

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT UNDER MADHYA PRADESH GOVERNMENT - AN OVERVIEW

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ABSTRACT

Women cover around half the population of the country, so they are half power of the country. That is need equal rights, facilities, and opportunities to go ahead and contribute to the development of India. Women empowerment is very necessary to make the bright future of the family, society, and country. In Indian society, there was a custom of female infanticide, child marriage, dowry system, domestic violence, sexual violence, sexual harassment at workplace, etc., including other discriminatory practices. Women are so helpless in the Indian society where female as a goddess are worshiped. The various schemes launched by the central and State Government of India to the empowerment of the women in India. The Government of India is implemented a number of programs, for improving access to health, safety, protection, better education, employment, etc., without much load on the parents. This work is focused about the schemes of government of Madhya Pradesh state, situated in the center region of India. The necessary informations have been collected from the internet using the various keywords related to the schemes.

Keywords: Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao, Child sex ratio, Union territory, National Family Health Survey, National Crime Report Bureau, Sample registration system.

INTRODUCTION

In India, sex determination before birth and post birth discrimination against the girl child has increasingly led to an alarming situation. Census of 2011 showed a significant declining trend in the child sex ratio (CSR) between 0 and 6 years which was 927 girls per 1,000 boys in 2001, which dropped drastically to 918 girls for every 1,000 boys in 2011. A 2012 United Nations International Children’s Emergency Funds report ranked India 41st among 195 countries. Strong socio-cultural and religious biases, preference for son and discrimination toward daughters has accentuated the problem [1]. Coordinated and convergent efforts are needed to ensure survival, protection, and education of the girl child to make them realize their full potential. Save girl child, educate girl child is a Government of India scheme that aims to generate awareness and improves the efficiency of welfare services meant for women.

The Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (BBBP) Scheme was introduced in October 2014 to address the issue of declining CSR. This is implemented through a national campaign and focused multi-sector action in 100 selected districts with low CSR, covering all States and Union territory (UTs). It is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, and the Ministry of Human Resource Development. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi accorded top most priority to this issue by himself launching the BBBP campaign from Panipat district in Haryana on 22nd January 2015 [2]. Sakshi Malik, who won the bronze medal at the Rio Olympics 2016, to be brand ambassador of BBBP campaign in Haryana [3].

The objectives of the scheme [4,5]

The Overall Goal of the BBBP Scheme is to celebrate the girl child and enable her education.

- Prevention of gender-based sex selection.
- Ensure survival of girl child.
- Protection of the girl child and.
- Ensure education of the girl child.

Indian states by sex ratio

Explore some interesting figures and facts about sex ratio in India [6,7]

Current sex ratio in India 2018	946 females for every 1,000 males
Sex ratio in India (Yearly)	945 (2017), 944 (2016), 943 (2015), 942 (2014), 941 (2013), 940 (2012)
Total number of males in India	697,062,410 (697 million - February, 2018)
Total number of females in India	652,787,338 (652 million - February, 2018)

- Kerala with 1084 females for every 1000 males has the highest sex ratio according to Census of India.
- Madhya Pradesh (MP) with 920 females for every 1000 males in 2001, after 10 years in 2011 is sex ratio increase with 930 females for every 1000 males.
- The UT of Chandigarh has only 818 females for every 1000 males.
- Punjab has witnessed a growth rate of +48 from 798 (2001) to 846 (2011) in its child sex ratio.
- In Union Territories of India, Daman and Diu has the lowest female sex ratio while Pondicherry has the highest female sex ratio in India.
- There is some extent of gender bias in India which is responsible for this decline in female ratio; however, it has started to show some improvement in the past 10 years.
- Lack of education and poverty in rural areas leads to gender bias.
- According to Census of India, the child sex ratio (0–6 years) in India is one of the poorest, last recorded at 918 girls for every 1000 boys in 2011.
- The state of Haryana registered a child sex ratio (0–6 age group) of over 900 in 2015 for the 1st time in the past 15 years.

CAUSES OF UNEVEN SEX RATIO IN INDIA

- Son preference and burden of protection female sexuality.
- Low value of girl child, social evils such as dowry and rituals.
- Gender-biased sex selection.
- Neglect the girl child resulting in higher at mortality younger age.
- Higher childhood mortality.
- Female infanticide, lineage issues, patriarchal structure, and old age security.
- Low sex ratio at birth.
- Low literacy level and lack of education.

ROLE OF MP GOVERNMENT

Beti Bachao Abhiyan

This is to owner for us MP government's Beti Bachao Abhiyan (save girl child campaign) adopted by the Central Government "BBBP Yojana." Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan was launched Beti Bachao Abhiyan in MP in 2007. The program is a joint initiative of Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, and Ministry of Human Resource Development. This initiative of Government aims to address the issue of declining CSR through a mass campaign across the country and focused intervention and multi-sectoral action in 100 selected districts low on CSR. The overall goal of the BBBP program is to celebrate the birth of girl child and enable her education [8-10].

Ladli Laxmi Yojna

The program is an initiative Women and Child Development Department, Public Health and Family Welfare Department. A conditional money transfer scheme - the main condition being full childhood immunization. Under the scheme, on birth of a girl child, a sum of Rupees 6,000 will be deposited in the name of the girl. Amount of rupees 2000, 4000, and 6000 will be disbursed to the girl child on reaching Standard VI, IX, and XII, respectively. On attaining the age of 21, a sum of rupees 100,000 will be given to the girl for marriage. It also involved tracking Ladli until 21 years of age [9,11].

