

Gender Budgeting under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Its Impact on the Education of Girl Child: A Comparative Study of Srinagar and Budgam Districts in Kashmir Division.

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Department of Political Science

Jamia Millia Islamia

By

Research Scholar: Shailla Draboo

Supervisor: Dr Farah Naaz

Findings of the Study:

The study attempts to analyze the planning, budgeting, and implementing process of two sub-schemes under SSA for girl education. Using both qualitative and quantitative methods of data analysis, the study arrives at the following major findings:

- i. The study finds out that gender budgeting approach in SSA has helped in increasing the educational attainment level of girls. Allocation of targeted funds for girls has improved gender-specific parameters like drop-out rates, GER/GPI, and enrolment rates of girl students.
- ii. The study finds out that both KGBV and NPEGEL schemes have helped in increasing gender equality and access to education for girls. It was found that the schools which are running under these schemes have a better retention rate as compared to the other schools in the district.
- iii. The study also finds that effective utilization of funds has a significant bearing on the success of the schemes. Without going into the nuances about the quality of expenditure made, the study finds that at the fundamental level, the educational attainment of girls is better in schools where the fund utilization for these components of the scheme is higher.
- iv. The study finds out that educational facilities like books, uniforms, toilets, drinking water and stationery are adequately provided in the sample schools. Inadequacies were found in physical infrastructure like classrooms, benches, and boundary walls in the sample schools.

- v. With regards to district comparison between Srinagar and Budgam, the study finds out many factors which result in better performance of a scheme in one district versus the other. These include availability of adequate teachers and staff, location of the schools, response of the students towards the scheme, quality of infrastructure in schools, law and order problems in the State, availability of private schooling in the district and role of parents. The cause and effect relationship are determined using inferential and descriptive analysis of the data.
- vi. The study found that the broad provisions of KGBV and NPEGEL scheme related to inspection and audit of schools, scheme information, technical support related to civil works, monitoring and supervision and overall curriculum were being satisfactorily implemented in both districts. However, the infrastructure like hostels, recreation area, etc. was not very well developed in many schools particularly in Srinagar district where the sample schools were running from rented accommodation.
- vii. Vocational training forms an important part of both the schemes. The study found that different types of skills are taught to girls like training about *Kashmiri* art and crafts, *sozni work*, *mehndi art*, knitting, *aari work*, etc. This helps them to get useful skills, which can help them earn livelihood also particularly in the winter months when schools remain closed due to winter.
