

# Mission of Kanyashree Prakalpa & its Impact on Child Marriage & Girls Education

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## ABSTRACT

Since 2013, Kanyashree Prakalpa has been one of the most discouraging schemes of the Government of West Bengal. This scheme is not only an incentivizing scheme. This is more than that. This study reveals the consciousness about Kanyashree Prakalpa for girls' student in relation to the locality and educational standards and also finds out the effect of the prakalpa on present girls education. Here researcher used two null hypotheses and two research questions. Researcher used 300 secondary and higher secondary students as sample. Here he used purposive sampling. Standardized questioner is used here to collect the data. For testing null hypothesis, researcher used t-test .Percentage and bar graphs are also used here to explain research question. Two null hypotheses are accepted and after explain two research question found significant result.

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## 1. Introduction:

Without empowering women a nation cannot develop. A nation can move to progress only by utilizing its all human resources. It may possible only when women in a society may give equal opportunity as their male counterpart in every aspect of social life. So to achieve a sustainable development in the society, women empowerment is essential and for this women education is also needed very much. Kanyashree prakalpa is a government sponsored scheme in West Bengal to enhance girls education. Ensuring that girls stay in school is one of most effective protective measure against child marriage given that child marriage has a grossly negative impact on the lives of children, adolescents and young woman. This scheme is expected to bring about measurable improved outcome for the education, health and empowerment of the girl, their children and immeasurable benefits for larger society. The purpose of this initiative is to help those girls who are from poor families and thus can't pursue higher studies due to tough economic conditions. It has been given international recognition by the United Kingdom's Department of International Development and the UNICEF. Educating girls helps to make communities and societies healthier, wealthier and safer, and can also help to reduce child deaths, improve maternal health and tackle the spread of HIV and AIDS. In earlier times girls were thought as burden. They had no right to talk ,to walk freely. But now the time is changed. The society is now feeling for girls education. This scheme gives its

helping hand to girls to educate them well and make the society more beautiful.

## 2. Background of Kanyashree Prakalpa:

Background: West Bengal has an adolescent (10-19 Years) population of 1.73 cores, out of which 48.11% are girls. The age group 10-14 years from 9.3% of the total population while 15- 19 forms 9.7% of the total population (source: Detailed table-SRS based on Census 2011;www.censusindia.gov.in/vital\_statistics/SRS\_Report).West Bengal shows the fifth highest prevalence of child marriage among all the states with 54.7% currently married women (age 20- 24) being married before 18. The incidence is even higher in rural areas (57.9%) every second girl in high prevalence child marriage districts of West Bengal[ Murshidabad (61.04%), Birbhum(58.03), Malda(57.07%) and Purulia(54.03)] were married off before they reach 18, the legal age for girls to get married. Due to early marriage education, health of girl child above all our national development is hindered. Under this circumstance, the government of West Bengal launches Kanyashree Prakalpa to get the girl child relieved from extreme condition of suffering. Vision: Protecting and empowering all adolescent girls and supporting their healthy development by creating an enabling environment for their participation and meaningful contribution to society.

### 3. Aims of this prakalpa:

The scheme aims at improving the status and well being of girl child by:

1. To give girl child the opportunity to gain skill and knowledge.
2. To foster the situation that give them right to education, health and economic equality.
3. Discouraging early marriage of girls to ensure compliance with the legal provisions pertaining to the minimum age at marriage.
4. Incentivize through scholarships, the continuation of education of the girl child in Secondary and Higher Secondary classes and those undergoing vocational training or sports training.
5. Improving IMR and MMR by delaying the age of marriage and consequently increasing the median age of first birth.
6. To reduce dropouts, especially amongst girls from poor families who are covered by any other scholarship.
7. Eradicating under nutrition and mal-nutrition of girl child.
8. Preventing trafficking and exploitation of the girl child.

### Mission of this prakalpa:

Creating a protective environment for girls in whom they can be safeguarded from being Married before the legal age of 18 years or trafficked, By incentivizing education and influencing knowledge, attitudes and practices to bring forth collective action against child marriage.

### 4. Statement of the problem:

In recognition of the fact, the present study attempted to find out about the mission of Kanyashree Prakalpa and its impact on child marriage and girls education of rural and urban areas. So researcher attempts to entitle the **“Mission of Kanyashree Prakalpa and its impact on child marriage and girls education.”**

### 5. Importance of the study:

The significance of the study can looked from different angles. The study may have sociological, economical and educational significance.

