



**A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF CAREER ASPIRATION LEVEL BETWEEN TRIBAL  
AND NON-TRIBAL STUDENTS IN PATULIA GRAM PANCHAYET OF NORTH 24  
PARGANA DISTRICT IN WEST BENGAL**

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**Abstract:**

India possesses the second highest tribal concentration. The Government of India has launched different measures to upgrade their socio-economic scenario, literacy rate along with that employment status. The reservation policy which is supposed to play the role of a boon to uplift their social status and stimulate upwards mobility fails to do so as backlogs in different government services have proved that. If a part of a country stays backwards in progress and prosperity, it affects the whole scenario of a country. To take adequate measures, it is essential to evaluate their career aspirations level in respect of non-tribal students to conclude up a point where they need enthusiasm and motivation to make a lengthy education portfolio and to end up with a positive contribution to society. The present paper has been conducted on 86 students of Patulia Gram Panchayet area, North 24 PGS, among which 40 students belong to the tribal community and 46 are from the non-tribal community. A questionnaire encompassing 25 questions is formed to analyse their career aspirations. The study has found out the fact that there is a significant mean difference between tribal and non-tribal students in career aspirations.

**Keywords:** Career Aspirations, Achievement Aspirations, Leadership Aspirations, Academic Aspirations, Secondary Students.

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## **Introduction:**

Aspiration is such a fuel that supplies the necessary stimulation to move forward in the stream of life. What a person dreams to achieve, he reaches to the nearest of it or touches the dream destination. For personal development, career aspiration is also an important component in this regard. Therefore, we can enumerate that education is one of the prime tools to metamorphose individual life. Education enhances the potentiality of an individual by improving present scenarios, thinking process and execution skills and also multiplying the probability of future aspects. Career aspirations are the primary step of career advancement by choosing the right preferable career track for the individual. After a certain level of education, a student has to choose the right choice able future path to touch the zenith of his dream. For this purpose, to understand the career aspiration level tribal students and non-tribal students are selected to compare between them.

Career aspiration is considered a vision toward the future which helps an aspirant to choose his field and area and work accordingly. It is what a student dreams to attain in near future. But it is a long term dream to pursue which badly needs focus, concentration, hard work and motivation to carry on. Powell and Butterfield termed career aspiration as a coinage that tells the story of someone's desire for the future and wish (Powell & Butterfield, 2003). Baruch recognised it as terminology which comprises many dimensions of a student's life such as motivation, attitudes, internal needs, crisis for identity etc. (Baruch, 2004). In this paper, career aspiration is sub-categorised into three components: achievement aspirations, leadership aspirations and academic aspirations.

Tribes comprise a lower literacy rate and their backlogs in government jobs are a matter of concern. With non-tribal students go to the same school, sit in the same classroom environment, learns the lesson from the same teachers but their annual report card shows their poor achievement level, high drop out rates and high ratio of retention. This paper analyses career aspirations, it is categorised into three different categories: achievement aspirations, leadership aspirations and educational aspirations. Therefore, it is the necessity of the hour to compare their career aspiration with non-tribal students to understand their career aspiration level and to draw inferences about their lower performance in academics and stagnations as well as dropouts as career aspirations of students boost up all those peripheries.

## **Review of Related Literatures:**

- In this article 'Factors Influencing High School Students' Career Aspirations' had tried to investigate different influencing factors which had effects on the career aspirations of high school students. The paper adopted 'the social cognitive career development model' to access the relation among different interactive factors of school such as experiences of learning, career interests etc. But the paper concluded that it was difficult for a high school teacher to provide need-based career aspirations to various students (Tang et al., 2008).
- This study had conducted with the purpose to evaluate the performance 'The scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Development Department' that has been running in different schools in

Odisha. Again, the study explored the relationship of various demographic factors as well as ICT on their career aspirations (Das et al., 2019).

- This study had focused on why students choose psychology as their discipline in higher education and what was the career aspiration behind it. The study had conducted based on ex post facto design and responses were collected through interview technique (Mudhovozi et al., 2014).
- Behera had conducted his study on tribal students to examine the relationship of their occupational aspiration with their academic achievement. 200 tribal students were taken as a sample to examine the relationship. The study had brought out a positive correlation existed between occupational aspiration and academic achievement (Behera, 2019).

No study has been conducted to get knowledge about the level of tribal career aspiration and to compare it in respect of other non-tribal students to get a clear understanding. The present study is conducted to achieve this purpose.

