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Role of Beti Bachao- Beti Padhao and Beti Hai Anmol Schemes in Girls Educational Upliftment and Empowerment in Himachal Pradesh

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Abstract

Gender discrimination, a falling child sex ratio, educational inequality, and socioeconomic hurdles are some of the reasons why India's female child status has been a source of worry. In 2015, the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) initiative was started by the Indian government to tackle these concerns. In 2010, the Beti Hai Anmol Yojana was implemented by the Himachal Pradesh government. The empowerment, education, survival, and safety of girls are the primary goals of these programs. This research aims to better understand how these two programmes have contributed to the advancement of girls in Himachal Pradesh. Government publications, policy papers, research articles, census data, and official statistics are all sources of secondary data used in the study. The results show that these programs have helped enhance girls' socioeconomic situation, minimise gender discrimination, boost school enrolment, and promote awareness about the importance of girls' education. Yet, obstacles such as a lack of knowledge in outlying regions, bureaucratic red tape, and societal and cultural differences persist. Sustaining advances in the welfare of the female child requires sustained governmental support, efficient execution, and community engagement, according to the research.

Keyword: Girl Child, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Beti Hai Anmol Yojana, Women Empowerment, Himachal Pradesh, Gender Equality

1. Introduction

Everyone has a stake in the success or failure of our country's economy. Even a single home, a tiny unit of a nation's economy, may feel the effects of societal standards that prevent women from fully participating, which in turn has a ripple impact on the economy as a whole. Since females in our country tend to have lower levels of education than boys, it is clear that this disparity may impede our nation's economic growth. Women have a literacy rate of 65.46 percent and men's is 82.14%, according to the 2011 Indian census ^[1]. Gradually, however, the government's and other volunteer groups' dogged pursuit of higher female and female-identifying education levels is beginning to bear fruit. A number of government programs, including policy shifts

and funding for educational infrastructure, are producing desirable results at all grade levels.

The plight of girls is precarious in many regions of the country due to discrimination, malnutrition, and the fact that they are not permitted to finish elementary school. Girls' survival rates are much lower than boys', and female foeticide is common. Prime Minister Narendra Modi initiated the BBBP program to educate and protect girls in an effort to overcome this. This is a major step toward India's eventual stature as a global power. Panipat, a district in Haryana, was one of the lowest CSR districts in the nation, therefore Prime Minister Narendra Modi used the city as the launchpad for the BBBP campaign. On January 22, 2015, the Prime Minister inaugurated this plan ^[2].

On top of the BBBP campaign, the government has introduced the Sukanya Samridhhi Yojana to ensure that girls' health, education, and other basic needs are met financially. The precipitous decline in the CSR from 945 in 1991 to 918 in 2011 is cause for grave concern. The program has been expanded to all 640 districts in the nation, from its original start in 100. By working to improve girls' access to safe environments, healthy food, and quality education, the BBBP campaign is making a difference in their lives. Its success may be attributed to the government's periodic guidelines outlining specific goals, intended audiences, and ways to better coordinate the work of several ministries and administrative apparatuses [3].

Concerningly, the child sex ratio has declined from 976 in 1961 to 927 in 2001 and even lower to 918 in 2011, according to the 2001 and 2011 censuses. Among 195 nations ranked for poor CSR, India was 41st in 2012 according to a study by UNICEF. A country's CSR metric provides insight into the extent to which its girls and women are empowered; a downward trend in India's CSR metric suggests a diminishing degree of empowerment. Gender selection before birth, low postnatal survival rate, inferior educational standards, poor health, and less job opportunities are all outcomes of pervasive social norms. There is no way that any of them can promote empowerment. Making sure that all girls have access to school is a fundamental prerequisite. A better life and greater chances for girls are the results of any nation's investment in girls' education. As a result, we see that CSR trends have improved since the BBBP campaign was launched, although at a snail's pace since it is still gaining traction in the face of long-established social conventions [4].

The child sex ratio, the number of girls per thousand men in the age span of 0-6 years, has dropped dramatically, prompting the countrywide start of the BBBP Campaign. Nearly half of the population consists of females. Consequently, we must enable them to contribute to our nation's progress by granting them equal rights, ensuring they may live a life free from discrimination. So, the BBBP campaign has been established at the national, state, district and community levels to raise awareness to rescue and educate the female child [5]. The girls will gain economic independence as a result of this. In order to make welfare services for women and girls more efficient, the BBBP Campaign is working to strengthen cooperation between different government agencies and other interested parties. The youth and other women's organisations, as well as the general public, must work together to ensure that all girls have access to quality education, and this requires deliberate strategy development that will boost social mobilisation and communication.

