

Educational Inclusion by Facilitating Access of the Girls at Margins: Exploring their Enrolment status in KGBVs of Jammu Division

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ABSTRACT

Jammu and Kashmir is one of border state of India lies in the extreme North of India which has suffered a lot in education sector since past 27 years due to armed conflict. The girls' education has been poorly affected by the violence during this period. Besides violence, there are various other aspect like physical topography of the region, conservatism, attitude and orthodox thinking of the parents, lack of proper educational infrastructure lack of guidance, illiteracy of parents have also impeded female literacy in Jammu and Kashmir. Girls' education has come under sharp limelight under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) which is a centrally sponsored flagship scheme for the universalization of elementary education. Under SSA, a scheme of providing residential schooling facilities to the girls known as Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs) has been started. It is a scheme for setting up residential schools at elementary level from (6th to 8th class) in Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs) for out of school girls belonging predominantly to the SC, ST, OBC and minorities and below poverty line or physically challenged categories. Where students can acquire both academic as well as vocational knowledge. The primary concern of the present paper was to explore enrolment status of KGBV of Jammu division and the secondary concern of the same was to find out whether the KGBVs' of Jammu division are fulfilling the purpose mentioned in the framework i.e. educational inclusion of marginalised girls.

Keywords: KGBV, enrolment, schools, students etc.

Education is the most important instrument for social and economic development, which is related to comprehensive and sustainable development. Sustainable development is the world known word and which is first define by Brundtland commission (1987). According to Brundtland commission sustainable development "that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs". A well skilled population, adequately equipped with knowledge and skill is not only help the economic growth but it is also as an indispensable for inclusive growth. Education is considered as one of the important instruments which help in bringing change in the society. It is said, 'If a boy is educated, he is educated and if a girl is educated, whole family is educated'. In India society providing education to

girls is very difficult task due to various factors. In a multi religious and a multi cultural society like our society with orthodox thinking ,traditional mind set up especially in rural areas, it become problematical task to understand the people about the importance of education of girls. In many families education of girls is of least importance. But, if girls are not educated, almost half of our population is not educated. Understanding the need for education of girls at least up to elementary level and to make education accessible to all the girls especially from Educationally Backward Blocks (EBB), Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBV) were set up.

The Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) scheme was launched by the Government of India in August, 2004 for setting up residential schools at upper primary level for girls belonging mostly to

the SC, ST, OBC and minorities in difficult areas. In the beginning it ran as a separate scheme, but was amalgamation with the SSA programme with effect from 1st April, 2007. With the RTE Act, 2009 coming into force with effect from 1st April 2010, and the SSA Framework of Implementation being revised to correspond to the RTE Act, the KGBV component of SSA would also be implemented in the overall context of child rights and child entitlements and in harmony with the spirit and stipulations of the Act.

Scope/Coverage of the scheme

KGBVs can be opened in Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs), previously defined on a composite criteria of blocks with a rural female literacy rate below the national average (46.13%: Census 2001) and gender gap in literacy higher than the national average (21.59%: Census 2001). Within these blocks, priority was given to areas with, Concentration of tribal population, and/or a large number of girls out of school; Concentration of SC, ST, OBC and minority populations, and/or a large number of girls out of school. Areas with low female literacy; or Areas with a large number of small, scattered habitations that do not qualify for a school. The criteria of eligible blocks were revised with effect from 1st April, 2008 to include the following. EBBs with rural female literacy below 30%; and Towns/cities having minority concentration (as per the list identified by Ministry of Minority Affairs) with female literacy rate below the national average (53.67%: Census 2001). In 2010-11, opening of KGBVs has been extended to all EBBs with rural female literacy below the national average as per Census 2001. The objective of KGBV is to ensure access and quality education to girls from disadvantaged groups by setting up residential schools at upper primary level.

