Chapter-V

SUMMARY & SUGGESTIONS
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Aspirations whether specific or general, are the goals a person sets for herself/himself in tasks which have personal significance. Level of aspiration refers to the standard a person expects and hopes in a given performance. Level of aspiration has been suggested as an important factor of one’s personality, as a determining factor of a person’s future achievement and attainment and also as determinant for the adoption of new practices. Disadvantage is referred to physical, social and psychological conditions which restrict a person’s all round development.

The purpose of the present study was to compare the general and specific levels of aspiration of disadvantaged and advantaged groups of adolescents drawn from Ethiopia and India. Further, it was also intended to compare the Indian and Ethiopian adolescents in terms of their general and specific levels of aspirations.

Three major independent variables - SES sex, and religion were used as the principal conditions that may place groups of individuals relatively at disadvantage. The I-bids, goal-discrepancy, shifts, educational and occupational aspirations were treated as dependent variables.

Based on available research literature reviewed, the following hypotheses were proposed.
1. I-bids of the disadvantaged groups would be lower than advantaged groups.

1.2 The goal discrepancy scores of the disadvantaged groups would be greater than the advantaged groups.

1.3 Disadvantaged groups would score lower usual shifts, higher no-shifts and higher erratic shifts than the advantaged groups.

1.4 & 1.5 The occupational and educational aspiration scores of the advantaged groups would be higher than the disadvantaged groups.

2. I-bids of the female groups would be lower than the male groups.

2.2 The goal-discrepancy scores of the females would be higher than the male group.

2.3 The male groups would score higher usual shifts, lower rigidity and lower unusual shifts than the female groups.

2.4 & 2.5 The occupational and educational aspiration scores of the male groups would be higher than the female groups.

3.1 I-bids of the Muslim groups would be lower than the Hindu group (India), Christian group (Ethiopia).

3.2 The goal-discrepancy scores of Muslim groups would be higher than the Hindu group (India), Christian group (Ethiopia).

3.3 The Muslim group, would score lower usual shifts higher no-shifts, and higher erratic shifts than their respective Hindu and Christian groups.
3.4 & 3.5 The Hindu group (India), Christian group (Ethiopia), would score higher occupational and educational aspirations than their respective Muslim Groups.

In addition, specific questions were asked about the level of aspiration of Indian and Ethiopian adolescents to be used as guides for comparison of the two groups.

Based on the distinguishing criteria in terms of the parents' educational level, parents' occupational status, family monthly income and quality of schooling, the advantaged and disadvantaged groups of adolescents were identified. Two cities - Aligarh (India) and Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) - were taken. From each city, the advantaged and disadvantaged groups were selected from private and government managed schools. Using stratified random sampling technique. A total of 256 grade eight and nine students were selected from each city, half of whom were identified as disadvantaged and remaining half as advantaged. Each group was balanced by sex and religion. Thus, the total number of subjects that participated in this study was 512.

The required data for this study was gathered by using a questionnaire, a test and two scales. By means of the questionnaire, subjects' background information and their perceptions of their parents' and teachers' aspirations for them were asked. The responses given by the subjects were used for the analyses and discussion of results obtained.
The L.A Coding test of Ansari and Ansari (1964) was administrated to sampled adolescents of the two countries as a measure of general level of aspiration. From the subjects' responses to the test, three main scores that are widely accepted as indicators of the dimensions of the level of aspiration were calculated.

(i) I-bids, which are indicators of initial goal levels and that are usually influenced by previous experiences of success and failure.

(ii) Goal-discrepancy score, which is the chief measure of level of aspiration and is considered as indicator of the realism -irrealism dimensions of goal -setting behaviour.

(iii) Shifts (usual, rigid, erratic) which are indicators of flexibility and rigidity of goal levels in relation to previous performances.

The Occupational Aspiration Scale (Grewal, 1975), which is reported to be widely used in India as a reliable measure of occupational status aspirations of different groups was selected for the present study. While the scale was directly administrated to Indian subjects in its original form, its slightly adapted version was used for the Ethiopian adolescents. The adaptation was carried out by the present researcher and the test -retest reliability of the adapted scale was quite satisfactory.

An Educational Aspiration Scale was developed and validated for the purpose of measuring the educational aspirations of the sampled
adolescents of the two countries. The scale was found to be reasonably valid and reliable.

The questionnaire, the scales and the test were consecutively administrated to small groups of subjects in their schools vicinities. Maximum care and precautions were taken to make the testing conditions as similar as possible from school to school.

For each country, the data analyses were done separately. The effects of the three independent variables on each of the dependent variables were analysed by three way SES X Sex X Religion ANOVA, fixed model. The main effects and interaction effects were analysed accordingly. To compare the levels of aspiration of the adolescents of the two countries, t-test was used. Separate comparisons were made on each of the dependent variables by using the total scores of the Ethiopian and Indian groups. For further comparisons, each country's sampled adolescents were categorized in to four disjoint sets - Advantaged Male, Advantaged Female, Disadvantaged Male and Disadvantaged Female. The Indian sub-groups were compared against their Ethiopian subgroup counterparts. From the analyses of the data the following results were obtained.

