

# Impact of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (Save Girl Child, Educate a Girl Child) Scheme at Vaishali District of Bihar

Kritika\*, Dr. Rajni Pandey\*\*

\*M.Sc., College of Community Science, Department of Home Science Extension Management, College of Community Science, Dr. R. P. C. A. U, Pusa, Samastipur, Bihar-848125, India  
ritikathakur1713[at]gmail.com

\*\*Assistant Professor, Department of Home Science, Magadh Mahila College, Patna University, Bihar-848125, India  
vijay.rajni3[at]gmail.com

**Abstract:** Women constitute almost half of the population of the world. Education for women is the best way to improve the health, nutrition and economic status of a household that constitute a micro unit of a nation economy. In this context, it can be argued that lack of women education can be an impediment to the country's economic development. In India, women achieve far less education than of men. As per the Census report 2011, the literacy rate of women is 65.46 per cent and that of men is 82.14 per cent. There has been a sincere effort to improve the education attainment of women by both government and voluntary Organization. The changes in the policies and infrastructural supports on primary, secondary and higher education reflect the initiatives of the Government of India towards women education. Shri Narendra Modi, Honorable Prime Minister of India has given stress on the need of educating and protecting the girl child. When the country is heading towards being the superpower if not in the near future, in the long run. Yeah this is the miserable condition of the daughters in some parts of the country where the girls are not treated equal to boys, not allowed to go to the schools beyond primary classes, deprived of all the facilities which their brothers enjoy with extreme liberty and in some cases the girls are not allowed to take birth and they get killed in the womb of their mothers. This scheme is a good start for the girl child lives as it involves some effective efforts of the Government of India.

**Keywords:** Empowerment, Government Policies & Schemes

## 1. Introduction

*"It is impossible to think about the welfare of the world unless the condition of women is improved. It is impossible for a bird to fly on only one wing."* - Swami Vivekananda

India is a country of contradictions. It is a country which attained independence in 1947, but the rural-urban divide and the rich-poor divide are still plaguing India. 68.84 per cent of the Indian population lives in villages. There are 6, 40, 867 villages in India. According to 2011 census, the populations of rural women who are literate are 58.8 per cent. (Census, 2011) When our country got its independence, the participation of women nationalists was widely acknowledged. When the Indian Constitution was formulated, it granted equal rights to women, considering them legal citizens of the country and as an equal to men in terms of freedom and opportunity. The sex ratio of women at this time is better than what it is previous, standing at 1020 females per 1000 males. (According to Economic survey 2022).

Women in India started recognising her true potential. She has started questioning the rules laid down for her by the society. As a result, she has started breaking barriers and earned a respectable position in the world. Today Indian women have excelled in each and every field from social work to visiting space station. There is no area, which remains unconquered by Indian women. Whether it is politics, sports, entertainment, literature, technology everywhere, its women power all along. Today names like

Arundhati Roy, Anita Desai, Kiran Desai, Shobha De, Jhumpa Lahiri can put any other writer to shame. In the field of cinema, women like Rekha, Smita Patil, Shabana Aazmi and Vidya Balan and Konkona Sen are such names who don't play feminised roles, but have asserted themselves over this male-dominated realm. In the field of Politics, from Indira Gandhi to Shiela Dixit, Uma Bharti, Jayalalithaa, Vasundhara Raje and Mamata Banerjee today, women are making their presence felt. In the field of sports, Mirabai Chanu, P V Sindhu, and Lovelina Borgohain apart from all this, Women's hockey team, Aditi Ashok, Bhawani Devi, Netra Kumanan, Pranati Nayak and Rani Rampal, all of them also waved the flag in the 32<sup>nd</sup> Summer Olympic Games Tokyo 2020.

'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' is a collaborative initiative being run by Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Human Resource Development and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and it covers all Indian states and union territories. The scheme has three primary objectives:

**1. Prevention of Gender biased sex selective discrimination;** To achieve this, steps are being taken to strengthen the implementation of Pre-Conception & Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994 (PCPNDT Act) with stringent punishments for violations of the law.

