

A Study on Policy Implication and Gender in Households - Gaps and Promises in Primary Education of Rural West Bengal

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Abstract

A society is a form of living in which humans do reside with several facts and points. Those are making the societies much perfect in its establishment. The facets of the presences make a society much furnished and completed with its different parts and parcels. Some of them are very much positive and some of them are negatives as well. In this way the societies are composed with some of the phenomenon which can be called as evils or the darks. In this way those are making the social connections weak and feeble towards going to the development. In this junction it has to be emphasized upon the conditions with which the society can heal itself. It is said that education is the panacea of all social evils. Henceforth it is very important to note that the education can have that much potentiality which can be expected to see if the society is improving. In this dimension gender may become a vital point to check with. The gender division is quite historical and it is continuing to keep its reflection in the sphere of education in today's scenario. In West Bengal the literacy rate for the males is 81.69 per cent when the same for the females is 70.54 per cent. It is a clear indication that for the rural development paradigm in the line of approach in West Bengal is not at all doing any good. The rural people are not still able to help their children to achieve the best effect of going to schools. It may be a positivistic aspect of the education to see how the students are becoming differentiated just based upon their gender identity. The 86th Constitutional amendment in 2002 has assured the universalization of education irrespective of gender for the age group which is 6 to 14. Yet the perfect result has not come as accords to the different previously done works. Gender is becoming such an incident which cannot be ever changed from the perception of the society. People still believe that women should get less chance to learn than men because they have to in home for the household jobs. In this way the overall developments of the villages have gone hampered and the people

are becoming ignorant enough to help both the genders equally. Even in the schools the genders are not equally understood and a deep biasness can be possible to see. This study has considered data from Purulia, Bankura and Birbhum districts where the rural students are purposively present in regards to this specific study. This study has tried to understand how the passage for universalizing of education is working with them. The students should get equal benefit of the different policies like the Operation Blackboard but unfortunately the situation is different and the female students are still not accessing the complete privilege of the primary education. Now is the time to check their lives and suggest some exit points from their grass root level living for making the optimum use of the governmental educational efforts to improve in an holistic type.

Keywords: Society, Social connections, Rural, Education, Gender

Introduction

“All I want is education and I am afraid of no one”

Malala Yusufzai

To dare and to be daring is the main motto of any life which can be seen in case of Malala Yusuzai. She was just a teen age girl from Pakistan. She was daring to learn and for this single “offence” bullets were offered on her. It is the indomitable spirit which can save the destiny of the girls like her. There is no offence at all to see eye to eye with the criminal minds for dominating the liberation. Freedom is a birth right for all the persons who are dwelling all across. It is the natural discourse of any life therefore to see the negatives with great courage.

A journey of the human beings is always considered as a path breaking movement of the same towards the light. It is indeed very important to see how the living has been changed from the very early day on this planet where all the humans were ignorant and so vulnerable that nature was not at all conquered. The journey towards making the best use of the resources to make useful and most opportunistic condition is not only one day magical spell. There is every possibility that humans have walked long miles to make even a bit progress.

Education is such a phenomenon with all the living humans. They could get the best contributive factors of lives by using the asset of education. It is a story line path with which humans have changed themselves in today’s situation. In this case education has played a big role.

In India also the same has happened. People have gone through the multiple changes in their lives to be civilized and formally cultured from the very early days in this planet. The change

is not of a single day product rather they have tried their best and have made their own identity most prominent with all the facets from the Vedic age to the ICT centered education. This is a long travel in the dimension of being educated. In this way it can be said that education has play a huge role which cannot be ever ignored. The people in India have tried their best to learn and to be developed. It is the formal nature of the human beings to make the best use of all the resources. It is a continuous journey in which humans of India have challenged themselves during several ruling authorities. The educational backgrounds have been changed during the ruling bodies as because in this country the ruling authorities are the main driving force of the education.

The policy lines in India are highly centralized. The governments are dealing with those and the people have to follow as the governments of different times are making. Not to go for a long past but the hundred years can be enough to see how the educational scenario of India has gone under the changes. From the chatuspa this to the big private schools the education is just continuing like nothing else. It is a background of the national educational policies with which the country is establishing her on a throne of much proud that educational per cent age is continually growing. There is no doubt to say that the country is making its big jumps with the profiles of education. The policy approaches are very much particularistic when those are being implemented. It is a conjunction of the time which is guiding the policy profiles.

