

# A STUDY TO EVALUATE THE PERFORMANCE OF SUKANYA SAMRIDDHI YOJANA & ITS IMPACT ON WOMEN'S EDUCATION

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## Abstract

*The aim of social welfare is to improve the well-being and quality of life of people. Specifically, it focuses on easing the suffering of the impoverished, less fortunate, disadvantaged, and underprivileged elements of society and enhancing their quality of life. In India, having a daughter has never been considered a desirable option due to rituals around marriage and dowry expectations. As a result, several other issues surfaced, including the killing of female infants and the restriction of education to women. The Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana is an initiative to improve the facilities for education of women and bring about a change in the perception of society towards education for the girl child. An approved commercial bank branch or the post office can accept deposits under the Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana, a special deposit scheme. The paper discusses the performance of Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana based on secondary sources of data collection.*

**Keywords:** Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana, education, Girl Child, deposits.

## INTRODUCTION

The government of India frequently launches initiatives aimed at enhancing the social and economic circumstances of its citizens. These initiatives are referred to as "government schemes." Everyone associated with programs that support the economic development of India has to develop an understanding of the purpose of these programs because they have a substantial impact on the country's socio economic problems. Prime Minister Narendra Modi initiated the Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana on January 22, 2015, as a part of the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao campaign. Currently, the plan offers tax advantages together with an interest rate of 8.2% (for the January–March 2024 quarter). Any India Post office or licensed commercial bank branch can open an account. A specified amount can be deposited annually into an account opened in the name of a girl child by her parents or legal guardians under this plan. Ten years old is the minimum and fourteen years old is the maximum age to open an account. The girl can use the account until she is 21.

The objective of SSY is to combat the pervasive prejudice against female children in Indian society. The program aims to guarantee equal possibilities for girls and counter the preference for male offspring by providing financial security and support for their future. One of the primary problems that Indian girls experience is having restricted access to opportunity and education. SSY aims to overcome these. The program promotes increased involvement and female empowerment by offering financial aid for education and other essential requirements.

The purpose of the Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana was to persuade parents of females younger than 10 years old to start setting money aside for their daughters' future education and wedding costs. The Government of India elevated the Special Savings Account (SSA) to the exalted exempt–exempt–exempt (EEE) category of savings in the general budget for 2015–16, putting it on an equal footing with other savings alternatives such as the Public Provident Fund (PPF). According to the data provided by the World Bank in 2015, 67% of India's population was rural. People who live in rural areas, especially those who are poor and who live in more isolated rural areas, lack access to social security measures. There is not a fair distribution of the government's services between the urban and rural populations, with the urban population making significantly more use of the services than the rural population does. The rural population in India has a lower literacy rate (68.9%) than the

urban population (85%), which may contribute to an increased level of ignorance on the part of rural residents regarding various government programmes

### SCHEMES FOR THE WELFARE OF WOMEN IN INDIA:

The Indian government has introduced a number of programs aimed at empowering women by giving them the social respect that is legitimately theirs and creating chances for them to become economically independent. The Indian government has implemented measures to guarantee equality in all aspects, encourage women's empowerment, and enhance child education, given uneven treatment of men and women throughout the history of the country. These efforts will help to resolve the problems of inequalities between men and women in Indian society.

Table-1 Government Schemes for Women and Girls Welfare in India

Name of the Scheme	Objectives
<b>Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme</b>	The Indian Prime Minister unveiled the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme in the state of Haryana on January 22, 2015. Girls' education, safety, and survival are guaranteed under this program. The initiative aims to address concerns about the declining gender ratio in recent years, as well as increase public awareness of significant social issues and enhance the efficacy of welfare services tailored to the needs of women and girls.
<b>Women Helpline Scheme</b>	Among the numerous government initiatives aimed at empowering women is the Women Helpline Scheme. Its purpose is to offer emergency responses to women who have suffered abuse in public or private settings, seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day. All of the states and union territories in the nation have adopted the same toll-free number (181) to provide women with immediate support. This number has been designated as the universal women's hotline. You can get in touch with this number for free. Furthermore, the program draws attention to further initiatives and plans that support women's empowerment.
<b>STEP (Support to Training &amp; Employment Program for Women)</b>	India's most successful women's empowerment program is called STEP (Support to Training and Employment Program for Women). It was put into place to give women access to training programs for skill development and job prospects. Grants for training programs are given to institutions and organizations under this government-sponsored initiative
<i>National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship (NMS) Scheme</i>	Through this program, students from economically disadvantaged groups can pursue higher education with financial aid. Students who perform well on the eighth standard examination are eligible to apply for scholarships under the program. The students receive the scholarship in order to attend classes nine and ten. The scholarship is worth Rs. 12,000/-a year. The qualified students receive the scholarship from the State Governments/UTs. Students from socio economically disadvantaged groups may apply for the scholarship.

