



“Evaluation of Beti bachao beti padhao scheme perspective in Datia district”

Abstract

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In India, sex determination before birth and post birth discrimination against the girl child has increasingly led to an alarming situation. Census of 2011 showed a significant declining trend in the Child Sex Ratio (CSR) between 0-6 years which declined to an all-time low of 918. Strong socio cultural and religious biases, preference for son & discrimination towards daughters has accentuated the problem. Coordinated & convergent efforts are needed to ensure survival, protection and education of the girl child to make them realize their full potential. The Government announced Beti Bachao Beti Padhao programme to address the issue of decline in CSR through a mass campaign & multi-sectoral action plan in 100 gender critical districts across the country.

Keywords : discrimination, significant, Coordinated, Child Sex

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Introduction

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi accorded top most priority to this issue by himself launching the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao campaign from Panipat district in Haryana on 22nd January, 2015. With a mission to increase awareness about the program especially in rural India,



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a special awareness campaign was launched by the Directorate of Field Publicity, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India in February- March 2015 in collaboration with the Ministry of Women & Child Development. As part of this campaign 112 programmes have been organized in 75 critical districts identified by the WCD Ministry.

In this connection, it is pertinent to mention that BBBP was included as a theme for the Special Outreach Program (SOP) funded by M/o Information & Broadcasting and as such it was part of the SOP campaign conducted by DFP with its own funds also. The 22 Regional Offices spread across the country were involved in the campaign. The maximum number of 18 programs were organized by the North Western Region (comprising of Haryana, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh) followed by Maharashtra & Goa Region (14 programs), Rajasthan (10), J&K (10), Gujarat (8) and Utrakhnad & Western UP (8). Most of the other Regions organized between 2 to 6 programs. Through these programmes 1, 48,813 people were directly reached. The campaign got overwhelming print and electronic coverage and tremendous support from other media organizations of Ministry of I&B and other GOI Ministries and State Departments.

Indian Society is patriarchal and male-centric. Sons continue the family lineage while daughters marry and go away from the maternal home. Sons perform essential religious rituals, which help grandparents and parents to attain Moksha. Concrete social structure and relationship are bound by beliefs and traditions which predominantly prefer to give birth to the male child. Male children provide financial and emotional care in the old age; they add to family wealth and property, while daughters drain it through dowry and other expenses. Moreover, our Dharmashastra and religious texts uphold gender discrimination.

A Small family norm was propagated through the Family Planning programme implemented in India after independence. This program boosted the son preference more predominantly in the country, which was strongly prevailed in socio-cultural and religions value system. In this transition period, technologies like Amniocentesis and Sonography test entered the Indian Medical System. This type of technology meant to give birth to the male child itself makes



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him Independent and also for detecting the physical and cultural abnormalities in the foetus, paved the way for detecting the sex of the foetus. Introduction of these technologies in a patriarchal society like India and where the fertility rate is very high led to the unfavourable sex-ratio in the country. It has become boon or from the Indians who favoured (highly male child), son preference greatly, which in turn responsible for the decline of sex ratio in India.

Pre-Natal sex selection is one of the leading causes in India for a severe decline in the number of girls under the age of six. The Census, 2011 has shown a significant declining trend in Child Sex Ratio (CSR), with 918 girls per 1000 boys in the age group of 0-6 years. The unabated decline in CSR since 1961 (from 976 in 1961 to 927 in 2001 and 918 in 2011) is a matter of grave concern as it reflects the low status of women in our Society and indicates her sex discrimination. Prevalent social constructs that discriminate against girls on the one hand, and the availability and misuse of diagnostic tools that enable sex determination, on the other hand, pose serious challenges related to survival, protection and empowerment of girl child. In this scenario, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) was launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 22nd January 2015 to address the declining CSR and related issues of disempowerment of women over a lifecycle continuum. This is an ambitious scheme of the Union government aims to balance child sex ratio (CSR) in the country.