In a similar vein, in July 2010, the government of Himachal Pradesh instituted the Beti Hai Anmol Yojana to encourage girls from low-income households to pursue school and grant them financial aid. Both programs seek to improve girls' social, educational, and economic standing in order to provide an environment that is conducive to their development and progress [6].

The state of Himachal Pradesh has achieved remarkable progress in empowering women and increasing female literacy. However, low-income and rural areas are not the same. Therefore, in order to comprehend the efficacy of these programs and their potential policy consequences in the future, it is crucial to assess their contribution [7].

A. Objectives of the Study

- The goals and methods of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao and Beti Hai Anmol Yojana should be studied.
- To find out how these programs impacted the education of girls in Himachal Pradesh.
- Review the impact of these programs on raising girls' economic and social standing.
- One goal is to identify potential roadblocks to putting these plans into action.
- Suggest ways that child welfare programs in Himachal Pradesh might be strengthened to better assist girls.

2. Literature Review

Problems with education, illiteracy, economic inequality, the caste system, and societal norms—including restrictions on speech, opportunity, and decision-making—are among the biggest obstacles that girls and women confront when trying to achieve empowerment (Carr et al., 1996). Having girls and women treated with respect in society will encourage them to take part in decision-making at home and in the community. In addition to expanding their access to information and chances for travel, this will also offer them a stronger voice in the decision-making processes of all democratic institutions, as well as in their families, communities, and local governments [8].

In order to help women reach their full potential, the government should implement policies and programs that promote gender equality and ensure that all citizens have equal access to essential services (Goal, 2004). This will help create an enabling environment where women can thrive [9].

The national strategy for the empowerment of women enumerates certain metrics that demonstrate women's social empowerment (2001). The policy aims to combat gender bias in education, prejudice, and illiteracy by providing equal educational opportunities for girls. A lower dropout rate among females and more access to education for everyone will result from this. The improved educational opportunities for these girls will allow them to pursue a wider range of careers and vocations [10].

Politicians, organisations, scholars, and employers have all acknowledged that individual development may lead to community and society level change (Wilson, 1996, Speer & Hughley, 1995, Florin and Wandersman, 1990, Chavez & Wandersman, 1990). Instead of informing the less fortunate that they need to change on a personal level to succeed, the government and organisations should bring about change at the individual level, which is more crucial for social transformation and community integration [11].

Society and its standards can only be changed via the collective effort of all its members. To do this, it is necessary to appreciate one another and acknowledge difference in order to generate creative solutions. Therefore, empowerment is an aspect of personal and societal transformation (Wilson, 1996; Florin & Wandersman, 1990; Speer & Hughley, 1995). Programs like BBBP Campaign aim to empower individuals by fostering communal and individual understanding. It all starts with a social empowerment process, which is essential for initiatives like the BBBP Campaign [12].

A wide range of disciplines and occupations are involved in the empowerment process, including studies of human psychology, educational policy and institutions, social movements, economics, and organisations. The concept of empowerment and its many interpretations is one such issue. The problem is that much of the literature on the subject fails to provide a clear definition or explanation of empowerment.

Rappaport (1984) points out that although defining empowerment is easy, really achieving it is more challenging owing to the diverse desires of the people. The attempt to define empowerment via different formulae and solutions violates the basic notion of empowerment, as pointed out by Rappaport (1984) [13].

According to Bailey (1992), empowerment-related initiatives and programs are better formulated when the relevant stakeholders and the actual situation on the ground are considered. So, everyone participating in the process, from those providing factual input and analysis to those responsible for making improvements and putting plans into action, should be able to grasp the idea of empowerment [14].

Therefore, it is more accurate to think of empowerment as a multi-faceted process that improves the lives of those who participate in it. By giving individuals the tools, they need to solve their own issues and those of their communities, empowerment improves people's quality of life and the quality of life for everyone.

Empowerment is best understood as a process with three parts; it is also multifaceted and social. There are many facets to empowerment due to many causes, such as the several fields that make up sociology, psychology, economics, etc. Each level of a society—individuals, organisations, and communities—contributes to the overall sense of empowerment. All members of society are involved in the empowerment process, making it a social process in essence. The attainment of a shared objective is the result of concerted, ongoing effort toward that objective. In addition to the fact that each scenario and person involved is unique, the process of empowering also differs. A individual and their community are interdependent and linked in an empowered society [15].

