

## CHAPTER 5

### CORRELATES OF CAREER ASPIRATION:

#### Introduction

Chapter explores the self concept factors that are deemed to have an important influence on career aspirations. Each factor's influence on career aspirations is explained in separate sections and each section describes the variable in terms of its distribution and career prestige.

Box plots are used to compare the distribution of career aspiration for different categories in a variable. Comparisons are made by observing the median and skewness of box plots for the different categories

The difference in mean career aspiration is then confirmed using the t test (for comparing only 2 categories) or the F test (for comparing more than 2 categories). If the test shows that there is significant difference in mean career aspiration of some of the categories, Scheffe tests are then administered to compare the mean for the categories in which categories differ significantly in mean. The categories that differ very much from one another are identified.

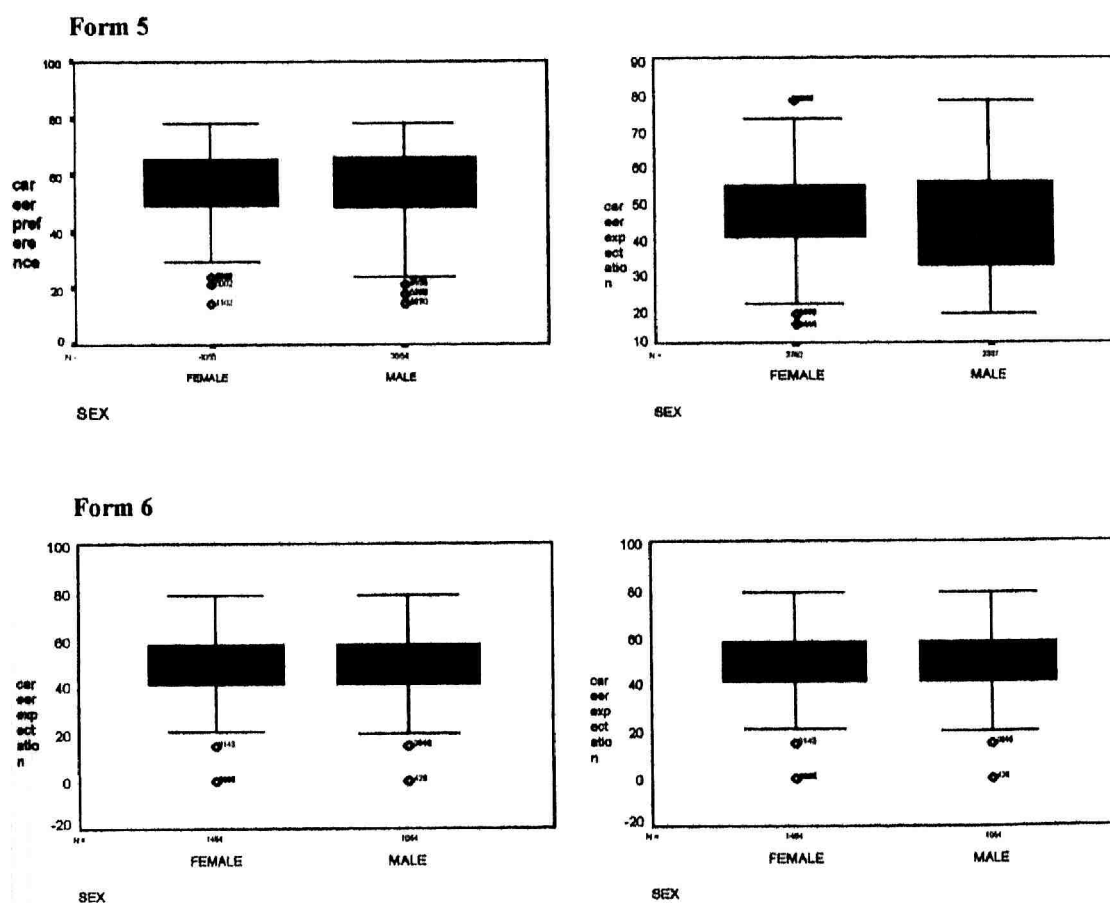
A table of mean career aspirations for the different categories in a variable is also presented. It is determined whether the mean career aspirations of respondents in different categories are considered of low, medium, high or very high prestige by using guidelines in Section 3.3.2 of Chapter 3 on the categorisation of occupational prestige. This will be compared with the mean career aspiration as a whole where Section 4.1 of Chapter 4 shows that the mean career preference of both samples lie in the high prestige category, the mean career expectation for the Form 5 sample lies in the low prestige career category and the mean career expectation for the Form 6 sample lies in the medium prestige category. Prominent differences in career aspiration among the

categories is identified if the mean career aspiration for different categories lie in different prestige levels; i.e. low, medium, high or very high.

Finally, the t tests, F tests and Scheffe tests are also used to see if there are any differences in the mean career aspirations among the gender and ethnic categories for different localities and socio-economic status groups. For ethnic differences in career aspiration, it is also examined to see if there are any differences in career aspiration among the different ethnic groups with similar academic achievement. The socio-economic status groups and academic achievement groups are categorised into two groups according to where the differences in career aspirations lie.

## 5.2 Gender

Figure 5.1: Box Plots For Distribution Of Career Aspiration By Gender



The box-plots above show no difference in the distribution of career aspiration of males and females for the Form 6 sample. However, for the Form 5 sample, the distribution of the male category seems skewed towards lower career aspirations. A small proportion of less than 25% of male respondents seem to prefer careers that are lower than any of the female respondents' preferences. Their career expectations are more spread out compared to females, with a higher proportion of them expecting low prestige careers compared to a lower proportion of females.

When t tests are conducted for the differences in mean career aspirations for males and females, the t values as in Table 5.1 show that the difference in mean career preference for both samples are significant. The difference in mean career expectation is significant only for the Form 5 sample but is not significant for the Form 6 sample.

The mean of career preference for males and females in both samples range from 56 points to 62 points which lie within the high prestige category. The mean prestige points of career expectation lies in the medium prestige category for males and females in both samples.

**Table 5.1: Mean Career Aspirations of Males and Females**

Sex	Career Preference		Career Expectation	
	Form 5	Form 6	Form 5	Form 6
Female	58.43	62.22	46.2	48.14
Male	56.9	59.97	43.54	47.43
t values for gender differences (p-values)	5.29 (0.00)	5.35 (0.00)	9.02 (0.00)	1.47 (0.14)

### 5.2.1 Gender By Locality

Table 5.2 shows that except for Form 6 career expectation, all the other cases show that for those from small towns and rural areas, females have career aspirations that are significantly higher compared to males. For those from large towns though, either the career aspirations of males are significantly higher or there exists no significant differences between the two groups.

**Table 5.2: Mean Career Aspiration For Gender By Locality**

Gender By Locality	Career Preference		Career Expectation	
	Form 5	Form 6	Form 5	Form 6
<b>Large Town</b>				
Female	57.38	63.49	47.00	50.96
Male	60.24	61.92	47.35	50.17
t values for gender differences for large town respondents (p-values)	-5.761 (0.000)	1.84 (0.07)	-0.62 (0.53)	0.84 (0.4)
<b>Small Town And Rural Areas</b>				
Female	59.06	61.83	45.72	47.32
Male	55.56	59.08	42.12	46.21
t values for gender differences for small town and rural respondents (p-values)	9.775 (0.000)	5.67 (0.00)	10.39 (0.00)	2 (0.05)

### 5.2.2. Gender By Socio-economic Status

Table 5.3 shows that generally for both samples, the mean career aspirations for females are significantly higher than males for those from lower status families but for those from high status families, there are either no significant difference between the mean career aspiration of males and females or the mean career aspiration of males are significantly higher than females. This seems to indicate that the fact that females have higher career aspiration seem to be evident mainly for the lower socio-economic status groups.



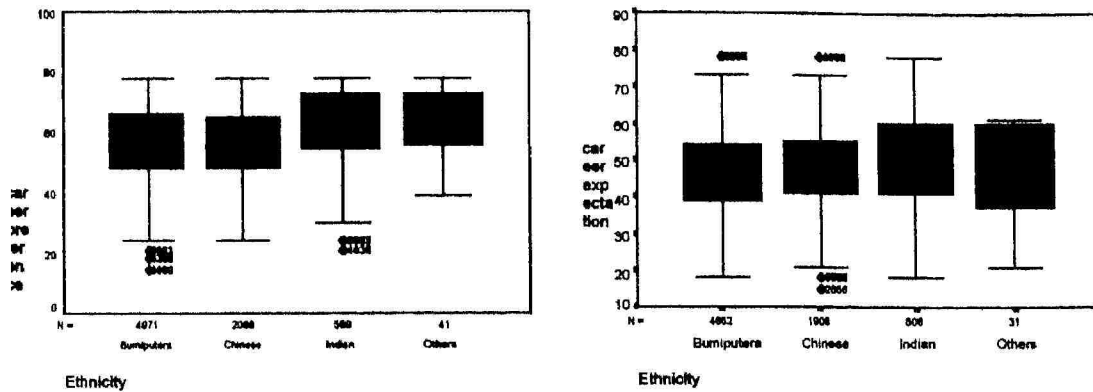
**Table 5.3: Mean Career Aspiration For Gender By Socio-economic Status**

