

# SELF-PERCEPTION OF ADOLESCENT GIRL STUDENTS IN THE LIGHT OF KANYASHREE PRAKALPA

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**Abstract:** Women plays a vital role in inclusive growth of a nation or a society through sustainable development. A girl child may blossom into an ever fragrant flower with the proper nourishment of her mother. Few measures were taken for empowerment of women in the course of providing incentives or providing different scopes to access education since early age. It is also important for the woman to be empowered that her mentality regarding their own perception about an empowered individual. Education is also important for a woman as it helps her to be dynamic, updated and progressive person. The present study is conducted with the main objective to know the self-perception of adolescent girl students in the light of Kanyashree Prakalpa with respect to the variation of class (across age), locality and caste category. The data are collected from randomly selected 926 unmarried adolescent girl students from secondary and higher secondary schools of Medinipur division (administrative division), West Bengal using self developed tool; Adolescent Girls' Attitude towards Education Scale (AGATES). Data consists of 85.9 % beneficiary of Kanyashree Prakalpa and 14.1% non-beneficiary of Kanyashree Prakalpa, 50.1 % urban area student and 49.9% rural area student, 38.3% general category student, 29.6 % OBC category student, 22.8 % scheduled caste category student and 9.3 % scheduled tribe category student and the girl students belonging to class VIII (13 plus years) to class XII (17 plus years). The raw data are tabulated in MS-Excel 2007 and t-test, ANOVA are done by SPSS 22.00 version. Result of investigation indicates that there is no significant changes in self perception of KanyashreePrakalpa beneficiaries across class (across age), but they are in better position. Locale variation plays significant role only in self-perception of girls. It is also found that all caste category beneficiaries are in better position than non-beneficiaries. Finally the investigator concluded that Kanyashree Prakalpa is not just a social welfare scheme, it is future.

**Index Terms-** Self-perception, beneficiary of Kanyashree Prakalpa, non-beneficiary of Kanyashree Prakalpa, adolescent girl student

## Introduction:

Perception refers to the way a person try to understand the world around him or her. It is the process by which a person organize and interpret his sensory impressions in order to give meaning to the environment. The interpretation of same situation by two individuals may be immensely different. Self-perception is an individual's awareness of his/her own identity.(Alexander & Winne, 2006, p. 284). According to Lawrence, (1996) there are three aspects of this concept; self-image (of what the person is), ideal self (what the person wants to be), and self-esteem (what the person feels about the inconsistency between what she/he is and what she/he would like to be). (Crisp & Turner, 2011, p. 191). James (1890) described two fundamental aspects of self: "me-selves" and "I-Self". "me-selves" consists of what is known about oneself. He referred this as one possessions, recognitions received from others and inner or subjective being. He concluded that "I" is synonymous with "Thought" and that it is enough to know that it exists; and that in every one, at an early age, the distinction between thought as such, and what (Thought) is of or about, has become familiar to the mind (Alexander & Winne, 2006, pp. 296,297). If the social, political, economic and legal strength of the women are confident enough and they are able to claim their rights such as: freely live their life with a sense of self-worth, have complete control of their life, have equal rights to participate in social, religious and public activities, get equal employment opportunity without any gender bias, their perception level will be considered as high level of perception. Since early age women were deprived not only in Indian society but also abroad in several directions though in different period social reformers tried to provide the dignity to the women through legislation of acts, abolishment of evil rituals, expansion of women education etc. Pathan (2010) in her study

Adolescent's attitude towards self aimed to find out adolescents' attitude towards self. Findings revealed that adolescent students will have positive attitude towards self if they received parent's affection, acceptance, attention, love and security and they also need a helping hand at this stage to have more clear views towards healthy life. In Vedic period, Hindus considered education as a process of life which prepare an individual to attain the main objectives of life like liberation, for living, for character formation (self-confidence, self-reliant and self respect) and preservation of culture. They believed that boys acquire sound knowledge by the practice of Brahmacharya, so should girls. In Rig Vedic society child marriage did not exist. That is why, girls were able to study. And education was given an utmost importance. (Roy, 2017). Also in Vedic period, women enjoyed equal status with the man. Participation of wives was required in many rituals in Vedic society.

