



Kanyashree Prakalpa In West Bengal: A Review-Based Analysis

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Abstract: Kanyashree Prakalpa is an initiative of the Government of West Bengal, India took to develop women's social status, reduce child marriage and girl student dropout rates and motivate them towards higher education. After implementing this initiative, several impacts are shown on girls' education and societal change. This study aims to collect and analyse the existing research work on the Kanyashree Prakalpa scheme. This paper gives an overview of the importance of this initiative for girl students and how this initiative plays an important role in improving girls' education, societal change, women's empowerment and other developments of girls. In this study, 30 different literatures from online platforms and printed resources critically analysed their objectives, methods, findings and suggestions.

Key words: Kanyashree Prakalpa, Women Empowerment, Girls' Education.

I. INTRODUCTION

A famous scheme namely Kanyashree Prakalpa announced by the Government of West Bengal, India on March 8, 2013, and launched on October 1, 2013. This scheme is a Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) program which aims to improve girls' status, empower adolescent girls, support healthy development, reduce dropout rates in school, and discourage early child marriage. This scheme is available for unmarried girl students whose income is below Rs.1,20,000. It has three components, names K1, K2 and K3 for those in school, after school and post-graduation respectively. This Government initiative received eight national and international recognitions due to good design and governance. This scheme is also appreciated by Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Enclave organized by U. S. Consulate & Shakti Vahini (Siliguri, February 2016), National Workshop on "Conditional Cash Transfers for Children: Experiences of States in India" organized by NITI Aayog, India (Delhi, December 2015), Consultation on "Empowerment of Adolescent Girls" organized by the World Bank (Ranchi, May 2015), Consultation on "Child Marriage and Teenage Pregnancies" organized Tata Institute of Social Sciences (Delhi, March 2015) and The "Girls Summit was organized by DFID and UNICEF (London, July 2014).

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To explore the understanding and impact of Kanyashree Prakalpa launched by the Government of West Bengal.
2. To study the various research findings on the Kanyashree Prakalpa and find out its importance.

III. METHODOLOGY

This study follows a systematic review of 30 qualitative and quantitative evidence-based studies, including different articles from Google Scholar, Research Gate, Academia.edu and Semantic Scholar with the help of open sources. The researchers has critically analysed and found out the impact of Kanyashree Prakalpa on developing women's education, reducing dropout rates of girl students and creating positive change in society.

SEARCH KEY TERMS:

Kanyashree Prakalpa conditional cash transfer, Kanyashree Prakalpa, impact of kanyashree prakalpa west Bengal, kanyashree prakalpa child marriage, West Bengal kanyashree Prakalpa, kanyashree prakalpa its implication, kanyashree prakalpa women education, child marriage kanyashree Prakalpa, state intervention kanyashree Prakalpa, kanyashree prakalpa scheme, kanyashree prakalpa in adolescence girls, kanyashree prakalpa girl child, women education kanyashree Prakalpa, kanyashree prakalpa in early marriage.

IV. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Sen, R. K. (2016) studied to identify the trends in dropout rates among girl students and explored the interrelationship between dropout rates, poverty, and child marriage through cost-benefit analysis. This study aims to assess the role of Kanyashree prakalpa in enhancing educational outcomes and reducing child marriage among underprivileged girls of Barasat Municipal Area of North 24 Parganas District in West Bengal. This study includes a socioeconomic survey methodology where primary data were collected through a structured questionnaire and secondary data from various organisations. The study findings revealed a significant decrease in dropout rates and child marriage among those who participated in this project. A Strong negative correlation was found between Kanyashree scholarship, dropout rates ($r = - 0.726$), and child marriage ($r = - 0.688$).

Mandal, G., & Sasmal, U. R. (2016) conducted a study on Kanyashree Prakalpa in School Education of Midnapore District in West Bengal. This study employed a mixed-method approach, incorporating both quantitative and qualitative data. Three sub-divisions in the Midnapore District (Ghatal, Tamruk, and Jhargram) were selected based on reports of high child marriage and significant populations of Schedule Castes and Schedule tribes. This study was a descriptive and mixed method (quantitative and qualitative). Data was collected from present enrolment data across different classes and years. The study's findings indicated a Positive trend in girl students' enrolment particularly in the Ghatal Basanta Kumari High School where enrolment figures increased from 295 to 357 in classes V to VII and from 213 to 325 in classes IX to X in the years 2013-14 and 2015-16. This initiative has effectively minimized dropout rates and reduced child marriages.

