St. Xavier's College of Education

(Autonomous)

Digha Ghat, Patna, Bihar - 800011

CONTENT & AUTHOR

Prof. Ignatius Topno

Principal,
St. Xavier's College of Education (Autonomous)
P.O. Digha Ghat, Patna – 800011
Email: itopno@gmail.com

1

Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao: Transforming the Landscape of Girl Education in India

Abstract

Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (BBBP) is a premier initiative began by the Government of India in 2015 aiming to addressing the alarming decline in the child sex ratio (CSR) and promoting the empowerment of girls through education. The program's primary objectives are to prevent gender-biased sex-selective elimination, ensure the survival and protection of the girl child, and encourage her education and participation in social and economic life.

BBBP operates through a multi-faceted approach that involves awareness campaigns, community mobilization, and strict enforcement of laws against prenatal sex determination. It collaborates with various stakeholders, including state governments, local communities, and civil society organizations, to foster an environment where girls are valued and nurtured. The campaign has made significant strides in changing societal attitudes towards girls. Enrolment rates of girls in schools have increased, and there is a marked improvement in their retention and performance. Additionally, BBBP has brought attention to issues such as child marriage, dowry, and violence against girls, creating a broader impact on gender equality. Challenges remain, particularly in deeply entrenched patriarchal regions where cultural norms continue to hinder progress. However, the success stories from different parts of the country serve as a testament to the campaign's potential. By leveraging media, innovative

outreach programs, and the commitment of local leaders, BBBP is gradually transforming the landscape of girl education and empowerment in India. Above all, Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao is not just a program but a movement that aims to create a future where every girl can aspire, achieve, and thrive, contributing to a more inclusive and equitable society.

Key Words: Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao, Girl Education, Gender Equality, Women Empowerment

Introduction

The "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" (BBBP) scheme is a social campaign started by the Government of India in January 2015. The primary objective of this initiative is to address the declining child sex ratio (CSR) and to promote the education and empowerment of girls. The name "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" translates to "Save the daughter, Educate the daughter," summarising the dual goals of protecting girls and ensuring they receive a proper education. This program marks a significant step towards gender equality and aims to transform the socio-cultural mindset towards girls in India.

Historical Perspective

Historically, India has faced severe gender discrimination and a strong preference for male children. This preference has been deeply rooted in various socio-economic and cultural factors. Practices such as dowry, patriarchy, and son preference have led to discriminatory behaviors against girls, including female infanticide, neglect, and lack of educational opportunities. These practices have resulted in a skewed sex ratio, with significant disparities in the number of males and females in certain regions.

The problem was exacerbated by advancements in medical technology that allowed for sex-selective abortions, leading to an alarming decline in the child sex ratio. The 2011 Census of India highlighted a disturbing trend with a child sex ratio of 919 girls per 1,000 boys. This declining ratio became a national concern, prompting the government to take immediate action.

Objectives of the Social Campaign

The BBBP scheme has three major objectives:

Prevention of gender-biased sex-selective elimination:

This involves strict enforcement of laws against prenatal sex determination and the implementation of awareness campaigns to change societal attitudes towards the girl child.

Ensuring survival and protection of the girl child:

This includes improving health and nutrition services for girls, ensuring their safety and protection from all forms of violence and exploitation.

Ensuring education and participation of the girl child:

This aims to provide quality education for girls, encourage their participation in sports and extracurricular activities, and create opportunities for them to pursue higher education and vocational training.

Implementation Strategies:

The BBBP scheme is a multi-sectoral initiative, involving coordinated efforts from various government departments and agencies at the national, state, and district levels. The key implementation strategies include:

➢ **Mass Communication Campaigns:** These campaigns are designed to raise awareness about the importance of girl child education and gender equality. They utilize various media platforms such as television, radio, print media, and social media to reach a wide audience.

