

Kanyashree Prakalpa - The empowerment of adolescent girls in the slum area: A cost benefit analysis

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Abstract

Dropout from school creates all round backwardness. Girls are more backward particularly in the slum area where the dropout rate is high. Child marriage and school drop-outs go hand in hand in the slum area of West Bengal. Due to implementation of free and universal elementary education, progress in enrollment and completion of study has been noticed in the elementary education but as the secondary education is not free, maximum girls child of the slum area stop their study after elementary education. As a result, lack of qualifications and work experience makes them ill-equipped for the labour market, and due to poverty child marriage occurred. Parental decision to drop out their wards from post elementary education depends upon not only their gender but also their socio-economic status. Poverty and social insecurity influences the parents to withdraw their wards from school. Kanyashree Project, introduced by govt. of West Bengal, is a ray of hope for those slum girls. However in this paper, an attempt has been made to frame out the various role played by Kanyashree Project in the development of post elementary education of slum girls and also to point out the various aspects of socio-economic development which would sustain the better development of post elementary education drive in near future in the slum area of Barasat Municipal area.

Keywords: Kanyashree, slum, Empowerment, Poverty, Education, Drop out

1. Introduction

Without empowering women a nation cannot develop. A nation can move to progress only by utilizing its all human resources. It may possible only when women in a society may give equal opportunity as their male counterpart in every aspect of social life. So to achieve a sustainable development in the society, women empowerment is essential. More than 3,000 years ago, during the Vedic period, women shared an equal status with men in all aspects of life and used to enjoy a kind of liberty. But since 500 B.C it became a norm that a girl should be married before reaching her age of 16. During the British period many social reformers such as Ram Mohan Roy, Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar, Swami Vivekananda and some other enlightened persons argued for women's freedom and fought for it. After independence special attention was given in the constitution to prevent gender biasness. In spite of that, the girls' participation is still below 50 percent at all stages of education. The girl's dropout rate is higher than boy's dropout rate, especially after post elementary education. Due to poverty and social insecurity the parents withdraw their girl's child from school. As a result 32.1% of girls, aged 18, are already married in West Bengal. In India this rates is 22.1%. To reduce this rate and empowering the girls child the historic Kanyashree Project was launched by the Chief Minister of West Bengal on 1st October, 2013 and 14th August is celebrate as "Kanyashree Day".

Frame of Kanyashree Project

• Conditional Cash Transfer

Component1: Annual scholarship of INR 500 to unmarried girls aged 13-18 years enrolled in Grades VIII-XII or equivalent.

Component 2: One-time grant of INR 25,000 to unmarried girls aged 18 years pursuing education, vocational / technical training/sports.

Banking: Zero-balance bank accounts in girls names, simplified opening procedures, direct transfer of funds.

- **Online management:** The entire scheme is enabled through a dedicated online portal
 - Enrollment
 - Scrutiny
 - Sanctioning of applications
- Serves as a real-time reporting system
- Ensures transparency, efficiency and zero leakage
- Has a feedback mechanism



Fig 1: Kanyashree Bangles



Fig 2: Two Kanyashree girls

3. Objectives of the study

The present study attempt to

- a) Identifying the trends of dropout rates of girl’s students from post elementary education in the study area.
- b) Identifying the interrelationship among drop out of girl’s students, poverty and child marriage in the study area.
- c) Explore various role played by Kanyashree Project in the development of post elementary education of slum girls as well as decreasing of child marriage.

4. Sampling Techniques, Database and Methodology

- 1. Secondary data were collected different govt and non govt. organizations
- 2. The Research area and Interviewees were selected using non-probability sampling techniques.
- 2. To Prepare a questionnaire for interview of girls in slum area for primary data collection.
- 3. The research has been conducted through socio-economic survey, conducted among 582 Girls students from Banamalipur Railway Colony, ward no-1, Adibasi slum, ward no-4, Molla Para, ward no-22, Pyari Charan Sarkar Colony-A, ward no-27 etc in Barasat Municipal Area.
- 4. Observation has been made data reliable and realistic
- 5. Data, collected from primary and secondary sources, has been compiled from Quantitative analysis. Researcher use Microsoft Office Excel for analysis the Quantitative data and presented analysis results in different charts.



