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Comparative Study

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao and Kanyashree Prakalpa: A Comparative Analysis

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ABSTRACT

Today, girls are not backward in any fields, they are equal to boys in almost all aspects. At present, girls have played a leading role in politics, sports, education, security of the country, productivity and development of the country which has attracted the attention of the whole world. Therefore, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao and Kanyashree Prakalpa is a landmark step for the empowerment of women and the overall development of girls in India and West Bengal government. The objective of this paper is to competative study about Beti Bachao Beti Padhao and Kanyashree Prakalpa. This paper major findings is a comparative study (Similarties and Differences) about Beti Bachao Beti Padhao and Kanyashree Prakalpa and to find out about the educational implecations of both the scheme. The researchers has conducted qualitative manner for this study.

Keywords: *Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Kanyashree Prakalpa, Comparative study, Similarities, Differences, Educational implications*

Swami Vivekananda says about women's education- A bird cannot fly only on one wing. So is true for a country for its sustained economic development when men and women are compared to two wings of a bird and the bird is compared to a country. The equal empowerment of two wings is a precondition for its flying. Similarly, men & women have an equal role in the overall development of a country. For this requires equal rights for men and women. Want to need educated women. According to Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 (PCMA), "18 years is the minimum constitutional age of marriage for girls, and 21 for boys in India". The findings of Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey (2016-2018) seem to confirm the fact that there is indeed a correlation between a mother's education and the health of a child. Thus, we must ascertain the significance of educating the girl child which can help in improve public health outcomes in the long run (Biswas and Sinha, 2020). Only an educated woman can take the country and society forward and give the gift of a healthy educated family or complete responsible person to the society. Therefore, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao and Kanyashree Prakalpa is a landmark step for the empowerment of women and the overall development of girls in India and West Bengal government.

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Beti Bachao Beti Padhao:

According to the 2001 census, where the sex ratio of boys and girls was 1000: 927, in the 2011 census, the sex ratio of children aged 0 to 6 years was 1000: 919, which is very worrying (Gupta et al., 2018). The ratio of the Indian state of Haryana was even more alarming. As a result, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme on 22 January 2015 at Panipat, in Haryana (Parmar et al., 2020). Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana is a part of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) Prakalpa. Previously, this scheme could be opened only at post office, now state-owned banks are also open. Sukanya Samrudhi Yojana has a system of depositing money both monthly and annually.

Kanyashree Prakalpa:

The Government of West Bengal has launched several projects for the empowerment of women such as Kanyashree, Rupashree, Lakshi Bhandar etc. Among them Kanyashree Project is important for the development of girls. Kanyashree Prakalpa was Launched by the Chief Minister of West Bengal Mamata Banerjee on 8 march 2013 (Maity, 2023). Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee launched this project for economically and socially backward girls. According to Kanyashree Prakalpa official website (https://www.wbkanyashree.gov.in), the project has won multiple national and international awards such as – "1st Place Winner in UNPSA Award 2017 (https://www.wbkanyashree.gov.in). Finalist in GEM-Tech Awards 2016 organized by ITU and UN Women United Nations, West Bengal Chief Ministers Award for Empowerment of Girls, 2014 (Halder, 2018). Also, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has established Kanyashree University in 2020 at Krishnanagar in Nadia district of West Bengal. Only girls get the opportunity to study in this university.

Rationale of the Study:

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao and Kanyashree Prakalpa is an important initiative that not only improves the status of girls and young women but also has broader positive impacts on society, education, and the economy in West Bengal as well as India. This study's both of schemes most importance for several reasons such as:

- Gender equality improvement,
- Stopping female foeticide,
- Women empowerment,
- Social awareness,
- Maintenance of demographic balance,
- Delaying early marriage,
- Reducing in child labour,
- positive social change,
- Economic development etc.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao:

Gupta, R., Nimesh, R., Singal, G. L., Bhalla, P., and Prinja, S. (2018) evaluated the impact of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (B3P) programme in Haryana to improve the sex ratio at birth (SRB). Using monthly SRB data from the civil registration system, a segmented time-series regression analysis was conducted, controlling for seasonality and trends. Results showed an increase in SRB from 827 girls per 1000 boys in 2005 to 900 in 2016. Post-intervention, the SRB increased by 1.696 units per month (p=0.025), highlighting a statistically significant improvement due to the B3P programme's interventions.