Gender By Socio-economic Status	Career Preference		Career Expectation	
	Form 5	Form 6	Form 5	Form 6
<b>a) Father's Highest Educational Level</b>				
<b>Well Educated (Upper Secondary and Above)</b>				
Female	61.96	65.22	50.58	53.11
Male	61.28	63.66	48.92	52.76
t values for gender differences for respondents whose fathers are well educated (p value)	1.02 (0.31)	1.48 (0.14)	2.19 (0.028)	0.29 (0.77)
<b>Not Well Educated (Lower Secondary and Below)</b>				
Female	57.79	61.64	45.26	47.24
Male	55.75	59.47	42.44	46.48
t values for gender differences for respondents whose fathers are not well educated (p value)	6.00 (0.00)	4.61 (0.00)	8.76 (0.00)	1.42 (0.16)
<b>b) Mother's Highest Educational Level</b>				
<b>Well Educated (Upper Secondary and Above)</b>				
Female	63.31	68.49	50.94	56.38
Male	62.50	62.78	50.76	54.17
t values for gender differences for respondents whose mothers are well educated (p value)	0.929 (0.35)	3.74 (0.00)	0.18 (0.85)	1.34 (0.19)
<b>Not Well Educated (Lower Secondary and Below)</b>				
Female	58.09	61.76	45.79	47.52
Male	56.01	59.82	42.62	46.66
t values for gender differences for respondents whose mothers are not well educated (p value)	6.59 (0.00)	4.38 (0.00)	10.38 (0.00)	1.69 (0.09)
<b>c) Occupational Status Of Parents</b>				
<b>High Status (high and very high prestige)</b>				
Female	61.21	63.57	48.86	51.12
Male	61.54	61.49	49.97	51.80
t values for gender differences for respondents whose parents are of high status (p value)	-0.38 (0.71)	2.00 (0.05)	-1.12 (0.26)	-0.58 (0.56)
<b>Low Status (low and medium prestige)</b>				
Female	58.30	61.94	45.96	47.43
Male	56.28	60.06	42.77	46.4*9
t values for gender differences for respondents whose parents are of low status (p value)	6.35 (0.00)	3.89 (0.00)	10.18 (0.00)	1.20 (0.09)
<b>d) Income Of Parents</b>				
<b>High Income (more than RM2000 for Form 5 and more than 1000 for Form 6)</b>				
Female	60.11	63.09	49.68	50.93
Male	62.30	60.91	52.24	49.64
t values for gender differences for respondents whose parents are of high income (p value)	-2.29 (0.022)	3.30 (0.001)	-2.36 (0.02)	1.83 (0.07)
<b>Low Income</b>				
Female	58.31	61.41	45.91	46.01
Male	56.34	59.12	42.71	45.54
t values for gender differences for respondents whose parents are of low income (p value)	6.44 (0.00)	4.19 (0.000)	10.57 (0.00)	0.71 (0.48)

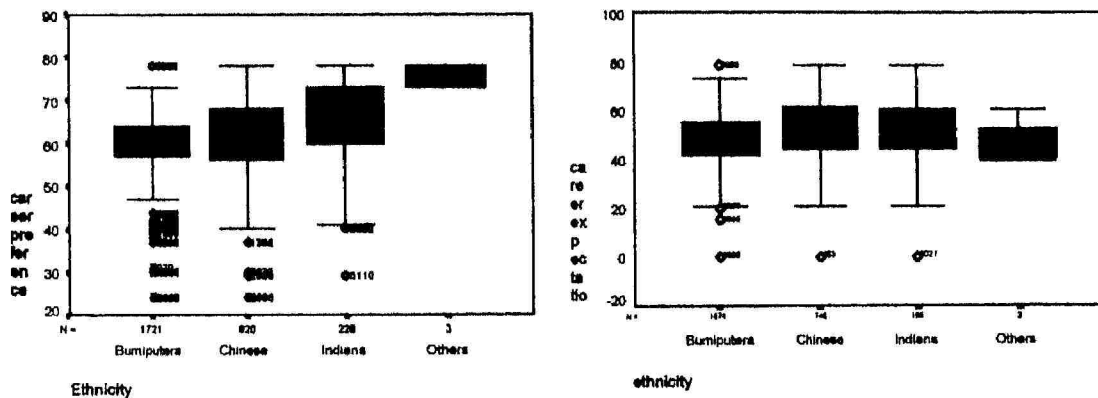
### 5.3 Ethnicity

Figure 5.2 : Box Plots For Distribution Of Career Aspiration By Ethnicity

#### Form 5



#### Form 6



The distribution for the Form 5 sample shows not much difference between the Bumiputera and Chinese career aspirations but it depicts that there is a higher proportion of Indians aspiring for higher prestige careers. For the Form 6 sample too, there seems to be a higher proportion of Indians preferring high prestige careers but there does not seem to be much difference between the career expectations of Chinese and Indians. For the Form 6 sample, there is a higher proportion of Chinese and Indians aspiring for higher

prestige careers compared to *Bumiputera* respondents and the Chinese and Indians respondents' career aspirations too are more spread out compared to *Bumiputera* respondents.

The significant F values for the test of mean differences show that there are significant differences between the mean career aspirations of some of the categories. The Scheffe tests find the mean career aspirations for Indians, compared to other ethnic groups to be significantly higher for both samples. The Scheffe test also finds the mean career preference for the *Bumiputera* group to be not significantly different from that of the Chinese but that their mean career expectation is significantly lower than the means for the Chinese and other ethnic groups as can be seen for both the Form 5 and the Form 6 samples.

Table 5.4 shows that for the Form 5 sample, the mean career preferences for *Bumiputera* and Chinese respondents are generally quite low with their mean career preference lying in or close to the medium prestige category while the mean prestige of the Indians lie in the high prestige category. For the Form 6 sample, the *Bumiputera* and Chinese have mean career preference that lie in the high prestige category but the mean of the Indian respondents lie in the very high prestige category. For career expectation, both samples show that the mean prestige of the Chinese and Indians both lie in the medium prestige category but the mean for the *Bumiputera* respondents lie in the low prestige category.

**Table 5.4: Mean Career Aspirations Of Different Ethnic Groups**

Ethnicity	Career Preference		Career Expectation	
	Form 5	Form 6	Form 5	Form 6
Bumiputera	57.72	60.61	43.91	45.97
Chinese	56.85	61.25	46.41	50.46
Indian	60.14	66.01	48.94	53.0
Others	64.07	74.87	46.13	46.5
F values for ethnic differences (p values)	13.8 (0.00)	19.61 (0.00)	38.44 (0.00)	39.2 (0.00)

### 5.3.1 Ethnicity By Locality

The Scheffe tests show that Indians from all localities have significantly higher mean career aspirations compared to other ethnic groups. For the difference in mean between Chinese and *Bumiputera* respondents, it can be seen from Table 5.5 that irrespective of the locality, Chinese from both samples have a higher mean career expectation compared to *Bumiputera* respondents and mean career preference that do not differ much from the *Bumiputera* respondents. As the mean career aspiration of large town and other localities do not differ much for each ethnic groups, it can be concluded that locality does not have much of an influence on the differences in career aspirations among the ethnic groups.

**Table 5.5: Mean Career Aspiration For The Difference Ethnic Groups By Locality**

Ethnicity By Locality	Career Preference		Career Expectation	
	Form 5	Form 6	Form 5	Form 6
<b>Large Town</b>				
<i>Bumiputera</i>	58.51	61.87	46.46	48.73
Chinese	57.70	62.37	47.11	51.19
Indians	61.49	65.49	50.01	52.90
F values for ethnic differences for large town respondents (p-values)	11.24 (0.00)	3.58 (0.01)	5.73 (0.001)	3.64 (0.01)
<b>Small Town And Rural Areas</b>				
<i>Bumiputera</i>	57.55	60.37	43.29	45.45
Chinese	55.75	60.41	45.46	49.94
Indians	58.82	66.61	47.92	53.11
F values for ethnic differences for small town and rural respondents (p-values)	6.18 (0.00)	13.99 (0.00)	18.14 (0.00)	26.59 (0.00)

### 5.3.2. Ethnicity By Socio-economic Status

Table 5.6 shows that irrespective of socio-economic status, the career aspirations of Indians seems higher than the career aspirations of other ethnic groups. The Scheffe tests shows that the Indians' career aspirations are significantly higher for all cases except for father's highest level of education where the differences between Indians and Chinese are not significant for well educated and not well educated fathers.

The Scheffe tests show that for most situations there is no significant difference between the career preferences of Chinese and *Bumiputera* respondents regardless of their socio-economic status. For most cases however, the Scheffe tests show that the mean career expectations of Chinese are significantly higher than the *Bumiputera* respondents. Basically, socio-economic status does not seem to have much of an impact on the difference in career aspirations among the ethnic groups as the findings are similar for low and high socio-economic status groups.

**Table 5.6: Mean Career Aspiration Of The Difference Ethnic Groups By Socio-economic Status**

Ethnicity By Socio-economic Status	Career Preference		Career Expectation	
	Form 5	Form 6	Form 5	Form 6
<b>a) Father's Highest Educational Level</b>				
<b>Well Educated (Upper Secondary and Above)</b>				
<i>Bumiputera</i>	61.32	64.26	47.89	50.63
Chinese	60.42	62.97	51.09	53.04
Indians	65.39	69.20	54.54	58.91
F values for ethnic differences for respondents whose fathers are well educated (p value)	9.304 (0.00)	7.31 (0.00)	11.704 (0.00)	8.51 (0.00)
<b>Not Well Educated (Lower Secondary and Below)</b>				
<i>Bumiputera</i>	47.14	60.37	43.29	45.49
Chinese	55.69	60.63	45.15	49.61
Indians	58.34	64.74	46.48	50.56
F values for ethnic differences for respondents whose fathers are not well educated (p value)	7.56 (0.00)	10.61 (0.00)	14.03 (0.00)	31.31 (0.00)
<b>b) Mother's Highest Educational Level</b>				
<b>Well Educated (Upper Secondary and Above)</b>				
<i>Bumiputera</i>	62.61	64.80	49.00	51.81
Chinese	62.24	65.46	51.92	56.35
Indians	64.74	69.31	56.77	60.68
F values for ethnic differences for respondents whose mothers are well educated (p value)	1.96 (0.118)	0.55 (0.68)	8.8 (0.00)	0.78 (0.78)
<b>Not Well Educated (Lower Secondary and Below)</b>				
<i>Bumiputera</i>	57.33	60.54	43.55	10.18
Chinese	56.00	60.65	45.63	10.21
Indians	59.32	65.69	47.36	11.54
F values for ethnic differences for respondents whose mothers are not well educated (p value)	11.36 (0.00)	14.36 (0.00)	21.09 (0.00)	24.94 (0.00)