➢ **Community Mobilization and Participation:** Engaging community leaders, local organizations, and citizens in spreading the message of BBBP. This includes organizing village-level meetings, rallies, and cultural programs to promote the value of girls.

➢ **Strict Enforcement of Laws:** Strengthening the implementation of the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act, 1994, to prevent sex-selective abortions. This involves regular monitoring, inspections, and stringent action against violators.

➢ **Capacity Building and Training:** Training government officials, healthcare providers, and educators on gender-sensitive practices and the importance of girl child education and protection.

➢ **Financial Incentives and Schemes:** Providing financial support and incentives to families for the education and welfare of girl children. This includes scholarships, free education, and conditional cash transfers.

Impact on Girl Education:

Since its inception, the BBBP scheme has made significant strides in improving the landscape of girl education in India. Some notable impacts include:

➢ **Increased Enrolment Rates:** There has been a noticeable increase in the enrolment of girls in primary and secondary schools. The scheme

has motivated parents to send their daughters to school, reducing dropout rates and ensuring continuity in education.

- ➢ **Improved Attendance and Retention:** Efforts to create a safe and conducive learning environment, along with provisions for scholarships and mid-day meals, have contributed to improved attendance and retention rates among girls.

- ➢ **Enhanced Infrastructure:** The BBBP scheme has led to the development of better school infrastructure, including separate toilets for girls, access to clean drinking water, and improved classroom facilities. These measures have made schools more girl-friendly.

- ➢ **Promotion of Higher Education:** The scheme encourages girls to pursue higher education and vocational training. Special initiatives and scholarships have been introduced to support girls in completing their education and acquiring necessary skills for employment.

- ➢ **Change in Societal Attitudes:** The mass communication campaigns and community mobilization efforts have contributed to a gradual change in societal attitudes towards girls. There is a growing recognition of the importance of educating girls and treating them with respect and equality.

Challenges of the Scheme

1. Implementation Issues

- **Lack of Awareness:** In many regions, there is insufficient awareness about the scheme, leading to low participation and impact.

- **Cultural Resistance:** Deep-rooted patriarchal attitudes and cultural biases against girl children persist, making it difficult to change mindsets.

- **Resource Allocation:** The distribution and utilization of funds have often been criticized. Some states have reported mismanagement or insufficient allocation of resources.

2. Monitoring and Evaluation

- **Inadequate Data Collection:** There is often a lack of reliable data to monitor the program's progress effectively. This makes it challenging to measure impact and identify areas needing improvement.

- **Performance Metrics:** The absence of clear and standardized performance metrics makes it difficult to assess the effectiveness of various interventions under the scheme.

3. Socio-Economic Factors

- **Economic Constraints:** Families facing economic hardships might prioritize the education of boys over girls, seeing it as a more secure investment for the future.

- **Gender Disparities in Education:** Despite efforts, girls still face significant barriers to accessing quality education, including safety concerns, lack of proper sanitation facilities in schools, and long travel distances.

4. Coordination Among Stakeholders

- **Inter-departmental Coordination:** Effective implementation requires collaboration between various government departments (education, health, and social welfare). Poor coordination can lead to fragmented efforts and reduced impact.

- **Community Involvement:** The success of the program heavily relies on community involvement and support. Engaging local leaders and influencers is crucial but often challenging.

5. Sustainability and Long-term Impact

- **Continuous Effort:** Changing societal attitudes and improving the status of girls require sustained efforts over a long period. Short-term initiatives may not lead to lasting changes.

- Scalability: Successfully scaling the program across diverse regions with varying socio-economic conditions remains a significant challenge.

6. Legislation and Enforcement

- Weak Enforcement: Existing laws against gender-based discrimination and sex-selective abortions need stronger enforcement. Without this, cultural and societal biases continue to undermine the program's objectives.

7. Awareness and Advocacy

- **Media and Outreach:** Effective use of media and outreach programs to spread awareness and promote the scheme's objectives is crucial. However, inconsistent messaging and limited reach can hinder these efforts.