Source:(List of Women Empowerment Schemes in India: Eligibility & Complete Process, n.d.).

### SSY, or Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana, is a deposit scheme

Parents or legal guardians can open deposits on behalf of a girl children (including adopted girl child) for up to 2 daughters aged below 10. Three girl children, in case of twin girls as second birth or the first birth itself results in three girl children.

- Only one account can be opened in the name of a girl child.
- Minimum of Rs 250 of initial deposit with multiple of Rs 150 thereafter with annual ceiling of Rs.150000 in a financial year.
- Maximum period upto which deposits can be made 15 years from the date of opening of the account. The account shall mature on completion of 21 years from the date of opening of account or on the marriage of Account holder whichever is earlier.
- Requirement of a birth certificate of the girl child.
- Need a small amount of INR 250 for opening a Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana account.
- Helps save for your girl child's educational expenses.
- The Triple Tax Benefits you cannot ignore. ...
- You only need to deposit for 15 years. ...

- Premature withdrawal allowed under special circumstances.

#### Sukanya Samridhi Yojana Interest Rate

The current interest rate for the Sukanya Samridhi Yojana (SSY) is 8.0% per annum. The interest is compounded on a yearly basis, and it is subject to change based on government decisions. The rate of interest is determined quarterly.

#### What are the Primary Objectives of the SSY Scheme?

The primary objectives of the Sukanya Samridhi Yojana (SSY) are as follows:

SSY aims to counter the prevalent bias against girl children in Indian society. By promoting financial security and support for their future, the scheme seeks to challenge the preference for male children and ensure equal opportunities for girls.

The scheme intends to provide a safety net for girls by encouraging parents to save for their daughters' future.

SSY is designed to address one of the major challenges faced by girls in India – limited access to education and opportunities. By providing financial assistance for education and other areas, the scheme encourages higher participation and empowerment of girls.

The Sukanya Samridhi Yojana strives to create a more equitable and promising future for girl children in India by supporting their education, well-being, and overall development.

#### Sukanya Samridhi Yojana Age Limit & Maturity Period

The Age Limit & Maturity Period of Sukanya Samridhi Yojana (SSY) are as follows:

- Age Limit for Opening an SSY Account.
- A girl child can have only one SSY account. The account can be opened anytime between her birth and her 10th birthday.
- Beneficiary of SSY:
- Any resident Indian girl child is considered a beneficiary under SSY from the time of opening the account until maturity or closure.
- Deposits under SSY:

The guardian/parent can deposit funds and operate the account until the girl child reaches the age of 18. Once the girl child turns 18, she must take over the operation of the SSY account. The minimum deposit amount is Rs. 250 (previously Rs. 1,000),

#### Beti Bachao, Beti Padoos Yojana

Beti Bachao, Beti Padoos Yojana is a campaign under the Government of India that was established for generating awareness and improving the efficiency of the welfare services intended for girls in India. This scheme was launched by PM Narendra Modi on 22 January 2015 which is run jointly by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, and the Ministry of Human Resource Development. Beti Bachao, Beti Padoos campaign is a national initiative jointly which aims to address the issue of the declining child sex ratio image (CSR).

Initially, this scheme was launched with funding of ₹100 crores and targeted mainly to the clusters in Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Bihar, and Delhi.

A National Executive Committee has been formed by the Bharatiya Janata Party to promote Beti Bachao Beti Padoos (BBBP) across the country. National Executive Committee is responsible for organizing several programs to promote "Save Girl Child" and "to Educate Girl Child" since January 2015. Dr. Rajendra Phadke is the National Convener of BBBP Abhiyan.