**Table 5.7: Mean Career Aspiration Of The Difference Ethnic Groups By socio-economic status**

Ethnicity By Socio-economic Status	Career Preference		Career Expectation	
	Form 5	Form 6	Form 5	Form 6
<b>c) Occupational Status Of Parents</b>				
<b>High Status (high and very high prestige)</b>				
<i>Bumiputera</i>	61.23	61.55	48.00	49.50
Chinese	60.82	63.17	50.57	54.24
Indians	63.02	69.09	56.54	57.23
F values for ethnic differences for respondents whose parents occupations are of high status (p value)	3.84 (0.01)	7.39 (0.00)	8.32 (0.00)	8.40 (0.00)
<b>Low Status (low and medium prestige)</b>				
<i>Bumiputera</i>	57.50	60.54	43.54	44.99
Chinese	46.34	61.05	45.88	49.66
Indians	59.69	65.81	48.12	52.35
F values for ethnic differences for respondents whose parents occupation are of low status (p value)	10.04 (0.00)	9.17 (0.00)	29.39 (0.00)	42.39 (0.00)
<b>d) Income Of Parents</b>				
<b>High Income (more than RM2000 for the Form 5 sample and more than RM100 for the Form 6 sample)</b>				
<i>Bumiputera</i>	62.35	61.96	50.85	48.08
Chinese	59.53	61.39	49.71	51.27
Indians	67.89	65.63	61.65	54.48
F values for ethnic differences for respondents whose parents are of high income (p value)	9.00 (0.00)	6.82 (0.00)	10.50 (0.00)	12.48 (0.00)
<b>Low Income (RM2000 and less for the Form 5 sample and RM1000 and less for the Form 6 sample))</b>				
<i>Bumiputera</i>	57.49	60.09	43.57	45.12
Chinese	56.32	60.15	45.74	48.16
Indians	59.44	66.57	47.89	51.17
F values for ethnic differences for respondents whose parents are of low income (p value)	11.66 (0.00)	4.99 (0.01)	26.63 (0.00)	7.84 (0.00)

### 5.3.3 Ethnicity by Academic Achievement

A notable observation is that for similar academic achievement, the Scheffe tests find the mean career expectation for the *Bumiputera* respondents for both samples, to be either significantly higher than the mean career expectation of the Chinese respondents or show no significant difference. This is contrary to the findings before taking into consideration academic achievement which showed that the mean career expectation of the *Bumiputera* respondents is significantly lower than the Chinese respondents (see Table 5.8 for display of means).

It is also found that for the Form 5 respondents, there is no significant difference between the career preference of the *Bumiputera* and Indians respondents for those with

similar results. However, the career expectation of the Indians respondents remains significantly higher than the other ethnic groups.

The above findings show that academic achievement has a significant influence on the difference in mean career aspiration between the ethnic groups

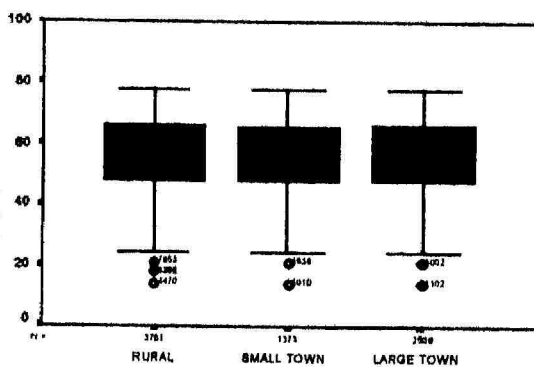
**Table 5.8: Mean Career Aspiration For Ethnicity By Academic Achievement**

Ethnicity By Academic Achievement	Career Preference		Career Expectation	
	Form 5	Form 6	Form 5	Form 6
<b>Good Results (5-13 Aggregate points)</b>				
<i>Bumiputera</i>	64.85	61.83	51.49	47.60
Chinese	60.02	61.98	49.36	50.72
Indians	67.37	67.72	58.35	53.46
F values for ethnic differences for respondents with good results (p-values)	31.90 (0.00)	16.35 (0.00)	19.59 (0.00)	12.97 (0.00)
<b>Poor Results (&gt; 13 Aggregate points)</b>				
<i>Bumiputera</i>	56.61	60.06	42.70	45.17
Chinese	54.27	56.41	44.05	47.50
Indians	58.12	62.09	46.35	50.71
F values for ethnic differences for respondents with poor results (p-values)	15.003 (0.00)	7.37 (0.001)	14.87 (0.00)	6.30 (0.002)

## 5.4 Locality

**Figure 5.3 : Box Plots For Distribution Of Career Aspiration By Locality**

**Form 5**

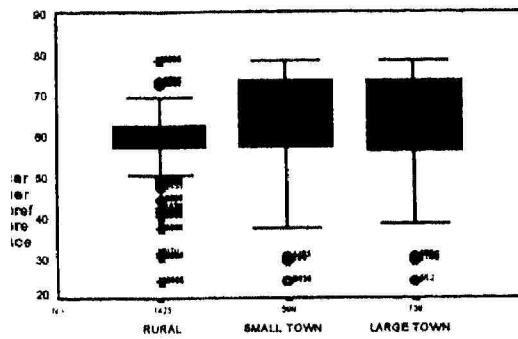


Location

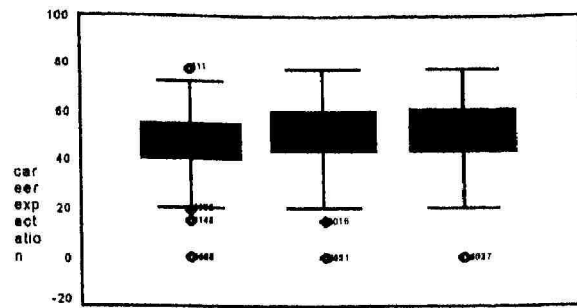
**Form 6**



Location



Location



Location

For the Form 5 sample there does not seem to be much difference in the distribution for the different areas but for the Form 6 sample the rural respondents have a much lower spread compared to the other categories. However, for the Form 6 sample, its median and lower quartile is the same as the other categories showing that for Form 6 rural respondents, the difference in career preference is due to a lower proportion of them choosing high prestige careers compared to the other categories.

For the test on mean differences, the F values which are all significant show that there are significant differences in mean career aspirations among the different localities. The Scheffe tests show significant differences for the means of career preference between large town respondents and other categories. For career expectation, the Scheffe tests show significant differences between large town respondents and other categories for the Form 5 sample and between large town and rural respondents for the Form 6 sample

Judging from the figures in Table 5.9, differences in career preferences among the different localities are considered not much as all the categories have a mean prestige level for career preference of around 60 points which lie within the category of high prestige careers. In terms of career expectation, the Form 5 sample has means that all lie in the low prestige category. Only for the Form 6 sample, it can be seen that the mean for the rural category is much lower as it lies in the low prestige career category but the means for the other categories lie in the medium prestige category.



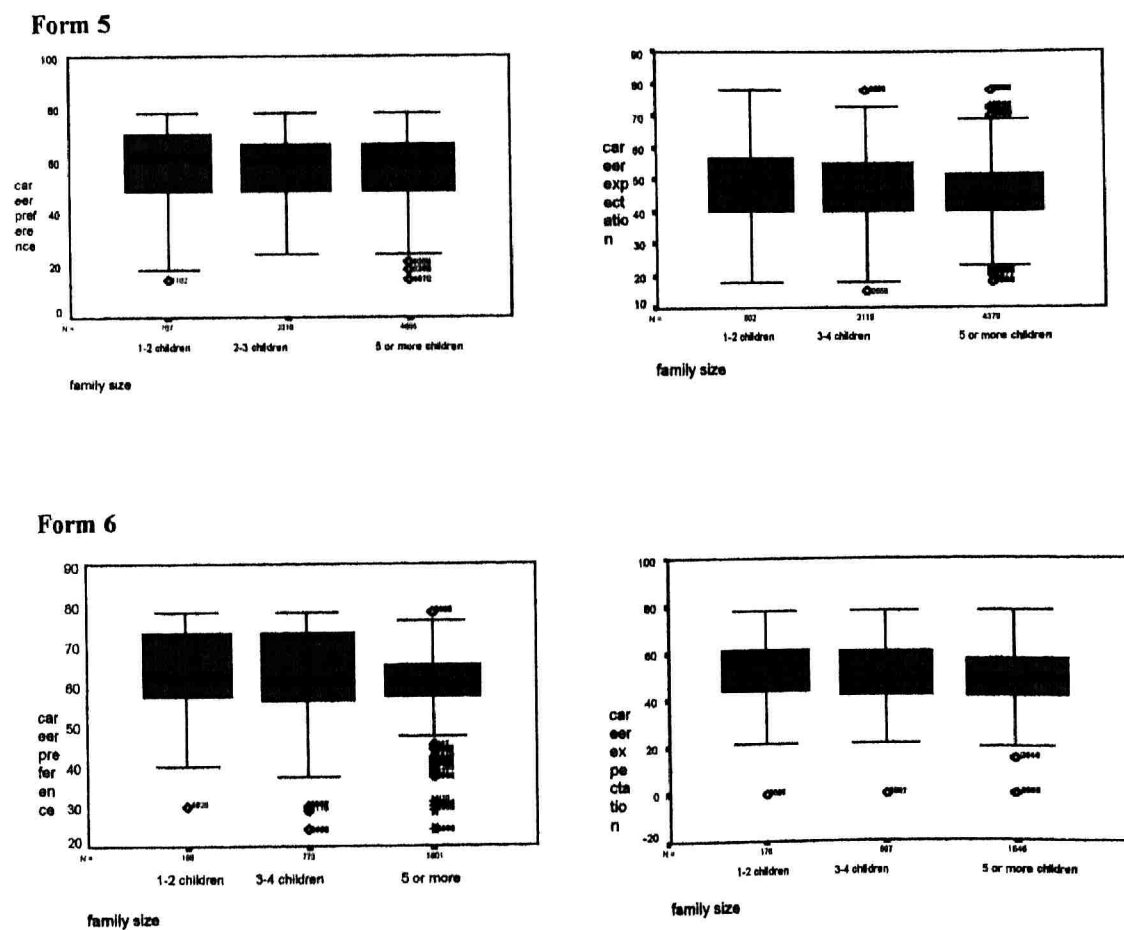
**Table 5.9: Mean Career Aspirations Of Respondents From Different Localities**

Location	Career Preference		Career Expectation	
	Form 5	Form 6	Form 5	Form 6
Rural	57.35	60.29	43.70	45.92
Small Town	57.19	61.75	44.55	49.21
Large Town	58.58	62.72	47.14	50.57
F values for differences in location (p values)	8.46 (0.00)	13.81 (0.00)	55.57 (0.00)	39.07 (0.00)

## 5.5 Family Characteristics

### 5.5.1 Family Size (in terms of number of children)

**Figure 5.4: Box Plots For Distribution of Career Aspiration By Family Size**



The box plots above show not much difference in the distribution of career aspirations for the Form 5 sample and of career expectation for the Form 6 sample. For Form 6 career preference however, the distribution for families with 5 or more children differs from other categories. Although its lower quartile is the same as the other categories, the upper quartile is much lower and the spread is less.

