



A Sociological Study On School Going Girls' Of Kanyashree Prakalpa In West Bengal

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ABSTRACT

The state of West Bengal has introduced a new and exciting programme called Kanyashree Prakalpa. As a provisional direct money transference structure, Kanyashree Prakalpa targets teen-age girls in low-income families who are between the ages of 13 and 18, who are at the highest risk of dropping out of school and entering into an arranged marriage. As soon as Kanyashree Prakalpa-2013 is put into force across the state, its positive effects become apparent. The efficiency of the districts varies widely. Over time, the efficiency of the various districts has been compared. This drives the researcher to investigate Kanyashree Prakalpa's effects. The study aims to examine the influence of the Kanyashree Prakalpa on female pupils in the Paschim Medinipur area of West Bengal's education system. In our investigation, we have employed both primary and secondary sources. Researchers showed that Kanyashree Prakalpa had a positive effect on preventing early marriage among girls, in addition to reducing the likelihood that young women would drop out of school.

KEYWORDS: Kanyashree Prakalpa, Kid Wedding, School going girls, Girl's education, Girl's development, Effectiveness, Drop-Out, etc.

1. INTRODUCTION

To combat the widespread problems of early marriage and high rates of adolescent dropout among females, the administration of West Bengal implemented the provisional money transference programme Kanyashree Prakalpa in 2013.[1] This initiative has been widely celebrated both at home and abroad, most recently winning the 2017 United Nations Public Service Award, the world's highest honour in the field of public service. In the category "Reaching the Poorest and Most Vulnerable via Inclusive Services and Participation," this

programme won first prize in the Netherlands in July 2017. [3] In this study, we sought to examine why this programme was launched and what effect it had on teen pregnancy, marriage at a young age, and school dropout rates for females in rural West Bengal. West Bengal's flagship programme, Kanyashree Prakalpa (KP), was publicized on 8 March, 2013 and inaugurated on 1 October, 2013 with full funding from the state's government. By educating females, the programme hopes to decrease the prevalence of child marriage and boost their chances of finding gainful employment. [1] Girls between the ages of 13 and 18 whose families earn less than Rs 1.2 million a year are eligible to participate in this programme, which is a two-tiered conditional cash transfer programme. Adolescents with superior requirements, foundlings, and those who live in homes of J.J. are exempt from the revenue cap. Official confirmation of the revenue must be provided. The first part of the programme is a yearly stipend of Rs 750 for single women ages 13–18 who are enrolled in high school (grades 8–12) or an equivalent programme (KP1). The second part consists of a one-time payment of Rs 25,000 upon reaching the stage of 18, on condition that she has not wedded and has continued her schooling, sports training, technical training, or vocational training till then (KP2). The structure encourages young women to start saving early by encouraging them to open a bank account with a zero balance. This guarantees the girls are financially included and boosts their confidence because the funds are transferred straight to their accounts. This also guarantees that the system has minimal leakage. The schools not only have the application paperwork available, but they also help students enrol and open bank accounts. An electronic platform is used for the application process as well as the review and sanctioning phases. It guarantees openness, efficacy, and no leaks. The message is disseminated via classroom instruction, the news media, celebrity advocates, the Kanyashree Mela (fairs), and even street performances. The Health and Family Welfare Department advertised the programme in its newsletter, ASHA, and promoted it through the libraries of the Mass Education Department. [5] All of these factors, along with a strong political will, have contributed to the widespread dissemination of information about this system. A number of people on the ground have shown interest in this plan, and it has gotten a lot of media coverage from the start. UNICEF India has helped fund the initiative and collaborated on the development of a statewide communication plan. The United Nations' role in the development of KP's monitoring and information system (MIS) was also discussed. They have devoted consultants working on the programme, and they are actively involved in spreading modules of effective practise to other districts. Their guidance has been invaluable to the government's overall KP effort, both in terms of technical help and in terms of avoiding costly mistakes. [4]

While several factors contribute to keeping girls in school, the West Bengal government has funded a programme called Kanyashree Prakalpa that will soon be implemented in every district in the state. Human rights studies have found that domestic work and marriage at a young age are the primary barriers to a girl's education. Given the devastating effects of child marriage on the lives of girls, adolescents, and young women, keeping them in school is one of the most effective preventative measures. It is anticipated that this plan will have far-reaching positive effects on the lives of girls, their children, and society at large through increased opportunities for education, better health, and greater autonomy. The goal of this programme is to help women who come from low-income backgrounds and are unable to continue their education owing to financial constraints. The United Kingdom's Department for International Development and the UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) together recognise its importance. In addition to lowering infant mortality rates, increasing maternal well-being, and slowing the spread of HIV/AIDS, educating girls has a positive effect on the overall health of communities and cultures. Women have traditionally been viewed as second-class citizens. The daughters were seen as a burden. Thus, girls were married off at young ages without receiving an education, a practise that is increasingly being challenged. The public is beginning to recognise the importance of educating itself [6].