In further if the consideration can be done upon the primary education of this country as because the primary education can help to be built with proper understanding of the educational pathway then it can be seen that the curriculum prospect is never the similar one. The changes in these are highly impactful upon the students and those students are becoming the future citizens. It is rather very important to see how the time lines of the policies are using the students to deal with the best results. The primary education is lacking many resources but still without the primary education in India no further educational profile can be made. It is very true to say that the primary education is related to the policies. The policies are making the primary education possible to be continued and frame the nation from the very basic level. People of this country are getting the primary education with the policy lines.

India is an welfare centric nation and all the persons in this nation are to have equal standard of policy concern. No one should be specially privileged and nobody should be out of the reaching to the needed facilities. But the words of the Indian constitution are not enough to assure governance in this nation. The huge population and multi-cultural living are really somehow problematic to give equal chance. Therefore many persons are becoming loser when the educational conditions are to be checked with. In this line the gender relationship is a point on which academic works can be done. The genders of the women are not getting equal benefit like the males just because the society is still patriarchal and the women are neglected. It is damaging the national growth. And the girl students are becoming compelled to be ill-treated.

A lot of persons are residing in the places like slums or villages and they have hardly any chance to be socially promoted. The vicious cycles are playing the big games there. The poverty, low literacy, hunger, illness and gender are making differences from one man to a woman. The seventy three years of Indian independence has still not helped the women to realize their potentialities. They have got some chances but those chances are still not adequate to take all the women in a single bracket. Even women to women differences are present in this developing country.

Finally it can be said that this study is doing a complete work upon the present condition of the human living. The districts of Purulia, Bankura and Birbhum have been selected in this study purposively. In Purulia the female literacy is only 37.15 per cent, in Bankura it is 60.44 per cent and in Birbhum the same is 76.01 per cent as per the Census 2011. Now the three districts have been considered totally in this study to make a complete picturesque of the present situation. The rural educational grounds have to be explored here. The basic aim of this study is to see about the condition of the rural women in the mentioned districts. It will be properly helpful for further policy making to adopt the practice of district comparison and give policy suggestions to the governments based on this. The rural education is a need of this hour and especially for the women some strong steps have to be taken. But before that field studies are required to see if the policies have to be made then how those can be framed and if those are really helpful as is expected always.

Review of Literature

The marginality is common phenomenon in all the developing nations. The facilities are many and the prosperities are given to all the people. But availability and accessibility are two totally different things. The people are still not doing all well. The problems are many though several plans and policies are being present with the people. The multi –faceted problems are highly relevant for the groups of people who are not accessing all the needed facilities in their lives.

In this direction, it can be said that the paradigm of education is very much important to see how the marginal people are getting that. Singh (2018) has shown that in case of India the educational scenario is not at all good because the people are still lacking in infrastructure and all the other facilities which are highly needed for a comfortable and continuous educational scenario. This deprivation is deep impactful and the people who are living in several parts of India with this less education and mild literacy for them it is very true to say that they are getting less chance to have good education. This kind of less chance towards getting education is making the people vulnerable enough. Their effective productivity is going downward. Ali (2019) has made a point very much clear to say that the vicious cycle of poverty is playing big games. The persons who are living in poverty and making less educational prospect in their lives for them it can be seen that they are out numbering their

children which is a great burden for the families as because many of the children are not getting proper educational situations.

Bhargava (2020) has said a point that in India many children are present who have not any basic standard to frame a good career in his or her life. It is because if a child is not able to successfully read, write or allied things in during study in class three then no educational prospect can be hoped for. The children cannot ever make any adjustment in their lives towards getting the best implications of the governmental plans and policies. In this way the ultimate full-proof benefit cannot ever be expected. Tilak (2018) has said that the economic classes are highly relevant to see the issue of education as because education still requires money to be processed with this facility. The education can be irrelevant and unnecessary when they have to use the government facilities. The people will not go for the education when they have a lot of jobs to do for just earning two square meals. There is high chance of the inter-generational gap overcoming. It is a belief that has been said from the previously done works. Here it can be said that this condition of progress is possible only with the education. So poverty and education is highly relevant.