In the first Phase, 100 districts have been identified based on low Child Sex Ratio as per Census 2011 covering all States/UTs as a pilot with at least one district in each State. The Centre identified three types of districts for the project. The categories include districts that have lower CSR, those maintaining CSR for long, and districts with high fluctuation in CSR. Datia District falls in the third category. Datia District has become the only district in Madhya Pradesh and one among the 100 districts in the country to have been chosen for the implementation of the 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' (BBBP) scheme. The central government had selected the district based on the census report of 2001 and 2011, which showed 'significant' fluctuation in child sex ratio. As per the statistics, in 2001, there were 928 females for every 1,000 males in the district, while the State's female population stood at 945 and the country's was 927. "In 2011, for



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every 1,000 males, the female population increased to 931 in the district, while the State figure stood at 962 and the national figure at 918. Considering the fluctuation, the Centre selected Datia District district to launch various programmes to improve the child sex ratio in the district.

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao

With this background "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao" programme was launched on 26-01- 2015 in Datia District district Madhya Pradesh State. On the same day, the programme was witnessed by Oath taking ceremony to implement the scheme in a real sense. Followed by this at the District Level Task Force Committee was formed with the convergence of Department of Health and Family Welfare (DOHFW), Department of Public Education and the local NGOs. Under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner of Datia District. The DTFC meets every quarterly (10 meetings held till date) and discusses the issues related to the effective implementation of the program. Followed by DTFC, TTFC and GPTFC have formed at the Taluk and the Gram Panchayat level respectively.

The need for the perspective

The empowerment of women not only depends on the educational and economic empowerment of women but also it requires the transformation in socio-cultural and religious conditions of the Society for comprehensive (Integrated) empowerment of Indian women. The present study explores the influence of patriarchy in terms of Social, Cultural and religious practices on the sex-ratio. It tries to find out the psychology of doctor's who practice detecting sex with technology and the parents who highly aspire to give birth only to sons. It tries to provide solutions and strategies to stop the sex selection of the unborn child. This is the need of the hour and techniques should be formulated, which will put a stop to sex determination in India. At this juncture, the use of the feminist methodology for the Evaluation of 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' programme is felt quite essential.



Evaluation Framework

The study covers Datia District in Madhya Pradesh State where the scheme is being implemented. It covers all the five talukas of the district. **The scheme is perspective from 2015 and period of Evaluation is 2015-2017.** The different dimensions of the scheme as related to sex selected elimination, protection and survival of girl child, education and participation, the existence of discriminatory practices and gender biases are covered under Evaluation. The scheme evaluated for the period 2015-17.

Review of Literature

The present study is conducted with a theoretical framework consisting of three theories, i.e., Theory of Change, Gender Schema Theory; and Agenda Setting Theory. Theory of Change virtually a full description and illustration of how and why the desired change is expected to happen in a particular context. It is focused mainly on mapping out the difference between goals to be achieved and actual goals achieved in establishing gender equality in terms of sex ratio in Datia District district.

An acquaintance with earlier pertinent studies has been felt necessary to develop a better understanding of the present study and to formulate an appropriate research methodology. Therefore, an exhaustive review of literature having a direct or indirect bearing on the present study was done. The select theories related to the present study are also discussed in the present chapter.

Rihana, Asija and Swatantra (2016), "A process analysis of Beti Bachao, Beti padhao" in the light of its radio advertisements" Explained that BBBP has focused on emotional and rational appeal, which is in sync with the need of contemporary masses. The radio advertisements of BBBP, just a part of the whole campaign, depict a high possibility of the campaign's going successful and changing abysmally skewed sex-ratio and discrimination against female foetuses and the girl child.



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Beti Bachao Beti Pado (2017) Manual for District level functionaries, the purpose of this Development Role Manual for Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) Scheme is to create an enabling mechanism for improved implementation of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) at the cutting edge, leading to enhanced outcomes in nature and extent. Accordingly, it would act as a guide for implementation by the District Collector and key District-level functionaries, enable quick learning, implementation modalities, roles and responsibilities of the various functionaries as well as stakeholders etc.

Shweta Tewari (2017), Beti Bachao and Beti Padhao (Save the Girl Child and Educate Her): A Geographical Analysis of Child Sex Ratio of Mumbai study claimed that Most districts have meagre child sex ratio and included in Beti Bachao and Beti Padhao Program while some districts have comparatively better child sex ratio and not included in the program. On an average child sex ratio has come down from 922 in 2001 to 883 in 2011. However, this is far behind the average national sex ratio in India of 940 as per latest reports of Census 2011 Directorate.

