



EMPOWERING TOMORROW: THE JOURNEY OF BETI BACHAO BETI PADHAO SCHEME TOWARDS GENDER EQUAILITY AND EDUCATION IN INDIA

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Abstract: *Beti Bacho Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme was launched to support this scheme as well as make it successful by meeting the essential expenses of the girl child such as health, higher education and marriage. This scheme is a good start for the girl child lives as it involves some effective efforts of the Government of India. It is a best scheme ever as it reduces the tension of parents as well as will save the lives of present and future born girls through this small investment on annual basis. This scheme has been planned and launched to reduce the level and effect of some dangerous social issues related to the girl child. The present paper based on secondary sources and focuses the challenges and benefits of the girl child.*

Keywords: *Girl Child, Education, Health, Marriage.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme is a central government Programme. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao is an effective campaign to save the girl child and educate the girl child all over the India. It is a scheme run by the Government of India with the aim of spreading awareness as well as improving the efficiency of welfare services for the girls of India. The Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, has started a Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana (launched on 21st of January in 2015) under the Beti Bachao,

According to the census of 1991, the number of girl child (age group 0-6 years) in India was 945 per 1,000 boys. It was reduced to 927 girls/1,000 boys in 2001 and 918 girls/1,000 boys in 2011. Regarding this, India was ranked at 41st number country among 195 countries by the UNICEF in 2012. Such a huge level of decline in the number of girls was the indication of lack of women empowerment in the country. This huge reduction in girl child number was because of the pre-birth discrimination, gender biased sex selection, post birth gender inequality, crimes against women, etc social issues. On the launch of this scheme, Prime Minister Narendra Modi asked to the public to eradicate female foeticide and follow the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao scheme for the

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betterment of the girl child. This programme was launched by the PM on 22nd of January in 2015. It was first started from the Panipat, Haryana.

The economy of our country and its progress depends upon all the stakeholders. As of today women are unable to participate fully due to societal norms because of which health, nutrition and economic status of even a household, which constitutes a micro unit of national economy, is adversely affected and this also reflects at macro-economic levels. Therefore it is seen that lack of girl child's education can be an impediment to the country's economic development as in our country girls are less educated than boys. As per India's census report of 2011, the literacy rate among women is 65.46 per cent and men are 82.14 per cent. However there has been relentless effort by the government and other volunteer organizations to improve the education levels of girl child and women which is now paying off slowly. Various initiatives by the government in context of changes in policies, infrastructural support in all educational levels are having positive impact.

The condition of girl child in most parts of our country is not good as they are not treated equal to boys, lack in nutrition and not even allowed to complete their education even till primary level. Female foeticide is rampant and survival of girls born is also much lower than boys. To overcome this there was a need to focus on the education and protection of the girl child for which the BBBP campaign was launched by PM Narendra Modi. This will go a long way in attaining the status of India becoming a superpower in near future. BBBP campaign was started by PM Narendra Modi from Panipat in Haryana as it was one of the districts having lowest CSR in the country. This programme was launched by the PM on 22nd of January in 2015. Along with BBBP campaign Sukanya Samridhi Yojana was also launched to look after the financial aspects of overall progress of girl child by covering expenses towards her health, education etc. The CSR had fallen down from 945 in 1991 to 918 in 2011 which was a very alarming state of affairs. Initially the BBBP campaign was launched in 100 districts which has been extended to all the 640 districts of the country. BBBP campaign is bringing about positive changes in the life of girl child by ensuring better protection, nutrition and education for the girl child. The detailed guidelines issued by the government from time to time list out well planned objectives, target groups and improved coordination between various ministries and administrative machinery which is making it effective.

The BBBP Campaign has been launched nationwide due to a very large decline in child sex ratio which is defined as number of females per thousand males in the age group of 0-6 years. Females form almost half the population of the country. Therefore it is necessary to empower them for the betterment of our country by giving them equal rights so that they lead a good life without being discriminated. It is with this view that the BBBP campaign has been launched at national, state, district and community level for creating awareness in the society or saving and educating the girl child. This will make the girls independent and financially secure. The BBBP Campaign aims to achieve it by bringing in increased coordination between various government department and different stakeholders to improve the efficiency of welfare services available for the girl child and women. This requires formulating and planning strategies which will increase social mobilization and quicker communication among people regarding the equal value of girl child and her education by all citizens.

