

Implementation of Laadli Scheme in Schools of Delhi: Perspectives of Parents and Teachers

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Abstract

Review Article

Education is a child's basic and a fundamental right. Failure to access proper education deprives children of the means to secure their own right. Right from birth to one's journey throughout life girls face discrimination from the context of education and its opportunities: parents prefer education of boy child over girls etc. Education is a major weapon which can boost the advantages of social and economic growth of a child. The Directive Principles of State Policy have made Education free from the ages of 06-14 years of age. Government has several schemes for education of the girl child and especially at the elementary level. Henceforth, a pertinent question in the context of education of the girl child is, "Why a large number of girls are lagging behind in education?" This is ironical as on one hand considerable attention has been given to education of girls' by various committees, commissions which have come up with various recommendations and initiatives. The Union government has several key constitutional and legal features which does not discriminate against the education of girl students and boy students. Keeping the constitutional and legal framework in mind many state governments have launched various different schemes for the protection of the education of the girl child. Tamil Nadu government initiated such a scheme naming the *Girl Child Protection scheme* (GCPS). This was followed by the Andhra Pradesh Government. Haryana government followed suit in 2005 which launched *laadli* scheme. This was followed by Madhya Pradesh which initiated a girl child empowerment scheme called *Ladli Lakshi Yojana*. Gujrat government launched a *Dikri Bachao* in 2006. The Delhi Government launched *Laadli* scheme in 2008 in order to raise the status of the girl child in the capital city. This paper presents the findings of a study conducted on the implementation of *Laadli scheme* in government schools of Delhi. The paper highlights the various constitutional and legal framework of education and the problems faced by parents of girl students in trying to benefit the advantage of such a scheme in Delhi. The paper also provides some suggestions from the perspective of parents towards achieving the benefits of the same. Also teachers perspectives and problems they face regarding laadli scheme is also being highlighted in this paper.

Keywords: Education of the girl child, Laadli scheme, Delhi Government education scheme.

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INTRODUCTION

Education is a child's basic and a fundamental right. Failure to access proper education deprives children of the means to secure their own right. Right from birth to one's journey throughout life girls face discrimination from the context of education and its opportunities: parents prefer education of boy child over girls etc. Education is a major weapon which can boost the advantages of social and economic growth of a child.

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the girl child and especially at the elementary level. Henceforth, a pertinent question in the context of education of the girl child is, "Why a large number of girls are lagging behind in education?" This is ironical as on one hand considerable attention has been given to education of girls' by various committees, commissions which have come up with various recommendations and initiatives.

Discriminating against women has long term implications for the nation. It is important to understand that increasing the number of girls in schools and thereby increasing the number of literate adult women, has a positive effect on both economic growth and social well-being.

In the education of the girl child, benefits accrue from one generation to the next. For e.g. there is a possible increase in enrolment of children to school education if a mother is educated as it is but natural that parents want better life for their children as compared to theirs. Education is the key to building a nation, by building human capital.

Girls' Education: The Constitutional and legal framework

Article 14: The State shall not deny to any person equality before the law or the equal protection of laws within the territory of India.

Article 15: The State shall not discriminate against any citizen...Nothing in this Article shall prevent the State from making any special provisions for Women and children.

Article 21 A; The State shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of 06-14 years in such a manner as the State, may, by law, determine.

Article 243 G read with schedule 11: provide for institutionalization of child care by seeking to entrust programmes of Women and Child Development to panchayat (Item 25 of Schedule 11), apart from education (item 17), family welfare (item 25), health and sanitation (item 23) and other items with a bearing on welfare of children.

The National Policy on Education (1986) [1] at the national level and the Universal declaration of Human Rights and Convention on the Rights of the Child are all provisions which protect the dignity of women to lead a complete and fulfilling life with full and equal participation in all walks of life with men.

Keeping the above constitutional and legal framework in mind many state governments have launched various different schemes for the protection of the education of the girl child.

Tamil Nadu government initiated such a scheme naming the *Girl Child Protection scheme* (GCPS). This was followed by the Andhra Pradesh Government. Haryana government followed suit in 2005 which launched *laadli* scheme. This was followed by Madhya Pradesh which initiated a girl child empowerment scheme called *Ladli Lakshi Yojana*. Gujrat government launched a *Dikri Bachao* in 2006. The Delhi Government launched *Laadli* scheme in 2008 in order to raise the status of the girl child in the capital city.

Major Features of This Scheme

Under this scheme the State government intends to deposit up to Rs. 1 lac in an account opened

with the state Bank of India in the name of a girl child by the time she attains the age of 18 years or at least passes class X. The girl child has to be a resident of Delhi and parents must avail the scheme within one year of the birth of the child.

A study was conducted in government schools of Delhi to understand the perspectives of parents and teachers.

