

A STUDY ON THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT SCHEMES TO UPLIFTING THE EDUCATION OF GIRLS

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ABSTRACT

The Central Government Schemes for girl child have been launched across India with the goal of improving the social attitude toward female children in India. These schemes also aim at elevating their status in society. Several central government initiatives, saving schemes and all under- government programmes for a girl child have been introduced in India in recent years. These programs have been a vital element of assisting females on a national as well as state-by-state basis. This scheme was created with the goal of providing financial incentives to families in order to encourage them to provide better upbringing and education for their girl child, to end sex discrimination, and to change the family's mindset toward the girl child's education by linking cash and non-cash transfers for the well-being of girl child. In the coming years, the schemes will prove to be beneficial for the girl child but as of now the reach of these schemes seems to be unclear. On a state and national level, the Department of Women and Child Development administers the majority of the schemes. Thus, present study will highlight the Role of Government Schemes to Uplift Girl's Child Education.

Keywords: Education, Schemes, Society, Children and Protection.

INTRODUCTION

In ancient Indian civilization, women had a prominent place. Boys and girls had access to education. The Vedas and Fine Arts were studied by the girls. Women received high self-worth and reached the highest level of intellectual and spiritual achievements. The Vedic period is also known as the 'Golden Age for Women'. Discrimination against women started in the later Vedic period. The ill-fated 'Sati' practice emerged during the Mauryan period. Women's liberty was further restricted by Kautilya in his 'Arthashastra'. Women's status in pre-independence India was poor due to widespread social evils such as child marriage and Sati. Only 2% of the women received an education. Sarojini Naidu, Vijay

LaxmiPandit, ArunaAsaf Ali, SuchetaKriplani, and RajkumarAmrit Kaur were among the ladies who came forward to promote the idea of gender equality.

In India, the government implements schemes to improve the social and economic problems of the country's inhabitants. These schemes are crucial in addressing many of the socio-economic issues that are faced by citizens, therefore citizens should be aware of them. The First Five-Year Plan aimed to 'promote the welfare of women by assisting them in fulfilling their legal obligations in the home and community while emphasising that 'the major burden of organising activities for the benefit of the vast female population must be borne by private agencies. The development programmes of the Seventh Five Year Plan intended to improve women's economic and social condition and ensure that they benefit from national development. This is when _beneficiaryoriented programmes' began to provide direct advantages to women in many development areas. This scheme aims at providing social protection, promoting girl child development, and spreading awareness for the ill practices of female feticide and child marriage. It also aims to provide opportunities for higher education and employment to girl children.

OBJECTIVES

1. Whether people take the advantage of the Government schemes.
2. Whether the schemes are helpful to girl child.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The present study is made on different aspects of government schemes related to girl child. From the study of related literature it is found that few problems have been dealt with children regarding their upliftment and solution to these problems in their progress.

Khandelwal et.al, (2014) reviewed the government program for women and children regarding their nutrition. Sadh and Kapoor studied the initiatives to save the girl child in India. Dr. Agnihotri and Malipatil, (2018) studied a brief information about Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao scheme. Department for International Development, (2005) Published a report on Girl's Education towards a Better Future for all where in Educational Problems of Girls have been dealt with.

METHODOLOGY

The study has a descriptive nature. Secondary data have been collected in order to prepare this document in a comprehensive manner. Data are obtained through publications in various journals, periodicals, conference papers and websites.

STATUS OF GIRLS IN THE SOCIETY

The status of women in a country defines the country's economic, social and mental condition. For generations, women have been the family's caretaker and primary givers and catered to domestic needs. Young girls are brought up to learn to walk in the footsteps of women in their families and conform to their gender roles. Learning to cook, clean, sew, stitch, and ration are among the many gendered tasks that girls are expected to practise and learn. In addition, girls are taught to be soft, polite, calm, spiritual, dutiful and forgiving. Only then does society deem them fit. It has been the status of girls in society for decades and continues to persist similarly in most families. Although educated women have risen to raise their voices and fight for their rights, the social condition of women remains the same in many places. The government is drafting schemes to educate every girl-child, and NGOs are raising awareness about the importance of educating girls to improve the current and future condition of women in society.

