

A Study on Academic Achievement in Relation to Gender of Secondary Level Students in Lakhimpur District, Assam

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Abstract:

Education is a more comprehensive term that implies acquisitions of a man's experience of life. Education cannot be acquired without formal learning. Academic achievement is the outcome of education-the extent to which a student, teacher or institution has achieved their educational goals. It can be defined as excellence in all academic disciplines, in class as well as extracurricular activities. It includes excellence in sporting, behavior, confidence, communication skills, punctuality, assertiveness, Arts, Culture, etc Secondary level of education is the most important stage of education because the link between the primary education on the one hand and the higher education on the other. A child can develop his or her innate talent at this stage. Secondary stage helps an individual to get knowledge from different aspect and helps to create a sociable individual. A child can prepare himself for the future living from this stage of education. . Gender equality refers to the view that men and women should receive equal treatment and should not be discriminated against based on gender, unless there is a sound biological reason for different treatment. Therefore, the study will try to investigate about the relationship between gender and academic achievement of secondary level students.

Keywords: Academic Achievement, gender, secondary level students

1.0 Introduction

Education is a continuous process as it starts from birth till death. Educational achievement is one of the major achievements in human life. Education can develop a child to be person who is physically, mentally, emotionally and also spiritually balanced and matured person and right attitude towards their life.

Individual difference is prevailed among the students at any age or level of education in respect of physical abilities, mental abilities, characteristics, behavior, psycho motor abilities, health, parental involvement, home environment, and socio-economic status etc. every aspect of differences influences the child's academic achievement. Academic achievement means how much knowledge the individual has acquired from the educational institutions. It can be defined as excellence in all academic disciplines, in class as well as extracurricular activities. It includes excellence in sporting, behavior, confidence, communication skills, punctuality, assertiveness, Arts, Culture, etc. Moreover academic achievement is the acquired proficiency in the performance individual in a given scale or body of knowledge.

Gender equality is achieved when women and men enjoy the same rights and opportunities across all sectors of society, including economic participation and decision-making, and when the different behavior, aspirations and needs of women and men are equally valued and favored. Gender equality, therefore is the equal valuing by society of both the similarities and the differences between women and men and varying roles they play. Education plays the significant role in breaking the barriers between man and women.

Education is a process of developing human resources. Therefore in this paper an attempt has been made to analysis on academic achievement in respect to gender.

Study Area

The present study was undertaken in the North Lakhimpur of Lakhimpur district of Assam. Assam is situated in the Himalaya foothills, the land of blue hills and red rivers with the area of 78,438 square kilometers and it represents 2.39 percent of the total land area of the country. Assam is surrounded by international boundaries extending up to nearly 3200 km.

Brief description of the district

Lakhimpur district is located in the along both banks of the river Brahmaputra for about 4000 mtrs.It is bounded by the extreme East of the province of India. This district lies in the border area of Arunachal Pradesh in North- East India. Lakhimpur district is situated on the North-East corner of Assam. The district is divided into two sub divisions viz. North-Lakhimpur and Dhakuakhana.

Profile of Lakhimpur district.

District	Lakhimpur
Total population	10,40,644
Male	5,29,484
Female	5,11,160
Total Literacy (%)	78.39
Male (%)	84.66
Female (%)	71.91

Source: [According to 2011 census (www.census2011.co.in).

1.1 Objectives of the study

The following are the main objectives of the present study:

1. To study the academic achievement of secondary level students.
2. To find out the relationship between male and female secondary level students on academic achievement.
3. To analyze the Academic Achievement of secondary School students in different subjects- Assamese, English, General Science, Mathematics and Social Science.

1.2 Hypotheses of the Study

The objectives of the research will be studied in terms of the number of hypotheses stated as follows:

1. There exists no significant relationship between academic achievement of Male and Female secondary level students.
2. There exists no significant relationship between academic achievement of Male and Female secondary level students in respect to different subjects.

1.3 Methodology

Methodology is an important part of research study. In the present study, methodology has been presented under the following heads:

Research Design, population and sample, Tools for data collection, Procedure for data collection, Analysis of data. Each of these is discussed below:

- **Research Design**

For the present study, the investigator will employ “Descriptive Method”. The descriptive method has been used as a most widely used research method. It is the method of investigation which attempts to describe and interpret what exists at present in the form of conditions, practices, processes, trends, effects, attitudes, beliefs etc.

- **Population and Sample**

The study was conducted on the sample of 998 students of Lakhimpur district. The students were selected by adopting stratified random sampling techniques.

- **Tools for Data Collection**

Keeping in view the main objectives of this study, the investigator was used the following tools for collecting the required data:

1) School record for academic achievement.

- **Scoring Procedure:**

- i. **Academic Achievement Score (AAS)**

The marks scored by the students in the HSLC examination were taken to be the academic achievement scores.

- **Procedure of data collection**

For Academic achievement the data were collected from the record of the result of HSLC examination.

1.4 Analyses of data

In order to study the academic achievement suitable statistical technique Mean, Standard Deviation and t-value were used for analysis and interpretation of data.