Parvin, M (2018) conducted a study to examine the impact of Kanyashree Prakalpa on 13-18 years age in School-Going Girls and the study aimed to determine educational progress, girls' attendance rate, dropout rates, prevention of child marriage and awareness among school-going girls. Descriptive research was done by using the purposive sampling method and the findings of the study indicate that this scheme had a positive impact on adolescent girls as well as showed improvement in educational progress, increasing school attendance, shrinking dropout rates, avert child marriages, and promote social awareness among school-going girls.

Halder, U. K. (2018) conducted a study on Kanyashree Prakalpa to elaborate on the objectives of this scheme. This study is qualitative, it aims to analyse and objectify this government scheme of West Bengal and focuses on how incentivized girls help them to empower, enhance social power, and self-esteem and promote social inclusion, especially in socio-economic backgrounds students. The study revealed that this government scheme can reduce the dropout rate of school girls, promote education, enrich social power and self-esteem, and boost financial inclusion among disadvantaged girls. This scheme-targeted behaviour change communication strategies, adolescent-friendly approaches, and endorsement of strong women figures as role models have contributed to the scheme's success in empowering young girls and improving their overall well-being and educational outgrowth.

Bhattacharjee, S., & Sau, K. (2018) conducted a study among Parents and Teachers to assess their attitudes towards Kanyashree Prakalpa. The researcher focused on their perception of the Kanyashree scheme's impact on girls' education and child marriage prevention in Nadia District of West Bengal. The researcher used descriptive exploratory survey method, 30 purposive samples and stratified based on their religion and educational background. The study revealed a significant positive attitude towards this scheme among parents and teachers with 97% of fathers, 71% of mothers, and 50% of teachers appreciating this scheme, indicating a discrepancy in attitude between teachers and parents towards this initiative.

Das, P. (2018) conducted a study to evaluate the Kanyashree scheme's impact on empowering adolescent girl students by intensifying their educational attainment, delaying child marriages and improving the socio-economic status of girl students from economically disadvantaged groups. The study employed district-wise beneficiary data, revealed that this initiative has significantly improved school enrolment rates among beneficiaries, reduced child marriages, promoted gender equality and fostered a supporting environment for the development of girl students in the region.

Samsujjaman, & Halder, T. (2018). conducted a study on the awareness and impact of Kanyashree Prakalpa on Ongoing Girls' Education. The main objectives of the study were to assess the awareness of this scheme among female students from rural backgrounds and how this scheme impacts reducing child marriage, promoting higher education, address socio-economic challenges faced by girls. In this study, 200 female participants from urban and rural were selected by using the purposive sampling method. A self-made standardized questionnaire was used for collected data and for analyzing data, mean, standard deviation, percentage, and t-tests were used. The findings revealed that 80% of the respondents indicated a positive impact on reducing child marriage and motivating girls towards higher education. A significant difference was found in awareness level between rural and urban students and no significant differences were found among students of different grades.

Soy, D. S. (2019) studied the Problems and prospects of the Kanyashree program; to analyse the views of female learners regarding the various components of this program, assess the impact on female students' studies and, whether contributes to reducing the dropout rate among girl students. In this study, the Researcher used a self-made questionnaire and, collected data from 50 girl students, 30 guardians and 2 headmasters from the government-aided school in the Paschim Bardhaman district of West Bengal. Findings revealed that this scheme significantly positively impacts student enrolment in class and decreases dropout rates among girls. Most of the students responded scholarships provided by the program motivated them to continue their education and 94% expressed their interest in continuing their higher studies. Some challenges are found such as difficulties in applying, and irregular disbursement of funds.

