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Occupational Aspiration of Karbi Students – A Study in Kamrup Metropolitan District of Assam

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Abstract The study's primary aim is to study the level of occupational aspiration among Karbi students and compare the level of occupational aspiration in relation to gender. The investigators have selected Kamrup metro district for the study area as majority of the Karbi population resides in this district. The present study is based on a census survey to select a representative population, as the population size was very small. Descriptive survey method has been employed in this study. The study sample comprised 130 Karbi students (70 boys and 60 girls). A self-constructed occupational scale was used to collect data, and the data was analyzed using appropriate statistical techniques such as mean, parentage, and t-test. The result indicates that the Karbi students possess high and low levels of occupational aspiration, with most students (46.2%) having an average level of vocational aspiration. Statistical analysis indicated no significant difference in occupational aspirations between boys and girls. More vocational awareness and guidance are needed to improve the students' occupational aspirations.

Keywords Assam, Occupational Aspiration, Karbi students, Tribe

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Introduction

Education is considered to be the powerhouse of a society. Education is an essential tool for every member of society. Without education, a community or a country cannot advance. Education plays a crucial role in shaping individual attitudes, moulding their personalities, and serving as a social mobility marker. Education could be the fuel of empowerment, motivation and skills to face the challenges that our lives give us. In today's society, a person's success is determined by their attitude, academic excellence, degrees and ultimately, the career or vocation that the student chooses for himself. Aspiration is described as a strong yearning to accomplish something, a goal or aim that one desires (World English Dictionary). Occupational aspiration usually means what the individual considers to be the ideal vocation for him. (Boro K 2018). Bayd (1967) characterizes aspiration as a dynamic condition, representing an individual's goal or expectation concerning the quality of their future performance on a specific task. We can say that aspiration is a desire or goal that an individual sets for himself, influenced by many factors, including family environment, parental occupation, parent's income, socio-economic status of the family, parent's education, parent's role, social environment, school environment, psychological factors and other factors. Notably, students' occupational aspirations and expectations are recognized as pivotal determinants of academic achievement. Students in the higher secondary school age group are very crucial period typically between 15 - 18 years old, as this period covers adolescents and this is the period when they start to choose, aspire, dream about unrealistic or realistic things and make crucial decisions about their future career paths which are unlimited and vary individual to individual. And sometimes it leads to pressure on them due to family and social expectations.

If we examine the Karbi tribe, we will find that most of them rely on agriculture for their occupation. As a large population of the tribes' lives in rural areas, the primary source of education for Karbi children is government institutions nearer to their location. Lack of support from their family due to financial conditions results in school dropouts in Karbi society and the whole country. Students with poor results are less likely to continue their studies and start getting engaged in traditional ways of earning money, which is more likely to be agriculture or daily wage labour. Sometimes, it could be both, as in most cases, farmers of Assam are just seasonal farmers who cultivate paddy, etc., as their primary source of livelihood.

Being a bright student from such families is very challenging nowadays. As it is the era of competition, students with better home environments and facilities are likelier to perform better than those with fewer facilities.

Significance of the Study:

Tribals are the marginalised groups of society. They are considered as the original inhabitant of a land. According to the 2011 census, tribal people constitute 12.4 % of Assam population and 8.6 % of India's population. Assam is home to numerous tribal communities, including Karbi, Bodo, Mishing, Sonowal Kachari, Rabha, Tiwa, Lalung, Mising, Garo, and Dimas. The people of the scheduled tribe and their mode of life in different period of history moulded varied social, political, cultural and economic traits in the state (Handique & Chutia, 2015). These communities are integral to Assamese society, often referred as 'sons of soil' by Pegu Deban. Among them, the Karbi are the third largest scheduled tribe in Assam, comprising (11.1%) of the states scheduled tribes.

In the current era of globalization and industrialization, occupation is vital for human life. It plays a crucial role in maintaining balance in life as money provides access to life's necessities and comforts. As such, occupation is the primary means of subsistence. Today the level of competition is very high, necessitating significant risk to achieve one's goals. Adolescents view regarding their future occupation as key to the life they desire for themselves and their families. Making career decisions a central concern for young people.