NEED OF THE STUDY

Education is considered as one of the powerful instrument through which we can bring change in the society and is the key for the development of any nation. Women account for nearly half of the population of the world and it become mandatory that their education is also taken care of both by the government and the community. As accessibility of education to girls is a major problem, this to some level is tackled by setting up of Kasturba Gandhi

Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs) which are residential in nature and provide free education at Upper Primary level to all the girls of Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs). Currently, KGBVs are under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA). The main objective of KGBV scheme is to ensure access and provide quality education to girls from disadvantaged groups by setting up residential schools at upper primary level. It has already been established through research that provision of educational opportunities i.e. assurance for educational access to the members of disadvantaged group in general and girls in particular is detrimental and basic to the quality of education.

Hence, a study was planned to explore that how far the establishment of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas in the Jammu Division brought change in the educational access of the girls of disadvantaged sections in the light of the specifications made through the central scheme. And, if there are divergences in enrolment status from the specifications then what are the patterns thereof along with identification of the reasons behind the identified divergent patterns. The study also intends to provide suggestions for converging to the specified enrolment patterns in the KGBVs. Moreover, the review of the research done on KGBVs insist on an in-depth exploration in the direction as there is lack of contextualized and focused studies on KGBVs in The state of J&K. Additionally, State of Jammu & Kashmir has emerged as the State which has been given superficial coverage in the research attempts undertaken at National level.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

Gender disparities still endure in rural areas and among underprivileged communities. Looking at enrolment, attendance and absenteeism trends, there remain significant gaps of girls at the elementary level as compared to boys, especially at the upper primary levels. In this light, the main objectives of this paper are as follow:

- ❑ To study enrolment status of girls in KGBVs of Jammu division with respect to the KGBV guidelines.
- ❑ To study the category-wise trends in enrolment of girls in KGBVs of Jammu Division in the light of KGBV guidelines.

- ❑ To explore the factors behind the enrolment trends (of girls in KGBVs of Jammu Division) emerged the study.
- ❑ To suggest some measures to match the enrolment of girls in KGBVs of Jammu Division to the specified KGBV guidelines.

DESIGN OF THE STUDY

Methodology: The present study is primarily aimed on the study the enrolment status of KGBV of Jammu division. And for the purpose a précised observational survey was planned to be conducted.

Population of the study: The population comprised of all the 34 KGBVs in Jammu division.

4.3. Sample of the Study

The sample of the study was constituted by 16 KGBVs of Jammu Division comprising two KGBVs from each of the eight districts selected randomly out of the total 35 such schools. The following table provides specification of the sample for the study:

Tool for the present study: Enrolment records of visited schools and semi structured interview schedule were employed for the purpose of data collection.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 3 reflects the enrolment status of all model one visited KGBV as according to the KGBV guidelines in model one type school there are 100 students vacancy its mean that 100 students are enrolled in all three class. It is also mention in KGBV framework that 75% seats are reserved for disadvantaged section of society and 25% for those who belong to below poverty line. In order to check whether all visited KGBVs have followed this guidelines researcher collected data in this regard from the wardens of the school. It was found that only 59.88% student are availing benefit from this school although in all these school according to KGBV guidelines eight hundred student can be enrolled but when the data are collected in this regard only 479 students are studied here against sectioned 800 students. When the reasons behind the

Table 1: Description of Sampling Frame

Sl. No.	Districts	No. of Schools	Location of Schools in the Districts	
1	Doda	5	KGBV Doda. KGBV Assar. KGBV Bhalessa	KGBV Thatri. KGBV Bhagwa.
2	Ramban	4	KGBV Banihal KGBV Ramban	KGBV Ramsu KGBV Gool
3	Kistwar	5	KGBV Inderwal KGBV Marwah	KGBV Padder KGBV Warwan KGBV Kistwar.
4	Udhampur	5	KGBV Ramnagar KGBV Ghordi. KGBV Chennani.	KGBV Panchari. KGBV Dudu-Basantghar.
5	Rajouri	5	KGBV Rajouri. KGBV Budhal. KGBV Darhal.	KGBVManjakote. KGBVMoghla.
6	Kathua	4	KGBV Bhadu KGBV Bani.	KGBV Malhar. KGBV Basohli.
7	Reasi	2	KGBV Mahore.	KGBVArnas.
8	Poonch	5	KGBV Surankote. KGBV Mandi.	KGBV Poonch. KGBV Mendhar. KGBV Balakote.
Total		35		