- The study will be useful to women social workers, their organizations, women Study centre and to those concerned with the upliftment of women.

- The study will also very helpful to planners, administrators and policy makers to formulate plans, policies, and strategies in right perspective as far as development of girls are concerned.
- The findings of the study will bring some theoretical knowledge regarding KanyashreePrakalpa.
- The findings coming out from this study may be used as related study to future researcher.
- The results of this study will produce a good background for further study.
- It will be great interest and curiosity among the students, schools, educationists, Economist social scientists etc.

### 6. Objectives of the study:

The present study was undertaken to achieve the following objectives-

- To explain the mission of Kanyashree Prakalpa.
- To find out the awareness of Kanyashree Prakalpa of girls student in relation to locality and Educational standard.
- To find out the impact of Kanyashree Prakalpa on child marriage.
- To find out the impact of Kanyashree Prakalpa on Higher Education.

### 7. Research Hypothesis:

**Ho<sub>1</sub>:** There is no significance difference between the rural and urban girls students awareness towards Kanyashree Prakalpa.

**Ho<sub>2</sub>:** There is no significance difference between the girls' student of class X and XI awareness towards Kanyashree Prakalpa.

### 8. Research Question:

1. What is the impact of Kanyashree prakalpa on child marriage?
2. Does the Kanyashree Prakalpa increase the motivation of girls' students in higher education?

### 9. Delimitation of the study:

It does not lie within the bound of possibility on the part of the researchers to circumscribe all aspects of the Kanyashree Prakalpa in this proportion of research .Therefore the scope of the study has been delimited as follows-

1. **Variable:** Study was delimited within specific variable that is Kanyashree prakalpa, girls education, Rural and urban school.
2. **Area of Study:** The sample of the present study was restricted to 200 girls from rural and urban schools.

- 3. **Tools:** Researcher was used only Questionnaire for this Study
- 4. **Statistical Measure:**
  - ✓ **Descriptive Statistic:** out of the several method of descriptive Statistic, the researcher selected here only mean and standard deviation for the study.
  - ✓ **Inferential Statistic:** out of the several method of inferential statistic the researcher selected here only t-test of this study.

**Independent Variable:** Awareness and impact of Kanyashree prakalpa  
**Dependent Variable:** Child Marriage & girl's education

**13. Tool Used:**

To collect the relevant data, only one tool was used in this study. A questionnaire regarding awareness was developed jointly by the supervisor and investigator as a data gathering tools and employed it after for collecting relevant data. For the development of the tool several steps were followed.

**10. Methodology:**

The method used in the present research is DESCRIPTIVE METHODS

**11. Population & sample of the study:**

Population of this study was girls' students of rural and urban schools. The target population was girls' student of class X and XI of rural and urban schools. The study was conducted on a sample of 300 students, 150 were girls' students of class X students of rural school and 150 were girls' students of class XI of urban schools. The sample was selected from four girls' schools of rural and urban area.

**12. Variable:**

*The variable used this study:*

**Table:-1: Sample Distribution:**

Class	Urban school	Rural school	Total no of students
X	75	75	150
XI	75	75	150
<b>Total</b>	150	150	300

**14. Analysis and interpretation of data:**

In this study analysis has been done hypothesis wise and research question wise:

(To Study the girls Awareness towards kanyashree prakalpa)

**Table 2: Particular showing statistics of the score obtained by the students**

Group	No. of student	Mean	S.D
Urban school girls	150	93.24	13.89
Rural school girls	150	85.62	12.97
Girls of class X	150	69.77	6.26
Girls of class XI	150	69.67	21.82
Urban girls of class X	75	68.78	6.37
Urban girls of class XI	75	70.6	7.22
Rural girls of class X	75	86.8	6.14
Rural girls of class XI	75	68.22	5.15

**H<sub>01</sub> :** There is no significance difference between the rural and urban girls students awareness towards Kanyashree Prakalpa

**Table: 3: t value presentation**

GROUP	N	MEAN	S.D	df	T value
Urban schoolgirls	150	93.24	13.24	198	9.32
Rural school Girls	150	85.62	12.97		

\*Table Value at 0.5 level 1.98

**\*\*T value is Non-Significant**  
 Here calculated value is greater than Table value

❖ **Table: 3:** -Calculated value is greater than table value. So null hypothesis is rejected .so there is significance difference between the awareness of rural and urban girls students about the Kanyashree Prakalpa.

**H<sub>02</sub>** : There is no significance difference between the class X and class XI girls students awareness towards Kanyashree Prakalpa

**Table:-4: t value presentation**

Group	N	Mean	S.D	df	T value
Girls of class X	150	69.77	6.26	198	0.04
Girls of class XI	150	69.67	21.82		

\*Table Value at 0.5 level 1.98

**\*\*T value is Non-Significant**

Here calculated value is greater than Table value

❖ **Table: 4:** calculated value is less than table value .so null hypothesis is accepted. So there is no significance difference between the awareness of class X and class XI students about Kanyashree Prakalpa.

during the age of 15 to17. In most of the cases the marriage is organised by family. Parents of the girl through this marriage off load a liability. But after implementation of Kanyashree Prakalpa families think twice to marry their girl at early age. After that marriage the girl will not be a beneficiary. The amount of Rs 500/- per month means a lot to a poor family. Moreover, after completion of the school when the girl enrolls herself with a college she will get another opportunity to get the benefit of the scheme (K-2). The benefitted amount this time is higher than the previous one and its preconditions are (a) being unmarried and (b) the minimum age should be 18 and not more than 19. For obvious reasons the girl herself and her family would like to get the benefit and its result is that the family would not arrange the marriage of the girl before her age of 18. It obviously reduces the prevalence of child marriage in the state.

**15. Research question wise analysis**

*(Researcher framed two research questions for the present study)*

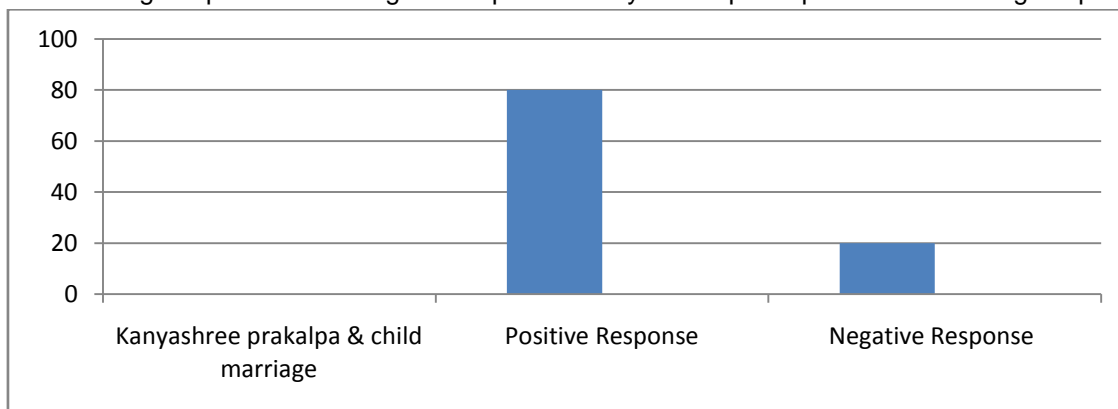
**R.Q.-1: What is the impact of Kanyashree prakalpa on child marriage?**

Kanyashree Prakalpa not only minimizes the tendency of girl students to dropout from schools in early age at the same time it will make a positive impact of the prevention of girl child marriage. A precondition of the Prakalpa is not being married. A girl who gets the benefit of the Prakalpa (K-1) will enjoy the benefit till she is reached at the age of 17. Survey reveals that during a significant percentage of girl child marriage occurs

**Table: 5:** Showing the positive and negative impact of Kanyashree prakalpa on child marriage in percentage (on selected sample)

Kanyashree prakalpa & child marriage	Positive Response	Negative Response
Number of response	240	60
Percentage (%)	80	20

**Figure: 1:** Showing the positive and negative impact of Kanyashree prakalpa on child marriage in percentage



**Analysis:** From the table 5 and Figure-1 showed that percentage of positive response on child marriage is 80 and percentage of negative response is 20. Table and figure both also indicate most of the number says after implementation Kanyashree, child marriage are truly reduced in the society.

