

REACH OF GOVERNMENT SCHEMES TO GIRL CHILD: AN ANALYSIS

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Abstract

Reach of government schemes to girl child focuses on how successfully the schemes made for upliftment of girl child are accessed by parents and teachers. We know that state and central government has formulated and implemented various schemes for the girl child but the reach of schemes is yet to be measured comprehensively. The data for the study has been collected from teachers and parents from the district Aligarh through questionnaire and the method used for evaluation of data is percentage analysis. Contrary to what has often been assumed that all the schemes formulated for girl child reaches them is not always true. Our findings indicates that teachers from private schools and government schools are aware about the schemes but when it comes to spreading of awareness, they lack in it. The efforts made by government for the upliftment of girl child needs a lot of improvement.

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' practise 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 education. *Sarojini Naidu, Vijay Laxmi Pandit, Aruna Asaf Ali, Sucheta Kriplani, and Rajkumar Amrit 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 'beneficiary-oriented programmes' began to provide direct advantages to women in many development areas.

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. Some of the schemes studied are as follows:

Mukhyamantri Kanya Sumangla Yojana

This scheme aims at providing social protection, promoting girl child development and spreads awareness for the ill practices of female feticide and child marriage. It also aims to provide opportunity for higher education and employment to girl child.

National Scheme of Incentive to Girls for Secondary Education (NSIGSE)

The Department of School Education and Literacy, MHRD, GoI launched the National Scheme of Incentives to Girls for Secondary Education as a centrally sponsored scheme for encouraging female education of the age group of 4-18 years, particularly at secondary education level.

Dhan Lakshmi Scheme

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 well-being of girl child.

Ladli Lakshmi Yojana

This scheme has become extremely popular with the enrolment of a large number of girl child beneficiaries. This scheme combines the conditional cash transfer for improving girls' education as well as popularizing the small family norm.

Bhagyalakshmi Scheme (Karnataka)

Scheme combines incentives for school education, immunization and health insurance, restricted to two girls from BPL families. The scheme also aims at eliminating child labour and ensuring admission to Anganwadi centres.

Balika Samridhi Yojana

The central government designed and financed this programme, which was ultimately taken over by the state government without any changes to the eligibility requirements or benefits. The scheme's goals were to influence family and community attitudes about the girl child at birth and her mother, enhance enrolment and retention of girl child in school, raise the age at which girls are married, and aid the girl in engaging in income-generating activities.

Mukhya Mantri Kanya Suraksha Yojana

The scheme's goal is to prevent female feticide, enhance the gender ratio, and increase birth registration of girl child. The Government of Bihar gives Rs.2000/- under the Mukhya Mantri Kanya Suraksha Yojana to every girl child born on or after November 22, 2007, who belongs to the BPL category. The Yojana's benefits are limited to two girls per family living below the poverty line.

Need and Significance of the study

We find many schemes are being operated by state and central government for the education of Girl Child. The purpose of these schemes is to provide financial help to needy parents of the girl child and develop a positive attitude towards the importance of education. Budget is allocated each year, but the major part of it remains unspent due to lack of awareness about the schemes to the people belonging from lower-income and low educational background despite government doing its best to promote the schemes through TVs, radios, newspaper, etc.

Thus, the significance of the study is in finding the reach of government schemes for educating a girl child. Along with this, the study also focuses on:

- Different kinds of hardships faced by the beneficiaries to avail schemes run by state and central government.
- Various Schemes run by Central and State government for Educating Girl Child.
- Awareness of these schemes among the Parents, Teachers and Students.
- Documents required during the type of availing the schemes.
- Estimate the percentage of the allocated amount for these schemes spent.
- Changes required in the schemes so that it reaches more and more beneficiaries.
- Political Interventions in the selection of beneficiaries.
- Role of NGO in spreading awareness about these schemes to beneficiaries.
- The gap between the intention of Government and how these schemes are being implemented on the ground level.
- Changes of rules for beneficiaries over time of launch of these schemes.

Objectives of the Study

Objectives of this study are as follows:

- 1) To analyse the reach of government schemes for girl child in the perspective of teachers.
- 2) To analyse the reach of government schemes for girl child in the perspective of parents.

Methodology

The study is quantitative survey. The technique used for selecting the sample is purposive sampling technique. This study is based on research survey in which samples have been collected and studied.

Sample

The investigators have used purposive sampling method for the study. The district chosen for collection of the sample is Aligarh. Total sample taken for the study is 101. Out of which 47 samples are taken from parents and 54 from teachers.