For the test on mean differences, the F values which are all significant show that there are significant differences in the mean career aspiration for some categories. The Levene tests show that for both samples, there are significant differences only between the mean career aspirations for families with 5 or more children and those with only 1 or two children.

Table 5.10 shows that all the means for career preference lie in the high prestige career category. In terms of career expectation for both samples, the means for families with 1 or 2 children lie in the medium prestige career category but the mean for families with 5 or more children lie in the low prestige career category.

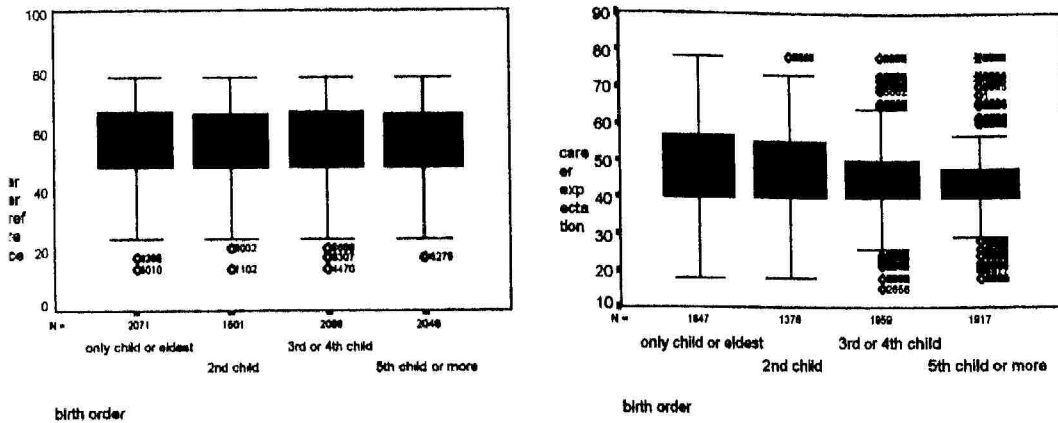
**Table 5.10: Mean Career Aspirations Of The Different Categories Of Family Size**

Family Size	Career Preference		Career Expectation	
	Form 5	Form 6	Form 5	Form 6
1-2 children	58.63	63.80	47.02	51.61
3-4 children	58.16	61.78	46.26	49.39
5 or more children	57.35	60.76	44.03	46.79
F value for family size difference	5.15	8.78	33.15	21.65
(p values)	(0.006)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)

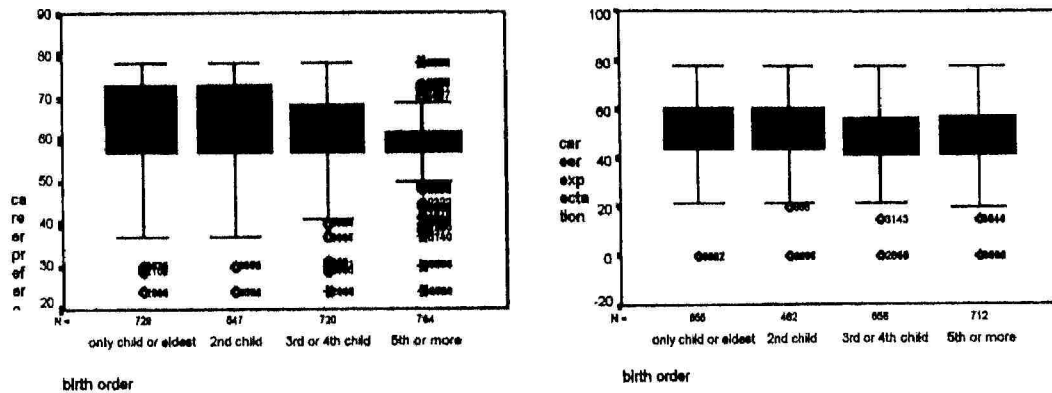
## 5.5.2 Birth Order

Figure 5.5: Box Plots For Distribution Of Mean Career Aspiration By Birth Order

Form 5



Form 6



The above box plots show that the only difference in distribution can be observed between the 3<sup>rd</sup> child and above categories versus other categories where for the former categories the upper quartiles are lower than the other categories showing that a smaller proportion from these groups aspire for high prestige careers. However, the median for all the categories are nearly equal.

The F value for the test on mean difference finds the difference in mean career preference for the Form 5 sample as not significant. For Form 6 career preference and for

career expectation for both samples, the F values show significant differences in the means for some categories. The Scheffe tests show that this differences in mean is due to the difference in the mean for the category of eldest and only child and the means for the category of 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> child and above.

From table 5.11 it can be seen that the mean career preference for both, samples lie in the category of high prestige careers. The mean career expectation for the Form 5 categories of birth order all lie in the category of low prestige careers and for the Form 6 sample, the mean career expectation all lie in the category of medium prestige careers.

**Table 5.11: Mean Career Aspirations Of The Different Birth Order Categories**

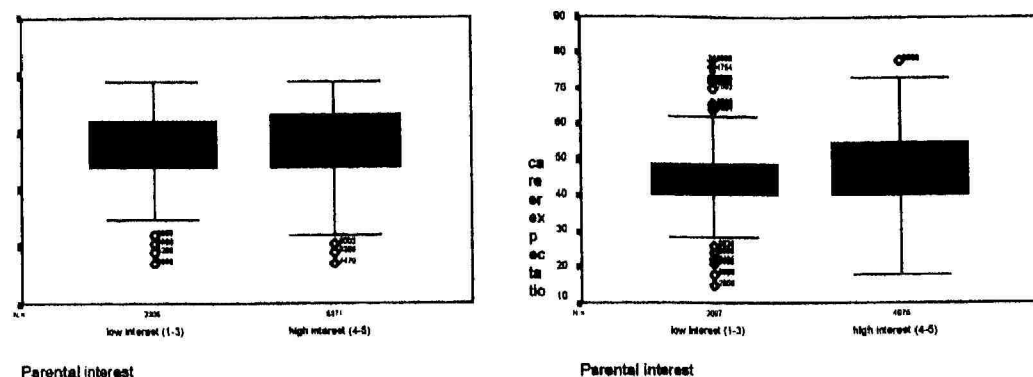
Ethnicity	Career Preference		Career Expectation	
	Form 5	Form 6	Form 5	Form 6
Only child or eldest	58.2327	62.5768	46.3125	49.7436
2 <sup>nd</sup> child	57.5203	61.5889	45.0967	48.9012
3 <sup>rd</sup> or 4 <sup>th</sup> child	57.8311	60.9355	44.3683	46.1461
5 <sup>th</sup> child	57.1918	60.1074	44.1151	47.0079
F value for birth order difference (p values)	2.452 (0.062)	7.276 (0.00)	12.036 (0.00)	12.692 (0.00)

### 5.5.3 Parental Interest

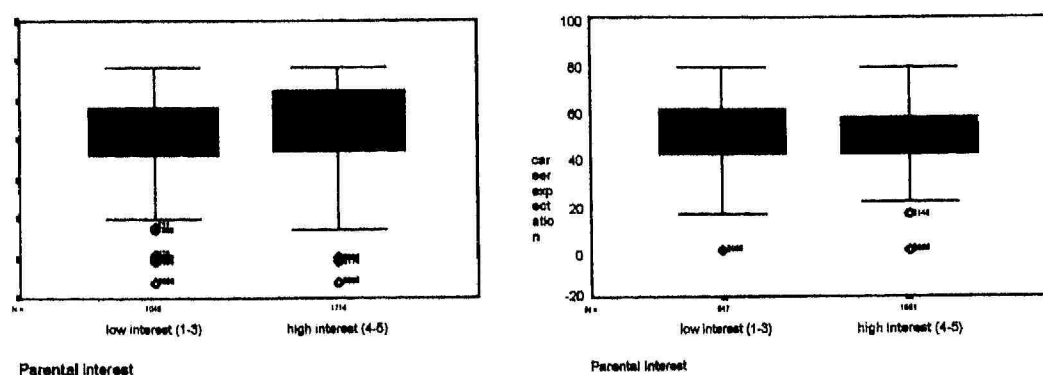
The box plots below show the distribution for parental interest in terms of the sum of responses for questions relating to parental involvement and control. Four and more responses are grouped into the category of high interest and responses below four are in the low interest category.

Figure 5.6: Box Plots For Distribution Of Career Aspiration By Parental Interest

Form 5



Form 6



There does not seem to be much difference in the distribution of career preference and career expectation between low and high parental interest for both samples.

Table 5.12 shows that the t values for the tests on mean differences are significant for all situations except for the Form 6 career expectation.

For the Form 5 sample, the mean career preference for the low parental interest group lies in the medium prestige career category but the mean career preference for the high parental interest group lies in the high prestige category. For the Form 6 sample though, both the categories of parental interest have mean career preferences that lie in the high prestige career category. For mean career expectation, both the categories of

parental interest have means that lie in the low prestige career category for the Form 5 sample and medium prestige career category for the Form 6 sample.