Mehaboob, N., & Halder, T. (2019) studied Kanyashree Prakalpa and its impact on child marriage and girls' education in West Bengal. Aimed was to assess the awareness of this program among girl students based on locality and educational standards, its impact on child marriage and its influence on higher education. This study was descriptive and a standardized self-made questionnaire was used for collecting data. This study involved a purposive sampling method and 300 students (150 boys from rural and 150 from urban schools) were selected for this study. Descriptive statistics mean, standard deviation and t-test were used to check the difference. Findings indicated that 60% of respondents expressed positive responses regarding its impacts; it contributes to reduced child marriage and highlighted differences in awareness levels between rural and urban girl students.

Nandy, S., & Nandi, A. (2019) studied to evaluate the effectiveness of the Kanyashree Prakalpa initiative in school-going girls and aim to identify any loopholes in the implementing the scheme that might hinder its success. This study is analytical and focused on the evaluation of this government scheme. Data were used secondary, basically from the government reports and assessments such as enrolment and dropout rates. This study's findings indicated that enrolment of students increased from 9,021 in 2013-14 to 9,329 in 2014-15. Some loopholes were found such as many families were not about the criteria, many students left school as soon as they received the one-time grant and some families studied their daughters until they got K2 benefits.

Paroi, S., & Sarkar, C. (2020) conducted a study on girl students about the impact of the scheme named Kanyashree Prakalpa in Hooghly district, West Bengal. The objectives of the study were to inspect the social problems faced by the girls' students, understand the teachers' viewpoint on this initiative, and conduct a SWOT analysis to determine the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats of this program, and how this scheme emancipate and improved the educational outcome of secondary school female students. For evaluating this program, the researcher collected data through questionnaires and semi-structured interviews with teachers. The Study revealed the perspective of teachers that promoting girls' education and independence, this scheme is a good initiative and had a positive impact on decreasing dropout rates, preventing child marriage, and empowering adolescent girls.

Bandyopadhyay, S. (2020) studied Kanyashree Prakalpa in West Bengal: An inter-district performance analysis. The main objectives of the study were to assess the performance of Kanyashree Prakalpa across the different districts in West Bengal to identify any regional disparities in its implementation and, analyse the effectiveness of the scheme in promoting women's empowerment, reducing dropout rates among female students, and preventing child marriage. The descriptive research design was adopted, relying on secondary data which was collected from various published scholarly articles and official status reports from the Department of Women and Child Welfare, Government of West Bengal. Findings indicate that this scheme has constructed significant strides in empowering adolescent girls in West Bengal, reduced dropout rates and child marriage and, suggesting while the scheme has potential, some areas require targeted interventions to enhance its effectiveness and ensure equitable benefits across the state.

Mondal, S. (2020). explored the perception and attitudes of adolescent girls towards child marriage and assessed the impact of the government initiative Kanyashree Prakalpa. The study highlights the importance of education to empower girls, reduce child marriage and educational opportunities give rise to the negative consequences related to early marriage. This study involved a purposive sample and chose 153 girls aged 13-18 years in classes IX-XII of Burdwan and Birbhum districts of West Bengal. This is a descriptive cross-sectional study and data was collected using a semi-structured questionnaire through face-to-face interviews with the participants. The study's findings revealed that 54.2 % of adolescents were aware of the negative aspects of early marriage and factors such as age, educational level and caste notably influenced the adolescents' perceptions of child marriage. Also, higher educational attainment and age are related to a greater awareness of the adverse effects of early marriage, underscoring the significance of this Kanyashree Prakalpa scheme in changing societal attitudes.

Molla, M. K., & Sarkar, M. (2020) examined the impact of the Kanyashree Prakalpa initiative on girl students' academic performance. The main objectives were to assess how this initiative influenced students' enrolment, attendance, and retention and motivated girl students in education and investigate the effect of this prakalpa on students' academic performance based on geographical location and economic status. From randomly 10 colleges (5urban and 5 rural) of North 24 Pargana district of West Bengal, 400 girl students were selected for this study and a self-constructed questionnaire was used for collecting data. Descriptive statistics such as inferential statistics such as t-test and chi-square were used to conclude data. The study revealed a significant positive relation between Kanyashree Prakalpa and the academic achievement of girl students. Also, enrolment, attendance, retention and motivation towards higher education increased, particularly among BPL girls.

