Impact of Kanyasree Project on the Academic Development of students: 
A Study With Special Reference to Howrah District of West Bengal

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ABSTRACT
Kanyasree Project is an innovative project of government of West Bengal, under the Department of Women Development of Social Welfare (DWSW) of West Bengal. It was introduced in August 2013. The main aim of this project is to improving the status and well-being of girl child in West Bengal. In this study we are trying to assess the impact of Kanyasree Project on the academic development of students, in two selected schools of Howrah district in West Bengal by taking the views of Students, Teachers and Parents about Kanyasree Project. This Study is based on both Primary and secondary data. The secondary data collected by different reputed governmental website and the primary data has been collected during 2016 – 2017 from selected 150 students, 10 teachers and authorities and 40 guardians of student (N=200) in secondary schools of Howrah distinct of West Bengal. A self made structured questionnaire used for data collection and different types of charts used to show the relationship between Kanyasree project and the development of students.

Keywords: Women development, Students, School, Academic, Teachers, Guardians.

I. Introduction:
Kanyasree project is an innovative project of government of West Bengal. It is conditional cash transfer scheme, which is designed by the Department of Women Development of Social Welfare (DWSW) of West Bengal in August 2013, with the aim of improving the status and well-being of girl child in West Bengal by encouraging all schools teenage girls and delaying their marriage until the girl reach the age of 18 years. This scheme is introduced only in West Bengal and all the district of West Bengal. According to Department of Social Welfare Development, in last two years more than 16 lakh girls benefited by this project. On 14th August of every year observed as Kanyasree day as stated by our honorable chief minister Mamta Banerjee, and distribution of Kanyasree Bala is also part of this scheme. This scheme has received widespread recognition at both national and international levels, the latest being awarded the first in the Asia-Pacific group for the category “reaching the poorest and most vulnerable through inclusive services and participation” by the United Nations in the Netherlands in July 2017.

II. Objectives of Study:
Objectives of this Study are:
• The first objective of this study is to know how the fund of Kanyasree project utilized by students.
• The second objective of this study is to know the current status of this scheme in School.
• The third objective is to know the effect of this scheme on the study of students.
• The fourth objective is to know different types of problem face by students in this scheme.
• The fifth objective is to know whether or not this programme help in reduction of immature mothers mortality rate.

III. Methodology of study:
This study is mainly based on primary data but secondary data also have been used. The secondary data collected by different reputed governmental website, and the primary data has been collected during the year 2016 – 2017 by selecting 150 student, 10 teachers and school authorities and 40 guardians of student (N=200) in two secondary schools of Howrah district of West Bengal. A self made structured questionnaire used for data collection and different types of charts use to show the relationship between Kanyasree project and study of student.
IV. Analysis and Interpretation of Field Survey Data

Students View:

01. How did you utilize the fund get from Kanyasree project?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>a) Bank Deposit</th>
<th>b) Invest in study</th>
<th>c) Other purpose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20%</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Utilization of Kanyasree Funds**

*Source: Field Survey 2016-2017*

**Interpretation:** 20% students stated that they deposit the amount of KP in Bank and only 15% students reported that they invested the gotted amount in other purposes like buy dress, cosmetics, buy domestic instruments etc. But majority of students around 65% stated that they used this money in their study purpose like buying books, invest in project, given tuition fees etc.

02. Did you actually receive any form of help from this scheme?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>a) Yes</th>
<th>b) No</th>
<th>c) Cannot Say</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>96%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Get any form of help from Kanyasree**

*Source: Field Survey 2016-2017*

**Interpretation:** From the above table it is seen that more than 95% of students have received help from Kanyasree project and 4% students not in position to give their opinion about this matter.

03. Are you in favour of continuation of this programme?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>a) Yes</th>
<th>b) No</th>
<th>c) Cannot Say</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>95%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Field Survey 2016-2017*
Interpretation: 95% students are in favour of continuation of this project; so it is clear they have received the various benefits from this project.