**2. Ensuring survival and protection of girl child;** Implementation of various legislative provisions for the

protection of the girl child and women are to be ensured to create a safe environment for the girl child.

### 3. Ensuring education and participation of girl child;

Right to Education Act, 2010 provides children the right to free and compulsory education till completion of elementary education. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is a flagship programme for achievement of Universalization of Elementary Education in a time bound manner. Effective implementation of these provisions will help in ensuring education to girl child.

#### The immediate issues to be tackled now are,

- Awareness on gender equality
- Education for women
- Medical aid and health issues
- Safety in public transport system
- Women safety cells
- Campaigns on sensitization towards women and children
- Cybercrime cells
- Crisis Management centre's
- Awards for role models, parents and other categories

These initiatives will provide a pathway to the young generation.

Since, the advent of independence numerous programmes related to improve the literacy rate and sex ratio, have been started but till today in vaishali district, Female literacy rate is only 56.73 percent (%), and sex ratio is 895 per thousand male (Census 2011). There is need to study how this scheme is different from previous programme and how it is going to impact on the study.

**Gakidou E. et al. (2010)** found that increased schooling among adolescent girls is likely to empower them economically and cognitively, and combined postponed childbearing this can enable them to better protect the health of their children and themselves moreover increases the probability that their future children will complete secondary school. The findings from this study will be highly relevant for programmes aiming to improve adolescent reproductive health in Zambia and in similar contexts. **UNICEF, (2011)** focused on education has a strong influence on a women's use of health systems during pregnancy and childbirth, as well as their knowledge on sexual health, contraception, STIs and HIV. **Shobha Kowli et. al. (2013)** studied across India have shown that health and nutritional status of adolescent girls (10-19 years of age) is poor. The girls always face greater social disadvantage and generally are lesser educated. Adolescent girls do not have adequate access to vital health and nutrition information or services; generally get married at an early age and are caught in the cycle of early pregnancy, childbearing and child rearing. Girls usually drop-out of school after completing primary education because of responsibility of household chores, to take care of younger siblings, distance from school, lack of female teachers and fear of safety. National Family Health Survey-3 (NFHS-3) has found that 11.7% of the girls between 15-19 years are stunted, 47% are underweight and

56% are anaemic. Most girls have little knowledge of menstruation, sexuality and reproduction.

## 2. Material and Method

The study was conducted in purposively selected Vaishali district with the consideration that; The scheme is running in only vaishali district of bihar. There are altogether 16 blocks in Vaishali district. Out of which two blocks namely Rajapakar and Chehrakalan were selected randomly for the study.

### Rajapakar Block

Raja Pakar Block of Vaishali district has total population of 158, 130 as per the Census 2011. Out of which 83, 583 are males while 74, 547 are females. In 2011 there were total 28, 516 families residing in Raja Pakar Block. The Average Sex Ratio of Raja Pakar Block is 892. As per Census 2011, all of the population of Raja Pakar Block lives in urban areas. The average literacy rate in urban area is 67.6% and the sex ratio of Raja Pakar Block is 892. The population of Children of age 0-6 years in Raja Pakar Block is 26775 which is 17% of the total population. There are 14132 male children and 12643 female children between the age 0-6 years. Thus as per the Census 2011 the Child Sex Ratio of Raja Pakar Block is 895 which is greater than Average Sex Ratio ( 892 ) of Raja Pakar Block. The total literacy rate of Raja Pakar Block is 67.6%. The male literacy rate is 64.08% and the female literacy rate is 47.27% in Raja Pakar Block.