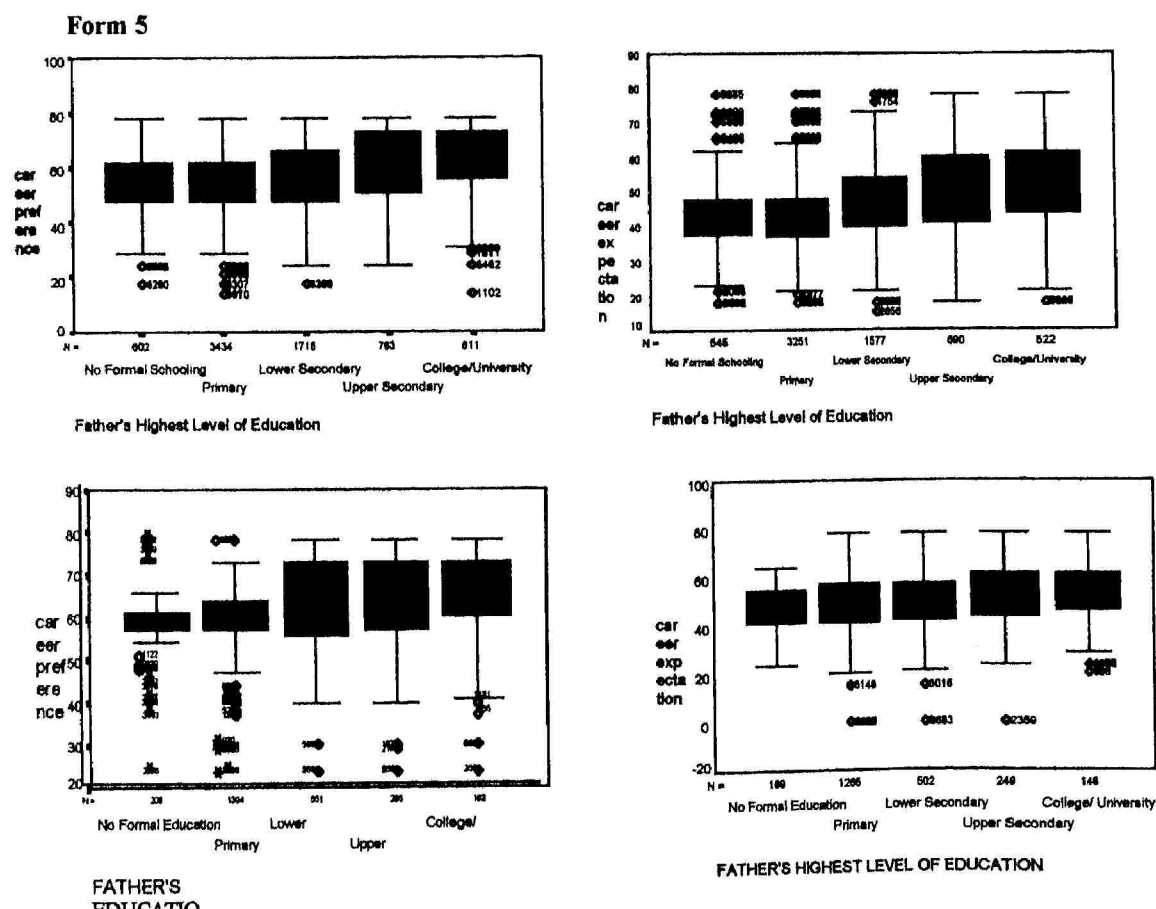
**Table 5.12: Mean Career Aspiration For The Different Categories Of Parental Interest**

Level of Interest	Career Preference		Career Expectation	
	Form 5	Form 6	Form 5	Form 6
Low Interest	55.6120	60.6424	44.0737	48.2245
High Interest	58.6304	61.6774	45.3462	47.6011
t values for parental interest difference (p values)	-9.477(0.00)	-2.436(0.015)	-4.054(0.00)	1.276(-0.202)

## 5.6 Socio-economic Status

### 5.6.1 Father's Highest Level of Education

**Figure 5.7: Box Plots For Distribution Of Career Aspiration By Father's Highest Level Of Education**



For all situations the same scenario can be observed. There does not seem to be any difference in the distribution of career aspirations between the 'no formal education' and 'primary education'. Lower secondary and upper secondary education have lower quartiles and medians that do not differ from the first two categories, but their upper quartiles are higher with the upper secondary education having a much higher upper quartile. Tertiary education has a wider spread than the other categories with a higher lower quartile and median. However, its upper quartiles are nearly equal to the upper quartile of upper secondary education. This shows that there is a higher proportion of respondents from the father's upper secondary and tertiary education who have high prestige careers with those in the tertiary category having careers that are clustered in the higher prestige levels.

For the F test on mean differences, the F values which are all significant show that there are significant differences, between the mean career aspirations for some categories of father's highest educational level.

The Scheffe tests show that for both samples, the differences between mean career aspirations for the category of 'no formal education' and the category of 'primary education' is not significant. The mean career aspirations for upper secondary and above are significantly higher than these two categories. The Scheffe tests show that the difference between upper secondary education and tertiary education do not significantly differ for all situations except for the Form 5 career preference. Therefore, the means for lower secondary and below (are termed as not well-educated) are not significantly different from each other for most situations and for upper secondary and above are not significantly different (termed as well-educated).

Table 5.13 shows that for the Form 5 sample, the mean career preference for those with not well-educated fathers lie in the medium prestige career aspiration category and those with well-educated fathers, have mean career aspirations that lie in the high prestige category. However, for the Form 6 sample, the mean career preferences for all categories lie in the high prestige career aspiration category. For both samples, those with not well-educated parents have mean career expectation that lie in the low prestige career

aspiration category but those with well-educated parents, have mean career expectation that lie in the medium prestige category.

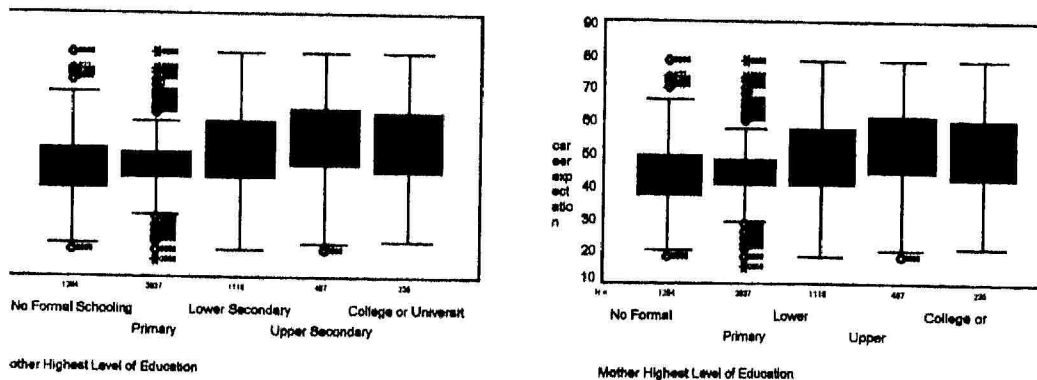
**Table 5.13: Mean Career Aspirations For The Different Categories Of Father's Educational Level**

Father's Highest Level of Education	Career Preference		Career Expectation	
	Form 5	Form 6	Form 5	Form 6
No Formal Education	56.56	60.73	43.24	45.54
Primary	56.23	60.8	43.52	46.59
Lower Secondary	58.21	61.54	45.18	48.31
Upper Secondary	60.55	63.85	48.29	52.3
Tertiary	62.87	65.96	51.58	54.09
F value for differences in father's highest level of education (p values)	49.31 (0.00)	15.17 (0.00)	66.90 (0.00)	26.04 (0.00)

## 5.6.2 Mother's Highest Level of Education

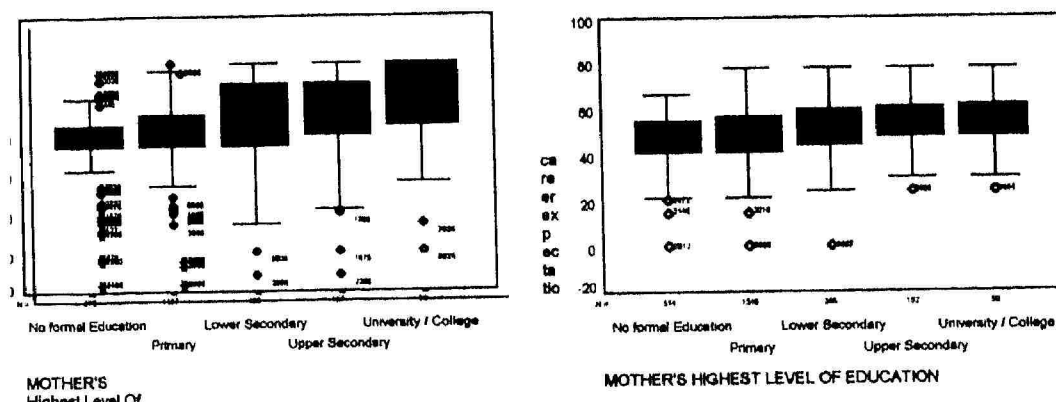
**Figure 5.8: Box Plots For Distribution Of Career Aspiration By Mother's Highest Level Of Education**

Form 5





## Form 6



The box plots seem to show that there is no difference in distribution for the categories of 'no formal education' and primary education. These two categories too have a lower distribution compared to the other categories. Lower secondary categories seem to have similar lower quartiles compared to the first two categories but have higher medians and upper quartiles. The distribution for the categories of upper secondary and above are higher than the other categories but there does not seem to be much difference between these two higher educational level categories.

For the test on mean differences, the F values which are all significant show that there are significant differences in the mean career aspirations for some categories of mother's highest educational level.

The Scheffe tests show significant differences in the means of career preference and career expectations between the categories of lower secondary and below (termed as not-well educated) versus the categories of upper secondary and above (termed as well-educated).

Table 5.14 shows that the mean career preference for the Form 5 sample lie in the medium prestige category for the category of mothers who are not well educated and in the high prestige category for the category of mothers who are well-educated. For the Form 6 sample, all categories lie in the high prestige category except for the category of mother's with tertiary education where the mean career preference lie in the very high

prestige category. For both samples, the category of mothers who are not well educated show mean career expectations that lie in the low career aspiration category and for the well educated category, the mean career expectation lies in the medium prestige category.

