



Evaluating The Effectiveness Of Chief Minister Girl Child Protection Scheme Special Reference To Coimbatore District

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ABSTRACT

A crucial government program, the Chief Minister Girl Child Protection Scheme works to improve the welfare, education, and financial stability of girls, especially those from low-income households. This study assesses the program's efficacy critically in the Coimbatore district, concentrating on how it affects financial empowerment, socioeconomic advancement, and educational attainment. Structured questionnaires were used to survey a sample of 99 respondents in order to evaluate beneficiaries' awareness, accessibility, and satisfaction with the program. In order to comprehend more general implementation patterns, other data sources were also examined. While the program has improved female literacy rates, financial independence, and gender equality, the report points out that there are still major obstacles to overcome, such as a lack of knowledge, red tape, and delays in money disbursement. The results highlight the necessity of more effective awareness efforts, streamlined application processes, and better monitoring systems to guarantee the program successfully reaches its target audience. The report ends with legislative recommendations meant to increase the scheme's effectiveness and help Tamil Nadu's girls become more empowered overall.

Keywords: Girl Child Protection Scheme, Female Education, Socio-Economic Impact, Government Welfare Programs, Coimbatore, Policy Evaluation

INTRODUCTION

Introduced by the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu in 1992 (J. JAYALALITHA), the Chief Minister's Girl Child Protection Scheme is a groundbreaking and innovative program for the welfare of girls. By empowering and defending the rights of girls through direct government funding, the Girl Child Protection Scheme seeks to abolish gender discrimination.

The Tamil Nadu government introduced the Chief Minister's Girl Child Protection Scheme, a ground-breaking program designed to advance the welfare and safety of the state's female youth. The program aims to address concerns including education, health, and safety because it recognizes how vulnerable girl children are to a variety of socioeconomic and cultural challenges. With an emphasis on its capacity to empower and safeguard girl children, this study intends to investigate the Chief Minister's Girl Child Protection Scheme's implementation, effects, and efficacy in Tamil Nadu. Tamil Nadu's girl children suffer many obstacles, such as restricted access to economic, medical, and educational opportunities.

By giving girl children from underprivileged homes financial aid, medical support, and vocational training, the program seeks to bridge these inequities. This study aims to provide a better knowledge of the scheme's advantages and disadvantages by investigating the experiences and results of beneficiaries. This will help policymakers and practitioners better promote the development and well-being of Tamil Nadu's female children.

With programs like the Chief Minister's Girl Child Protection Scheme, Tamil Nadu has made great strides in advancing the welfare of girls. But in spite of these initiatives, the state's girl children still confront many obstacles. The 2011 Census found that there were 946 girls for every 1000 boys in Tamil Nadu, underscoring the necessity of ongoing initiatives to advance the wellbeing of all children.

Unique feature of the scheme was the provision of financial benefits to families with girl children. The government set up fixed deposits in the names of the girls, with the promise of a substantial sum when they turned 18, provided they met specific conditions such as completing their education and remaining unmarried. This financial security aimed to alleviate the economic burden on families and provide a strong incentive to raise girls with dignity and respect, ensuring they had equal opportunities to succeed in life.

With this effort, Tamil Nadu aimed to change the cultural perception of females as valuable members of society rather than as a burden. The growing number of females who postponed marriage, pursued more education, and benefited from better health and welfare can be used to gauge the program's effectiveness. It significantly influenced how Tamil Nadu's girls were viewed, positioning the state as a pioneer in the execution of laws pertaining to women's rights and gender equality.

The plan has encountered difficulties over time, despite its achievements. Its full potential was hampered by implementation problems, especially in rural areas where there was little knowledge of the program. Furthermore, several families still had trouble adhering to the program's requirements, which included making sure their daughters stayed single and pursued their studies until maturity. The scheme's sustained efficacy depends on resolving these problems and enhancing outreach initiatives.

