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## **STATUS OF KANYASHREEPRAKALPA 3 (K-3) – DISTRICTWISE ANALYSIS**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*Kanyashree Prakalpa is a Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) Scheme that concentrates on girls currently most at-risk for dropping out of school and for child marriage: adolescents between the ages of 13 and 18. The effectiveness of the Prakalpa immediately appears just after the implementation of Kanyashree Prakalpa-2013 across the state. The State has also considered the girls entering into the domain of higher education in terms of K-3 upto age 21 or 23. The districts do not have uniformity in effectiveness. The districts have been compared over the years on responses considering enrolment and population.*

**Keywords:** Kanyashree Prakalpa(K-3), effectiveness, AISHE, response, enrolment, ranking

### **INTRODUCTION**

Under the prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006, 18 is the legal age for girls in India. Despite several years of the Act being in place the early marriage of children continues

to be practiced all over India including West Bengal.

Kanyashree Prakalpa is an innovative project of the government of West Bengal with the intention to enhance the educational status amongst the girl children belonging to the age group of 13 years to 18 years(K-1), 18 years to 19 years(K-2) and 19 years to 21 years(K-3). 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), Government of West Bengal 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 or later. 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. 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.

Objective of the study:

The present study has the following objectives:

- (i) Overview the Kanyashree Prakalpa(K-3), West Bengal, India.
- (ii) Analyses the component of the scheme.
- (iii) Analyses the relevant data.
- (iv) Finding and analyzing its effectiveness on enrolment.
- (v) Reflection and recommendation on Kanyashree Prakalpa(K-3).

### **Background:**

As per census 2011, as on 2018 in West Bengal has population of 1.02 crores between 13 to 18 years, out of which 48.84% are girls and 48.99% are rural girls; as on 2018 in West Bengal has population of 0.36 crore between 18 to 19 years, out of which 48.63% are girls and 48.82% are rural girls; as on 2018 in West Bengal has population of 0.55

crore between 19 to 21 years, out of which 49.07% are girls and 49.21% are rural girls. West Bengal shows the fifth highest prevalence of child marriage among all the states with 54.7% currently married women (age 20-24 being married before 18). The incidence is even higher in rural areas (57.9%). Every second girl in high prevalence child marriage districts of West Bengal [Murshidabad(61.04%), Birbhum(58.03), Malda(57.07%) and Purulia(54.03)] were married off before they reach 18, the legal age for girls to get married. Due to early marriage education, health of girl child above all our national development is hindered.

**Vision:**

Protecting and empowering all adolescent girls and supporting their healthy development by creating an enabling environment for their participation and meaningful contribution to society.

Sustainable Development Goals of Kanyashree :

- 2 Generational cycles of development of families, community and society
- 3 Improved educational attainment and skills and voice in family and society.
- 4 Reduced risk of maternal and child ill-health and mortality
- 5 Reduced risk of violence, abuse and exploitation
- 6 Socio-economic inclusion and balanced power relations
- 7 Prevention of child marriage completion of school education and financial inclusion for girls between the ages of 13 and 18 years
- 8 Change in perceptions, attitudes and aspirations of girls and families
- 9 An enabling environment in which girls and woman are considered and integral part of society, and are treated as equal citizens

Our country cannot be prospering without the education of girl child. Improving girl's educational level has been demonstrated to have clear impact on the health and economic future of young women which in turn improves the prospects of their entire community. Infant mortality rate of babies whose mothers have received primary education is half that of children whose mothers are illiterate. Human Right Research shows that the greatest obstacle

to girls education are child marriage pregnancy and domestic chores and that ensures that girls stay in school are of the most effective measure against such causes. In this concept, the Government of West Bengal has decided on creating an enabling environment for evaluating education, health and nutrition status of women and children through an innovative scheme *Kanyashree Prakalpa*. There is a positive reaction about *Kanyashree Prakalpa* among the intellectual group of our society. Some economist and politician had expressed their views about this innovative scheme. After interpretation of their views, it is quite cleared that financial insolvency, lack of awareness and indifference to the girl child over the past couple of decade are root cause of social and educational dropout. The girl of everywhere in Bengal said —Read, Write and Go Ahead. According to the National sample survey 2014, the school drop- out rate among girls in the state has come down. The report says that while the National average for school drop-out rate for girls is 3.23% the same for state is 1.28%.

Child marriage is main obstacle of girl education. Despite the state having produced long list of social reformers who led the country thinking about women empowerment while the social evil of underage marriage rob girls of a life and freedom. Government of West Bengal decided to follow in the footsteps of epoch-making Bengal social reformers and conceived the *Kanyashree Prakalpain* 2013, a project that will work towards bringing down the cases of child marriage and keep young girls in school. This conditional cash transfer scheme is exactly what young girls in Bengal need to fully enjoy their childhood. According to the government data, out of total number of 1.73 crore adolescents (10-19) years in the state –incidentally, they make up 20 percent of the population - 83 lakh, or 8.3 million are girls while children in this age group have a tremendous potential for physical and mental growth. They are also considerably vulnerable to falling victim to harmful social practice. Under age marriage is significantly higher in rural areas and threat of trafficking feed this unfortunate reality. When the *Kanyashree Prakalpa* scheme was being conceptualized, a couple of factors were taken into consideration; it was felt that the greatest obstacle to girl’s education was child marriage, domestic responsibility and early pregnancy. As per the scheme K-1, Rs 500 will be credited to the beneficiary account in each year up to the age of 18 and K-2 is applicable to girls who have been enrolled in a school aged between 18-19 years. As per the scheme K-2, beneficiaries will receive 25000 as one time grant. As per the scheme K-3, beneficiaries will receive 2500 or 2000 per month if she is a college student with science or humanities or

professional stream respectively with no income limit/s but with more than 45% marks (date of announcement is 11.09.2017). It encourages girl/s of poor families to higher education after completion of school education. It is certainly able to reduce the early marriage. In the study relating to K-1 and K-2, it has been found that most of the underage marriage held at the age of 17-18. For the remarkable impact, it has had already the recognized by UNICEF and Department of International Development ( DFID) as a model for curbing child marriage and promoting girl child education. The UNICEF is also assisting the state in the evaluation and monitoring of Rs 1000 crore scheme that is expected to benefit more than 24 lakh girls by the end of the financial year.