Researchers Kaur and Sharma (2004) looked at how educational incentive programs affected the enrolment and persistence of female students in India's northern regions. Their findings showed that financial help reduced the likelihood of dropping out of school for females from low-income homes. According to the authors, scholarship-based interventions encourage parents to put money into their daughters' education, which helps bring about gender parity in educational achievement [16].

A report on the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao program's implementation in various states has been issued by the Women and Child Development Ministry. According to the research, BBBP was essential in bringing attention to the importance of girls' education, fostering more active citizenship, and encouraging more gender-sensitive perspectives. In order to achieve sustainable results, the study recommended enhancing monitoring mechanisms and fostering closer cooperation between entities responsible for implementation [17].

S. Verma and A. Thakur (2018). Examination of the Beti Hai Anmol Yojana and other female child development programs in Himachal Pradesh for their efficacy. According to the research, low-income families were able to attend school more often and with less financial strain thanks to the program's scholarship and incentive programs. Girls' development was positively impacted by the initiative, as seen by the greater educational attendance rates among beneficiaries compared to non-beneficiaries [18].

According to UNICEF India's assessment of gender-focused social welfare programs, raising public awareness and providing financial aid may greatly improve girls' conditions. The study highlighted the positive impact of programs like as Beti Bachao Beti Padhao and Beti Hai Anmol on changing

society attitudes towards daughters and promoting educational opportunities. Nevertheless, in order for implementation to be successful, the research suggested enhancing assessment procedures and increasing public awareness in distant locations [19].

3. Methodology

A. Types of variables

- **Dependent variable:** In this research, societal norms, individual conduct, and individual perception serve as the dependent variables.
- **Independent variable:** Gender, age, level of education, profession, income, and social class are the independent factors in this research.

B. Research Design

This research on the BBBP campaign is mostly descriptive. The research has employed a survey approach to attain its aims. For this study, we used closed-ended questionnaires to gather data. A cross-sectional study design will be used to gather the data.

C. Sample Design

All of India's population will serve as the study's Universe. The people of India who are familiar with the Beti Bachao - Beti Padhao Campaign make up the study's population. The study's sample element is the BBBP (Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao) Campaign, which is well-known to all residents of Rajasthan state. Participants in the research are people living in the Jaipur zone. Systematic sampling was used to gather data.

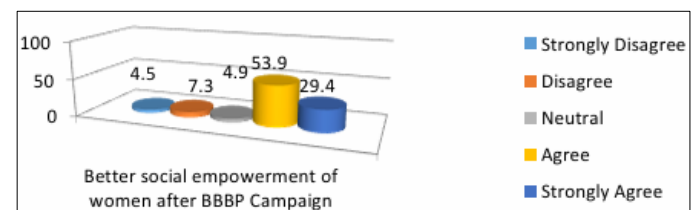
D. Nature and Sources of Data

The main data used in this research came from a survey that used a closed-ended questionnaire.

4. Data Analysis

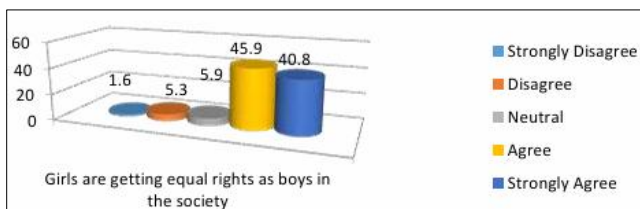
In this section of the research, the data and its analysis are presented. The data is compiled using basic percentage analysis [20].

A. Better social empowerment of women after BBBP Campaign



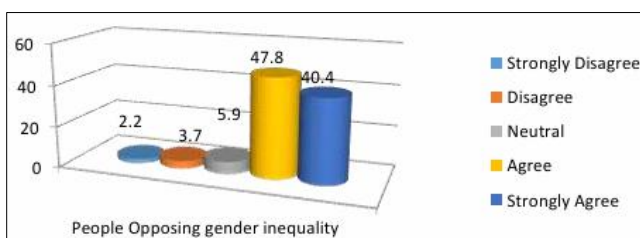
There has been a noticeable increase in women's social empowerment since the launch of the BBBP campaign, according to 53.9% of respondents. Additionally, 29.4% are in complete agreement with this statement. Just a tiny percentage of people (4.5%) strongly disagree, 7.3% disagree, and 4.9% are unsure. The percentage of women in leadership roles is rising, but not quickly enough, across all societal spheres, including the workforce [21]. It is evident from the proportion of respondents who think that the BBBP program has increased women's social empowerment. However, there is a small group of people who disagree. Social mores and a lack of female leadership in economic spheres are major contributors to this problem.