Woman could opt for their husband in an assembly called 'सयम्बर' (sayambar). Girls' education is stressed in Atherva Veda which states that the success of a woman in her married life depends upon her training during the Brahmacharya. (Kumbhare, 2009, pp. 2-6). Thus in Vedic society perception level of women were comparatively high. In the post Vedic period, woman were started to discriminate on the ground of education and other rights. The 'Child Marriage', emphasis on unquestioned obedience to husband and physical chastity of woman lead's to progressive deterioration of their position. (Naganahalli, 2014, p. 13). Though there were two types of scholarly woman in ancient India, firstly the Brahmavadinisor, the woman who never married and cultured the Vedas throughout their lives and secondly the Sadyodvahas, who studied the Vedas till they married, the level of perception was being to deteriorate at the beginning of this age. Mughal period is popularly known as dark age. In this period women's education, both among Muslims and Hindus were not encouraged. At the primary level Muslim girls were usually imparted education with boys in the same school. But once they grew up the scope education became limited to the daughters of rich, royal and noble families. Therefore lower and middle class women usually remain uneducated. (Mukherjee, 1962, p. 69) In that Period Purdah and child marriage had become common. In Mughal Period women were not allowed to remarry. Polygamy was common among rich society. Overall the status of woman in Mughal period was low. During the period of East India Company, many social reformers such as Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar, Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Jyotiba Phule and others had struggled for the improvement of status of woman in Indian society. Rath & Nanda (2012) in their study entitled Adolescent's self-concept: Understanding the role of gender and academic competence examined the effect of academic competence on the self-concept of adolescents. The findings showed that academically competent adolescent students had higher self-concept, so academic achievement was considered a key criterion for judging one's total potentialities and capabilities. Zahara, Arif & Yousuf (2010) in their study entitled Relationship of Academic, Physical and Social Self-Concepts of Students With Their Academic Achievement investigated the academic self-concept of students with their academic achievement. Result showed that physical self-concept and social self-concept were unrelated to academic achievement but weak correlation were found between academic self-concept and academic achievement. In 1847, Peary Charan Sarkar had firstly started private girl's school in Calcutta. (Sarkar, 2018). Under this period Raja Ram Mohan Roy had succeeded to abolish sati system from India only with the help of Governor Bentinck. Raja Ram Mohan Roy introduced the concept of widow remarriage. (Hazarika, 2011). Through this reformation by the social reformers women acquired little social status. After independence many commissions and committees were formed for the empowerment of women, many acts were framed. Among them, Hansa Mehta played an integral role as a part of a strong women's movement that pushed for abolition of the devdasi system, abolition of child marriage (Sarada Act., 1930), insistence of better educational opportunities for women. The National Perspective Plan for Women's Education (NPPWE) formulated some important specific objectives for women education. So that they may also participate in the area of social, cultural, economic, political and also education field. The recommendations are early child hood care and education which introduces children into the social system gradually and smoothly, reservation of 50 percent post for women teachers in elementary schools, number of teachers should be increased for quality education and to provide incentives. (Siddiqui, 1993, pp.71- 73) but till now perception level of present adolescent students are not satisfactory.

### **Self-perception of adolescent girl students**

According to Buddhist perspective (Indian Theories of Perception) all consciousness and cognitive states are self-cognizing. It cannot be cognized by other cognitions. Self-perception is essentially a case of knowledge; it makes present to us our own-self (Rao, Pararjpe & Dalal, 2015, P. 333). According to Baumrind (1991) the development of self-perception adolescent girls requires an environment that provided the freedom to explore

and experiment and protection from danger. High self-perception tend to have confidence in their own abilities to make decisions, expectations for successful outcomes (Lohithakshan, 2015).

