



PARENTAL ATTITUDE TOWARDS KANYASHREE FOR FACILITATING WOMEN EDUCATION

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ABSTRACT :

Women education is very much important for empowering women and eradicating vile gender inequality. There should be a number of government initiatives for the enhancement of women education. Conditional Cash Transfer schemes provide cash directly to poor households in response to the household/individual fulfilling specific conditions such as minimum attendance of children in schools, and/or attendance at health clinics, participation in immunization and the like. West Bengal government initiated 'Kanyashree' is a Conditional Cash Transfer scheme.

The core objectives of Kanyashree are to ensure that girls retention in school and delay their marriages till at least age 18. Parents are the important stakeholders of the education system. Present paper was conducted to study the parental attitude towards Kanyashree for facilitating women education. It was a descriptive survey research. Descriptive and inferential statistics were used to analyse and interpret parental attitude. Result shows that parental attitude towards Kanyashree for facilitating women education is mostly positive.



KEYWORDS : Gender inequality, Equality of educational opportunity, Women education, Conditional cash transfer scheme, Kanyashree, Parental attitude.

INTRODUCTION

"There is no tool for development more effective than the empowerment of women." – Kofi Annan

Disparity of any kind will not ensure the optimum level of welfare of the people. Gender inequality is one such hurdle which denies the optimum human development. Gender inequality is the departure from parity in the representation of women and men in key dimensions of social life (Young *et al.*, 1994). Women are the worst victim of this disparity. Although there is no consensus concerning the key dimensions of gender inequality, most scholars agree that it is a multidimensional concept composed by several spheres: economic, educational, political, legal, health and family systems (Dijkstra, 2002).

Centuries old deep rooted gender discrimination prevalent in our country also. As a rapidly developing country, India is plagued with societal issues related to sociocultural hegemony and gender inequality that result in disparities of income and opportunity (Comyn, Kemmis, & Smith, 2014). Gender equality, signifying the equal value of the roles of women and men, is considered vital for the progress and development of a nation (Hussain&Kirmani, 2010); however, women lag far behind men in most measures of human development (e.g., literacy rate). It is almost folly to think that a nation can fully develop when roughly half of its population remains deprived (Madhok, 2014). This is especially true

for the women in India, who comprise 48.2% of India's population of 1.22 billion (Census of India, 2011). In India, gender inequality in education is very much prominent. According to Census of India, 2011 the female literacy rate is 65.46% which is low enough in compare to their male counterpart (82.14% male literacy rate).

In a democratic country, the role of education is very crucial. Democracy requires that all the persons should be educated. It is essential for the progress of modern India. Equality of educational opportunities is the call of the time. No human being should be deprived on the basis of gender from getting education. The Constitution of India provides that the women have equal rights with men in all spheres of life. Article 29(2) of our constitution states that no citizen shall be denied admission into any educational institution maintained by state or receiving aid out of the state fund on grounds only of religion, sex, race, caste, language or any of them. Women education is very much important for empowering women and eradicating vile gender inequality. There should be a number of government initiatives for the enhancement of women education.

CCT schemes provide cash directly to poor households in response to the household/individual fulfilling specific conditions such as minimum attendance of children in schools, and/or attendance at health clinics, participation in immunization and the like. The schemes create incentives for households to adjust their behaviour towards nationally accepted social goals. Most of the schemes in South Asia are aimed at providing scholarships and stipends for promoting school education of girls. Even in India, there are many scholarship schemes exclusively for girls in order to encourage their education and skill development. These schemes illustrate that the CCTs had positive impact in reducing the gender imbalance in enrolment and retention of girl students in schools (Asadullah and Chaudhary, 2009). In March 2008, "Dhanalakshmi" – a CCT scheme was introduced in Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Punjab. Similarly, the Delhi and Haryana state governments launched the 'Ladli' scheme (2008) for the benefit of girls.

West Bengal government initiated 'Kanyashree' is a Conditional Cash Transfer scheme. Kanyashree scheme was initiated in 2013. The core objectives of Kanyashree are to ensure that girls retention in school and delay their marriages till at least age 18. The scheme has two cash transfer components- i) The first is an Annual incentive of Rs. 750/- to be paid annually to the girls in the age group 13 to 18 years (studying in Class VIII equivalent or above for every year that they remained in education, provided they are unmarried at the time. ii) The second is a One-Time Grant of Rs. 25,000/-, to be paid after a girl turns 18, provided that she was engaged in an academic or occupational pursuit and was unmarried. (Conditional Cash Transfer – Kanyashree).