### Chehra Kalan Block

Chehra Kalan Block of Vaishali district has total population of 131, 004 as per the Census 2011. Out of which 68, 517 are males while 62, 487 are females. In 2011 there were total 22, 366 families residing in Chehra Kalan Block. The Average Sex Ratio of Chehra Kalan Block is 912. As per Census 2011, all of the population of Chehra Kalan Block lives in urban areas. The average literacy rate in urban area is 64.5% and the sex ratio of Chehra Kalan Block is 912. The population of Children of age 0-6 years in Chehra Kalan Block is 22967 which is 18% of the total population. There are 12036 male children and 10931 female children between the age 0-6 years. Thus as per the Census 2011 the Child Sex Ratio of Chehra Kalan Block is 908 which is less than Average Sex Ratio ( 912 ) of Chehra Kalan Block. The total literacy rate of Chehra Kalan Block is 64.5%. The male literacy rate is 61.07% and the female literacy rate is 44.55% in Chehra Kalan Block.

### Impact of Scheme

It refers to the activities to be taken immediate benefits and expected benefits under this scheme. A schedule was developed for scoring impact of scheme. Based on the activities to be performed under different ministries is taken into consideration like:

- Monetary benefit for girl child
- Normal weight at the time of birth

- Regular Girl's attendance at school
- Reduced school drop-out
- Higher enrollment ratio of girls
- High motivation and aspiration of girl child
- Number of toilets increased in schools separate for girls
- Participation in social activity is increased
- Improvement in taking IFA (iron folic acid) tablet among girls
- Mental attitude towards girls discrimination has changed.
- Girls themselves/Parents/Society become more aware towards the right of a girl child.

Responses of the respondents were recorded as yes and no for which 1 and 0 were assigned respectively. Further to

know the level of impact of scheme their total score was categorized into three levels as;

### Level of Impact of Scheme Score

Low 0-10.33

Medium 10.33-20.66

High > 20.66

### 3.Result and Discussion

An attempt was made to find the impact of the scheme on both beneficiaries and non beneficiaries. This was categorized as low (0-10.33), medium (10.33-20.66) and high (20.66-31.00). The findings have been presented through Table 4.4.1.

**Table 4.1.4:** Distribution of respondents among different categories with respect to impact of scheme

SI. No.	Category	Beneficiaries (n= 50)		Non-beneficiaries (n= 50)	
		Frequency	Percentage (%)	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1.	Low (0-10.33)	7	14	21	42
2.	Medium (10.33-20.66)	32	64	23	46
3.	High (20.66-31.00)	11	22	6	12

It was revealed from the table 4.4.1 that in beneficiaries 22 percent belonged to high level followed by 64 percent in medium level and 14 percent from low level. In non beneficiaries there were 12 percent belonging to high level, 46 percent were from medium level and 42 percent were from low level.

### 4.Conclusion

A holistic approach towards empowerment of girls and women is desirable in order to achieve concrete results. The new strategies and initiatives must conclude various tools of social empowerment of women such as right and access to education, health care, adequate nutrition, right to property and access to equal opportunities, legal and institutional mechanism to help women in need, access to media and finally dispute redressal mechanism. Barriers to empowerment of women and girls are ingrained in socio-cultural practices in India and have hardly been challenged by even women themselves. These barriers not just prevent women from achieving their potential but also keep them away from advancing in life and making choices that affect their lives. Impact of this scheme in beneficiaries 22 percent belonged to high level followed by 64 percent in medium level and 14 percent from low level. In non beneficiaries there were 12 percent belonging to high level, 46 percent were from medium level and 42 percent were from low level.

### References

- [1] Beti Bachao Beti Padhao - Vikaspedia 2016. *Vikaspedia. in*. Retrieved -06-12.
- [2] Gakidou E, Cowling K, Lozano R, Murray CJ. (2010).Increased educational attainment and its effect on child mortality in 175 countries between 1970 and 2009: a systematic analysis.Lancet.376 (9745):959-74.

[3] UNICEF (2011).A Continuum of Care for Adolescent Girls in South Asia: Defining the Issues, Synthesizing Evidence, and Working towards a Policy Agenda UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia.

[4] Shobha Kowli et. al. Int J Cur Res Rev, Oct 2013/Vol 05 (20):83