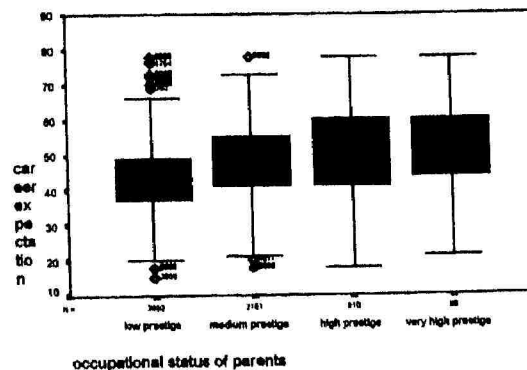
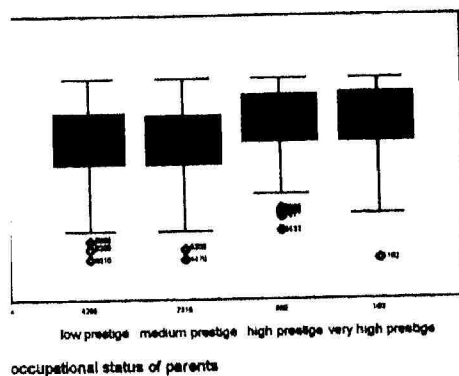
**Table 5.14: Mean Career Aspirations For The Different Categories Of Mother's Highest Educational Level**

Mother's Highest Level of Education	Career Preference		Career Expectation	
	Form 5	Form 6	Form 5	Form 6
No Formal Education	56.71	60.40	43.3	46.04
Primary	56.83	60.56	44.04	46.92
Lower Secondary	58.61	63.07	46.66	49.73
Upper Secondary	63.2	65.08	51.24	55.12
Tertiary	62.38	68.76	50.03	55.94
t value for differences in mother's highest level of education (p values)	41.84 (0.00)	18.27 (0.00)	58.89 (0.00)	28.81 (0.00)

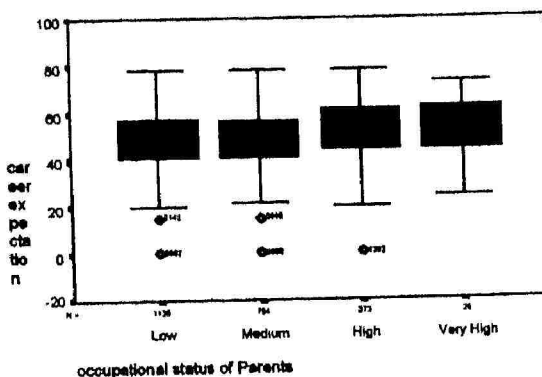
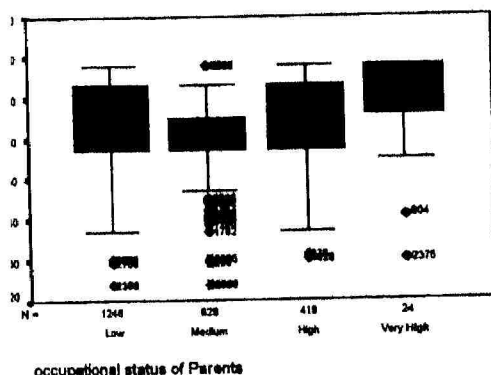
## 6.3 Occupational Status Of Parents

Figure 5.9: Box Plots For Distribution Of Career Aspiration By Occupational Status Of Parents

Form 5



Form 6



From the distribution of the box-plots, it can be seen that for the Form 5 sample, a slightly higher proportion of respondents with parents who have high prestige careers have higher career aspirations. This can be seen by observing that the interquartile range is slightly higher for the categories of parents with high and very high prestige careers. For the Form 6 sample, not much differences among the categories are observed for the distribution of career expectations and for career preference only for those whose parents are in the 'very high prestige career' category, a higher proportion seem to have higher

career aspirations compared to the other categories as the box-plot for this category is her.

For the tests on mean differences, the F-values which are all significant show that both samples there are significant differences in the mean career aspirations for some categories of parents' occupational status. The Scheffe tests show that the difference in mean career aspirations are mainly between respondents whose parents have low and medium prestige careers versus those whose parents are in high and very high prestige careers.

Table 5.15 shows that for the Form 5 sample, the mean career preferences for all categories lie in the high prestige career aspiration category. For the Form 6 sample, the mean career preference for the category of parents' with very high prestige seems to lie in the very high prestige career aspiration category whereas for the other categories, the mean career preferences lie in the high prestige career category. In terms of mean career expectation, it is found that for the Form 5 sample, the mean career expectation for the categories of parents in low and medium prestige occupations lie in the low prestige career aspiration category and the means for the higher parental occupational prestige category lie in the medium prestige category. For the Form 6 sample, the mean career expectation for all the categories lie in the medium prestige career aspiration category.

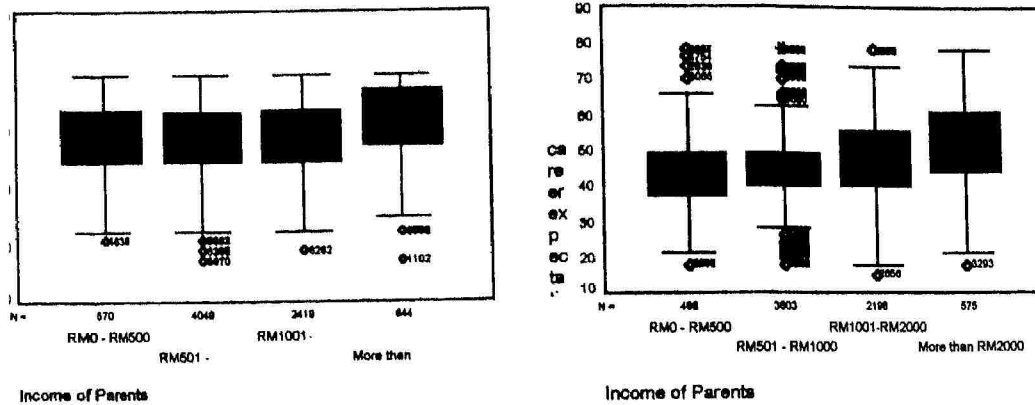
**Table 5.15 : Mean Career Aspirations For The Different Categories Of Parents' Occupational Status.**

Parents' Occupational Status	Career Preference		Career Expectation	
	Form 5	Form 6	Form 5	Form 6
Low Prestige	57.11	61.52	43.76	47.35
Medium Prestige	57.86	60.54	45.83	46.51
High Prestige	61.63	62.31	49.58	51.15
Very High Prestige	61.07	69.43	50.44	55.18
F value for differences in occupational status (p values)	24.91 (0.00)	7.39 (0.00)	48.4 (0.00)	16.56 (0.00)

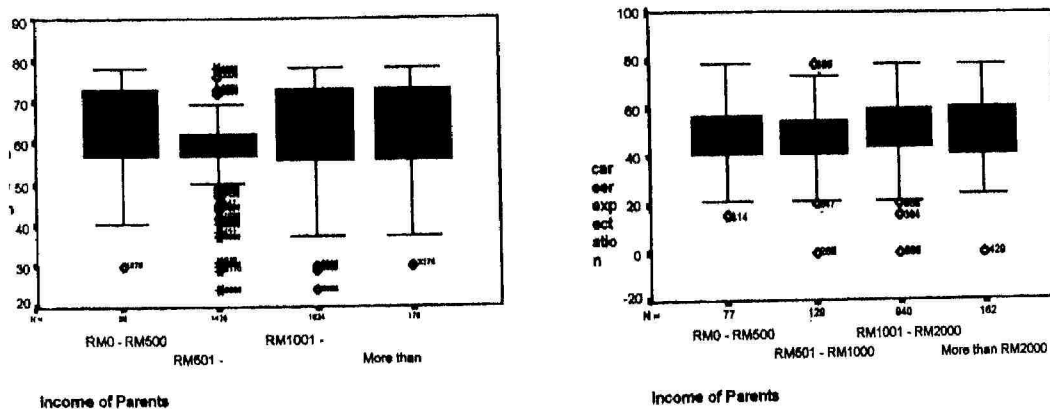
### 5.6.4 Income of Parents

Figure 5.10: Box Plots For Distribution Of Career Aspiration By Income Of Parents

#### Form 5



#### Form 6



For the Form 5 sample, a trend can be observed for the distribution of career expectation where a higher proportion of those whose parents with higher income seem to have higher career expectations. For Form 5 career preference, the only difference in distribution can be observed between the category of income more than RM2000 and other categories. For the Form 6 sample, there seem to be a difference in distribution of career preference between the second lowest income category and the other categories. This category seems to have a very small range compared to other categories. The distributions for all other categories seem similar. In terms of career expectation, a

ghtly higher proportion of those from the categories of more than RM1000 and above  
ve higher career aspirations.

The F-values which are all significant show that there are significant differences  
the mean career aspirations for some categories of parents' income. The Scheffe tests  
ow that for the Form 5 sample, there are significant differences in mean career  
ferences among all categories except for between the lowest income category and  
ier categories. The Form 6 sample shows that there are significant difference in mean  
reer preference between the 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest income category versus the top two high income  
tegies. In terms of career expectation, the Scheffe test shows that for the Form 5  
mple, significant differences exist between all categories except for the category of  
M0-RM500. For the Form 6 sample, the Scheffe tests show that significant differences  
the means of career expectations exist between the categories of RM1000 and less  
rsus the categories of RM1000 and more.

Table 5.16 shows that for both samples the mean career preference for most of the  
tegies of income are all above 58 points, which lie within the high prestige career  
tegy. Table 5.16 also shows that for the Form 5 sample, differences in mean career  
pection is quite prominent between the income category of more than RM2000 and  
l other categories. For those in the former category, the means are around 48-50 points  
hich lies within the medium prestige category of career expectation and for those in the  
tter category, the means are around 43-44 points which lie within the low prestige  
tegy of career expectation. For the Form 6 sample, the difference in mean career  
pection exists between the income category of less than RM1000 where the means lie  
the low prestige career aspiration category and for the category of more than RM100,  
ie means lie in the medium prestige career aspiration category.