According to Webster Dictionary, Attitude is a hypothetical construct that represents an individual's degree of like or dislike for an item. It is generally positive or negative views of a person, place, thing or event. People with positive beliefs must have a favourable attitude toward the object of the beliefs and on the other had they will have an unfavourable attitude if their beliefs are negative. Parents of the students are important stakeholders of the education system. Kanyashree has been taken into action to support their girls' education, to help the girls who are from needy family. Therefore it is important to know the parental attitude towards Kanyashree.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Parental attitude is a vital aspect for the judgement of a scheme like Kanyashree which is related to the education of their daughters. But there are only few studies available in this particular issue. To fill this knowledge gap, the researchers took initiative to study the parental attitude towards Kanyashree. The problem of the study was – '*Parental Attitude towards Kanyashree for Facilitating Women Education.*'

DELIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The present study was delimited to the following-

- i. The study was conducted in the state West Bengal.
- ii. The study was delimited within Bardhaman and Nadia district of West Bengal.

- iii. Parents of the beneficiary girls were considered for this study.
- iv. Only 150 parents were selected as sample.
- v. The study was delimited to socio-demographic variables viz. Gender, Habitat, Number of child.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

For the present study, following objectives were framed-

1. To study the attitude of the parents of beneficiary girls towards Kanyashree with respect to their Habitat.
2. To study the attitude of the parents of beneficiary girls towards Kanyashree with respect to their Gender.
3. To study the attitude of the parents of beneficiary girls towards Kanyashree with respect to their Number of child.

HYPOTHESES

On the basis of the objectives, following null hypotheses were formulated-

H₀₁. There is no significant difference in the mean scores of Parental attitudes towards Kanyashree with respect to their Habitat.

H₀₂. There is no significant difference in the mean scores of Parental attitudes towards Kanyashree with respect to their Gender.

H₀₃. There is no significant difference in the mean scores of Parental attitudes towards Kanyashree with respect to their Number of child.

METHODOLOGY

Methodology is a vital part for conducting any research work. Proper methodology secures efficiency of a research. The nature of the problem of a particular study is different from the nature of other problem. It is worthwhile to use the proper methodology according to the nature of the problem of a particular study.

For the present study, the researchers used descriptive survey method. Only parents of the beneficiary girls were considered as population for this study. 150 samples were collected through purposive random sampling. The dependent variable of the study was- Parental attitude. The independent variables were- Habitat, Gender, and Number of child. Five point Likart 'Parental Attitude towards Kanyashree' scale developed and validated by the researchers, was used in the study. There are 20 items in total in the scale and all items are into three areas- (i) Enrolment of girl in school, (ii) Dropout of girl from school, (iii) Encouragement for education. The scale can be administered on parents of 13 years to 18 yearsold female students. Lowest and highest scores are 20 and 100 respectively.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

In any kind of study, data analysis and interpretation plays a compulsory vital role on the basis of which the total research results or findings can be organised. Hence, without analysis and interpretation the research works are always incomplete.

For the analysis and interpretation of data, researchers used descriptive and inferential statistics.

- Comparison of the level of Attitudes of Parents towards Kayashree on the basis of their Habitat.

		Habitat		Total	
		urban	Rural		
Parental Attitude	Positive attitude	Total Number	61	68	129
		% within Habitat	81.33%	90.67%	86%

towards Kanyashree	Negative attitude	Total Number	14	7	21
		% within Habitat	18.67%	9.33%	14%
Total		Total Number	75	75	150
		% within Habitat	100%	100%	100%
		% of total	50%	50%	100%

Out of the 75 samples from urban habitat, 61 samples i.e. 81.33% showed positive attitude towards Kanyashree for facilitating women education. 14 samples from urban habitat i.e. 18.67% showed negative attitude towards the scheme. Out of 75 samples from rural habitat, 68 samples i.e. 90.67% showed positive attitude towards Kanyashree while 7 samples i.e. 9.33% showed negative attitude towards this scheme.

- Comparison of the level of Attitudes of Parents towards Kayashree on the basis of their Gender.