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Women's education policies have changed the status of women in our country. Women's some places are doing tremendous in the field of education. There are several policies implemented by Indian government on women's education which are intentionally or unintentionally impacting women's in our country. There are always challenges and opportunities faced by many girl child or women's in our country and their barriers to education and impact of right to education in providing them with education opportunities. There is various scholars review on upliftment of girl's education or improvement which is discuss the below.

Kandalp, E., (2012). focus on Gender empowerment also has an important impact on other members of the family; Empowered women have fewer children and have a higher child survival rate. In terms of scale and combination of activities, is not comparable to the Women's Equality Education Program in terms of location and organization, or long-term goal of becoming an important tool for women's empowerment. Previous research has shown that both cultural factors (such as norms restricting the mobility of women and structural factors (such as the lack of appropriate job opportunities for educated women) play an important role.

Singh, J. (2015). Studies the cyber crime against women, lack of evidences and fear of defamation, identifying criminal is very hard. Cyber violence has exposed women to cyber defamation, sexual harassment and abuse, pornography, email-misrepresentation etc. Women receive sexual and disturbing message from unknown emails and phone numbers which may be the result of their harassment and can disrobe her before society at large, which takes her to the brink of committing suicide.

Dhanaraj & Sudha (2019). Studies the Indian societies system, where women are too inferior as compare to men and consider to superior, resource management and decision-making. Women are frequently considered to be the property of their male counterparts. They are not allowed to make any decisions regarding their families or even their own life. Because of women's inferior place in society, as well as some traditional Indian customs, beliefs, culture, religious rituals, and so on, the birth of a girl child in a family is regarded as a curse. "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao," which has been adopted by the government in order to ensure a balanced sex ratio and improved literacy rate of girl child in India.

Parmar & Sharma (2020). Focus the education for women is the best way to improve the health, education, nutrition and social status of a household that constitutes a micro unit of the societies. Lack of women education is an impediment to the country's economic development. Therefore, there is an urgent need to resolve the problem. The BBBP campaign measures the effectiveness and awareness among the women.

III. BETI BACHAO BETI PADHAO: AN OVER VIEW

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao is a government social scheme launched by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi in order to address the gender imbalance and discrimination against girl child in the Indian society. This scheme was launched by the Prime Minister on 22nd of January in 2015 at Panipat, Haryana on Thursday. This scheme is to aware people about the importance of girls in the society. It is to increase awareness among common people to save the lives of girl child by completely removing the female feticide. People should celebrate the birth of their girl child and educate them with full responsibility as they do for their boy child.

This programme is launched by the Modi government regarding safety and protection of the girl child all through the country. This scheme was the urgent need of today's time as without saving and empowering women of the country, development is not possible at all. Women cover around half population of the country so they are half power of the country. That's why they need equal rights, facilities and opportunities to go ahead and contribute to the development of India. This scheme is regarding girl safety, protection and better education in the future without much load on the parents. In order to support this campaign, the government of India has started another programme named as Sukanya Samridhi Yojana. This scheme involves in reducing the burden of parents at her young age. Because, according to this scheme, parents have to deposit some money in the bank on monthly basis for which they will get benefited in future at the young age of their girl child whether for the education or marriage. Such ambitious approach of government in the form of Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao scheme will surely bring positive changes in the status of women in India. It is launched by the government with well planned objectives, strategies and action plan to make it really effective. It is to save the lives of the down trodden girls and give them opportunity of higher education so that they can be empowered and participate in all the working areas.

According to this scheme, around 100 districts (having low CSR) have been chosen to take necessary actions first. This scheme is to improve welfare of the girl child by creating awareness about gender discrimination in the society. The proposal of big amount of Indian rupee has been passed for the women safety in urban and large cities of the country. This scheme alone can support only however cannot completely solve the problem of girl child, it needs to be supported by all the citizens of India. Rules and regulations, made to reduce crimes against girl child, should be followed strictly and there should be strict punishment on violation.

