

A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF SCHOOL CHOICE BETWEEN PRIVATE AND GOVERNMENT SCHOOL BASED ON PARENTAL ASPIRATIONS IN THOUBAL DISTRICT

***Akoijam Sunita Devi, **Dr. Moirangthem Hemanta Meitei**

**Research scholar, Department of Economics, Manipur University.*

Email: aksunita1377@gmail.com

*** Professor and HOD, Department of Economics, Manipur University*

Email: mhmeitei@gmail.com

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ABSTRACT

The choice of school is a critical issue nowadays. Parents are the consumers in the educational market and, therefore, spend a crucial amount of time and information choosing the right school when their children start attending school. School choice is based on Parental Aspirations for their children, which is an essential component. **The study's objective** is to examine the role of parental aspirations in the school choice of their children among the Scheduled Caste and the general population in Thoubal. **The study's design** is a cross-section and uses a purposive sampling method. **Method:** The population of the study comprises 199 Parents (92 parents from Thoubal Khunou (Schedule Caste) and 107 parents from Phoudel Keirambi (General) in Thoubal district, children who were attending school in the age range of 6-15 years. Data was collected using schedules of questioners through interview methods and analyzed using appropriate statistical tools such as descriptive statistics. **Result:** School choice based on educational aspiration; government schools choose up to class XII, and private schools choose graduate, postgraduate, and higher education. Choice of school based on Job Aspiration: Private schools were the most popular, and government schools were the least popular. No one chose a government school for a low-income status job. **Conclusion:** These parental aspirations regarding their employment and education were not up-to-date in the government school. As of now, the choices of Private schools were most. However, the characteristics of the government schools improved; parents started choosing government schools, and parents preferred to choose government schools.

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Introduction

The choice of school is a critical issue nowadays. One of the most important decisions parents make regarding their children is the choice of school. A good education is often considered the cornerstone of a person's future life, the foundation for their career. Parents are the consumers in the educational market and, therefore, spend a critical amount of time and information choosing the right school when their children start attending school.

In this analysis of 199 samples to assess the parental choice between the private and the government schools of Thoubal Khunou and Phoudel Keirambi area in Thoubal district of Manipur, it shows that most of the parents chose the private school with 83.4% and less chose the Government school with 16.6% for their first child.

| Distribution of School type for first child | | |
|---|-----------|---------|
| School Type | Frequency | Percent |
| Private school | 166 | 83.4% |
| Government School | 33 | 16.6% |
| Total | 199 | 100% |

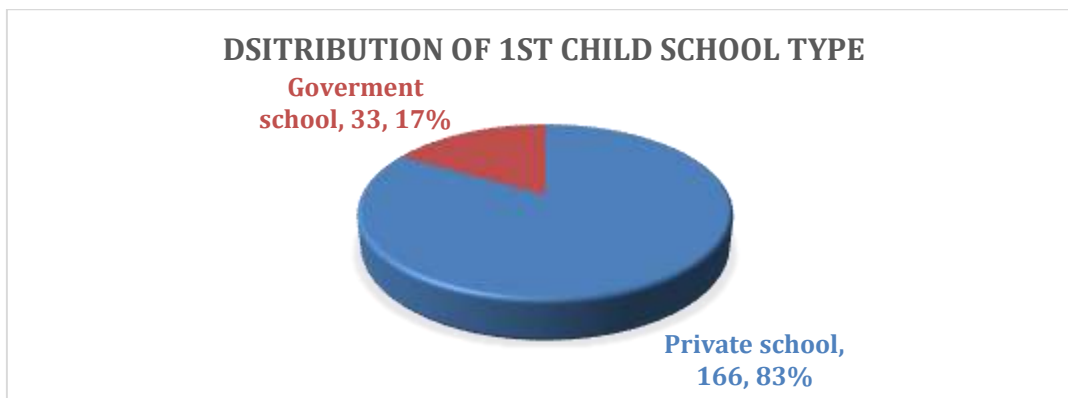


Figure:1

Various research conducted abroad and in India revealed that parental income, parental aspirations, good teachers, disciplined environment, location of school, school safety, sound transportation system, good reputation, and academic result are the various factors for the choice of schooling by the parents for their children. This study aimed to examine the role of parental aspirations in the choice of school by the parents for their children among the Scheduled caste and General population in Thoubal district. Parental Aspirations include occupational aspirations and educational aspirations for their children. It is essential to understand that Education is a continuous process, not an event. Every child needs to have a better education in a good school. Parent have to choose better schools for their children. The present study compares the choice of school between private schools and government schools based on parental aspiration.