As per the census data in India, in 2001, the child sex ratio (0-6 years) in India was 927 girls per 1,000 boys and in 2011, it dropped to 918 girls for every 1,000 boys. As per the 2012 reports of UNICEF, India ranked 41st among 195 countries and a population census of 2011, revealed that the population ratio of India is 919 females per 1000 of males.

## Objectives of Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Yojana

As per the 2011 national census, the reduction in the number of the female population of certain Indian states continued to decrease. This, as a result, led to the establishment of this campaign.

The main objectives of Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Yojana are:

- To prevent gender-biased sex selective elimination.
- To ensure the protection and survival of the girl child.
- Ensuring education and participation of the girl child.

## Strategies of Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Yojana

- To promote education and create equal value for the girl child through proper implementation of a sustained social mobilization and communication campaign
- To focus and improve the issues of declination in CSR/SRB in public discourse which would be an indicator for good governance
- To focus on gender critical districts and cities low on CSR for intensive & integrated action and engaging with communities to challenge gender stereotypes and social norms.
- Adopting innovative interventions by the districts as per their local needs, context, and sensibilities.
- To ensure the services of various schemes & programmes that are sufficiently responsive to the issues of gender and children's rights.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

**1.Revathi K (2018 )** in her research has concluded that The government has launched the Sukanya Samridhi Scheme (SSS) in an effort to save the lives of girl children. It's intended to protect girls from future financial burdens related to marriage, schooling, and other commitments.

The financial burden placed on girls is considerably reduced by investments in SSS. The attitudes, awareness, and contentment with the Sukanya Samridhi Scheme (SSS) of the NRGEA works in the Dharmapuri area are depicted in a research of rural investors. A study by the researcher examined how 400 respondents in the Dharmapuri district perceived the SSS using primary data collected through a questionnaire. The researcher has analyzed the profile of the respondents and the awareness of people towards the scheme. The perception and attitude of the respondents towards saving for the girl child and the investments made by them to provide a better future to the girl child were the focus of the study.

## 2.Dave, Suchitt Dilipbhai (2018)

The researcher has attempted to understand India as a welfare state after reviewing legal ideas on welfare and the interaction of several elements. Without knowledge of the Indian Welfare regime, the study would be incomplete. The topic of constitutional views was covered. There was also discussion of many Central Government projects. The government has acknowledged and taken into consideration a number of arguments in favor of and against the assistance programs. Additionally, the government has compared data on the distribution of the poor and the benefits of area-based assistance programs. It was discovered that the poor and most in need do not always receive welfare. Some concepts have been put into practice that aim to distribute the funds by formalizing banking channels, connecting the poorest people with banks, and then providing benefits to them so that they can be tracked down and system leaks may be avoided.

## 1. r (2002)

In his research, the researcher has highlighted the fact that sexual selection is viewed as a sin, a defamatory conduct that brings disgrace to the family, and an immoral procedure because prenatal sex determination is strictly prohibited. There is a conditional agreement in place about the prohibition of prenatal sex determination, nonetheless, whereby prenatal sex determination is considered a workable way to safeguard the future of a disadvantaged family that already has two daughters.

2. Prior to the enforcement of stringent laws, getting an ultrasound was thought to be standard procedure, making it costly and unavailable to most people. However, in order to obtain ultrasounds, residents in these districts typically travel to other districts with more lenient legislation.

3. Although it's well acknowledged that sex selection is a practice, it's publicly discussed. Events where medical professionals misreport to patients about the sex of some people believed that identifying the fetus as male

when it was actually female was a morally right and necessary step that would help save the girl child and provide funds for her education.

3. Parmar Shiva (2022) provided insights into the significance of Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao Campaign, the role of media in building & improving public perceptions, and the need to evaluate the interference of the campaign to enhance its effectiveness in addressing the challenges related to the child sex ratio decline in India.

5. Maurya, Suman (2021) emphasized on the the multi-faceted nature of the issue of sex selection and prenatal sex determination, highlighting the significance of addressing socio-cultural norms, regulatory frameworks, access to healthcare services, education, and ethical considerations in efforts to combat gender-based discrimination and promote gender equality.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To study the performance of Sukanya Samridhhi Yojana
- To evaluate the impact of Sukanya Samridhhi Yojana on enrollment rates of girl children in schools.
- To provide suggestions for policy improvements

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

### Statement of the problem:

There is still a scope to promote the saving habit among people which will empower them further and achieving the same is quite possible through an effective scheme like Sukanya Samridhhi Yojana. Education is an important tool for empowering all individuals including womens and at the same time we cannot ignore the fact that since the cost of education is too high, it becomes a burden for most of the people. Hence with the help of this research we would try to study the trends in the enrollment rate post introduction of this scheme.

