

# Youth Aspirations and Occupational Attainment: A Longitudinal Analysis of Pro-Poor Sampling from the Lens of Household Differentials

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## **Abstract**

As the most populous country in the world, India is expected to retain its position for the foreseeable future. India is currently experiencing a demographic dividend with a median population of under 28.2 years of age (Young people). However, the concerns of losing the demographic dividend and turning it into a demographic disaster are looming large owing to socioeconomic vulnerability. Understanding its implication is imperative due to the following reason: the development dynamics of young people over time with respect to their attainment levels provide meaningful insight into the attainment level of future generations descending from them. Thus, imposing serious ramifications on the national development. Evidence suggests that (occupational) aspirations during the developmental stages of young people and subsequent attainments are impacted by their immediate socioeconomic environment, therefore, prompting a thorough need for their study.

Using the 'Young Lives' dataset, the development dynamics of young people with respect to their household socioeconomic dimensions is conducted. This analysis is conducted in keeping the occupational aspirations and occupational attainment as tether. Young Lives is an initiative led by the University of Oxford in collaboration with multiple institutions in four countries, namely, India, Ethiopia, Peru and Vietnam. For the purpose of this study, the scope is limited to the Indian subsection of data. The dataset is constructed from two cohorts, a younger and an older cohort in five rounds as of date. The younger cohort was about 1 year old and the older cohort was about 8 years old during the first round. They are now 21 and 29 years old respectively. Following the lives of about three thousand children, the dataset consists of a pro-poor sample to capture

the contrasts of developmental dimensions. In this study, the aspiration differentials (categorised according to the National Classification of Occupations) are studied longitudinally while being disaggregated into select socioeconomic parameters. From the discussion, relevant conclusions are drawn and suitable policies for national growth and development are suggested.

*Key Words: Youth Development, Youth Aspirations, Occupational Attainment, Longitudinal Study, Young Lives*

*JEL Classification: D91, J13, I24*

## **Introduction**

The agenda of development is ingrained in both micro and macro-economic terms. At the individual level, there is an expectation to be better today than a previously given point of time (McWhirter & McWhirter, 2008). The expectation to be 'better' is multifaceted, ranging from education to the state of occupation, health to wealth accumulation, family to social standing, etc., (Favara et al., 2021). However, there are barriers to this development in terms of fulfilment of aspirations and some of them impact individual development significantly (Ambrose, 2003). The impact on their development due to these barriers are also evident (ibid.).

In light of the above circumstances, India is currently experiencing a demographic dividend (Chandrasekhar & Ghosh, 2006). Demographic dividend generally entails rapid and significant economic growth and human development. This is owing to lesser requirements of resources needed to build the infrastructure of the young, released for other developmental purposes. As far as the expectations on national developments go, the 'East Asian Miracle Economies' act as the quintessence for the same (Ross, 2004). Despite the opportunity presented by the demographic dividend for India, there are numerous factors that cast aspersions in making good use of the scenario (Chandrasekhar & Ghosh, 2006). The major reason attributed to these aspersions is the low absorption in the workforce of Indian youth which is further attributed to the deficient attainments in youth education/skill level and youth health (ibid). Thus, necessitating a study on this target population whose activities or the lack of it bears serious ramifications on the overall economy and development, not just for the time being but also for the foreseeable future.

The 'attainments', as discussed above, are not the consequences of immediate events but are the results of a series of situations and factors that shape aspirations and in turn shape attainment (MacLeod, 2018). While the aspirations are also shaped by the community and peer groups (Lupton & Kintrea, 2011), they are indeed impacted by hard economics so much so that the impact of the level of earnings for the test subjects were stronger than the parameters of ethnicity, education or household position (Andersson et al., 2007). Therefore the effects and changes in aspirations and attainment must be observed from a longitudinal perspective.

The occupational attainment, in particular, is among the important facets of individual attainments. From a developing economy's standpoint, the importance of a decent job cannot be overstated along with the importance in the growth of its middle class (Kapsos & Bourmpoula, 2013). As it can be seen that higher average earnings from employment/occupation are results of higher levels of productivity and coupled with the fact that there is a clear link between labour market outcomes and middle class standard of living (ibid.), understanding the occupational attainments of young people becomes paramount.