Importance of Girl-Child Education in the Society

The post-independence era marked a turn in the status of women in the society. The revolutionaries fought for the right to educate girls and provided them access to every opportunity that could help uplift them from the dungeons of patriarchal oppression. People need to understand that a learned woman is the forerunner of society. She can construct, grow and elevate the standards of her family and society. When girls are allowed to study, they learn and help others learn; they explore and grow both individually and collectively by educating their families and those around them. A woman has the potential to fill both gender roles; she can be a working housewife and a career-oriented professional at the same time. By encouraging young girls to study, society ensures an economically, morally, and spiritually richer future for itself.

Government Schemes for Girls' Education

There are numerous factors challenging girl education in society. Therefore, the Indian government took the initiative of drafting and launching multiple schemes to benefit the education of girls across the country.

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Central Government Initiatives for Girl Child BetiBachaoBetiPadhao

BetiBachaoBetiPadhao programme provides assistance to girls across the country. This program's primary goal is to prevent selective abortions and to improve the quality of education for a girl child. Rather than financial assistance, this is primarily an educational programme aimed at changing societal attitudes.

This initiative was supported by the Ministries of Women and Child Development, Health and Family Welfare, and Human Resource Development. The program aims to prevent the selective abortion of girl child and to ensure their inclusion in society, their well-being and education. It further supports equality of both genders and endorses the right of girl children to inherit property.

SukanyaSamriddhiYojana

SukanyaSamriddhiYojana Account is a small deposit scheme for girls. The programme enables parents to establish a trust fund for their child's future needs. The accumulated sum can help young girls pursue their dreams and negate the idea that girls are a burden. The scheme is managed by the Ministry of Finance and operated by the Post Office of India. The following are some important features of this savings account for girl child:

- The girl child should be under the age of ten.
- The account can be opened by the girl child's guardian or either of her parents.
- The minimum annual investment is Rs 250, and the maximum investment is Rs 1.5 lakhs.
- The account matures when the girl child reaches the age of 21 or when she marries after reaching the age of 18.
- On maturity, the girl child can withdraw the total sum.
- Once the girl child reaches the age of 18, she can make partial withdrawals to fund her marriage or her education.

BalikaSamriddhiYojana

The BalikaSamriddhiYojana assists low income families and their daughters with financial needs. The scheme serves to improve a girl's social status and increase female enrolment in school. Some important things to note about this government plan for girl child are:

- The scheme is only available to newborns.

- At the time of her birth, Rs.500 is paid in her name.
- The girl child further receives an annual scholarship in the range of Rs. 300 to Rs. 1000 till the completion of her 10th standard.
- The maximum enrollment age is 10.
- Only two daughters from a family are eligible to apply for this program.
- The depositor must come from a family that is 'Below the Poverty Line.'

CBSE Udaan Scheme

The CBSE Udaan scheme for girls is managed and administered along with the Ministry of Human Resource Development of the Government of India. This programme works towards encouraging more girls to enroll in the best engineering colleges throughout the country. Girls in their CBSE higher secondary grades who are enrolled under this scheme can avail free course materials and online resources. Further, the scheme offers peer learning opportunities and mentorship programmes to deserving female students. In order to qualify for this scheme, the annual household income must be less than Rs. 6 lakhs and the girls must be enrolled in the subjects Physics, Chemistry, and Mathematics.

1. National Scheme of Incentives to Girls for Secondary Education

The Department of School Education and Literacy, Human Resource Development Ministry, Government of India, manages this pan-India scheme. The scheme's purpose is to promote continued enrollment in a girl child's secondary education. It is primarily intended for girls belonging to families of lower socioeconomic backgrounds.

As part of this scheme, Rs. 3000 is offered as fixed deposit in the name of the daughter. Like any other FD, this amount shall earn interest at govt. specified rates. The entire accumulated sum can be withdrawn once she turns 18 or passes her 10th exam. To be eligible for this scheme, the girl should be enrolled in a govt. sponsored school. Further, she must be aged 16 or less, be unmarried, and must be enrolled in the 9th standard following completion of her 8th standard.

