



TO FIND THE IMPACT OF BICYCLE DISTRIBUTION PROGRAMME BY GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA AMONG GIRL STUDENTS IN SELECTED GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS OF MYSORE DISTRICT.

Dinesha H.P

Assistant Professor, BGS.B.Ed College, Mysore, Karnataka, India

ABSTRACT The Free Bicycle Scheme was launched by the government of Karnataka with the aim of addressing the commutation problems of girl students. It aimed at improving their attendance in schools. Later, boys were included too. In fact, the scheme was launched for girl students living in rural areas as they were finding it difficult to commute to their schools; this was resulting in their dropping out. Children studying in classes VIII and IX in government and aided high schools in the State will have fewer excuses to skip classes this year. The scheme of free bicycles started in the year 2006-07 aiming to facilitate transport of students for rural and hilly regions. The target groups were girl students enrolled to class 8th in Government and Government aided schools. Girl students having bus pass and hostel facility were excluded from the scheme. Bicycle distribution scheme was extended to 8th standard girls from families of below poverty line in the city corporation limit and also to boys from the year 2007-08. The present study attempted to assess the Free Bicycle Scheme for students by the Government of Karnataka.

KEYWORDS :

Introduction

Free Bicycle distribution scheme

The free bicycle scheme was started by the government of Karnataka to increase the enrollment of girl child to school. The objectives of the scheme were

- Facilitate students to reach a distant School.
- Ensure their studies and to initiate retention.
- Motivate and to enhance their will power.
- Enhances quality in education.
- Reduce transport time.

Similar scheme was also started by Odisha state government In order to reduce the dropout rate and improve efficiency in the education system. The government of Odisha came up with a novel idea of distributing free bicycles to students of Class X. The scheme was envisaged keeping in mind the students residing in hilly and inaccessible areas of the state, who found it difficult to attend school due to restricted mobility. Besides improving school attendance, cycles also encouraged students to participate in extra and co-curricular activities. The basic objective of this state-funded scheme was to enhance enrollment and ensure retention of students in schools by providing a mode of transport which would make students self-reliant and also encourage them to complete secondary education. The scheme also facilitated the deprived section of society to complete the second stage of education. This scheme was also implemented in Chhatisgarh. Secondary education is a crucial stage in the educational hierarchy as it prepares the students for higher education and also for the world of the work. Class IX and X constitute the secondary stage, whereas classes XI and XII are designated as the higher secondary stage. The normal age group of the children in secondary classes is 14-16 years whereas it is 16-18 years for higher secondary stages. The population of the age group 14 to 18 was 8.55 crore in 2001 as per the census data and it was stabilized at around 9.7 crore in 2011. The Gross Enrolment Ratio for class IX-XII in 2004-05 was 39.1 percent and the figure for class IX and X was 51.65 percent whereas that for classes XI & XII was 27.82 percent. The secondary education suffers from lack of access, low participation and from equity and quality issues. The All India average of the number of secondary and higher secondary schools per 100 square kilometre area is only 4 and Chhatisgarh is much below even this low national average. As per as equity is concerned there is a gap between boys and girls, the GER of boys being 44.26 percent as against 35.05 percent for girls with a difference of 9.2 percentage points as September 2004. The GER for students belonging to SC is 34.55 percent and that belonging to STs is even lower at 26.68 percent, the lowest GER being for ST girls at 21.95 percent. The participation of girls at all stage of education has been increasing steadily through the years. Since 1950-51 girls participation has increased many folds in primary, middle, secondary/ senior secondary stages from 28.1 percent to 46.7 percent, from 16.1 percent to 44.4 percent, from 13.3 percent to 41.5 percent respectively. However, the girl's participation is still below 50 percent at all stages of schooling.

The gain in girl's enrolment tells only one side of the story. When girl's NER is compared with that of boys, one can observe a serious gender gap. Equally, the promotion and dropout rates of girl's students are also the areas of concern. Incentive schemes have long been used as a means of promoting girl's education in most developing countries where governments are struggling to improve the status of girls' education. Policy makers, planners and donors often believe that incentives can boost up girl's enrolment, retention and learning achievement in schools. With above given rationale in mind, Chhatisgarh Government has formulated an incentive scheme named "Saraswati Bicycle Supply Scheme (Free)" which was launched in 2004-05 with an objective to promote girls enrolment and reduce the dropout of girl child in the age group of 14-18 at secondary and senior secondary level. Especially Government is placing high priority to ensure the cent percent enrolment of girls (BPL, SC & ST) who have passed class VIII and to ensure their retention up to the class XII. Under this scheme, cycles are distributed free of cost to all SC/ST/BPL girls students who have enrolled them in class IX.

Objectives

- To find the impact of this scheme on girl students enrolment
- On retention of girl students
- To find the improvement in enrolment and retention of rural girl students

Method

The schools were selected randomly. The girl students studying in the government schools of Mysore district constituted the sample. Questionnaires were given to the girls to find out their opinion of the bicycle distribution scheme. Parents, teachers and administrators were interviewed. The responses were collected and analysed using descriptive statistics

Findings

- This programme was more successful than others and became very popular.
- The students were satisfied in procuring the bicycles than other items.
- The poverty stricken students were helped immensely by this scheme and helped in the enhancement of self confidence.
- This scheme helped to raise the enrolment of students from 2007 to 2008.
- This scheme helped in better attendance.

Implications

- Since this programme was successful it would be better to continue this.
- The girl students from poor rural families were benefitted.
- This helped in progress of learning.
- This helped in enrolment and retention.
- This helped in making up the problems of transportation.
- This reduced wastage.

References :

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