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Sanju Das

Research Scholar, Department
of Education, University of
Kalyani, Kalyani, West
Bengal, India

Priyanka Sikder

State Aided College Teacher,
Srikrishna College, Bagula,
Nadia, West Bengal, India

Dr. Tarini Halder

Associate Professor,
Department of Education,
University of Kalyani,
Kalyani, Nadia, West Bengal,
India

Corresponding Author:

Sanju Das

Research Scholar, Department
of Education, University of
Kalyani, Kalyani, West
Bengal, India

Impact of Kanyashree Prakalpa on adolescent girl students in the district of Bankura, West Bengal

Sanju Das, Priyanka Sikder and Dr. Tarini Halder

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Abstract

Kanyashree Prakalpa is an innovative project of the government of west Bengal which intends to enhance the educational status amongst the girl children belonging to the age group of 13 years to 18 years and 18 years to 19 years. We are saying in front of many peoples about our attitudinal changes on girls' education but in reality, we are the same as before. That's why till now our girl child is lagging behind in the field of education. And in this mean time the dream project of the respected chief minister of West Bengal Kanyashree Prakalpa is a revolutionary step towards their education. In this context the researchers conducted this study to find out is this project able to fulfil the objectives or not. To complete this study researchers selected the college going adolescent girl students of Ranibandh Block, district Bankura and found that Kanyashree Prakalpa has a positive impact on different factors and it is successfully fulfilling the objective. And lastly, researcher said that Kanyashree Prakalpa is a scheme which visualizes women empowerment through women education.

Keywords: Kanyashree project, child marriage, child trafficking, educational progress

Introduction

“There is no more valuable investment than in a girls' education.” -Ban Ki Moon, Secretary General, United Nations. On ‘Malala Day’ (12 July 2013).

Kanyashree Prakalpa is an innovative project of the government of west Bengal which intends to enhance the educational status amongst the girl children belonging to the age group of 13 years to 18 years and 18 years to 19 years. Under the prohibition of child marriage Act 2006, the legal age of betrothal and marriage for girl is 18 years, and for boys 21 years. In spite of several years of this act is being in existence, the early betrothal and marriage of children continues to be norm in west Bengal. According to the District Level Health Survey, the state ranks fifth highest in the country when it comes to the prevalence of child marriage. In view of the above, the department of women Development and social welfare (DWSW) formulated the KANYASHREE PRAKALPA---a conditional cash transfer scheme with the aim of improving the status and well-being of the girl child in west Bengal by providing incentives for schooling of all teenage girls and delaying their marriage will be the age of 18, the legal age marriage. Kanyashree prakalpa is west Bengal government sponsored schemes which will be implemented hence forth in all district of the state while a number of factors contribute towards girl's dropping out of school. Human rights research shows that the major obstacles to girl's education are child marriage and domestic chores. Ensuring that girls stay in school is one of most effective protective measure against child marriage given that child marriage has a grossly negative impact on the lives of children, adolescents and young woman. This scheme is expected to bring about measurable improved outcome for the education, health and empowerment of the girl, their children and immeasurable benefits for larger society.

Review of related literature

- Sen and Dutta (2018) conducted a study on “Kanyashree Prakalpa in West Bengal, India: Justification and evaluation” and found that the Kanyashree Prakalpa programme is not a new invention among bands of CCT schemes for adolescent girls and they also suggest that dropouts and early marriages have both declined. It also hints towards improvement in empowerment of these adolescent girls.