Including criteria

The following are the delimitations of the study;

1. The respondents were the parents of the whole population, both in Thoubal Khunou (Schedule Caste) and Phoudel Keirambi (General Population), who were sending their children to private and government schools.
2. The respondent parents were only those whose children studied in classes I to X.

Excluding criteria

1. Parents who did not have school-going children studied in Class I to X were excluded.
2. Other villages excluded accept Thoubal Khunou (Schedule Caste) and Phoudel Keirambi (General Population) in Thoubal district, Manipur.

Methodology

For the present study, 199 Parents of children attending school aged 6-15 years were considered subjects. The subjects were 92 parents from Thoubal Khunou (Schedule Caste) village and 107 parents from Phoudel Keirambi (General) village in Thoubal district of

Manipur. The study was designed using the purposive sampling method. The parental aspiration, including educational aspiration and occupational aspiration, were used for data collection. The educational aspiration included: 1. up to class X, 2. Up to class XII, 3. up to Graduate, 4. Up to PG and 5. Higher studies. The occupational aspiration included High Income/status (1): - Accountant, Artist, Civil servant, District magistrate, Doctor, Engineer, Lawyer, Lecturer, Pilot, Politician, Teacher, Trader/Businessman/woman and Low Income/Status (2) Bus conductor, Computer operator, Domestic worker, Driver, Farmer, Full-time parent/housewife, Laborer, Market trader/shop assistant, Mason, Mechanic, Nurse, Policeman, Soldier, Tailor, Traditional occupation. Data were collected with scheduled questionnaires and entered values for evaluation.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

The collected data were analyzed with descriptive statistics.

Table-I

| Distribution of School types based on children's Educational Aspirations | | | | |
|--|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|-------|
| Educational Aspiration with types | | School types | | Total |
| | | Private school | Government School | |
| Educational Aspiration | Up-to class X | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| | Up-to class XII | 3 | 8 | 11 |
| | Up-to graduate | 13 | 8 | 21 |
| | Up-to PG | 131 | 17 | 148 |
| | higher studies | 18 | 0 | 18 |
| Total | | 166 | 33 | 199 |

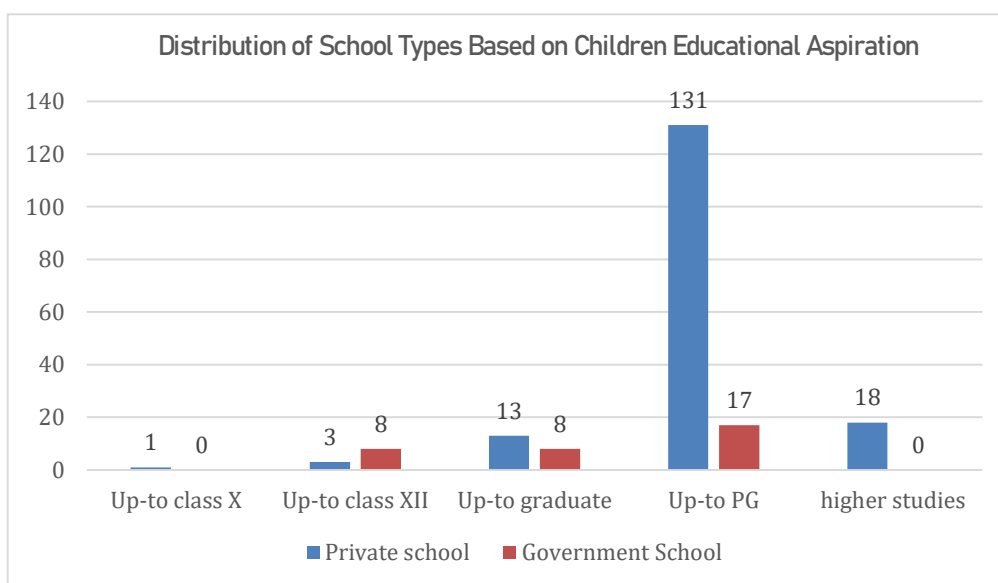


Figure:2

The above table shows the distribution of School Types based on education aspirations. Most parents hoped their child would pursue education up to the Master's level in the respective subject, with 131 parents having chosen private schools and 17 to government schools. Education aspiration for higher studies selected 18 students to private schools. Up to graduation,13 responses were to private schools and eight to Government Schools.