OBJECTIVE

- To evaluate financial support provided by the scheme and its impact on the economic wellbeing of girl children and their family.
- To assess how well the program is working to raise female literacy rates and encourage education for girls.
- To investigate the potential of financial incentives to prevent child marriages and guarantee the socioeconomic advancement of households with girls.

GIRL CHILD PROTECTION SCHEME

SCHEME I: For A Single Girl Child Families With A Single Girl Child Are Eligible For The Following Benefits Under Scheme

Fixed Deposit:

A ₹50,000 fixed deposit is created with Tamil Nadu Power Finance and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited in the girl child's name.

Fixed Deposit Receipt:

The family receives a copy of the fixed deposit receipt for their records.

Renewal:

To guarantee the development of the invested sum, the fixed deposit is extended every five years.

Benefits of Maturity:

The cumulative sum, plus interest, is paid to the beneficiary when the girl child turns 18. If the scheme's requirements are fulfilled, this funding can be used for more education, wedding costs, or other necessities.

By offering cash incentives to families with a single girl child, this program seeks to prevent female infanticide, discourage the desire for male offspring, and support small family norms. The program strives to empower women and advance gender equality in Tamil Nadu by providing financial assistance and promoting the education and general well-being of girls.

SCHEME II: For Two Female Offspring Families with two girls benefit from the following under scheme**Fixed Deposit:**

A total of ₹50,000 is deposited in the names of the two girl children, with ₹25,000 going to each of them. The Tamil Nadu Power Finance and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited is the entity with which these fixed deposits are placed.

Fixed Deposit Receipt:

The family receives a copy of the fixed deposit receipt for their records. Renewal: To guarantee the development of the deposited sum, the fixed deposits are renewed every five years.

Benefits of Maturity:

The beneficiaries receive the accrued sum plus interest when the girl children turn 18 years old. This funding can be used for other purposes, such as marriage expenditures or further educationmarital costs, or other requirements, as long as the program's requirements are fulfilled.

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LITERATURE REVIEW

Impact on Reducing Female Infanticide According to a research by Jayalakshmi and Swaminathan (2016), the CMGCPs's ability to lower the rates of female infanticide in Tamil Nadu was one of its main achievements. By giving families set deposits for girls' offspring, sex-selective abortion and infanticide were less likely to occur. According to Jayalakshmi and Swaminathan (2016), the state's perception of the worth of girl children was altered by these incentives, which also acted as a strong deterrent to discriminatory practices.

Promoting Girls' Education The program has received praise for helping to raise Tamil Nadu's female literacy rates. Ravichandran and Gopal (2018) claim that the scheme's financial incentives encouraged families to send their daughters to school, which raised the number of females enrolled in school, particularly in rural areas. A survey by the Tamil Nadu Women's Development Corporation (TNWDC) supports this conclusion by demonstrating a link between the scheme's implementation and higher school enrollment rates for females (Ravichandran & Gopal, 2018).

Women's Empowerment By offering them financial stability and educational opportunities, the CMGCPs significantly contributed to the economic empowerment of girls, according to a National Commission for Women (NCW) report. Many women were able to overcome the cycle of poverty and reliance on men as a result. The program was viewed as a crucial step in the state's efforts to achieve gender parity (NCW, 2019).

Impact of Postponing Child Marriage The CMGCPs encourages families to postpone their daughters' marriage until they are of legal marriageable age and have finished their education, which is one of its main characteristics. According to a 2017 study by Selvakumar and Murugesan, the program significantly decreased the number of child marriages in Tamil Nadu. The financial incentives encouraged families to spend more on their girls' education, delaying marriage and enhancing their daughters' future prospects (Selvakumar & Murugesan, 2017).