04. Did you suffer any form of problems in this programme?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>a) Yes Error in account</th>
<th>b) Not get money on time</th>
<th>c) No problem</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field Survey 2016-2017

Interpretation: From the above chart it is seen that only 2% of students not get their money on time but 95% of students mentioned that they not faced any problems in this project.

05. Did this programme help in your study?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>a) Yes</th>
<th>b) No</th>
<th>c) Cannot Say</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>97%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field Survey 2016-2017
Interpretation: From the above chart it is seen that 97% of students have received help in their study from this project. So it is clear that Kanyasree helping the girl’s students in their study.

Teachers & School Authorities View:

01. Did you think that kanyasree project help in the study of your students?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>a) Yes</th>
<th>b) No</th>
<th>c) Cannot Say</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field Survey 2016-2017

Interpretation: 98% of teachers and authorities opinioned that kanyasree project helps in the study of their students.

02. Did you think that this programme help in improvement of student enrollment?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>a) Same as earlier</th>
<th>b) Increase</th>
<th>c) Decrease</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field Survey 2016-2017

Interpretation: After introduction of Kanyasree project the student enrollment increased. The teachers have given their favorable opinion in this regards
03. Is there decrease in dropout of student in your school due to this programme?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>a) Yes</th>
<th>b) No</th>
<th>c) Cannot Say</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field Survey 2016-2017

**Reduction of Dropout of Students After Introduction of this Programme**

**Interpretation**: As per opinion of teachers (75%) that Kanyasree project have highly influence in reduction of dropout of students. Obviously the projects have good positive social impact.

04. How would you Rate the interest level of your students in study after introduction of this scheme?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>a) More interested</th>
<th>b) Same as before</th>
<th>c) Less interested</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>06%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field Survey 2016-2017

**Interest of Students in study after introduction of this Programme**

**Interpretation**: 94% of teachers have opinioned that after introduction of this project the interest of their students in study have increased.

05. What are the problems faced by you in this scheme?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>a) Inadequate Form</th>
<th>b) Bank transaction</th>
<th>c) Wrong information by the student</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field Survey 2016-2017
Interpretation: Most of the cases the students wrongly fill up the kanyasree from as informed us by the teachers and authorities. So a special attention should given here by the concerned authorities.

Parents view:

01. Did you think that this programme help in delaying of early girls marriage?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>a) Yes</th>
<th>b) No</th>
<th>c) Cannot Say</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>%</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field Survey 2016-2017

Interpretation: 97% of parents have opinioned that kanyasree project help in delaying the early stage girls marriage.

02. Did you feel that this programme help in reduction of mortality of immature mother who are dying because of premature motherhood?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>a) Yes</th>
<th>b) No</th>
<th>c) Cannot Say</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>%</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field Survey 2016-2017
Interpretation: It is seen from the above that Kanyasree Programme strongly helps in reduction of mortality of immature mother.

03. Whether students are more interested in study after introduction of KP scheme?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>a) Yes - students More interested in study</th>
<th>b) No comment</th>
<th>c) Cannot Say</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Source</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field Survey 2016-2017

Interpretation: 98% of parents have opinioned that after introduction of this project the students become more interested in their study. Obviously that has a positive impact on reading-writing skills of the students.

04. Is this programme encourage you to send your daughter in school?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>a) Yes</th>
<th>b) No</th>
<th>c) Cannot Say</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Source</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field Survey 2016-2017
**Interpretation:** This Programme also motivated the parents to send their daughter to the school as school cost is going to be free due to Kanyasree.

**05. Did you feel that this scheme encourage student for the study?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>a) Yes</th>
<th>b) No</th>
<th>c) Cannot Say</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Field Survey 2016-2017*

**Interpretation:** 98% of parents opinioned that this programme also encouraging the students in their study.

**V. Schemes of Kanyasree:**

**The scheme of Kanyasree Project has two components, they are:**

- The first is Annual scholarship of Rs 500 (Five hundred only).
- The second is one time grant of Rs 25,000 (Twenty five thousand only).

