



ISSN (E): 2277-7695

ISSN (P): 2349-8242

NAAS Rating: 5.23

TPI 2022; SP-11(12): 738-739

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www.thepharmajournal.com

Received: 21-09-2022

Accepted: 27-10-2022

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Impact of Mukhyamantri Balika Cycle Yojana on rural school going girls

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Abstract

Education of women is vital not only on the grounds of social justice, but also to accelerate social transformation. Women constitute 48.46% of the total population of India. Women's low social status is attributed to a variety of factors, including extreme poverty and lack of education. Under influence of this dominant presumption, the present article examines the Impact of Mukhyamantri Balika Cycle Yojana on Rural School Going Girls of Bihar. The present investigation was carried out in Muzaffarpur District of Bihar with one hundred twenty respondents (girls) selected on the basis of availability of bicycle under Mukhyamantri Balika Cycle Yojana. The diagnostic study was confined to three villages from which the respondents were selected on the basis of availability of bicycle under the yojana. The end result revealed that the scheme had a significant impact on rural school going girls at 1% level with corresponding Chi-square value of 184.20**.

Keywords: Mukhyamantri Balika Cycle Yojana, school enrollment of girls, education of rural girls', girls' education

Introduction

Women constitute about half of the population of India. Despite their proficiency in all walks of life, women are neglected lot even today.

The World Conference on Women, 1985, also known as the Third World Conference on Women was held in Nairobi, Kenya from July 15 to July 26, 1985, and recognised that gender equality was not an isolated issue, but encompassed all areas of human activity. Women needed to be involved in all areas, not just those related to gender. The conference urged member states to take constitutional and legal steps to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women, as well as to tailor national strategies to encourage women's participation in efforts to promote peace and development. It also included specific recommendations for gender empowerment in the areas of health, education, and employment. Since education is a prerequisite for human development regardless of gender, the education of girl child should be given due importance for their fuller growth and development.

In spite of all these developments at global level, women in India are denied access to basic education due to a variety of social, economic, and political customs and preferences. Having his sincere concern for this state of affairs the Chief Minister of Bihar Shri Nitish Kumar took the initiative and launched Mukhyamantri Balika Cycle Yojana in the year 2006 to promote Girls' Education in the State. The scheme provides a monetary benefit of Rs. 4500 (before Rs. 3500/-) for the girls for purchase of a bicycle with the only eligibility criterion being enrollment in class IX at a Government High School. Therefore, the researcher wanted to see the impact of this massive program of Government of Bihar empirically with the objective to assess the Impact of Mukhyamantri Balika Cycle Yojana on Rural School Going Girls.

Materials and Methods

This study was conducted by using ex-post-facto design of research. The study was carried out in Muraul Block of Muzaffarpur District of Bihar situated near Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agriculture University, Pusa, Samatipur where the investigator was undergoing her M.Sc. programme. Three villages of the block were chosen randomly to select the sample for the study on the basis of availability of bicycle with them under Mukhyamantri Balika Cycle Yojana. The sample thus consisted of rural school going girls corresponding to 120 rural households. The data were collected with the help of Structured Interview Schedule developed exclusively for the purpose of study by personally meeting the respondents and using direct observation in the study area.

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Results and Discussion

Impact of Mukhyamantri Balika Cycle Yojana on the respondents

Table 1: Chi-square test showing Impact analysis of Mukhyamantri Balika Cycle Yojana on girls

Test Statistics	Impact
Chi-Square Test	184.20**
df	2
Significance level	0.01

Pearson's Chi-Square test was used to assess the Impact of Mukhyamantri Balika Cycle Yojana in the study. The results of Chi-square test presented in Table 1. Indicated that the Mukhyamantri Balika Cycle Yojana had a significant impact on rural school going girls at 1% level with corresponding Chi-square value of 184.20**.

Conclusion

It can be concluded from the study that the provision of bicycle under Mukhyamantri Balika Cycle Yojana of Government of Bihar played a positive and significant role in girls' education by reducing school dropouts of girls, increasing their enrollment in schools and furthering their education upto high level, thus empowering them.

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