- **Analysis of Academic Achievement between Male and Female**

The differences in the levels of academic achievement between Male and Female which was stated in hypotheses (1) was tested by employing t- test. The result is reported in Table 1.1

Table 1.1

Comparison of Male and Female students in Academic Achievement

Variable	Groups	N	df	Mean	SD	Mean difference	't' value and significant level
Gender	Male	505	996	301.9	84.02	1.80	0.49 ^{NS}
	Female	493		303.7	85.2		

^{NS}Not Significant; * Significant at 0.05 level; ** Significant at 0.01 level.

Table 1.1 reveals that the obtained 't' value (0.49) which is less than the table value 1.96 with df (996) required for significance at 0.05 level ($P > 0.05$) indicating that it is not significant. It concludes that there is no significant difference in the Academic Achievement of Male and female students. Hence, the stated null hypothesis is accepted.

- **Total Academic Achievement of secondary school students in different school subject**

To analyze the academic achievement of secondary school students, marks obtained by the sample students in HSLC examination, 2015 were collected from their respective schools were analyzed by taking the total marks obtained by the students in each of the school subjects' viz. Assamese, English, General Science, Mathematics and Social Science. For computing the result as per the nature of objectives and Hypothesis of the study, t-test was employed.

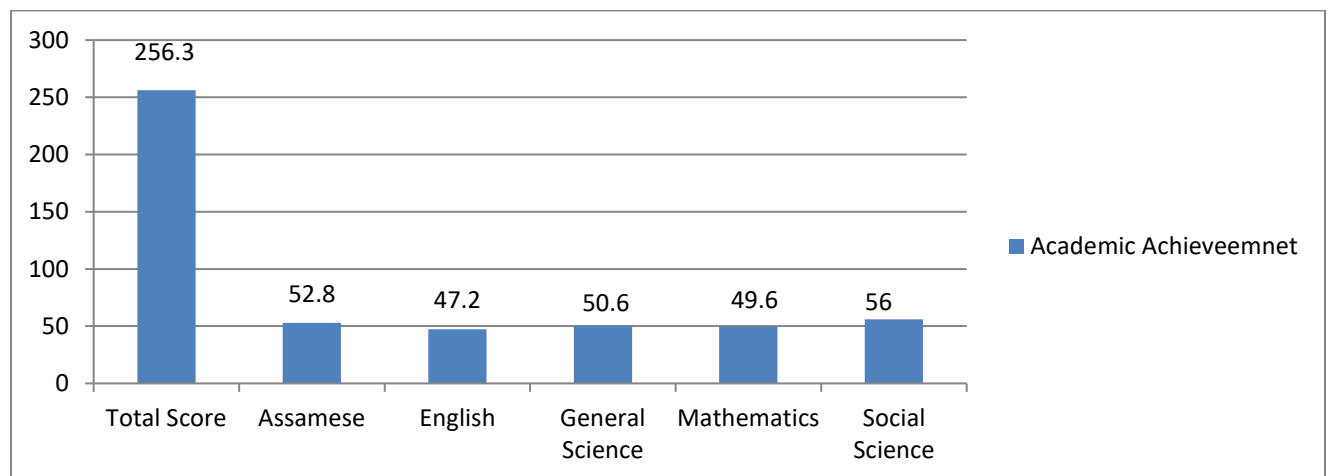
Mean and Standard Deviation were calculated for the total marks obtained by the students in different subjects and results have been placed in table 1.2.

Table 1.2

Sl.No	Academic Achievement	N	Mean	SD
1	Total Academic Achievement Score	998	256.3	69.06
2	Assamese	998	52.8	19.4
3	English	998	47.2	13.3
4	General Science	998	50.6	16.3
5	Mathematics	998	49.6	14.5
6	Social Science	998	56.0	15.7

Fig: 1.1

Bar graph shows Academic Achievement Scores of students in different School Subjects



The performance of secondary school students in general is revealed in Table 1.2 in which students' performance is almost all subjects are found to be average. The mean score in each subject is lower than 55 and little better in Social Science as the mean score (56) is higher, which is followed by Assamese (52.8), General Science (50.6), Mathematics (49.6) and English (47.2) which are shown in *Fig. 1.1*. The result indicates that the performance of students in English is poor and lowest in compare with other subjects i.e. Social Science, Assamese, General Science and Mathematics.

1.5 Major findings of the study

The major findings of the present study are as follows:

- There exists significant difference in the Mean scores of Male and Female students with respect to their academic achievement.

1.6 Conclusion:

It may be concluded that the academic achievement of secondary school students in almost all subjects are found to be average except in Social Science as the mean score (56) followed by Assamese (52.8). The result indicated that the performance of students is almost same in General Science and Mathematics and poor in English.

When the comparison is made between the mean scores of male and female in five school subjects namely Assamese, English, Mathematics, General Science and Social Science, the mean scores of male are higher in all the three subjects namely, English, General Science and Mathematics. Where as in Assamese and Social Science, the mean scores of female is higher than the male.

1.7 Suggestions

From the above study we found that there is a great effect of study habits on academic achievement of the students. Therefore the following suggestions should be given importance:

- To increase the academic achievement of student's school should provide better environment to improve the study habits.
- Proper infrastructure facilities, library facilities should be provided.
- Teacher should prepare himself very confidently.
- Continuous home work and assignment should be given to the students.
- Healthy home environment is also important for those things.

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