### **Statement of the Problem:**

Students are the asset and prime investment of any country. On their shoulders lies the burden of the progress of any country. So their aspirations in career build the super-structure of a nation. So it is important to diagnose a student's present level of career aspirations. Along with that, as the tribal population has a high concentration in our country and they are an inclusive education system throughout the last 74 years, to analyse their dropouts and retention and black log in employability, it is necessary to analyse their career aspiration in respect to non-tribal students so that policymakers through adopting change in curriculum and ambience of school can help them to achieve desired skills for career aspirations which help them to build up the future set up of their career. Therefore, the present research adopts the title for the study: "A Comparative Study of Career Aspiration Level between Tribal & Non-tribal Students in Patulia Gram Panchayet of North 24 Pargana District of West Bengal".

### **Rationale of the Study:**

Without any purpose, human beings don't move a single step. If a student doesn't find a purpose for their life, for their education; he doesn't get any inspiration to stick with education because it requires a complex mechanism on its part to move forwards, a fine collaboration of cognitive, affective and motor organs. Without

a career aspiration, a student is like a ship in the midst of the sea without any clue of direction. If any student is without any career aspiration, he loses all enthusiasm, gets frustrated, and fails to pursue anything in academic life. Not only that, the employability world is getting tough day by day, without career aspiration an individual can't withstand this complexity. So the present study

helps to bring out the career aspirations level of tribal as well as non-tribal students. Again this study brings out a clear picture of tribal and non-tribal students in respect of three components of achievement aspirations, leadership aspirations and academic aspirations which helps the policymaker to bring the desired change and to reduce the gap between tribal and non-tribal students.

### **Research Question:**

India is not only a younger country but also India has the second-highest tribal population, so career aspiration plays a vital role to establish the country in a high status. It is the desired force that brings a positive change in tribal socio-economic scenarios and helps to ride on the ladder of social mobility and progress. So it is crucial time to evaluate the level of career aspirations of tribal students and to find out if there is any significant mean difference lies between tribal or non-tribal students or not. So, in this study, we try to find out the answer to the following question.

1. What is the level of career aspiration of tribal secondary students?
2. What is the mean difference lies between tribal and non-tribal secondary students in respect of career aspiration?

### **Objective of the Study:**

Based on these above-written objectives, the following objectives are constructed for this study to get the answer to these following questions and reach a conclusion:

- To find out the level of career aspirations of tribal secondary students.
- To find out the level of career aspirations of non-tribal secondary students.
- To find out the mean difference between tribal and non-tribal students secondary in career aspirations.

### **Methodology of the Study:**

This study adopts a descriptive quantitative analysis of data. A questionnaire is made by the researcher and is validated by eminent professors from the department of education. The question contains 25 questions based on the components of achievement aspirations, leadership aspirations and educational aspirations. The question is framed on 5 points Likert scale containing 1-5 scores. Higher scores imply high career aspirations as well as high aspiration levels in three aforesaid components: achievement, leadership and educational aspiration. The question comprises 21 affirmative sentences whose scoring began with 1-5 and 3 negative questions whose scoring began with 5-1.

- The population of the Study:

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All the tribal and non-tribal secondary students of Patulia Gram Panchayet of North 24 Parganas are selected as the population of the study who is studying in class IX.

- **Sample of the Study:**

Data is gathered using purposive sampling techniques from chosen population. 86 secondary students among whom 40 tribal and 46 non-tribal students are surveyed to gather data. All of them read in government-sponsored schools situated in Patulia Gram panchayet and read in class IX. They all belong to the age group of 14-15 years.

- **Tools for Data Analysis:**

Different statistical tools such as Central Tendency, Standard Deviation, t-test and different graphs are used to analyse and interpret the data.

### **Analysis & Interpretation of Data:**

Table 1: Score of the sample population

Group	Total Score of the Group	N	Mean
Tribal	2047	40	71.8
Non-Tribal	3858	46	86.37

The results clearly depict that there is a mean score difference between tribal and non-tribal students. Where the highest sampling score in the case of tribal students is 76, there lowest sample score for tribal students is 33. The distribution of scores in the case of tribal students is completely heterogeneous. There the score of non-tribal students varies from 70 to 90 which is a more homogeneous type rather than tribal. Though moderately favourable attitude has been seen among tribal students regarding career aspirations. Government policies and NGOs' continuous efforts serve a lot to bring them in this present state. Tribal students' present socioeconomic status, lack of motivation and guidance from home, lower monthly income of the family, and maximum being first-generation learners act as a barrier to their career aspiration. Government has to be more sympathised before implementing any policy. It is also striking to figure out that the level of career aspiration among non-tribal is not at all satisfactory. They also have to be more career-centric in their approaches to life. The main cause of their level of career aspiration is again maximum of them belong to lower socio-economic strata and first-generation learners, though they receive inspiration and motivation from their families and their parents are conscious of their academic performance which a tribal student lacks solely.