Bhat and Qurashi (2019) conducted a study on "Beti Bachao Beti padhao". This paper highlight that about beti bachao beti padhao scheme and also aims this paper is to give some information to all readers regarding problems, challenges and constitutional and legal provision of girls.

Perman and Sherma (2020) investigated the impact of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) campaign on societal attitudes and the empowerment of girls in India. Using survey methodology and data collected through questionnaires, the study found that the BBBP campaign has significantly contributed to enhancing social empowerment for women. The rights of the girl child are increasingly being recognized, and there is a notable shift in societal perspectives toward gender inequality. Additionally, the campaign has led to a marked decrease in pre-natal gender selection, highlighting its success in addressing critical gender issues in society.

Garg (2022) discussed about in her study change in enrollment ratio of girls in secondary education, change in child sex ratio, effectiveness of awareness drives and the allocation of funds.

Sharma and Borgohain (2022) conducted another study on "Beti Bachao Beti padhao: An Indian government initiative to promote gender equality." In this article finding that which has been adopted by the government in order to insure a balanced sex ratio and literacy rate of girl child in India.

Ovung and Konwar (2023) explored the status and achievements of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) and Mahila Shakti Kendra (MSK) schemes in Nagaland, where 48.21% of the population are women. In Naga society, patriarchal norms restrict women's participation in decision-making and inheritance rights. The study highlighted the role of BBBP and MSK in addressing these gender disparities by promoting education, health, and independence among women and girls. These schemes aim to enhance awareness of social issues, encourage decision-making participation, and emphasize the importance of the girl child, thereby contributing to gradual societal change in Nagaland.

Kanyashree Prakalpa:

Halder (2018) analyzed the Kanyashree Prakalpa scheme, introduced in 2013 by the Government of West Bengal, which targets unmarried girls aged 13–18 in classes VIII to XII. While primarily offering financial incentives, the scheme aims to address social issues hindering girls' empowerment. Beyond financial benefits, it focuses on fostering social esteem and empowering girls to recognize their societal influence. The study elaborates on the scheme's broader objectives, emphasizing its dual role in incentivizing education and disincentivizing social challenges. Halder also addressed controversies surrounding the scheme's objectives, offering insights into its multifaceted impact on girls' empowerment and education.

Das, P. (2021) conducted a study to evaluate the impact of the Kanyashree Prakalpa initiative on women's education up to the higher secondary level in Murshidabad district, West Bengal. The research focused on government, government-sponsored, and government-aided schools, utilizing purposive sampling to select secondary and higher secondary girl students. Data were collected using a standardized questionnaire. The study employed t-tests for hypothesis testing and used percentages and bar graphs to analyze research questions. Results indicated

significant outcomes, with five hypotheses expected to be accepted, highlighting the positive influence of the scheme on women's education.

Sk and Ghosal (2021) analyzed the impact of the Kanyashree Prakalpa (KP) program in West Bengal, which aims to reduce child marriage and promote secondary or higher education for girls up to age 18. Using National Family Health Survey (NFHS) data, the study employed difference-in-differences and triple-difference methods, comparing younger cohorts (exposed to KP) with older cohorts (unexposed) and Jharkhand as a control state. Findings indicate a 6.7% reduction in child marriage probability and a 6% increase in secondary or higher education attainment. The study highlights KP's significant long-term contributions to women's empowerment and well-being.

Another study conducted by Karim, Palit, and Guha (2021) examined the impact of the Kanyashree Prakalpa (KSP) scheme on girls' education and empowerment in West Bengal, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. Using document-based logical analysis, the study highlighted challenges faced by girls, including poverty, digital divide, domestic work pressure, and lack of nutrition, which were exacerbated by the closure of educational institutions. Despite these challenges, the research found that girls enrolled in KSP managed to continue their education, showcasing the scheme's role in capacity-building and self-empowerment. The findings underscore KSP's significance in mitigating educational disparities during crises.

Maity (2023) has shown in his study that after the launch of Kanyashree Project 2013, enrollment of girls in Ramnagar College in East Medinipur district of West Bengal has increased steadily.

