



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CREATIVE RESEARCH THOUGHTS (IJCRT)

An International Open Access, Peer-reviewed, Refereed Journal

“Impact Of Free Bus In Karnataka”

(A special reference to Bangalore city)

MBATT (TOURISM & TRAVEL PROGRAMME)

Faculty of Business Studies, Sharnbasva
University, Kalaburagi

FACULTY OF BUSINESS STUDIES
DEPARTMENT OF TRAVEL AND TOURISM
SHARNVASVA UNIVERSITY, KALABURAGI

Submitted by:

JYOTI

USN: SG24MBT005

2024-2025

ABSTRACT

Shakti Plan" is an imaginative drive sent off by the Public authority of Karnataka in 2023 Roused by the fruitful execution of comparative plans in Delhi, Punjab and Tamil Nadu, the essential goal of Shakti Plan is to engage ladies by giving them free transport. transport administrations inside the country. The framework requires the obtaining of a savvy card through a web-based search process, enhanced by the utilization of transitory distinguishing proof techniques until the card is given. The assessed number of recipients of this drive surpasses 41,000 ladies, working with their admittance to a wide transport organization, including city lines, intercity transports and express transports. This not just further develops admittance to training, work, medical services and different open doors, yet in addition altogether adds to the monetary autonomy and general prosperity of ladies. In any case, there are still questions about the monetary effect of the Shakti program. Late information from the Division of Transport, Legislature of Karnataka offers a few empowering bits of knowledge. It shows that the Shakti plot has brought about a

huge expansion in both ridership and income for every one of the four street transport organizations, including Karnataka State Street Transport Company (KSRTC) and Bangalore Metropolitan Vehicle Partnership (BMTC). Starting from the presentation of the framework, the typical day to day number of travellers has expanded extensively. The information shows that around 36.5% of the respondents concur or firmly concur that the Karnataka Shakti program has urged ladies to partake in the country building process, while 63.5% differ or are nonpartisan about its effect, demonstrating the way that the view of the members. of the usefulness of the framework are unique. Proficiency in such manner. The viability of the framework in such manner. Around 40.3% of respondents concur or firmly concur that the Shakti framework has altogether added to ladies' financial steadiness, while 59.7% differ or are impartial, reflecting various view of the framework's effect on ladies' monetary dependability.

Keywords: Shakti Plan, KSRTC, BMTC.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Karnataka Shakti Plan is the lead plan of the Public authority of Karnataka. The super evenhanded behind the send off of Shakti Plan is to enable ladies monetarily by giving them free transport administrations. Under the Karnataka Shakti program, free transport traverse Karnataka is given to all female recipients in the territory of Karnataka. The complementary lift starting with one point then onto the next is substantial just inside the province of Karnataka. Female recipients can benefit complementary lifts under Shakti program just in normal, city, express and planned transports. Ladies don't get free transport administration in AC, AC Sleeper, Non AC Sleeper or extravagance transports. Ladies The recipient can go starting with one spot then onto the next, there is no base mileage limit. A brilliant card is compulsory to utilize the free transport ride of the Shakti program. Ladies can apply for the Shakti Plan shrewd card with the expectation of complimentary transport travel by filling the internet based application structure. One of the five commitments that assisted the Congress with celebrating win Karnataka is the Shakti conspire, which gives free travel to ladies across the state in all non-empathetic transports. While any remaining commitments are yet to be satisfied, the Shakti framework was sent off on June 11 and from that point forward every one of the four transport organizations - Karnataka State Street Transport Enterprise (KSRTC), Kalyana Karnataka Street Transport Company (KKRTC), North. Western Karnataka Street Transport Enterprise (NWKRTC) and Bangalore Metropolitan Vehicle Company (BMTC) have developed consistently. Boss Clergyman Siddaramaiah offering free travel to ladies in KSRTC transports, Danamma from Bagalkot, a housewife who is going to Mysuru, said she intends to travel. By KSRTC transport without precedent for a decade. "On the off chance that the public authority had not given complementary lifts, I couldn't have ever visited the vacationer and strict spots," said Danamma, who was going with her grandma, sister and three little girls. He chose to end his visit quickly in the midst of hypothesis that the free travel could end after the 2024 general political decision.