The data source for the study is mainly from the 'Young Lives' dataset, a longitudinal, multinational, multi-cohort dataset brought about by the University of Oxford and other institutions under its aegis. For the purpose of this research, occupational attainments have been brought under the scale of the National Classification of Occupations (2015) released by the Directorate General of Employment, Ministry of Labour & Employment, Government of India. This is due to the plethora of job types that exist in the labour market, not only in sheer types but also progressions within any single type, so that comparing any two (or more) aspirations are enabled under a common field. After the classification, they are simplified into three ordered categories. Thus, bringing the occupational attainment in this study to three levels. The dataset follows the aspirations and corresponding attainments of about eight hundred individuals whose age was around eight years in round one until round six where the same individuals are about twenty-five years of age.

This paper has been organised in the following sections, with the immediate next section discussing the literature previously published regarding the themes of this paper. The section after Literature Review is the Objectives and Methodology section where it entails the intent of this study and the specific means to achieve the same. The results of this section are discussed in the 'Analysis and Discussion' section. Finally, the paper concludes with a 'Conclusion and Scope for Further Research' section. The section on the references used in this paper is presented immediately after.

## **Literature Review**

### ***HUMAN DEVELOPMENT***

The term Human Development is an umbrella term encompassing a large number of concepts and meanings (Alkire, 2002). As seen in the Human Development reviews of Alkire (2010), one of the definitions of Human Development was "Human development is a process of enlarging people's choices." A slightly enhanced definition from the same review is that "Human development is the process of enlarging people's choices, by expanding human functioning and capabilities." There are multitudes of definitions as aforementioned but it is safe to assume that Human development deals with improving the abilities and life experiences of human beings. It can be seen that the whole gamut of Human development in its current understanding developed after the first Human Development Report released by the United Nations Development Programme. Each new Human Development Report released each year improved the existing definition and understanding of Human Development (ibid.). The Human Development Report of 1991 (United Nations Development Programme, 1991) outlines the following three elements:

1. "The real objective of development is to increase people's choices."

It should be "participatory, distributed well and sustainable." and

"It has to be development of the people, by the people, for the people."

It must be kept in mind that the same development facets are also applied to the 'Youth Construct/Development'

### **The Youth Construct**

The classic work of Erikson - Youth, Identity and Crisis (1968) can be credited as one of the earliest significant pieces of literature that used the term 'youth' not only as a terminology of demographic construct but also as a socioeconomic construct. Another equally acclaimed work is that of Keniston (1970) where he clearly states that youth is a stage of transition and is distinct from the concept of

completion or accomplishment. Such kind of research provides a theoretical framework to stand on and consider youth as a separate, independent, unique and critical construct while trying to navigate an imprecise domain. The domain is imprecise to start with because the concept of youth is not exactly universal and also cannot be bounded by a particular age range (ibid.). However, there have been efforts to define youth and quantify it at least from a demographic perspective in terms of an age bracket. The age bracket consideration for certain renowned studies/organisations is as follows (MOSPI, 2022):

Research/Literature/Document/Organization	Age Bracket (in years)
National Youth Policy, 2003 (India)	13-35
National Youth Policy, 2014 (India) / Youth in India Reports	15-29
WHO/UNICEF/UNFPA	15-24
UN Secretariat/UNESCO/ILO	15-24
UN Habitat (Youth Fund)	15-32

The definitions and age bracket consideration is a critical aspect to know and understand in youth studies as the Government plans, policies, schemes and interventions are applicable only to those individuals within that age bracket as seen in the youth schemes outlined by MOSPI (2022). Simply put, youth are defined “as persons in the age group of 15-29 years” (ibid.). While the above definition of Youth is straightforward, it does not capture why youth as a separate entity from childhood and adulthood needs to be seen. Keniston (1970) summarised the youth situation as:

“Phenomenologically, youth is a time of alternating estrangement and omnipotentiality. The estrangement of youth entails feelings of isolation, unreality, absurdity, and disconnectedness from the interpersonal, social and phenomenological world. Such feelings are probably more intense during youth than in any other period of life. In part they spring from the actual disengagement of youth from society; in part they grow out of the psychological sense of incongruence between self and world. Much of the psychopathology of youth involves such feelings, experienced as the depersonalization of the self or the derealization of the world”.

The summarization continues to convey that during youth, the central conscious issue is the tension between a particular youth’s self and society. This understanding is a guiding light to know that youth is not just something that exists between two age levels but is an intricately interconnected entity with society, ultimately giving rise to – the ‘Youth construct’. In light of this understanding, as the interconnectedness of the youth with society is established, there are other specifically disadvantageous circumstances in being a youth of the society. From the United Nations’ Office of the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth, collated information regarding the aforementioned youth disadvantages can be inferred from:

From every estimate, greater than 90% of all casualties are occurring among young adult males (UNFPA, 2015).