The major thrust was on:

- To study the perception of teachers and parents regarding implementation of laadli scheme for girls education in Delhi

Sample of the Study

Five government secondary schools of east zone of Delhi were randomly selected. The sample also included five teachers and ten parents residing in east zone of Delhi were selected based on availability and convenience [2].

Tools / techniques for the study

Questionnaire was developed for use on teachers to know the awareness and problems faced by teachers regarding the laadli scheme.

Interview schedule was developed for use on parents to know the awareness and problems faced by parents regarding the laadli scheme. The parents belonged to low socio-economic class. Most of them were daily wage earners working in hospitals as contract staff etc. Few were employed as maids in homes and offices.

The data was collected from teachers and parents individually and later the responses of the teachers and parents were clubbed under major themes which come out of the data.

The major findings: based on the following themes are as follows:

Awareness among parents: information of the scheme

The responses of the parents indicated that 90 percent of the parents residing in Delhi were aware of the Laadli scheme but did not know how to avail the scheme.

The medium of awareness was word of mouth of the local parents and few parents became aware of this scheme through seeing them in advertisements in buses and on the back of auto rickshaws. The majority of the parents were familiarised to the scheme through the teachers of the government schools. This included 50 percent of the parents.

A striking finding of this is that all the teachers arbitrarily mentioned that all parents are aware of such

a financial scheme. But while interviewing parents it was reported that parents usually do not go to schools nor do they have access to someone in schools, so getting information about such a scheme was not possible through government schools. Word of mouth and advertisements were a popular medium of information of this scheme among parents.

Parents who availed the benefits of the scheme

Seven parents said they tried to avail the benefits of the scheme and sent their girl child to school. However, 60 percent had prepared documents after the Ladli scheme came into effect in Delhi in order to avail the benefits of this financial scheme whereas prior to the scheme parents had no proof of proper documentation.

This finding shows that parents are willing to avail the scheme but due to various problems other parents were not able to produce such documents.

Major Problems faced by parents

Parents were of the view that schools should provide information of such a scheme and 50 per cent parents were not happy about the way schools conducted itself about disseminating this financial information. Mostly parents found teachers to be uncooperative in this matter.

Parents were also not clearly apprised about the pattern of money distribution, where, when and the bank account functioning/ operation procedure.

60 percent of the parents responded that main reason for decreasing applicants of Laadli scheme was parent' inability to produce birth certificate of a girl child as only 6 parents out of the sample of 10 had the required documents like birth certificates, residence proof etc.. The remaining parents had been residing in Delhi for more than three years but due to not having documentary evidence like birth certificate, residence proof etc. could not avail this facility.

Major Problems faced by teachers

Teachers were of the opinion that they face problems with the introduction of laadli scheme as much of their time is being wasted filling up the Laadli scheme applications (forms). Moreover, guiding parents and familiarizing about the monetary incentives etc. lead to a lot of wastage of time and their routine duties of teaching –learning suffered.

80 percent of teachers revealed that the main problems faced by the parents is related to documents like producing birth certificate, ration card etc.

Suggestions for effective implementation of Laadli scheme

Awareness should be generated among parents for obtaining proof of vaccination etc. from government

hospitals so that such evidences may be used as proof to avail Laadli scheme benefits.

Awareness should be created among parents to obtain birth certificates of their children.

Easy access to basic daily live facilities like water connection, electricity etc. should be given to parents of girl child so that they may live normally and have residence proofs to avail this financial benefit.

If government wants to promote the education of the girl child then they have to give the money on the basis of their class standards like in class I, VI, IX and X and XII instead of once i.e. after X th class and when girls become 18 years of age.

More recruitment staff is needed especially in schools especially to deal with all the formalities of this scheme. This would perhaps reduce the workload of teachers and they can focus on teaching-learning activities.

Seminar, workshops, meetings etc. based on Laadli scheme should be organized. Proper training and guidance should be provided to school Principals, teachers to make them aware about the whole procedure.

Few parents get their girl child enrolled to receive benefit from the scheme but do not send their child to school on a consistent basis. The teacher should ensure that the girls who enrol in Class I under this scheme attend school regularly otherwise the objective of the scheme will not be achieved.

A handbook detailing the guidelines and structure of the Laadli Scheme should be prepared as a ready reckoner to be used by stakeholders. It should also have a translated version in Hindi/ Urdu etc as per the usage of the target population.

CONCLUSION

The study concluded that unawareness on the part of the parents regarding the documentary evidence required to avail the financial scheme i.e Laadli was a major hurdle. This lack of awareness on the part of parents led to their inability to produce required documents like birth certificate, residence proof, income certificate etc. Majority of the parents as well as teachers have suggested that all girl children in Delhi irrespective of the place of birth should be benefitted by the Ladli scheme.

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