

## Achievement Motivation of College Students in relation to their Gender, Stream and Locale

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### Abstract

Achievement motivation of the college students is the matter of great concern in the 21<sup>st</sup> century Indian society. Unless the students have high level of achievement motivation it will be difficult on the part of the society to develop and to be at par with other developed society. Therefore right from the lower level up to the higher level there should be proper emphasis on the development of the desire to attain excellence in all walks of life. As such the present study is an attempt to focus the achievement motivation of the college students of Himachal Pradesh with regard to gender, stream and locale variation. The objectives of the study were based on comparison of the achievement motivation of the college students having gender, stream i.e. arts vs. science and locale i.e. urban vs. rural background. The study reported that there exists significant difference in the achievement motivation of male vs. female, arts vs. science and urban vs. rural college students.

**KEYWORDS:** Achievement Motivation, Arts vs. Science, Rural vs. Urban, Construct

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### Introduction

Everyone born in the society strive for excellence in one field or other. The journey for excellence gets accelerated with the internal drive of the individual to accomplish something i.e. unique. This mental state of the individual is considered as the motive to achieve or excel others. Achievement Motivation as a psychological construct is seen among all the individuals in different degrees. It is a sort of hidden desire or internal force which energizes the individual to move towards a specific goal. For example, the desire of an individual to attain extraordinary attainment in school or to get a good grade comes within the scope of achievement motive. Achievement Motivation is not confined to academic achievement alone rather it may be manifested in the personal, social or occupational field of one's life. The individuals having high achievement motivation tend to show their extraordinary talent in the above mentioned fields and may like to take risks. They derive pleasure in facing the challenges or by completing a set target (Bhatnagar, 1999). This 'set target' completing behaviour may be considered as a form of task completing behaviour. There are some categories of persons who are very sensitive towards the set target or assignment before them. People having such a motive show comparatively speed or more accuracy in completing a defined task. This task completion behaviour of the individual can be stimulated or generated because of the inner desire or motive to excel others or to come up successfully in one's endeavour. Therefore, an individual's task completing behaviour may be conceived as a contributing factor towards his spirit of achievement motivation. In other words, the people those have a tendency to accomplish some specific task set before them may be considered as having some degree of achievement motivation.

Achievement motivation being a psycho-social characteristic is more acquired than inherited. An environment which is sensitive to individuals' every tiny effort, permissive in nature and recognizes individual talent lay the foundation for the promotion of achievement motivation among the individuals. The type of environment i.e. rural, urban or tribal on the basis of their degree of opportunity provided to individual put differential impact upon the achievement motivation of the individual. Further the gender as well as the exposure of the individual to various courses of study and their future avenues also affect the degree of achievement motivation of the individual which may be categorized as arts, science or professional courses. Therefore the gender, locale as well as stream of the students are expected to have their respective role in accelerating the process of achievement motivation of the individuals.

### **Need of the Study**

Achievement motivation inspires one to acquire new knowledge and skills; and increase the self-competence i.e. highly valued in all human societies. In our Indian educational system deliberate attempt need be made by the personnel concerned with it for increasing the motivational level of the students. It is highly essential to detect the potentialities of each student and to provide opportunity for their development. Since our educational set up lack necessary facilities in this regard hence the teachers concerned need be very much creative and try to ignite the thought process of each student as per their potentialities with the limited resources available with them. The youth masses run with full of energy and innovative thoughts which simply need a proper direction otherwise they get wayward and the society has to pay a lot for that. In this context, the motivational state of the college students need be set in the right perspective irrespective of the potential difference caused by factors like gender, locale and stream.

A good number of research studies conducted in the area of achievement motivation reveal that arts and science college students differ significantly in relation to their achievement motivation but the research studies of Arti (2007) reveal that there exists significant difference among boys and girls on the variables of achievement motivation. Poonam (2008) reveal that the girls are having higher degree of achievement motivation in comparison to boys. Gwande (1988) reported that the boys were more achievement motivated than the girls. On the other hand studies conducted by Gokulanathan (1972), Singh(1979), Sujatha and Yasodhara (1986), Fatima(1986), Nayak (1990), Narain (1996) Bharsakle (1997) and Bidyadhar (2006) reported that their exist significant difference difference in the achievement motivation of tribal and non-tribal students; it means the locale affects the degree of achievement motivation of the individuals. It may be pointed out here that no such specific studies are there in Himachal Pradesh on the achievement motivation of the college students with reference to their stream as well as locale. So in order to understand the achievement motivation of science and arts college students in general and that of the students belonging to the rural and urban areas in Himachal Pradesh especially the investigator decided to conduct a research of the present topic.