The present study focuses on the fact that Karbi students often lag behind their non tribal peers, particularly in education, aspiration level and in other sociological aspects. Addressing this disparity is essential for their overall development. Therefore, this paper aims to explore the occupational aspirations of Karbi students and examine gender differences in their career choices.

Literature Review:

Several factors have been found to influence the vocational selections of the scheduled cast and scheduled tribe students, including socio-economic condition, education of parents, occupation of parents, family climate, and other sociological factors etc, in the Bular district of Gujarat (Khobragade 1990). Indian and white youth hold a relatively common perception in the aspiration dimension of mobility orientation but the expectation dimension is more

sharply differentiated by their general position in the social system (**Nugent (1996)**. **Pradhan Pratima (2002)** explored that students from the arts stream mostly aspire to teach, welfare, administration, and clerical fields. In contrast, students from the science stream aspire to enter the engineering, medical, and health sectors. **Bardick D Angela & Bernes (2005)** examined the occupational aspirations of students in grades seven to twelve and found that their occupational aspirations became more specific with age. Junior high and senior high school students' rationales for their occupational aspirations remained consistent, except for grade twelve students considering location and quality of life as essential aspects of their career. A study found that students achieving well at school were more career-mature, had higher self-esteem, and were likelier to aspire to professional status (**Patton, Wendy, et al. 2007**). **Chakravarty A (2013)** reported that Occupational mobility of the tribal community in Udaguri district has undergone a great change due to the formation of BTAD. Occupational aspiration is one of the important and indispensable objectives of one's life (**Baishya B 2014**). School facilities play a significant role in students' occupational aspiration (**Kalita 2014**). **Phibanker P (2014)**, According to his study male students had higher occupational ambitions than females. The students living in urban areas had higher occupational aspirations than those in rural areas. The non-tribals aspired more than the tribal students. The students from the commerce stream aspire for jobs like sales, business, administration, and clerical, and students from the vocational stream aspire for the engineering field. **Bhagabati & Baruah (2016)** socio economic status is an important factor which directly influenced occupational aspiration and there was significant gender difference in matter of choice of occupation among Tiwa students. **Momin & Chetry (2018)** revealed males having higher occupational aspiration than the females. **Baruah Hemanta (2018)** In his study, disclosed no significant difference between boys' and girls' students in vocational areas of Literacy, Executive, Scientific, Agricultural, Commercial, Social, Persuasive, and Household areas. However, significant differences were found in artistic, constructive, scientific, and commercial areas. For urban areas, no significant difference was found between the boys and girls in literary, executive, Agricultural, persuasive, and household interest. While urban students showed considerable differences in scientific and commercial Interest, no significant difference was observed between the boys and girls of rural areas regarding constructive, artistic, and social Interest. **Boro K (2018)** found that Bodo medium-lower secondary school students have high occupational aspirations. **Kaur & Ahuja (2018)** studied occupational aspiration of secondary school students and found that all secondary male and female students have the same ideas, goals, and fantasies to make decisions about their future occupations. **Behera & Nayak (2019)** studied occupational aspiration among secondary school tribal students in relation to their academic achievement and found that the girl students have low academic achievement than boys due to the limited experiences available for them.

Career awareness is the first stage of career development when choosing the right career (**Kindo & Astalin, 2020**). **Choudhury R & Saikia T (2020)** found that most students have an average vocational maturity, and no significant difference exists between the vocational maturity of male and female high school students.

Bora (2021) reported that 43.84% students in the Schools of Char areas which are still remained isolated from town and city and also lagging behind the facilities of modern science and technology showed average level of educational aspiration. **Behera D (2021)** Studied Occupational aspiration of tribal students in relation to their study habit and found that students having good study habit were more aspired for their future occupation, and there is a positive association between Occupational aspiration and study habit of tribal students. All undergraduate male and female students have the similar thoughts, aspiration and desire when choosing their future occupation (**Mahato & Ranganath (2022)**). Without a career aspiration, a student is like a ship in the midst of the sea without any clue of direction. The main cause of their low level of career aspiration is again low socio-economic strata, lack of motivation & guidance from home, less income of the family and maximum being first generation learner (**Pal & Sarkar 2022**).

