



# "SAVING DAUGHTERS, EDUCATING THE NATION" A STUDY ON BETI BACHAO BETI PADHAO

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**Abstract:** The Government of India began the historic Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) project in 2015 with the goal of addressing the concerning drop in the Child Sex Ratio (CSR) and advancing the education and self-determination of girls. Under the BBBP scheme, this paper examines the multi-scheme structure. It highlights important case studies. This scheme involves in reducing the burden of parents at her young age. Because, according to this scheme, parents have to deposit some money in the bank on monthly basis for which they will get benefited in future at the young age of their girl child whether for the education or marriage. Such ambitious approach of government in the form of Beti Bachao, Beti padhao will surely bring a positive approach among the parents of the girl child. The Study is based on secondary data sources. The study mainly focusses on the case studies on Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme and its various components are collected from Books, Journals, Internet Source or related topic.

**Key words:** Girl child, Government schemes, Gender Discrimination

## Introduction:

The empowerment of women and girls play a very important role in economic development of the country. In India where gender inequality is a serious issue, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao initiative has emerged as transformative programs to address the challenges. The Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme was launched on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2015 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to address the decline in Child Sex Ratio, reduce gender discrimination and social biases against the girl child. This scheme was launched with an initial funding of Rs.100 crore. The BBBP is a collaborative Initiative run by Women & Child Development, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and Ministry of Human Resources Development. The Conditions of Girl Child is not as much good when compared to boys, lack of nutrition and also not able to educate the girl child. The impact of Beti Bachao Beti padhao initiative aims to provide access to opportunities, social changes and eliminate barriers that leads to women's progress in the society. The BBBP Scheme focuses on social and economic factors of the parents of the girl child so that they can educate and protect the girl child. It aims to evaluate its role in shaping the attitudes and creating healthy and safety environment so that every girl child has their own right and ability to contribute to the society.

## Review of Literature

- Manju Prem S., B.Manjunatha, Gunashekhar H., N.R.Kiran, and Karthik R.(2024) has studied a Descriptive Analysis of Beti Bachao - Beti Padhao, Stand-Up India and Skill India Mission" have explored three Government initiatives in India to provide education and skill development for girl child. The study highlights the community engagement and resource allocation to address gender inequalities. All these initiatives aims to discriminate gender inequality and various incentives to face significant challenges in society.
- Dr. Alka Sahoo (2023) has discussed the importance for economic development and human rights. It highlights the gender discrimination in society particularly in the form of female foeticide and no access to education. BETI BACHAO – BETI PADHAO

was introduced in 2015 to address these issues and evaluates the effectiveness of the scheme in improving gender equality and women empowerment. She also identified that there is progress in CHILD SEX RATIO and girls Education levels.

- Seema Yadav (2023) has examined in fostering the empowerment of Girl child. They identified that by establishing scheme like Sukanya Samriddhi Account often leads to progress and create awareness to reduce the dropout's rates among the girls. They observed that Government Agencies, NGOs, also plays a vital role in expanding the BBBP schemes and promoting gender equality so that every girl have a right to contribute to the society and should have right to choose her career path for future.
- Gaurav Kumar (2023) has concluded research through the effectiveness of BBBP Policy and to promote gender equality. He has conducted the research to know how it would be helpful in analyzing the policies, strategies, promote female foeticide, Education and to create a healthy environment so that girls are treated equally when compared with the boys.
- Ms. Shalini Gupta and Karandeep Singh (2023) have focused on Women Empowerment where they play a significant role in rural areas. Here, they have discussed about BBBP Scheme to bring awareness in improving the knowledge of the rural people which resulted in the increase of girl child. The research states that the govt should continue to implement various laws, policies and Programs which leads to increase in the growth of the economy.

## NEED AND IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao has various schemes which are implemented by the government to create awareness in various areas. As child sex ratio refers to the number of girls per 1000 boys in the age group of 0-6 years. As per the recent trends there is much improvement, because of implementation of strict laws, prevention of sex selective abortion, and providing financial support to the girl child for their better future but still there exists a gender bias and preferring male child over female, the government should take steps to improve and change mindset of the parents of the girl child. Moreover, it has been noticed that female foeticide has declined due to ban on selective abortion and increased birth registrations of girls. Educating a girl child is the important objective which can change the negative mindset of parents.

### Objectives of the study:

1. To present various schemes implemented under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao for girl child
2. To identify success stories of gender discrimination in implementation of the schemes.

### Research Methodology

This paper is purely based on secondary data which is collected from the reports, Journals, newspapers, magazines Websites etc

### Various schemes launched under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao

#### SUKANYA SAMRIDDHI YOJANA

The Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana is a government-backed savings initiative in India for the benefit of the girl child. It strives to give financial security for a girl child's higher education and marriage. The account can be opened in the name of girl children under the age of 10 years and must be an Indian resident. The family of the girl child can open two SSY accounts i.e. one account per girl child.