Research Gap:

By several paper studies, it can be said that no more comparative study has been discussed between Beti Bachao Beti Padao and Kanyashree Prakalpa and the educational implications of the two projects were not discussed. A comparative study has been conducted between Beti Bachao Beti Padhao and Kanyashree Prakalpa to fill this research gap.

Research Questions:

A. What are the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao and Kanyashree Prakalpa?
B. What kinds of similarities and difference between Beti Bachao Beti padhao and kanyashree prakalpa?
C. What are the educational implications of Beti Bachao Beti padhao and Kanyashree Prakalpa?

Objectives of the study:

1) To study about Beti Bachao Beti Padhao and Kanyashree prakalpa.
2) To comparative study on (similarities and differences) Beti Bachao Beti padhao and kanyashree prakalpa.
3) To find out educational implications of Beti Bachao Beti padhao and Kanyashree prakalpa.

METHODOLOGY

The researchers have conducted qualitative manner for this study. Mostly secondary data has been used for this study. The researcher, while writing the research paper, taken the help of the resource person's help, YouTube, books, articles, research paper, journals, e-contents and

various reliable websites such as- the official website of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Prakalpa and Kanyashree prakalpa.

DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

Similarities and differences between Beti Bachao Beti Padhao and Kanyashree Prakalpa

Similarities *between Beti Bachao Beti Padhao and Kanyashree Prakalpa*:

1) In both the schemes the applicant must be a permanent resident of India.
2) In both the projects, steps have been taken for the purpose of financial assistance and welfare of the girls.
3) Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao and Kanyashree In both the schemes, the girls get financial assistance only if they have to continue their education in government, government approved or government aided schools for a certain period of time.
4) In terms of purpose, there are similarities between the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao and Kanyashree project.

The objectives of both the projects similarities are

- To stop female feticide,
- To prevent child marriage,
- To protect the sex ratio,
- To increase the empowerment of girls,
- To reduce the number of school dropouts,
- To make them economically self-sufficient,
- To encourage girls,
- To pursue higher education,
- To build self-awareness etc.

Differences *between Beti Bachao Beti Padhao and Kanyashree Prakalpa*:

However, there are similarities between the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao project of the Government of India and the Kanyashree project of the Government of West Bengal, but there are some differences between the two projects.

Which is discussed below-

i) Introduce:

- Indian government launched the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme on 22 January 2015 (Garg, 2022) at Panipat, in Haryana.
- On the other hand, Kanyashree Prakalpa was Launched by the Chief Minister of West Bengal Mamata Banerjee on 8 march 2013 (Halder, 2018).

ii) Acceptability:

- Beti Bachao Beti Padhao This applies to the whole of India, the states which were mainly targeted here were Uttar Pradesh, Hariyana, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Bihar and Delhi etc.
- But the Kanyashree project is basically applicable for West Bengal.

iii) Based on objectives:

- In terms of purpose, there are similarities between the Beti Bachao Betty Padao and Kanyashree project. The objectives of both the projects are to stop female feticide, to prevent child marriage, to protect the sex ratio, to increase the empowerment of girls, to reduce the number of school dropouts, to make them economically self-sufficient,

to encourage girls to pursue higher education, to build self-awareness, etc. However, Kanyashree is mainly applicable in West Bengal while BBBP is applicable almost all over India.

iv) Main slogan: -

- According to official website the main slogan of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao project is- i) Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (save girl child, educate girl child) (Garg, 2022). ii)BADLAV (Beti Apki Dhan Lakshmi Aur Vijay Lakshmi).
- On the other hand, according to Kanyashree Prakalpa official website (https://www.wbkanyashree.gov.in), the main slogan of this project are-
  i)Kanyashree is now Biswasree.
  ii)I am a Kanyashree girl, I am progress.
  iii)I am a Kanyashree girl, I am Determination.
  iv) I am a Kanyashree girl, I am Courage (https://www.wbkanyashree.gov.in).

v) Department:

- The departments attached to the BBBP scheme are the Ministry of Women and Child Development, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, and the Ministry of Human Resource Department.
- On the other hand, the departments associated with the Kanyashree scheme are the Department of Women Development and Social Welfare.