Successful Stories of the Scheme

Despite the challenges, there have been numerous success stories that highlight the transformative impact of the BBBP scheme:

➢ **Haryana:** Haryana, a state with one of the lowest child sex ratios, has shown remarkable improvement under the BBBP scheme. The state has implemented various initiatives, such as the "Selfie with Daughter" campaign, to promote the value of girls. As a result, there has been a significant increase in the enrolment of girls in schools and a positive change in societal attitudes.

➢ **Rajasthan:** In Rajasthan, the BBBP scheme has led to a substantial increase in the enrolment of girls in secondary schools. The state has focused on improving school infrastructure, providing scholarships, and raising awareness about the importance of girl child education.

➢ **Madhya Pradesh:** The "Ladli Laxmi Yojana" in Madhya Pradesh, which is aligned with the BBBP scheme, has been successful in promoting girl child education and empowerment. The program provides financial incentives to families for the education and welfare of girl children, resulting in increased enrolment and retention rates.

Role of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

NGOs have played a crucial role in supporting and complementing the efforts of the BBBP scheme. They have been actively involved in community mobilization, awareness campaigns, capacity building, and providing direct support to girls and their families. Some notable NGOs working in this field include:

➢ **Pratham:** Pratham is a leading education NGO that has collaborated with the government to improve the quality of education for girls. Their programs focus on enhancing learning outcomes, reducing dropouts, and promoting gender equality.

➢ **Save the Children:** Save the Children has been working to ensure access to education and protection for girls in India. Their initiatives include creating safe learning environments, providing scholarships, and advocating for policy changes to support girl child education.

➢ **CRY (Child Rights and You):** CRY has been actively involved in promoting the rights of children, including girls, through education and protection programs. Their efforts aim to create an enabling environment for girls to thrive and succeed.

Suggestions to Improve the Project

Improving the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) initiative requires a comprehensive and multifaceted approach. These are some the constructive paths to enhance the effectiveness and impact of the project: -

1. Enhancing Awareness and Outreach

● **Community Engagement:** Conduct regular community meetings and workshops to raise awareness about the importance of gender equality and girls' education. Involve local leaders, influencers, and grassroots organizations.

● **Media Campaigns:** Utilize various media platforms, including social media, radio, television, and print, to run continuous awareness campaigns highlighting success stories and the importance of the initiative.

2. Improving Implementation and Monitoring

● **Transparent Fund Allocation:** Ensure transparent and efficient allocation of funds. Regular audits and public disclosures of fund utilization can help build trust and accountability.

● **Robust Data Collection:** Develop a robust data collection system to track progress, identify gaps, and make data-driven decisions. Regularly update and review data to monitor the initiative's impact.

3. Strengthening Education and Health Infrastructure

● **Educational Facilities:** Improve the quality of educational facilities, especially in rural areas. Ensure schools have proper sanitation facilities, safe transportation, and sufficient educational resources.

● **Health Services:** Strengthen health services, including prenatal and postnatal care, to improve maternal and child health. Ensure access to affordable healthcare and nutrition for girls.

4. Addressing Socio-Economic Barriers

● Financial Incentives: Provide scholarships, stipends, and other financial incentives to encourage families to educate their daughters. Implement conditional cash transfer programs to support girls' education and health.

● Economic Empowerment: Promote economic empowerment programs for women, including skill development and employment opportunities, to reduce economic dependence and enhance the value of girls.

5. Enhancing Legislation and Enforcement

● Strict Enforcement: Strengthen the enforcement of existing laws against gender-based discrimination, sex-selective abortions, and other related issues. Implement stricter penalties for violations.

- **Legal Support:** Provide legal aid and support to families and individuals fighting against gender-based discrimination and violence.

6. Fostering Gender Sensitization

- **Curriculum Integration:** Integrate gender sensitization programs into school curriculums to educate children from a young age about gender equality and respect.

- **Training Programs:** Conduct regular gender sensitization training for teachers, healthcare providers, law enforcement officials, and government employees to ensure they are equipped to support the initiative effectively.

7. Strengthening Coordination and Partnerships

- **Inter-departmental Collaboration:** Foster better coordination among different government departments (education, health, social welfare) to ensure cohesive and comprehensive implementation.

- **Public-Private Partnerships:** Encourage partnerships with private sector organizations, NGOs, and international agencies to leverage additional resources, expertise, and innovative solutions.

8. Promoting Long-term Sustainability

- **Continuous Engagement:** Ensure continuous engagement with communities and stakeholders to maintain momentum and support for the initiative.

- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Establish a robust monitoring and evaluation framework to assess the long-term impact of the program and make necessary adjustments. Regularly publish progress reports and case studies to share learnings and best practices.

9. Empowering Girls Directly

- **Leadership Programs:** Develop leadership and mentorship programs for girls to build their confidence, skills, and aspirations.

- **Digital Literacy:** Promote digital literacy and access to technology for girls to enhance their learning opportunities and future prospects.

Future Potential Prospects of the Scheme

The future of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme of the Government of India will likely be shaped by several factors and trends. Here are some potential future directions and considerations for the scheme:

1. Enhanced Focus on Education and Skills Development

- **Quality Education:** Increased emphasis on improving the quality of education for girls, including access to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education, digital literacy, and vocational training.

- **Scholarships and Financial Aid:** Expansion of scholarship programs and financial aid to ensure that economic barriers do not prevent girls from pursuing higher education and skill development.

2. Strengthened Monitoring and Evaluation

- **Data-Driven Approaches:** Implementation of more sophisticated data collection and analysis tools to monitor the progress and impact of the scheme. This includes tracking metrics such as enrollment rates, dropout rates, and academic performance of girls.

- **Feedback Mechanisms:** Establishing robust feedback mechanisms to gather inputs from beneficiaries and stakeholders, allowing for continuous improvement of the program.

3. Greater Community Involvement and Awareness

- **Grassroots Movements:** Encouraging and supporting grassroots movements that advocate for gender equality and girls' education. Engaging local leaders and influencers to champion the cause.

- **Innovative Campaigns:** Leveraging technology and innovative communication strategies to raise awareness and change societal attitudes towards girls. This could include social media campaigns, mobile apps, and community radio programs.

4. Policy and Legislative Reforms

- **Strengthening Laws:** Enhancing and strictly enforcing laws against gender-based discrimination, child marriage, and sex-selective abortions. Introducing new policies to protect and empower girls.

- **Gender Budgeting:** Allocating dedicated resources in government budgets to support initiatives aimed at improving the status of girls and women.

5. Public-Private Partnerships

- **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR):** Encouraging private sector participation through CSR initiatives aimed at promoting girls' education and empowerment.

- **Collaborative Projects:** Partnering with NGOs, international organizations, and private companies to leverage additional resources, expertise, and innovative solutions.

6. Focus on Health and Nutrition

- **Comprehensive Health Programs:** Integrating health and nutrition programs with educational initiatives to ensure the overall well-being of girls. This includes access to reproductive health services, mental health support, and nutritional supplements.

- **Awareness on Health Issues:** Conducting awareness campaigns on critical health issues affecting girls, such as menstrual hygiene, to break taboos and ensure informed and healthy practices.

7. Economic Empowerment of Women

- **Skill Development and Employment:** Providing skill development programs and employment opportunities for young women to ensure economic independence and empowerment.

- **Entrepreneurship Support:** Encouraging and supporting female entrepreneurship through training, mentorship, and access to credit and markets.

8. Integration with Other Government Programs

- **Holistic Approach:** Integrating the BBBP scheme with other government programs aimed at poverty alleviation, rural development, and women's empowerment to create a more holistic and sustainable impact.