Table -2

| Distribution of School types based on children's Occupational Aspirations | | | | |
|--|--------------------|----------------|-------------------|-------|
| Occupational Aspiration with types | | School types | | Total |
| | | Private school | Government School | |
| Occupational Aspiration | low-income status | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| | High-income status | 164 | 33 | 197 |
| Total | | 166 | 33 | 199 |

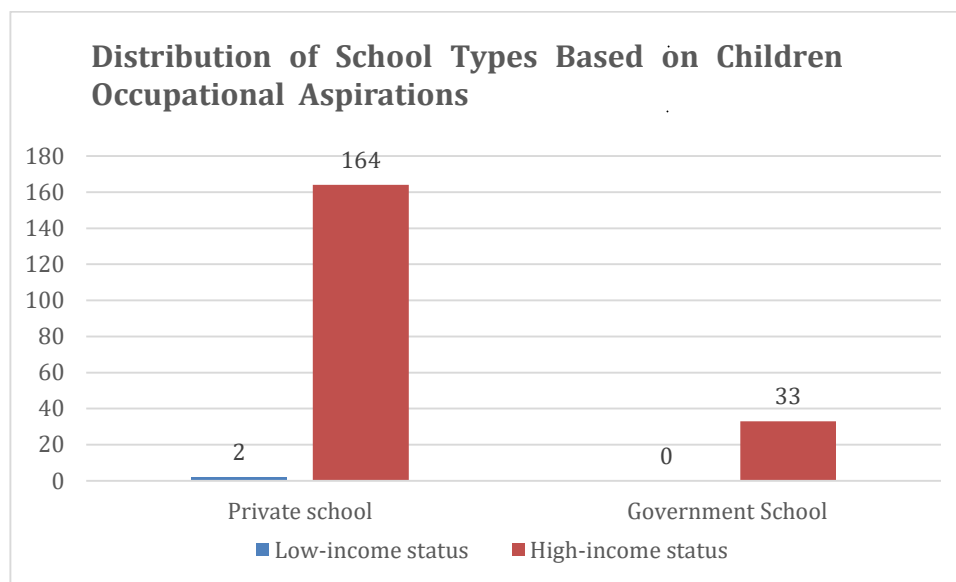


Figure :3

The above table and Bar graph show the parental expectations for their children's occupation aspiration, which was high income generated in the future, with 164 responses having chosen private schools and 33 respondents choosing government schools. The low-income status, no one picked from a government school, and two respondents were from private schools.

Result

Educational Aspiration in private school: Most private school students (131/166, 78.9 %) aspire for postgraduate education, and 18 (10.8%) aim for higher studies. For occupational aspirations,98.8% (164.166) of private school students aim for high-income occupations.

Educational Aspirations: only 51.5% (17 /33) of government school students aspire to postgraduate education, and none for higher studies. Occupational Aspirations: All government school students (33/33) aspire to do high-income occupations.

Private school students dominate in higher education aspirations, especially for postgraduate and higher studies. Government school students tend to limit their aspirations to lower levels, with very few aspiring for PG or higher studies to lower levels, with very few aspirations.

Conclusion

The school choice was based on Parental aspirations, i.e., Occupational and Educational aspirations, in the Thoubal district of Manipur. While private and government school students share high aspirations for well-paying careers, realizing these goals is closely tied to educational achievements. Enhancing educational opportunities and resources for government school students can significantly bridge the gap.

Private Schools, as their parent hoped to have better Occupational and Educational Aspirations. However, parents were unsatisfied with all private schools and were compelled to choose private schools for their children as government schools were unsuitable. The government needs to look after the standards of government schools. It shows that not all parents have complete faith in private schools. Nowadays, the government Schools are also improving, requiring further interventions to improve infrastructural facilities.

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