IV. BETI BACHO BETI PADHAO: AN MONITORABLE TARGETS AND STRATEGIES

- Improve the SRB in 100 gender critical districts by 10 points in a year.
- Reduce Gender differentials in Under Five Child Mortality Rate from 8 points in 2011 to 4 Points by 2017.
- Improve the Nutrition status of girls - by reducing number of underweight and anemic girls Under 5 years of age (from NFHS 3 levels). Ensure universalization of ICDS, girls' attendance and equal care monitored, using joint

- ICDS NRHM Mother Child Protection Cards. Increase the girl's enrolment in secondary education from 76% in 2013-14 to 79% by 2017.
- Provide girl's toilet in every school in 100 CSR districts by 2017
- Promote a protective environment for Girl Children through implementation of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act 2012.
- Train Elected Representatives/ Grassroots functionaries as Community Champions to mobilize Communities to improve CSR & promote Girl's education.

STRATEGIES:

- Implement a sustained Social Mobilization and Communication Campaign to create equal value for the girl child & promote her education.
- Place the issue of decline in CSR/SRB in public discourse, improvement of which would be a indicator for good governance.
- Focus on Gender Critical Districts and Cities low on CSR for intensive & integrated action.
- Mobilize & Train Panchayati Raj Institutions/Urban local bodies/ Grass root workers as catalysts for social change, in partnership with local community/women's/youth groups.
- Ensure service delivery structures/schemes & programmes are sufficiently responsive to issues of gender and children's rights.
- Enable Inter-sectoral and inter-institutional convergence at District/Block/Grass root levels.

V. SIGNIFICANCE AND NEED OF BETI BACHAO BETI PADHAO

Child-Sex ratio may be defined as the number of girls per 1000 boys aged between 0-6 years. This ratio reflects both pre-birth and post-birth discrimination towards girls, manifested through gender-based sex selection. However, a decline in CSR is a major indicator of women disempowerment. Some of the reasons which called for Beti Bachao Beti Padhao are:

Low child-sex ratio

The Child Sex Ratio (CSR) census data for 0-6 years was 933 girls per 1,000 boys in 2001, which dropped to 918 girls for every 1,000 boys in 2011. As per a 2012 UNICEF Report, India ranked 41st among 195 countries. A 2011 Population Census showed that the population ratio of India in 2011 was 943 females per 1000 of males. The Sex Ratio 2011, however, shows an upward trend from the census 2001 data.

Crime against women

Abortion of female foetuses post ultrasonic testing, alongside other forms of discrimination against girl infants resulted in a sharp drop in female population. Crimes and sex abuse, however, have been on a constant high.

Back in the year 2014, Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi spoke on the occasion of International Day of the Girl Child. He emphasised on the eradication of female foeticide and welcomed suggestions from the Indian citizens on MyGov.in portal.

Selfie with daughter

It was a motivating initiative promoted on the social media in June 2015, which started with the sarpanch of the village Bibipur in Haryana, Sumil Jaglan, who first took a selfie with his daughter Nandini and posted on Facebook on 9 June 2015, gaining world-wide fame.

4. Sakshi Malik, Olympics 2016 Bronze medallist, was also appointed as brand ambassador for Beti Bachao Beti Padhao on August 26, 2016.

VI. ACHIEVEMENTS AND BENEFITS OF BETI BACHAO BETI PADHAO

- It aims at making girls independent, both monetarily and socially.
- Through Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, the government aims to generate awareness towards women issues.
- The government also wishes to improve the efficiency of delivery of welfare services meant for women.
- The government has launched 'Sukanya Samridhi Yojana' for the benefit of Girl child. This scheme carries the highest interest, 8.1% interest rate per annum. Parents of girl child aged between 2-10 years can open this account in the Post

Office, with the maximum deposit limit being Rs. 1.50 lakhs per annum.

