

A STUDY ON THE EFFECT OF KANYASHREE PRAKALPA IN RURAL AREAS SCHOOLS OF NORTH 24 PARGANAS IN WEST BENGAL

Abstract

As more as girls remain in school it is envisaged that they will use the opportunity to gain skill and knowledge that will help them become independent. Many impoverished parents find no economic rationale in investing to girl's education and marry them off to enhance the family security. Now it is clear that low socio-economic background leads to the situation for the girls. It is expected that enhanced social and emotional development will attain their right to health, education and socio-economic equality. The expectations are to incentivize girls to continue in education for a longer period of time, disincentive marriage till at least 18 years, to confer financial inclusion and a tool of empowerment for adolescent girls. Adolescent boys (6.3%) at the upper primary level is more than that of the girls (4.2%), at the secondary and higher secondary levels more adolescent girls drop out of school. Secondary education is not free, and many impoverished parents, failing to see the economic rationale for investing in their daughters education, marry them off at this age in the belief that this will enhance the girl's and the family's security. This step however, condemns the girls to a life of financial and social insecurity. Field studies show that most women have to take up some economic activity in later years, and that their lack of qualifications and work experience makes them ill-equipped for the labour market, and therefore susceptible to poverty and exploitation throughout life. As a result, poverty, one of the factors that fuels child marriage, in turn perpetuates the feminization of poverty. However, at the secondary level this trend is reversed, with nearly of 15% of adolescent boys and 19.4 % of adolescent girls in West Bengal dropping out of school. Hence a study is proposed to find out the effect of Kanyashree Prakalpa in the rural areas schools of Deganga Block in North 24 Pgs in West Bengal.

Introduction

Child marriage is still a menace in our state. Child marriage and school drop-out go hand in hand. Every now and then we see the news that a girl child has protested against her marriage, for she wants to continue her study. According to DLHS-4 2012-13, the percentage of girls aged 18 years currently getting married before 18 years was 32.1 % (36.3% in rural areas, and 21.3% in urban areas). It has a deep negative impact on the health and mind of the girls. It is definite that it leads to dropping out of schools. But legal prohibition and social messaging are ineffective in addressing child marriage at large.

With a view to combat against child marriage and girls drop-outs, Department of Women Development and Social Welfare, Government of West Bengal launched KANYASHREE PRAKALPA on October 1, 2013. Kanyashree Prakalpa seeks to improve the status and well-being of girls, especially those from socio-economically disadvantages families through Conditional Cash Transfer. It is applicable to the State of West Bengal only. Girls must be resident of the state, and be studying in institutions that are registered in West Bengal and recognized by government. For K1 girls must be unmarried between the age of 13-18 years and family income is less than or equal to 1,20,000 per annum. And for K2 girls must be unmarried between the age of 18-19 years and family income is less than or equal to 1,20,000 per annum.

Child marriage leads to girls dropping out of school, which limit their scope of future development. In West Bengal, attendance of girls in school drops from 85% in the age-group 6-10 years to a mere 33% in the age group 15-17 years. (NFHS 3, 2005-06). After the implementation Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan towards universalization of elementary education, significant progress has been noticed among girls, both in terms of enrolment and completion rate at the elementary level. However, the transition from elementary to secondary school levels remains a concern. The Selected Educational Statistics (2010-11) published by MoHRD, Government of India shows that for the state of West Bengal, the Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) for girls gradually decrease from 88% at elementary level (VI-VIII) to 59% at high school (IX-X) and 33.3% at higher secondary (XI-XII) . It means that more girls are leaving schools in the adolescent age group. The drop-out rates between Class I-X was found to be as high as 47.9% by the same report. According to the DISE Flash Statistics 2013-14, while the dropout rate among adolescent boys (6.3%) at the upper primary level is more than that of the girls (4.2%), at the secondary and higher secondary levels more adolescent girls drop out of school. However, at the secondary level this trend is reversed, with nearly of 15% of adolescent boys and 19.4 % of adolescent girls in West Bengal dropping out of school.