- Bhattacharjee and Sau (2018) ^[3] together conducted a study on “Attitude of parents and teachers towards Kanyashree Prakalpa in Nadia District of West Bengal” and they found that all the participants on whom the research was done have supported and appreciated this scheme but interestingly the secondary school teachers are not very much optimistic about this scheme.
- Kanrar (2018) ^[9], studied on “Impact of Kanyashree Project on the Academic Development of Students: A Study with special reference to Howrah District of West Bengal”. The objectives of this study was how the Kanyashree girls utilized the fund, status of the scheme in school level, effects of the scheme on the study of the students, problems faced by the kanyashree girls to getting the benefits of the scheme and the scheme and besides these researchers wanted to know whether the scheme was able or not to reduce the immature mother’s mortality rate. The researcher was found that most of the girls used the funds in their study purpose, also they were not facing any problem to get this fund beside 2% students according to this study. This scheme also helped the students in their study and the scheme able to reduce the immature mother’s mortality rate.
- Halder (2018) ^[8] Studied on – “Kanyashree Prakalpa: Elaboration of the Objectives”. The study found that Kanyashree Prakalpa had achieved all its objectives like reach the goal of welfare of the girls from disadvantaged group by incentivizing them under some important conditions, dis-incentivizing factor for early marriage, empower the girl students of West Bengal and finally build up the social power and self-esteem of the girl children.
- Adhikary (2017) ^[1] studied on – “The role of Kanyashree Prakalpa in Empowering Adolescent Girls in West Bengal” and found that, school enrolments had marginally increased and the dropout rate had significantly reduced and also the rate of child marriage had reduced. The study concluded that Kanyashree Prakalpa plays a significant role in empowering adolescent girls in West Bengal.
- Mukherjee & Pal (2017) studied on ‘Conditional Cash Transfer’ As a Public Policy Design on Women Education: A case Study of ‘Kanyashree Prakalpa’ and found that scheme has a very positive impact on women education in all possible dimensions, especially in enrolment, retention and attendance. The unique design and administrative mobility under the dynamic leadership has proved to be fruit full.
- Ghara and Roy (2017) ^[7] jointly conducted a study on “Impact of Kanyashree Prakalpa – District wise Analysis” and they found that Kanyashree Prakalpa had a great impact on the tendency of girl students to dropout from schools at early age and the prevention of early marriage of girl child. Beside these all the districts are more serious in implementing the prakalpa in comparison to the nearby districts.
- Sen (2016) studied on “Kanyashree Prakalpa – The empowerment of adolescent girls in the slum area: A cost benefit analysis” and found that 1. Drop out of girl’s students, poverty and child marriage are interrelated in the slum area. 2. Drop-out of girl’s students, have been reduced from post elementary education in the study area due to Kanyashree Project. 3. Kanyashree Project plays vital role in the development of post elementary education of slum girl’s as well as decreasing of child marriage. In the study area last two years’ child marriage and drop out problem has been decreased due to Kanyashree -1 scholarship and Kanyashree - 2 scholarship, sponsored by Govt., of West Bengal. 4. This project promotes the social power and self-esteem of girls.
- Saha (2015) ^[11] studied on – “Impact of Kanyashree Prakalpa on Girl Child in West Bengal” and found that 1. In some of blocks there were difficulties in opening zero balance account in bank 2. There was considerable delay in bank. 3. Discussion with the Students revealed that grievance redressal officer was not appropriate. 4. Campaign about Kanyashree prakalpa among the guardian was not adequate. 5. Lack of training of the employee who worked in grass root level. 6. Annual scholarship for the meritorious student is not sufficient.
- Ali & Jha (2015) ^[2] studied on – “Prevent Child Marriage: An Essay with Special Reference to Kanyashree Prakalpa of West Bengal” and found that This scheme is expected to bring about measurable improved outcomes for the education, health (especially infant and maternal mortality) and empowerment of the state's girls, their children and immeasurable benefits for larger society.
- Das (2014) ^[5], studied on – “Implementation of Kanyashree Prakalpa in West Bengal a step toward the inclusive growth through sustainable development: An analysis”. The study found that a scheme like Kanyashree Prakalpa which has immense potential and it is essential to uplift the state to an inclusive growth in the long run with sustainable development by empowering women.
- Pal (2018) ^[10], conducted a study on “Kanyashree Prakalpo in West Bengal: A case study”. The researcher was found that the project has the potentiality for checking child marriage, encouraging girls’ education of adolescent category, leading to a quantum change in girls over all development and empowerment. Also the benefits of the project encourage parents to send their children to school.

Rationale of the problem

The honourable Chief Minister, govt. of West Bengal, has launched Kanyashree Prakalpa, which is one of the best scheme recognised by UNO for inspiring the girl’s education and sustainable development for the betterment of girl child. The objective of the scheme is to motivate and inspire the girl child to continue their schooling and higher education for a better future. The researcher has selected the topic to find out the impact of the scheme in West Bengal. The purpose of the study is to understand how well the Kanyashree Prakalpa is running and how the girl children are being benefitted out of the innovative scheme which is running since last eight years by asking questions to the beneficiaries of Kanyashree scheme.