vi) Enrollment:

- Beti Bachao Beti Padhao enrollment has increased. Such as increase enrollment of girl in secondary education to 82% by 2018-19.
- On the other hand, according to the official website of Kanyashree Prakalpa, the number of registered institutions is approximately more than 18 thousand, number of enrolled applications approximately more than 2 crore 78 lakh, sanctioned applications approximately more than 2 crore 76 lakh.

vii) Conditions/ eligibility criteria:

he conditions to be fulfilled in order to avail the benefits of BBBP Scheme are – (i)The girl child must be legally an Indian., ii)The girl must be below 10 years of age., (iii) Sukanya Samridhi account should be in any bank in the name of the girl. Other hand, The eligibility criteria for the Kanyashree Prakalpa are:- i)The applicant or girl must be a permanent resident of West Bengal., ii)The applicant or daughter must be unmarried., iii)The annual family income should not be more than 120,000 rupees(https://www.wbkanyashree.gov.in)., iv) Kanyashree schemes, the girls get financial assistance only if they have to continue their education in government, government approved or government aided schools for a certain period of time., There are also two more conditions of Kanyashree project such as- a)Annual Scholarship Rs.1000- Here girls have to be studying at least Class Viii and students have to be above 13 years of age and under 18 years of age., b)One time scholarship of Rs. 25,000- Here the girl has to study higher secondary, technical and vocational, etc. and the girl has to be above 18 years of age (Nandy & Nandi, 2019).

viii) Celebration:

Although Beti Bachao Beti Padhao is not celebrated in such a way every year. However, in order to increase respect and awareness towards girls, August 14 is celebrated as Kanyashree

Day every year all over the state in West Bengal. Awareness message is conveyed through dance, song, poetry, speech, drama etc.

ix) Budget:

- BBBP launching time budget initial funding of 100 crore ($13 million approx) (Garg, 2022) but 2020-21 financial year has been increased by 16.3% to Rs 24435 crore.
- According to Kanyasree Prakalpa annual budget provisions (since inception) 2013-14 grant-in-aid 2914524000, contingencies & Advertisement 59405000, Total 29739290 00 and 2019-20 grant-in-aid 15364989000, contingencies & Advertisement 24164432 0, total 15606633320 (https://www.wbkanyashree.gov.in).

X) Required documents:

- The documents necessary for the Kanyasree Prakalpa are - Birth certificate, Ration card, Aadhar card, Income certificate, Residence certificate, Bank account details, passport size photograph, educational qualification, statement declaring you are unmarried(https://www.wbkanyashree.gov.in).
- On the other hand, for BBBP- daughter birth certificate, Sukanya Samrudhi account opening form parent or legal guardian certificate (e.g. Aadhaar card, ration card, voter card, PAN card, passport, driving license) any one.

Xi) Application process:

- For Kanyasree First of all the applicant has to collect a form of Kanyashree from his own educational institution and fill it. Then you have to attach the necessary documents and submit them to your educational institution. In case of school, the form has to be submitted to the head teacher, as proof the head teacher gives the acknowledgment receipt to the applicant.
- For application of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao communication with post office or bank. Where there are suitable arrangements for Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana.

Xii) Official website:

- The official website of Kanyashree Prakalpa is- https://www.wbkanyashree.gov.in .
- On the other hand, the official website of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme is- https://wcd.nic.in/.

Educational implications of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao and Kanyashree Prakalpa

Prevention of child marriage:

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao and Kanyashree The positive aspect of the project is to prevent child marriage. According to NFHS-3 (2005-06), 53.3% of women of the age group 20-24 had been married before they completed 18 years of age in West Bengal. On the other hand, NFHS-4 (2015-16) shows that this rate has fallen from 53.3% to 40.7% (Nandy & Nandi, 2019). As a result, on the one hand, the tendency to give child marriages has decreased, on the other hand, the number of girls dropout of school has also decreased. As a result of child marriage, the girl child has to face many physical, mental and social challenges, which push the country and society backwards.

Reducing the number of girls dropping out of school:

One of the objectives of the two schemes is to reduce the number of drop outs. However, due to the vigilant attitude of the government, the number of dropouts has decreased a lot from before. In the field of education, girls drop out for various reasons such as financial reasons,

negative attitude of parents, poor academic performance, choosing the wrong course, peer pressure and others reason. However, many girls in rural areas drop out of school due to family support and financial reasons.

Eliminate narrow mindedness:
Yet in many societies there are narrow-minded families or parents who look down on girls.Due to the narrow mindedness of the parents, many daughters are left with only dreams and cannot even come close to realizing their dreams. As a result, girls are humiliated, neglected and deprived in the society. So, one of the objectives of both these schemes is to overcome this narrow mindedness**.**

Equal opportunities in education:
In the past, girls were considered weak, deprived of equal opportunities in education and other aspects. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao and Kanyashree Both government projects have given impetus to girls 'education, given equal opportunities to girls' education and increased their empowerment.

Opportunity for higher education:
Before, most of the girls wanted to be educated in higher education but it was not implemented, it was difficult to cross the school boundaries. But now at the age of 18, many girls are able to realize their dream of getting higher education with the money of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao or Kanyashree scheme. For example, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has introduced K3 keeping in mind the higher education of girls.

Ensure self-protection:
At present, incidents of rape of girls, promiscuity of girls, forcible involvement of girls in anti-social activities, etc. are often noticed. So, providing social and physical protection to girls is one of the objectives of both the projects. Such as Kanyashree Sangha girls are given karate training as well as body exercises.

Prevent female feticide:
One of the objectives of both the schemes is to prevent female feticide. Find out and punish the parents who commit such heinous acts.

Empowerment of women:
The Beti Bachao Beti Padhao and Kanyashree projects have an important role to play in women empowerment. Girls are not backward in any way today, they are almost equal to boys in all respects. At present, girls have played a leading role in politics, sports education, security of the country, productivity and development of the country which has attracted the attention of the whole world.

Opportunity to live independently:
The importance of both schemes is immense in ensuring that girls can move freely, think independently and get job opportunities according to their desires and abilities.

Vocational training / Development of productivity:
Just as a developed country provides vocational training for the future as well as education, Kanyashree Sangha provides vocational training to economically and socially backward girls, just as Kanyashree Sangha girls make money by making cloth, flowers, bags, etc (https://www.wbkanyashree.gov.in). and selling them in the market.

Reducing the sex ratio:
Both projects have educational significance in reducing the sex ratio. Reducing the sex ratio is one of the objectives of both Beti Bachao Beti Padhao and Kanyashree schemes. According to the 2001 census, where the sex ratio of boys and girls was 1000: 927, in the 2011 census, the sex ratio of children aged 0 to 6 years was 1000: 919, which is very worrying (Garg, 2022). The ratio of the Indian state of Haryana was even more alarming. As a result, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme on 22 January 2015 at Panipat, in Haryana.

Creating self-awareness:
These two schemes (Beti Bachao Beti Padhao and Kanyashree) have educational significance in creating self-awareness. For example, the girls of Kanyashree Sangha go from house to house or through dramas or through socio-cultural or educational programs. As a result, as girls learn to lead, they can make people in the society aware.

Also, the educational importance of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao and Kanyashree Scheme are-

a) To participate in the welfare service of the girls society
b) To ensure the future of the girl child
c) To make the girls economically self-sufficient
d) To give gifts to the healthy and well educated mother society
e) Assist in the development of girls' leadership.

CONCLUSION

Finaly it can be said that Beti Bachao Beti Padhao and Kanyashree project is an important step for both the girls. At present, like the Government of India, the Government of West Bengal has undertaken several projects for the empowerment of girls such as Kanyashree, Rupashree, Lakshi Bhandar etc. But the role of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao and Kanyashree project is one of the steps taken by the Central and State Governments for the welfare of women. As a result, on the one hand, girls have become aware of their responsibilities and rights, on the other hand, empowerment of girls, female feticide, child marriage, out-of-school sex ratio has been reduced and all girls who want to pursue higher education have found new directions. So Beti Bachao Beti Parhao and Kanyashree project will also encourage future generations and take the country and society forward with equal rights for girls.

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Conflict of Interest

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