Singh Priya Akhori, Sami Mohi and Ranjan Abhishek (2018), "Impact of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme on Education and equality on a girl in rural areas of Jharkhand" in their study found that the rural parts of Jharkhand state have not seen much impact of the scheme. In contrast, all the families were in appreciation of educating both girls and boys and treating them in the same manner.

Saini Varsha & Sangwan Sheela (2018), "Awareness on Gender Empowerment and Beti Bachao Beti Padhao through Interventions" study result indicated that the girls and ladies both were not aware of gender empowerment and scheme, i.e. Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao in the labour colony of Hisar district. The further intervention program was implemented and evaluated that impact of the program was assessed positively on girls and women.

Leena (2018), "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme- A Step to Improve Child Sex Ratio and Girl Education" in her research found that the mere slogan will not work effectively. The demonstration of successful women in the media campaign should be on priority, and the



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government should provide additional resources to provide completely free education to the girl child. Merely exempting them from payment of tuition fee is not sufficient. The government should make necessary legislation to spend a significant chunk of the amount likely to be spent by corporate under Corporate Social Responsibility on education and training of girl child. The facilities of proper nutrition under Mid Day Meal program should be provided. Also, it should be made compulsory for private schools as well, and the government should bear the burden. A government who gets Rs.2,00,000 crore from merely 20 Coal Mines cannot spend some more amount to save the girl child is a question of concern. It will be a significant social problem in future if the proper actions will not be taken in the present time.

Objectives and Performance of the Programme

Women in our society have been subjected to discrimination and prejudices for a long time. They have often been denied fundamental rights and probably the worst form of denial is the 'Right to be born'. As a result of this, we have seen declining child sex ratio in different parts of the country, which is a matter of grave concern. Pre-Natal sex selection is one of the leading causes in India for a severe decline in the number of girls under the age of six. The Census, 2011 has shown a significant declining trend in Child Sex Ratio (CSR), with 918 girls per 1000 boys in the age group of 0-6 years.

The unabated decline in CSR since 1961 (from 976 in 1961 to 927 in 2001 and 918 in 2011) is a matter of grave concern as it reflects the low status of women in our society and indicates her sex discrimination. It points at a life-cycle continuum of inequity and multiple deprivations faced by women and girls throughout their lives. Declining CSR is also indicative of pre-birth discrimination manifested through gender-biased sex selection and post-birth discrimination against girls (in terms of health care, nutrition and education opportunities). Prevalent social constructs that discriminate against girls on the one hand, and the availability and misuse of diagnostic tools that enable sex determination, on the other hand, pose serious challenges related to survival, protection and empowerment of girl child.



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The Government of India, alarmed by the sharp decrease, in order to reverse this trend of declining child sex ratio and to highlight the empowerment of women through giving importance for girl child education, the central government has launched Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (BBBP) program on January 22nd 2015 to tackle the problem of CSR decrease in 100 gender critical districts. Coordinated and convergent attempts are required to guarantee the girl's child survival, safety and education. This novel scheme will also help allow women to move beyond their homes and communities to assume more significant responsibilities and claim their rights. In this scenario, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) was launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on January 22nd, 2015 to address the declining CSR and related issues of disempowerment of women over a life-cycle continuum. This is an ambitious scheme of the Union government aims to balance child sex ratio (CSR) in the country.

Research Methodology

The present study is the evaluation of Beti Bachao Beti Pacho scheme implemented in Datia District of Madhya Pradesh State. This scheme implemented by the Department of Woman and Child Development, Government of Madhya Pradesh. The period of evaluation is from 2015 to 2017. The objectives of the scheme were prevention of gender-biased sex- selective elimination; survival and protection of the girl child; and ensure education and participation of the girl child in the backdrop of declined child sex ratio in Madhya Pradesh to the extent of 931. The issues of female foeticide, gender gap, demographic imbalances are associated with the dogmatic belief of patriarchy, male supremacy and oppression of woman; it was adopted the feminist methodology using qualitative methodologies along with quantitative techniques. It attempts to bring out a comprehensive understanding of survival, health, education and empowerment of girl child with a holistic perspective. In order to study the impact of the programme in the district, it was adopted evaluation research design.

Objectives of Beti Padhao Beti Bachao Scheme:

1. To prevent gender-biased sex selective elimination.
2. To ensure survival and protection of the girl child.

3. To ensure education and participation of the girl child.

Table No. 1.1 What is the importance of survival and protection of the girls child.

