

A STUDY ON EVALUATING EDUCATIONAL SCHEMES AVAILED BY MINORITY WOMEN IN MUMBAI CITY

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Abstract:

Education is the sole means through which we can grow our nation, making it the best present we can give to our future generation. To have a brighter tomorrow, educating the country is the need of the hour. The research aims to evaluate awareness concerning the utilization of educational schemes among minority women in the Mumbai region, to determine schemes availed, and to give appropriate suggestions to enhance their utilization. The technique used for this research is a parametric one-sample t-test and chi-square. It is observed that even after the government implements several schemes, many minority women are still unaware of them. It is seen that there is a significant low awareness of all the education schemes among the minority women and it is also seen that proportion of schemes availed are significantly extremely low for all the schemes.

Keywords – *Minority schemes, minority women*

Introduction

The term "minority" comes from the Latin word "minor" and the suffixed, ' which means "small in number." There are four types of Minority communities in India, they are as follows: Racial or ethnic minorities, Religious minorities, Gender, and Sexual Minorities, and Linguistic Minorities. In January 2006, the Ministry of Minority Affairs was founded. The Ministry is responsible for formulating policies, projects, and programs for the welfare and socio-economic development of six (six) designated Religious minority communities, which together account for approximately 20% of India's population: Jains, Parsis, Buddhists, Sikhs, Christians, and Muslims. The Ministry's mandate includes developing overarching policies and plans as well as coordinating, assessing, and reviewing the legal framework and development initiatives for the benefit of minority communities.

They face discrimination concerning their social lives, jobs, renting or buying a house, and education and healthcare facilities. This disparity is caused by the individuals living in society and the gaps in the lack of equal rights and opportunities. The laws constructed to protect these groups on the grounds of discrimination allow equality enjoyed by the superior and the affluent groups. But in modern-day societal practices, a minority group has been referred to as a group of persons experiencing disbenefits compared to those from affluent classes or sections.

For the benefit of minority women following educational schemes are made available by the Ministry of Minority Affairs.

1. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme
2. Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme

3. Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme
4. Merit-Cum-Means Scholarship Scheme
5. Maulana Azad National Fellowship
6. Padho Pradesh
7. Naya Savera – Free Coaching and Allied Scheme
8. Nai Udaan

The condition of the Indian women was not as good as it was governed by patriarchal values, which were degrading. Several social stigmas attested with the female gender, such as sati, exploitation of the widow, child marriage, devadasis, etc. However, in the past few years, a gradual transformation was seen in this situation. The condition of the women living in society has shown improvement. The social evil practices have also been discarded from the system. The quant of the disparity based on gender has also been reduced to a greater extent. This transformation was only possible due to the progress concerning the country's economic, social and cultural developments. Increased awareness among the women of India, equality in the opportunities being provided in education and healthcare factors raised her status.

In simple terms, we can say that education is a must, especially for our country which is still a developing country and we want to become a developed country. We must improve us now in order to benefit from a better tomorrow. Minority community constitutes 20 percent of the total population. Due to their minority status, they are subjected to discrimination in their education, employment, and social activities. The Indian government invests a sizeable sum of money each year through the Ministry of Minority Affairs to establish a number of Minority Scholarship schemes to encourage children and youth from underprivileged and poor sections of minority communities to pursue higher education and skill development. This will be a highly effective step in lifting this population, which will result in the overall advancement of the nation.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

1. Dutta P. et al. (2012) conducted a research paper analysing the data gathered by the National Sample Survey for 2009-10, confirming that the poorer states demand more work. Under the Government's National Sample Survey, minority women are given opportunities to get employed, and to earn an income for themselves and their families, empowering the weaker section of society.

2. Kulal A. et al. (2021) identified in the present study for evaluating the impact created among the minority women groups about the awareness of various welfare schemes for them and utilizing these schemes to the fullest for empowering the minority women. The study took place in Karnataka, and for the study, 388 minority women were interviewed for the sample. The conclusions derived from the study gave suggestions for taking awareness programs to the minority women living in rural areas to achieve total empowerment in India.

3. Parveen B. et al. (2020) described in their research paper about empowering women in India, especially minority Muslim women. The Government has devised many schemes to help empower the girls and women of the Muslim minority community and of others. The research study helps evaluate these schemes to get useful inputs to the policy makers for uplifting the minority women in the country.

4. Pandey H. (2014) surveyed in the research paper about the issues related to empowering the minority women in the country, making them an integral part of the economic development of India. The country's main agenda in development and governance has always been about gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment. The existing paper is trying to examine the profile of minority women in the scheme related to leadership development. The paper assesses the impact of this leadership development schemes and training process.

5. Datta S. et al. (2012) pointed out in this research paper the NREGA program in India and its objective of offering valuable opportunities to rural women to encourage participation in the job market for earning income and having greater control. For the study, the DEA efficiency and regression analysis model was applied to analyse the issues related to women getting employed and achieving empowerment.