Afridiet. al. (2019) has said in further connection with hunger that if the children are hungry then they never can do their best for getting education. In this way also the burden of illiteracy can never be tackled. If the hunger is winning the game then naturally should not be any point to promulgate the efforts for education. Students can make their share in the depth of ill health and surprisingly with many other bad things. It is possible to see that they have become deviated from the normal growth. In this way the overall situation can be much negative and the future generations cannot do their best to use all the available educational resources. Mirror Now Digital (2020) has given a condition about India that the nation has a population of 14 per cent in total who are under nourished. It is very unfortunate incident to see that a large chunk of the total population has no opportunity to eat enough foods. When food is not adequate and enough for all then it is really understandable that they will not go for the educational prospects rather they will do some kinds of works which are highly possible to be inhumane. If the situation is so harsh upon the students then how the policies can be beneficial for the numerous students who are not getting any benefit in their lives but the compulsory and free education is continuing for them.

Chatterjee, Li and Robitaille (2018) have seen about the governmental policies in India for the formulative educational strategies. They have said that the children are lacking in reading habit during 2005 to 2011. The infrastructure and other facilities are increasing in number since 1951 to till date but the teaching quality is not improving much and they are getting various kinds of facilities from the government. It is indicating that the policies are made and implemented but those are not helpful for those students who are in requirement of those. The students are not getting the much awaited help in their level which is being given by the government. Kingdon (2007) has suggested to see about the role and functionality of the governmental policies in India which are built up to see the benefits but accords to the cost-

benefit analysis it can be seen that the students are yet to be benefitted. Hence it can be said that the policies are made by the government for the students but the students are not availing all the benefits out of those. They are rather becoming much reluctant with those policies and those policies are becoming fruitless even in the days when the modernization part is helping in many ways the students.

In India, at present the BetiBachao, BetiPadao campaigning is going on. It is a clear cut point to say even by the government it is much proved that the women are not getting proper kind of education in their lives. In case of Census 2001 the women literacy rate was 54 per cent which has increased to the 65.46 per cent in the year 2011. It is saying that the literacy is not at all speedy because it is saying only 1 per cent increase per year in average. It is highly indicative that the primary educations of those women are not in good standard. In further it can be said that the education in India is further divided by their locality. The rural and urban pattern of education is highly impactful for the women. Jain et. al. (2017) has said that the rural girls are always engaged in the household jobs and only around four hours' time is available for them to study upon their courses. It is a condition with which the governmental policies are hardly able to work upon. Rana et. al. (2003) has said in this connection that governmental policies of offering items can keep the girl students in the schools. Though their paper is not very recent but their expectation in relation to the primary education with required items from the West Bengal government is still a relevant one. The Kanyashree by the government of West Bengal has been analyzed and appreciated by the United Nations. Therefore the 86th Amendment Act 2002 of Indian Constitution for the education in this state is somehow followed. In this way the state has got female literacy rate in 2011 Census at 70.54 per cent. It is undoubtedly a good point to understand the rural education standard in the state of West Bengal. In case of rural West Bengal from the same Census, the male literacy is 78.44 per cent and for the female the same is 61.98 per cent. Hence a gender gap on the educational level is very much clear from this database of the used Census of 2011. Bagchi (2018) has said that in case of primary education in West Bengal there are 8.3 per cent more teachers than the requirement. It is a very good thing for the educational scenario for the state but unfortunately only increasing number of teachers is not sufficient to take girls in the schools. A lot of problems can be seen with them including absence of toilets or insensitivity about the gender specific needs. Biswas (2013) has targeted the unaccountability of the teachers who are teaching in the primary level. They are the sole authority to make the best use of the governmental programs but due to the cultural setbacks all the teachers are not equally helpful.

Objectives

- The study will check the state of education among the girls in primary education
- The gender gap from the very early age will be tried to understand
- The gaps and the promises among the households will be studied

- The study will finally try to give some suggestions with which the further development will be possible