### Significance of the study:

The study will help to promote saving habits amongst the women which will not just improve their economic conditions make them more independent & financially literate. The study will further help us to find out whether post introduction of sukanya samridhhi yojana, there has been a change in the accessibility & affordability of education.

### Sources of data:

Secondary sources of data collection like government reports, publications and census data will be referred to study the performance of the Sukanya Samridhhi Yojana and evaluate its impact on the enrollment rates of girl children in schools.

## DISCUSSION

As a trial project, 100 districts (45.9KB) with at least one district in every state were chosen based on their low child-sex ratios from the 2011 Census, which covered all states and UTs. The following three factors are used to choose districts:

1. districts with a declining trend that are above the national average but still below it (87 districts out of 23 states);
2. Districts with a trend of increase and above the national average (5 districts/5 states-selected to sustain high CSR levels and provide models and lessons for other districts to follow).
3. Phase Two
4. The program has now been extended to 61 more districts, chosen from 11 States and Utah, whose CSR is less than 918. Click here (70.4KB) to view the list of additional districts covered.
5. The Pan India Expansion of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) covering all districts of the country was launched on 8th March 2018.

#### TARGET GROUP OF THE SCHEME:

Primary: youthful, recently wed young people and expectant parents Teens and young adults, both male and female, Families and societies

Secondary: Medical professionals, private hospitals, assisted living facilities, diagnostic centers, schools, and AWCs, among others. Religious leaders, media, civil society organizations, frontline workers, PRIs/ULBs, officials, and women's collectives and SHGs. A nationwide effort to support girl child education was launched under the Scheme. The campaign aims to make sure that girls experience an inclusive birth, upbringing, and education so they can grow up to be capable, equal-rights citizens of this nation. A comprehensive media strategy is being implemented to raise awareness and distribute data regarding the matter throughout the country.

#### Implementation of the Scheme

As per the Scheme, sectoral activities and schematic intervention will be the main focus of multi-sectoral action in selected 405 districts (which includes the 161 districts that are currently in place) encompassing all States/UTs, after consulting with the M/o HRD and H&FW. Measurable results and indicators will mobilize States, districts, and interested sectors for swift, coordinated multisectoral action to enhance CSR.

#### Rise in the Sex Ratio

The Sex ratio at birth has improved by 36 points between 2014-2015 and 2021-2022. According to the Ministry data, sex ratio at birth, which was 903 girls per 1,000 boys being born in 2014-2015, increased to 939 girls for every 1,000 male childbirths in 2021-2022. Additionally, the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao initiative guarantees that girls receive free education and that female dropouts are imprisoned. In order to guarantee the long-term development of girls, it also placed a strong emphasis on higher education for them. According to the Economic Survey of India 2023, there was an improvement in gender parity and Gross Enrollment Ratios (GER) in schools during the fiscal year 2022. The GER for girls between 2020 and 2022 in the primary section has 104.8% as compared to 102.1% for boys, while in the upper primary section the GER for girls has been 94.9% as compared to 96.5% for boys.

