



A STUDY ON BENEFICIARIES OF THE INDIRA GANDHI SINGLE GIRL CHILD SCHOLARSHIP WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO COIMBATORE CITY

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ABSTRACT

This study delves into the experiences and perspectives of beneficiaries of the Indira Gandhi Single Girl Child Scholarship in Coimbatore City, focusing on the unique circumstances and outcomes associated with this scholarship program. The Indira Gandhi Single Girl Child Scholarship aims to empower girl children from single-child families by providing financial assistance for their education. Through qualitative interviews and surveys, this research examines the socio-economic background, educational aspirations, and perceived impacts of the scholarship among recipients in Coimbatore city. Additionally, the study explores the challenges faced by single-girl child families in accessing and utilizing the scholarship benefits effectively.

KEYWORDS: Benefits, Impacts, challenges

INTRODUCTION

Education is a powerful tool that empowers people to change for the better inside themselves. It is a procedure that supports a person's social, political, economic, and personal growth. One useful tool for removing obstacles and challenges from one's life is education. The only thing that may bring about positive changes in the country and society is education. All the natural and human resources make up a nation. A country develops when all its resources are developed. Women make up half of the world's population, and as they are such significant human resources for a country's growth, they should be given priority. Education is therefore seen as a crucial tool for the development of human resources. Women are a country's greatest

asset; hence they should receive priority education. A country's development is correlated with the advancement of women.

Women should have equal access to school, and their education should be highly valued since it will benefit the entire country. Women with education not only enjoy a higher position in society but also play numerous positive roles in the family and community, contributing to the betterment of society. One of the main things that will enable women to rise to the social ladder is education. Women who have more education can comprehend the world around them better.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

In contemporary society, educational opportunities for women have gained considerable attention due to their pivotal role in nation-building and socio-economic development. Despite strides made toward gender equality in education, disparities persist, particularly for single girl children in Indian families. The "Indira Gandhi Single Girl Child Scholarship" initiative was instituted to address this very issue, aiming to provide financial assistance and encouragement to meritorious single girl children pursuing higher education. even though the Indira Gandhi Single Girl Child Scholarship program is an admirable endeavor, it faces some difficulties requiring thoughtful analysis and calculated actions. The problem of limited outreach and awareness is the most significant of these difficulties. The scholarship program has the potential to be revolutionary, but it struggles to find applicants who are suitable, which means that a larger pool of candidates is left undiscovered.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To examine the demographic profile of the Respondents.
- To know about the awareness of this scholarship in Coimbatore colleges.
- To Assess the accessibility, and utilization of the scholarship among eligible candidates.
- To understand the services provided by the Government for promoting girl child education in Coimbatore.
- To identify the barriers and challenges faced by single girl children who applying the application for the scholarship.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The purpose of this study is to investigate the efficiency, significance, and prospects of the program with a focus on female beneficiaries who are pursuing higher education in India. The study will concentrate on evaluating the impact of the scholarship on the academic performance, personal growth, and professional goals of the recipients over a predetermined period and geographical area. Using a mixed-methods approach, the project will collect data from educational institutions and beneficiaries through surveys, interviews, and data analysis. The goal of the study is to maximize the effectiveness, relevance, advantages, and gender

empowerment initiatives of the scholarship program in Coimbatore by including the perspectives of the recipients and producing nuanced insights, evidence-based suggestions, and implementable plans.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research Methodology is a systematic way to solve research problems. It is the science of studying how research is to be carried out. It aims to give a work plan for research. The following includes it:

SAMPLE DESIGN

In this research, I have used a convenient sampling method to select the sample population.

SAMPLE SIZE

The size of the sample is limited to 260 respondents. I have taken only 251 respondents because of remaining 9 respondents did not respond properly.