Pahari, A. (2020) conducted a sociological analysis on adolescent girls' perceptions of Kanyashree Prakalpa, focused on how age, location, and social status influenced their self-perception and attitudes towards education. In this study, 926 adolescent girls were selected by random sampling from the Medinipur district of West Bengal. A self-develop tool was used namely Adolescent Girls' Attitude towards Education scale. The study's findings indicated a positive impact on the self-perception of adolescent girls, particularly among beneficiaries compared to non-beneficiaries. There is a significant reduction in dropout rates and child marriage in the study area, promoting education advancement and empowering women.

Nandi, A., & Das, T. (2021) studied the effect of the scheme named Kanyashree Prakalpa with objectives to assess the educational status, girls' attendance, role of reducing child marriages, parents' opinions towards the impact of this scheme of Bankura district of West Bengal. In this study descriptive survey methods are used and 160 parents are selected through a simple random sampling method. The study revealed that this scheme minimized early marriages among adolescent girls, prevented dropout rates in school and colleges and, adolescent girls invested the funds to their educational pursuits from the receiving of the project Kanyashree Prakalpa.

Karim et al. (2021) conducted a study to analyze the impact of the Kanyashree Prakalpa initiative on girl students' education, and capacity building in West Bengal, particularly in the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The study aimed to identify the difficulties faced by girls during this period, issues such as domestic work pressure, lack of nutrition, poverty and the digital divide. This study is a document-based logical analysis and data were collected from policy documents, news articles and academic journals. The study's findings revealed that this initiative played a significant positive role in girls' education by providing stipends that enabled girl students to access online learning resources and build their capacity and self-empowerment.

Das, P. (2021) conducted a study to evaluate Kanyashree Prakalpa implemented by the Government of West Bengal for socio-economically disadvantaged families. This study was based on secondary data collected from various sources such as government websites, research papers and international publications regarding this initiative. The study's findings revealed that this scheme plays an important role in empowering the girl students, increasing attendance in school and reducing child marriage. The data indicated that the number of beneficiaries was increased which is important for women's empowerment and, this initiative improved girls' self-esteem and social dynamics, put up to gender equity and sustainable development.

Biswas, H. K. (2021) conducted a study on the impact of Kanyashree Prakalpa in the educational progress of school-going girls. The study aimed to examine the impact of this initiative on school-going girls, the Centre's point on educational progress, social awareness, and attendance of girls in school and prevention of child marriage. Employing a purposive sample of 20 ongoing school girls who are the beneficiary of this scheme, and uses both descriptive and inferential statistics technique to analyse the survey data. Findings revealed a significant positive effect that 95% of participants reported increased attendance in school and 100 % acknowledged increased educational opportunities due to this scheme. This initiative is also helpful for improving the study of girl's children, delaying girls' child marriage and improving the interest of the girls in the study.

Das, P et al., (2022) conducted a study to examine the impact of Kanyashree Prakalpa on 150 college- going girls' adolescent girls in Bankura District, West Bengal to analyze and assess this program on varied aspects of girls' lives, along with decreasing child marriage rates, combating trafficking of girls, addressing dropout rates, enhancing attendance in school, progressing educational practices, and remedying child labour practices. By using descriptive research methodology, a Self-made standardized questionnaire was used for data collecting data. The results revealed that Kanyashree Prakalpa positive impact on various aspects such as 97.60% of female students affirming that child marriage is against the law, 92.90% of girl students being aware of trafficking; the attendance rate of girls 97.60, the dropout rate reduced 64.30% of girl students, 90.50% girl support for improving their educational progress.

Paul, S. (2022) examined the effect of Kanyashree Prakalpa on the higher education of female students and the objectives of the study were to analyse the utility of this program in higher education, its impact on girls' independence and empowerment of women in North 24 Pargana district of West Bengal. In this study, a self-made questionnaire was used, and one undergraduate (UG) college and one postgraduate (PG) university were chosen for collecting data from 31 UG and 31 PG-level girl students. For analysing the data Mean, Median, Mode, Standard Deviation and T-test have been used. The study findings revealed that this initiative has positively have an effect of the higher education girls in the north 24 Pargana district and contributed to an increase in enrolment rate among adolescent girls, enhanced awareness, reduced child marriage, increased women empowerment and gave freedom of women in the field of higher education.