B. Girls are getting equal rights as boys in the society



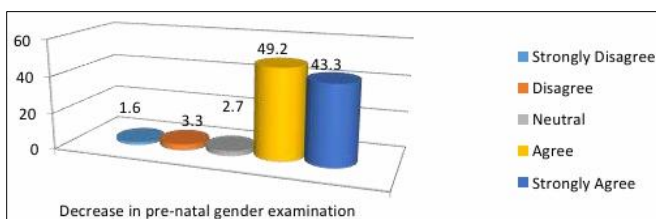
Forty-two percent of those who took the survey strongly agree with this statement, forty-five percent agree, and a pitiful three percent disagree, with one percent strongly disagreeing and five percent remaining neutral. Most people who took the survey believe that females are now receiving the same rights as boys since the BBBP movement began. The graph also displays this. But it is only what the people who took the survey thought. Because it incorporates numerous long-established social conventions, actual changes would be difficult to execute on the ground. This might be seen as a preliminary step towards the gradual changes that are to come [22].

C. People opposing gender inequality



The majority of respondents (40.4% strongly agree, 47.8% agree) believe that gender disparity should not exist. A small percentage (3.9%) were ambivalent, whereas a larger percentage (2.2%) strongly opposed. Misogyny has persisted for a very long time. This is due to several socioeconomic factors. The government has periodically issued several plans, policies, and guidelines [23]. By bringing everyone involved and bolstering the work of many organisations, the BBBP campaign also aims to reduce gender disparity. According to the responses, a huge percentage of the population is aware of this. Thus, it is clear that the idea that gender inequity is unacceptable is gaining more and more attention.

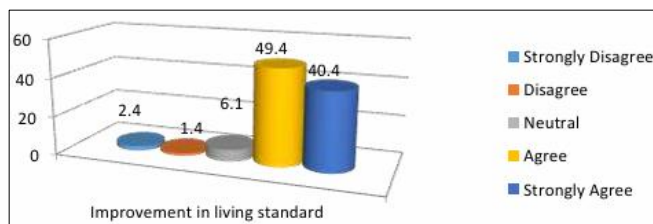
D. Decrease in pre-natal gender examination



A decline in prenatal gender examination has been reported by 43.3% of respondents, 49.2% of whom agree; 2.7% are indifferent; 3.3% disagree; and 1.6% of those who disagree severely. Deciding a child's gender before they are born is against the law in India. The PCPNDT Act of 1994 outlawed it in an effort to limit the biased CSR. However, the same thing was done behind closed doors due to the many societal constraints and standards. Strict enforcement and execution have now progressively reduced prenatal sex selection. The

BBBP campaign and its recommendations have a significant impact on reducing the number of prenatal gender examinations. This is mainly attributable to the improved communication and collaboration among the participating agencies as well as a shift in public perception and attitude [24].

E. Improvement in living standard



Once the BBBP campaign is put into action The majority of respondents (49.4%) believe that girls' living standards have improved, with 40.4% strongly agreeing. A small percentage (2.4%) strongly disagree, 1.4% disagree, and 6.1% are unsure. In terms of the economy, India has done rather well. Generally, gross domestic product has been increasing at a phenomenal rate. The quality of life for the populace has significantly enhanced. The social norms, however, have not contributed to an equal improvement in the economic conditions of girl children. This is why the BBBP campaign is working to find answers; as a result, girls' living standards are improving. This opinion is shared by the majority of responders [25].

5. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme

The government of India started its flagship initiative, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, in 2015. Protecting, educating, and empowering girls so that they may fully participate in society is central to the program's mission, which aims to abolish gender-biased sex selection. Educational programs, interdepartmental collaboration, community mobilisation, and awareness campaigns all play a role in putting the plan into action [26].

A. Major Objectives

- The Child Sex Ratio is on the Rise.
- Strive against bias based on gender.
- Encourage the education of females.
- Ensure the well-being of girls and work to prevent their extinction.
- Advocate for gender equality within the community.