Among those girls who died as a result of violence, 80% of them were between the age group of 15-19 years (UNICEF, 2014).

Homicide victims aged between 15-29 years accounted for 43% of total homicides. (UNODC, 2013).

Compared to adults, Youth are 33% less likely to possess a savings account and also are 44% less likely to possess a savings account in a formal institution. (UNCDF, 2013).

Globally, Parliamentarians who are below 30 years of age make up only 1.9% of the total despite having huge numbers in their demographic group. (Inter-Parliamentary Union, 2016)

Thus, it can be concluded from the pieces of literature aforementioned that 'Youth' is a stage – a construct that is morally, physically, economically, legally, financially, socially, electorally, educationally, occupationally, healthwise, savings-wise, violence-wise, aspirations-wise backward/weak/disadvantaged and therefore, vulnerable.

## **Aspirations And Changing Aspirations**

Aspirations are naturally occurring expectations of the self for a future time period. From the literature reviews on Youth Aspirations by Gardiner and Goedhuys (2020), they recount the essentiality of youth aspirations to their educational choices along with labour market (occupational) outcomes and human capital investment. Moreover, they note that the aspirations are not uniformly/evenly distributed within the societal classes/categories. Specifically, those hailing from disadvantaged backgrounds aspire big.

The youth aspirations are not the same over the years and the global change in youth aspirations has been occurring for quite a few years now (Leavy & Hossein, 2014) and owing to this, there seems to be a persisting form of youth crisis. The youth environment imposes a strong influence on youth development, as seen in the surveys conducted by Leavy and Hossein (2014). For example, the parents, relatives, friends and others reinforce the notion that "agriculture is peril" and that even if agriculture is profitable, it does not develop the mind sufficiently to aspire for it (ibid.). There was also enough evidence that the aspirations were leaning heavily towards 'Government Jobs', jobs offered by the public sector institutions and such kind of perceived stable salaried jobs/occupations than, say, agriculture. This phenomenon is well founded in Gardiner and Goedhuys' (2020) conclusions from their surveys of various literature on aspirations that "Peer frame, or peer structure, is perceived by subjects as a social reference point, which changes aspirations and, consequently, risk-taking behaviour and actions." The aforementioned social reference points may be role models (parents, celebrities etc.), media (news or social media), etc.

Failure to satisfy aspirations is likely to result in poor levels of productivity and motivation leading to a decrease in the general well-being and can even cause social unrest (OECD, 2017). In addition, it is also quite evident that the youth are affected significantly by the environment that they're in, as in the case of McBride Murray et al (2011) on Neighbourhood poverty and adolescent development. The phenomenon is consistent, as seen in Bijaya Malik (2015) in his question Youth development in India: does poverty matter? This factor further aggravates Youth Vulnerability as it even affects their perceptions and aspirations.

## **Study Objectives and Methodology**

### **Objectives**

This paper sought to understand the two aspects of youth aspirations and youth attainment from a long-term perspective. This was also from the standpoint of the Indian experience of a pro-poor sampled households. Thus, the paper had the following two objectives:

To trace and understand the longitudinal changes in aspirations of young people belonging to different socioeconomic backgrounds

To understand which individual parameters impact youth attainment with respect to the aspirations

## Methodology

### *For Objective 1*

The study used 'Young Lives' dataset for its analysis and to reach its objectives Young Lives is a longitudinal study of poverty and inequality that has been following the lives of 12,000 children in Ethiopia, India (Andhra Pradesh and Telangana), Peru and Vietnam since 2001 with the sixth round being available to public use in 2020. The study uses a pro-poor sample that includes nearly an equal number of boys and girls, located in both rural and urban communities. Young Lives is a collaborative research project coordinated out of the Department of International Development at the University of Oxford.

Since this is an India-based study, only the data of Indian children/young people/youth is considered. Therefore only a quarter of the total world level data is Indian and is retained. The dataset is also unique in the sense that it consists of an older cohort (children who were first interviewed when they were 8 years old) and a younger cohort (children whose data was collected when they were infants). For the purpose of the study, only the older cohort shall be included owing to an additional round of aspirations data and occupational attainment data being available.