		Gender		Total	
		Male (Father)	Female (Mother)		
Parental Attitude towards Kanyashree	Positive attitude	Total Number	43	86	129
		% within Gender	81.13%	88.66%	86%
	Negative attitude	Total Number	10	11	21
		% within Gender	18.87%	11.34%	14%
Total		Total Number	53	97	150
		% within Gender	100%	100%	100%
		% of total	35.33%	64.67%	100%

Out of the 53 male samples, 43 samples i.e. 81.13% showed positive attitude towards Kanyashree for facilitating women education. 10 male samples i.e. 18.87% showed negative attitude towards the scheme. Out of 97 female samples, 86 samples i.e. 88.66% showed positive attitude towards Kanyashree while 11 samples i.e. 11.34% showed negative attitude towards this scheme.

- Comparison of the level of Attitudes of Parents towards Kayashree on the basis of their Number of child.

		Number of child		Total	
		Single child	Two or more children		
Parental Attitude towards Kanyashree	Positive attitude	Total Number	32	97	129
		% within Number of child	80%	88.18%	86%
	Negative attitude	Total Number	8	13	21
		% within Number of child	20%	11.82%	14%
Total		Total Number	40	110	150
		% within Number of child	100%	100%	100%
		% of total	26.67%	73.33%	100%

Out of the 40 samples having single girl child, 32 samples i.e. 80% showed positive attitude towards Kanyashree for facilitating women education. 8 samples having single girl child i.e 20% showed negative attitude towards the scheme. Out of 110 samples having two or more children, 97 samples i.e 88.18% showed positive attitude towards Kanyashree while 13 samples i.e 11.82% showed negative attitude towards this scheme

• **Hypotheses testing**

H₀₁. There is no significant difference in the mean scores of Parental attitude towards Kanyashree with respect to their Habitat.

Habitat	N	Mean	SD	SED	MD	T	df	.05 level of significance (2 tail)
Urban	75	72.95	14.83	1.78	1.19	0.51	148	Not significant
Rural	75	74.92	13.64					

The initial descriptive statistics revealed that the mean score of rural habitant parents' attitude toward Kanyashree is little higher than those urban habitant parents. But to ascertain whether this difference is statistically significant or not significant, the researcher further applied the t-test. The computed t- value i.e. 0.51 is lower than 1.96, the critical value required to reach 5% level of significance. Therefore the mean scores do not differ significantly at 0.05 level. Hence, H₀₁ is accepted.

H₀₂. There is no significant difference in the mean scores of Parental attitude towards Kanyashree with respect to their Gender.

Gender	N	Mean	SD	SED	MD	T	Df	.05 level of significance (2 tail)
Male (Father)	53	67.51	16.12	2.65	1.83	0.69	148	Not significant
Female (Mother)	97	74.29	14.29					

The initial descriptive statistics revealed that the mean score of mothers' attitude toward Kanyashree is little higher than fathers attitude. But the computed t- value i.e. 0.69 is lower than 1.96, the critical value required to reach 5% level of significance. Therefore the mean scores do not differ significantly at 0.05 level. Hence, H₀₂ is accepted.

H₀₃. There is no significant difference in the mean scores of Parental attitude towards Kanyashree with respect to their Number of child.

Number of child	N	Mean	SD	SED	MD	T	Df	.05 level of significance (2 tail)
Single child	40	70.40	19.00	3.3	-3.71	1.12	148	Not significant
Two/ more children	110	74.11	14.32					

The initial descriptive statistics revealed that the mean score of the attitude of parents having two or more child, toward Kanyashree is higher than the attitude of parents having single girl child. But the computed t- value i.e. 1.12 is lower than 1.96, the critical value required to reach 5% level of significance. Therefore the mean scores do not differ significantly at 0.05 level. Hence, H₀₃ is accepted.

CONCLUSION

The present study gives an idea about the attitude of the beneficiary girls' parents towards Kanyashree. From the statistical analysis, the present study shows that though most of the parents from both habitat have positive attitude towards this scheme still attitude of the rural habitant parents toward Kanyashree is slightly more positive than urban habitant parents. The attitude of the beneficiary girls' mothers toward Kanyashree is little more positive than the attitude of their fathers. Parents having two or more children have slightly more positive attitude towards Kanyashree than parents having single girl child. From the study, it can be concluded that the overall parental attitudes towards Kanyashree for facilitating women education is mostly positive. Further Studies can be conducted regarding this concern covering a large number of samples and more number of background variables.

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