Rationale of the Study

Department of Women Development and Social Welfare, Government of West Bengal launched Kanyashree Prakalpa for a noble cause. But is all the effort and plan effect well on the schools of rural areas? Especially the economically backward areas and the schools are prone to child marriage and drop-outs, for child marriage and school drop-out go hand in hand. Hence, it is the unrest concern of the researcher to search how far the effect of Kanyashree Prakalpa reaches to the girls of rural area and how much benefit they get from it.

Significance of the Study

There is an opportunity to ventilate the options of the students, teachers and parents regarding the effect of Kanyashree Prakalpa.

The research will help the policy makers think about and judge on its effect.

The out come will reveal if there should be any modification or alteration in the cases of CCT, Steering and Monitoring, Management and the Design of the scheme.

Statement of the Problem

Kanyashree Prakalpa has been implemented about three years ago with a large prospect and view. It is basically for the socio-economically backward class. Now it is to find out if there are any discrepancies in the total system or it reaches the sublimity it aimed at.

Research Questions

1. Has Kanyashree Prakalpa brought girls back to school?
2. Has Kanyashree Prakalpa fought against child marriage?
3. Has Kanyashree Prakalpa conferred a tool of empowerment for adolescent girls?
4. Has Kanyashree Prakalpa enhanced the social and emotional development of the girls?

Objectives of the Study

1. The following objectives will be formulated for the proposed study:
2. To study how far has Kanyashree Prakalpa brought girls back to school?
3. To study how well has Kanyashree Prakalpa fought against child marriage?
4. To study how effectively has Kanyashree Prakalpa conferred a tool of empowerment for adolescent girls?
5. To study how much has Kanyashree Prakalpa enhanced the social and emotional development of the girls?

Operational Definition of the Terms

K1: Annual Scholarship Component of Kanyashree Prakalpa for girls between Ages: 13-18

K2: One-Time Grant component of Kanyashree Prakalpa for girls between ages 18-19

DLHS 4: District-Level Household Survey 4 (2012-13)

DWD: Department of Women Development & Social Welfare and Child Development

CCT: Conditional Cash Transfers

Renewal: Cases of renewal of annual scholarship of girls

Up-gradation: Cases where girls who have received one or more installments of the Annual Scholarship, and are now eligible to apply for the One-Time grant as they have turned age 18 and meet other eligibility criteria.

Delimitation of the Study

The study is delimited to five schools of Deganga Block in North 24 Pgs.

The study is delimited to the girl-students of ninth and tenth class, teachers of the schools and the parent of the students.

Research Design:

The descriptive survey method has been adopted for the present study. For this research at first five government high schools in Deganga Block of North 24 pgs district, West Bengal has been visited. Next the data of girl student enrolment, attendance registers has been collected with the permission of Headmasters. Next the data has been prepared from the school registers. Then at first the total number of enrolled girl students has been calculated. Then the total number of girl students of class IX has been calculated. Then after the discussion with Kanyashree Prakalpa in-charge the student of class IX as have been identified who are taking Kanyashree Prakalpa occasionally. Some of the target girl students have been interviewed with the questionnaire made for them. This total procedure has been repeated for all five schools. For all these works I have to visit those schools for several times to get the opinion of the student about Kanyashree Prakalpa. There have been separate plans for separate schools. To visit the schools the prior permission of the head of those institutions has been taken earlier.

The girl students' interview sheet and their opinion has been collected. Then a generalization has been formed about the opinion of the target girl students of the high schools. Thus the final report of the girl students; view on Kanyashree Prakalpa has been prepared.

Next, from the admission registers of those schools I made separate list of parents of the girl students how were enrolled in class IX & X. After having the list I prepared the list of their address. Then I made a plan to visit the parents of the girl students. Before this I prepared the questionnaire for getting their views about the Kanyashree Prakalpa. I also gathered information about the locality from the school staffs. Then the parents have been interviewed and the opinions collected. Then again a generalization has been formed on the effect of Kanyashree Prakalpa in the government high schools in rural areas in West Bengal.