The aspirations were studied while being disaggregated into gender (Male/Female), location of residence (Urban/Rural) and Income levels (converted into deciles). For this purpose, the data from Rounds 1 to 4 were collected; Rounds 5 and 6 consisted of attainment data rather than aspirations data and therefore, they were excluded. Each aspiration and attainment were classified as per the National Classification of Occupations (2015) brought forth by the Ministry of Labour & Employment, Government of India. The NCO Divisions 1, 2 and 3 were considered high aspiration/attainment, 4, 5, 6 and 7 were considered mediocre aspiration/attainment and divisions 8 and 9 were considered poor aspiration/attainment. The high, mediocre and low categorization was based on the descending order of skill level assigned to the 9 divisions of NCO. Due to the nature of the data, certain triangulations were done to establish certain missing data points and in some cases, necessary assumptions were made within the line of reason. In certain other cases, the whole registry of the Young Life Child's data was removed due to inconsistencies in the data. The remaining entries for each Young Life Child was disaggregated as per aforementioned fields vis-a-vis their aspirations and tables drawn from the same to be analysed.

### *For Objective 2*

A logistic regression model was used to determine the parameters that impact youth attainment with respect to the aspirations. The statistical analysis was conducted using RStudio software.

$$\text{Log} ( p / 1-p ) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \cdot x$$

This above general equation is used in Logistic Regression. Here (p/1-p) is the odds ratio. Specifically. The odds ratio for this study is whether there was a turn for the worse in terms of aspirations with respect to attainment. The cases which are considered as having taken a yes or a 1 value for the turn for the worse are those which were at a higher aspiration level but ended up in a lower attainment level and for those whose aspirations were at a lower level and continued to remain at a lower level even in the attainment. In addition, a direct change between aspirations and attainment was also considered for the odds ratio for a particular set of analysis.

Round 3 data of Young Lives was considered as the children were about 15 years of age by then and were assumed to have had sufficient exposure to make proper and informed decisions on their aspirations. The

regressions were performed on 821 Individuals belonging to the Indian set of Young Lives Children who belonged to the older cohort. The gender of the individual, wealth index, location of residence, their social category, their perception/confidence in reaching their aspirations were regressed to fulfil objective 2.

### Analysis and Discussion

In tracing the longitudinal changes in aspirations for Rounds 1, 2, 3 and 4, the following tables were drawn:

**Table 1**  
***Aspirations in Round 1 (as % of YL Children)***

parameter	Don't know	high	mediocre	poor	University Student	Total	
Urban	4.38	74.50	20.32	0.80	NA	100.00	
Rural	6.47	73.05	17.97	2.51	NA	100.00	
Total	5.95	73.41	18.55	2.08	NA	100.00	
Male	4.68	63.14	28.11	4.07	NA	100.00	
Female	7.16	83.17	9.48	0.19	NA	100.00	
Total	5.95	73.41	18.55	2.08	NA	100.00	
Income	1st decile	5.83	78.64	15.53	0.00	NA	100.00
	2nd decile	8.91	67.33	19.80	3.96	NA	100.00
	3rd decile	8.82	71.57	17.65	1.96	NA	100.00
	4th decile	7.07	63.64	21.21	8.08	NA	100.00
	5th decile	6.86	75.49	14.71	2.94	NA	100.00
	6th decile	4.08	75.51	19.39	1.02	NA	100.00
	7th decile	7.77	70.87	20.39	0.97	NA	100.00
	8th decile	3.03	75.76	21.21	0.00	NA	100.00
	9th decile	2.97	74.26	20.79	1.98	NA	100.00
	10th decile	4.00	81.00	15.00	0.00	NA	100.00
Total	5.95	73.41	18.55	2.08	NA	100.00	

**Table 2**  
***Aspirations in Round 2 (as % of YL Children)***

parameter	Fulltime parent/ Housewife	high	mediocre	poor	University Student	Total
Urban	2.07	77.18	17.01	3.73	NA	100.00
Rural	8.40	70.93	15.73	4.93	NA	100.00
Total	6.86	72.45	16.04	4.64	NA	100.00



	Male	0.00	68.67	23.65	7.68	NA	100.00
	Female	13.36	76.03	8.84	1.77	NA	100.00
	Total	6.86	72.45	16.04	4.64	NA	100.00
Income	1st decile	7.92	72.28	16.83	2.97	NA	100.00
	2nd decile	7.22	70.10	13.40	9.28	NA	100.00
	3rd decile	6.00	78.00	8.00	8.00	NA	100.00
	4th decile	6.06	67.68	21.21	5.05	NA	100.00
	5th decile	12.87	72.28	11.88	2.97	NA	100.00
	6th decile	7.29	68.75	18.75	5.21	NA	100.00
	7th decile	6.30	70.87	18.90	3.94	NA	100.00
	8th decile	7.32	64.63	24.39	3.66	NA	100.00
	9th decile	2.20	74.73	18.68	4.40	NA	100.00
	10th decile	5.15	84.54	9.28	1.03	NA	100.00
	Total	6.86	72.45	16.04	4.64	NA	100.00