In British period Raja Rammohan Roy abolished Sati Dahapratha and Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar introduced widow marriage which enhanced the self-respect of women. Since early age child marriage was a social malady. In recent day West Bengal state is not an exceptional one. Many acts were introduced in different times against child marriage but till now it occurs. Kanyashree Prakalpa is a scheme, sponsored by West Bengal government to disincentive marriage at least the age of eighteen, the legal age of marriage, to reduce the risks of early pregnancies, associated risks of maternal and child mortality, malnutrition and other debilitating health conditions. As more and more girls remain in school, they will gain skills and knowledge that will help them become economically independent. Even if girls do get married soon after they turn 18 years age their education and enhanced social and emotional development will provide high self-perception. In present study the investigator tries to find out self-perception of unmarried adolescent girl students in the light of Kanyashree Prakalpa. So self dependence, social recognition and delaying marriage up to age of eighteen are the dimensions of self-perception. In present study Kanyashree Prakalpa is West Bengal Government sponsored scheme, which was implemented in all districts of West Bengal State since the year 2013. It seeks to improve the status and wellbeing of girls, specifically those from socio-economically disadvantaged families through Conditional Cash Transfers by incentivizing them to continue in education for a longer period of time & disincentivising marriage till at least the age of eighteen(18), the legal age of marriage for girls. The Scheme assures an annual scholarship of Rs.750/- (previously Rs. 500/-) (K1) and one-time grant of Rs.25,000/- (K2). In the present study Beneficiaries of Kanyashree Prakalpa are those girls who are residing in the state of West Bengal and accessing K1 grant. On the other hand, girl students studying in class VIII to XII (13 plus years to 17 plus years age) are not accessing the K1 grant due to their family income (>Rs. 1,20,000/- per annum) are known as Kanyashree Prakalpa non-beneficiaries. In present study Self-perception refers to the concepts of self-image, ideal-self, self-esteem, self satisfaction and to know the legal age of marriage of girl. It indicates the self-satisfaction by establishing herself as an ideal one in society and by delaying marriage up to age of eighteen and getting information or instructions for their self-dependence. Self-dependence is operationally defined as individuals own satisfaction towards her life in terms of the satisfaction with respect to level of engagement, enjoyment, well-being and other daily life activities. social recognition refers to the view of adolescent girls coming from different society like rural, urban, minority area, backward area etc. towards their social acceptance.

### Objectives of the study

**O1:** To compare the nature of changes in self-perception between the beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries of Kanyashree Prakalpa across the classes (from class VIII- 13 plus years age to class XII- 17 plus years age).

**O2:** To find out the self-perception of Knyashree Prakalpa beneficiaries under different categorical variables i.e. social status (like general, scheduled caste, scheduled tribe, other backward class) and location (rural, urban).

**O3:** To find out the self-perception of Knyashree Prakalpa non-beneficiaries under different categorical variables i.e. social status (like general, scheduled caste, scheduled tribe, other backward class) and location (rural, urban).

### Objective wise research questions and hypotheses

**RQ1.** Who are in better position in self-perception between the beneficiaries and non- beneficiaries of Kanyashree Prakalpa across the classes (from class VIII- 13 plus years age to class XII- 17 plus years age)?

**H01.** There is no significant difference in self-perception between Kanyashree Prakalpa beneficiaries of rural and urban area.

**H02.** There is no significant difference in self-perception among different caste categories beneficiaries of Kanyashree Prakalpa.

**H03.** There is no significant difference in self-perception between Kanyashree Prakalpa non-beneficiaries of rural and urban area.

**H04.** There is no significant difference in self-perception among different caste categories non-beneficiaries of Kanyashree Prakalpa.



### Significance of the study

This study is helpful to know the changes of perception level of adolescent girls. It also focuses the changes in perception level among different caste category students in rural area and urban area and castes light upon societal attitude towards self-perception of adolescent girls after implementation of Kanyashree Prakalpa.

### Research Methodology:

Descriptive survey and cross sectional study are followed for conducting this study.

### Population of the study

From five administrative divisions in West Bengal, the investigator has selected Medinipur division as the universe of his study.

### Sample of the study

926 sample has been selected randomly from five districts of Medinipur division (administrative division) of West Bengal i.e. from Bankura, Purba Medinipur, Paschim Medinipur, Jhargram and Purulia district. Among them 85.9 % are beneficiary of Kanyashree Prakalpa and 14.1% are non-beneficiary of Kanyashree Prakalpa, 50.1 % are urban area student and 49.9% are rural area student, 38.3% are general category student, 29.6 % are OBC category student, 22.8 % are scheduled caste category student and 9.3 % are scheduled tribe category student.