Statement of the problem

Kanyashree Prakalpa is an innovative strategy which seeks to improve the status and wellbeing of girls, by helping economically. The objective of the present *study is* to evaluate the impact of ‘Kanyashree Prakalpa on education and empowerment of girls. The study also finds out the achievement of girls regarding education. Hence the

problem may be stated as “Impact of Kanyashree Prakalpa on Adolescent Girls in the District of Bankura, West Bengal”

Objectives of the study

The objectives of the study are as follows:

- To analyses the impact of KP on child marriage of girls.
- To find out the impact of KP on trafficking of adolescent girls.
- To find out the impact of KP on drop- out of adolescent girls.
- To analyse the impact of KP on attendance of adolescent girls.
- To find out the impact of KP on the educational progress of adolescent girls.
- To find out the impact of KP on reducing child labour.

Research questions

- What is the impact of KP on child marriage?
- What is the impact of KP on trafficking of adolescent girls?
- What is the impact of KP on dropout of adolescent girls?
- What is the impact of KP on attendance of adolescent girls?
- What is the impact of KP on educational progress of adolescent girls?
- What is the impact of KP on reducing child labour?

Delimitation of the study

- **Sample:** In this study researcher selected 150 adolescent girl students as sample for the fulfilment of purpose of the research.
- **Study Area:** Ranibandh Block, Bankura District of West Bengal has been selected as the study area of this study.
- **Technique:** Survey through Questionnaire technique.
- **Tools:** Standardized questionnaire has been used as a tool in this study.

Methodology

Approach of the Study: Researchers choose descriptive survey method for this study.

Population & Sample: Population of this study was all the adolescent girl students of West Bengal. The target population was college going adolescent girl students. The study was conducted on a sample of 150 college going adolescent girl students of Ranibandh block in the District of Bankura.

Tools: Researchers used a Self-made questionnaire (Standardized by experts) for collection of data for the present study.

Techniques of Data Analysis: Researchers used descriptions, percentages and bar chart for analysed and interpreted the data in this study

Data analysis and interpretation

Objective and research question wise Analysis & Interpretation

Objective-1: To analyses the impact of KP on child marriage of girls.

RQ-1: What is the impact of KP on child marriage?

Item-I: I think child marriage is illegal.

Item-II: I will not allow anyone to be a victim of child marriage.

Item-III: I am interested in getting married before the age of 18.

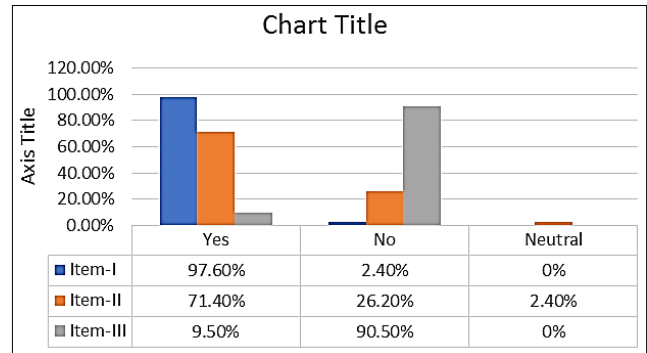


Fig 1: Showing the data on impact of KP on child marriage of girls in %.

Interpretation: The above bar chart showed that in item number I 97.60% girl students says that child marriage is illegal. In item no. II 71.40% girl students supports the item but 26.40% students didn't support the item. In item number III which is a negative item 90.50% girl students says that they were not interested to marry before the age of 18. So, from the above discussion the researchers can say that the first objective of this study which is also an objective of the Kanyashree prakalpa is very much successful i.e. researcher can say that KP has a positive impact on child marriage in Ranibandh block of Bankura District.

Objective-2: To find out the impact of KP on trafficking of adolescent girls

RQ-2: What is the impact of KP on trafficking of adolescent girls?

Item-IV: I am quite aware of adolescent girls trafficking.