Research Objectives:

- i) To study the Occupational Aspirations among Karbi students
- ii) To find out the difference in occupational aspiration between Karbi boys and girls.

Hypothesis:

H₀₁: There is no significant difference regarding occupational aspirations between Karbi boys and girls.

Methodology:**Method:**

The current study is based on descriptive survey method. Considering the nature of the study, the investigator found the descriptive survey method relevant to executing the research process. It is a widely accepted research method in the field of social science. Here, the researcher is keen on studying the variables in their current situational context, as they are. Therefore, the investigator adopted the descriptive survey method for the study, and data were analyzed using qualitative and quantitative approaches.

Population of the Study

The population of the present study includes all the class 11th Karbi students studying in Govt provincialized higher secondary schools and colleges in the Kamrup metro of Assam.

Sample and sampling technique:

In the current study, the investigator has taken all the Karbi students of class 11th as the study's sample. As the population is very small, the present study is considered a census survey, and no other sampling technique was followed. The total sample used in the present study was 130 Karbi students from 6 schools.

Tool used

The study employed the following tools:

- i) Self-constructed occupational aspiration scale

Result & Discussion:

Objective No. 1: To study the level of occupational aspirations among Karbi students.

Table. 1 Classification of students on the basis of Level of occupational Aspiration

Level of Occupational Aspirations	Range of raw scores	Range of Z score	Total no.	Percentage
High Aspiration	151 & above	+1.57 & above	11	8.5 %
Above average Aspirations	141 to 150	+0.53 to +1.56	19	14.6 %
Average Aspirations	130 to 140	-0.52 to +0.52	60	46.2 %
Below average Aspiration	120 to 129	-0.53 to -1.56	32	24.6 %
Low Aspirations	119 and below	-1.57 & below	8	6.2 %
Total			130	100.0

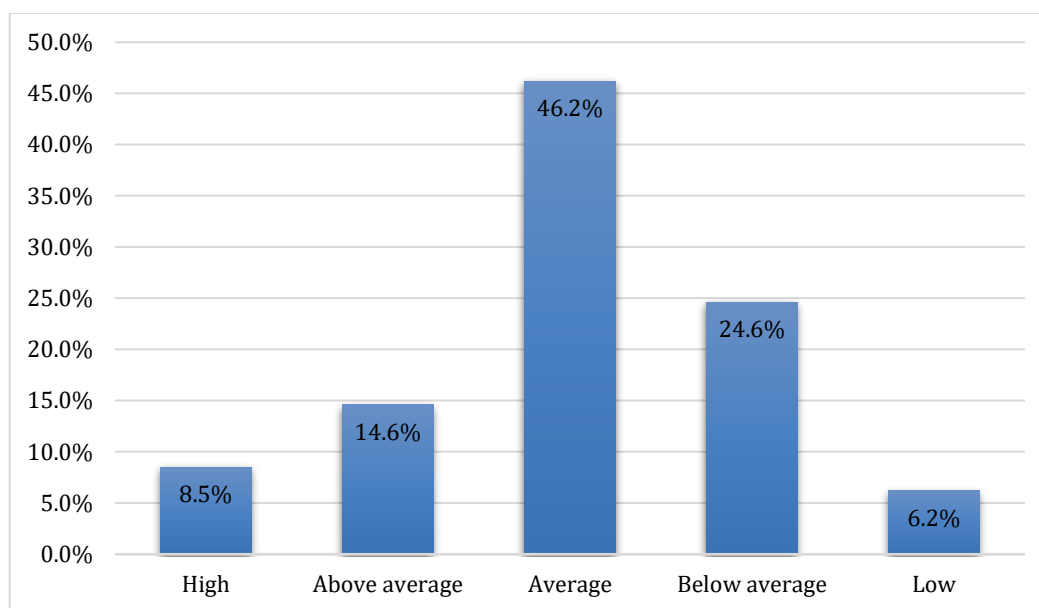


Figure. 1 Shows the Percentage of students' occupational aspirations on different levels.