TOOLS USED FOR ANALYSIS

The data gathered through a questionnaire for the study were consolidated in relevant and classified under relevant headings. Those data were analyzed with the help of statistical techniques such as:

1. Percentage Analysis
2. Chi-Square Test
3. ANOVA
4. Ranking Analysis

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

1. The project work is carried out in Coimbatore city.
2. There may be bias in the information provided by the respondents.
3. The time of the study was only limited to 6 months.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Dr. Khoda Meena (2024)¹, In this research, “The opportunity to receive an education upholds gender inequity as education is a fundamental right”. Encouraging female education is a step toward reaching gender parity, which is a prerequisite for accomplishing other Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as an objective in and of itself. Girls who receive an education acquire the abilities and information needed to enter the workforce. Girls who have an education are more likely to be able to find better professions and make more money, which helps the economy thrive both locally and nationally. It is more likely for educated women to escape poverty for themselves and their children. Girls who receive an education are more equipped to make health, nutrition, and family planning decisions that can raise their standard of living. Education equips girls with the information.

Pandy. D (2022)², In this research “How higher education contributes to women's empowerment”. Development indicators include women's empowerment and education. It entails maintaining quality while guaranteeing more equitable and improved access to research, higher education, and technical and vocational training. The main topic of this message was women's participation in higher education through women's higher education institutions. It means maintaining quality while guaranteeing greater, more equitable access to research, higher education, and technical and vocational training.

Sami, S., & Roychowdhury, S. (2022)³, It studied that, “India ranks lower than many other developing nations, and to attain SDG-5”, the plan and policies must be reviewed and adjusted and also make some recommendations for how to guarantee comprehensive women's empowerment, including how to support women's social and economic advancement.

K. Spandana Deepika (2022)⁴ The study concludes that “The right to education encompasses the obligations of the students to avoid discrimination at all levels of the educational system”, to set minimum standards of education, and to improve the quality of education. The Government of India has taken many initiatives for the welfare of children about female at different stages of their lives to bring them to the mainstream and to reduce the disparity between boys and girls. Most of most of the respondents showed a positive attitude towards girl child education.”

Zhou et al. (2020)⁵, In this research, “It revealed that single mothers in the UK had lower levels of education and lower earnings than partnered mothers”, which limits their children's access to resources such as books, technology, and extracurricular activities that support academic performance. The impact of single parenthood on children’s academic performance in primary schools is complex and varied.

RESEARCH GAP

A review of the Indira Gandhi Single Child Scholarship Scheme (IGSCSS) reveals several important shortages that require further investigation. First, there are not many comprehensive studies examining the program's overall effects on the socioeconomic status of beneficiary families and the educational outcomes of single-child households. While earlier studies provide insightful insights into enrollment patterns and financial distribution, a deeper understanding of the program's broader implications is required. Second, the functioning of the IGSCSS in India's many socioeconomic contexts and geographical variations has received minimal research attention.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

In research, data analysis is the act of examining, purifying, converting, and analyzing data to find relevant information, make inferences, and aid in decision-making. In many disciplines, including the social sciences, natural sciences, engineering, and business, it is an essential stage in the research process.

PERCENTAGE**TABLE 1**

| Sl.No | Factor | Respondent | Percentage (%) |
|-------|--|------------|----------------|
| 1 | Age – 20-25 Years | 100 | 100 |
| 2 | Marital status - unmarried | 177 | 78 |
| 3 | the scholarships available for higher education – in UG | 119 | 48 |
| 4 | Current profession of study - Arts and science | 156 | 62 |
| 5 | First learned about the Indira Gandhi Single girl child Scholarship - School/College | 110 | 44 |
| 6 | The perception of the Indira Gandhi single-child scholarship scheme - Financial support | 135 | 54 |
| 7 | influenced your decision to apply for this scholarship – financial need | 115 | 46 |
| 8 | further support its recipients - Counselling Services | 137 | 55 |
| 9 | impacted your academic journey and achievements - Impactful | 108 | 43 |
| 10 | goals for further study and employment - Reducing Financial Stress | 122 | 49 |

INTERPRETATION

- majority 100% of the respondents are 20-25.
- Majority 70.5% of the respondents are unmarried
- Mostly 47.6% of the respondents are aware of scholarships available for higher education at UG.
- Majority 62.2% of the respondents studied arts and science.
- Mostly 43.8% of the respondents came to know with the help of the school/college.
- Majority 53.8% of the respondents have highlighted the importance of financial support.
- Mostly 45.8% of the respondent's influenced by Financial Needs.
- Majority 54.6% of the respondents agreed with the factor of Counselling Services
- majority 97.8% of the respondents agree with the factor that generic medicines help to control financial expenses.
- majority 48.6% of the respondents agreed with the factor of quality assurance.