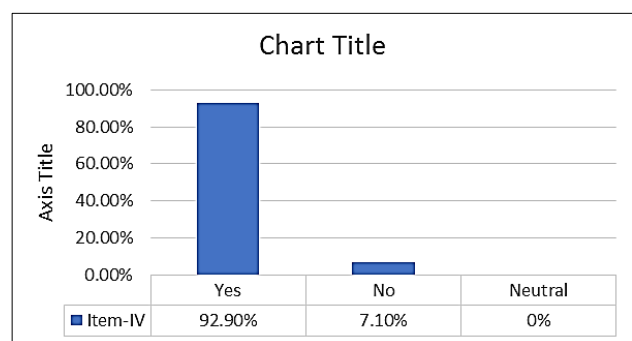


Fig 2: Showing the data on impact of KP on trafficking of girls in %.

Interpretation: The above figure showed that 92.90% girl students said that they are aware about the adolescent girls trafficking but only 7.10% students said that they were not aware about this. So, overall, the researchers can say that KP has been able to fulfil the objective 2 also. So, the

researchers can assume that from the result of this study KP is able to reduce the rate of adolescent girls trafficking. That means KP has a positive impact on adolescent girls trafficking. But the things to think about that 7.10% girl students are not aware till now. So, we have to look at this matter so all the girl students will aware about this which will reduce the rate of adolescent girls trafficking.

Objective – 3: To find out the impact of KP on drop- out of adolescent girls.

RQ – 3: What is the impact of KP on dropout of adolescent girls?

Item – V: I think the impact of Kanyashree project has reduced the dropout rate.

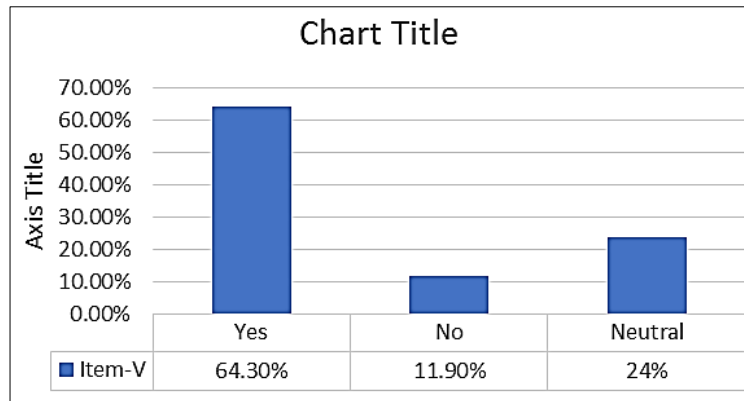


Fig 3: Showing the data on impact of KP on drop- out of girls in %.

Interpretation: The above-mentioned figure showed that 64.30% girl students thought that KP reduced the dropout rate in colleges. Near about 12% girl students thought that there is no relation between KP and the dropout rate and 24% girl students said that they have no idea about this. From these above data researchers can say that to reduce the dropout rate in colleges KP has a positive impact.

Objective – 4: To analyse the impact of KP on attendance of adolescent girls.

RQ – 4: What is the impact of KP on attendance of adolescent girls?

Item – VI: I think the attendance rate of girls in education has increased for the Kanyashree Project as compared to the past.

Item – VII: I go to school everyday since the Kanyashree Project started.

day i.e. KP has a positive impact to increase the rate of attendance of girl students in colleges.

Objective – 5: To find out the impact of KP on the educational progress of adolescent girls.

RQ – 5: What is the impact of KP on educational progress of adolescent girls?

Item – VIII: The Kanyashree Project helped me in my educational progress.

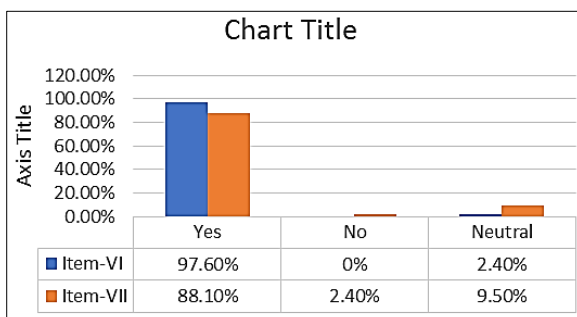


Fig 4: Showing the data on impact of KP on attendance of girls in %.