From Table no.1 and Fig.1, It was found that out of 130 students, 11 students (8.5 %) exhibit high levels of occupational aspirations, whereas 19 students (14.6 %) show above-average occupational aspirations. A notable 60 students that is 46.2 % of students, demonstrate average or moderate levels of occupational aspirations. Additionally, 32 students (24.6 %) possess below-average levels of occupational aspiration, and only 8 students (6.2 %) fall into low occupational aspirations. This indicates that the proportion of students with an average level of occupational aspiration is highest compared to other levels. Therefore, it is evident that H.S. Karbi students predominantly have an average level of vocational aspiration.

Table 2 Number of Boys and girls on the levels of occupational aspiration

Level of Occupational Aspiration		High Aspiration	Above average aspiration	Average Aspiration	Below average aspiration	Low Aspiration	Total no.
Gender	Boys	5	8	22	21	4	60
	Girls	6	11	38	11	4	70
Total		11	19	60	32	8	130

The investigator also ascertained the Percentage of boys' and girls' students at each level of occupational aspiration. Table no.2 shows that among the students, 5 boys out of 60 boys and 6 girls out of 70 girls' students were found to have a high level of occupational aspiration. Out of 60 male students, only 8 showed an above-average level of occupational aspiration, while 11 out of 70 girls did the same. There were 22 boys' students out of 60 boys' students, while 38 girls out of 70 girls demonstrated an average level of occupational aspiration. Twenty-one boys' students, while 11 girls out of 70 girls have below-average levels of occupational aspiration. 4 pupils out of 60 boys' students and 4 out of 70 girls demonstrate low levels of occupational aspiration.

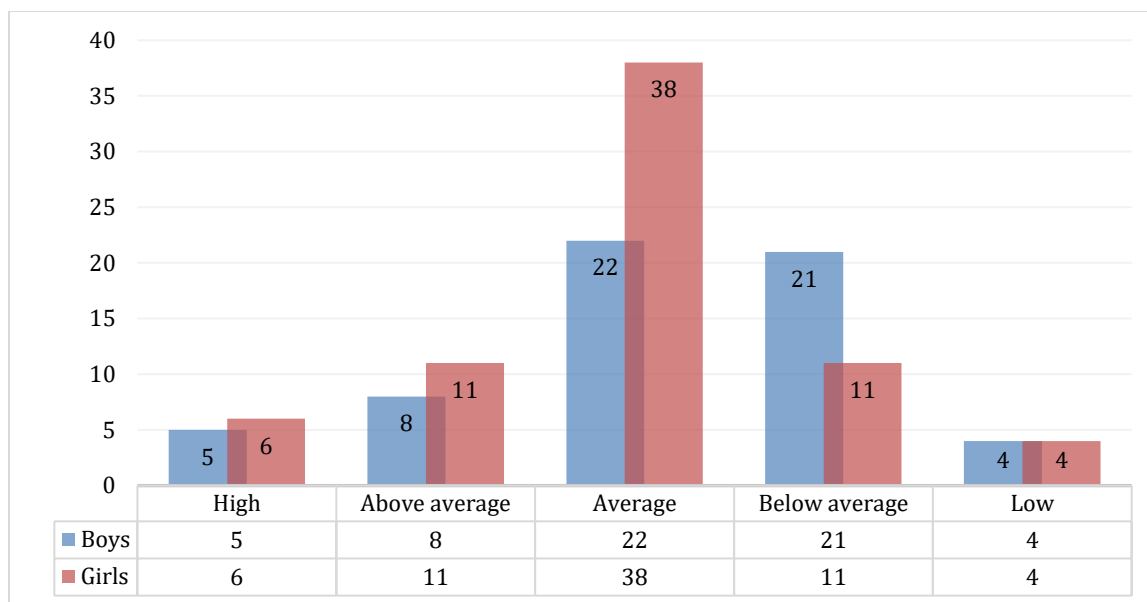


Figure: 2 Number of Boys and Girls in different levels of O.A.