#### FEATURES OF SUKANYA SAMRIDDHI YOJANA (SSY):

**Deposit and Interest Rate:** The annual minimum deposit required is Rs.250, while the maximum limit is Rs.1.5lakh. The interest rate for the Financial Year 2024-2025 will be charged at 8.2% per annum.

**Tenure and Maturity:** The account will reach maturity after 21 years from the date it is opened, and partial withdrawals up to 50% are permitted once the girl child turns 18 years old.

**Tax Benefits:** Section 10 of the Income Tax Act guarantees tax-free interest; investments qualify for deductions under section 80C of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

Any post office or another bank will let you open this account.

When the account holder passes suddenly, the account can be terminated forever.

### NATIONAL SCHEME OF INCENTIVE TO GIRLS FOR SECONDARY EDUCATION

Launched and centrally sponsored, the National Scheme of Incentive to Females for Secondary Education offers incentives for Females to continue their secondary education. This scheme aims to keep the girl child until the 12th class by encouraging her enrollment in the age group of 14-18 years.

**Eligibility:** The applicant girl child should be from SC/ST and have passed 8<sup>th</sup> class from Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya.

### **LADLI SCHEME**

The Ladli Scheme Yojana is a scheme implemented by the State Government of Madhya Pradesh to improve the lives of the girl child and discourage child marriage and female foeticide. This scheme is currently active in Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Bihar, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand. Through this scheme the government not only aims to improve the health and education but also creates a positive environment that celebrates the birth of a girl child and balances the child sex ratio. By providing financial assistance in education the scheme ensures that they have access to quality education and opportunities. This scheme is available to parents who are the permanent residents of the respective state and a girl child must be born after a certain date as per the guidelines mentioned. It provides various benefits to girl child :-

- The government issues a certificate of Rs.1,43,000 in the name of a girl child.
- Rs.6000 is deposited annually in the Ladli Laxmi Yojana Account.
- Additional amounts are granted upon admissions to various classes.
- When the girl child turns 21 years she receives her remaining amount.

### **SABLA SCHEME**

The SABLA scheme officially known as Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls was launched by the government to improve the health and nutrition in adolescent girls in India by providing them skills and information on health and hygiene. Its target group is between 11-18 years and focuses on out of school girls by implementing Anganwadi Centers under the Integrated Child Development services. It provides nutrition of 600 calories and 18-20 grams of protein to those girls and conducts regular health check-ups and gives counselling on good health and hygiene. This scheme is administered under the Ministry of Women and Child Development and in 2018 this scheme was restructured and renamed as SCHEME FOR ADOLESCENT GIRLS (SAG).

### **UDAAN SCHEME**

The Udaan Scheme is an initiative by the Central Board of Secondary Education under the MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, Government of India. This scheme aims to increase girls enrollment to pursue their careers in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics). It provides them free coaching and study support to participate in interactive sessions. This is applicable only for girl child in class 11 & 12 and must have scored 80% overall in class 10 and family income should be below Rs.6,00,000. The progress of the students is continuously recorded and updated to their parents to get their feedback support for their future learning progress. It has the eligibility criteria that the female students should be the Indian citizens and Indian resident are only applicable for such CBSE Udaan scholarships.

### **KASTURBA GANDHI BALIKA VIDYALAYA**

The Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya is a scheme launched in 2004 by the Government of India in 2004 under the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan to provide education to the girl child in rural areas and educationally backward areas. This scheme focuses on providing free education to girls in class 6-10. Girls from Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe, Minority communities, below poverty line and are dropped out of school without completing education are most benefited with this scheme. This scheme is implemented where the female literacy rates is lower than the national average and are socially backward blocks. This scheme provides various funding patterns based on the states.

- 90:10 ratio for Northern states, Himalayan states and Union Territories with legislatures.
- 60:40 ratio for other states.
- 100% funding by the Central Government for Union Territories without legislatures.

This scheme under Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan received RS.37,543 crore in the 2023-2024 budget a portion of which is used for KGBV Schools.

### **PRE-CONCEPTION AND PRE-NATAL DIAGNOSTIC TECHNIQUES ACT (1994)**

The PCPNDT Act was enacted by the Government of India to prevent female foeticide and ascertain parental diagnostic technique to stop sex-selective abortions. It helps to control the child sex ratio and raises awareness regarding gender discrimination and enforces strict action to prevent such illegal activities. It provides provision on ban on sex determination so that the doctors or technician cannot disclose the sex of the foetus to the parents. All the clinics and hospitals conducting parental diagnostic tests should be registered under the act and if any one violates such rules he / she is liable to pay the penalty

- First Offense - 3 years of imprisonment+Rs.10,000 fine
- Repeat Offense - 5 years of imprisonment+Rs.50,000 fine

### **POSHAN ABHIYAAN**

Poshan Abhiyaan is a flagship nutrition program of the Government of India launched in 2018 by Ministry of Women and Child Development. This program aims to reduce malnutrition among children in the age group of 0-6 years. It strengthens Anganwadi centers and

use POSHAN Tracker app to monitor growth and health data. The **TAKE HOME RATION & HOT COOKED MEALS** initiative aims to provide nutritious food to pregnant women and children through AWC's and conduct Jan Andolan for Nutrition to spread awareness on hygiene and healthy eating.