Impacts on Society and Culture The social impact of the CMGCPs on changing society perceptions of females has been the subject of numerous studies. According to Thirunavukkarasu and Rajendran (2015), the financial assistance provided by the program was essential in influencing public opinion and assisting families in seeing girls as being on par with boys. They pointed out that by emphasizing the financial advantages of raising educated girls, the program also assisted in dispelling outdated gender stereotypes (Thirunavukkarasu & Rajendran, 2015).

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research design is mostly descriptive in nature. Sampling method used for Data gathering is. random sampling procedure. Data collection was done through both primary and secondary sources. Specifically designed questionnaire were used to gather the data.

The population comprises of females who have CHIEF MINISTER GIRL CHILD PROTECTION scheme beneficiaries and aware about that scheme. The sample size is 99 Secondary information was gathered from reports that Tamil Nadu government officials had released and broadcasted in websites.

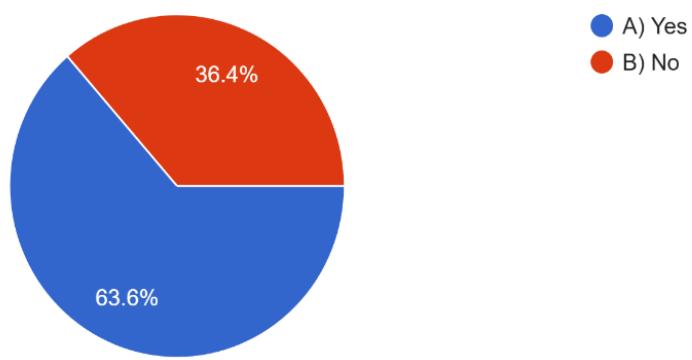
LIMITATION OF THE STUDY

- The sample respondents taken for the study is limited.
- The sample size for the study is 99 only.
- Due to lack of time, the study has been restricted to Coimbatore district only.