Objective No. 2: To find out the difference regarding occupational Aspiration between Karbi boys and girls.

H₀₁: There is no significant difference regarding occupational aspirations between Karbi boys and girls.

Table. 2 Differences between boys and girls on Occupational Aspiration

Gender	N	Mean	SD	t-value	df	Mean difference	p-value	
Boys	60	134.28	10.17	-.587	128	-1.03	.558	
Girls	70	135.31	9.8					

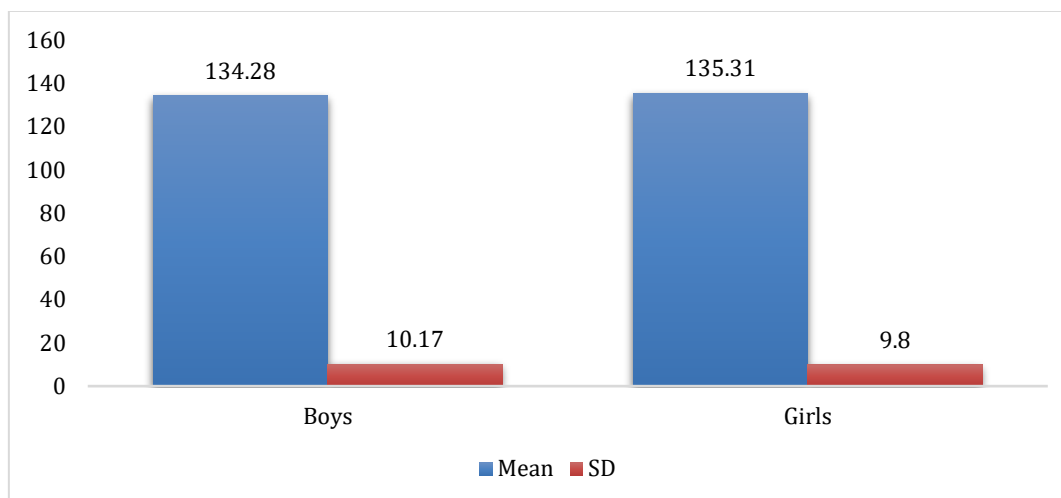


Figure. 3 Showing Mean & S.D. between boys and girls

Table 2 and fig.2 display t-test independent samples to compare boys' and girls' occupational aspirations. The results indicated no statistically significant difference between the two groups, with a t-value of -.587, degree of freedom (df) of 128, and p-value of .558.

The mean scores of boys were (Mean = 134.28, SD = 10.17) higher than girls (Mean = 135.31, SD = 9.8). The null hypothesis, H_{01} , 'There is no significant difference regarding occupational aspirations between Karbi boys and girls.' It was, therefore, accepted.

Table 3 Occupational preferences of students in different disciplines.

Disciplines	Total number	Percentage
Teaching	30	23.1%
Medical service	15	11.5%
Engineering	3	2.3%
Business and Commercial	8	6.2%
Scientific	1	8%
Social service	6	4.6%
Defence	26	20%
Legal service	9	6.9%
Administrative service	5	3.8%
Media and journalism	2	1.5%
Sports	8	6.2%
Agriculture	2	1.5%
Artistic	1	8%
Politics	1	8%
Self-employment	6	4.6%
Others	7	5.4%

