



A STUDY ON AWARENESS TOWARDS GOVERNMENT SCHEMES FOR WOMEN EDUCATION

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ABSTRACT:

Union Government and State governments provides support for education with aim of providing equal opportunity to the citizens of nation to empower the marginalized communities and women of nation. Our study focuses on the awareness of various schemes and policies of Union and State governments which provides support to education of women of Tamil Nadu State. With this study we try to study the relationship between Level of education, Community and the level of awareness. The study employs exploratory research design and systematic Random Sampling was used to collect data from around 545 girl students studying in government aided institutions. After studying the awareness level of the girl students in Tamil Nadu we also found out the perception and mind-set of the students towards the schemes to know if the schemes were really helping the students.

KEYWORDS:

EDUCATION SCHEMES, WOMEN EDUCATION, GIRL EDUCATION, AWARENESS, PERCEPTIONS.

1. INTRODUCTION:

Education is a very important tool for every individuals to contribute to the development of nation and it is the basic right for accessing other economic and social benefits [Radhakrishnan, et.al 2018]. A healthy nation should contain educated people for empowerment, Contribution of education helps in reducing poverty and literacy rate of the nation [Dr Sevugan 2016]. Many constraints and challenges are faced in many rural and urban areas of India due to lack of awareness about education Women's carry a high cultural values and traditional norms and they form a part of the socio-economic system. Many women play an important role as leaders in society and help in nations economic growth and improving the quality of life. [Kumar, et.al 2015] Indian government establishes many polices and schemes for supporting and empowering the individuals with education facilities by providing gender equity. There are special schemes for women to increase the enrolment rate for primary and secondary education. The policies and schemes introduced by the Indian government in the post-independence period is reviewed periodically to make it compatible for the changing need of the economy.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW:

[Radhakrishnan, et.al 2018] The study on Awareness and Effectiveness of Educational Schemes for Scheduled Caste

and Scheduled Tribes in Coimbatore District says that most of the parents who send their children to school are suffering a lot even if good education can be pursued with the help of various educational schemes. The motivation to get a higher education for the children is growing high among the parents. Some parents reveal that they support their children's education based on their interests. In primary education, the number of dropouts are increasing due to high financial stability. The perfect awareness about the educational schemes is not available among the parents, also the effectiveness of the awareness is not so higher that make a difference that has the capacity to decrease the burden of sending the children to school as there is no satisfactory benefits from the educational schemes [Antony and David 2014]. The gender inequality in accessing education can be helped by scholarships. There is no satisfaction on the amount received as a scholarship for the eligible child. The provided amount fails to tackle the financial issues of the parents for their child's education. To deliver the awareness, the only source of point of contact is the teacher.

[Dr Rajeshwari K and Lakshmi 2014] The study on school student's attitude towards welfare schemes says that the key tool for development is education and also it is an invaluable means of addressing structural inequality and disadvantage. Providing free and quality education to students reflects the fact that every child is entitled to fundamental human rights and is to be treated with dignity. [Pradeepkumar and panchanatham 2010] Tamil Nadu government had been formulating schemes which would cater to individual requirement and facilities. The government has been encouraging students through various welfare schemes at all levels which had increased the enrolment of students at higher secondary level.

[Francis 2012] A Study on The Impact of Various Schemes Adopted by the Government for Strengthening Elementary Education in India says that education is an important human activity. Education is born along the human race's birth and has the right to continue till the death. Education fashions and models man for society. This paper explains about the education system of India and also the different steps taken by the government to improve and extent the education which is inevitable for development of education. It also tried to outline the impact of various schemes on enrolment, infrastructure, teaching and learning level of children

3. OBJECTIVES:

Primary objective: To understand the people's level of awareness on Government schemes available for education support of women in Tamil Nadu.

Secondary objective:

- To Study the students perception of the schemes
- To find ways to improve the awareness level of girl students

4. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

RESEARCH DESIGN:

In our study, exploratory research design method is used since there was an ambiguity about the awareness level about the government education schemes amongst the population.

SAMPLING PROCEDURE:

Systematic Random Sampling was used to collect data. The pre-requisite conditons imposed in selecting the sample were that the sample should be a student and also a girl.

SAMPLE POPULATION:

There are around 60,74,610 girl students in Tamilnadu, out of which the girls in Coimbatore constitute 2,85,555. The sample frame of our study was 545 girl students studying in government aided institutions in Coimbatore.

