed to the prevailing socio-economic condition of the rural parents. Awareness among the rural parents were also less compared to their urban counterparts and it was found that although rural parents had aspirations for their child’s career most of the times they left the decision to their wards being less involved in their child’s career.

All adolescents were influenced by their parental aspirations while making their career choice. This reveals that parents are a major influence in the career choice of their children and children rely on their parents while taking this important step. The level of influence was however different for the adolescents. Some are less influenced, some are moderately influenced while some are highly influenced by their parental aspirations.
It is revealed in this study that there is no significant difference in the influence of parental aspiration in the career choice between adolescent boys and girls. On a similar vein, it is revealed that there is no significant difference in the influence of parental aspiration between rural and urban adolescents. This implies that all adolescents irrespective of their gender or area were influenced by their parental aspirations while making their career choice.

5.14 EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS:

Although the present study had some limitations, the findings have ample implications which can be useful for teachers, administrators, policy makers, counselors who work with adolescents, for parents as well as for researchers who are interested in vocational adolescent development.

Career decision is an important decision in an adolescent’s life and choosing the appropriate career will have far reaching effects in an adolescent’s future life.

Children should be initiated into a career education programme right from the primary stage so that they may be introduced into various aspects of career development such as awareness of different career roles and discover their aptitudes and capabilities and thereby make the right choice when they reach the adolescent stage. For the above purpose, career education programme may be initiated into the existing curricula which should however be flexible enough to suit various educational patterns and economic, social and cultural characteristics of various regions.

The entire teaching staff of the school including the principal, the teachers and if present the counselor may be involved in a career education programme to suit the age and level of development of the pupils. Such a programme may also be beneficial for identifying and harnessing the
potentialities of the young adolescents. Professional vocational and guidance and counseling service may also be provided in schools.

This study also has ample implication for parents. Parents who acknowledge the immense influence they have on their children’s career can use their roles effectively for the benefit of their adolescents and the entire family.

Parents can be made to understand that career development issues are important during early adolescence and not just when their children reach the high school stage.

Creating a congenial parent-adolescent relationship by displaying behaviours which are beneficial for maintaining that relationship is very much necessary for parents.

Parents must understand that they may have aspirations for their children but not to have unrealistic aspirations for them.

Parents should not only communicate about work and careers with their children but show faith in their children’s abilities to be successful providing them with encouragement and information. A warm and supportive relationship with parents will go a long way in the well being of their children.

It may be seen that parental aspirations has both a positive aspect and negative aspect of its influence on an adolescent. On the positive side, highly aspiring parents may encourage their child to look into careers, which are challenging and which are able to utilize their potential and take up careers which are prosperous and fulfilling. On the negative side, parents who have very high aspirations for their children, may result in their children in taking up careers merely to fulfill their parental aspirations, and suffer from frustrations.
Parents should therefore endeavour to lay more emphasis on the positive aspects of parental influence and not dwell on the negative aspects.

5.15. SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER STUDIES:

A few suggestions for further research are enumerated below:

1. Future researchers could include samples of adolescents from a broader range of backgrounds in order to increase the variability of perceived parental influence on an adolescent’s life.

2. Longitudinal research can also be conducted which follows adolescents over time and examines the influence of parental aspirations as their career decisions are being made.

3. The current study could be conducted again in different parents of Assam.

4. Studies could also be conducted on adolescents from schools following different mediums of instructions as English, Hindi, Bengali etc.

5. Comparing the career choice of adolescents and their parental influence from private and government schools could also be considered as an area ripe for research.

6. Studies could also be conducted on career choice of adolescents and the influence of their peers.

7. On a similar vein studies could be conducted on the influence of media on an adolescent’s career choice.

8. Another research area ripe for examination concerns parent training for the career development of adolescents and the information available for parents interested in facilitating the career development of their children.
9. Similar studies could be conducted on adolescents belonging to different ethnic groups.

10. The role of counselors in the career development of adolescents may also be studied.

11. Influence of various parenting styles on an adolescent’s career choice may provide an aspect to be examined.

12. Studies may also be carried out on availability of career information at various levels of schools education to help students make career decisions.

13. Studies may be conducted to determine the positive aspects of the influence of parental aspirations and the negative aspects of influence of parental aspirations.