The annual scholarship is provided to unmarried girls whose age between 13-18 years enrolled in class viii to xii in government recognized regular and equivalent vocational, technical courses. One time grant is for those girls who are turned 18 at the time of application, enrolled in government recognized regular and open school or pursuing vocational and any technical training or sport activity or is inmate home registered under JJ Act 2000. Above two types of benefit available only to those girls whose family income is not more than Rs.1,20,000 per annum.
VI. Eligibility to Get Assistance under the Schemes:
To get the scholarship amount of Kanyasree programme the following criteria should need to fulfill.

- The girl age should not be more than 13 to 18 years according to 1 April 2013 and the required document is birth certificate issued by Municipal Corporation or Panchyat authorities.
- The girl must be unmarried and applicant parent require declaring it.
- The girl must be enrolled in class viii to xii in government recognized regular or equivalent vocational or technical courses which are verified by head of the institution.
- The girl family income must be less than 1,20,000 per annum.
- The physically handicapped girl can also apply for this scholarship.

VII. Availability of form:
Application form for this scheme and forms for opening up new account are available free of cost at the secondary or in higher secondary schools. However this forms also available in online and in the following institution on demand. Local government Offices like- Gram panchyat, municipalities, and borough offices, and head offices of KMC.

VIII. Submission of form:
The completed application forms in rural areas under the West Bengal Panchyat Act, 1973 to be submitted to block development offices of the concerned block and also in office of districts social well fair. In urban notified areas covered under the West Bengal Municipality Act, 1993 all the completed application form to be submitted in municipality/ divisional offices and office of District Social Welfare and in urban areas which is covered under the Kolkata Municipal Corporation Act 1980, the form submitted to Brough offices and head office of Kolkata Municipal Corporation.

IX. Payment Mode:
The scholarship will be paid by way of fund transfer through a bank account only but it is not a condition at the time of applying either for the scheme benefit, when application approved then necessary help provided by the bank.

X. Management of the Scheme:
For the effective management of the scheme the state, district, kolkata municipality and block level steering committees established to steward the scheme in their respective areas. In the district of Darjeeling there are two district steering and monitoring committee, one for gorkhaland territorial authority and other is for non-GTA areas. This committee at their respective levels,

- Review, Monitor, and advice on all the matters relating to the implementation of the scheme, including reviewing progress, strengthening, coordination, and convergence between and within the department.
- They help in the implementation of the scheme and provide modification required for improving the implementation of the scheme.
- They meet periodically (quarterly at the State level and Monthly at district and block level) or early if need arise. If require then Technical Expert, NGOs or civil society group may be invited to attend the meeting.

XI. Benefits of Kanyasree Project:
Kanyasree praklpaa provide huge benefit to girls, it almost help 9 lakh girls only in first four months of introduction. Women and child development minister of West Bengal Shashi Panja told in the state assembly that till January, 2014, 8.3 lakh girls student have received annual stipend of Rs 500 while around 48,000 girls in 18 years were provided one time grant of Rs 25,000.She stated that ‘our target is to bring 15.52 lakh students under the first kind of march 2014 and 1.3 lakh student under second benefit by that time. She also said this scheme help in delaying the marriage of girls in the state where 54% girls married before the age of 18 years. It help the girls in their education, health, and in delaying early child marriage etc .In this programme 30% of seat reserve for Kanyasree holders for vocational education, it also help them in the admission in ITI and Polytechnic.

XII. Conclusion:
From the above discussion it is clear to us that this scheme is inevitable effort of West Bengal Government and also very beneficial for girls, particularly for those poor talented girls who are unable to receive education due to lack of sufficient money. Due to lack of money, their parent wanted to married them as
these girls are burden to them. They are not wanted to spend money on their education. For these types of girls this scheme is like a blessing. By using this scheme they can again start their education and can delay their marriage at least until the age of 18 years, it is observed in our study that this programme is very helpful in improvement of study of students, delaying Girls child marriage, reduce immature mothers mortality rate, improvement of interest of learner in study etc. But inspire of this still today a large numbers of girls unable to receive education due to lack of money. So government needs to give more stress on these types of programmes, so that more and more girls will be benefited. But it is very appreciable effort of government of West Bengal.

XIII. Reference: