

# **A SOCIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS ON ADOLESCENT GIRLS' PERCEPTIONS OF THE KANYASHREE PRAKALPA IN WEST BENGAL**

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## **ABSTRACT**

Sustainable development, which benefits everyone in a country or society, is greatly aided by the contributions of women. If a mother knows how to care for her daughter, she can watch her blossom into a beautiful, long-lasting flower. There have been relatively few efforts to promote women's empowerment through early childhood education, such as expanding educational opportunities or offering financial incentives. It's crucial for women to realise that their own conceptions of what it means to be an empowered person are limiting their own potential. An educated woman is more likely to be an active participant in society and a leader in her field. The purpose of this research is to examine how different demographics of adolescent girls view themselves in relation to Kanyashree Prakalpa. This includes differences in age, location, and social status. The Adolescent Girls' Attitude towards Education Scale is a self-developed measure used to collect data from 926 casually selected single teen-age girl pupils from higher secondary and secondary schools in the Medinipur division West Bengal. Girls from grades 8 through 12 are represented in the data, which includes 85.9 percent of Kanyashree Prakalpa recipients and 14.1 percent of those who are not, 50.1 out of a hundred of students from urban zones and 49.9 % from rural zones, 38.1 percent of students from the general category, 29.6 percent from the other backward classes, 22.8 % from the SC category, and 9.3 % from the ST category (17 plus years). Data tabulation is done in MS-Excel 2007, and statistical analysis (t-tests, ANOVAs) is performed in SPSS 22.00. No major shifts in KanyashreePrakalpa's sense of self were found to have occurred during the study period. class (and age) recipients, but they're in a stronger position. Only girls' perceptions of themselves are significantly affected by regional differences. Beneficiaries of all caste categories fare better than non-beneficiaries. The investigator arrived at the conclusion that Kanyashree Prakalpa is more than a societal wellbeing programme; it is the future.

**KEYWORDS:** Self-perception, Attitude, Educational advancement, Conditional cash transfer, Receiver of Kanyashree Prakalpa, Non-receiver of Kanyashree Prakalpa, Teen-age girl pupil, etc.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In India, women's rights have a long and storied history of advancement. Before the modern era, during the Vedic period (which dates back more than 3,000 years), women and men were treated equally in all respects, including access to education. Unfortunately, from 500 BC, the position of women has declined. [1] During British colonial rule, activists like Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, Swami Vivekananda, and Raja Rammohan Roy worked to advance women's rights. Part-III of the Constitution, Article 12, specifically, confers the right to equality regardless of sex, caste, creed, etc., and is one of many articles added to the Constitution of India after independence to defend women's rights. The Indian Parliament passed the Prevention of Child Marriage Act, 2006 to protect Indian girls and women from social abuse. In spite of these attempts, women's emancipation is still a pipe dream. [3] As a result, empowering women has risen to prominence as a global problem in the 21st century, not only in India. [2] In West Bengal, this tragedy has not been an anomaly. The rate of child marriage in the state was sixth highest in 2007–08, and it was significantly higher in rural areas than in urban ones. The 2011 Census of India shows that the rate of child marriage in the state was significantly higher than the national average (30.21%). Premature female marriage is associated with a number of negative outcomes, including higher rates of student attrition among females, poor maternal and infant health, and the risk of women being trafficked. In light of the seriousness of the situation, on October 1, 2013, the Government of West Bengal implemented the Kannayashree Prakalpa (henceforth referred to as the plan). [6] While this is the first programme of its kind in the state, there have been similar efforts in other parts of India, such as the "Bagyalakshmi" programme in Karnataka and the "Beti hai Anmul" programme in Haryana. Since its start, the programme has included both the K1 and K2 components of a conditional cash transfer (CCT) system funded by the government. The first is an annual financial benefit for single mothers with daughters between the ages of 13 and 18 who are enrolled in eighth through twelfth grades, and the second is a one-time cash payment for single mothers with daughters between the ages of 18 and nineteen who are continuing their education. Unless the girl is an orphan or has exceptional needs, her people's yearly pay cannot be more than Rs. 1,20,000. All K2 beneficiaries who have enrolled in a postgraduate programme at a West Bengal university on a regular basis and who earned at least 45% in their undergraduate work are now eligible for a monthly cash benefit under the Swami Vivekananda Merit Cum Means Scholarship, a recently introduced new component. The program's goal is to make it so that young women don't have to choose between getting an education and avoiding marriage before they turn 18, thereby laying the groundwork for their full and equal involvement in and contribution to society. [5] From this vantage point, the programme stands out as a potentially powerful macroeconomic tool for advancing the status of women. This plan has been widely praised, both at home and abroad. In 2017, the UN in the Netherlands presented this programme with an award for "reaching the poorest and most vulnerable through

inclusive services and participation," making it the first of its kind in the Asia-Pacific region. The plan is highly similar to the United Nations' SDGs, (Sustainable Development Goals) a wide road map to create a more wealthy, egalitarian, and secure world by 2030.

West Bengal has the uppermost rate of kid wedding in India, and the average number of years women spend in school is lower than the rest of the country, making the Kanyashree Prakalpa a welcome and urgent intervention. The programme evolved from a single-purpose scholarship for girls or a set of life-cycle investments for girls' offspring at the moment of their birth into a distinct conditional cash transfer scheme with dual goals. [3] In an effort to increase enrollment and retention rates and close the gender gap, many African and Latin American nations have implemented Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) systems of varying intensities. The primary goal of such CCTs is to counter the trend of underinvestment in most human development indices, especially those pertaining to women and girls, in poor nation settings. According to the available literature, the correlation between educational attainment and marriage age is not independent of other factors; rather, it is simultaneously conditioned by cultural and socioeconomic factors. The state of West Bengal has been shown to have a high prevalence of early marriage and out-of-school girls, both of which have negative effects on women's autonomy, health, and educational opportunities.

Adhikari (2017) evaluated the effectiveness of "Kanyashree Prakalpa" in promoting the permission of young females in the state of West Bengal. The education set out to determine how kanyashree prakalpa has helped to empower young women in West Bengal. In her investigation, she made use of a survey technique. Becoming a Kanyashree girl is a source of pride, and parents of Kanyashree girls speak less about their daughters' marriages and more about other achievements their daughters can aim for. This is due in large part to the fact that the Kanyashree scheme generated unprecedented enthusiasm and good will and became a household word between 2013 and 2015. [2]

Analysis of the effects of Kanyashree Prakalpa on individual districts was the focus of work by Ghara and Roy (2017). In order to maintain a focus on equity, the programme is restricted to young women from low-income homes. This requirement is suspended for females who have exceptional needs, who are orphans, or who are currently residents of registered Juvenile Justice Homes. In this investigation, they employed a survey technique. The study found that the Kanyashree Prakalpa has not only reduced the rate at which young women leave the education system, but that it has also had a positive effect on efforts to keep girls from being married off too young. The study also found that districts further from the centre of the state were more committed to the Prakalpa than those closer to its epicentre. [5]

The benefits and costs of "Kanyashree Prakalpa — the empowerment of adolescent females in the slum Area" were assessed by Sen (2016). The goals of the research are to better understand the factors that contribute to the high rates of dropout among female students in the study area's middle and high schools; to better understand the

relationship between female student dropout, poverty, and kid wedding in the study part; and to better understand the various roles played by the Kanyashree Scheme in the improvement of secondary teaching for slum area children and the decrease of kid wedding. Adolescents living in slum areas were interviewed through questionnaire for primary data collection, and both the study region and interviewers were selected via non-probability selection methods. The studies found that poverty was a main issue in the high rate of child marriage in the part studied; that slum women were forced to borrow money from "Mahajan" to pay for dowries, and that the loan had to be repaid over a long period of time and at a high interest rate; and that child marriage, early pregnancy, and childbirth led to a significant decline in the educational opportunities available to girls. The child marriage and school dropout rates have fallen in the study region because to the Kanyashree scholarship, funded by the Government of West Bengal, over the past two years. [6]

**CONSTITUENTS OF THE PLAN:**

There are two parts to this plan:

Funding of Rs. 500/- every year in scholarships (Rupees Five hundred only)

Funding of Rs. 25,000.00 (One-Time Only) (Rupees Twenty-five thousand only)

Young women (aged 13-18) who are pursuing a secondary education (classes 8–12) at a public, private, or officially authorised open school, or in a vocational or technical training programme, are eligible to apply for the Annual Scholarship.

Girls who are 18 years old or older at the period of request and are registered in a open school or government-recognized systematic or university, or who are participating in a government-recognized vocational or technical training programme, or who are inmates of a Home registered under the J.J. Act of 2000 are eligible for a one-time grant.

Girls whose families have an annual income of less than Rupees One Lakh and Twenty Thousand only (Rs. 1, 20,000/-) will be eligible for both benefits under the scheme. If a girl's parents have passed away, she is severely disabled (40% disability), or she is incarcerated at J.J. Home, she does not face the family bar. [8]

Given the devastating effects of child marriage on girls and young women, this programme stands to benefit the State and its citizens in countless ways. In particular, it stands to improve the educational opportunities available to girls in the area, help reduce the prevalence of maternal and infant mortality, and contribute to the overall empowerment of women throughout the State.