6. Sultana Y. et al. (2017) examined in this research paper the purpose of analysing the role played by microfinance to empower Muslim and non-Muslim women in a perspective of comparison among the Self-Help Group members and the non-members for gaining a better outlook in the working of this Self-Help Groups. The

conclusions derived from the study show that social and knowledge empowerment was brought about through microfinance rather than economic empowerment. It impacted raising courage, confidence, empowerment and developing skills.

7. Baba, M. (2013) mentioned in the research paper the growing importance of women entrepreneurs from the minority sections of society. The woman population have been emerging as a source of economic growth, which has not been tapped in the previous decade. This section of the population not only creates jobs for themselves but also helps in providing various solutions to problems faced by businesses. The country's Government has been instrumental in providing special provisions regarding developing women and making the best possible utilization of their talents.

8. Rawani, S. (2019) analysed the research paper about the primary goal of focusing on the empowerment of minority women to achieve financial sustainability for empowerment in microfinance institutions. The study emphasizes that it contributes significantly to development and strengthens society. The programs adopted for microfinance should focus more on strategies for addressing the needs of minority women. The research studies the effect of Microfinance to create a path for empowering women in various areas to the benefits of empowerment.

OBJECTIVES

1. To evaluate awareness of educational schemes among the minority women in Mumbai region
2. To study educational schemes availed by minority women in Mumbai region
3. To give appropriate suggestion to enhance the awareness of educational schemes among the minority women in Mumbai region

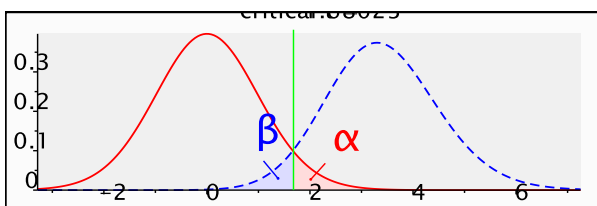
HYPOTHESIS

H₀: The awareness of educational schemes among the minority women is significantly low (mean awareness ≤ 3).

H₁: The awareness of educational schemes among the minority women is significantly high (mean awareness >3).

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Data has been collected from 276 minority women (daughters) using non probability purposive sampling. (Minimum required sample as per Faul et al. (2007) = 45) Both primary and secondary data source has been used for the study. The current study is based on deductive approach. The software is used for current research is R studio and the technique used for the current study is one sample t – test (one tailed)



Test family t tests	Statistical test Means: Difference from constant (one sample case)
Type of power analysis A priori: Compute required sample size – given α , power, and effect size	
Input Parameters	Output Parameters
Determine =>	Noncentrality parameter δ 3.3541020
Tail(s) One	Critical t 1.6802300
Effect size d 0.5	Df 44
α err prob 0.05	Total sample size 45
Power (1- β err prob) 0.95	Actual power 0.9512400

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Table No: 1 One sample t-test

Items	t-value	P-value	Results
Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme	-13.02	1	Insignificant
Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme	12.88	0.000	Significant
Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme	13.21	0.000	Significant
Merit-Cum-Means Scholarship Scheme	-12.55	1	Insignificant
Maulana Azad National Fellowship	-13.56	1	Insignificant
Padho Pradesh	-13.00	1	Insignificant
Naya Savera – Free Coaching and Allied Scheme	-12.33	1	Insignificant
Nai Udaan	-12.00	1	Insignificant

p – value < 0.05 in case of pre metric scholarship schemes and post metric scholarship schemes thus it can be concluded that awareness of pre metric scholarship schemes and post metric scholarship schemes is high among the minority women in Mumbai region.

Table No: 2 One-way Chi-Square Test

Schemes availed	Yes	No	Chi-square	P-value	Results
Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme	5	271	120.71	0.000	Significant
Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme	40	236	25.71	0.000	Significant
Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme	50	226	10.314	0.001	Significant
Merit-Cum-Means Scholarship Scheme	2	274	132.11	0.000	Significant
Maulana Azad National Fellowship	6	270	117.03	0.000	Significant
Padho Pradesh	8	268	109.83	0.000	Significant
Naya Savera – Free Coaching and Allied Scheme	4	272	124.54	0.000	Significant
Nai Udaan	3	273	128.25	0.000	Significant

P value < 0.05 for all the schemes indicating the proportion of schemes availed and schemes not availed are significantly different and it is seen most of the educational schemes are not availed by the minority community.

Conclusion:

Education is an essential factor in our day-to-day life. It is a basic human necessity for survival and should be given top priority because it changes the way people think and helps in making decisions in life. The study brought a shocking revelation regarding ignorance towards several schemes initiated by the government for minority women. An equally concerning number shows us the schemes being not availed even after years of being out there for grabs. It is the responsibility of the Ministry of Minority Affairs to publicize the various schemes. Local bodies like corporators, NGOs, social activists, religious heads and places of worship in the assigned areas can promote in schools and residences of the said population. one should note that channels of communication and mass awareness campaigns to publicize the availability of schemes can invoke massive upheaval.

The present-day has seen the effect of social media, which can be used to create awareness; society needs to be made aware of all these schemes as it will benefit them and their children and help those girls whose education had to be stopped midway due to unavailability of funds and gender discrimination faced by them in the society.

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