CHI-SQUARE ANALYSIS**TABLE 2:**

| SOURCES | CALCULATED VALUE | TABLE VALUE | RESULT |
|--|------------------|-------------|----------|
| Increased Family and Social Upliftment | .576 | 7.815 | accepted |
| Increased Employability and Career Opportunities | .628 | 7.815 | accepted |
| Empowerment of Women | .821 | 7.815 | accepted |
| Reduced gender disparity | .648 | 7.815 | accepted |
| Raising awareness | .605 | 7.815 | accepted |
| financial support | .636 | 7.815 | accepted |
| Ease of Application | .605 | 7.815 | accepted |
| Transparency and Clarity | .605 | 7.815 | accepted |

INFERENCE

There is no significant relationship between age and Increased Family and Social Upliftment, Increased Employability and Career Opportunities, Empowerment of Women, Reduced gender disparity, Raising awareness, financial support, Ease of Application, and transparency and clarity of the respondents.

ANOVA ANALYSIS**TABLE 3:**

| FACTORS | CALCULATED VALUE | TABLE VALUE | RESULT |
|--|------------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| Reduced gender disparities | .411 | 230.2 | Null hypothesis accepted |
| Financial support | .458 | 230.2 | Null hypothesis accepted |
| Increased employability and career opportunities | .357 | 230.2 | Null hypothesis accepted |
| Empowerment of women | .450 | 230.2 | Null hypothesis accepted |
| Raising awareness | .868 | 230.2 | Null hypothesis rejected |

INFERENCE

There is no significant association between age and important factors of Indra Gandhi's scholarship regarding the factors of Reduced gender disparities, Increased employability and career opportunities, financial support, Empowerment of women, and Raising awareness by the respondents.

RANKING ANALYSIS

TABLE 4:

| S.NO | FACTORS | RANKING |
|------|--------------------------------|---------|
| 1 | Breaking Gender Stereotypes. | 1 |
| 2 | Financial Assistance. | 2 |
| 3 | Promoting Education for Girls. | 3 |
| 4 | Encouraging Higher Education | 4 |
| 5 | Promoting Education for Girls | 5 |

INFERENCE

The above table shows that Breaking gender stereotypes emerged as the most significant factor, securing the top rank 1 with the highest total score. Financial assistance claimed the second rank 2, highlighting its substantial importance. The respondents recognize the critical role of the scholarship in providing financial support. Promoting education for girls secured the third rank 3, underscoring its notable importance. Encouraging higher education obtained the fourth rank 4, indicating a recognition of its importance but possibly not as critical as other factors. Empowering women received the lowest total score and was ranked fifth 5. While still recognized, respondents placed less emphasis on this factor compared to others.

SUGGESTION

- Increasing awareness through community outreach programs, workshops, and information sessions to ensure that eligible candidates are well-informed about the scholarship.
- Making it easier for people to obtain information and submit their applications by improving online application processes and offering digital tools to assist applicants
- Improving communication channels to provide regular updates and information to applicants, and ensuring transparency in the application process.
- Boosting the amount of money given to the scholarship program to expand its beneficiary base and improve the level of financial assistance given to each participant.

- Putting in place mentorship programs to offer advice and assistance to scholarship recipients, assisting them in overcoming obstacles and choosing their educational and professional pathways.

CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, the Indira Gandhi Single Girl Child Scholarship is an important program that could have a big impact on how single girls in our society are educated. It is admirable that the initiative focuses on shattering gender stereotypes, offering financial support, advancing girls' education, and fostering higher education. The respondents' rankings highlight how widely the program's contribution to questioning conventional wisdom and promoting gender equality is acknowledged. A key component that becomes apparent is financial aid, which reflects the urgent need to remove financial obstacles and guarantee that education is still available to everyone.

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