Table 2: Career aspirations of tribal and non-tribal students

Groups	N	Mean	SD	t	df	significance
Tribal Students	40	71.8	10.92	6.36	84	P>0.5
Non-Tribal Students	46	86.37	9.72			

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The analysis presents the picture that there is a significant difference existed between tribal and non-tribal career aspirations. At a 5% significance level, the degree of freedom is 84, 't' value is 1.99. In this table, the computed value 't' value is 6.36 which is greater than 1.99. Therefore, null hypotheses is rejected. So from this table, we can conclude that there is a significance difference exist between tribal and non-tribal students in career aspirations.

Table 3: Mean score of achievement motivation of tribal and non-tribal students

Tribal Students	Non-tribal Students
2.34	3.21

Interview data clearly shows the difference between tribal and non-tribal students in the case of their achievement aspirations. Tribal students hardly desire to achieve a higher state and status than that to which they belong to. The main focus in their life is to spend the day with two times meals. Competition, prize, and recognition hardly draw any line in their achievement aspirations. With continuous interaction with these terms and visual emphasis in the annual prize distribution ceremony, very few students are feel aspired towards those terms and desires. But the number can be calculated in fingers and in the unit digit. But if we go through their previous academic portfolio, even the digit in the table shows their efforts and aspirations towards achievement. They are well conscious about what is their aspirations in their job profile which they want to achieve through their efforts and aspiration.

Table 4: Mean score of leadership aspiration of tribal and non-tribal students

Tribal	Non-Tribal Students
3.01	3.56

Though data shows that there is a difference exists in leadership aspiration between tribal and non-tribal students. But this result also shows in both cases the lower aspiration level among the three components of career aspirations. A child also learns from that what they visualise in their home. They see their parents as either lower-level employees or farmers or wage learners, even though most of the tribal students' parents are employees at the tea shop, cycle repairing shops, snake charmers etc. Throughout the ages they have been exploited by us in many ways, we turn down their indomitable spirit and leadership quality. The result of these reasons shows lower aspirations for leadership.

Table 5: Mean score of academic aspiration of tribal and non-tribal students

Tribal Students	Non- Tribal Students
3.68	4.02

Continuous efforts of teachers and the Government's initiative have motivated tribal students towards studies. Though still there is a difference in academic aspiration between tribal and non-tribal students, while the average score of tribal students in academic aspiration is 3.68, there the average score in academic aspiration of the non-tribal student is 4.02 which is much higher. Tribal students from the beginning of their academic journey have to confront many hazards such as language, alphabet, different environmental ambience, and different world-views. We should make their learning environment more convenient to their set-up and grown-up ambience so that they can get more academic aspirations to move forwards with education.

### **Major Findings of the Study:**

- The present study has established the fact that there is a significant mean difference existed between tribal and non-tribal students. Non-tribal students have more career aspirations than tribal students.
- The result has shown that non-tribal students have a more average score in achievement aspirations than tribal students.
- Analysis has proved that non-tribal students have more average scores in leadership aspirations than tribal students.
- Interpretation also has established the fact that non-tribal students have more average scores in academic aspirations than tribal students.

### **Recommendations:**

- Schools should arrange guidance-counselling services on regular basis to motivate students.
- Government should initiate the launch of psycho-metric analysis to diagnose their knacks and inclinations toward job profiles.
- Every locality must have a tribal school operated by tribal teachers where there is high concentration of tribal populations.
- Not only in higher education, but Government also must takes the initiative to implement it in the secondary education system to analyse their academic aspirations and to boost their career aspiration to attain sustainable development goals (Bhattacharya & Pal, 2020).
- To make tribal students feel that they are an inseparable part of society, the Education system should incorporate a 'culture of kith and kin' (Bhattacharya & Pal, 2020a) and make them free of inferiority complex so that they can participate in the teaching-learning process whole-heartedly. An equitable approach in classroom scenarios should be initiated (Bhattacharya & Pal, 2020b).
- The facility of the 'Swayam' platform should be assimilated with secondary education (Bhattacharya & Pal, 2021). After the end of upper primary, every student should get the facility to do short courses on their interesting area which helps to broaden their outlooks and builds up their career aspirations.

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- To make a classroom more productive and enthusiastic and to supersize the career aspirations of students, we have to proliferate the use of the web, rather stick to Web2.0, we must introduce Web 3.0 and Web 4.0 gradually for better futuristic portfolios of students (Pal, S & Sarkar, 2021).
- Again the practice of soft computing should be enlarged in the classroom scenario to diagnose their career aspirations and put necessary stimulations regarding it (Bhattacharya et al., 2022).