### Variables of the study:

In this study, the investigator has considered two types of variables. These two types of variables are given below;

#### Major Variables:

- Adolescent girls' self-perception

#### Categorical Variables:

- Locale (rural & urban)
- Caste category (General, OBC, SC, ST)
- Class (VIII- 13 plus years, IX- 14 plus years, X- 15 plus years, XI- 16 plus years, XII-17 plus years)

### Tools used for the study

According to the requirement of the study, the present researcher uses the following standardized tool. This tool is developed by the investigator with the help of his research guide.

1. Adolescent Girls' self-perception Scale (AGSPS)

### Result:

For RQ<sub>1</sub>

**Table 1: Descriptive Statistics of Kanyashree Prakalpa beneficiaries' and non-beneficiaries' self-perception across the classes (class VIII to XII i.e. 13 plus years to 18 plus years age)**

| Class      | Mean                              |                                       | Std. Deviation                    |                                       |
|------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
|            | Beneficiary of Kanyasree Prakalpa | Non-Beneficiary of Kanyasree Prakalpa | Beneficiary of Kanyasree Prakalpa | Non-Beneficiary of Kanyasree Prakalpa |
| Class VIII | 98.3139                           | 96.4091                               | 7.62422                           | 7.18305                               |
| Class IX   | 97.2750                           | 94.1154                               | 7.72316                           | 6.94738                               |
| Class X    | 99.0219                           | 98.0556                               | 6.84600                           | 4.95239                               |
| Class XI   | 99.4575                           | 98.2759                               | 6.15799                           | 4.67437                               |
| Class XII  | 98.4259                           | 96.0714                               | 7.40807                           | 7.24796                               |

### Interpretation

From table 1, it is found that the mean score of self-perception of Kanyasree Prakalpa beneficiaries of class XI (16 plus years) (M= 99.46, S.D.= 6.16) are in the highest position than others (class VIII-13 plus years, IX-14 plus years, X-15 plus years, XII-17 plus years) and mean score of self-perception of Kanyasree Prakalpa beneficiaries of class IX (14 plus years) (M= 97.28, S.D.= 7.72) are in the lowest position. On the other hand the mean score of self-perception (M= 98.28, S.D.= 4.67) of Kanyashree Prakalpa non-beneficiaries of class XI (16 plus years) is in the highest position than others (class VIII- 13 plus years, IX- 14 plus years, X- 15 plus years).

years, XII- 17 plus years) and mean score of self-perception ( $M= 94.12$ ,  $S.D.= 6.95$ ) of Kanyashree Prakalpa non-beneficiaries of class IX (14- plus years) is in the lowest position.



fig. 1: Graphical representation of Mean of Kanyashree Prakalpa beneficiaries' and non-beneficiaries' self-perception vs. class (across age)

### Interpretation:

From figure 1 it is observed that the nature of change of self-perception across the class (across the age) is same for both beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries. This nature indicates that self-perception varies across the class either higher level or lower level due to some factors. But it also indicates that Kanyashree Prakalpa beneficiaries self-perception is always better than non-beneficiaries self-perception. For both groups class X (15 plus years) & XI (16 plus years) is much better position and class IX (14 plus years) is at lower position. To access scheme grant they become self-confident. This confidence helps them to make their high self-perception.

### Result:

For  $H_01$

**Table 2: Group statistics of self-perception due to beneficiary of Kanyashree Prakalpa under different locale.**

| Adolescent Girls' self-perception | Locality | N   | Mean    | Std. Deviation | Std. Error Mean |
|-----------------------------------|----------|-----|---------|----------------|-----------------|
|                                   | Urban    | 381 | 99.2598 | 6.79963        | 0.34836         |
|                                   | Rural    | 414 | 97.8213 | 7.45848        | 0.36656         |

### Interpretation

From table 2 it is observed that mean score ( $M=99.26$ ,  $S.D.= 6.80$ ) of urban area beneficiaries of Kanyashree Prakalpa are greater than the mean score ( $M= 97.82$ ,  $S.D.= 7.46$ ) of rural area beneficiaries of Kanyashree Prakalpa.