Fig 3: Study Area

5. Study Area: Barasat, an important municipal town in the North 24 Parganas District as well as entire West Bengal is selected for study. The population of Barasat are 283,443 according to 2011 census. There are 159 Slums in this municipal area, where 5957 girls (age group between 16 to 18) live.

6. Data Analysis: In order to address and to change the present condition of girls specially belong to lower income group in the state West Bengal Govt. has introduced the

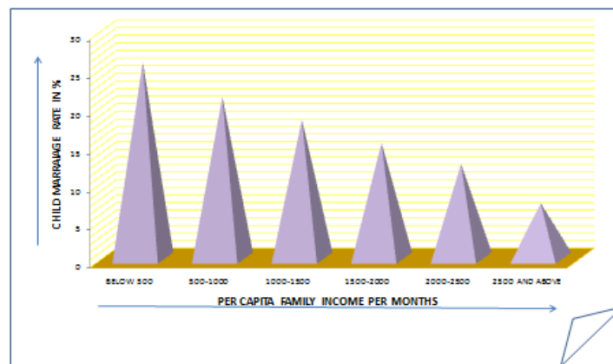


Fig 3: Child marriage rate of various income group

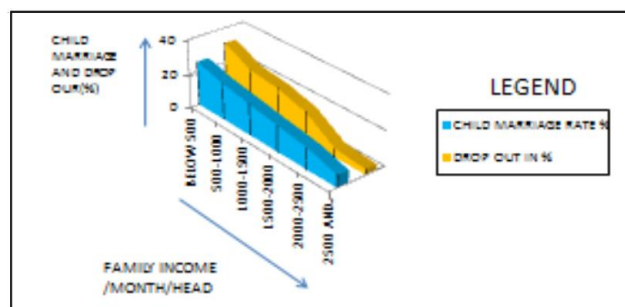


Fig 4: Drop out rate and child marriage rate of different income group

Kanyashree Prakalpa, a direct cash transfer scheme for underprivileged girls, in the year 2013. Many girls in the state leave schools even without completing elementary education. There are many socio-cultural, economic and educational barriers, which hinder their participation in education. The state government identifies some issues which are believed to be primary reasons behind slow and weak progress of women literacy in India as well as in West Bengal.

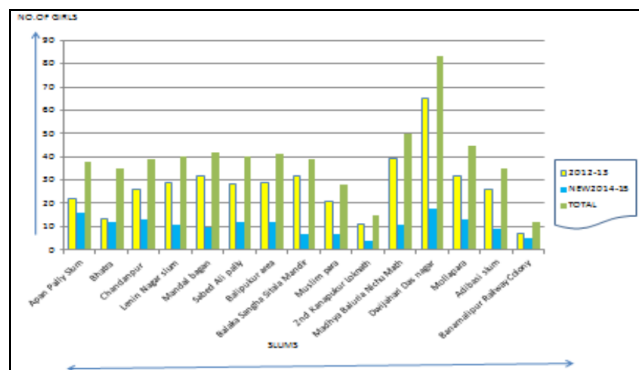


Fig 4: Status of kanyashree of the study area

Table 1: Financial cost of k 1 & k 2

| North 24 pgs District | K1 | K2 | Cost in Rupees |
|-------------------------|--------|-------|----------------|
| 2013-2014 | 185448 | 18951 | 56.65 crore |
| 2014-2015 | 177876 | 21465 | 62.56 crore |
| Barasat Municipality | K1 | K2 | Cost in Rupees |
| 2014-15(up to 14/10/15) | 62541 | 1157 | 6.02 crore |