State Government Plans for Girl Child

1. MukhyamantriKanya Suraksha Yojana

Introduced by the State of Bihar, this scheme rewards parents of a newborn girl child with Rs. 2000. The birth certificate of the child is mandatory to avail of the benefits under this

scheme. The parents must be permanent residents of Bihar and fall in the below poverty line category. Interested parties can claim the benefit at the Gram Panchayat, the Collector's office, or at the Zilla Parishad.

2. Ladli Lakshmi Yojana

This scheme for girl child was initiated by the Madhya Pradesh Government in 2007 with the aim to promote a better life for them. The scheme further strives to improve sex ratio and girl child education in the state. The scheme deposits Rs. 6000 for 5 years in the name of the girl child, totaling an amount of Rs. 30,000. Additional deposits shall be made in the following order:

- Rs. 2000 for admission of the girl into 6th standard
- Rs. 4000 for admission of the girl into 9th standard
- Rs. 6000 for admission of the girl into 11th standard
- Rs. 6000 for admission of the girl into 12th standard
- The final sum of Rs. 1 lakh is offered to the child once she reaches the age of 21 years

3. Delhi Ladli Scheme

The objective of the scheme is to empower girl children both socially and economically in the National Capital Territory of Delhi. The following financial benefits are applicable under this scheme:

- Rs. 11000 if child delivery occurs in a medical institution
- Rs. 10000 if child delivery occurs in a home setting
- Rs. 5000 for admission of the girl into 1st standard
- Rs. 5000 for admission of the girl into 6th standard
- Rs. 5000 for admission of the girl into 9th standard
- Rs. 5000 for admission of the girl into 10th standard
- Rs. 5000 for admission of the girl into 12th standard

The annual income of the girl child's family must be equal to or less than Rs. 1 Lakh.

4. Mukhyamantri Rajshri Yojana

In Rajasthan, the Mukhyamantri Rajshri Yojana was introduced. It provides financial assistance to parents of female children from the time they are born until they complete their schooling. Further, when a girl child is born, the mother gets paid Rs.2,500. A cheque for

another Rs 2,500 is issued after the child has completed one year of immunizations. Other financial assistance to the girl child include:

- Rs.4,000 when she enrolls in any public school in grade 1.
- Rs.5,000 when a child enters Grade 6.
- Rs. 11,000 when the girl enters Grade 11.

Note that only permanent residents of Rajasthan are eligible to avail of the benefits of this government plan for girl child.

5. MaziKanyaBhagyashree Scheme

The scheme was introduced by the Maharashtra government to improve the lives of girls belonging to low-income families and marginalised groups. The mother of a girl child receives Rs. 5000 per year for five years from the time she is born. After that, the family is offered Rs. 2500 in financial assistance each year till she enters her 5th grade in school. From then on till grade 12, the child receives Rs. 3000 every year. The girl child further receives Rs. 1 lakh per year for educational expenses until she reaches the age of 18.

6. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's Girl Child Protection Scheme

The initiative aims to prevent gender inequality through direct government spending in a Fixed Deposit in the name of a girl child. The government shall deposit a sum of Rs. 50,000 if it's a single child, or Rs. 25,000 each for two daughters. The FD is made with the Tamil Nadu Power Finance and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited.

7. Nanda Devi KanyaYojana

This programme is exclusive to Uttarakhand. Under the scheme, a newborn girl is offered Rs. 1,500 as fixed deposit. Once she completes her senior secondary education and is of 18 years of age, she receives the deposit amount along with the accrued interest. All permanent residents of Uttarakhand who fall in the category of below poverty line can avail of the perks of this scheme.

FINDINGS

Women play an imperative role in making a nation progressive and guide it towards development. They are essential possessions of a lively humanity required for national improvement, so if we have to see a bright future of women in our country, giving education to them must be a pre-occupation Empowerment means moving from a weak position to

execute a power. In an effort to restore equality among the two genders after ages, the Indian government is now making continual attempts at creating and offering equitable opportunities to both boy and girl child in India.

CONCLUSION

The education of women is the most powerful tool to change the position of society. Education also brings a reduction in inequalities and functions as a means of improving their status within the family. To encourage the education of women at all levels and for dilution of gender bias in providing knowledge and education, established schools, colleges and universities even exclusively for women in the state. The education develops the idea of participation in government, panchayats, public matters etc for elimination of gender discrimination.

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