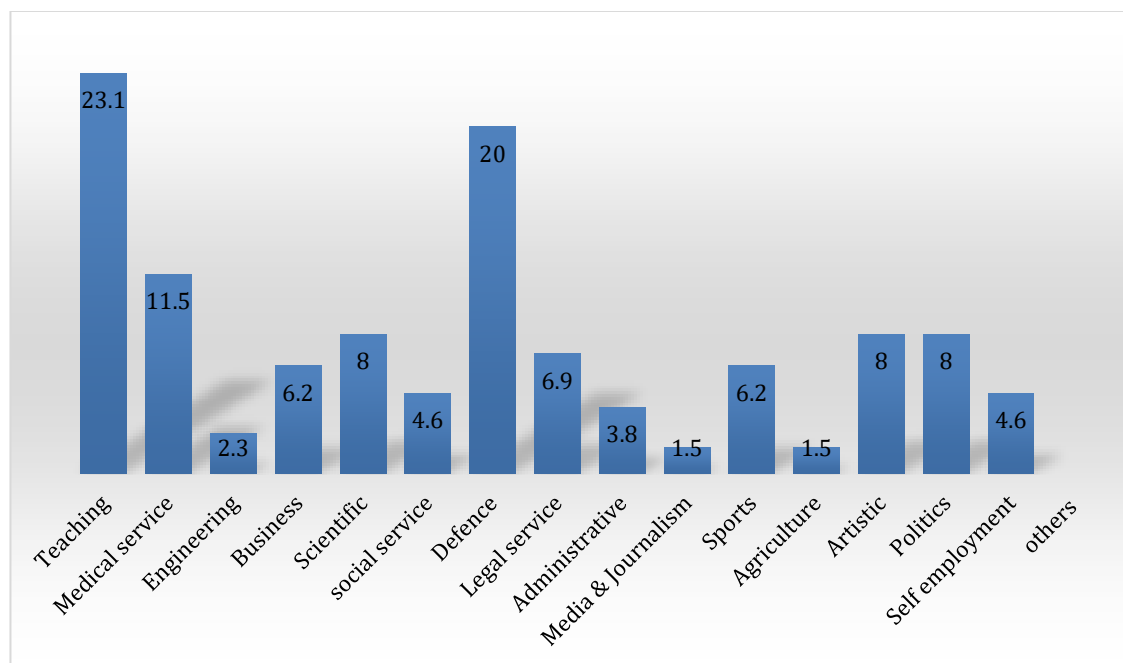


Figure 4 Shows Percentage of students in different disciplines

Table no.3 and Fig 4 show that 23.1 % of students have chosen Teaching as their preferred choice, 11.5 % of students prefer Medical service, 2.3 % of students prefer Engineering, 6.2 % of students prefer

Business and commercial, 8 % of students prefer Scientific, 4.6 % students prefer social service, 20 % students prefer defence service, 6.9 % students prefer legal service, 3.8 % students prefer administrative service, 1.5 % students prefer Media and journalism, 6.2 % students prefer sports, 1.5 % students prefer agriculture, 8 % students prefer artistic, 8 % students prefer politics, 4.6 % students prefer self-employment and 5.4 % students prefer other vocations. The study found that science, art, and politics are the least preferred vocations, and teaching is the most preferred vocation (23.1 %) among the students, followed by defence service (20%). It is also observed that defence service is the most preferred vocation for boys' students, and for girls, teaching is the most preferred vocation, followed by medical service.

Findings and Conclusion:

The study shows that Karbi students have an average level (46.2 %) of occupational aspiration, which is supported by Saharaia Gitika's study results. He also found that H.S. students possess an average level of occupational aspiration. The present study also reveals that Gender differences regarding occupational aspirations have not been found among Karbi students. Boys' and girls' students almost have the same level of occupational aspiration. Similar findings have been reported by Kaur & Ahuja (2018), Lalthanpui & Larintluangi (2019) and Behera D (2021). They also found in their study that There is no significant difference in occupational aspiration on the basis of the respondents' gender. It was also revealed that teaching is the most chosen vocation by the students, followed by defence service. It can be concluded despite numerous challenges including limited access to education, high dropout rates, poor socio economic condition of family, geographical area, poor family background the students are possess high aspiration though the number is very less than others level in the study. There is no shortage of capability and intelligence in tribal communities, given the right environment, proper guidance, support and opportunity and necessary resources they can outcome these challenges and achieve remarkable successes.

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Ethical Approval: Not applicable.

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