Impact of Government Schemes on the Dropout Rate of Girl Students

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Abstract : *India has one of the fastest growing youth population in the world, with an estimated 190 million adolescents. Girls below 19 years of age comprise one quarter of India's rapidly growing population. Their education plays a vital role in building up of society and nation at large. As there is a famous saying that if you educate a man you educate him only and if you educate a woman you educate the whole family.In India today the number of school going children is quite less and the plight of girl students is even worse.*

Government of India also considers this matter very seriously which is very obvious when we study the various successful schemes and policies running successfully both at the central and the state level. If we look towards the objectives of these successfully running schemes, then the result shows a very positive disposition of government towards girls which is appreciable. But in Bihar the past statistics reveals that the plight of girls is considerably worse than that of boys. Bihar has the lowest enrollment for both boys and girls, 40% of the children in class 1 to 4 dropped out in 1999-2000 compared to 38% in 1997-1998.

To study this problem a sample of 100 girls' parents (50 from urban and 50 from rural areas) were selected by incidental sampling technique. These girls were from four Government schools of Bihar viz. Rajkiya Kanya Ucch Vidyalaya, Dhanarua, Rajkiya Kanya Ucch Vidyalaya, Shripalpur, Rajkiya Kanya Madhya Vidyalaya, Adalat Ganj and Manorma Vidyapeeth Girl's High School, Patna. The analysis of the data reveals that at the primary level Balika Poshak Yojana and Mid Day Meal were in demand whereas at the secondary level Balika Cycle Yojana had a major impact on reducing the dropout rate of girls. The study also reveals that during past five years the girls' dropout rate has also decreased considerably. As various schemes have been formulated so it will be prudent to know about the impact of these schemes in Bihar.Thus in our study we tried to find out how government schemes increase the enrolment of girls in schools and made them stay at least upto elementary level.

***Key words:** Dropout, Dropout Rate, Government Schemes, Elementary level and Enrolment.*

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Introduction :

Women are the dynamic promoters of social transformation. Their education plays an indispensable role in our society. It is very well said, "if you educate a man you educate him only and if you educate a woman you educate the whole family." In order to awaken people, it is the woman who has to be awakened, once she moves, the country moves and thus we build the nation of tomorrow. When a child gets admission in an educational institution, it is expected that he or she will leave the institution after completing that particular course. It is also expected that she will pass the examination every year and there will be no stagnation in her education. But in reality some children leave their institution without completing their education which is called drop out or wastage.

It is universally accepted across the globe that schooling has innumerable benefits for the child. But irony of the fact is that even after 62 years of independence, a vast majority of Indian children, especially girls are deprived of these benefits. An Independent study conducted in July/August 2005, estimates that 1.34 cr. children are out of school. 6.94% children in the age group of 6-14 years are out of school and in that 2.1% are dropouts & 4.8% never enrolled (9.9% Muslim, 9.6% ST, 6.97 SC.)

Primary education is the basis for the quality of secondary and higher education, its development ultimately affects the development of onward stages of education which in turn affects the development of society. However, it has been estimated that only 30% of the girls of primary schools reach the 5th class, i.e., they drop out earlier for one reason or the other.

Bihar has the lowest enrollment for both boys and girls, The number of out-of-school children has increased and is estimated to be over 100 million of whom 60% are girls. Of every 100 girls enrolled in Class I, there are only 40 who continue up to Class V, only 18 up to Class VIII, only 9 up to Class IX, and only one up to Class XII. The average dropout rate according to Education For All (EFA) assessment (2000) is 25.8%.In Bihar if you visit a school randomly 37.8% of the teachers will be absent. Even higher pay perks for teachers in Bihar has not helped in their being absent from school. The estimated facts are as follows:– 33% of children above the age of 7 are illiterate and 42 million are not able to get access to basic education. The plight of girls remains considerably worse than the boys. Drop out rates have increased in recent years. According to the recent statistics, over 40% of the children in class 1 to 4 dropped in 1999-2000 compared to 38% in 1997-1998. It appears that innumerable schemes at central and state level do not work well. The investigators during review of the relevant literature came across a number of studies that measured the impact of various schemes in Bihar in past five years. Keeping in mind the importance of government schemes and the recent decrease in dropout rate of Bihar, it becomes imperative to conduct a study that measures the impact of few selected government schemes in Bihar.

Objectives of the study :

The following objectives are being proposed for achievement in this study:

1. To find out the dropout rate of girl in schools at elementary level.

2. To ascertain the reasons of dropping out of girls at different levels of education.

3. To compare the dropout rate of girl on the basis of socio economic conditions.

4. To find out the awareness of parents or guardians about the various government educational schemes.

5. To compare the achievements of government programmes to reduce dropout rate among girls.

Methodology:

Design of Study

Simple descriptive survey method was employed to study and compare the variables under study. Close ended questionnaire was used for data collection. In fact close ended interview schedule has been used by the investigators.

Data on dropout rate was obtained from the school record. The data was qualitatively analysed and logical interpretations were made.

Population of the study

The parents of elementary level girl students studying in different govt. schools viz. two rural schools namely – Rajkiya Kanya Ucch Vidyalaya, Dhanarua and Rajkiya Kanya Ucch Vidyalaya, Shripalpur and two urban schools namely – Rajkiya Kanya Madhya Vidyalaya, Adalatganj and Manorma Vidyapeeth Girls High School of Patna district constituted the population.

Sample of the Study

A sample of 100 parents of elementary level above girl students of schools was selected by incidental sampling technique in which 50 were from urban government schools and 50 from rural government schools.