A few ranchers from Hassan and encompassing regions who visit Madikeri and Kodagu showcases and go house to house to sell privately developed vegetables, said they can save more than Rs 200 every day through the Shakti plot.

The plan is estimable. to accomplish this objective, however numerous ladies don't profit from it. A static transport armada implies many seats are unused or underserved. Ladies need to utilize private transports, mentors or different method for transport there at significant individual cost. For the Shakti framework to truly affect ladies, the transport armada should be multiplied to grow availability, increment recurrence and dispose of blockage. Activity is additionally expected to make strolling to transport stops protected and agreeable, he added. Savvy Card Shakti offers a chance to bring private and informal administrations under the framework. Ladies can go for nothing in all open or confidential transports and transport guides are repaid as per the quantity of cards utilized in the transport, Gadepalli said. Starting from the presentation of the Shakti program, BMTC guides have confronted a few difficulties in their days. - day to day exercises. One noticeable test is the expanded responsibility related with the quantity of travelers involving the framework for complementary lifts. A BMTC chief made sense of, "Prior, it was simpler on the grounds that around 30% of ladies had a card. Presently we need to give no passes to everybody. We used to give 40-50 passes to ladies, yet presently the number has expanded to 80-90." BMTC guides face challenges in computerized While confirming IDs. The interaction is tedious, particularly during top hours when passage times are restricted. A few travelers might attempt to go without a legitimate ticket, realizing that the guide can't rebuff them. This has prompted situations where travel is ticketless. As ladies can now ride transports for nothing, a significant number of them have quit involving vehicles for driving, which has prompted a drop in drivers' pay. The Shakti plot has made driving issues for understudies in Bengaluru. Transports turned out to be progressively clogged as the quantity of travelers involving the plan for complementary lifts expanded. Understudies find it hard to track down sufficient room while driving to schools and universities consistently. Shakti Plan has without a doubt further developed public vehicle openness for ladies and transsexuals. Notwithstanding, it needs factors, for example, tending to the difficulties looked by BMTC representatives, drivers and confidential transport administrators, which are vital for the practical and fruitful execution of the framework.

1.2 REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Kanakamalini M.A. &Pratheeksha Gopinath (2003) this paper analyzes the socio-economic impact of the Shakti system against the background of various critical comments received since its launch. It examines the decline in female labour force participation in Karnataka and the factors contributing to it. The nature of women's unpaid housekeeping is also taken into account. It looks at two main factors i.e. financial dependence and financial security. It highlights various factors that prevent women from moving in public places.

Jilly Philippa Joel Premkumar, Sameem Banu, Meenal J (2023) This paper analyzes the benefits and effects of the program "Free bus rides for women in public transport for women to achieve several relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), such as goal 1.4 (access to basic services), goal 4.3 (equal access to more high education), goal 5.2 (violence against women to eliminate in the public and private sectors), goal 8.5 (decent work) and goal 11.2 (safe public transport) and find out the problems that women face while benefiting from the system..

S. PREETHIKA, Dr. M. KALIMUTHU (2023) The purpose of this study is to better understand passenger opinion and female satisfaction about the free bus service provided by the government of Tamil Nadu and to assess the extent to which female passengers use these services. This study includes a detailed research report on the target group and a descriptive analysis of the impact of free buses in Tamil Nadu.

S. Kiruthika, Dr.G. Ravi (2022) this research paper described the impact of running free buses for women in the Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation (TNSTC) in Tamil Nadu. After the government announced free bus rides for all women, most female passengers are likely to switch from private buses to government buses. Women who travel by other means of transport may also prefer to travel by government buses.

Dr. (Smt.) Rajeshwari M. Shettar (2023) this study is descriptive in nature and based on secondary data. The study found that women's empowerment can have many positive effects on women's lives, including better economic opportunities, more control over their lives, greater participation in politics and greater gender equality. The study also found that allowing women to participate fully in the economy leads to better-paid work for women, which can help lift them and their families out of povert.

1.3 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To identify the obstacles and challenges to the proper execution of the Shakti Scheme.
- To analyses women beneficiaries' perspectives and experiences with the Shakti Scheme.
- To understand the Shakti scheme's socioeconomic impact.
- To assess the Shakti scheme's coverage, accessibility, availability and reliability of bus services for female beneficiaries.