- **Synergy with Education Programs:** Collaborating with initiatives like Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan to ensure seamless delivery of educational services to girls.

9. Long-Term Vision and Sustainability

- **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):** Aligning the scheme's objectives with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly those related to gender equality, quality education, and good health and well-being.

- **Long-Term Planning:** Developing long-term strategies to ensure the sustainability of the program, with a focus on creating lasting behavioral and societal changes.

Conclusion

The "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" scheme has been a significant step towards transforming the landscape of girl education in India. By addressing the issues of gender bias, promoting girl child education, and ensuring their protection and empowerment, the scheme has brought about positive changes in many parts of the country. However, sustained efforts, collaboration, and commitment from all stakeholders are essential to achieve the goal of gender equality and empower every girl child to realize her full potential. The journey towards a gender-equal society is ongoing, and initiatives like BBBP play a crucial role in shaping a brighter future for girls in India.

References

- *Chopra, A. (2019, January 22). Success stories of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao. Times of India. Retrieved from https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com*

- *Das, P. (2017). Gender disparity in education: Analyzing the impact of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme. International Journal of Education and Development, 37(2), 123–132.*

- *Government of India. (2015). Beti Bachao Beti Padhao: Scheme Guidelines. Ministry of Women and Child Development.*

- *Government of India. (2018). Annual Report 2017–2018: Ministry of Women and Child Development. Retrieved from Government of India website.*

- *Kumar, M. (2017). Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao: Transforming Lives. New Delhi: Academic Press.*

- *Ministry of Women and Child Development. (n.d.). Beti Bachao Beti Padhao. Retrieved from https://wcd.nic.in*

- *Nair, S. (2018, March 5). How Beti Bachao Beti Padhao is changing lives. The Hindu. Retrieved from https://www.thehindu.com/*

- *Patel, R. (2020). Policy implications of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao: A case study. Paper presented at the National Symposium on Public Policy, Mumbai, India.*

- *Sharma, R. (2018). Empowering the Girl Child: The Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Initiative. Mumbai: Indian Book Depot.*

- *Singh, A., & Gupta, S. (2016). The impact of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme on girl child education in India. Journal of Social Policy, 45(3), 345–358.*

- *UNICEF India. (n.d.). Promoting Girls' Education in India. Retrieved from https://www.unicef.org/india*

- *Verma, K., & Kaur, J. (2019). Effectiveness of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao in promoting girls' education in rural India. Paper presented at the International Conference on Gender Studies, New Delhi, India.*

Nivedita Raj

Research Scholar,
School of Educational Research and Training
Aryabhatta Knowledge University, Patna
Email: niveditaraj323@gmail.com

Dr. Madhu Singh

HoD & Professor
St. Xavier's College of
Education (Autonomous),
Digha Ghat, Patna
Email: madhu.408@rediffmail.com

2

Exploring Metacognitive Reading Strategies Awareness in Aspiring Elementary Teachers

Abstract

Metacognition, defined as "thinking about thinking," is also referred to as knowledge about knowledge. In educational psychology, metacognition is an abstract and complex concept that encompasses the knowledge and control one has over their thought processes and learning activities. Some strategies highlighted by researchers include planning, previewing, predicting, skimming and scanning, remembering difficult words, guessing, re-reading, translating, note-taking, highlighting major information, commenting, summarising, paraphrasing, differentiating main ideas from supporting ideas, visualising, thinking aloud, associating, adjusting the pace of reading, checking understanding of the text, making inferences, and verifying guesses and predictions.

This study aims to assess the metacognitive awareness, perception, and use of reading strategies among prospective elementary teachers when reading their academic texts. It seeks to find the correlation between the dimensions of metacognitive awareness, specifically Global Strategies, Problem-solving Strategies, and Support Strategies. The findings reveal a highly significant correlation between these dimensions of metacognitive awareness in reading strategies.