Table 1: Breakup of the sample

REGION	RURAL		URBAN		TOTAL
SCHOOL	R.K.U.V. (DHANARUA)	R.K.U.V. (SHRIPALPUR)	R.K.M.V. (ADALATGANJ)	Manorma Vidyapeeth	
SAMPLE	25	25	25	25	100

Tool of the study

A questionnaire was constructed and standardized by the supervisor in order to measure the awareness of the parents of girl students going to government schools. It consisted of four parts, viz., **'Part-A'** for extracting personal information about the parent of girl students included in the sample, **'Part-B'**, for getting information about

enrolment of girl child, **'Part-C'**, for identifying the constraints of the girl child, **'Part-D'**, for knowing the extent of the awareness of the parents about the different government schemes and their opinion about the various schemes**. Part-A** consisted of 6 items, **Part-B** consisted of 3 items, **Part-C** consisted of 2 items and **Part-D**, consisted of 21 items.

Analysis and Interpretation :

The data was classified as per requirements of the objectives of the study. The data were mainly classified into 5 groups namely –

1. Dropout of girls.
2. Reasons for dropping out of girls.
3. Comparison of dropout rate of girls on the basis of socio-economic conditions.
4. Awareness of girls' parents.
5. Comparison of achievement of government programmes in reducing dropout among girls.

1. Dropout of girls

Table-1: The average dropout percentage of rural girl students.

Rural Dropout Rate

Year	2006	2007	2008	2009
Average Dropout rate	21.23	17.59	15.64	13.99

Table-2: The average dropout rate percentage of urban girl students.

Urban Dropout Rate

Year	2006	2007	2008	2009
Average Dropout rate	13.45	10.75	10.33	8.71

The dropout percentage of rural students was comparatively higher than that of urban students.Where as in past five years it has considerably decreased in both areas.

2. Reasons for girls' dropout

Following reasons were identified for dropout of girls.

Common reasons of dropout out of girls in rural and urban areas are :- poverty, absence of separate schools, household work, lack of women teachers, lack of sanitation and toilet facilities, child marriage, distance from school, low retaining capacity at post primary levels, alcohol and other drug abuses, poor achievement, difficult subjects, unfavorable attitude of parents towards education, approachability of school, school facilities, poor quality of teaching, number of teachers in school, cultural norms, pregnancy, menstruation etc.

(i) Rural Reasons

  (a) Financial
  (b) Early Marriage
  (c) Orthodox beliefs and Cultural Norms
  (d) Discrimination
  (e) House hold Work

(ii) Urban Reasons

  (a) Pregnancy
  (b) Lack of sanitation
  (c) Quality of teacher
  (d) Financial struggle
 (e) Poor Infrastructure

3. Comparison of dropout rate of girls based on socio-economic conditions

From the information received from the questionnaire the percentage of dropout girls was calculated keeping in focus socio economic status through which it was found that in case of respondents of rural areas 16% belonged to genreal category, 52% belonged to OBC and 32% were scheduled caste. Out of 50 respondents of urban areas 18%belonged to general category 52% to OBC

& 30% belonged to scheduled caste. It was analyzed that in the case of rural areas the parents had more number of children than the parents of urban areas. Out of 50 respondents contacted in the rural areas 2% of them had two children, 8% had three, 42% had four, 24% had five, 8% had six children and 6% had more than six children. In case of urban area 4% of the parents had two children, 22% had three children, 34% had four children, 22% had five children, 10% had six children and 8% had more than six children. The study also leads to a major finding that on the basis of socio-economic conditions the highest dropout was found among scheduled caste students in comparison to the OBC students.

4. Awareness of girls' parents.

Table No.3
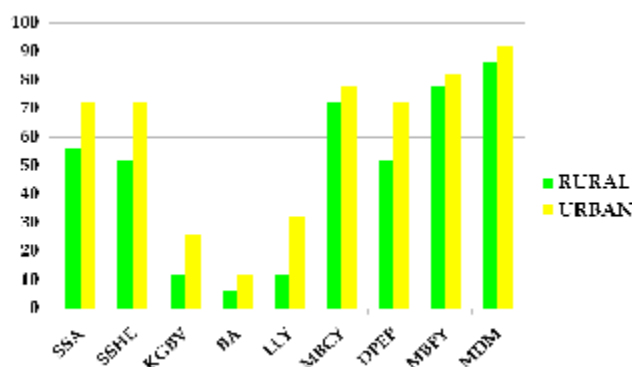
X-Axis shows Name of govt. schemes

Y-Axis shows awareness of primary level girl students' parents about govt.schemes.

The above table shows that parents of urban sectors are more aware about various listed schemes than of rural sector.The schemes which were appreciated by the people of both rural and urban areas were Mid day meal, Mukhyamantri Balika Poshak Yojna,Mukhyamantri Cycle Yojna, Sarva Siksha Abhiyan & School sanitation and hygiene Education respectively.

5. Comparison of Government programmes in reducing dropout among girls

The table no.3 shown above provides a comparative analysis of the various schemes running in rural and urban areas. The finding shows that among all the schemes Mid day meal and Poshak jyojna was appreciated by nearly. 96% and 82% girls' parents respectively of rural areas and more than 85% and75% respectively of urban area parents of girls at elementary level. Cycle yojna was appreciated by a major section of urban and rural parents of girls at secondary level.

Limitation of the study:

(i) The respondents put tick mark against more than one alternative and sometimes they left some of the items unanswered which presented difficulty in the analysis of the study.

(ii) The authenticity of the data could not be established.

(iii) The parent did not want to reveal the actual cause of their girl child's dropout from school. They basically gave financial excuse for their girl child's is dropout.

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