1.4 SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The scope of my study could include examining the objectives and implementation of the scheme, analysing the impact on women's access to education, employment, and entrepreneurship opportunities, assessing the effectiveness of the scheme in promoting women's financial inclusion, and exploring the challenges and potential solutions for further enhancing women's mobility and financial independence. By conducting a comprehensive study, we can provide valuable insights into the empowerment of women through this scheme.

1.5 LIMITATIONS

My study covers the only the part of Bangalore city and only college girl students and ladies are involved for collecting the information regarding my topic. Generally, survey results depend upon the truthfulness of the responses i collected from the respondents.

1.6 METHODOLOGY

The Shakti Scheme, initiated by the Government of Karnataka in 2023, offers free bus transportation to women in the state. In the present study the data has collected using a structured questionnaire which was designed after having a proper review of literature. The structured question was distributed in google forms to collect the required data. These questionnaires were distributed to students, working women, and girls at bus stops who regularly use buses for travel. The survey links were sent via email, WhatsApp, Face book, and Twitter. To prevent duplicate responses, respondents had to verify their email addresses. The survey was conducted from January 6th, 2024, to February 25th, 2024, and received responses from 203 individuals. The collected data from the survey were analysed for further insights. Also collected information from secondary sources which includes websites and other secondary sources.

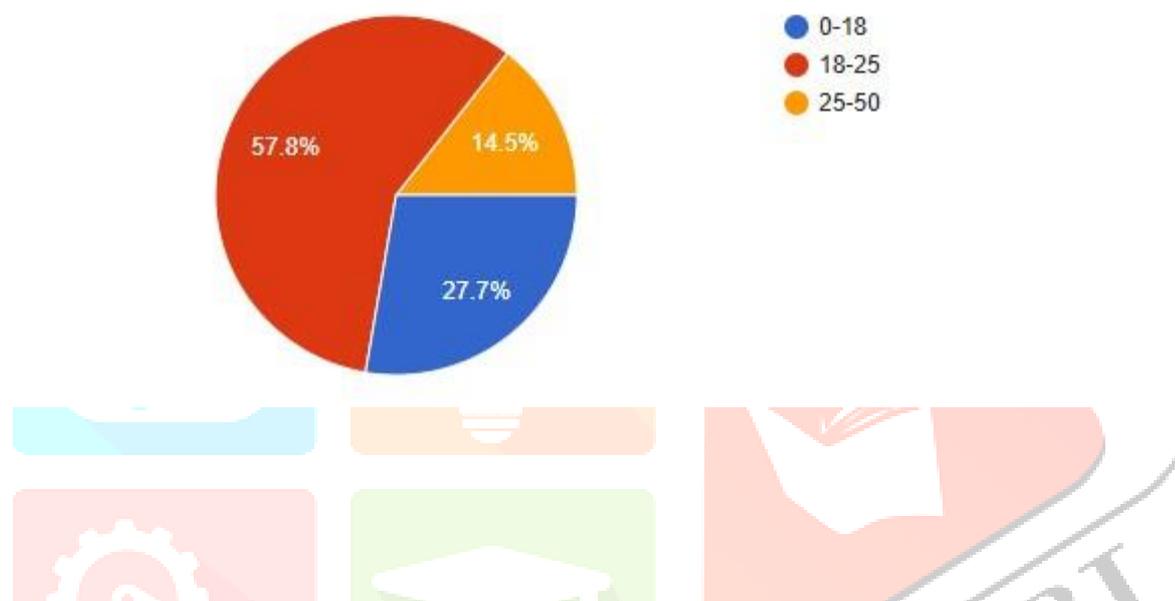
1.7 STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

"Shakti Scheme" is an innovative initiative launched by the Government of Karnataka in 2023. Inspired by the successful implementation of similar schemes in Delhi, Punjab and Tamil Nadu, the primary objective of Shakti Scheme is to empower women by providing them free bus transport. Transport services within the state. Empowering women to improve their work and achieve financial independence is one of the main concerns of every government. The Karnataka government has promised free transport to the people and with the Shakti programme, the Karnataka government is trying to empower women in the state to develop their livelihoods. In this study, the research tried to understand the benefits that women received through the Shakti program launched by the Karnataka government. The research also used a structured questionnaire to find out how the system was financially profitable using basic data (203 responses).