Mondal, S., & Deb, P. (2022) studied the Perception of students towards Kanyashree Prakalpa and, the study aimed to understand the association of this initiative with women's empowerment, the decision-making power of K2 recipients, assess the women's capabilities in adopting skill development through development generating programs, to substantiate the role for disbursement process of scholarship to the students in a particular place and identify the educational and career requirements of the girl students in the locality. 100 Kanyashree recipients were selected from the Kotulpur block of Bankura district in West Bengal. Both primary and secondary data were used for the study. A self-made questionnaire was used to collect primary data through one-to-one interviews, particular case observations, secondary data from different previous work, and digital government sites. Findings indicated a strong positive correlation between the Kanyashree Scheme and women's empowerment in the Kotulpur block; as well the participants reported significant progress in their educational pursuits through this scheme and, many first-generation students utilized the fund for their education.

Maity, B. (2023) conducted a study to explore the impact of the Kanyashree Prakalpa scheme on girls' education. By using secondary data, the researcher assessed the awareness of this scheme among rural areas and how this scheme contributed to enrolment, child marriage, and promoting women's education in West Bengal. From 2012 to 2019 enrolment data are used for comparing and evaluating this this scheme to know the consciousness among female students before and after the implementation of this scheme. The study

recommends that after the implementation of this scheme in preventing child marriage, enrolment of female students towards higher education, and parents' awareness had been a positive turn in rural areas.

Saha, M. (2023) surveyed the Analysis of Kanyashree Prakalpa; to find out its impact on education, child marriage, girl child and dropout girls. The main objectives of this survey were to assess how the Kanyashree initiative affects the status and well-being of girls by incentivizing their education and holding up marriage until the legal age of 18 and assess the distribution patterns of grants provided under the scheme and its overall effectiveness in forward gender equality and empowering young girls in the state. The researcher used secondary data from various sources, including the District Level Household and Facility Survey (DLHS 4), National Family Health Survey (NFHS), and the 71st Round of the National Statistical Sample Office (NSSO). The study employs descriptive statistics to summarize the data and, secondary data were analysed through charts and tables to illustrate trends and outcomes related to the program's implementation and its effects on girls' education and marriage practices. The study revealed that this scheme significantly contributes to reducing child marriage, the dropout rate of girls, and increased enrolment and retention rates of girls in Scholl of West Bengal. Also have a positive correlation between the financial incentives provided by the scheme and the educational attainment of girls, fostering gender equality and improving the socio-economic status of girls in the state.

Molla, M. R., and Madhu, S. (2023) examined the attitudes of Muslim teenage females toward education from the standpoint of the Kanyashree Prakalpa initiative in West Bengal. The study's main goals were to compare participants' attitudes toward education from the perspective of this initiative and to various factors, including parental literacy level, family structure (nuclear vs. joint), educational class (lower vs. higher secondary), and residential region (urban vs. rural). Using the purposive sample method, 103 Muslim unmarried adolescent females from classes VII to XII were chosen from both rural and urban areas in the Basirhat subdivision of the North 24 Parganas district, West Bengal. A self-made tool, the Adolescent Girls' Attitudes Towards Education Scale (AGATES), is used for the study. It is a descriptive type of survey research and for measuring data, central tendency such as mean and standard deviation, and independent samples t-test were used. Findings revealed that the attitudes of urban Muslim girls were more positive as compared to rural Muslim girls towards education and family income and parents' literacy significantly contributed to the girls' attitudes towards education.

Mondal, S., & Guha, S. (2023) examined the Attitudes and Impact of Kanyashree Prakalpa on Girls' Education and Empowerment in West Bengal. This study evaluated the attitude of adolescent girls towards this scheme, assessed the impact on girls' educational and social circumstances, and aimed to understand how this Conditional Cash Transfer program. 172 girls' students were selected from two districts namely North 24 Parganas and Murshidabad. This study adopted a mixed-method approach where t-tests and ANOVA were used for analysing quantitative data and, a self-made survey was used for collecting data through semi-structured interviews with participants. Results showed no significant differences in attitudes of girls' students based on location or class. Qualitative data highlighted that many students deemed the financial support insufficient and suggested for increased aid to further empower them.

