



# Parental Occupation as a Determinant of Academic Achievement Motivation of Secondary School Students in Aizawl City.

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## ARTICLE INFO

## ABSTRACT

Academic Achievement Motivation may be referred to as the drive or enthusiasm of an individual to achieve academic success. Academic Achievement Motivation also depends on certain variables where the level of motivation can either decrease or increase. For the present study, the researchers have taken a sample from Aizawl City constituting Secondary School Students. Parental occupation has been taken as a variable that could have an effect on the motivation level of students with different parental occupations. For the purpose of this study, the investigators have divided the parental occupation of the mothers into Salaried Mothers, Business Women and Housewives. The father's occupation was also divided into three categories – Daily Wagers, Businessmen and Salaried Fathers. The result noted a significant difference when comparing the Academic Achievement Motivation of students whose mothers are business women vs Students whose mothers are Salaried and mothers who are housewives; otherwise, no significant difference was noted between mothers who are housewives and mothers who are salaried. In terms of the level of Academic Achievement Motivation as far as the father's occupation is concerned, there was a significant difference in the level of academic achievement motivation between fathers who are Businessmen and Salaried; otherwise, no significant difference was noted.

**Keywords:** Academic Achievement Motivation, variable, Parental Occupation, Secondary School Students.

## INTRODUCTION

In today's world, the race for excellence has become very competitive; and, people are now more concerned with excellence in performing duties including academic excellence for students. The concept of Academic Achievement Motivation may be understood as the driving force in striving for excellence and achievement in the academic or scholastic area of a student's life; Research has proven that there is a positive correlation between academic achievement motivation and academic performance; the higher the academic achievement motivation, the higher the academic performance of the students. Therefore, it is imperative to know what are the different factors that could make or break a student's academic achievement motivation.

Home environment plays a vital role in determining the level of academic achievement motivation (Soni, 2013). A household that supports academically favorable home environment is another factor that could make or break the academic achievement motivation of secondary students. For a household to be academically inclined, the parents' occupation plays an important role. Parental involvement in their children's academic endeavor could be closely linked with the kind of occupation that the parents held. Some occupations inhibit the parents' involvement due to the nature of work involved in their jobs (Kales, 2015). For example, a person with an occupation that requires one to travel and be away from home for long periods of time might not have the needed time to get involved in the academic affairs of their children which could lead to a diminished level of academic achievement motivation of their children.

It is common knowledge that motivated students are more likely to achieve their academic potential and success. Therefore, the role of motivation in education must not be underestimated. Students' performance in school highly depends on their motivation; therefore, understanding how to motivate or encourage them is crucial. According to Hawthorne (2021), unmotivated students are often disengaged or disaffected, which can lead to challenging behaviour. This might lead to attrition of the students from their studies; this could automatically mean that, due to lower level of academic achievement motivation, there are chances for students to drop out of school and pursue an area that is not academically inclined in their adulthood; and the quality of their life may get impacted in a negative light; this could involve the kind of occupation held later in life that will have a direct impact on the socio-economic status of the whole family. Education is not free of cost. There are certain prerequisites in education that require financial support to complete one's education; for example, conducting a project work, dissertations and other hidden costs involved in getting an education. Therefore, motivating students in their academic endeavor is crucial and should be given importance so that the students may have a high level of Academic Achievement Motivation that could indirectly effect their income in their adulthood leading to a better quality of life among many other things.

For the present study, the investigators took the sample from the Mizo Secondary School Students' population. Mizo society is marked by its unique customs and practices and the population constitutes mostly of Scheduled Tribes with their own distinctive cultures and traditions and all these makes it a unique and interesting state in India. The investigators have taken parental occupation of Secondary School Students of Aizawl City as a variable that might determine the level of Academic Achievement Motivation of Students of Aizawl City for the present study. The type of Occupation prevalent in an area is determined to a certain extent by the social customs, traditions, norms, physical geographical location (locale), etc of a particular area of habitation. The researchers, therefore, deemed it important to study the level of academic achievement motivation of secondary school students of Aizawl City in relation to their parental occupation as the area is predominantly occupied by tribals from all walks of life who belong to the Scheduled Tribe category.