**Table 3: Independent Samples 't'- test of self-perception of adolescent girl students due to beneficiary of Kanyashree Prakalpa under different locale.**

| Adolescent Girls' self-perception | Levene's Test for Equality of Variances |       | t-test for Equality of Means |         |                  |
|-----------------------------------|---|-------|------------------------------|---------|------------------|
|                                   | F                                       | Sig.  | t                            | df      | Sig. (2- tailed) |
| Equal variances assumed           | 4.554                                   | 0.033 | 2.834*                       | 793     | 0.005            |
| Equal variances not assumed       |   |       | 2.845*                       | 792.931 | 0.005            |

(\* Significant at 0.05 level)

### Interpretation:

From table 3, it is observed that in case of Levene's Test for Equality of Variances for beneficiaries of Kanyashree Prakalpa in rural and urban area, calculated F value is 4.55 and p value is 0.03 ( $p<0.05$ ). Hence, equality of variances can not be assumed between the groups. In such a case df is adjusted which becomes

792.931, calculated  $t_{(792.931)} = 2.85$  and  $p = 0.005$  ( $p < 0.05$ ). Therefore, 't' is significant at 0.05 level of significance. Hence,  $H_0$  is rejected. Hence it can be safely stated that there is significant difference in self-perception between Kanyashree Prakalpa beneficiaries of rural and urban area.

For  $H_02$

**Table 4: Group statistics of self-perception among different caste category beneficiaries of Kanyashree Prakalpa**

Adolescent Girls' Self Perception

| Type of Students_Kanyasree Prakalpa Beneficiary |                      | N   | Mean    | Std. Deviation | Std. Error |
|---|----------------------|-----|---------|----------------|------------|
| Beneficiary of Kanyasree Prakalpa               | General              | 298 | 98.3356 | 6.99650        | 0.40530    |
|   | Other Backward Class | 236 | 99.1398 | 6.83184        | 0.44471    |
|   | Scheduled Caste      | 189 | 98.3016 | 7.92378        | 0.57637    |
|   | Scheduled Tribe      | 72  | 97.7222 | 7.00950        | 0.82608    |
|   | Total                | 795 | 98.5107 | 7.18193        | 0.25472    |

#### Interpretation:

From table 4, it is observed that mean score of self-perception ( $M=99.13$ ,  $S.D.= 6.83$ ) of other backward class beneficiaries of Kanyashree Prakalpa are in the highest position and mean score of self-perception ( $M=97.72$ ,  $S.D.= 7.01$ ) of scheduled tribe beneficiaries of Kanyashree Prakalpa are in the lowest position than other caste categories beneficiaries of Kanyashree Prakalpa.

**Table 5: ANOVA\_Kanyashree Prakalpa beneficiaries' (general, OBC, SC, ST) self-perception**

Adolescent Girls' Self Perception

| Type of Students_Kanyasree Prakalpa Beneficiary |                | Sum of Squares | df  | Mean Square | F     | Sig.  |
|---|----------------|----------------|-----|-------------|-------|-------|
| Beneficiary of Kanyasree Prakalpa               | Between Groups | 155.577        | 3   | 51.859      | 1.005 | 0.390 |
|   | Within Groups  | 40799.083      | 791 | 51.579      |       |       |
|   | Total          | 40954.659      | 794 |             |       |       |

#### Interpretation:

From table 5, it is observed that, calculated  $F_{(3,791)} = 1.005$  and  $p = 0.39$  ( $p > 0.05$ ). It indicates that F is not statistically significant at 0.05 level of significance. Hence  $H_02$  is not rejected. It can be concluded that there is no significant difference in self-perception among different caste category beneficiaries of Kanyashree Prakalpa.

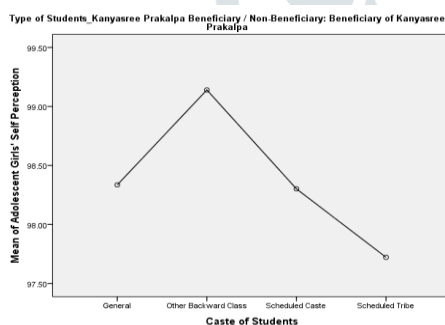


fig. 2: Means plot of Kanyashree Prakalpa beneficiaries' self-perception vs. caste category

#### Interpretation

Figure 2 represents the visual representation of group (Gen,OBC, SC,ST) means of Kanyashree Prakalpa Beneficiaries' self-perception and their linear relationship. This plot shows the notable difference between the groups. The mean differences between OBC and schedule tribe caste category is highly notable.