#### Overall Evaluation of the Scheme

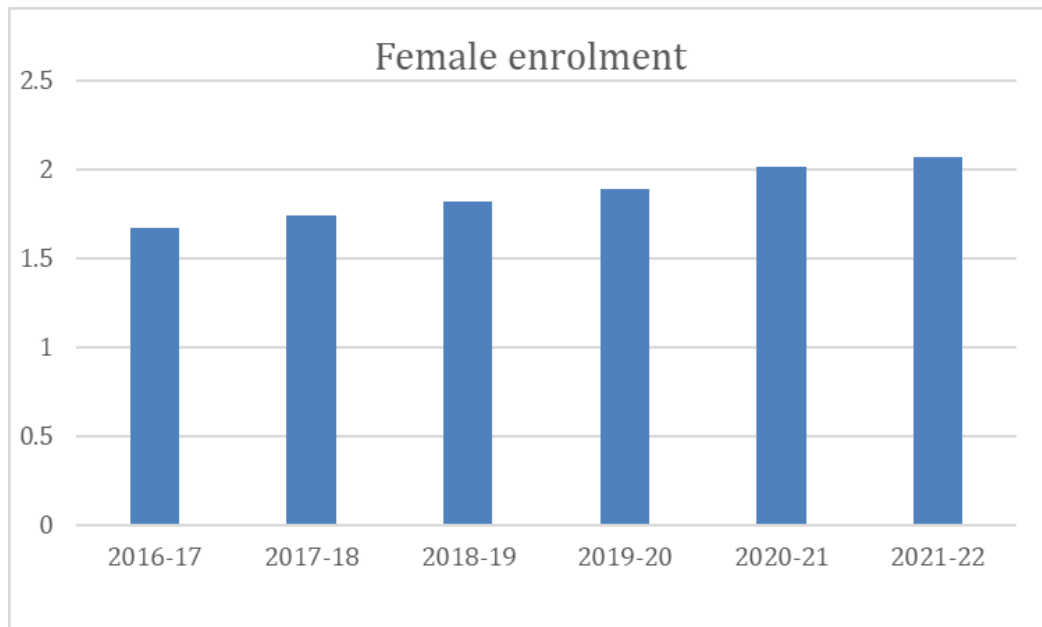
The program has resulted in numerous outstanding initiatives and community-level projects, and it has been successful in inspiring a sizable public mobilization to stop gender discrimination and value female children. Additionally, a high level of awareness of the scheme was noticed.

#### Gender Parity Index

As mentioned by the Ministry of Education, GPI (Gender Parity Index) can be defined as the ratio of Gross Enrolment Ratio that of the girls to boys. It helps to evaluate the development towards gender parity in the area of education and/or learning opportunities available to the girl children in relation to the boys. Below given is the statistics of **Gender wise Enrolment** for a period of 6 years with respect to females:

Year	Female enrolment
2016-17	1.67
2017-18	1.74
2018-19	1.82
2019-20	1.89
2020-21	2.01
2021-22	2.07

Source: AISHE



According to the statistics data provided by All India Survey on Higher Education the above chart represents the enrollment of females over a span of several years, from 2016-17 to 2021-22. The numbers represent some form of enrollment rate or count, possibly in millions or another unit.

In 2016-17, the female enrollment was 1.67

This enrollment figure increased steadily over the years.

By 2021-22, the female enrollment had risen to 2.07.

Overall, the trend shows a consistent increase in female enrollment over the years, indicating potential growth in educational opportunities, improved access to education, or other factors contributing to increased participation of females in the educational system.

## VI SUGGESTIONS & CONCLUSION

The continuous rise in female enrollment rates from the years 2016-2017 to 2021-2022, as given in the statistics provided by the All India Survey on Higher Education, shows an increasing trend in women's education. This upward trend suggests an increasing emphasis on the accessibility to educational opportunities for girls and young women across India. One of the crucial factors contributing to this increasing trend can be linked with the successful implementation & impact initiatives of one of the schemes of Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao i.e. Sukanya Samridhi Yojana (SSY). SSY has been introduced as an initiative of the Government of India to promote financial & social security amongst the females & will help to fulfill the educational desires of young girl children by providing a comprehensive saving scheme. The scheme not just helps the families to plan for their long term investment needs but also shares the burden of huge education costs and thus proves to be effective.

The rising enrollment rates of females in higher education institutions reflect the concrete benefits of such schemes, which will help the families to better understand the need for educating the girl child. As more families are financially empowered to support their daughters' educational pursuits through initiatives like SSY, barriers to accessing education are gradually being destroyed.

In conclusion, the upward and positive trend of female enrollment rates in higher education, as observed over the years, highlights the positive impact of the Government's scheme- Sukanya Samridhi Yojana on women's education. Through fostering financial security and investment in girls' futures, such initiatives contribute significantly to advancing gender parity in education and empowering girls and young women to pursue their academic aspirations.

## SUGGESTIONS:

- An increase in the interest rate will be instrumental in attracting a larger consumer base, thus empowering more women in India.
- The use of social media to promote the scheme will create more awareness in the rural population.

- Additional benefits like linking the scheme to tax benefits to ensure greater participation in the scheme.
- Implementation of additional strategies, by the Government and NGO's to monitor the progress of the scheme.

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