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Mukhyamantri Balika Cycle Yojana: A Unique Effort Towards Girl Child Education in Patna

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Abstract : *Education is the basic requirement for human development and right to education is the fundamental human right. Every person irrespective of his/her sex, caste, creed, religion should be provided with opportunities to get education and to attain complete human development. In India women were deprived of basic education owing to various social, economic, political factors. Education of girls has been a priority for the Government of India these days and steps have been taken to bring them to the mainstream. Among several welfare initiatives taken by the Bihar*

government over the past few years the Mukhyamantri Balika Cycle Yojana (MBCY) is very popular. This scheme has changed the face of Bihar with lakhs of school girls riding bicycles to their schools everyday with a purpose. About three years ago it was rare to find a school girl riding a bicycle even on the streets of Patna. In Bihar, cycles have now become a veritable instrument for social change which can be felt in any part of the state. The remarkable aspect of this project is that this has benefited girls from all sections of society. It is a universal scheme. The only eligibility criterion is that the beneficiary should be studying in class VIII and in a government run school. This scheme is a small step in the direction of women empowerment. Bihar emerges as a vibrant state which truly believes in empowering its women through various ways. Educating girl is one of them. This paper evaluates this programme with respect to public policy design in terms of aims, objectives and implementation tactics with reference to the extent to which it involves the grassroots.

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