### **Objectives of the Study**

The study undertaken by the investigator has the following objectives;

1. To study the achievement motivation of college students of Himachal Pradesh.

2. To study the achievement motivation of college students of Himachal Pradesh belonging to different streams, gender and locale.
3. To compare the achievement motivation of arts and science stream college students of Himachal Pradesh.
4. To compare the achievement motivation of male and female college students of Himachal Pradesh.
5. To compare the achievement motivation of rural and urban college students of Himachal Pradesh.

### **Hypotheses of the Study**

In view of the objectives of the study, the various hypotheses formulated for their testing are as follows;

**Ho<sub>1</sub>** There do not exist any significant difference in the achievement motivation of arts and science stream college students.

**Ho<sub>2</sub>** There do not exist any significant difference in the achievement motivation of male and female college students.

**Ho<sub>3</sub>** There do not exist any significant difference in the achievement motivation of rural and urban college students.

**Ho<sub>4</sub>** There do not exist any significant difference in the achievement motivation of arts male and arts female college students.

**Ho<sub>5</sub>** There do not exist any significant difference in the achievement motivation of science male and science female college students.

**Ho<sub>6</sub>** There do not exist any significant difference in the achievement motivation of arts male and science male college students.

**Ho<sub>6</sub>** There do not exist any significant difference in the achievement motivation of arts female and science female college students.

### **Delimitations of the Study**

The present study has been delimited as follows;

1. The study has been conducted on 200 college students i.e.100 arts (50 male & 50 female) & 100 science (50 male & 50 female) students belonging to rural and urban areas.
2. The study is confined to one district of Himachal Pradesh i.e. Mandi.
3. The study is confined to the variables achievement motivation, gender, stream and locale.

### **Materials and Methods**

#### **Methodology**

The research method of the study was descriptive survey in nature. As descriptive survey method focuses on studying the existing conditions as it prevails and makes comprehensive descriptions of the same, the present study focuses on studying the achievement motivation of college students in relation to their gender, stream and locale.

### Population and Sample

The population of the study comprised all the college students of the district of Mandi of Himachal Pradesh and the sample of the study comprised of one government college of Mandi city, and another government college situated at Drang of the district Mandi as the colleges situated in the urban and rural areas respectively. It may be mentioned here that 100 urban (Male 50 & Female 50) and 100 rural (Male 50 & Female 50) college students were included in the sample. Further out of those 200 college students 100 belong to arts stream and another 100 belong to the science stream. All the samples were selected purposively keeping in mind the factor of gender, stream and locale into special consideration.

### Tool Used

The investigator of the study used a standardized tool “Achievement Motive Test” developed by Dr. V.P. Bhargava.

### Techniques of Analysis

Keeping in mind the objectives and hypotheses of the study both descriptive as well as inferential statistics were used for analysis. As such the collected data were tabulated and analyzed by adopting the statistical technique of ‘t’ test i.e. finding out the significance of difference between the concerned means.

### Results and Discussion

The forthcoming section deals with the detailed results of the data analysis and followed by subsequent discussion;

#### A. Study of Significance of Differences on Gender and Stream wise Achievement Motivation Scores of College Students

The obtained statistics pertaining to significance of difference between mean scores of male and female college students have been given in table no.1

**Table No.1**

#### Significance of Differences on Gender and Stream wise Achievement Motivation Scores of College Students.

Category	N	M	S.D.	SE <sub>D</sub>	df	‘t’ value	Remarks
Male	100	17.17	4.19	0.64	198	2.437	Sig. at .05
Female	100	18.73	4.97				
Arts	100	17.13	4.78	0.628	198	8.933	Sig. at .01
Science	100	22.74	4.19				

The table no.1 reveals the mean scores on achievement motivation of male and female college students as 17.17 and 18.73 with the standard deviation of 4.19 and 4.97 respectively. When such values are subjected to the testing of their significance of difference, the 't' ratio was found to be 2.437 which is significant at 0.01 level of significance. Further the mean scores on achievement motivation of arts and science college students is found to be 17.13 and 22.74 and the standard deviation as 4.78 and 4.19 respectively. The t ratio of such groups is found to be 8.933 which is significant at 0.01 level of significance. Therefore both the hypotheses concerning the significance of difference between male vs. female and arts vs. science groups are rejected and it can be concluded that the achievement motivation of male vs. female and arts vs. science college students differ significantly.