Tools Selected for the Study

- Girl child scheme awareness Questionnaire for parents
- Girl child scheme awareness questionnaire for teachers

Analysis and Discussion

Objective 1

The reach of government schemes for girl child in the perspective of teachers.

Table 1

Percentage analysis of the reach of government schemes for girl child in the perception of teachers

S No.	DIMENSIONS	Percentage	
		Agree	Disagree
1.	Role of Government	58	42
2.	Self Awareness	83	17
3.	Awareness Among Parents	72	28
4.	Community Awareness	60	40

Interpretation of four dimensions of the questionnaire:

1.Role of Government

From table 1 it is clear that 58 percent of teachers agree that government is playing an important role in regulating girl child schemes, spreading awareness regarding the schemes for girl child, reaching at school level to spread awareness, formulation of new schemes for girl child, implementation of schemes, collecting relevant data ,

increase in funding of the schemes and reduce the girl child drop-out rates in school while 42 percent of the teachers does not agree that government is playing its proper role in formulating and implementation of schemes.

2. Self-Awareness among Teachers

From the Table 1 it is revealed that 83 percentage of the total sample of teachers were having self-awareness in relation to government child and the rest 17 percentage of the teachers were not having self-awareness in relation to various government schemes for girl child, Implementation of schemes, Awareness about need of scheme, Problems faced during the implementation of schemes, Level of enthusiasm in while spreading of schemes.

3. Awareness Among Parents:

From Table 1 it is evident that that 72% of parents were aware about the schemes for girl child. The awareness about the schemes consists of various parameters such as: Part of awareness program, accessibility of schemes, enquiry about girls' schemes, knowledge about girl child schemes getting benefit of schemes and effect of schemes where as 28 percent parents agreed that they were not aware about the schemes for the girl child.

4. Community Awareness

Table 1 shows that 60 % teachers are involved in making the community aware about the schemes for girl child. The awareness dimension consists of parameters like spreading awareness among the community members, organizing awareness program, reaching to members of community to make them aware about the newly launched schemes, reaching to the beneficiaries, role of schemes in sensitizing the community where as 40 percent of community members were not aware about government schemes for girl child.

Objective 2

The reach of government schemes for girl child in the perspective of parents

Table 2

Percentage analysis of the reach of government schemes for girl child in the perception of parents

S No.	Dimensions	Percentage	
		Agree	Disagree
1.	Role of Government in Spreading Awareness of Schemes	34	66
2.	Self Awareness	58	42
3.	Improvement In Schemes	55	45
4.	Reach Of Schemes	53	47

1. Role of Government in Spreading of Schemes

Table 2 shows that the 34 percent of teacher agree that role of government in spreading awareness regarding the schemes related to girl child which includes creating of awareness program, Information provided by government regarding the schemes, Awareness programs driven by government representatives and officers in charge, Availability of help centers for availing of schemes for girl child and workshop regarding the promotion girl child schemes is positive while rest 66 percent do not agree that government is making enough efforts to make the parents aware about the schemes for girl child.

2. Self Awareness among Parents

Table 2 shows that 58 % of parents were aware regarding the schemes available for girl child. The parameters that are included in the awareness of parents include awareness among girl child parents, awareness about schemes, role of media in promoting awareness among parents, new opportunities to girl child, role of schemes in promoting higher education among girl students, parents' discussion about the schemes with other parents while remaining 42 percent parents agreed that they were not aware about the scheme about the girl child.

3. Improvement in Schemes

From table 2 it is evident that 55 percent of parents agreed that they want improvement in the schemes the improvement in schemes includes parameters like the complexity in availing of schemes, too many conditions to be fulfilled in order to receive the schemes, lack of proper channel to get enrolled as beneficiaries, lack of monetary assistance whereas 45 percent of parents were of view that they were satisfied with the ongoing government schemes and the ways of implementation of girl child schemes.

4. Reach of schemes

The data in table 2 clearly shows that 53 percent of the parent accepted that the scheme made for the girl child benefits them while the remaining 47 percent accepted that the schemes made for girl child does not reach them. The parameter of reach of scheme consists of availing scheme, Easier eligibility criteria, enrollment for schemes, providing monetary assistant reach of school authority to parents of girl child.

Conclusion:

In order to help the girl child government has launched various schemes but launching of schemes is not enough to empower girl child. The important parameter that should be considered is level of awareness of the schemes among the teachers and parents of girl child. Many girls are devoid of benefits due to lack of awareness though being eligible. A proper awareness campaign at all level should be initiated by government in a structured way and monitored by the concerned officer.

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