**Suggestive Framework to Increase Career Aspirations of the Students, specially Tribal Students:**

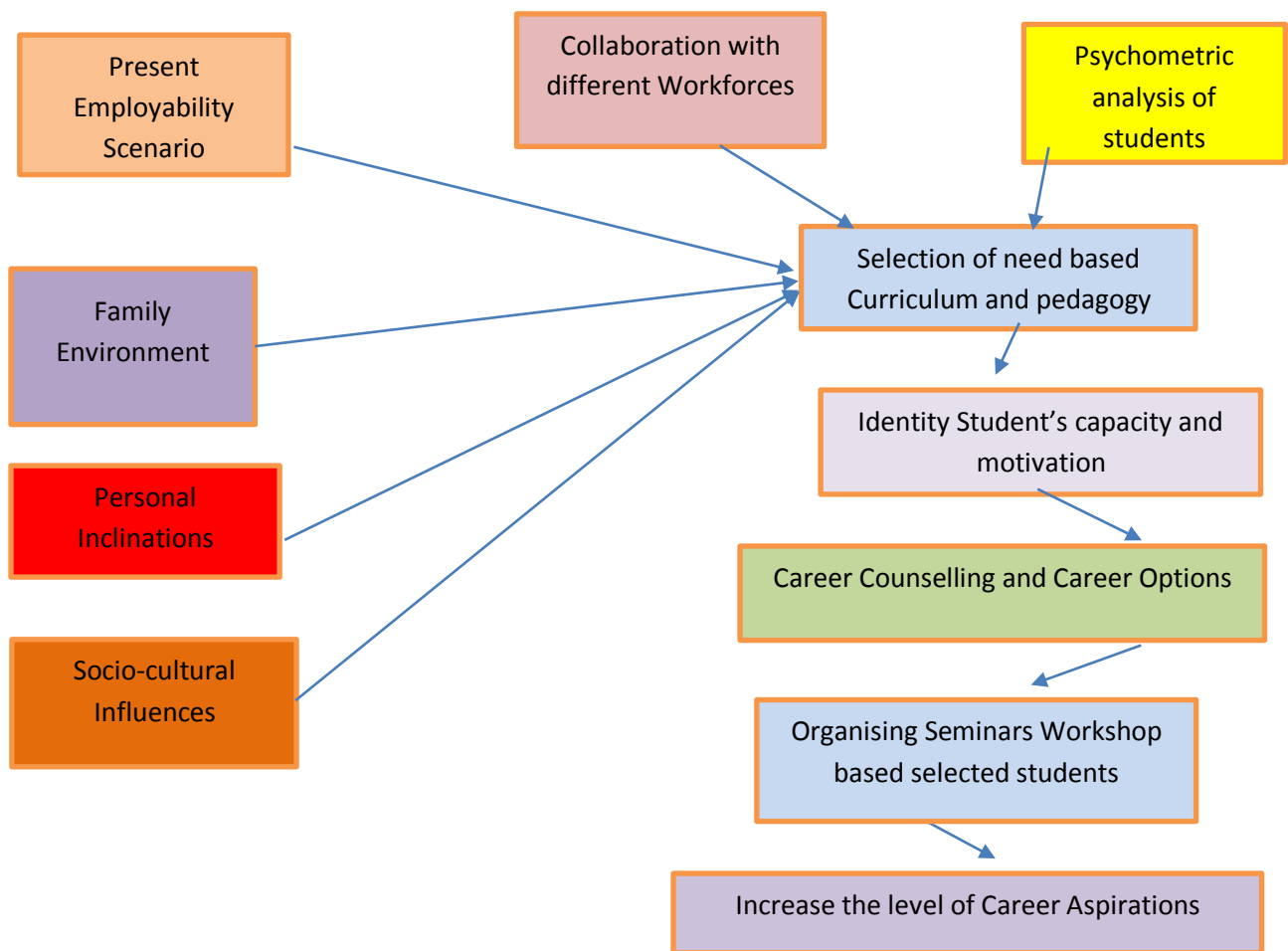


Figure 1: Framework to Increase Career Aspirations of the Students

Source: Author



If the present curriculum can be made in collaboration with the present employability scenarios at recent work-field, then the curriculum will be more appropriate and workable. It will ameliorate teaching learning ambience in classroom scenarios. If every school can able to arrange a psychometric analysis of students, then it is easy to diagnose their capacity, motivations and aspirations. School-based on this diagnosis, suggest them and open the world's scenario as per their inclinations. Continuous counselling and career options surely help to increase the career aspirations of students and make them productive in a real-life scenario.

### **Conclusion:**

If a seed is sown in dry soil, will the seed germinate and be productive in future? The answer must be 'no'. The tribes are picked from different pockets and are dumped into an inclusive education system, where they don't get outer resources: such as career counselling, present job scenarios, weaker soil means less motivation from house and school, then how can they thrive? To make them productive, a more systematic mechanism has to be established in the teaching-learning scenario as prescribed above. The total employability portfolio should be presented in front of them for better results.

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