1.8 STATISTICS

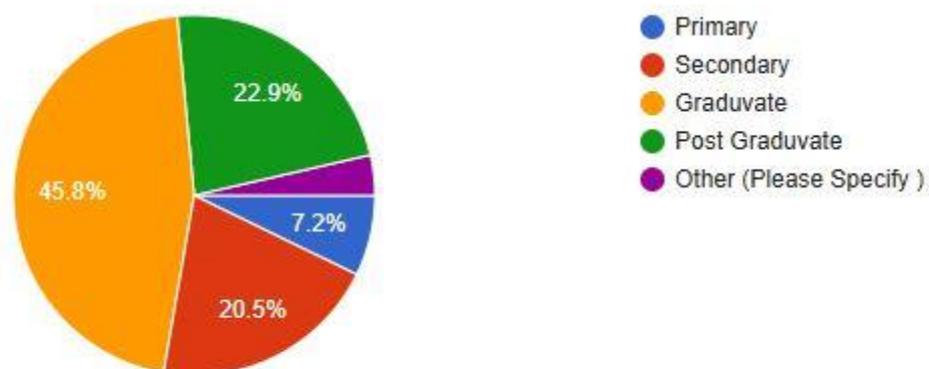
1.Age

83 responses



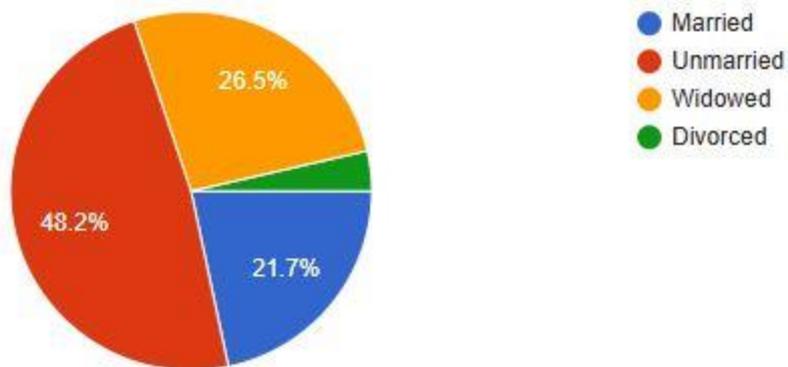
2.Educational Qualification:

83 responses



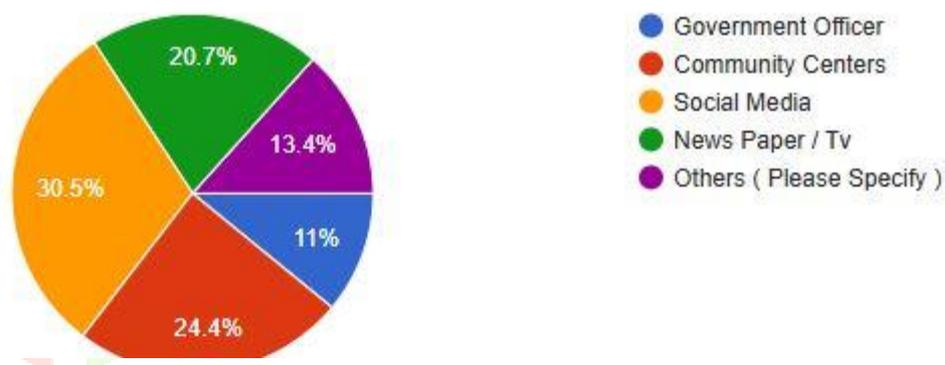
3.Marital Status:

83 responses



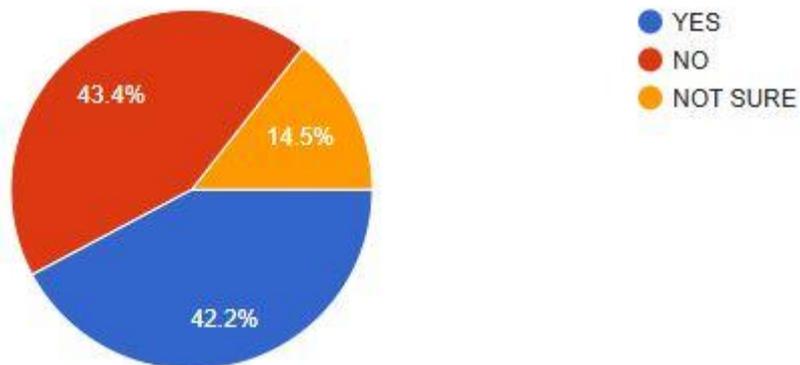
4.How did you first learn about the Stree Shakti Scheme?