**Table 3**

***Aspirations in Round 3 (as % of YL Children)***

parameter	Fulltime parent/ Housewife	high	mediocre	poor	University Student	Total	
Urban	3.36	45.38	23.11	2.10	26.05	100	
Rural	7.29	44.29	23.11	5.09	20.22	100	
Total	6.32	44.56	23.11	4.35	21.66	100	
Male	0.21	27.91	31.50	5.29	35.10	100.00	
Female	12.20	60.57	15.04	3.46	8.74	100.00	
Total	6.32	44.56	23.11	4.35	21.66	100.00	
Income	1st decile	7.07	47.47	29.29	6.06	10.10	100.00
	2nd decile	11.88	45.54	19.80	6.93	15.84	100.00
	3rd decile	12.24	38.78	21.43	5.10	22.45	100.00
	4th decile	8.79	46.15	30.77	3.30	10.99	100.00
	5th decile	8.91	32.67	26.73	8.91	22.77	100.00
	6th decile	3.37	41.57	25.84	4.49	24.72	100.00
	7th decile	3.06	45.92	21.43	3.06	26.53	100.00
	8th decile	4.12	47.42	21.65	3.09	23.71	100.00
	9th decile	2.08	46.88	21.88	2.08	27.08	100.00



	10th decile	1.05	53.68	12.63	0.00	32.63	100.00
	Total	6.32	44.56	23.11	4.35	21.66	100.00

**Table 4**

***Aspirations in Round 4 (as % of YL Children)***

parameter	Fulltime parent/ Housewife	high	mediocre	poor	University Student	Total	
Urban	6.30	44.07	42.59	6.30	0.74	100	
Rural	9.09	43.26	38.56	7.18	1.91	100	
Total	8.30	43.49	39.71	6.93	1.58	100	
Male	0.64	41.42	43.56	12.23	2.15	100.00	
Female	15.64	45.47	36.01	1.85	1.03	100.00	
Total	8.30	43.49	39.71	6.93	1.58	100.00	
Income	1st decile	7.29	38.54	39.58	11.46	3.13	100
	2nd decile	5.05	32.32	50.51	11.11	1.01	100
	3rd decile	12.73	39.09	40.00	6.36	1.82	100
	4th decile	9.09	48.05	35.06	5.19	2.60	100
	5th decile	11.46	39.58	41.67	6.25	1.04	100
	6th decile	12.90	44.09	32.26	9.68	1.08	100
	7th decile	8.25	44.33	40.21	6.19	1.03	100
	8th decile	6.86	38.24	44.12	7.84	2.94	100
	9th decile	3.45	54.02	40.23	2.30	0.00	100
	10th decile	5.26	60.00	31.58	2.11	1.05	100
Total	8.30	43.49	39.71	6.93	1.58	100	

By analysing all of the four tables presented above, a few notable takeaways can be summarised as follows:

Individuals hailing from richer households (identified through Income deciles), tend to aspire higher and have fewer individuals aspiring for lower occupations.

A pattern can be found across the tables that, from the poorest households to the richest households, there is a gradual decrease in aspiring for poorer occupations and vice versa.

Compared to Females, males have been aspiring poorer occupations. Females have always aspired higher irrespective of their age.

There is no stark difference between the Urban and Rural individuals as far as their occupational aspirations are concerned.

The regression results for the differences in aspirations and attainment shall be discussed thematically in the following:

1. Sex – Factor Variable; 2 levels:

- a) Male
- b) Female

Coefficients:				
	Estimate	Std. Error	z value	Pr(> z )
(Intercept)	0.8908	0.1089	8.182	2.79e-16 ***
sexMale	-0.9005	0.1468	-6.132	8.65e-10 ***

Significance codes: 0 '\*\*\*' 0.001 '\*\*' 0.01 '\*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1

Gender has been the most pronounced result in the analysis where being a male has very low chances of taking a turn for the worst in terms of aspirations and attainment differentials.

2. Individual Perception/confidence on attainment – Factor Variable

- a) No (0)
- b) Yes (1)
- c) Don't Know (77)
- d) NA (88)

Coefficients:				
	Estimate	Std. Error	z value	Pr(> z )
(Intercept)	1.0609	0.2735	3.879	0.000105 ***
willyougetthejob1	-0.7029	0.2836	-2.479	0.013188 *
willyougetthejob77	0.2384	0.7064	0.337	0.735746
willyougetthejob88	-15.6269	509.6522	-0.031	0.975539

Significance. codes: 0 '\*\*\*' 0.001 '\*\*' 0.01 '\*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1

Those individuals who expressed confidence in meeting their aspirations did turn out better in terms of their attainment than those who expressed otherwise. Therefore, it can be assumed that the individuals/kids know and understand their current and future situations reasonably well.

3. Sibling Position – Numeric Variable

(denotes the order of birth of the individual with respect to his/her siblings)

Coefficients:				
	Estimate	Std. Error	z value	Pr(> z )
(Intercept)	2.0389	0.1930	10.56	< 2e-16 ***
siblingposition	-0.3286	0.1008	-3.26	0.00111 **

Significance codes: 0 '\*\*\*' 0.001 '\*\*' 0.01 '\*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1

The negative coefficient suggests that higher values of "siblingposition" are associated with a lower likelihood of having a change between aspirations and attainment.

### Total Siblings – Numeric Variable

Coefficients:	Estimate	Std. Error	z value	Pr(> z )
(Intercept)	2.1349	0.2481	8.603	< 2e-16 ***
Total Siblings	-0.2121	0.0758	-2.798	0.00514 **

Significance codes: 0 '\*\*\*' 0.001 '\*\*' 0.01 '\*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1

The negative coefficient suggests that higher values of "Total Siblings" are associated with a lower likelihood of having a change between aspirations and attainment.

Other variables such as Wealth Index, Type of Location (Urban/Rural), Size of the Household, Relative perception of the household's economic standing, Social Category (SC/ST/BC/Other), and Parental education level, had no statistically significant effect on the changes between aspiration and attainment or a towards a turn for the worse.

### Conclusion and Scope for Further Studies

#### Conclusion

This study aimed at understanding the long-term nature of youth occupational aspirations and youth occupational attainment. The study used longitudinal data to arrive at the following conclusion:

Individuals hailing from richer households (identified through Income deciles), tend to aspire higher and have fewer individuals aspiring for lower occupations.

A pattern can be found across the tables that, from the poorest households to the richest households, there is a gradual decrease in aspiring for poorer occupations and vice versa.

Compared to Females, males have been aspiring poorer occupations. Females have always aspired higher irrespective of their age.

There is no stark difference between the Urban and Rural individuals as far as their occupational aspirations are concerned.

By being a male, the individual is less likely to reach a situation where the occupational aspiration-attainment scenario worsens.

The individual's perception and confidence in attaining aspirations is a valid ground to predict future attainment. It can be assumed that the individuals/kids know and understand their current and future situations reasonably well.

The younger children of the household tend not to have a change in their aspirations and attainment.

Wealth Index, Type of Location (urban/Rural), Size of the Household, Relative perception of the household economic standing, Social Category (SC/ST/BC/Other), Parental education level, had no statistically significant effect on the changes between aspiration and attainment.

#### Scope for Further Studies

Young Life Survey data, while being one of the best sources of longitudinal data esp. in the field of childhood poverty and adolescent development, has its own lacunae owing to the sheer size of questions. Therefore, an improved longitudinal data collection can be undertaken for higher precision in the results. The study is limited to the dataset pertaining to India alone. Analysis for other countries and cross-country comparisons can also be executed.

The analyses in this data are up to Round 6. Further analyses can be undertaken when subsequent rounds are released.

### **Suggestions**

Due to a serious non-availability of long term / longitudinal data pertaining to youth development, a periodic survey for the same needs to be undertaken first.

There is no nationally representative data is available in India for the kind of analyses performed in this study. Therefore, a nationally representative data is to be collected by eliciting information from the point of view of childhood/youth development.

As far as the interventions are concerned by either NGOs or the Governmental arms themselves, the opinion of the child on their future attainment must be considered and suitable aid is to be provided for the improvement of that attainment.

It is seen that the Female individuals are at a disadvantage when it comes to losing out on attainment despite aspiring higher than male individuals; suitable interventions need to be carried out to bridge this gap to prevent a long term disaster. Females comprise about half the nation's population, their welfare needs to be addressed, otherwise, the national development will run at half its capacity.

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