One of the barriers for girl education may be the location of schools which in some cases far away from their homes, particularly in rural areas. Adequate transport system is needed for girl to attend the schools. It will be more convenient for them to attend school if they access some mode of transport to attend school. Government has taken note of that matter and in various social welfare and cultural programmes by-cycle had been presented to girls of poor families. No doubt in comparison to crisis it is just a baby step. Nevertheless, it reflects the good will and true intention of the government to have success in the *Kanyashree Prakalpa*.

## **ANALYSIS**

Eradication of poverty is not an overnight affair. It requires an effective policy which leads to a sustainable development and growth. It is ideal that all nations must have attained greatness by paying proper respect to women. That country and that nation which do not respect women have never become great, nor will ever be in future. As stated by Pradhan and Abraham “Recent empirical advancement in growth economics emphasized that the key factors in modern economic growth is the productive and efficient use of human resources. The role of women’s status is very crucial, as they constitute an important supply of human capital”. It is found in a study by using an econometric model that the economic development of a nation and women status of it moves simultaneously. Where the social status of women is lower, the economic development is also lower. Its contrary is also true, i.e., the nation economically progress where women enjoy more decision making power in the society. It is found in the study that those states in India occupy higher ranks in the index of economic

development over time more or less achieved women empowerment but those states unable to make any successful step to empower women lags far behind in question of economic development. On the whole the ranks in economic development and ranks in women`s status too are highly correlated to each other. The present study is the effectiveness of the scheme across the districts of West Bengal and their uniformity over time span of more than year.

## DATA

The scheme is so designed and web-based that the details about the beneficiaries are available from the portal. The data have been obtained from the portal on the target, completion and sanctioned in the categories *fresh* and *renewal*. The total (=fresh + renewal) number of beneficiaries are calculated on target, completed and sanctioned number of beneficiaries. It is well and justifies that (i) the number of completed beneficiaries should be equal to the target and (ii) the number of sanctioned beneficiaries should be equal to the number of completed beneficiaries. The target may be enrolment/s and/or may be the girls in the suspected age-group of the population. The enrolment data as per AISHE 2017-18 for K-3 and the projected census data from Census 2011 have been taken for this study.

## RESULTS

The year-wise performances are almost consistent for K-1 and K-2. The year-wise ranks are combined using Principal Component Analysis (PCA) <sup>[3]</sup> and the model is

$$Score = 0.230073 * R13 + 0.270693 * R14 + 0.252662 * R15 + 0.246573 * R16$$

It was observed based on the score calculated for K-1 and K-2 <sup>[3]</sup> that Kolkata, South 24 Parganas, North 24 Parganas, Mushidabad, Purbamedinipur, Nadia, Uttar Dinajpur, Malda & Burdwan is one cluster and other districts are in other cluster. It is true Darjeeling and Siliguri are best performing districts along with Kolkata for K-1 and K-2.

In analyzing K-3, the data as on 01.07.2018 were taken. The number and percentage of girls enrolment in under-graduate(UG) courses and those in population were calculated. The percentage of applicants as to enrolment and population were also calculated for each of the districts. The ranks are shown below (Table-1).

Table 1 : showing ranks of the districts

DISTRICT	Ranks of		
	Applicant	No of UG Female Enrolment	Percentage of Applicants among UG Female Enrolment
ALIPURDUAR	22	22	3
BANKURA	9	14	11
BIRBHUM	17	12	19
COOCH BIHAR	12	15	12
DAKSHIN DINAJPUR	15	19	17
DARJILING	10	17	10
HOOGLY	16	4	20
HOWRAH	13	10	18
JALPAIGURI	21	11	22
JHARGRAM	20	20	2
KOLKATA	1	1	5
MALDAH	11	13	15
MURSHIDABAD	18	5	21
NADIA	4	7	7
NORTH 24 PGS	6	2	16
PASCHIM BARDDHAMAN	19	21	1
PASCHIM MEDNIPUR	3	8	4
PURBA BARDDHAMAN	2	3	6
PURBA MEDNIPUR	5	9	8
PURULIYA	8	16	13
SOUTH 24 PGS	7	6	14
UTTAR DINAJPUR	14	18	9

It is true that the scheme is yet to be popularized and the beneficiaries are to be sensitized across the districts. It is suggested to frame a scheme to popularize through the nodes of having approval.

## DISCUSSION

Kanyashree Prakalpa not only minimizes the tendency of girl students to drop out from schools at early age, at the same time it will make a positive impact on the prevention of early marriage of girl child. All the districts of the state are found not to perform with equal effectiveness nor they are found to be consistent over time. The far-way districts are more serious in implementing the Prakalpa in comparison to the nearby districts at least for K-1 and K-2. But for K-3, it is still random. Kolkata and nearby district/s are still getting more sensitized in K-3 as compared to other districts. This may be due to waiving income limit/s for K-3. The regression type analysis may be done if such micro-data is available on open domain. The reasons are neither gender ratio nor sex ratio. It is about 48 to 49% have been sensitized so far in the state as a whole. The ideal condition of the project should be equally ranked and no differences must exist between percentage of enrolment and percentage of girls in the specific age-group of the population.

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