For  $H_03$

**Table 6: Group statistics of self-perception due to non-beneficiary of Kanyashree Prakalpa under different locale.**

|                                   |  | Locality | N  | Mean    | Std. Deviation | Std. Error Mean |
|-----------------------------------|--|----------|----|---------|----------------|-----------------|
| Adolescent Girls' self-perception |  | urban    | 83 | 96.7831 | 6.10487        | 0.67010         |
|                                   |  | rural    | 48 | 96.1667 | 7.07809        | 1.02163         |

**Interpretation:**

From table 6, it is observed that mean score of self-perception ( $M=96.78$ ,  $S.D.= 6.10$ ) of urban area non-beneficiaries of Kanyashree Prakalpa are greater than the mean score of self-perception ( $M= 96.17$ ,  $S.D.= 7.08$ ) of rural area non-beneficiaries of Kanyashree Prakalpa.

**Table 7: Independent Samples ‘t’- test of self-perception of adolescent girl students due to non-beneficiary of KanyashreePrakalpa under different locale.**

| Adolescent Girls' self-perception | Levene's Test for Equality of Variances |       | t-test for Equality of Means |     |                  |
|-----------------------------------|---|-------|------------------------------|-----|------------------|
|                                   | F                                       | Sig.  | t                            | df  | Sig. (2- tailed) |
| Equal variances assumed           | 1.844                                   | 0.177 | 0.525                        | 129 | 0.601            |

**Interpretation:**

From table 7, it is observed that in case of Levene's Test for Equality of Variances for non-beneficiaries of Kanyashree Prakalpa in rural and urban area, calculated F value is 1.84 and p value is 0.17 ( $p>0.05$ ). Hence, equality of variances can be assumed between the groups, calculated  $t_{(129)} = 0.53$  and  $p = 0.60$  ( $p>0.05$ ). Therefore, ‘t’ is not significant at 0.05 level of significance. Hence,  $H_0$  is not rejected. Hence it can be safely stated that there is no significant difference in self-perception between Kanyashree Prakalpa non-beneficiaries of rural and urban area.

For  $H_0$ 4.

**Table 8: Group statistics of self-perception among different caste category non-beneficiaries of Kanyashree Prakalpa**  
Adolescent Girls' Self Perception

| Type of Students_Kanyashree Prakalpa Non-Beneficiary |                      | N   | Mean    | Std. Deviation | Std. Error |
|--|----------------------|-----|---------|----------------|------------|
| Non-Beneficiary of KanyashreePrakalpa                | General              | 57  | 97.7719 | 6.06517        | 0.80335    |
|  | Other Backward Class | 38  | 95.3158 | 6.90517        | 1.12017    |
|  | Scheduled Caste      | 22  | 97.1364 | 6.91648        | 1.47460    |
|  | Scheduled Tribe      | 14  | 94.0714 | 5.23985        | 1.40041    |
|  | Total                | 131 | 96.5573 | 6.45834        | 0.56427    |

**Interpretation:**

From table 8, it is observed that mean score of self-perception ( $M=97.77$ ,  $S.D.= 6.07$ ) of general category non-beneficiaries of Kanyashree Prakalpa are in the highest position and mean score of self-perception ( $M=94.07$ ,  $S.D.= 5.24$ ) of scheduled tribe non-beneficiaries of Kanyashree Prakalpa are in the lowest position than other caste category non-beneficiaries of Kanyashree Prakalpa.

**Table 9: Homogeneity of variances of different caste category Kanyashree Prakalpa non-beneficiaries' self-perception**

| Type of Students_Kanyashree Prakalpa Non-Beneficiary | Levene Statistic | df1 | df2 | Sig.  |
|--|------------------|-----|-----|-------|
| Non-Beneficiary of Kanyashree Prakalpa               | 0.699            | 3   | 127 | 0.554 |

**Interpretation**

Table 9 (second table from ANOVA output) provides Levene's statistics. From table it is clear that calculated  $F(3,127) = 0.70$  and  $p=0.55$  ( $p>0.05$ ). So Levene's test for Kanyashree Prakalpa beneficiaries' self-perception is not significant at 0.05 level of significance. Thus the assumption of homogeneity of variances meet (i.e. not violated). For comparing the changes in self-perception across the classes, F test is done.

