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GRT “KASTURBA GANDHI BALIKA VIDYALAYA SCHEME- A MAJOR DRAW FOR STUDENTS TO REJOIN SCHOOL”

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Abstract:-Empowering women and girls especially belonging to ST, SC, OBC and minority community through education is one of the significant instrument for changing women's position in the society. It is true that the position of women of any society shows its cultural and social level of development. In order to uplift the poor condition of girl's education in India the Govt. of India has introduced different programme for women's empowerment. “Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya” was launched by the Government in July, 2004 for those girls who are educationally, socially and economically backward to ensure access and quality education to the girls from disadvantaged groups of society by setting up residential schools at upper primary level. The present study will be helpful to know about this scheme (KGBV) working for women's empowerment and to improve the educational status of disadvantaged group (SC/ST/OBC/minorities) of girl learners in Jharkhand.

Keywords:Elementary Education, Disadvantaged groups, women empowerment.

INTRODUCTION:

Ever since civilization came into existence, women have been deprived of their right to equality in almost every field, including education, the most vital element of overall human development. In male dominated society, the subordination of women and discrimination on the basis of gender prevails through the millennia, irrespective of country, culture, society and civilization; discrimination against women is widespread and deep rooted in our social system itself. Education of women calls for urgent attention in order to reduce the inequalities, exploitation and discrimination against the marginalized groups of society and thus, eliminating the thousands of social evils with the best remedy called “education”.

Education is a process which is especially designed to facilitate an all round development of each and every child. Education always emphasized as the most significant instrument for changing women's subjugated position in the society. Once women are educated in the right way will contribute positively to build up strong nation. Thus it is well said by Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru that “Educate a man and you educate one person. But, educate a woman and you educate the whole family”.

The wise words rightly said by Jawaharlal Nehru because the first thing a child learns is from his/her mother. Thus, if the foundation is weak, the future generation will not be capable of progressing and growing. For the society to flourish and function, female education is extremely essential.

WOMEN EDUCATION IN INDIA

Census of India, 2001, shows the total literacy rate was 65.38% of total population where as, female literacy rate was 54.16% as against the male literacy rate 75.85% and again in 2011 census although the female literacy rate has increased by 65.46% but it is still lower than males literacy rate which is 82.14%. Thus the lower literacy percentage is largely contributed by female literacy. If we see the educational status of SC/ST/OBCs/Minority (disadvantaged Groups) the education is in the bottom of the heap.

Even some steps have been taken by (i) Mahila Samakhya (ii) Sarva Shikshya Abhiyan (S.S.A.) (iii) Operation Black Board (OB) (iv) Non-Formal Education (v) DPEP (vi) National Literacy Mission (vii) Navodaya Vidyalaya (viii) Vocational Education (ix) Boarding and Hostel facilities for girls (x) K.G.B.V etc. to educate girls.

CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS FOR GIRLS EDUCATION

When India became independent, women came into their own as equal partners of men. The Constitution clearly

provides equal rights for all, irrespective of caste and sex. Article 14 highlights that women will be given equal opportunity to obtain all types of training and education. Article 15 lays down that the state shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds of sex, and it adds that nothing in this article shall prevent the state from making any special provisions for women and children.

Education commission also states "for full development of our human resources, improvement of homes and for moulding the character of children during the most impressionable years of their infancy, the education of girls is of greater importance than that of boys". Thus education of women is emphasized by the Indian constitution.

India has several other constitutional and legal provisions for safeguarding and promoting the interests of children and women. Article 45 of the Constitution upholds, "The state is enjoined to provide free and compulsory education to all children up to the age of 14 years."

National Policy on Education (NPE, 1986) considers education for women's equality as a vital component of the overall strategy or securing equity and social justice in education. This policy laid special emphasis on the removal of disparities and equalizes educational opportunities by attending to the specific needs of those who have been denied equality so far. The POA, 1992 aimed at re-organising the educational activities so as to ensure that there was substantial contribution towards women's equality. The revised programme of action, 1992 laid down steps to enhance women's and girl's access to education, ensuring that the content and process of education is sensitive to gender concerns. The NPE and POA highlight the need to improve the society, nutritional and health status of girls. The POA also emphasized the need to revise text books to remove gender bias.