**Table 5.16: Mean Career Aspirations For The Categories Of Parents' Income**

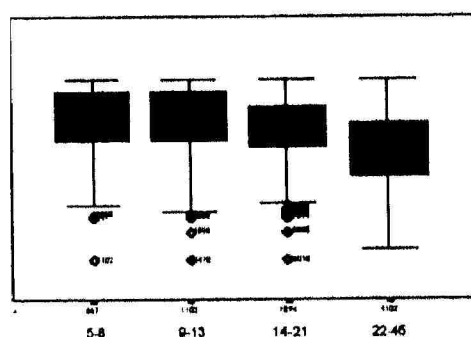
Parents' or Guardian's Income	Career Preference		Career Expectation	
	Form 5	Form 6	Form 5	Form 6
RM0 – RM500	57.78	61.21	44.09	46.95
RM501 – RM1000	56.95	60.39	43.69	45.74
RM1001 – RM2000	58.01	62.16	45.73	50.26
More than RM2000	61.23	62.88	50.98	51.13
t-value for differences in parental income (p values)	21.60 (0.00)	6.38 (0.00)	64.64 (0.00)	31.95 (0.00)

## 7 Academic Related Influence

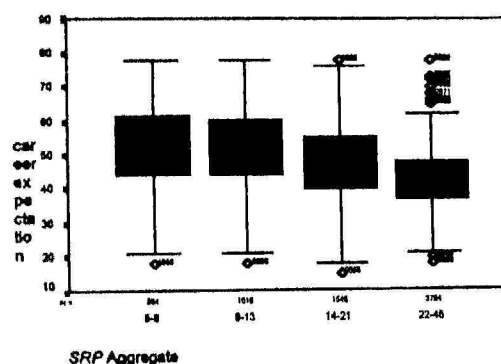
### 7.1 Prior Academic Achievement

**Figure 5.11: Box Plots For Distribution Of Career Aspiration By Prior Academic Achievement**

Form 5

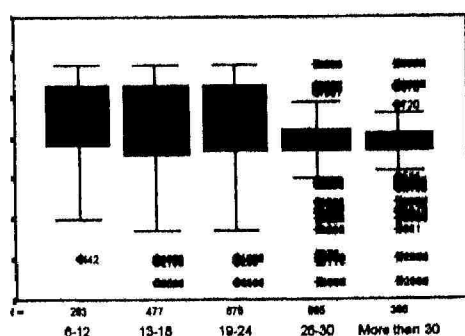


SRP Aggregate

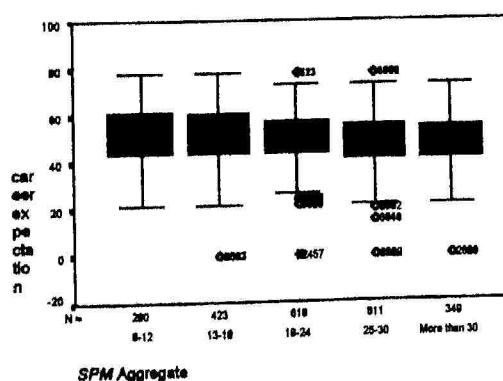


SRP Aggregate

Form 6



SPM Aggregate



SPM Aggregate

The box plots for career aspirations for both samples seem to depict a pattern where the better the results, the higher the proportion of respondents in higher prestige careers and the lower the proportion in lower prestige careers. For Form 5 career aspiration, the differences in distribution is clearly seen between the first two categories versus other categories and for the Form 6 sample, between the first three categories versus other categories.

For the test on mean differences, the F values which are all significant show that there are significant differences in the mean career aspirations for some categories of prior academic achievement. The Scheffe tests also show that the mean career aspirations for both samples are significantly higher for the lower aggregate categories compared to higher aggregate categories. For career preference, some cases show an insignificant difference between subsequent categories but basically the 'very low aggregate' categories (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest aggregate category for *SRP* and 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest aggregate category for *SPM*) and the higher aggregate categories differ significantly. For career expectations, all categories significantly differ.

Table 5.17 shows that the mean career preference for all the *SRP* and *SPM* categories are 58 points and above which lie within the category of careers of high prestige. For career expectation however, the mean career expectations of those who did well in their *SRP* (are in the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest aggregate category for *SRP*) and of those who did well in *SPM* (are in the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest aggregate category for *SPM*) lie in the medium prestige categories but of those who did not do as well, their mean career expectations lie in the low prestige career aspiration category.

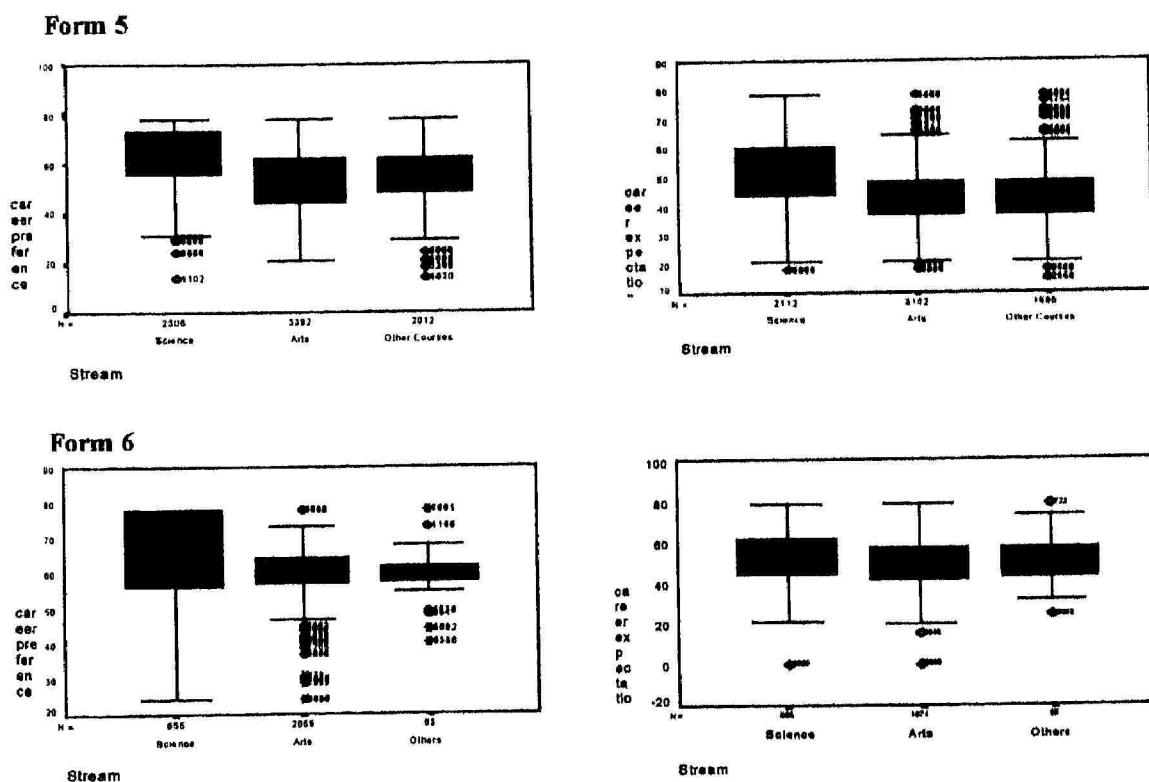


**Table 5.17: Mean Career Aspirations For The Categories Of Prior Academic Achievement**

Prior Academic Achievement	Career Preference	Career Expectation
<b>SRP Aggregate for the Form 5 sample</b>		
5-8	63.27	53.27
9-13	62.11	49.35
14-21	59.75	45.77
22-45	54.86	42.23
F value for differences in <i>SRP</i> results (p values)	179.44 (0.00)	213.71 (0.00)
<b>SPM Aggregate for the Form 6 sample</b>		
6-12	65.28	52.74
13-18	62.44	49.76
19-24	61.64	48.46
25-30	60.07	45.63
More than 30	59.37	45.49
F value for differences in <i>SPM</i> results (p values)	18.4 (0.00)	25.8 (0.00)

## 5.7.2 Stream of Study

**Figure 5.12: Box Plots For Distribution Of Career Aspiration By Stream Of Study**



The box plots above show that the distributions for the categories of Arts stream and 'other courses' do not differ much. However, the distribution for the Science stream category shows that a higher proportion of Science stream respondents prefer and expect high prestige careers compared to the Arts and other categories.

For the test on mean differences, the F-values which are all significant show that there are significant differences in mean career aspiration for some categories. The Scheffe tests show significant differences between the mean career aspirations of the Science stream respondents versus the Art stream respondents for both samples.

Table 5.18 shows that for the Form 5 sample, the mean career preference for the Arts stream category and 'other courses' category is less than 58 points and therefore lie in the medium prestige category. However, for the Science stream category, the mean career preference is above 58 points and therefore lies in the high prestige career category. For the Form 6 sample though, the mean career preference for all the categories is 58 points and above and therefore lie in the high prestige career category. In terms of mean career expectation, the mean for the Art stream category is less than 47 points and therefore lies in the low prestige category whereas the means for the Science stream category is more than 47 points and therefore lies in the medium prestige category of career aspiration.

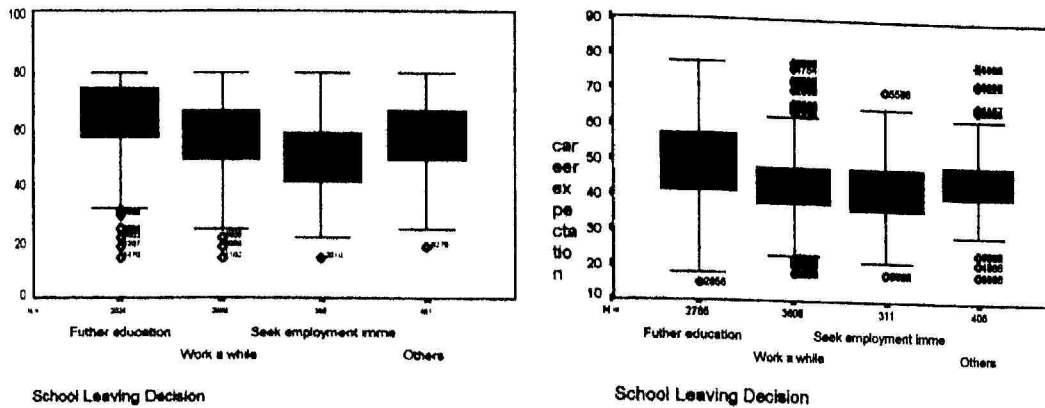
**Table 5.18: Mean Career Aspirations For The Categories Of Stream Of Study**

Stream of Study	Career Preference		Career Expectation	
	Form 5	Form 6	Form 5	Form 6
Science	62.80	64.39	49.72	52.08
Arts	55.67	60.30	42.46	46.50
Others	55.32	59.9	43.7	48.53
F values for differences in stream of study (p values)	280.6 (0.00)	38.7 (0.00)	247.6 (0.00)	51.39 (0.00)