### LITERATURE REVIEW

**Soni (2013)** in his research article "A Study of the Relationship between Academic Achievement Motivation and Home Environment among Standard 10<sup>th</sup> Pupils" noted a positive relationship between academic achievement motivation and home environment. The finding of the study implied that home environment is one of the determinants of academic achievement motivation and this could be because a household with academically favorable home environment is likely to enhance the child's motivation to achieve academic success. The sample of the study consisted of 155 students of 10<sup>th</sup> Standard from Palanpur Taluka.

**Kales (May, 2015)** in his research "Achievement Motivation as Related to Parental Involvement of Secondary School Students" took a total sample of 250 class-ix students which is constituted by 132 boys and 118 girls from seven schools (Government and Private Schools) of Jammu district. The findings of the research was that for both boys and girls there is a significant relationship between academic achievement and parental involvement.

**Arbabisarjou et al. (May, 2016)** in their study "The Relationship Between Academic Achievement Motivation and Academic Performance among Medical Students" set out to find any relationship between academic performance and academic achievement motivation. They took a sample of 200 medical students in Zehedan, Iran and the result of the study verified that the relationship between Academic Performance and Intrinsic Academic Achievement Motivation was significant; whereas it was statistically insignificant with extrinsic motivation of individuals.

**Walter (Dec, 2018)** in his study "Influence of Parental Occupation and Parental Income on Students' Academic Performance in Public Day Secondary Schools", it was revealed that parental occupation significantly influenced students' academic performance. However, parental educational level had no effect on students' academic performance. Therefore, it was recommended that the parents should indulge in active participation on students' academic affairs regardless of parental level of education, and provision adequate learning materials for example: text books, furniture, lighting, and ample study space at home.

**Mahato and Barman (2019)** in their research article titled "Achievement Motivation and Academic Performance of SC, ST Community Students in the District of Purulia" studied the students belonging to Scheduled caste and Scheduled tribes of Higher Secondary Schools in the district of Purulia, West Bengal. The main objectives of the investigation were to study the level of Academic Achievement Motivation among the students of Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) Community Students and to explore the correlation between Academic Achievement Motivation and Academic Performance of SC and ST Community students in the district of Purulia. The study noted that Higher Secondary Students belonging to ST and SC categories have a moderate level of Academic Achievement Motivation; though the difference between the two groups is not significant, the higher secondary school students belonging to Scheduled Caste have a higher level of Academic

Achievement Motivation. The investigation also noted that there is significant relationship between Academic Achievement Motivation and Academic Performance.

**Ene (May, 2021)** conducted an investigation on “Influence of Parent’s Occupation on Scholastic Success of Social Studies Students in Cross River State Nigeria” and the study justified that occupation of Parents is significantly related to students’ scholastic success in Social Studies. Therefore, the researcher concluded that students’ scholastic success is dependent on occupation of parents. The study therefore recommended, according to Ene (2021), that parents should beware of the type of occupation they are engaged in since occupation of parents is capable of facilitating or inhibiting students’ scholastic success. Parents should obligatorily have good inter personal relationships with children by always finding out their academic progress.

**Owuor et al. (Feb, 2022)** conducted a study on “Influence of Parental Occupation on Student Academic Performance in Public Secondary Schools in Kenya: A Case Study of Homa Bay Sub County”. The investigators noted that family background, in terms of the parents’ occupation positively influence the scholastic success of their children. All parental occupations do influence students’ performance to varying degrees even within the same occupation. Some parental occupation types are endowed with financial resources such that when prudently used can transform the student’s academic performance from low to high.

**Mishra et al. (March, 2024)** in their study titled “Factors affecting academic performance of undergraduate students of an Agriculture University” took a sample of 240 students (140 males, 140 females) from G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Uttarakhand. The study noted that the influence exerted by high level educated parents have an effect on their children to achieve and perform well in their studies at university level. High achievement motivation also leads to better academic performance. Though there are other variables like intelligence, gender, age and attendance at school that could have an effect on the academic performance, the.

### OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY.

For the present study, the researchers have given the following research objectives:

1. To find out the level of Academic Achievement Motivation of Secondary School Students in Aizawl City in relation to their Mother’s Occupations.
2. To investigate the level of Academic Achievement Motivation of Secondary School Students in Aizawl City in relation to their Father’s Occupations.

### NULL HYPOTHESES.

For the purpose of testing, the investigators have formulated the following Null Hypotheses:

**1.** The mother’s occupation is broadly divided into three categories basis the mode of income associated with the profession – Business Women, Salaried Mothers and Housewives. It is noteworthy that farmers are not included due to the fact that the sample was taken from Aizawl, which is a city, and there is no scope for farming. The investigators have formulated the following hypotheses to be tested by using the ‘t’-test statistical method:

**a.** There is no significant difference in the level of Academic Achievement Motivation of Secondary School Students in Aizawl City whose mothers are Housewives and those students whose mothers are Business Women.

**b.** There is no significant difference in the level of Academic Achievement Motivation of Secondary School Students in Aizawl City whose mothers are Housewives and those students whose mothers are Salaried.

**c.** There is no significant difference in the level of Academic Achievement Motivation of Secondary School Students in Aizawl City whose mothers are Business Women and those students whose mothers are Salaried.

**2.** With regards to the father’s occupation, the investigators have divided the occupation into three broad categories: Daily Wagers, Businessmen and Salaried Fathers. As previously mentioned, the study was conducted in Aizawl City and does not have the scope for farming. The investigators have also formulated the following Null Hypotheses to be tested using the ‘t’-test statistical method:

- a. There is no significant difference in the level of Academic Achievement Motivation of Secondary School Students in Aizawl City whose fathers are Daily Wagers and those students whose fathers are Businessmen.
- b. There is no significant difference in the level of Academic Achievement Motivation of Secondary School Students in Aizawl City whose fathers are Salaried and those students whose fathers are Businessmen.
- c. There is no significant difference in the level of Academic Achievement Motivation of Secondary School Students in Aizawl City whose fathers are Daily Wagers and those students whose fathers are Salaried.

### METHODOLOGY, DESIGN AND PROCEDURE.

The present study employed a survey method of research and descriptive analysis was performed to explain the results. After the data was collected, the raw score was determined. The Mean and Standard Deviation was calculated to have a better understanding of the scores; 't'-test was applied to find out any significant difference, or the lack thereof, in the level of Academic Achievement Motivation of Secondary School Students of Aizawl City and conclusion was drawn accordingly.

### POPULATION AND SAMPLE.

The population constituted of the Secondary School Students (cl-x and cl-x students) in Aizawl City. Sampling was done using the Stratified Random Sampling technique; a total of 150 students – 75 from Government Schools and 75 from Private Schools, were chosen as the sample.

### TOOL.

The study utilized the "Academic Achievement Motivation Test" (AAMT) containing 38 items and authored by T.R. Sharma. The tool was designed for use on school going children of age 14 and above.

### FINDINGS.

1. Findings on the level of Academic Achievement Motivation of Secondary School Students in Aizawl City in relation to their Mothers' Occupations may be examined as follows.

**Table-1. Significant of Difference in the level of Academic Achievement Motivation among Secondary School Students in Aizawl City in relation to their Mother's Occupation.**

Mother's Occupation	N	Standard Deviation	Mean	Calculated 't' Value	Level of Significance
Housewives VS Business Women	Housewives N = 48	2.79	23.10	3.85	Significant at .01 Level
	Business Women N=67	4.99	20.29		
Housewives VS Salaried Mothers	Housewives N = 48	2.79	23.10	0.61	Not Significant
	Salaried Mothers N=35	2.82	23.48		
Business Women VS Salaried Mothers	Business Women N=67	4.99	20.29	4.14	Significant at .01 Level
	Salaried Mothers N=35	2.82	23.48		

**Fig-1. Graphical Representation of the Mean Scores and Standard Deviation of the Academic Achievement Motivation test of Secondary School Students in Aizawl City in relation to their Mother's Occupations.**



Perusal of the data vide table-1 shows that there is a significant difference in the level of Academic Achievement Motivation of Secondary School Students in Aizawl City in relation to their Mothers' Occupation. The Mother's Occupation were broadly classified into three categories – Housewives, Salaried Mothers and Business Women. The major findings can be further examined as follows:

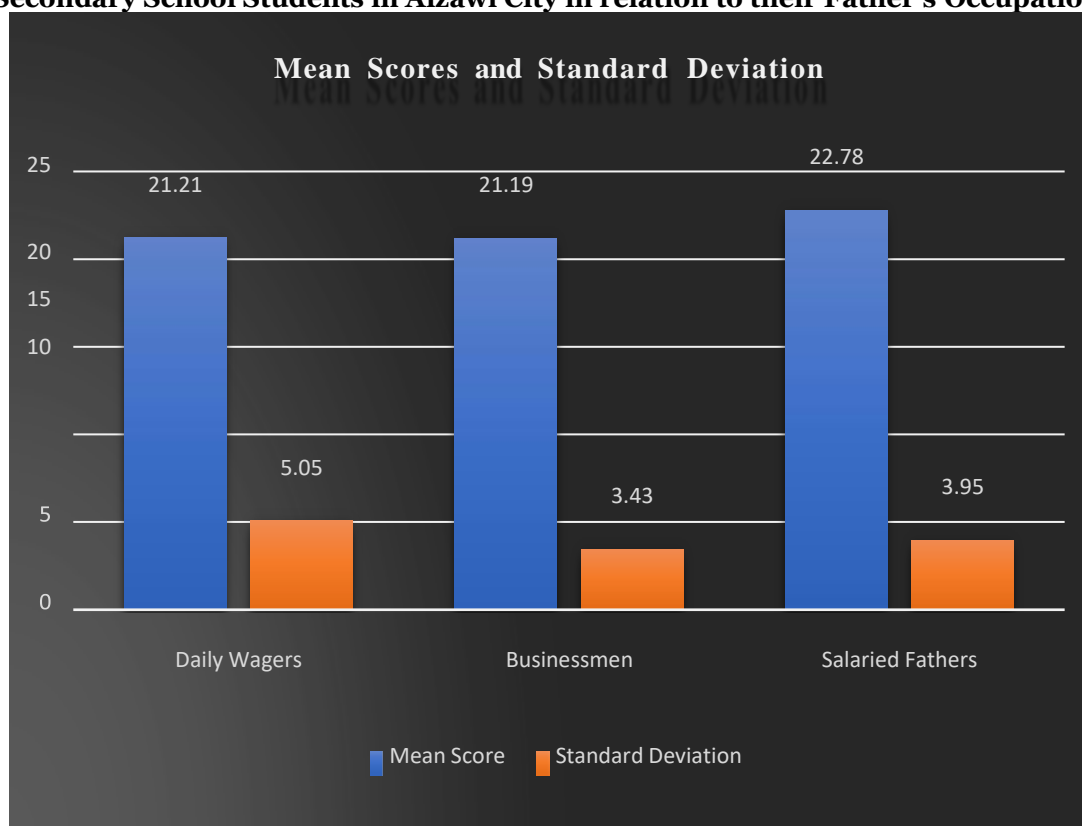
- With regards to the comparison of the Academic Achievement Motivation of Secondary School Students in Aizawl City whose mothers are Housewives and those whose mothers are Business Women, a significant difference was noted at the .01 level of significance. The calculated 't' value of 3.85 is higher than the table value of 't' even at the .01 level. The group of students whose mothers are Housewives has a higher level of Academic Achievement Motivation. Therefore, the Null Hypothesis cannot be accepted in this case and was **rejected at the .01 level** of significance.
- When comparing the level of Academic Achievement Motivation of Secondary School Students in Aizawl City whose mothers are Housewives and those whose mothers are Salaried, no significant difference was noted. The calculated 't' value is 0.61; the 't' value that is required to be significant at .01 and .05 level are 2.63 and 1.99 respectively. Therefore, the Null Hypothesis that stated that there is no significant difference in the level of Academic Achievement Motivation between the said two groups of students is **accepted**.
- The study noted a significant difference in the level of Academic Achievement motivation of Secondary School Students in Aizawl City whose mothers are Business Women and those whose mothers are Salaried. The calculated 't' value is 4.14; the required value to be significant at .05 and .01 are 1.98 and 2.63 respectively. Since, the calculated 't' value is still higher than the table value of 't' even at the .01 level. Therefore, **the Null Hypothesis is rejected at the .01 level** of significance. The said significant difference is in favor of those students whose mothers are Salaried.