After that the school staffs of those five schools has been interviewed with their prior permission. Also for this a separate questionnaire has been prepared. Next the staffs have been interviewed and the opinions of them about the effect of Kanyashree Prakalpa have been written. The suggestions of the school staffs have also be collected. At the time of analyzing the data some tables will be prepared. After getting the tables the analysis will be finalized.

Population and Sample of the Study

The population of the study is all the girl-students of ninth and tenth, and the parent of the students. The population of study is also the Headmaster or Headmistress, Assistant Teachers and Para Teachers of those schools working presently.

Therefore the total number of students is $(39 + 425 + 91 + 436 + 224) = 1215$, total number of parent is about 1215 and the total number of teachers may be around 130.

Out of 1215 students my sample is 125 students and 125 parents taking 25 samples from each school and out of 130 teachers my sample is 20.

Tools Used for Data Collection:

Following are the main tools which are used in the study:

1. Survey
2. Questionnaire

The above mentioned five government high schools have been surveyed the required data have been collected. Questionnaire has been used for getting the response of the students and the school staffs.

Techniques Used in the Study :

1. Interview
2. Documentations:

There will be there types of populations who have been interviewed. First, for the girl students of class IX & X, secondly for the parents of the high school students and thirdly, for the high school staffs. Some kind of register has been collected for the study. These registers have been collected from the above mentioned schools. The registers are:

1. Admission registers
2. Attendants' registers
3. Kanyashree registers

Procedure of Data Collection:

At the beginning, after discussion with the Kanyashree Prakaalpa in charge and Head Master, a keen observation from a distance has been taken at the recess hour while the Kanyashree Prakaalpa is being served. After that randomly taken students of the target population are interviewed with the printed questionnaire set for them.

Next, again examining the admission registers the parents address are noted. Then few local parents are also interviewed with the printed questionnaire set for them previously. This total procedure has been visited for several times.

The students' Interview sheet and their opinion has been collected. Then a generalization has been formed about the opinion of the target students of the high schools. Thus the final report of the students' view on Kanyashree Prakaalpa has been prepared.

Next, from the admission registers of those schools I made separate list of parents of the students who were enrolled in class IX in the year 2016. After having the list I prepared the list of their address. Then I made to visit the parents of the students. Before this I prepared the questionnaire for getting their views about the Kanyashree Prakaalpa. I also gathered information about the locality from the school staff. Then the parents have been interviewed and the opinions collected. Then again a generalization has been formed on the effect of Kanyashree Prakaalpa in the government high schools in West Bengal.

After that the school staff of those five schools has been interviewed with their prior permission. Also for this a separate questionnaire has been prepared. Next the staffs have been interviewed and their opinion has been taken about the effect of Kanyashree Prakaalpa have been written. The suggestions of the school staffs have also be collected. At the time of analyzing the data same tables will be prepared. After getting the tables the analysis will be finalized.

When the questionnaires were given to the students a strict instruction was also given to them i.e. the answer should be written by HB pencil only. Thus the same questionnaire I used for another school by simply erasing the answer. The same procedure is being repeated for each population or sample.

Procedure of Data Analysis:

There are three processes of data analysis. They are:

2. Bar Graph
3. Percentage

1. Pie Chart

It is a Mathematical form in which the percentages of the percentage of the answers of the target groups are being presented. The bar graphs have been used to show the reactions of the target groups of different population. The percentage has been used to show the views of different target populations.

Major Findings of the Study:

99 girls answer that they have been fully benefited to meet the very. Whereas 26 girls answered that they are partially benefited to meet educational material need. Survey says "Fully benefited" 79% and "Partially benefited" 21%.

81 girls student of the sample answered that they feel secure with tool of empowerment. 44 students answered that they nearly don't understanding the matter of empowerment. Survey says "Yes empowered" 65% and "Don't understand" 35%.