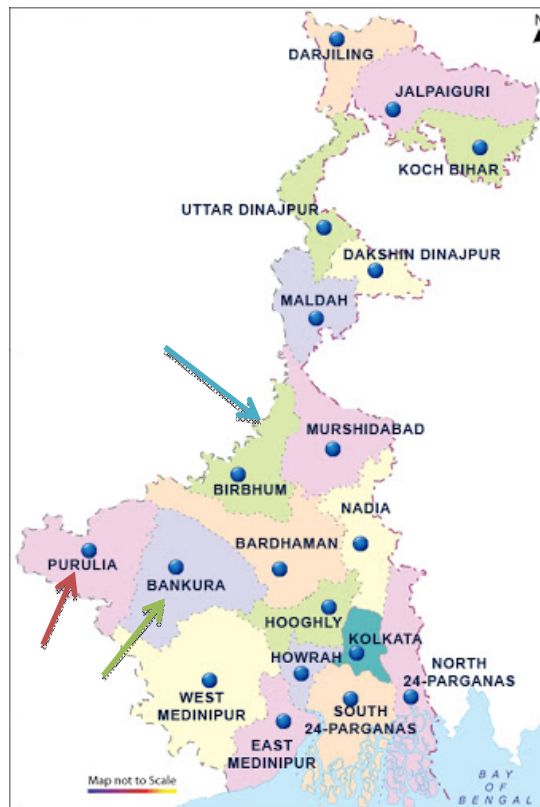
Methodology

The study has been in the form of an ethnographic analysis. The rural inhabitants have been studied here. The persons from the rural areas of West Bengal are purposively selected as because this study is trying to see the present scenario of the rural girls' education in the selected study areas.

Three districts namely Purulia, Bankura and Birbhum have been selected for this study. This selection is quite randomized. It is a high hope that a representative sampling can be done from those districts. In further going the community development blocks which are being selected from the respective districts are-Hura, Patrasayer and Dubrajpur accordingly from Purulia, Bankura and Birbhum. Almost from all the villages out of these blocks samples are selected.

The sample frame is of 100 in total; means total 300 households are reached for this study. They are communicated via direct structured interview. They are cross checked with some mixed type of questions in further time. The study has taken place in the year 2018. Their views and perceptions about the girl children's education have been studied. Half of them are from the parents who have either girl or boy child of the primary education level. Rest half is from the parents who do not have any primary school going children.

Finally a descriptive study has been placed. The total collected data have been presented here with graphical representation. Then the total aspect of the study has been divided among several sections at the time of discussion. Then a complete situation analysis has been done by the researcher. This study is truly representing the said community from the rural. Those people are continuing with several problems including illiteracy and poverty. Though they belong to a great extent at the equal status but in district specificity has also been observed.



Map 1. Study location in West Bengal

Discussion

“The world is a dangerous place, not because of those who do evil, but because of those who look on and do nothing”

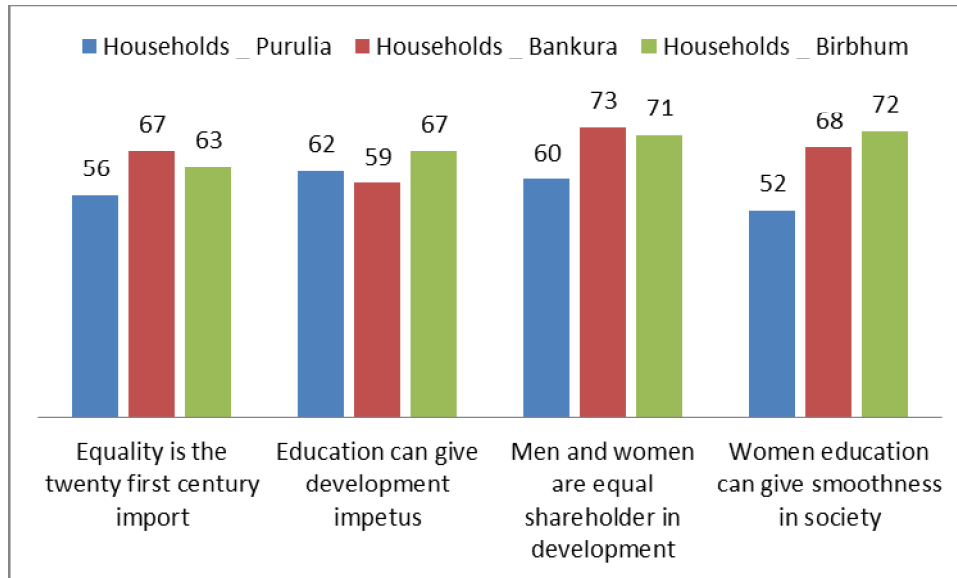
Albert Einstein

The world is a place of massacre and many wrong things are happening here in everyday basis. The humans are encircled with a lot of pains and infortunes. There is no chance to see or face all those deliberately. Education is such a weapon which can fight with all the negatives. The study is trying to see how education can play a big role in this total event. The study is further trying to note about the women literacy as because “if a man is educated then it is limited to him but if a woman is educated then the whole civilization can be educated”. So it is now very significant to see how the rural communities in the state of West Bengal is making impactful understanding upon the women education as has been described here below.