Source: Barasat-I C.D. Block office

Table 2: Status of kanyashree of the study area

| Slums | No of girls students, recieved Kanyashree scholarship | | | | | | Total | Droup out after post eleentary education (class viii to class xii) | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|-------------|-------|-----------------------------|-------------|-------|-------|--|------|------|------|------|------|
| | K1 (Yearly 500 Rupees) | | | K2 (At A Time 25000 Rupees) | | | | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
| | 2012-13 | New 2014-15 | Total | 2012-13 | New 2014-15 | Total | | | | | | | |
| Apan Pally Slum | 22 | 16 | 38 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 42 | 28 | 12 | 14 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Bhatra | 13 | 12 | 35 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 39 | 12 | 11 | 13 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Chandanpur Purba para | 26 | 13 | 39 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 44 | 18 | 19 | 12 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Lenin Nagar slum | 29 | 11 | 40 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 46 | 11 | 9 | 10 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Mandal bagan | 32 | 10 | 42 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 50 | 17 | 8 | 11 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Sabed Ali pally | 28 | 12 | 40 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 43 | 15 | 11 | 10 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Balipukur area | 29 | 12 | 41 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 47 | 17 | 9 | 8 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Balaka Sangha Sitala Mandir | 32 | 7 | 39 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 42 | 15 | 8 | 11 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Muslim para | 21 | 7 | 28 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 30 | 12 | 12 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2nd Kanapukur Loknath | 11 | 4 | 15 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 16 | 8 | 9 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Madhya Baluria Nichu Math | 39 | 11 | 50 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 57 | 21 | 19 | 21 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| Dwijahari Das nagar | 65 | 18 | 83 | 14 | 7 | 21 | 104 | 35 | 12 | 11 | 1 | 3 | 0 |
| Mollapara | 32 | 13 | 45 | 9 | 5 | 14 | 59 | 11 | 8 | 10 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Adibasi slum | 26 | 9 | 35 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 40 | 13 | 12 | 14 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Banamalipur Railway Colony | 7 | 5 | 12 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 13 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Source: Primary Survey

In the study area (slums of Barasat) the monthly income of maximum family are below 2500. By analyzing the data, it is found that, the dropout rate is high in the low income group due to increasing cost of education, hunger, unemployment and lower social status of women in the society and there is no denying the fact that before complete the school about 72% girls of age group 14-18 and about 28% girls of age group below 28% are to ensure there married life. In this study the co-relation co-efficient (r) between child marriage and drop out has been calculated, following Karl Pearson’s product moment method. The value of ‘r’ is strong (0.7290), which indicate the incidents of child marriage occur due to drop out. In India, about 56 percent of girls get married before the age of eighteen. Every one out of two married girl is under age. This practice has highly extended in backward rural areas and the urban areas, mainly the slum areas are not free from this evil practice.

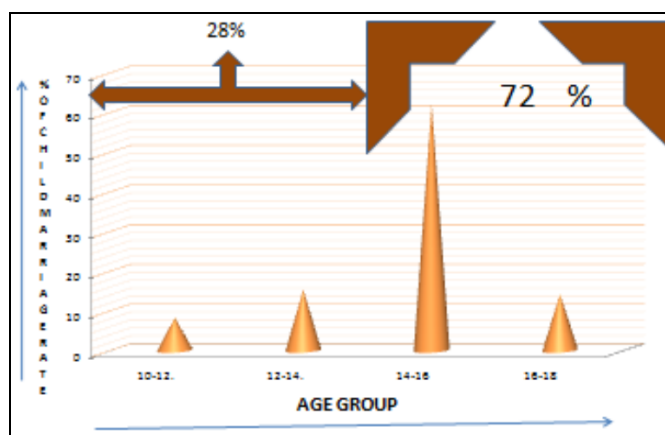


Fig 5: Child marriage of different age group.