86 girl of the sample declare that they are largely encouraged to go for higher studies, 30 students said that they are encouraged to some extent to go for higher studies. 9 students of the sample told that they are encouraged, but a little bit of. Survey says "Largely encouraged" 69%, "To some extent encouraged" 24% and "A little bit of encouraged" 7%.

91 girls of the sample are found sure enough to have gained the stamina to fight against child marriage. 26 girls think that they have gained something of the stamina. 8 girls can't tell now about their stamina. Survey says "Sure gained the stamina" 73%, "Something gained the stamina" 21% and "Can't tell now" 6%.

19 teachers opined that Kanyashree Prakaalpa has surely brought the girl- students back to school. 4 teacher gave opinion that Kanyashree Prakaalpa has done something, Whereas 2 teachers opined that Kanyashree Prakaalpa has done a little bit to bring the girl-students back to school, because in areas parents of the students lack the consciousness. Survey says "Surely back to school" 76%, "Something back to school" 16% and "A little bit back to school" 8%.

16 teachers out of the sample opined that Kanyashree Prakaalpa is effective to increase consciousness among the parents in rural area. This leads to reduce the drop. 9 teachers of the sample opined that is it far reaching to rouse the consciousness of the parents of rural area. Survey says "Satisfactory" 54%, "Not satisfactory" 36%.

Only one teacher out of the sample says that the girls are now properly developed in social and emotional aspects. 24 teachers out of the sample say that the girls are developed but not properly. In rural areas social and emotional development of girls will come gradually. Survey says “properly developed” 4%, “Not properly developed” 96%.

125 parents out of the sample clearly agree that they spend the annual scholarship of their daughter for education purpose. Significant that, no one answered negative. Survey says “Yes spend for education” 100%, No 0%.

99 parents say that they encourage their daughter to go to school regularly. 26 parents say that their daughter is not regular in school attendance. In rural area girls are largely engaged in baby-sitting, in house hold activities and in cottage-industry e.g. scrap-iron etc. Survey says “Regular to go to school” 79 % and “Not regular to go to school” 21 %.

108 parents of the sample stately declare that they will not give their daughter child marriage. Even they will fight against child marriage. But 17 parents of the sample hesitated to give clear opinion. They faltered repeatedly on the fact that in rural areas economy is not equally developed. They sometimes face financial embarrassment. When they find a suitable groom for their daughter they feel a force of the situation for child marriage. Survey says “No child marriage” 86% and “Can’t tell now” 14%.

The analyses above depict that:

Girl students in rural areas are greatly benefited to meet the educational material needs with the annual scholarship of Kanyashree Prakalpa. Girls feel emotionally secure with this very tool of empowerment to some extent. In rural areas girls are to a large extent get encouraged for higher studies. They get stamina to fight against child marriage. To some extent Kanyashree Prakalpa has been able to bring the girl students back to school these years, to reduce drop-out rates in rural areas schools and to prevent child marriage in rural areas in West Bengal. It has been, to small extent, able to make girls in rural areas socially and emotionally developed. Parents feel the necessity of education for the girl-children.

Conclusion:

The study shows that benefited to meet the educational material needs with the annual scholarship of Kanyashree Prakalpa. The study highlights that a large number of girls feel emotionally secure with the tool of empowerment of Kanyashree Prakalpa. The study exhibits that girls are encouraged to go for higher studies. The study establishes that girls to a great extent have gained stamina to fight against child marriage. The study establishes that Kanyashree Prakalpa has been able to bring a large number of girls to school. The study highlights that Kanyashree Prakalpa has been largely able to reduce drop-out girl-students increasing the consciousness of parents in rural areas. The study shows that Kanyashree Prakalpa has not satisfactorily been able to make girls emotionally secure. The study establishes that all the parents spend the scholarship-money for educational purpose of their daughters. The study shows that Kanyashree Prakalpa has not satisfactorily been able to make girls emotionally secure. The study depicts that majority of the parents will now not think of child marriage.

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