**Table 10: ANOVA\_ Kanyashree Prakalpa non-beneficiaries' self-perception among different caste categories**

Adolescent Girls' Self Perception

| Type of Students_KanyashreePrakalpa Beneficiary | Sum of Squares | df  | Mean Square | F     | Sig.  |
|---|----------------|-----|-------------|-------|-------|
| Between Groups                                  | 236.556        | 3   | 78.852      | 1.931 | 0.128 |
| Within Groups                                   | 5185.765       | 127 | 40.833      |       |       |
| Total   | 5422.321       | 130 |             |       |       |

**Interpretation**

From table 10 it is observed that, calculated  $F_{(3,127)} = 1.93$  and  $p = 0.13$  ( $p > 0.05$ ). It indicates that F is not statistically significant at 0.05 level of significance. Hence  $H_0$  is not rejected. It can be concluded that there is no significant difference in self-perception among different caste categories non-beneficiaries of Kanyashree Prakalpa.

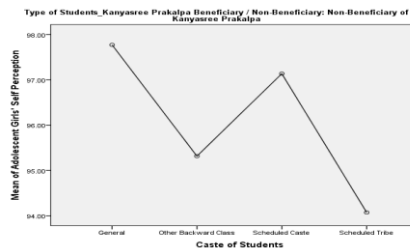
*fig. 3: Means plot of Kanyashree Prakalpa non-beneficiaries' self-perception vs. caste category***Interpretation**

Figure 3 represents the visual representation of group (Gen, OBC, SC, ST) means of Kanyashree Prakalpa non-beneficiaries' self-perception and their linear relationship. This plot shows the notable difference between the groups. The mean differences between general category and scheduled tribe caste category is highly notable.

**Discussion**

Rath & Nanda (2012), Zahara, Arif & Yousuf (2010) showed that correlation were found between academic self-concept and academic achievement. The trend of self-perception across the class (across age) for both group are not same but the nature of change are same for both group. Present findings can be corroborated with nearly related studies which were done previously by the other investigators. Present findings indicates that beneficiaries' self-perception are better than non-beneficiaries and local variation plays significant role in self-perception for beneficiaries but does not play significantly for non-beneficiaries. Variation of self-perception is observed for both groups with respect to different caste categories. Eligibility criteria of accessing Kanyashree Prakalpa grant is only family income (<Rs.- 1,20,000/- p.a.). Irrespective of caste category Smt. Mamata Banerjee, Chief Minister of West Bengal implemented this scheme for the benefit of poor girl students. Later in a general assembly she announced that every one can access this grants. The incentives were Rs.- 500/- per year (previously), later Rs.- 750/- per year. But this amount is not sufficient to continue their education. Present result shows that after enrolment of girl student as Kanyashree Prakalpa beneficiary (at 13 plus years age), their self-perception is high irrespective of caste category. Most of the government sponsored schemes in education field were framed for the benefit of backward class category students. Smt. Mamata Banerjee, Chief Minister of WB, India implemented this scheme for the benefit of poor girl students in the year 2013 irrespective of caste category. The eligibility criteria of accessing Kanyashree Prakalpa grant is only family income (<Rs.- 1,20,000/- p.a.). Thus the original poor students are benefited by the scheme.

**Conclusion**

In accordance with the findings, it is concluded that for high self-perception girls should be educated formally at least up to XII th standard class. Several government scheme are running in school education system for empowerment of reserved category students. Any country cannot attain its maximum growth potential by discriminating women in the field of knowledge, skills information, income earning capacity, purchasing power and health status. Kanyashree prakalpa is such type of scheme which lays stress on positive impact of increased education, delayed marriage at least up to age of legal marriage, enhancement of social power and self-esteem, endorsement of strong women figure as role models to promote psychological empowerment, social



empowerment and socio-economic status of the state. Caste category reservation system empowered limited number of girl students. But Kanyashree prakalpa helps to empower poor girl students. Accessing K P grants self-perception of girls become high. It's a pride to the poor state of West Bengal. So Kanyashree Prakalpa is not just a social welfare scheme, it is a future.

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