TOOLS:

The data was collected using self-framed reliable questionnaire. Most of the questions in the questionnaire were close ended to prevent deviations. The data collected was considerably valid.

DATA ANALYSIS:

Statistical Package for Social Sciences software, R software and pivot tables were used for analyzing quantitative data.

5. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In our study, we have collected data from 545 respondents. Out of the 545 respondents, 146 are pursuing HSC, 151 are pursuing SSLC, 203 are pursuing UG and 45 are pursuing PG. 439 students belong to BC/MBC class, 26 belong to OC and 80 belong to SC/ST.

Criteria	Yes	No	Don't know	Awareness percentage
Are poor performers eligible for scholarship	204	234	107	42.9%
Private school students cannot avail scholarship	216	239	88	39.6%
Teaching in virtual classes are difficult to understand	136	318	91	58.3%
Married girls are not eligible for scholarship	122	271	151	22.3%
Can't girls with siblings get scholarship	212	238	95	38.9%
Does high income stop you from getting scholarship	323	147	75	59.3%
Children with disabled parents cannot study	74	367	104	67.3%
Children without breadwinning parent cannot study	110	252	183	46.2%
AVERAGE				46.85%

TABLE 01 AWARENESS LEVEL OF STUDENTS ABOUT GOVT. EDUCATION SUPPORT SCHEMES

From table 01, we can observe that the awareness about the scheme dealing with eligibility of children with disabled parents is the highest (67.3%). The fact that the married girls are not eligible for scholarship under Single girl child policy is not known to most of the respondents with the least awareness level of 22%. The average awareness level among the girl students about the government education support schemes stands at 46.85%.

SOURCE / EDUCATION	TEACHERS	TV/ NEWSPAPERS	FRIENDS	OTHER SOURCES
SSLC	106	17	2	20
HSC	22	9	5	16

UG	119	13	13	12
PG	62	62	20	54
TOTAL	309	101	43	102
Percentage	56.69%	18.53%	7.88%	18.71%

TABLE 02 SOURCE OF KNOWLEDGE

In the table 02 is observed that the teachers are the major source of government schemes related information followed by TV & Newspapers. Only 7.88% of the respondents think that friends are a good source of information. Hence the teachers are to be targeted to increase the awareness of the schemes.

SCHOLARSHIP / EDUCATION	FAIR ENOUGH	HIGHLY SUFFICIENT	INSUFFICIENT	MERE EYE WASH
SSLC	37	4	76	29
HSC	25		13	7
UG	33	7	89	22
PG	106	12	66	19
TOTAL	201	23	244	77
Percentage	36.88%	4.22%	44.77%	14.12%

TABLE 03 AMOUNT RECEIVED AS SCHOLARSHIP

Most of the respondents felt that the amount given as scholarship by government through education support schemes is insufficient as inferred from table 03. But a significant part of the respondents feel that the amount is fair enough. An in-depth analysis of the table reveals that SSLC and HSC students feel that the amount is insufficient and Under-Graduate and Post-Graduate students think that the amount is fair enough.

SCHOLARSHIP / EDUCATION	SSLC	HSC	UG	PG	Total	Percentage
Announcements in public places	7	10	14	31	62	11.37%
Advertisements in print/visual media	14	3	26	52	95	17.43%
Educating the school children	120	31	105	118	374	68.62%
Other measures	5	1	6	2	14	2.58%

TABLE 04 INCREASE IN AWARENESS

It can be seen that from table 04 Irrespective of the level of education of the respondents, they feel that educating the school children is the most effective way that the government has to apply to increase the awareness level.

6. CONCLUSION

The students are not usually aware of the education support schemes that are offered by the government of Tamil Nadu. An analysis of the data revealed that people do not usually try to communicate about the schemes even if they have knowledge about it. This shows that even though government takes steps to provide access to education to all the children in the state, the efforts put in by the government of Tamil Nadu are not reaching the public. The government needs to take appropriate measures to build the awareness among the students. The government can publish brief information about the schemes in the back cover of the books with a reference link to get full details about the schemes. Also, since most of the respondents said that teachers were the major source of information, orientation programs can be arranged for teachers whenever there is any new scheme launched. However, the fault is not only on the part of government. The people should also take efforts to be updated about the schemes which are implemented for their benefit.

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