According to Kanyashree Annual Report -15-16 the rates of child marriage in West Bengal has reduced. According to DLHS -3-2007-08 the state ranked fifth highest in the country when it came to the prevalence of child bride (54.7%). Most of these girls are married before they reach adulthood. But now the situation has changed. According to NFHS-3(2015-16) woman aged 20-24 years married before age 40.7%. Although the decline rate is very slow, but it is very significant. After launching the Kanyashree prakalpa, the rates of child marriage has put down. Girls say „no” to child marriage.

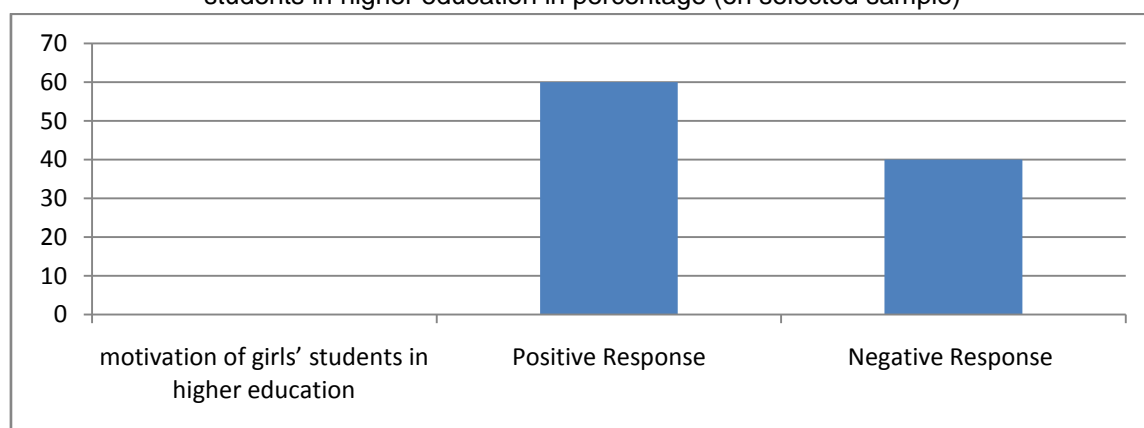
**R.Q.-2: Does the Kanyashree Prakalpa increase the motivation of girls’ students in higher education?**

Kanyashree Prakalpa is a blessing for the girls students. It gives the opportunity to bring girls back to school. A fundamental and far-reaching effect change is slowly taking place in the society of West Bengal. Time has changed. The parents are now feeling for girls education. When the Kanyashree girls reach at the age of 18 years, they get Rs. 25000 one-time grant that helps her study. Parents do not need to collect money for their girls education, that’s why they are not afraid now and they do not think their girls as burden. They are very much happy with the scheme. They allow their girls for secondary and higher education. Now the drop-out rates are decreased in higher classes.

**Table: 6:** Showing the positive and negative response of Kanyashree Prakalpa increase the motivation of girls’ students in higher education in percentage (on selected sample)

motivation of girls’ students in higher education	Positive Response	Negative Response
Number of response	180	120
Percentage (%)	60	40

**Figure: 2:** Showing the positive and negative response of Kanyashree Prakalpa increase the motivation of girls’ students in higher education in percentage (on selected sample)



**Analysis:** Above table & figure indicate 60 percentage positive Response and 40 percentage negative response about this statement Kanyashree Prakalpa increase the motivation of girls' students in higher education. So it reveals that Kanyashree Prakalpa helps to increase the motivation of girls in higher education.

#### 16. Findings of the study:

- The interest of girls in higher education is increased by Kanyashree Prakalpa.
- For the Kanyashree Prakalpa the rate of child marriage is also decreased.
- There is a difference in awareness about Kanyashree Prakalpa between urban and rural girls.

- There is no difference about the awareness about Kanyashree Prakalpa between the girls' students of class X and XI.

#### 17. Conclusion:

The above findings reveals that the status of the child marriage has changed after implementation of the Kanyashree Prakalpa and the interest of girls in higher education is also increased. Kanyashree Prakalpa is a blessing for the girls in West Bengal. According to Mamata Banerjee kanyashree become "BISWASHREE". She is not just happy, she feels proud for it. After the good result from this Kanyashree Prakalpa, She has also declared "RUPOSHREE", another scheme. In this scheme every Kanyashree girls will get one time Rs.25000 at the time of their marriage.

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