Sr. no.	variables	Male	Female	Percentage
1	survival	70	60	65%
2	protection	30	40	35%
	Total	100	100	100%

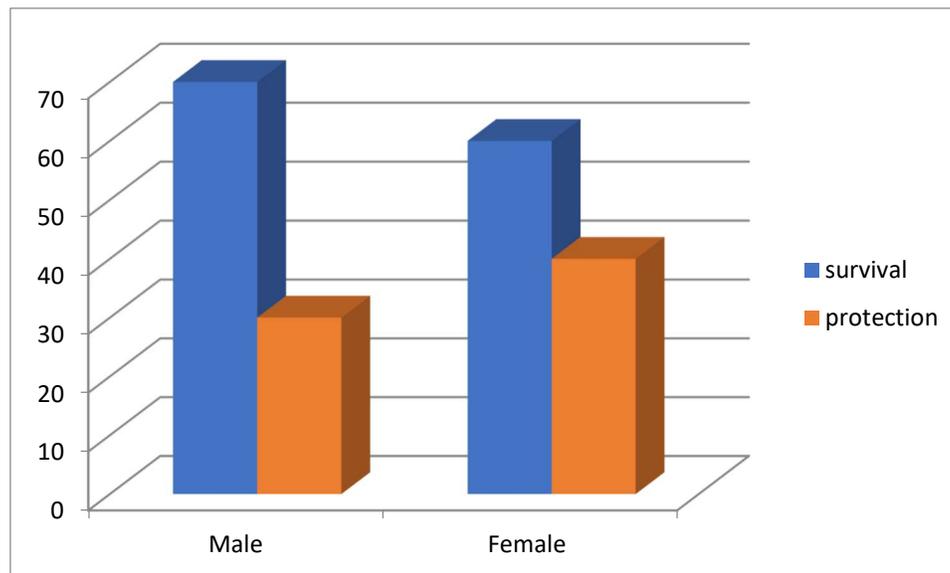


Table No. 1.1 It is Related the importance of survival and protection of the girls child. Has Divided two respondent male and female. The male survival 70 and protection 30 and percentage 65, and female survival 60 protection 40 and Percentage 35.

Major Findings:

Prevention of Gender biased sex selection elimination:

1. Change in gender biases are; the woman is capable of taking all kinds of responsibilities (83.2 percent); the perspective of looking at a woman is changed (61.3 percent);



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2. Impact of the BBBP is on developing awareness that 18 years is the minimum age for a girl to get marry (85.3 percent); the marriage of a girl under 18 is punishable (80.2 percent), and female foeticide is a crime (78.0 percent).
3. TV had a major impact in the dissemination of BBBP scheme (48.2 percent); followed by Newspapers (36.7 percent).
4. IEC material, i.e., Wall writings impacted (70.8 percent); and awareness programmes (60.1 percent).
5. Newly married men impacted more (81.9 percent) in changing perspective of looking at a girl child and treating equal between children (86.3 percent). Mothers are comparatively less impacted (44.1 percent) and (56.6 percent), respectively.
6. Parents wish to have a female child (4.3 percent); wish to have a male child (41.2 percent); have a female child and want a male child (31.7 percent); and never want a female child (11.8 percent).
7. Reasons for non-preference of a female child is to be paid dowry (71.9 percent); girl child is vulnerable to atrocities (62.6 percent); girl child is too expensive (57.4); difficult to arrange the marriage of daughter (41.8 percent); and difficult to make delivery of daughter (36.6 percent)
8. Reasons for the declined Child Sex Ratio in the district are female foeticide (89.8 percent); sex detection (85.3 percent); and Doctors help in foeticide (81.7 percent).

Recommendations:

After Evaluation of Beti Bachao Beti Padavo scheme, the most important finding is that majority of the respondents are aware of the Beti Bachao Beti Padho scheme. The study revealed that there is significant discrimination between a male and female child in offering education at all the levels except pre-university. The study also shows that there is a positive change taken place in gender perspective among the respondents in Datia District district. It is to be noted that a significant percent of the parents, 4.3 and 4.0 percent are intended to arrange child marriage of



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their son and daughter respectively. It is believed that there are several steps for improving the quality and quantity of Beti Bachao Beti Padavo scheme that will make a positive difference. With this background and based on the present study.

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