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Kanya Sumangla Yojana: A Milestone step of UP Government for girl child

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Abstract

Kanya Sumangla yojana is an initiative of government of Uttar Pradesh in which financial assistance to the family of girls of the state is provided. It is to establish an equal sex ratio in the state, to work for the education and health of the girl child, it encourages girl to be self-sufficient and improve their future. Being a welfare state, the government of Uttar Pradesh is working to support the girl child financially in which Rs. 15000/- is given to the guardian or parents of two girl children in every family. A total of 9.36 lakh girls have been benefitted under the scheme so far. The scheme is framed keeping in mind article 14, 15, 16, 39, 42. To empower women of the state, government is working hard to support them from birth to higher education, providing equal opportunities, increasing their labour force participation and working to improve position of women in society.

Keywords: Welfare scheme, financial assistance, girl child, women empowerment

Introduction

Kanya Sumangla scheme is the flagship initiative of government of Uttar Pradesh launched on 25th October 2019. It is for the welfare of the girl child in which the state government will provide financial assistance of Rs. 15000/- to every family where a girl child is born. The funds under the scheme will be released in different installments at the time of birth, vaccination, admission to class 1, 5, 9 and graduation. It's an innovative monetary benefit scheme that has an aim towards uplifting girl children in state of Uttar Pradesh.

Objective of the study

- To understand the need of the scheme.
- To understand the features of the scheme.
- To know the benefits of the scheme.
- To know the challenges while implementation of the scheme.

Status of the women/girl in the state

Uttar Pradesh is the largest state in the country in terms of population and women accounts for nearly half the population. Still, statistics of government agencies shows the condition of women in state not upto the national standards.

In female literacy, UP stands 20th and in gender gap its rank is 18th when compared to other state of the country, according to the census 2011. According to 2010 report of NSSO, Female workforce participation is very poor, it is merely 9% as compared to rest of the country.

Other evil practices like female foeticide, child marriage, dowry, etc. are prevalent in state. Government of Uttar Pradesh is working in planned and phased manner to improve the condition of the girls and their families. Women empowerment is measured with four indicators: Their education level, their ability to earn an independent income, them working outside the home, and their ownership of assets. Keeping these indicators in mind Kanya Sumangla Yojana is framed so as to support girls from birth till their graduation. Thus, to encourage and to provide better opportunities to half of the population of the state, the government came up with this scheme to give financial assistance to the family of girl child. Scheme aims to promote health, education and economic empowerment of people who are living below the poverty line.

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This scheme aims to inspire girls towards education and provide them with financial help from their birth till they get graduated because of which girls of the state who are facing a lot of challenges at every step of their life will get a better life. This scheme is implemented by the Government in both rural as well as urban area.



Source: Digital Seva Portal

Features of the scheme

- This is the flagship scheme of the government of UP for families with girl child.
- All beneficiary must belong to resident of Uttar Pradesh.
- A family must belong to EWS (economically weaker section). Below Poverty line (BPL) families are also eligible.
- The beneficiaries must not be tax payers.
- Financial assistance of rs.15000/- divided into installments given to the families of girl children.
- Family income should be less than 3 lakhs.
- Accounts can be open within 6 months of girl's child birth.
- Families who have adopted girls will also possess eligibility of the scheme.
- Total of 6 installments with equal amounts will be credited to the beneficiary girls account. Payment distribution framework is as follow-
 1. Upon the birth of girl child-Rs. 2000/-
 2. Post vaccination of girl child in 1st year of birth-Rs. 1000/-
 3. Upon admission of girl child in 1st standard-Rs. 2000/-
 4. Upon admission of the girl child into the sixth standard -Rs. 2000/-
 5. Upon admission of the girl child into ninth standard-Rs. 3000/-
 6. After the girl has passed 10th/12th standards and got admission into bachelor's degree – 5000/-
 7. Documents required to enroll in the scheme are as follow – affidavit on an Rs.10 stamp paper, bank passbook, identity proof, address proof, income certificate, ration card, resident document, recent passport size photographs.

Benefits of the scheme

- Works exclusively for the girl child and ensures their social security.
- Under the scheme, the annual income of the beneficiary's family should be a maximum of three lakh or less.
- Amount will be directly transfer to the account of the beneficiary

- Help girls to finish their education.
- Aim to eliminate female foeticide and establish equality in terms of sex ratio along with helping in the development of positive thinking.
- Supporting girl child at various stages of their life.
- Working to improve the ranking of state at various parameters.
- An innovative monetary benefit scheme that has an aim towards uplifting girl children in the state.

Challenges

1. Proper data about the number of beneficiaries and to keep a check on fake beneficiaries is a big challenge with the agencies.
2. Red – Tapism, technical glitches which delay the process
3. Server issues faced by the managing portal.
4. Management of large number of applicants, processing and verification of their information.
5. To check the issue of fake beneficiaries.
6. Security of the data and personal information is the big challenge for the authorities.
7. Misuse of the information, bank details, personal information of the beneficiaries is a challenge.
8. Non availability of the funds.
9. Challenging and changing the mindset of the society towards girl child and understanding the importance of their education.
10. Availability of the infrastructure is a key to the success of the scheme.
11. Improving the school infrastructure, increasing the number of college and quality of education.
12. Security of the women in society is the prime concern of the parents and is the biggest challenge in the state. According to the report of National Crime Bureau, crime against women have increased in state which proposed a challenge and concern for the state government.
13. Undermining the role of ground level workers like ASHA workers, Anganwadi workers in creating awareness among the people specially in backward areas of the state.
14. Poor incentives to the ground level workers like ASHA workers and pathetic condition of primary health centres and primary schools discourages the parents to send their daughter to the school.
15. Prevalent evil practices like preference of son over girl child, social norms like rituals or beliefs to be done only by son and societal mindset of man as a earning member and women as a home maker discourages people to educate their daughters and focus on their health.
16. Practice of dowry is still prevalent in society due to which encourages the notion of girls as a burden and encourages ill legal practices likes sex determination, selective abortions.

Suggestion for the improvement

The scheme is designed well keeping in mind the status or position of girl child and women in the state. But still there are loopholes and other challenges that need to be addressed. Government firstly, has to provide with the sufficient budget allocation for the scheme, data localisation is still a topic of debate which the Government needs to

address as soon as possible. Security of the personal information of the beneficiary, their Aadhar details, bank information need to be kept safe from misuse or hacking. Issues of fake beneficiaries should be checked by using JAM (Jandhan, Aadhar and Mobile) Trinity. As security of the girls or women is a biggest challenge both inside and outside their home, initiatives like, women helpline number, cyber cell, role of Anganwadi and ASHA workers is important as they are ground level workers and in the nearest proximity to the people specially in the backward areas and aspiration districts. Thus, government should increase the incentive of these workers and they should be given special training to create awareness among the people of the state. Infrastructure investment should be improved, school premises to be safe, hygienic and curriculum to be designed in the way as the need for future.

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