➤ Women education is necessary

The mindset has to be seen with the households in the selected study areas because it indicates if they are ready to help in this direction. It is an effort of the households which can make the complete line of approach of the policies in the state to deliver the best impact of

the policies. In this case the study has tried to see how the households understand about the need and requirement of the education in their lives.



Graph 1. Mindset of the households on girl education (measuring upon positive view)

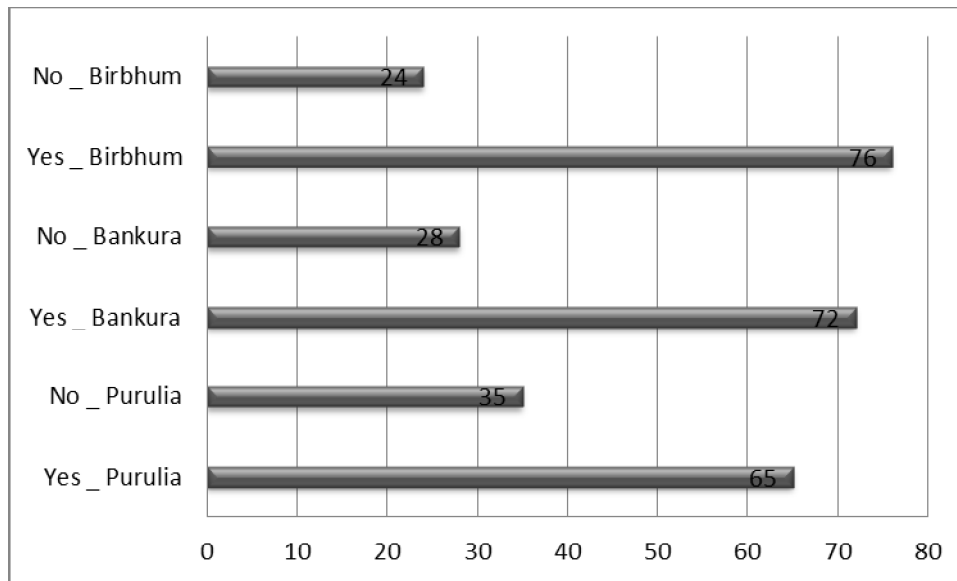
In this way it has been observed that the households are considering the development for the women in case of women education is important to live in the twenty first century. They are also considering that for the development education has to be adopted. The men and women both the genders are highly important for the development process. The households have that much openness in them that they are saying that they have seen equal need for the genders to be forwarded. But then it has been observed that the households are not thinking for the women education in equal manner.

➤ **Primary education is important for girls**

After the overall understanding about the education for women, it is the primary point to see the condition of the primary education for the women. This standard of educational level is very important as because from the primary level the basic formation of the cognitive and psycho-motor dimension starts.

The households are thinking that primary education is important for the developing of the students but there is a sharp gap to see the male and female child. Those children are not being observed in equal understanding. The girl children are somehow ignored and there is no hidden truth to see that girl children are not getting proper chance to come in the purview of education.

In this situation the policies can hardly do any improvement in the gender case. It is relating with the consideration of the governmental efforts. It is not simply any external effort which can make any change when people are not making any contributive thinking in this line.