2. Findings on the level of Academic Achievement Motivation of Secondary School Students in Aizawl City in relation to their Fathers' Occupations may be examined as follows.

**Table-2. Significant Difference between the Mean Scores of Academic Achievement Motivation of Secondary School Students in Aizawl City in relation to their Father's Occupation.**

Father's Occupation	N	Standard Deviation	Mean	Calculate dt-value	Level of Significance
Daily Wagers VS Salaried Fathers	Daily Wagers N = 38	5.05	21.21	1.67	Not Significant
	Salaried Fathers N=70	3.95	22.78		
Daily Wagers VS Businessmen	Daily Wagers N = 38	5.05	21.21	0.02	Not Significant
	Businessmen N=42	3.43	21.19		
Businessmen VS Salaried Fathers	Businessmen N=42	3.43	21.19	2.24	Significant at .05 level
	Salaried Fathers N=70	3.95	22.78		

**Fig-2. Graphical Representation of the Mean Scores and Standard Deviation obtained by Secondary School Students in Aizawl City in relation to their Father's Occupation.**



As seen on Table-2, the researchers noted a significant difference in the level of Academic Achievement Motivation of Secondary School Students in Aizawl City in relation to their Fathers' Occupation. The major findings maybe further scrutinized as follows:

- a) The Null Hypothesis stating "There is no significant difference in the level of Academic Achievement Motivation of Secondary School Students in Aizawl City whose fathers are Daily Wagers and those students whose fathers are Businessmen" **is accepted**. The calculated 't' value is 1.67; the 't' value required to be significant at .01 and .05 level are 2.62 and 1.99 respectively. Since the calculated 't' value is still smaller



than the required 't' value even at the .05 level of significance, the Null Hypothesis cannot be rejected.

- b) The investigators also noted that there is no significant difference in the level of Academic Achievement Motivation of Secondary School Students in Aizawl City whose fathers are Salaried and those students whose fathers are Businessmen. The calculated 't' value is 0.02; the 't' value required to be significant at either .05 or .01 level are 1.99 and 2.64 respectively. As the calculated 't' value of 0.02 is smaller than the table value of 't' even at the .05 level, the **Null Hypothesis is accepted**.
- c) The Null Hypothesis "There is no significant difference in the level of Academic Achievement Motivation of Secondary School Students in Aizawl City whose fathers are Daily Wagers and those students whose fathers are Salaried" is rejected. The investigators noted a significant difference at the .05 level between the aforementioned two groups of students in the level of their Academic Achievement Motivation. The calculated 't' value is 2.24 and the 't' value required to be significant at .05 level and .01 level on the 't' table are 1.98 and 2.62 respectively. Since the calculated 't' value is larger than the table value of 't' at .05 but is smaller than the 't' table value at .01 level, the **Null hypothesis is rejected at the .05 level** of significance. The said significant difference is in favor of those Secondary School Students whose fathers are Salaried.

## DISCUSSION.

It is evident from the study, **as seen on Table-1 and Table-2**, that there is a significant difference among Secondary School Students in Aizawl City in relation to the Parental Occupation. This shows that the level of Academic Achievement Motivation either increases or decreases depending on the type of occupation that their parents held. This finding is consistent with the findings made by Walter (Dec, 2018); Ene (May, 2021); Owuor et al. (Feb, 2022) where they all noted that parental occupation plays a significant role in the level of academic achievement motivation that their children possess.