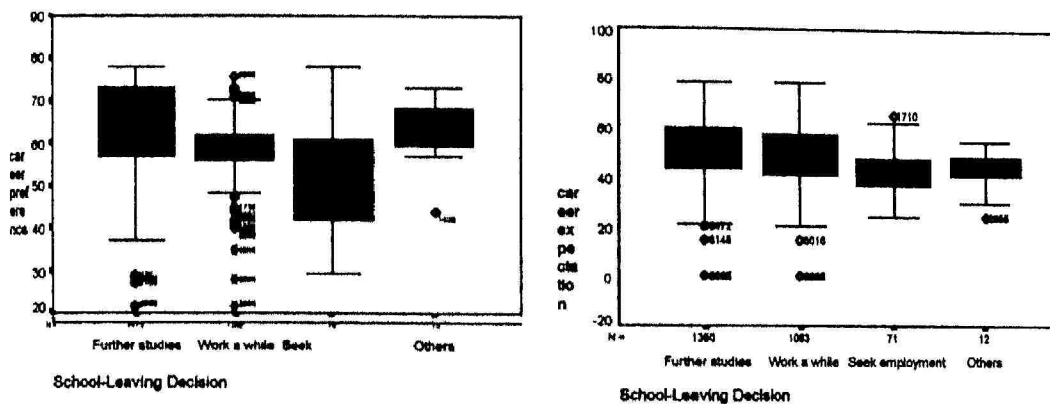
### 5.7.3 School-leaving Decision Making

Figure 5.13: Box Plots For Distribution Of Career Aspiration By School -Leaving Decision Making

Form 5



Form 6



The box plots show that for all situations, the distribution for the 'further education immediately' categories are at higher prestige levels compared to the other categories. This is followed by the categories of 'work a while'. The categories of 'seek employment immediately' has a much lower distribution compared to the other categories.

The significant F-values for the tests on mean differences show that there are significant differences in the mean career aspiration for some categories. For the mean

prestige of career preference and career expectation, the Scheffe tests show that for both samples, all the three main categories seem to differ in their mean career aspirations.

Table 5.19 reports that for career preference, there is a vast contrast between the mean for the category of 'further education immediately' and the mean for the category of 'seek employment immediately'. For the former, it is 60.9 points for the Form 5 sample and 62 points for the Form 6 sample, which all lie within the high prestige category. For the latter, it is 49 points for the Form 5 sample and 54 points for the Form 6 sample, which all lie within the medium prestige category. In terms of career expectation too, the mean for 'further education immediately' is much higher than 'seek employment'. For the former, it is 47 points for the Form 5 category and 49 points for the Form 6 category, which all lie within the medium prestige career level. For the latter it is around 40 points for the Form 5 sample and 42 points for the Form 6 sample, which all lie within the low prestige category.

**Table 5.19: Mean Career Aspirations For The Categories Of School-Leaving Decision Making**

School-Leaving Plans	Career Preference		Career Expectation	
	Form 5	Form 6	Form 5	Form 6
Further education immediately	60.92	62.94	47.2	49.22
Work a while	56.14	59.69	43.58	46.49
Seek employment immediately	49.49	54.02	40.63	42.84
F values for differences in School-leaving decision making (p values)	141.54 (0.00)	34.81 (0.00)	59.59 (0.00)	15.82 (0.00)

## 5.8 Conclusion

### Gender

Results show that females from both samples have higher career preference and females from the Form 5 sample have higher career expectation. For the Form 5 sample, it can be seen that this is mainly because although many males like females aspire for high prestige careers, there is a small proportion of males, unlike the females, who also aspire for low prestige careers. It is deduced however that these differences in gender for both samples are not prominent as, on the average, both sexes can be said to have high career preference and medium career expectation. Also, this gender differences in career aspirations, where a higher proportion of females have higher career aspirations is mainly observed for rural areas and for respondents from low socio-economic status. This could be because respondents from rural areas and from low socio-economic status are more exposed to low prestige careers and therefore a higher proportion of males may aspire for low prestige careers compared to males from urban areas and from high socio-economic status.

### Ethnicity

In terms of ethnicity, Indians are found to have higher career aspirations. The distribution shows that the career aspirations of Indians are more skewed towards high prestige careers. Chinese have higher career expectation compared to *Bumiputera* respondents but for the Form 5 sample, this seems to also depend on their academic achievement as *Bumiputera* respondents who performed well in *SRP* seem to have higher career expectation than Chinese respondents. Career aspirations of the different ethnic groups are however not affected much by their locality or socio-economic status. The career preference of Indians on the average are considered of a high (for Form 5 sample) or very high prestige (for Form 6 sample) level whereas the career preference of Chinese and *Bumiputera* respondents are considered of a lower level than the Indians. In terms of career expectation, the *Bumiputera* respondents have on the average career expectation that is considered of a lower level compared to Indians and Chinese.

### Locality

For all cases, large town respondents have higher career aspirations compared to rural respondents. For the Form 6 sample the distribution shows that this is mainly because a lower proportion of rural respondents aspire for high prestige careers. Significant differences for the Form 5 sample are observed between large town versus other categories but for the Form 6 sample significant differences in career aspirations are observed between large and medium town versus rural respondents. On the average the career preference of respondents from different localities is found to not differ much as all are considered to prefer high prestige careers. However, those from rural areas are found on the average to have career expectation that is considered of low prestige compared to the other areas which have career expectation that is considered of medium prestige.

### Family size

The main difference in career aspirations can be seen between the category 5 children and above and other categories. In terms of career preference, all the categories do not differ much as they are considered on the average to have high prestige career aspirations. Large families of 5 or more children however seem to have much lower career expectation as on the average they lie in the low prestige career category whereas the other categories of family size are considered on the average to have medium prestige careers.

### Birth order

The main difference in career aspirations can be observed between the 1<sup>st</sup> and eldest child category with the 3<sup>rd</sup> child and above categories where the mean career aspiration for the latter is significantly lower. From the distribution it can be seen that there is a very low proportion from these categories in high prestige careers. However, the difference in career preference between birth order categories can be considered not much as it is insignificant for the Form 5 sample and even for the Form 6 sample, they are all on the average considered of high prestige. The same goes for career expectation where the means for all the birth order categories lie in the same career category as the

mean career expectation for the samples as a whole which is low prestige for the Form 5 sample and medium prestige for the Form 6 sample.

#### Parental interest

Significant differences in mean career aspirations between low and high parental interest are observed for all cases except for Form 6 career expectation. However, not much difference is observed in the distribution between these categories. The differences in mean career aspiration is also seen to be not much as, except for the Form 5 career preference, all the other categories of parental interest have mean career aspirations that lie in the same career category as the mean of the sample as a whole.

#### Father's and mother's highest level of education

Basically, the results for father's and mother's highest level of education do not differ much and therefore the multivariate analysis in Chapter 6 will consider only one of these variables as independent variables to prevent the occurrence of multicollinearity. Below are the main findings of both variables.

It can be seen that the tertiary education categories have the highest mean career aspirations and primary and 'no formal education' categories have the lowest career aspiration. The main difference is due to a higher proportion of respondents, whose parents' education level is high, aspiring for higher prestige careers. For most cases, significant differences in mean career aspirations can be observed between the categories of lower secondary and below (termed as not well-educated) and upper secondary and above (termed as well-educated). For the Form 5 sample the difference in mean career preference between these two groups of parents' educational level seem prominent as the former on the average is considered of medium prestige whereas the latter is considered of high prestige. On the other hand, for the Form 6 sample, both categories have career preference that is considered on the average to be of high prestige except for the situation of mother's highest level of education where those from the tertiary education category have on the average career preference that is considered to be of very high prestige. The difference in mean career expectation between the two groups of parents' educational level are prominent for both samples as not well-educated parents seem to expect careers

that are considered on the average of low prestige whereas well-educated parents expect careers that are on the average considered of medium prestige.

#### Parents' Occupational Status

Except for Form 6 mean career preference, significant differences in mean career aspirations for other situations are between the parents' occupational categories of medium and below prestige versus high and above prestige. However, prominent differences between these two categories of parental occupational prestige can only be observed for Form 5 career expectation where the former categories have means that are considered to be of low prestige and the latter have means that are considered to be of medium prestige. For Form 6 career preference, significant differences are observed between the category of parents' occupational status of very high prestige versus other categories. The distribution shows that for Form 6 respondents in the category of parents' with very high prestige, the majority of them have very high career preference. On the average, Form 6 respondents in this category are considered to have career preference that is of very high prestige.

#### Income of Parents

Main differences in parents' income category can be observed between the category of RM2000 and above versus other categories for the Form 5 sample and RM1000 and above versus other categories for the Form 6 sample. In terms of career expectation, these differences seem prominent where for both samples, respondents from the higher income categories are considered on the average to have career expectation that is of medium prestige whereas those from the lower parents' income category have career expectation that is considered of low prestige. The differences for career preference though do not seem prominent for both samples where respondents from all categories of parents' income are considered on the average to have high prestige careers.

#### Academic achievement

Significant differences in career aspiration can be seen between those who had good results (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest aggregate category for *SRP* and 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest aggregate



category for *SPM* ) versus those who had poor results. The former have higher career aspirations than the latter. For career preference, this difference does not seem prominent but for career expectation for both samples, those in the former category have career expectation that is considered on the average of medium prestige and those in the latter have career expectation that is considered on the average of low prestige.

#### Stream of study

Significant differences in career aspiration can be observed between respondents from Science stream versus other streams of study whereby the former have higher career aspirations. The differences are prominent for most situations except for Form 6 career preference where all groups have career preference that is considered on the average of high prestige. For the Form 5 sample, those from the Science stream prefer careers that are considered of high prestige whereas those from other streams of study prefer careers that are considered of medium prestige. For both samples, those in the Science stream expect careers that are considered of medium prestige whereas those from other streams of study expect careers that are considered of low prestige.

#### School-Leaving Decision Making

It is found that for both samples, significant differences exist between all the categories of school-leaving decision making with those wishing to further their education immediately having the highest mean career aspirations followed by the 'work a while' category and lowest of all, the 'seek employment immediately' category. Prominent differences are observed between the category of 'further education immediately' and 'seek employment immediately'. The former have mean career preference and expectation that are considered of high and medium prestige whereas the latter have mean career preference and expectation that are considered of medium and low prestige.

The above summary provides information that will aid in capturing the main variables influencing career preference and career expectation. Prominent differences in career aspiration among the categories of these variable is identified to enable proper

categorisation of these variables into dummy variables for the multiple regression analysis in Chapter 6.