CHAPTER-VI
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

6.01 INTRODUCTION:
Adolescence is a very important stage in the life span of an individual. It is a universal fact that it is a stage when the individual experiences tremendous changes in all aspects of development. Coping with the changes is a difficult phase in the individual’s life which may result in tensions, emotional upheavals, stress and anxiety. In addition, it has been found that the question of career choice or vocational development start to bring about worries in the individual. However, there may be several factors which may influence this important decision in an adolescent of which parents are seen to play a significant role. Parents have aspirations for their offspring’s career and how much their adolescents are influenced while making their career choice is an aspect to be looked into.

6.02 NEED AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY:
It has been observed that most adolescents are very much dependent on their parents in making their career choice. All parents more or less have aspirations for their children’s educational and occupational attainment. How their aspirations influence an adolescent’s career choice is of immense significance. Parent’s role in this very vital decision in their offspring’s lives will have a long term implication on an adolescents future life. Hence, studying the influence of parent’s aspirations on an adolescent’s career choice is of immense significance. The investigator in the course of the literature review also found that very few studies were conducted in the North-Eastern region especially in Assam regarding this aspect of an adolescent’s life. Hence, the need was felt to make a humble attempt to take up this area for research.
6.03 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:

The present investigation aims at studying the influence of parental aspiration in the career choice of adolescents. The study has been formulated under the title – “A STUDY ON THE INFLUENCE OF PARENTAL ASPIRATIONS IN THE CAREER CHOICE OF ADOLESCENTS.”

6.04 OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS:

- **Parental aspirations** in this study refers to the ambitions, dreams, wishes and hopes parents have for their children.
- **Career choice** here refers to an adolescent’s course or progress throughout his life, usually considered to pertain to remunerative work.
- **Adolescents** refer to the school going individuals (boys and girls) between the ages 15-18.
- **Influence** refers to the effect parental aspirations have on the career choice of adolescents.

6.05 Objectives of the study:

The present study is undertaken with the following objectives in mind.

1. To find out the career choice of adolescent boys and girls.
2. To find out the career choice of urban and rural adolescents.
3. To find out the parental aspiration for adolescent boys and girls.
4. To find out the parental aspirations for urban and rural adolescents.
5. To find out whether differences exists in the parental aspirations between boys and girls.
6. To find out whether differences exists in the parental aspirations between urban and rural adolescents.
7. To study the influence of parental aspiration in the career choice of
adolescent boys and girls.
8. To study the influence of parental aspiration in the career choice of rural and urban adolescents.
9. To find out whether differences exist in the influence of parental aspiration in the career choice between adolescent boys and girls.
10. To find out whether differences exist in the influence of parental aspiration in the career choice between urban and rural adolescents.
11. To find out whether relationship exist between parental aspiration and its influence on adolescents career choice.

6.06. Hypotheses:
In the light of the above objectives the following null hypotheses have been formulated:

\( H_0 \) 1. There is no significant difference in the parental aspiration between adolescent boys and girls.

\( H_0 \) 2. There is no significant difference in the parental aspiration between urban and rural adolescents.

\( H_0 \) 3. There is no significant difference in the influence of parental aspiration in the career choice between adolescent boys and girls.

\( H_0 \) 4. There is no significant difference in the influence of parental aspiration in the career choice between urban and rural adolescents.

\( H_0 \) 5. There is no significant relationship between parental aspiration and its influence on adolescents career choice.

6.07. DELIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY:
The present study is delimited to the following:

1. This study is limited to Kamrup (Metro) district of Assam only.
2. It includes only the school going adolescents (boys and girls) between
15-18 years of age.
3. Only Assamese medium schools are taken as sample schools for this particular study.
4. Only those schools which follow SEBA and AHSEC courses are included in the study.
5. This study includes only those schools which are either government or provincialised schools. Private schools have not been included in the study.
6. Both father and mother together fall under the category of parents.
7. Only biological parents are included in this study.

6.08 METHODOLOGY:

The Descriptive Method of Research has been applied to carry out this particular study.