The findings made by Soni (2013); Kales (May, 2015); and, Mishra et al. (March, 2024) also all noted that Home Environment, parental involvement and parental educational qualification plays a significant role on the level of Students' Academic Achievement Motivation. Soni (2013) noted that students belonging to a household that supports academically favorable home environment are likely to have a higher level of Academic Achievement Motivation.

Kales (2015) and Soni (2013) noted that Parental Involvement and Home Environment play an important role in the Academic Achievement Motivation of children; it is important that the parents held an occupation that would give them time to be involved in the academic affairs of their children at home; that would create a home environment that is academically conducive. Therefore, the level of parental involvement and the nature of the home environment may even be indirectly related to the occupations that the parents held because that could either give them ample amount of time, or the lack thereof, in getting themselves involved at home in their children's academic endeavor. A home environment that supports academic endeavors positively affects the Academic Achievement Motivation of the children in the household.

## CONCLUSION:

1. As per the findings and analysis of the data, the investigators have drawn the following conclusion on Academic Achievement Motivation of Secondary School Students in Aizawl City in relation to the Mother's Occupation were drawn. The Null Hypothesis that stated, "There is no significant difference in the level of Academic Achievement Motivation of Secondary School Students in Aizawl City whose mothers are Housewives and those students whose mothers are Salaried" is accepted. Though students whose mothers are Salaried are slightly higher, the difference is not wide enough to be statistically significant. Therefore, the Null Hypothesis is accepted.

The Null Hypothesis "There is no significant difference in the level of Academic Achievement Motivation of Secondary School Students in Aizawl City whose mothers are Business Women and those students whose mothers are Housewives" is rejected as there is a significant difference at the .01 level. The said significant difference is in favor of Secondary School Students in Aizawl City whose mothers are Housewives. Hence, the Null Hypothesis is rejected.

The Null Hypothesis "There is no significant difference in the level of Academic Achievement Motivation of Secondary School Students in Aizawl City whose mothers are Business Women and those students whose mothers are Salaried" is rejected. The 't'-test of significance detected a significant difference at the .05 level in favor of Secondary School Students in Aizawl City whose mothers are Salaried. Hence the Null Hypothesis is rejected.

2. As per the findings and analysis of the data, the conclusion drawn on Academic Achievement Motivation of Secondary School Students in Aizawl City in relation to their Father's Occupation are as follows:  
The Null Hypothesis "There is no significant difference in the level of Academic Achievement Motivation of Secondary School Students in Aizawl City whose fathers are Daily Wagers and those students whose fathers are Salaried" is accepted. Though the level of Academic Achievement Motivation of students whose fathers

are Salaried is slightly higher, the difference is not wide enough to be statistically significant.

With regards to The Null Hypothesis stating "There is no significant difference in the level of Academic Achievement Motivation of Secondary School Students in Aizawl City whose fathers are Daily Wagers and those students whose fathers are Businessmen" is accepted. Though the two groups of Secondary School Students are not quite at the same level of Academic Achievement Motivation, the difference, in this case as well, is not too great that it fails to create a significant difference between the two groups.

The Null Hypothesis "There is no significant difference in the level of Academic Achievement Motivation of Secondary School Students in Aizawl City whose fathers are Businessmen and those students whose fathers are Salaried" cannot be accepted. Hence, it may be concluded that the group of Secondary School Students whose fathers are Salaried has a significantly higher level of Academic Achievement Motivation as compared to their counterpart whose fathers are Businessmen.

## RECOMMENDATIONS.

In light of the present study, the investigators have given the following recommendations for further studies which is as given below:

- a. Academic Achievement Motivation of different ethnic groups in Mizoram like Lai, Mara, Chakma, Bru, etc.
- b. A Comparative study of the Academic Achievement Motivation of students from a tribal community and students from a non-tribal community
- c. Correlational studies on Academic Achievement Motivation of secondary students and Academic Anxiety.

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