Lado campaign

The program is an initiative Women and Child Development Department, Public Health and Family Welfare Department. Lado Abhiyan launched by MP to discourage and prevent child marriage. Lado Abhiyan was launched in 2013 to eradicate the malpractice of child marriage. The main objective of the campaign is apprising the people of the provisions of the Prevention of Child Marriage Act-2006 and making them aware of the ill-effects of marriage in a tender age on the mental and physical development of children. The campaign is run around the year. Under the campaign, 52,000 child marriages were prevented through counseling before the event from April 2014 to February 2015. In all, 1511 child marriages were prevented on the spot and 41 FIRs registered with police. Under the campaign, 1 lakh children were admitted to schools and information about Prevention of Child Marriage Act was given in 22,000 schools. The novel campaign was recognized at the national level. On observing effective results, the Central Government selected the campaign for Prime Minister's Excellence Award for year 2013-14 [9,12].

Shaurya Dal

The program is an initiative Women and Child Development Department, Public Health and Family Welfare Department. Shivraj Singh Chouhan Chief Minister of M.P. announced on 20 February 2014. The objective is to create an enabling environment that would support girls and women to move freely and make use of choices, spaces, and opportunities for their overall well-being. Shaurya Dal consists of 5 female members and 5 male members who are vocal, proactive and have a say in the community, from the village, who have come together with an objective of creating a women-friendly environment in the society to facilitate their economic empowerment. Government would constitute Shaurya Dals in every village and city ward to give more power to the women [9,13].

Mangal Diwas Yojana

The program is an initiative Women and Child Development Department, Public Health and Family Welfare Department. Mangal Diwas program is organized in Anganwadi and is dedicated to adolescent girls. On this day, adolescent girls are provide balanced diet and imparted training in maintaining hygiene, etc. In MP, every Tuesday of the month is celebrated as Godbharayi, Annaprashan, Janm divas and Kishor Balika program. The aim of the celebration is to create the atmosphere of affinity. The celebration is organized by the an Anganwadi. The first Tuesday, second Tuesday, third Tuesday, and fourth Tuesday are used for these programs. The following programs are organized on Tuesday [9,14].

Swagatam Lakshmi Yojana

The scheme will be launched by Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on January 24 at Ravindra Bhavan. Target groups of the scheme are embryo in mother's womb, newly born girls, every girl going to school/college, school/college students, domestic women helps/woman laborers, women working in various government/private institutions, offices, etc., male community, all public representatives of Panchayats, urban bodies, etc., and various communities, committees, and parties [15].

Usha Kiran Yojana

The program is an initiative Women and Child Development Department, Public Health, and Family Welfare Department. Under Usha Kiran Yojna, complaints are received from women/girl disposed off in time. Usha Kiran Kendras' on the lines of "one-stop crisis centres" is set up in every district of the state and run by the women's empowerment cell. The first one-stop crisis center in the state was launched first in Bhopal in 2014 by actor Aamir Khan. MP's capital Bhopal was the first in the country to get a one-stop crisis center "Gauravi" for women who are victims of violence. At the center was set up in Jaiprakash Hospital with the support of NGO Action Aid. At the centers, victims can seek help by directly walking in or by calling a toll free number. Victims of rape, dowry harassment, and domestic violence get medical aid and also help in filing FIRs, legal advice and psychological counseling [9,16].

Gaon Ki Beti Yojana

The program is an initiative Women and Child Development Department, Public Health, and Family Welfare Department. Under Gaon Ki Beti Yojna, every rural girl having passed 12th class exam in first division and taking admission in higher education courses is provided amount 5,000 per annum at the rate of amount 500 per month for 10 months [9].

Balika Shiksha Protsahan Yojana

The program is an initiative Women and Child Development Department, Public Health, and Family Welfare Department. This scheme is a centrally sponsored. The Government of India deposits an amount of Rs 3000/- in the bank of the girl child as in the name of the girl. The amount will be paid to the girl child when she becomes 18 years old and completes the 10th class standard. The prime goal of this scheme is to encourage the girl child to pursue higher studies after they have completed 10th standard. Scheme is applicable for SC and ST girls [17].

DISCUSSION

Under the Lado campaign, 52,000 child marriages were prevented through counseling before the event from April 2014 to February 2015. In all, 1511 child marriages were prevented on the spot and 41 FIRs registered with the police. Under the campaign, 1 lakh children were admitted to schools and information about Prevention of Child Marriage Act was given in 22,000 schools [12]. In 2015, around 4400 rape cases were reported from MP. In these cases, as many as 2267 victims were >18 years of age. Around 3590 cases of kidnapping of girls >18 years were reported in the same year according to National Crime Report Bureau 2015 Report. At 48, the infant mortality rate of girls in the state is the second highest after Bihar, says the sample registration system survey report of 2015. National Family Health Survey-4 reports that 30% girls in MP are married before they attain 18 years of age, and in terms of literacy in MP only 59.4% women are literate [18].

CONCLUSION

At last 15 years, MP Government has launched many schemes for girls such as Beti Bachao Abhiyan, Lado Campaign, Surya Dal, Mangal Diwas Yojana, Swagatam Lakshmi Yojana, Usha Kiran Yojana, Gaon Ki Beti Yojana, and Balika Shiksha Protsahan Yojana. We found girls literacy rate improved but situations are not satisfactory for girls. Government not only responsible for the safe and respected life of girl but also this is our also moral duty do individually because of today's girl tomorrow woman. In my opinion "Engaging today's girl is to empower tomorrow's woman."

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