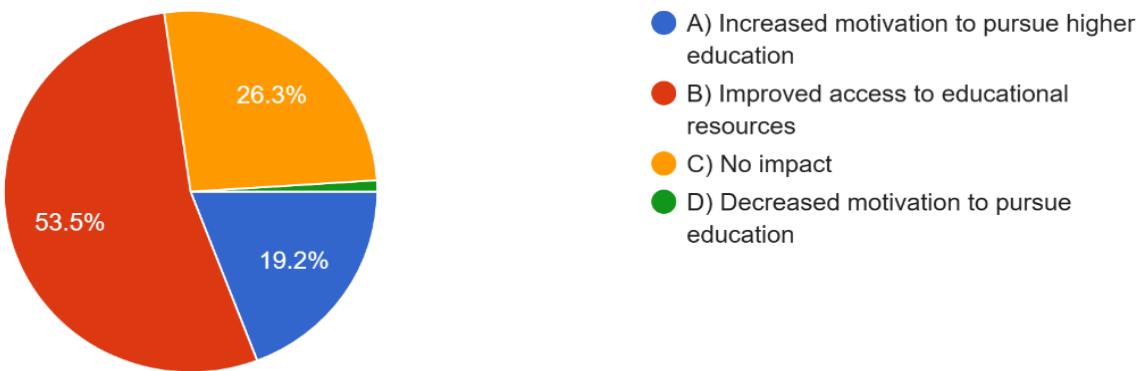
FINDINGS

THE SCHEME ENCOURAGED YOU OR YOUR FAMILY MEMBERS TO PURSUE EDUCATION

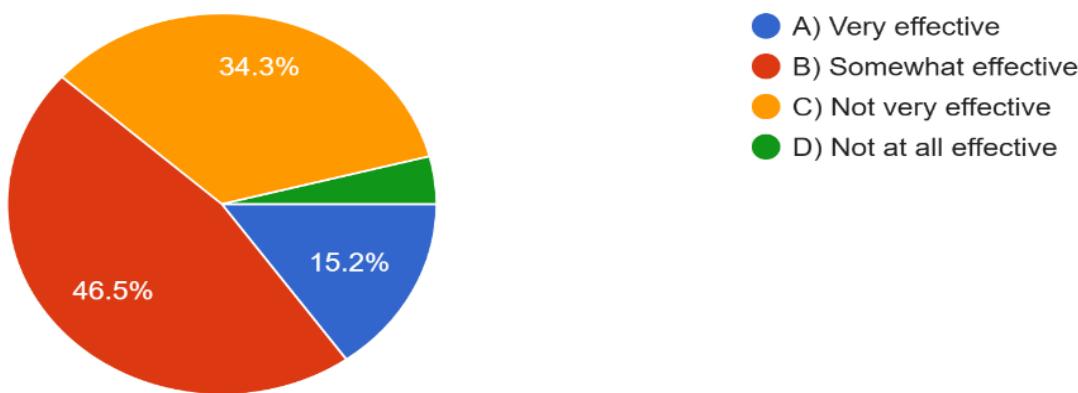
63.6% answered Yes, indicating the scheme positively influenced education. 36.4% answered No, showing that a significant portion did not find the scheme effective in encouraging education. This result suggests that the scheme has been somewhat successful in promoting female education, with a majority (63.6%) benefiting from it. However, the 36.4% who did not find it encouraging raises concerns about potential barriers such as: 1) Lack of awareness about the scheme. 2) Financial or social constraints still affecting education. 3) Challenges in accessing the benefits.



THE SCHEME IMPACTED YOUR EDUCATIONAL ASPIRATIONS



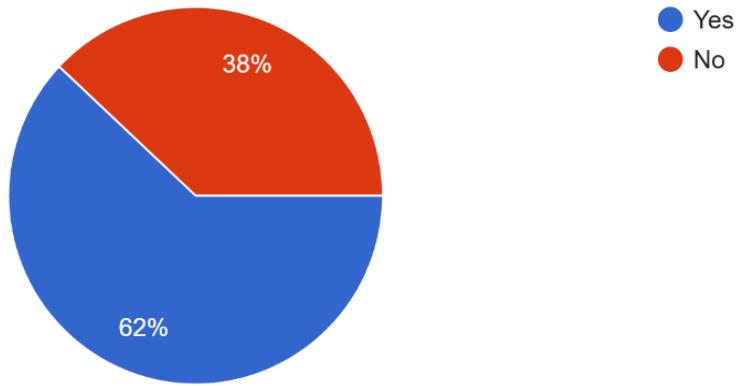
9.2% Increased motivation to pursue higher education. 53.5% Improved access to educational resources. 26.3% No impact. A very small percentage (0.2%) experienced decreased motivation to pursue education. The majority (53.5%) of respondents feel that the scheme has improved access to educational resources. This suggests that the scheme is playing a significant role in reducing financial barriers and providing necessary learning materials. 19.2% reported increased motivation to pursue higher education, which indicates that the scheme is not only providing resources but also inspiring students to continue their education beyond basic levels. 26.3% feel that the scheme has had no impact on their educational aspirations, which suggests potential gaps in its implementation or accessibility. A very small portion experienced decreased motivation, which might be due to personal or external factors.



The majority (46.5%) believe the financial incentives are somewhat effective, meaning they help but may not be sufficient alone to prevent child marriages. 15.2% consider them very effective, indicating that for some families, financial support has successfully delayed early marriages. 34.3% feel the incentives are not very effective, suggesting that financial aid alone might not be enough to combat child marriage, and other ...

SCHEME IMPROVED YOUR FAMILY'S SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS

A majority (62%) of respondents believe that the scheme has contributed positively to their family's socioeconomic status. This suggests that the scheme has been effective for a significant portion of beneficiaries. However, the 38% who reported no improvement indicate that the scheme may have limitations or might not be uniformly beneficial for all families.