### **Success stories of gender discrimination in implementation of schemes**

- **CASE STUDY-1 :**

#### **SARPANCH LATA MALI TAKES PLEDGE TO MAKE HER VILLAGE CHILD MARRIAGE FREE**

Lata Mali aged 25years has been elected as the Sarpanch of Amarsagar Panchayat which is 10km away from Jaisalmer city. She is an advocate for women empowerment and girls education. The Zila Pramukh informed her about Action Aids work and District Coordinator participated in a meeting of Panchayat to address the issue of Child Marriage and Girls drop out-of-schools without any reason. She established a task force at gram panchayat to prevent child marriage. The Sarpanch encouraged to initiate the campaign and organized an oath ceremony to say no to child marriage in her village. 250 members of Amarsagar and along with them Cabinet Minister Saleh Muhammad, Jila Pramukh, and MLA Mr. Ruparam Dhan also joined the community to take a oath. With this the campaign was successful and has become first panchayat to say no to child marriage in their village.

- **CASE STUDY 2 :**

#### **NEHA FROM UTTARAKHAND**

Neha, a resident of Uttarakhand was the youngest in her family of 5 daughters. Due to the implementation BBBP Campaign, her parents enrolled her in school inspite putting pressure to marry. As of now she is educated and pursuing her degree in Engineering and she is inspiring many people in her community to educate and protect their girl child.

- **CASE STUDY 3 :**

#### **NANDURBAR DISTRICT, MAHARASHTRA**

Nandurbar, a tribal district faced low literacy rate and poor CSR in 2014. It has introduced intervention to bring awareness in tribal communities to educate and value the girl child. It also aims to provide scholarships to girls and free transportation to schools to ensure safe child practices. As a result CSR improved to 890 in 2020 and Female literacy rate increased by 18%.

### **NGO'S UPPORTING BETI BACHAO BETI PADHAO**

NGO's in India actively participate to support the BBBP initiative to educate and empower the girl child.

- **Child Help Foundation (CHP) :**

It is a foundation that focuses on the challenges of poverty, gender discrimination and exploitation that limit access to education. Through the efforts under BBBP program CHF has reached 1,65,804 girls in December 2024, creating valuable opportunities for them to be educated properly. It tries to maintain a balance between girls and boys and conducts awareness of POSH & POSCO and helps in decision-making by providing education on reproductive and sexual health.

- **Sharnarathi Sewa NGO :**

It is an NGO founded by Mr. Purshottam Sharma, focuses on child development, women empowerment and education to uplift backward communities and marginalized groups. Its aim is to make India free from social problems. It tries to maintain reports on fund utilization and during COVID-19 it has distributed ration kits to daily wage workers effected by lockdowns. This NGO is working towards environmental protection, offering medical assistance to sick and providing food, clothing and shelter in those communities who are in need.

- **Ek Parivartan Foundation**

This is an NGO in Delhi that supports BBBP schemes aims to improve the lives of marginalized communities and children. This foundation is conducted in both rural and urban areas to provide quality education and protect them from abuse. It also has multiple campaigns such as old age homes, food donation drives, sanitary pads distribution, support for Gau seva and provide financial assistance who cannot afford the treatment.

- **Center for Social Research (CSR) :**

This Foundation is in Delhi aims to make a violence free and gender-equitable society. This organization provides supports to the women and offers training programs for building leadership qualities. This has trained over 10,000 individuals in digital safety,

resolved more than 1,000 cases of sexual harassment and tries to create more healthy and safe society to make a decision for their bright future.

- **Youth Helping Trust**

This organization is based in Delhi and addresses issues related to girl child and woman's safety. This trust tries to change the mindset of the people and their main aim is to provide health facilities for street children and support them during their tough times.

### Suggestions

1. Conduct more awareness programme on the schemes launched by the government to the parents of girl child
2. Ensure the school authorities to engage with NGO's and local communities to provide information regarding Beti Bachao and Beti Padhao initiative
3. Target the younger adult population through social media to empower the girl child
4. Maximize the scholarship opportunities and provide information regarding BBBP initiative.
5. To encourage the girl child to participate in various activities which promotes the growth and welfare conducted in their area.

### Conclusions

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao initiative enhances the significance of empowering girls. It highlights that a lot of progress has been made to protect and educate the girl child, but there are some challenges faced to address these issues in rural areas as their decision would impact their financial constraints and cultural norms to support their girl's education. The BBBP scheme has made efforts to improve the child sex ratio and gross enrolment ratio for girls. The study concludes that the government has initiated various schemes for girl child to reduce the gender discrimination and ensure to value and support the girls as equal when compared to boys. BBBP schemes help to provide quality education as it plays a significant role in changing the perception and attitude of the parents towards their girl child

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