Interpretation: The above figure showed that 97.60% girl students thought that the attendance rate of girls in colleges increased after the launch of KP. Beside this 88.10% girl students said that they were regularly go to school after the launch of this project. So, researcher can say that after the launch of KP attendance rate in colleges increased day by

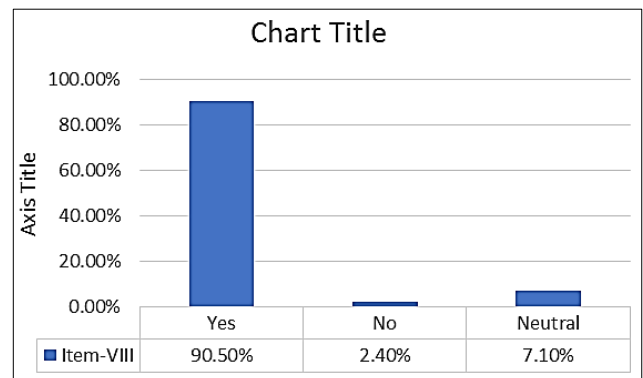


Fig 5: Showing the data on impact of KP on educational progress of girls in %.

Interpretation: The above figure showed that 90.50% girl students support the item no. VIII. They said that KP helped them in their educational progress. Only 2.40% girl students declined the item and said that KP didn't help them in their educational progress and only 7.10% girl students said they have not any idea about this. So, from the above result researchers can say that KP has been able to fulfil the above mention objective i.e. there is a positive impact of KP on the educational progress of adolescent girl students.

Objective – 6: To find out the impact of KP on reducing child labour.

RQ – 6: What is the impact of KP on reducing child labour?

Item – IX: I think the Kanyashree project is helpful in reducing child labor.

Item – X: Since the launch of the Kanyashree project, I don't have to go anywhere to do work for my educational expenditure.

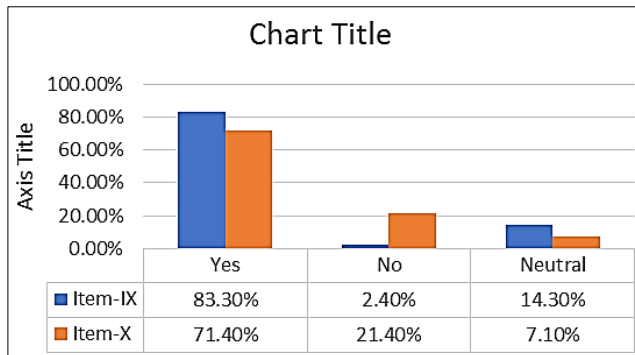


Fig 6: Showing the data on impact of KP on reducing the rate of child labour in %.

Interpretation: The above figure indicated that 83.30% girl students support the item no. IX. They thought that KP is helpful in reducing the rate of child labour. But 2.40% girl students thought that the KP is not helpful in reducing the rate of child labour and 14.30% girl students said that they have no information about this. Beside this 71.40% girl students support the item no. X. They said that after the launch of KP they only focus on education and they are not went anywhere to do their work for their educational expenditure. But 21.40% girl students declined the item no. X. That means till now many girl students are doing different types of work for their educational expenditure. But if we see the overall picture researchers can say that KP has been able to reducing the rate of child labour or researchers can say KP has a positive impact in reducing the rate of child labour.

Conclusion

Kanyashree Prakalpa has been started in West Bengal since 2013 to uplift the status of girls and women's and to empower them. The study found that KP had a positive impact on different factors like child marriage, adolescent girls trafficking, child labour, educational progress, dropout of college going adolescent girls' students etc. at Ranibandh block of Bankura District. Due this project the Government of West Bengal is able to prevent the rate of child marriage successfully. Beside this they also able to reduce the rate of child trafficking and the rate of child labour. After implementation of this project adolescent girl students are also being interested to continue their education and their attendance in school is also increased. So, at last researchers can say that Kanyashree Prakalpa play a vital role in the education of adolescent girls in West Bengal and with this project the adolescent girl students of West Bengal find a new way to empower themselves and play a significant role in developing the society. Hence the researchers concluded that Kanyashree Prakalpa had played a significant role to spread education among the adolescent girl students, to improve their status and empower them.

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