IMPACT ON REDUCING FEMALE INFANTICIDE AND IMPROVING SURVIVAL RATES

In Tamil Nadu, the Chief Minister's Girl Child Protection Scheme has significantly improved the survival rates of girls and decreased female infanticide. Because of ingrained gender prejudice and financial pressures, female infanticide was a major problem in some areas prior to the scheme's inception. The program gave households real advantages for raising daughters by providing financial incentives and fixed deposits connected to the birth and education of girl offspring. By encouraging families to cherish and safeguard their girl offspring, this financial assistance contributed to a change in the way society views gender. Studies have shown that the financial security offered by the program reduced the financial stress, resulting in a significant drop in the rates of female infanticide in the areas where it was implemented.

Urging parents to cherish and safeguard their female offspring. According to studies, there was a problem with rearing females in the areas where the program was implemented. Additionally, the program's emphasis on giving families financial stability resulted in a notable rise in the survival rate of girls. The program significantly improved the well-being of Tamil Nadu's female children and made their surroundings safer by tackling the cultural and economic causes of gender-based violence.

EFFECTIVENESS IN PROMOTING EDUCATION AND INCREASE FEMALE LITERACY

In Tamil Nadu, the Chief Minister's Girl Child Protection Scheme has been very successful in raising female literacy rates and advancing education. The program explicitly encouraged families, especially those in rural and economically challenged areas, to prioritize sending their daughters to school by providing financial incentives and fixed deposits linked to the education of girl children. According to research, this financial assistance was a powerful inducement for families to spend money on their daughters' education, which helped lower the dropout rates among girls.

Girls' school enrollment increased significantly as a result of the program, particularly at the secondary and upper secondary levels. Furthermore, the financial incentives given to families for their daughters' further education contributed to the reduction of the gender gap in education by creating an atmosphere in which girls had greater access to educational possibilities. Because it not only promoted educational access but also made sure that girls received a high-quality education, which is crucial for their personal growth and empowerment. This effort has played a significant role in raising female literacy rates. Through these initiatives, the program has significantly changed Tamil Nadu's educational environment for girls.

ROLE OF FINANCIAL INCENTIVES IN DELAYING CHILD MARRIAGES

Girls' school enrollment increased significantly as a result of the program, particularly at the secondary and upper secondary levels. Furthermore, the financial incentives given to families for their daughters' further education contributed to the reduction of the gender gap in education by creating an atmosphere in which girls had greater access to educational possibilities. Because it not only promoted educational access but also made sure that girls received a high-quality education—which is crucial for their personal growth and empowerment—this effort has played a significant role in raising female literacy rates. Through these initiatives, the program has significantly changed Tamil Nadu's educational environment for girls.

The program has successfully increased public knowledge of the risks of child marriage and how it harms girls' development and health. Because of this, it has greatly helped to lower the number of child marriages in Tamil Nadu, giving girls more time to finish their schooling and enhance their socioeconomic opportunities. Women and girls' well-being has been positively impacted for a long time by this, giving them the ability to make wise decisions about their futures.

CONCLUSION

The Chief Minister's Girl Child Protection Scheme has greatly improved the lives of girl children and their families in Tamil Nadu and has been a game-changing effort. By giving families financial support and changing cultural perceptions of gender equality, the program's financial incentives have significantly decreased female infanticide and increased the survival rates of girl children. Additionally, especially in rural and economically deprived areas, it has successfully encouraged education, resulting in increased school enrollment rates and improved reading levels for girls. The program has also played a significant role in preventing underage marriages because the cash rewards encouraged families to put their daughters' education and personal growth ahead of marriage.

Girls have benefited from improved long-term health, educational, and socioeconomic prospects as a result of this. Lastly, by lowering financial burdens and allowing for increased investment in their daughters' future, the program has helped families with girls achieve socioeconomic advancement. All things considered, the Chief Minister's Girl Child Protection Scheme has made great progress in tackling gender-based issues and has established the groundwork for a more just society in which girls can prosper and make a substantial contribution to the advancement of the state.

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