82 responses



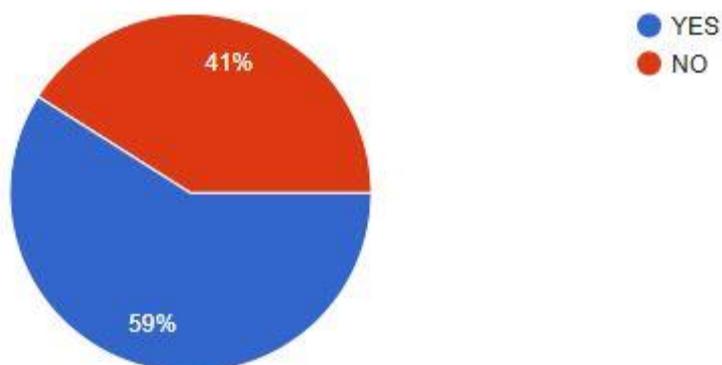
5. Do you think the Stree Shakti Scheme is beneficial for women in your community?

83 responses



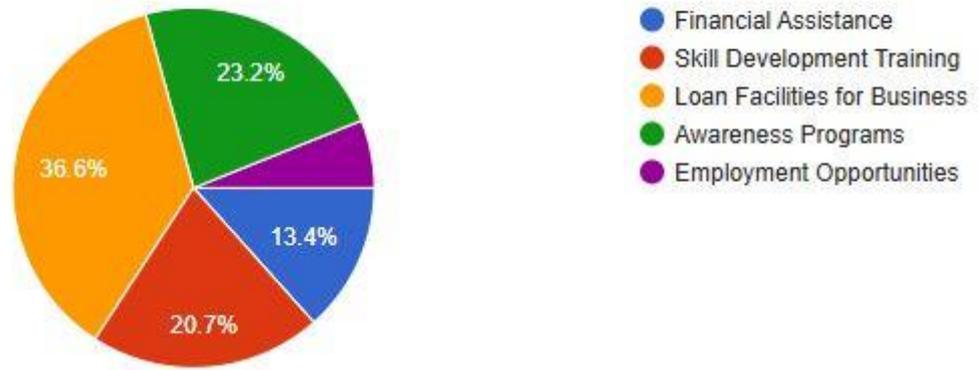
6. Have you participated in any activities or programs under the Stree Shakti Scheme?

83 responses



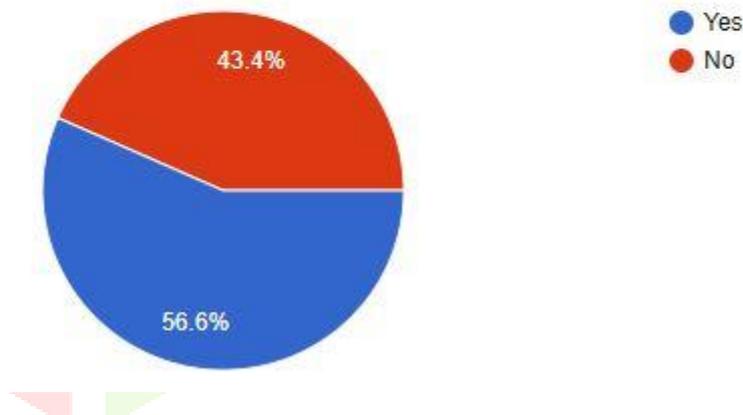
7. What type of support have you received from the scheme?

82 responses



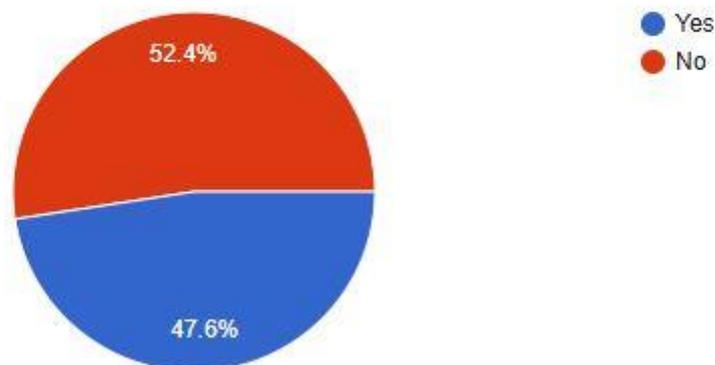
8. Have you started any business or work after receiving support from the Stree Shakti Scheme?