**B. Study of Significance of Differences on the Gender wise Mean Achievement Motivation Scores of Arts and Science College Students**

The obtained statistics pertaining to significance of difference between mean scores of arts male and female college students have been given in table no.2

**Table No.2 Significance of differences on the Gender wise Mean Achievement Motivation Scores of Arts and Science College Students**

Category	N	M	S.D.	SE <sub>D</sub>	df	't' value	Remarks
Arts Male	50	16.12	4.54	0.939	98	2.68	Sig. at 0.01
Arts Female	50	18.64	4.85				
Science Male	50	20.68	3.82	0.813	98	5.079	Sig. at 0.01
Science Female	50	24.81	4.31				

The table no.2 reveals the mean scores on achievement motivation of arts male and arts female college students as 16.12 and 18.64 with the standard deviation of 4.54 and 4.85 respectively. When such values are subjected to the testing of their significance of difference, the 't' ratio was found to be 2.68 which is significant at 0.01 level of significance. Further the mean scores on achievement motivation of science male and science female college students is found to be 20.68 and 24.81 and the standard deviation as 3.82 and 4.31 respectively. The t ratio of such groups is found to be 5.079 which is significant at 0.01 level of significance. Therefore both the hypotheses concerning the significance of difference between arts male vs. arts female and science male vs. science female are rejected and it can be concluded that the achievement motivation of arts male vs. arts female and science male vs. science female college students differ significantly.

**C. Study of Significance of Differences on the Mean Achievement Motivation Scores of Male Arts vs. Science and Female Arts vs. Science College Students**

The obtained statistics pertaining to significance of difference between mean scores of science male and arts male college students have been given in table no.3

**Table No.3**

**Significance of differences on the Mean Achievement Motivation Scores of Male Arts vs. Science and Female Arts vs. Science College Students.**

Category	N	M	S.D.	SE <sub>D</sub>	df	't' value	Remarks
Arts Male	50	16.12	4.54	0.838	98	5.44	Sig. at 0.01
Science Male	50	20.68	3.82				
Arts Female	50	18.64	4.85	0.917	98	6.73	Sig. at 0.01
Science Female	50	24.81	4.31				

The table no.3 reveals the mean scores on achievement motivation of arts male and science male college students as 16.12 and 20.68 with the standard deviation of 4.54 and 3.82 respectively. When such values are subjected to the testing of their significance of difference, the 't' ratio was found to be 5.44 which is significant at 0.01 level of significance. Further the mean scores on achievement motivation of arts female and science female college students is found to be 18.64 and 24.81 and the standard deviation as 4.85 and 4.31 respectively. The t ratio of such groups is found to be 6.73 which is significant at 0.01 level of significance. Therefore both the hypotheses concerning the significance of difference between arts male vs. science male and arts female vs. science female are rejected and it can be concluded that the achievement motivation of arts male vs. science male and arts female vs. science female college students differ significantly.

**D. Achievement Motivation of College Students belonging to Urban and Rural Areas.**

The obtained statistics pertaining to significance of difference between mean scores of urban and rural college students have been given in table no.4

**Table No-4 Significance of Mean differences in the Achievement Motivation of College Students belonging to Urban and Rural Areas.**

Category	N	M	S.D.	SE <sub>D</sub>	df	't' value	Remarks
Urban	100	21.82	4.54	0.664	198	5.542	Sig. at 0.01
Rural	100	18.14	4.85				

The table no.4 reveals the mean scores on achievement motivation of urban and rural college students as 21.82 and 18.14 with the standard deviation of 4.54 and 4.85 respectively. When such values are subjected to the testing of their significance of difference, the 't' ratio was found to be 5.542 which is significant at 0.01 level of significance. Therefore the hypothesis concerning the significance of difference in the achievement motivation of urban and rural college students is rejected and it can be inferred that the achievement motivation of urban and rural college students differ significantly.

## Major Findings of the Study

On the basis statistical analysis and interpretation of data, the following findings have been drawn;

- 1) The achievement motivation of male vs. female and arts vs. science college students differ significantly.
- 2) The achievement motivation of arts male vs. arts female and science male vs. science female college students differ significantly.
- 3) The achievement motivation of arts male vs. science male and arts female vs. science female college students differ significantly.
- 4) The achievement motivation of urban and rural college students differ significantly.

## Educational Implications of the Study

On the basis of the findings of the study the following educational implications can be derived;

1. The learners should be encouraged so that they can have higher degree of motivation to achieve something.
2. The proper motivation should be provided to the students irrespective of gender so as to set realistic goals and attain them.
3. Home, college and society members should make their contribution equally in the development of achievement motivation among students irrespective of discrimination of stream and locale.
4. The teachers are expected to aware the students about the employment avenues of different subjects.
5. Proper environment in and outside the class should be provided to the child for developing achievement directed behaviour.
6. The college authorities are expected to provide special opportunity to the students for the development of their potentialities which will accelerate their potentialities.

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