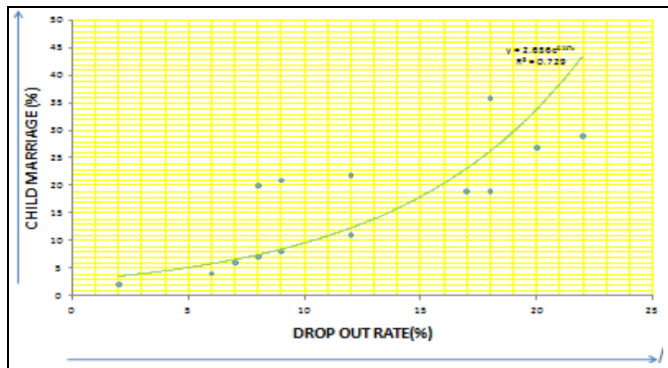


Fig 6: co-relation co-efficient between drop out and child marriage

In the study area the dropout rate have been decreased gradually and by regression analysis between drop out and kanyashree scholarship, it has been found that the value of

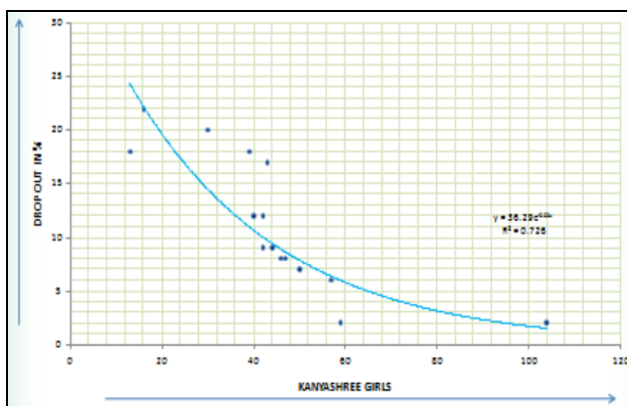


Fig 7: co-relation co-efficient between kanyashree and drop out

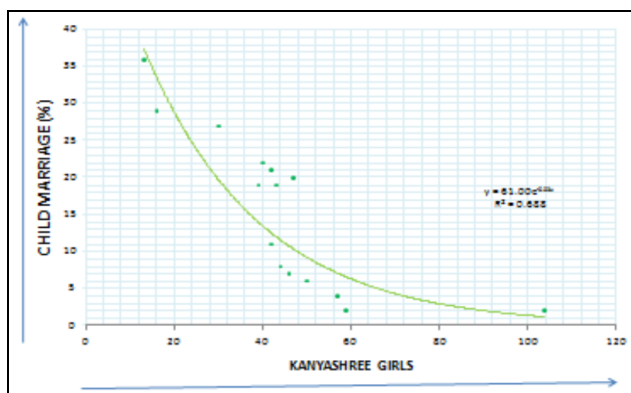


Fig 8: co-relation co-efficient between kanyashree and child marriage

‘r’ is strongly negative(-0.726) and also the co-relation coefficient between child marriage and kanyashree (‘r’=-0.688) is strongly negative.

Cost

1. Some pupils pay more attention only scholarship but not quality education.
2. Some teachers have to always engage to continue and upgrade of the online base project. So ultimately the education system has been hampered and a question mark may be depicted on quality education.

3. Due to lack of quality education and lack of all-round developments, work experience makes the girls ill-equipped for the labour market.
4. Due to continue of education, the girl’s child will not be able to contribute her family income, which is very vital for the poor family.
5. Labor cost of unorganized labor will be increased due to unadiquet supply than market demand. (Although child labour is illegal, so this cost is not accepted by the society)

Benefits: 1 Discourages Drop- out and child marriage

2. Incentivizes education
3. Ensures financial inclusion
4. Promotes social power and self-esteem of girls

7. Findings

1. High rate of child marriage found due to poverty in the study area. Due to dowry system the slum women have to take loan from ‘Mahajan’ and which they have to repayment a very long period of time with a very high interest.areas well as and Education is deprived due to child marriage, early pregnancy and childbirth.
2. Drop out of girl’s students, poverty and child marriage are interrelated in the slum area.
3. Drop-out of girl’s students, have been reduced from post elementary education in the study area due to Kanyashree Project.
4. 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.
5. This project promotes the social power and self-esteem of girls.

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