83 responses



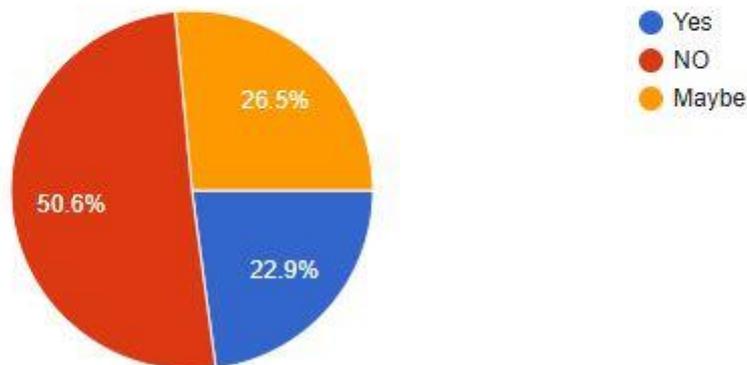
9. Do you think the financial support or loan you received was sufficient to start or expand your business?

82 responses



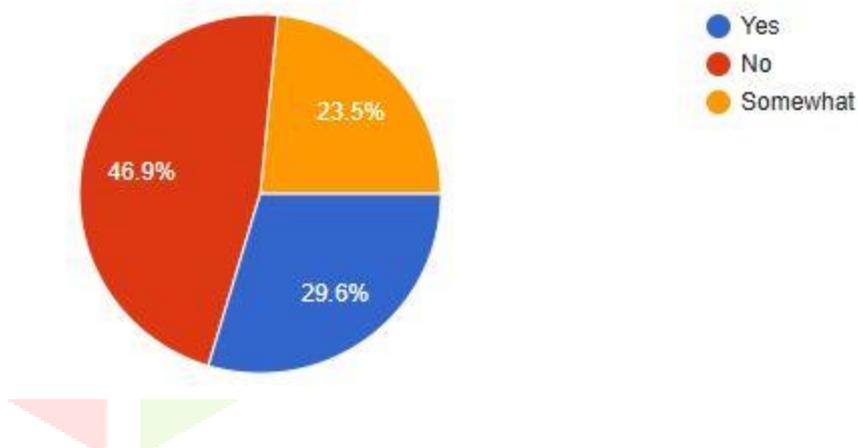
10. Has the Stree Shakti Scheme helped you in improving your financial condition?

83 responses



11. Has your participation in the scheme increased your confidence and independence?

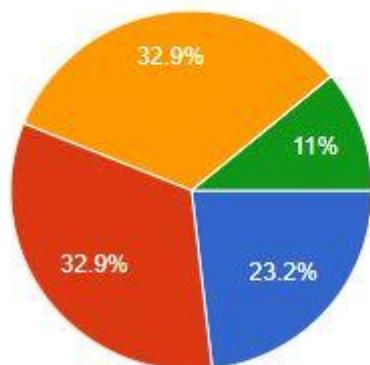
81 responses



12. What challenges have you faced while participating in the Stree Shakti Scheme?



82 responses

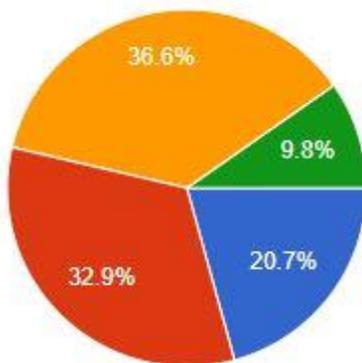


- Lack of Information
- Insufficient financial support
- Lack of training opportunities
- Social barriers