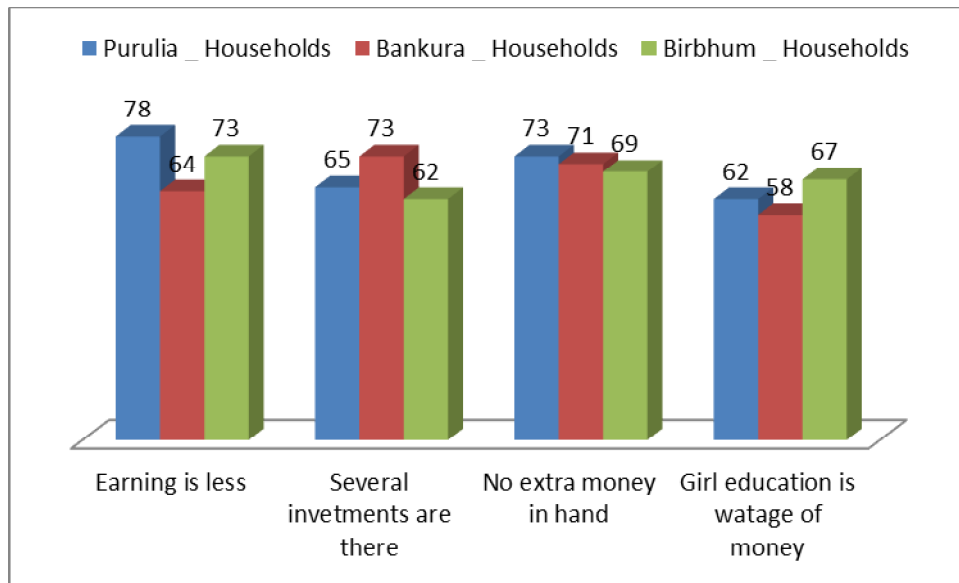
Graph 2. Primary education for the girl children if important

The importance perception is also not very similar for all. There are some differences among the districts to check with this profile. It is making a complicated journey for the people who are residing in the said localities. So the governmental programs cannot be served in equal way but the strategic points have to be modified accordingly the need. It is a time when the government should do their best for the primary stakeholders who are the girls at the best effort but after analyzing the need.

➤ Money has to be invested for girl education

Hunger and poverty both are linked to the money supply. If the money is not coming in the households then the investment wish will also be less. The households are from the meager income when they have to do agricultural jobs or they are doing daily wage labor. In these families it can be seen that the persons fear to invest money for the girls. They are saying that up to a certain age (6-14 years) the government will pay but after that if the government help is not enough then they hardly can do any help for the continuance of education. Boys can manage the money by doing some work which is not possible for the girls and then the girls will get problem to be adjusted with. It is a very painful condition of them but they cannot exit from it.

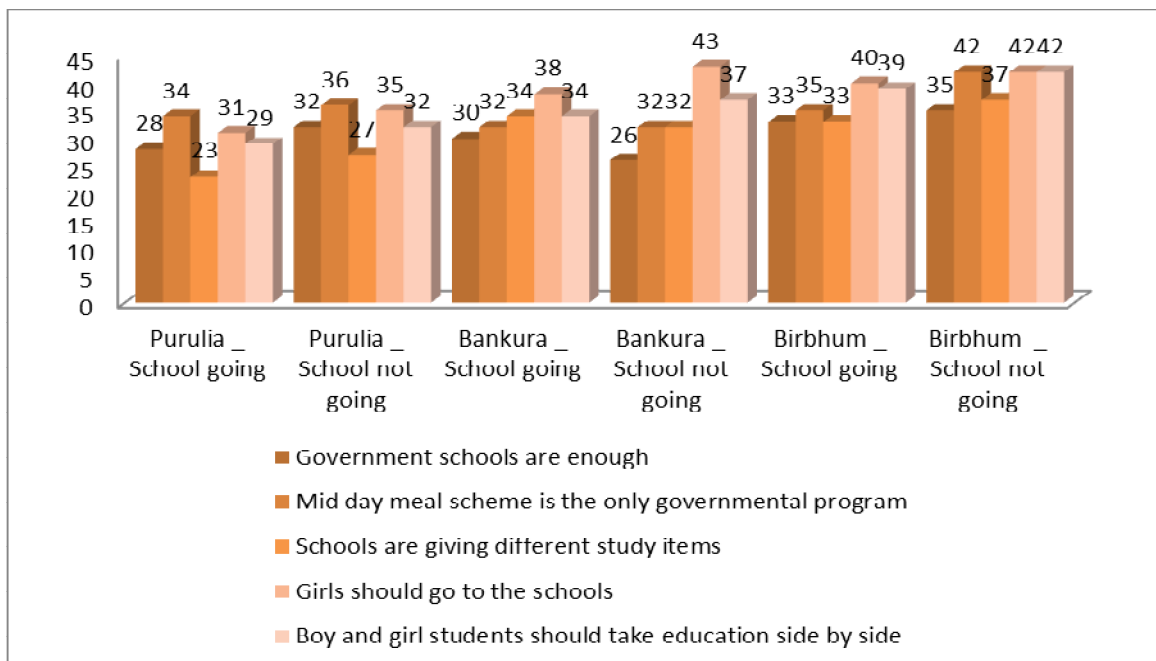
Their income is becoming a problem and they have no chance to see that they do not have any love or affection for the girl children but they are helpless. Therefore it is expected that the government should pay proper attention for the girl students. The policies will be holistic and those should be implemented strongly. No student will have any problem to continue education even after the 14 years of age. In this way the households will see some opportunity and motivational prospect for continuing about the educational wish. They can be helped from the very basic core and there will not be any problem which they are carrying now.