Kanyashree Prakalpa dissimilar from further systems:

In technical terms, provisional moneys transferences are programmes that provide financial support to low-income families with the understanding that they will not use that support to increase their children's human capital. Although it is counter-intuitive to attach a condition to the assistance provided to those in need (as economics textbook examples claim for unqualified traditional transferences in the form of grants), there are two broad categories of circumstances in which a conditional cash transfer (CCT) might be appropriate. Assuming political economic conditions necessitate private investment in human capital among the poor despite its social inefficiency (that is, redistribution is politically feasible only when conditioned on decent behaviour), then conditional cash transfers (CCTs) are the most effective tool for the job. Parents, especially mothers, can exhibit "incomplete altruism" by placing less value on their daughter's future education than they should. From the perspective of parents optimising their own welfare, allocating fewer resources toward their daughters' education may make sense (also because adolescents are more expensive in terms of gifts or because teenagers are more probable to take care of their maternities after they move in with their spouses). And yet, these results are socially inefficient. To combat ineffective and unfair gender inequities, CCTs provide incentives to families with four daughters (particularly those of adolescent age) to enrol in school. India has

developed numerous programmes over the past two decades with the express purpose of bettering the lives of young girls across the board. [9] They have taken aim at a variety of social ills, such as female infanticide, which leads to a little gender ratio; a lack of health care facilities and women's permission; a lack of education and opportunities for girls; and kid wedding. The Bhagyalakshmi in Karnataka, Beti Hai Anmol in Haryana, the Kanya Jagriti Jyoti Scheme in Punjab, and Balika Samridhi Yojana in Gujarat, they are all scholarship programmes designed to further the education of young women in those states. These programmes provide financial aid to female students from low-income homes so that their families can focus on supporting their daughters' education. The conditional cash transfer initiatives for girls' education, such as the, Vidyalakshmi in Gujarat, and Bangaru Thali in Andhra Pradesh, the Ladli in Delhi have proven to be the most successful salaries Rs 20,000 after an adolescent completes session 8 and then ends at an age when females are greatest susceptible to primary wedding, while the Bangaru Thali provides annual transferences to the adolescent upon enrolment and completion of each grade. Once a girl reaches the age of eighteen or completes the twelfth grade, she is eligible to submit her maturity claim under Delhi's Ladli system. These programmes are intended to encourage girls to continue their education, but they hinge on the girl's academic performance at each level, making it unlikely that they will be enough to inspire students who are struggling academically or for whom English is a second language. Moreover, these programmes do not explicitly require a girl to wait to get married until she turns eighteen, but they implicitly prevent early marriage by investing in her education. Kanyashree Prakalpa has been honoured with numerous awards, as listed in [8]

Awards and recognition received by the Kanyashree Prakalpa:

- Winner of the 2017 United Nations Public Service Award for "Reaching the Poorest and Most Vulnerable via Inclusive Services and Participation"
- Winner of the 2016 United Nations World Summit Information Technology (WSIS) Prize, Electronic Administration Grouping (WSIS Action Line C7) 2014–2015 CSI: Nihilent Prize Winner
- Order of Merit and Skoch Award for Smart Government in 2015.
- The Public Grievances and Government of India's Department of Administrative Reforms presented us with the Nationwide E-Governance Award for 2014–2015.

- In 2014, the category "E-Women and Empowerment" won the Manthan Award for Cardinal Presence for Development (Asia Pacific and South Asia).
- West Bengal Chief Minister's Award for Women's Authorization in 2014. A number of organisations have praised the scheme as an example of good practise.
- The International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and the United Nations Women (UN Women) have named them a finalist in the 2016 GEM-Tech Awards.
- U.S. Consulate and Shakti Vahini Host an Anti-Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Enclave
The NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog sponsored a workshop on conditional cash transfers for children: involvements of situations in India.
- The World Bank is hosting a consultation titled "Empowerment of Adolescent Girls."
The Tata Institute of Social Sciences hosted a consultation titled "Child Marriage and Teen Pregnancies."
- DFID and UNICEF's "Girls Summit" [11]

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS OF THE STUDY

METHODS:

This study employs a case-study approach to its methodology. Fifty secondary school-aged females were recruited from two schools in the Paschim Medinipur area for the data collection. Using this situation as a case study, the many schools of thought attempt to define and provide an explanation for the current state of affairs.

POPULATION:

All secondary-school-aged women in the Paschim Medinipur district are included.

SAMPLING:

The study's sample was collected by a method called purposive sampling.

TOOLS:

REGISTRATION RECORD OF GIRLS':

With the help of the school's administration, the researchers looked at the school's admissions register to find out how many new female students were in the eighth through twelfth grades.

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE GIRLS' STUDENTS:

In this study, questionnaires were made to find out how much Kanyashree Prakalpa has changed the way girls in the Paschim Medinipur area go to school.