13. What changes have you observed in your community due to the Stree Shakti Scheme ?



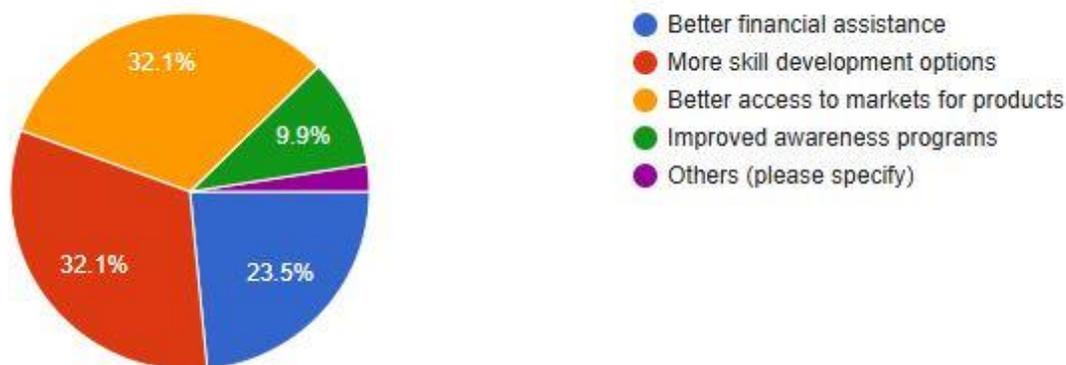
82 responses



- Increased employment for women
- Improved social status of women
- Increased awareness about women's rights
- Others (please specify)

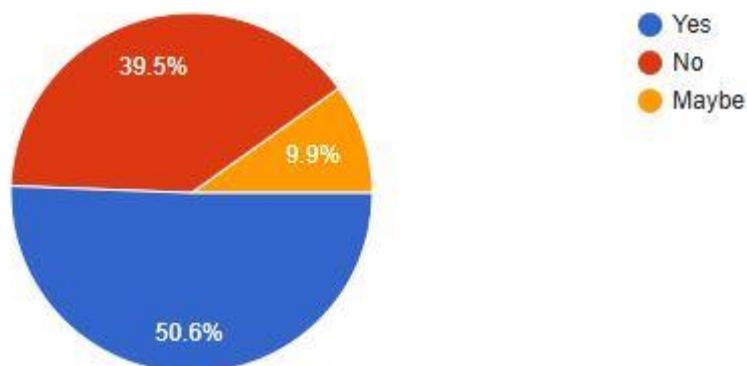
14. What additional support do you think should be provided to women under the Stree Shakti Scheme?

81 responses



15. Would you recommend the Stree Shakti Scheme to other women in your community?

81 responses



CONCLUSION

The Shakti scheme, implemented by the Siddaramaiah-led Karnataka government, has garnered attention due to its provision of free ridership for women on buses operated by various government agencies. While similar schemes have been introduced by other state governments in the past, a comprehensive evaluation of the success of these schemes will take a few years as most of them are recent initiatives. The benefits of such policies can accrue over a long period and extend beyond safety and more employment opportunities to being more free, enjoying more leisure time and having the ability to take on more activities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Empowering women's mobility and financial independence is crucial for their overall well being and societal progress. Drawing insights from various studies, here are suggestions based on the Karnataka Shakthi Scheme:

a) Implement Psychological Empowerment Programs:

Psychological empowerment has been shown to enhance overall well-being in families and Communities. Incorporating such programs into the Karnataka Shakthi Scheme can help women gain confidence and autonomy.

b) Enhance Financial Literacy:

Empowering women through financial literacy programs has been effective in various regions. Including financial education components in the scheme can equip women with the knowledge and skills to make informed financial decisions.

c) Utilize Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR):

Leveraging CSR activities, as seen in Nigerian banks, can be instrumental in empowering women financially and socially. Collaborating with corporate entities to support women's initiatives under the scheme can broaden its impact.

d) Encourage Participation in Self-Help Groups (SHGs):

Involvement in SHGs has been linked to psychological empowerment and overall well-being. Encouraging women to join and actively participate in SHGs can foster a sense of community and support.

e) Promote Education:

Education plays a vital role in enhancing women's autonomy and decision-making power. Including educational components within the scheme can empower women to take charge of their financial futures.

f) Facilitate Mobility:

Women's physical mobility has been linked to economic empowerment. Creating opportunities for women to access markets, resources, and networks through enhanced mobility can significantly contribute to their financial independence. By incorporating these suggestions into the Karnataka Shakthi Scheme, policymakers can create a more comprehensive and impactful initiative to empower women's mobility and financial independence.

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