Biswas, S., & Deb, P. (2023) studied to identify the role of teachers in the effectiveness of the Kanyashree Prakalpa and examine the contribution of Gram Panchayats and librarians in promoting the Kanyashree Prakalpa initiative, and how these stakeholders can boost this effectiveness of this initiative in empowering women in the Murshidabad district of West Bengal. The study includes a purposive sampling procedure and, 50 teachers, 30 Panchayat members and 20 public librarians' samples of the study. In this study structured questionnaires were designed to gather information and, were descriptive in nature and the Friedman test was used to assess the significance of difference. The study revealed that libraries can profoundly influence knowledge dissemination to empower women of the community at large.

Karmakar, S. (2023) studied to evaluate the effectiveness of the Kanyashree Prakalpa on the social development of West Bengal to analyse the condition before and after the implementation of the program by examining different indicators such as early marriage rates, student attendance and overall effect on the empowerment of girl students age between 10 to 19, in West Bengal. This study used secondary data from various sources such as the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-2015-16 and 2019-20)), Census of India and the annual report of this program. Descriptive and inferential statistics were used to analyse the data. The

result of the study indicated that this program had a positive impact on reducing child marriage rates, showed improvements in attendance and decreased rates of girls' marriage before the age of 18 in West Bengal.

Uddin, N., & Saha, R. (2023) conducted a study to investigate the attitudes of girl students towards the Kanyashree initiative and assess the impacts on their academic life, financial independence and overall empowerment. 172 participants were selected from North 24 Pargana and Murshidabad district of West Bengal. A self-made questionnaire titled "Attitudes of Girl Students towards Kanyashree Prakalpa (AGSTKP)" was used for quantitative data collection, while qualitative data were gathered through semi-structured interviews. Descriptive and inferential statistics were used to analyse and conclude the collected data. The study findings revealed that the attitudes of girls were positive toward this initiative. Also, the quantitative analysis indicated no significant difference in attitudes among different caste groups, qualitative interviews highlighted that the financial support of this scheme helped students manage their educational expenses, reduced their dropout rates and enhanced their academic engagement.

Nandi, A et al., (2024) conducted their study on Kanyashree Prakalpa as a catalyser for developing women's education in West Bengal. The objectives of this study were to check the impact of this initiative on women's education and assess how this initiative contributed to empowering young women by providing financial support and women's status in this society after implementing this scheme. Data was collected from government reports, academic journals, and previous studies of this initiative and All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) reports. The findings showed a significant increase in female students' enrolment in higher institutions, and this initiative addressed various barriers to women's education and contributed to a positive shift in societal attitudes towards women's education.

IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY

1. Kanyashree Prakalpa has a positive impact on girl students' enrolment in school and fostered a supporting environment for the development of girl students, empowering them and motivate towards higher education.
2. This initiative effectively minimized the dropout rates among girl students and impacted the academic achievement of girl students. and motivating girls towards higher education,
3. This initiative minimized child marriage rates, especially in socially and economically disadvantaged areas.
4. This scheme created a positive environment, increased awareness levels promoted social awareness among school-going girls and changed societal attitudes.
5. This scheme enriched social power, social dynamics, and self-esteem, put up to gender equity, and sustainable development and boosted financial inclusion among disadvantaged girls.
6. Adolescents were aware of the negative aspects of early marriage, fostering gender equality and improving the socio-economic status of girls in the state.
7. Parents and teachers also showed positive attitudes towards this scheme especially in rural areas.
8. Financial support of this scheme helped students manage their educational expenses and enabled girls to access online learning resources and build their capacity and self-empowerment.
9. Some challenges are found such as difficulties in applying, and irregular disbursement of funds.
10. The study highlighted a significant difference in rural and urban students' awareness levels.

V. CONCLUSION

This Kanyashree Prakalpa initiative of West Bengal is working as a booster to prevent child marriage, reduce girl dropout rates in schools, increase girls' awareness of education, and motivate them to pursue higher education. This scheme works as a golden opportunity, especially for those girls who belong to backward communities and are financially unstable. Above the literature, different studies showed the impact of this initiative on the ground but few studies highlighted parents' attitudes, especially in rural areas; they enrolled their girls to benefit from this initiative not educating their girl child for a better future. An awareness program should be implemented to increase the girls' education and fulfil this initiative's objectives.

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