3. RESULTS

Table - 1: Are you familiar with the various government-sponsored initiatives aimed at improving the lives of young women?

YES	NO	UNDECIDED
95	4%	1%

Table - 2: Girls in our country are far fewer likely to have completed high school than boys.

YES	NO	UNDECIDED
73%	20%	7%

Table - 3: Can you list the primary goals of the Kanyashree project

YES	NO	UNDECIDED
85%	15%	0%

Table - 4: Do you know anything about the K-1 and K-2 levels of the Kanyashree Prakalpa?

YES	NO	UNDECIDED
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83%	15%	2%
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Table - 5: Is the scholarship a source of inspiration for you to continue your education?

YES	NO	UNDECIDED
89%	6%	5%

Table - 6: Do you use the full sum of the scholarship toward your studies?

YES	NO	UNDECIDED
71%	21%	8%

Table - 7: Do you think this project is promoting girls' interest in attending school?

YES	NO	UNDECIDED
85%	2%	13%

Table - 8: Does the Kanyashree Prakalpa scholarship offer financial aid to your parents so that you can continue your education?

YES	NO	UNDECIDED
98%	0%	2%

Table - 9: Would you agree to be married if it was proposed to you while you were still in school?

YES	NO	UNDECIDED
0%	95%	5%

Table - 10: If you agree or disagree that Kanyashree Prakalpa is contributing to the cause of preventing young girls from being married off.

YES	NO	UNDECIDED
61%	32%	7%

Table - 11: If you agree or disagree that this programme has helped girls get an education faster.

YES	NO	UNDECIDED
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48%	33%	19%
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4.DISCUSSIONS

The chart shows that 95 percent of young women who are currently enrolled in school are aware of the many initiatives the government has undertaken to improve the lives of young women. Of them, 4% of girls and 1% of women are unaware of it. [8] As can be seen in the table below, 73 percent of teenage females are aware that they are educationally behind their male counterparts in the United States. Twenty percent of teenage girls and seven percent of women in general are unaware of it. The figure shows that 85 percent of Nadia district's teenage girls who are currently enrolled in school are aware of Kanyashree Prakalpa's primary goals, whereas 15 percent of these same girls are unaware. According to the data presented above, 83 percent of teenage girls understand the difference between Kanyashree Prakalpa's K-1 and K-2 levels. Fifteen percent of them don't understand it, and two percent of the females didn't even offer an opinion. According to the data in the table, the vast majority (89%) of high school female students are motivated to study thanks to this scholarship, while only 6% say it has no effect on them and 5% don't offer any comment. According to the data presented above, a majority (71%) of college-bound teenage females use their entire Kanyashree scholarship to fund their studies. Another 21% of girls do not put their whole scholarship amount toward their education, and 8% of girls have not commented on this. [7] From the data in the table, we may infer that 83% of the respondents agree that interest in the Kanyashree Prakalpa among females is on the rise, while 2% disagree and 13% provide no opinion. In this table, we can see that 98 percent of the girls agree that the Kanyashree Prakalpa scholarship helps their guardians financially, while 2 percent disagree. From the data presented above, it is evident that 95% of the girls do not want to get married before they finish their schooling, while just 5% of the girls have expressed any interest in doing so. Sixty-one percent of female students believe Kanyashree Prakalpa has been effective in reducing the number of teenage brides, whereas 32 percent of female students disagree and 7 percent provide no opinion. While over half (48%) of female students agree that the government's Kanyashree Prakalpa programme has helped speed up the rate at which women complete their degrees, the other third (33%) disagrees. The remaining 29% have chosen to remain silent. Eighty-six percent of female respondents to the Kanyashree Prakalpa survey reported optimism about the program's impact on reducing school dropout rates, while four percent expressed pessimism and ten percent expressed no opinion. [12] Statistics suggest that 8 percent of female respondents do not agree that the degree of female teaching is rising thanks to Kanyashree Prakalpa's efforts, while 12 percent hold that view. Ninety-four percent of female respondents believe that

Kanyashree Prakalpa encourages women to pursue higher education, whereas two percent disagree and four percent did not respond. Evidently, 82% of girls agree that Kanyashree Prakalpa's social consciousness is on the rise, while 10% disagree and 8% are undecided. [14]

5. CONCLUSIONS

Researchers observed that Kanyashree Prakalpa had several beneficial effects in the Paschim Medinipur district. The Prakalpa is effective in reducing dropout rates, particularly among girls from low-income families, and in discouraging the marriage of girls before they reach the legal age of majority, ensuring that the legal requirements for marriage are met. [15] Through scholarship programmes, it supports young women as they pursue post-secondary teaching in fields like technology, science, mathematics engineering, or sports. The Prakalpa also encourages parents to enrol their girls, aged 13–18, in school. The study also found that, in the current climate, girls are doing better than males in the Madhyamik Examination and in higher education overall. [10]

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