**INDIVIDUAL(S) INTENDED TO BENEFIT:**

Girls aged 13-19 from low-income families (defined as an annual income of up to Rs 120000/-)

Adolescents of Kid Maintenance Organizations recognised by the J.J. Act who are between the ages of 18 and 19 and who regularly attend educational or vocational/sports training institutions

Girls who turn 18 on or after April 1, 2013 are eligible for the one-time award.

In the range of 18 lakhs female students worldwide receive financial aid every year.

About 3.5 million young women worldwide receive a one-time cash award each year.  
[10]

## **2. MATERIALS AND METHODS OF THE STUDY**

### **METHODS:**

This research employs a descriptive survey and cross-sectional study design.

### **PARTICIPATING INDIVIDUALS IN THE STUDY:**

The researcher has narrowed his study area down to the Medinipur division of West Bengal from among the other five divisions.

Nine hundred and twenty-six participants were chosen at random from the populations of five districts in the Medinipur of West Bengal: Paschim Medinipur, Bankura, Purba Medinipur, Purulia, and Jhargram.

### **STUDY FACTORS:**

The researcher has taken into account two categories of factors in this investigation. The following are examples of these two categories of variables:

### **IMPORTANT FACTORS:**

The way preteen women view themselves

Variables That Can Be Divided into Groups (rural & urban)

Social status (e.g., middle class, lower class, etc) (XII-17 plus years, XI- 16 plus years, X- 15 plus years, IX- 14 plus years, VIII- 13 plus years)

### **TOOLS USED FOR THE STUDY:**

The current investigation utilises the following established methodological instrument. Together with his research manual, the investigator creates this instrument.

1. The Adolescent Girls' Self-Perception Scale (AGSPS)

## **3. RESULTS**

**Table - 1: A comparison of the self-perception of Kanyashree Prakalpa recipients and non-recipients by socioeconomic status**

	Mean		Standard deviation	
	Receiver of Kanyasree Prakalpa	Non-Receiver of Kanyasree Prakalpa	Receiver of Kanyasree Prakalpa	Non-Receiver of Kanyasree Prakalpa
Class VIII	98.3140	96.4092	7.62422	7.18305
Class IX	97.2750	94.1155	7.72316	6.94738
Class X	99.0218	98.0557	6.84600	4.95239
Class XI	99.4576	98.2759	6.15799	4.67437
Class XII	98.4260	96.0715	7.40807	7.24798

**Table – 2: Self-perception due to receiver of Kanyashree Prakalpa under different locale.**

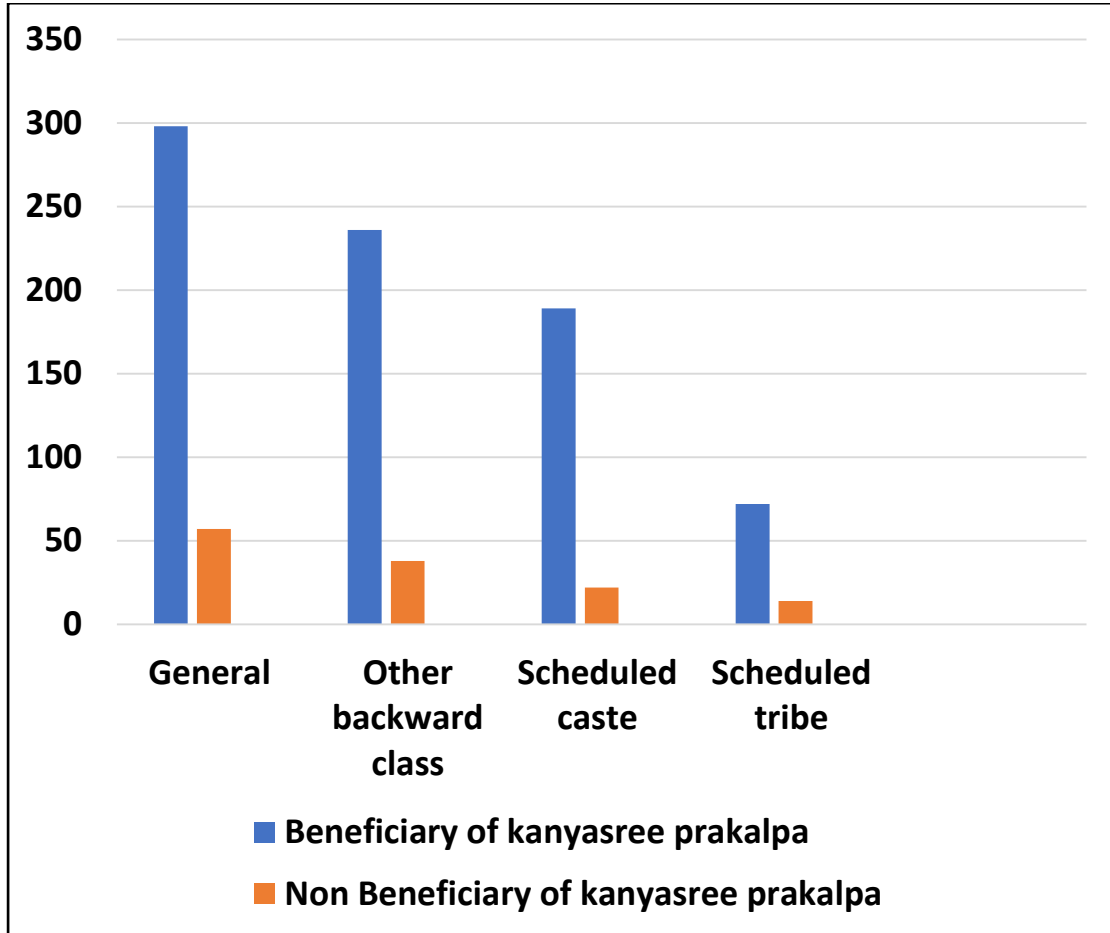
Adolescent Girl's self-perception	Area	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. error mean
	Urban	414	97.82	7.458	0.366
	Rural	381	99.25	6.799	0.348

**Table – 3: self-perception due to non-receiver of Kanyashree Prakalpa under different locale.**

Adolescent Girl's self-perception	Area	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. error mean
	Urban	48	96.16	7.078	1.021
	Rural	83	96.78	6.104	0.670

**Table – 4: Self-perception among different caste category of receivers and non-beneficiaries of Kanyashree Prakalpa**

Caste	Receiver of Kanyasree Prakalpa	Non-Receiver of Kanyasree Prakalpa
General	298	57
Other backward class	236	38
Scheduled caste	189	22
Scheduled tribe	72	14
Total	795	131



**Figure – 1: Self-perception among different caste category of receivers and non-receivers of Kanyashree Prakalpa**

**4. DISCUSSIONS**

The results demonstrated a link between students' intellectual self-perception and their performance in the classroom. [9] Neither group's self-perception trends over the generations are identical, but the dynamics of change are universal. This study's results are supported by other, similar investigations conducted by different researchers. The results presented here suggest that beneficiaries have a more positive self-perception than non-beneficiaries, and that geographical variation has a much larger impact on beneficiaries' self-perception than on non-beneficiaries'. [11] Both groups' sense of identity varies across castes. Grants from the Kanyashree Prakalpa are available to those whose families have annual incomes of less than Rs. 1,20,000. Smt. Mamata Banerjee, Chief Minister of West Bengal, enacted this scheme for the benefit of low-income female students of all castes. Soon after, she made the same announcement to the entire population during a town hall meeting. Incentives increased from Rs. 500 per year to Rs. 750 per year. Unfortunately, this sum will not allow them to complete their studies. The current findings indicate that girls of all castes have a positive view of themselves after becoming Kanyashree Prakalpa beneficiaries (at the age of 13 and up). Most publicly funded educational initiatives [12] are designed to help kids from lower socioeconomic backgrounds. This

programme was started in 2013 by Smt. Mamata Banerjee, India's Chief Minister of West Bengal, to help financially disadvantaged female students, regardless of their caste. The Kanyashree Prakalpa award requires just that applicants have a household income of less than 1,20,000 Indian rupees per year. In this way, the system helps the initial underprivileged kids.

## **5.CONCLUSION**

According to the results, we know that girls need to complete at least 12 years of schooling in order to have a healthy view of themselves. Several government-run programmes are currently helping underprivileged pupils succeed in the classroom [13]. A country's economic growth will be stunted if women are treated unequally in education, employment, economic opportunity, housing, and healthcare. [15] The goals of the Kanyashree prakalpa are to improve the psychological empowerment, social empowerment, and socioeconomic status of the state through the confident properties of increased late marriage, teaching, at least until the stage of legal marriage, increased social power and self-esteem, and the promotion of durable female facts as role replicas. Due to the caste-based reservation system, only a small percentage of girls were able to attend college. However, Kanyashree Prakalpa helps low-income female students and gives them a voice. When girls have easy access to KP, they develop positive views of themselves [9]. West Bengal is a proud state, despite its economic hardships. Kanyashree Prakalpa is, therefore, more than a societal wellbeing programme; it is a vision for the upcoming.

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