- The impact of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme is visible in only 2 years from its launch date. However, the sex ratio has reportedly crossed up to 950 females per 1000 males.
- The number of women police officers has also increased from 6% to 8.5%.
- A large number of women are now free to join fields and careers of their own choices. These careers ranging from armed forces, science, journalism, sports, wrestling, engineering among others.
- The government is continually stressing on quality education for girls and encouraging parents to send their girl child to school.

VII. BENEFITS OF BETI BACHAO BETI PADHAO

Reducing sex ratios

Out of 49 of the 100 districts covered under program registered a positive trend in Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB) in 2016, as per Minister for Woman and Child Development. This is a refreshing change, compared to the steadily declining figures of the decade. The program was launched in Announced in 2014; the program was formally launched in January 2015 in Haryana, the state with India's lowest SRB. Haryana has also instituted a 1 lakh Rupee bounty for reporting PCPNDT (Pre Conception, Pre Natal Diagnostic Technique) and MTP (Medical Termination of Pregnancy) Act violations. Worldwide, the the normal sex ratio at birth (SRB) is 100 female babies for 105 male babies. India's "normal" is 950 female babies for 1000 male babies. **Donate to NGO Save the Children** to fund its many programs to educate and empower the girl child.

Bringing girl child rights into focus

The 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' programme is the best solution to address the status of women as a high number of secondary school dropouts. Currently, girls are less likely to complete their education and have only half the probability of getting enrolled in schools compared to boys. Additionally, more than one million girls under 15 get pregnant every year. Without education, girl children choose to deliver early, and experience delivery-related complications, and witness children born with a low survival rate of 50%. 60 million girls will lose their lives or a chance at education by 2020

Achieving girl child access to education

The programme's girl child education component ensures that the girl child, deprived of access to education, finds a pathway to education. Historically, girls have been the highest demographic to drop out of secondary school, and also have half the probability of getting enrolled in schools compared to boys. With access to education comes a transformation in decision-making. Research has shown that girls who complete their high school education are less likely to experience underage pregnancy. Today, in contrast, one million girls under the age of 15 get pregnant every year. Along with delivery-related complications, their children are born with a low survival rate of 50%. 60 million girls will lose their lives or a chance at education by 2020.

Women empowerment

BBBP is run in favor of women and focuses on the empowerment and development of women. The diminishing ratio of girls in the Child Sex Ratio (CSR) is the major pointer of women disempowerment. CSR includes both, pre-birth inequality marked through gender preferred sex selection and post birth inequality against girl child. Social discrimination against girls and easy affordability and misuse of the diagnostic equipments have resulted greatly into female child foeticide and ultimately decreasing the ratio of girls in CSR.

Attitudinal change

The BBBP scheme has been able to bring the focus on important issue of female infanticide, lack of education amongst girls and deprivation of their rights on a life cycle continuum. The scheme has successfully engaged with Community to defy the age old biases against the girl child and introduce innovative practices to celebrate the girl child. The BBBP logo has been much appreciated and accepted by people. People are using the BBBP logo on their own volition at various places such as school buses, building, stationeries, transport vehicles etc. to affirm their commitment to the cause. Logo has also been mentioned in popular Indian festivals i.e. Lohri, KalashYatra, Rakhi, Ganesh Chaturdashipandal, festival of flowers etc.

VIII. CONCLUSION

When women are educated, they are better prepared for leadership positions at both the local and national levels. For women with a higher level of education, they're more inclined to participate in organizations that influence their lives and the lives of people around them. Inequities based on gender and social background can be eliminated and justice attained via education. As a result of their gender, girls face a variety of challenges. Students' lives are shaped by a complex network of social and economic relationships that must be reflected in curriculum, textbooks, and pedagogical methods. Teachers need to be made more aware of the need of ensuring that all students have equal access to quality education. Efforts to improve gender equality, such as gender training, need to be stepped up. Investing in a girl child's education is essential if society is to thrive. Countries in the poor world have different levels of education. When we educate a girl, we give her a voice in the decisions she makes in her life. The more educated a person is, the more able they are to defend themselves, their rights, and seek justice when they are harmed. As a result, a just society would be created.

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