The disadvantaged groups of adolescents in both of the countries were found to have lower I-bids, higher goal-discrepancy scores, lower usual shifts, higher rigidity and more erratic shifts scores as well as
lower educational and occupational aspirations when compared with their advantaged counterparts of their respective countries. All the observed differences were statistically significant. The results imply that the disadvantaged groups of adolescents are likely to be less realistic, more stubborn and more erratic in their goal-setting behaviour as compared to their advantaged groups. The disadvantaged also appeared to possess low status aspirations.

In India, except for occupational aspirations, girls and boys did not differ significantly in all other measures of level of aspirations. This finding appeared to indicate that girls are closing in the gap with boys in terms of level of aspiration.

On the other hand, Ethiopian girls were found to have lower initial aspirations, higher goal-discrepancies and lower educational and occupational aspirations when compared with their male counterparts. The gap was found to be even more wider among the disadvantaged boys and girls. Ethiopian disadvantaged girls were found to be least ambitious with regard to the measures of level of aspiration employed.

In both countries, in almost all the major indices of aspirations, significant differences were not found by the factor of religion.

When Indian and Ethiopian adolescents were compared, the results showed that there were some significant differences in terms of shifts and educational aspirations. Indian adolescents were found to be more
flexible in setting their goals and had higher educational aspirations level than the Ethiopian adolescents. Although the other comparisons were not statistically significant, the mean scores of the Indian group were slightly higher than the mean scores of the Ethiopian group on most of the measures. When the comparisons among the subgroups were analysed, it was found that the observed differences between the adolescents of these two countries were largely due to the aspiration differences among the disadvantaged Indian and Ethiopian groups. In other words, the differences between advantaged Indians and advantaged Ethiopians were negligible.

Suggestions:

In the light of the findings of the present study and the discussion that followed, the following suggestions are to be taken into account.

i. This research is the first of its kind in Ethiopia. The samples selected represent a very small section of the society. There are many diverse groups in the country. Since it is a pioneer study, it is recommended that this study be replicated and other similar researches on aspirations be conducted in order to arrive at a general understanding on the level of aspiration of the adolescents of this country.
ii. The findings indicated that in India, sex differences in level of aspiration appeared to be minimal. Whether such results are the general trend or the specific outcome of adolescents who have been selected from the vicinity and nearby schools of AMU campus need to be verified by conducting further studies.

iii. Differences in aspiration levels by religious affiliation were found to be highly diminished. But in some other cultures minority groups were found to possess lower level of aspirations than the majority groups. Whether the results obtained are the specific tendencies of the two cities or the general trend in the two countries also needs further investigation.

iv. From the results of the present study, it could be inferred that the economic and social backwardness of a country (Ethiopia in this case) appeared to differentially affect the advantaged and disadvantaged adolescents’ level of aspiration. The advantaged groups seemed to be much less affected by the conditions of their country than the disadvantaged in terms of level of aspiration. Whether this trend is consistent with other outcome variables such as ability, achievement, motivation, self-concept, locus of control, self-efficacy estimates, etc. are interesting problem questions for comparative researchers.

v. From the goal-discrepancy scores of the disadvantaged groups, it can be inferred that there is a strong tendency of risk avoidance. If a
section of a society do not courage to take moderate level of risk on their own, it would have serious consequences to the development of a nation. It would also mean that the disadvantaged groups, which in fact comprise the majority of the work force, are alienated from the mainstream of progress and development. The concerned bodies need to be informed and be aware of the hazards of the consequences to their countries and take necessary intervention measures.

vi. The knowledge gained about aspiration differences can provide information about the self-imposed and community imposed restrictions and the opportunities perceived by disadvantaged youth for appropriate corrections and policies formulations.

vii. Schools and curriculum developers can better make use of the results to design and integrate some aspects of the predictor variables (SES, Gender) in the syllabi to increase adolescents' cognitive future orientation. Students should be constantly encouraged to feel that they are valuable members of the school community and be kept involved in various of activities of the school for their all round development, so that their morale, self-efficacy, motivation, etc. would be boosted that might lead them to higher levels of aspirations and achievement.

viii. Parents can benefit from the results of the study by becoming aware of the effects of parental values and support on the aspirations of their adolescents. This could be accomplished by sensitizing social
workers and family life educators about the problem so that they can help parents to become better socializers of their adolescents.

ix. Personnel engaged in students affair practices could also benefit from the results of this study in organizing student orientation programmes, providing academic advising and guidance.

On the bases of the suggestions it can be argued that if care and proper attention is given by the bodies concerned (schools, home, NGO’s, GO’s), disadvantaged adolescents’ aspirations could be boosted with very small amount of inputs such as money, materials and manpower.