Graph 3. Money problems in the households for the girl education

➤ Motivational prospect among the households

If the money is a problem then there can be any condition which is motivation among the households. The households can be divided in between two groups-households which have girls for the primary education and households which have not any girl for the same. The study has tried to see if there is any difference. It will clear the societal perception.



Graph 4. Motivation scenario of the households for girl education

It is showing that the households are becoming motivated for the girl child education so it is the high time for the government to deal with the issue of primary education for the girl

children. More efforts have to be initiated. The girls should be present in the schools and for this the households have to be aware and sensible. In further time the government can play a great role for them.

Conclusion

“Education imparted by heart can bring revolution in the society”

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad

The social revolutions are highly important for the societal change and the students should get proper education from the established social institutions. A person starts to learn from the primary standard and then gradually the education goes for high up. Hence the primary education is very important for any society. There should be adequate facilities for the primary education.

India has a long history of primary education which can be seen to present even in the pre-British period. The population of this nation is highly alert with the system of primary education. They all are known how to get this education and what can be the benefit. But still the universalization is not happening in this direction. The government is taking various steps to work upon it but hardly any sustainable effect can be observed. The people are not getting the full way benefit.

The urban and the rural population are living in different conditions. Various kinds of attributions can be seen with them at very particular and specific manner. In the urban locality the cultural movement is very rapid and speedy which is helpful for the better adaptation but for the rural communities the opposite can be seen. The upward movement is slow there when the poverty to hunger and many other social evils are reducing as well as shrinking the path of onward journey in the society.

This study has tried to see about the rural education in the primary level. Very purposively the study has considered only the women folk for this case. The rural girls are still not getting much chance to be promoted with this social passage of education. Various kinds of governmental helps are there including the mid-day meal scheme yet the households are not much ready to give the girls in the schools. Money or motivation both the reasons are playing big roles in this connection.

The study is making a mind to say that the governmental initiatives are making help to the line of education but the girl education is still not enough. Even in the primary level all the girls in the rural localities are not going to the schools. The government is giving campaigning like “School Chole Hum” or “Parega India Tabhitohbarega India” or even at the extent of “Kanyashree” or “BetiBachaoBetiBadhao” but the persons are not still accepting education for the girls and with all the possibilities their capacities are wasting.

Way forward

By considering all the said as in the rest sections this study is trying to open up some more paths for the universalization of education. Some suggestions in this consideration can be given as below:

- I. **Social awareness**-The society has to be more alert upon the girl education and the societal participation to take all the girls in the schools is needed. It may be possible that the government is not reaching at their doorstep then the social obligation will be upon the common mass and they will take the girls in the schools.
- II. **Income facility**-The households would get income to be confident upon their own strength to send the girls in schools without any hesitation. The households would be confident and mindful to help the girl children to take education.
- III. **Regular observation**-After being admitted in the school the drop out may be happened. In this case the local clubs, Non-Governmental organizations and the governmental authorities may take effort to observe if any girl is absent. Then they should go to the households and ask the girls.
- IV. **Cooperative teaching**-It is highly possible that the girl children are from the first generation and they may have several conditions which are really demotivating. So the teaching faculties and all the other school staffs should stay cooperative and helpful so that no girl student faces any issue in the school.
- V. **Developed infrastructure**-Sometimes it can be seen that the schools are lacking proper toilets and the rest rooms. In the rural schools these problems are most prominent. The girls though at very young age but due to the physiological needs may have requirements of those. The schools must ask the administration to help in this and these minimum facilities would have to be present.
- VI. **Guardian counseling**-The guardians should be counseled in regular interval and whenever they make any negative mind with girl children's education very readily the help for their mental boost up would be present. They will not get any chance to be negative with the primary education for the girl children.

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