6.09 SAMPLING SIZE:

The sample for this particular study consists of 300 adolescents (150 from urban and 150 from rural areas). The 150 adolescents from urban areas and 150 adolescents from rural areas consisted of 75 boys and 75 girls in each area respectively. Adolescents were selected from 12 sample schools falling under Kamrup (M) districts. The parents of the adolescents were also respondents in this particular study.

6.10 TECHNIQUES OF SAMPLING:

The following techniques of sampling were used in the study.
- Cluster Sampling and
- Stratified Random Sampling
6.11. VARIABLES

In this study career choice of adolescents is the dependent variable and parental aspiration is the independent variable.

6.12. TOOLS USED FOR DATA COLLECTION:

The following tools have been used by the investigator for data collection.

- Parental Aspiration Scale to determine parental aspirations-self prepared.
- Questionnaire for Adolescents to determine their career choice and the influence of parental aspirations on their choice-self prepared.

6.13. STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES APPLIED:

The following statistical techniques were used for analyzing the data collected in the light of the objectives set forth for the investigation.

- Simple frequency distribution.
- Graphical representation – Bar diagram, Pie graph.
- Percentile
- Coefficient of correlation
- Mean
- Standard Deviation
- t test to test the significance of mean difference between different groups.
- Regression analysis to find out the relationship between parental aspirations and its influence on an adolescents’ career choice.
6.14. 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.
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.

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.

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

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

There is a significant relationship between parental aspiration and its influence on adolescents career choice.

6.15. 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.

Parents should therefore endeavour to lay more emphasis on the positive aspects of parental influence and not dwell on the negative aspects.

6.16. PREVIEW OF THE CHAPTERS:

This thesis comprises of six (6) chapters throwing light on different aspects of the study.
CHAPTER-I: INTRODUCTION:

The first chapter gives a general introduction of Adolescence, the importance of career choice and development, theories of choice and development, meaning and nature of aspirations, parental aspirations and its influence on the career choice of adolescents. It also gives the significance of the study, the statement of the problem, operational definitions, objectives of the study, the hypotheses framed and the delimitations of the study.

CHAPTER-II: REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE:

The second chapter deals with the review of related literature such as review of books, journals, dissertations of studies done at the International and National level having relevance to the present study and presented in a chronological order.

This chapter also contains a brief resume of the studies. A reference follows.

CHAPTER-III: METHODOLOGY:

The third chapter deals with a brief outline of the Research Process, the Research Design, the variables in the study and the sample selected. A profile of the study area is Kamrup (M) district is provided accompanied by maps. It also deals with the sampling techniques, the tools used in data gathering, their preparation and the statistical techniques used for analysis of data.

CHAPTER-IV: ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA:

This chapter deals with the objective wise presentation, analysis and interpretation with the help of appropriate tools and techniques.
CHAPTER-V : FINDINGS, DISCUSSION AND SUGGESTIONS:

This chapter presents the objective wise findings of the study and discusses them. Some suggestions for further studies are also offered.

CHAPTER-VI : SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS:

This chapter summarises the entire study. It also concludes the whole thesis. Preview of the chapters have also been presented.

A detailed Bibliography follows. The appendix includes the tools used for data collection and the list of schools in Kamrup (M) district.

6.17. CONCLUSION:

The stage of adolescence is a critical period in an individual’s life not only due to tremendous changes in one’s mental, physical, social and emotional development but also due to an important decision to be taken at this stage i.e. the decision of career-choice. This decision may either make or break an adolescent’s future life.

It may be seen that although adolescents seen to be growing in independence regarding several decisions in his or her life it is seen that they still rely on their parents in this very important decision of career choice. Parents are still a major source of influence on their children with offsprings depending more on their parents than on others when forming career goals.

All parents have aspirations for their children’s career and this aspiration influence their children’s choice of career in various ways. The level of aspirations of parents are however not the same for all. Some parents are high aspiring, some have average aspirations while some have low aspirations for their child’s career. It has been observed that parental aspirations are similar for both boys and girls but they differ area-wise, parental aspirations for rural adolescents is less than those for urban adolescents.
Adolescents too are influenced by their parental aspirations while making their career choice. They may either be less influenced or highly influenced. It may be noted that since parents are an important influence in an adolescent’s life, they may improve their effectiveness in guiding their children and use their roles as parents to the utmost advantage and enhance the positive aspects of their influence.