Fig 1: Essential Elements of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Initiative

6. Beti Hai Anmol Yojana

In 2010, the government of Himachal Pradesh launched the Beti Hai Anmol Yojana. For the most part, the program

targets girls from households living below the poverty line (BPL). Initial financial assistance to the mother upon delivery. Full tuition waivers for students in grades 7 through 12. Education, the elimination of child marriage, and the improvement of girls' socioeconomic standing are the goals of the program [27].

A. Major Features

- Funds set aside for the benefit of female children.
- Educational Scholarships from Class I to Graduation.
- For families who qualify, up to two daughters may get this.
- To inspire females to reach their full academic potential.
- Provide aid to families who are economically disadvantaged.

7. Impact on The Status of the Girl Child In Himachal Pradesh

A. Improvement in Educational Attainment

Girls' school enrolment has risen substantially thanks to these programmes. Incentives help low-income families out financially and encourage them to keep their girls in school. Academic necessities including books, uniforms, and tuition may be covered by the Beti Hai Anmol scholarship. Positive views towards females' education have been further solidified by awareness initiatives run under the BBBP [28].



Fig 2: Empowerment of girls in Himachal Pradesh via education

B. Reduction in Gender Discrimination

The plans have elevated the status of daughters and dismantled long-held gender norms. With the support of public awareness campaigns and community outreach events, families now see girls for what they are: valuable members of society. Many regions of Himachal Pradesh have seen a rise in societal acceptability and support for females because of this [29].



Fig 3: Programs to Raise Community and Gender Sensitivity

Economic Empowerment

Improve your financial stability and ensure that you can keep going to school with the aid of the Beti Hai Anmol Yojana. Having a higher level of education increases a girl's chances

of becoming involved in the economy and earning money for her family. As a result, the programs help alleviate poverty and empower women in a roundabout way [30].



Fig 4: How Education Can Help Girls Gain Economic Independence

D. Improvement in Child Welfare Indicators

Girls' health, education, and welfare have all improved as a consequence of awareness campaigns, educational aid, and financial incentives. Positive social transformation is shown by decreased dropout rates and increased school attendance [31].

8. Challenges

Success has not been without its share of obstacles:

- People in tribal and rural communities are unaware.
- Disbursement of benefits might be delayed due to administrative processes.
- Inadequate systems for tracking and assessing progress.
- Conventional gender roles persist.
- Insufficient research on thorough impact evaluations.
- Access to benefits is impacted by economic and social inequalities [32].

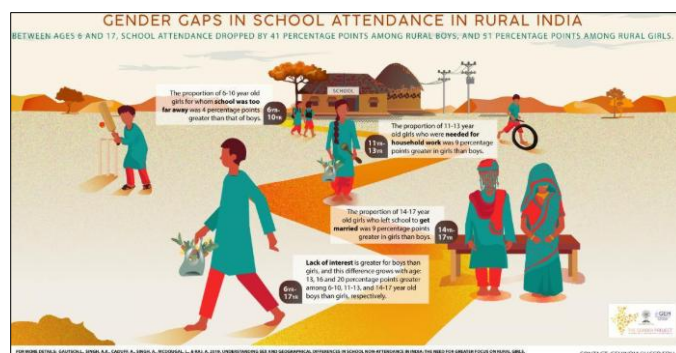


Fig 5: Significant Obstacles Impacting the Growth of Girls

9. Suggestions

- Raise public awareness in underserved rural and tribal communities.
- Raise the bar for digital openness and oversight.
- Scholarships and perks should be distributed more quickly.
- Encourage gender sensitisation programs and community involvement.
- Enhance cooperation between branches of the government.
- Launch programs to help females gain skills and get career advice.
- Conduct impact assessment studies on a regular basis [33].



Fig 6: The Role of Programs to Assist Girls in Achieving Sustainable Development Goals

10. Conclusion

Researchers in Himachal Pradesh found that the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao and Beti Hai Anmol Yojana programs significantly improved the lives of girls in the state. These programs have helped bring attention to the value of females in society, increase their economic independence, decrease prejudice against them, and improve their educational possibilities. Although there are still several obstacles to be conquered, the overall effect has been promising and beneficial. State agencies, schools, NGOs, and communities must maintain their dedication if girls are to be empowered in a sustainable way and gender equality is to be achieved.

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