METHOD AND PROCEDURE

In the present study descriptive survey method was taken up, using different tools, data collected for the study. Questionnaire/ interview schedule was prepared for students, teachers, parents, community members to know the problems and prospects of KGBV at the delimited areas in Jharkhand.

WHY KGBV?

KGBV is a unique programme of central govt. which is started in July, 2004. It ensures access and quality education to the girls of disadvantaged groups of society by setting up residential schools at upper primary level. This scheme would be applicable only in the identified educationally backward blocks as per census data of 2001. The rural female literacy is below the national average and gender gap in literacy is more than the national average. This scheme is only for the ST, SC, OBC, and minority girls' child those are left the school after the primary schooling. KGBV provides quality education to the girls of disadvantaged groups of the society by setting up residential schools at upper primary level.

At the upper primary level the emphasis is on adolescent girls who are unable to go to regular schools, the scheme targets 75% from SC, ST, OBC and minority community and would be enrolled in such residential school and thereafter 25% from the below poverty line (BPL) family. A general scheme of SSA will be a great boost from the KGBV scheme it bridging the gender gap and uplifting women position in the society by concentrating on the education of girls in the educational backward blocks.

Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) Scheme

More than thousands of school dropouts and poor students have been drawn to rejoin school by the Union Government's Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) scheme in Jharkhand. Total 198 KGBV is functional/ operational in the state (up to 2008-09).

The study was conducted in the districts of Dumka & Deoghar because such districts are neglected from educational and socio- cultural point of view because of social, geographical & Political reasons. These two districts of Jharkhand ie Dumka and Deoghar are having high concentration of ST/SC population. Out of these two districts, dumka district is undeveloped, not only in education sphere but also in socio- economic sphere. Dumka is one of the oldest district of Jharkhand states under Santhal Pargana. Dumka, a border point between West Bengal, Bihar and Bangladesh is the largest tribal dominated district in Jharkhand. Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) scheme is launched in each educationally backward blocks (Ebbs) in the state. Centre launched the scheme to provide education to the underprivileged girls, predominantly of Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, Other Backward Classes and minority groups. Of the total 198 schools opened under the scheme, 10 schools at Dumka & 8 schools at Deoghar, ie all the educationally backward blocks in the state.

"School dropouts who do not have the financial sources to pursue their education are kept in the hostel and given all free facilities for their educational upliftment. KGBV girls study here with the students of general school but they are doing better and improving gradually as they get extra care in their hostel," he said. According to the teachers of the school, girls studying in KGBV are from poor and BPL families.

Under the scheme, which forms part of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan (Education for All) initiative, the students are provided with free school uniforms, books, food and lodging. Alongside, the girls are taught the basics in computer knowledge to enable them to keep pace with the modern trends. Students have been offered facilities to play games like volleyball;

“Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya Scheme- A Major Draw For Students To Rejoin School”

handball, Kho-kho, carrom and chess at the school. There is regular health check up of girls, get free medicines, in KGBV. They are also taught yoga & life skills. Besides, the girls are also trained in various vocational skills(like tailoring, stitching, soft toys making ,jewellery making ,jam & jelly making, etc) to make them self-reliant. Students admit the KGBV scheme has actually benefited them.

CONCLUSION

Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) have been opened in every block with the major aim to provide upper primary education to girl's who, due to various reasons, have discontinued their education after completion of primary education. Thus, this scheme Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) is a scheme meant for education of girls belonging to (ST/SC/OBC/Minority) & helps to uplift girl's education in educationally backward blocks in different states. The educational status of tribal women's /girls is increasing through this scheme & helpful in increasing female literacy rate from disadvantaged groups (ST/SC/OBC/Minority). Through this scheme we can fulfill one of the goals of educational development that is Universalisation of Elementary Education through proper implementation of the provision made for Educationally Backward Block girls.

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