Table 2: Sample Description

Sl. No.	District	Name of the Sample School
1	Doda	Kgbv Doda. Kgbv Assar
2	Kistwar	Kgbv Inderwal (mughal maidan) Kgbv Thathri.
3	Ramban	Kgbv Chanderkote(ramban) Kgbv Magerkote.
4	Udhampur	Kgbv (Tander) Chennai. Kgbv Ghordi.
5	Reasi	Kgbv Sungri. Kgbv Arnas.
6	Rajouri	Kgbv (Katarmal). Magerkote Kgbv Thanmandi.
7	Kathua	Kgbv Bhaddu. Kgbv Basholi
8	Poonch	Kgbv (Surankote.) poonch. Kgbv Mendhar.
TOTAL		16

Table 3: Enrolment Status in Model – 1* KGBV Schools

Item Description	Schools								Total (Category Wise)
	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	S7	S8	N
<i>Category Wise Enrolment:</i>									
(a)Reserved Categories									
(i) SC	07	21	12	29	01	46	---	---	116
(ii) ST	21	10	15	08	03	01	32	02	92
(iii) OBC	---	19	09	01	16	04	---	19	68
Total Enrolment in Reserved Categories (TERC)	28	50	36	38	20	51	32	21	276
% (TERC/75*100)	37.33	66.6	48	50.66	26	68	42.67	28	46
(b)Total Enrolment in Other Categories (TEOC)	8	---	64	62	5	06	46	12	203
% (TEOC/25*100)	32	--	256	248	20	24	184	48	101.5
School Wise Total Enrolment (SWTE)	36	50	100	100	25	57	78	33	479
% (SWTE/100*100)	36	50	100	100	25	57	78	33	59.88

* The total population of students for Model – I KGBV Schools is 100 with 75% reservation of seats in favour of the students belonging to reserved categories.

School Codes (S₁₋₈):S1: KGBV Assar;S2: KGBV Arnas;S3: KGBV Chanderkote ;S4:KGBV Ghordi; S5: KGBV Mughal Maidan ; S6: KGBV Basohli; S7: KGBV Surnakote; S8: KGBV Magarkote

low enrolment were explored, it was found that lack of cooperation on the part of parent and authority, rented building, lack of security measures and lack of awareness among people were predominant. When the category wise enrolment mentioned in the framework was explored, it was found that only 46% students belongs to SC, ST, OBC and minority communities were enrolled in these schools for session 2016-17. Furthermore 102% enrolled students in these were belongs to below poverty line. It clearly reflect that from the above table that although there are low enrolment in all visited KGBVs as well as no guidelines related to enrolment are follow in KGBV. More specifically the school wise enrolment and various factors responsible for the low enrolment are discussed below:

- ❑ In KGBV Assar (S1) there are 36 enrolled students against allotted 100 seats. When enquired various possible reason behind the low enrolment warden and teachers of the school claimed that the major reason behind the low enrolment is lack of cooperation from parent's side. They also claimed that the parents prefer nearby schools so their children can get back to home every day and can serve helping hand in household chores.
- ❑ In KGBV Arnas (S2) there are 50 enrolled students against allotted 100 seats. When enquired various possible reasons behind the low enrolment warden of the school held that the main problem behind low enrolment is rented building of school and building which is used to run this school is not having sufficient space to accommodate 100 student. Although students go there for the enrolment but due to the issue of space they are unable to give them admission.
- ❑ In KGBV Chanderkote (S3) there are 100 enrolled students against allotted 100 seats. Warden of school quoted:
"Hume koi problem nai hai enrollmeant ke related humre pass full enrolment hoti hai kyuki hum local students ko bhi admission dete hain"
Translation: We don't have problem related to enrolment because we offer admissions to local students as well.
- ❑ In KGBV Ghordi (S4) there are 100 enrolled students against allotted 100 seats. It was

found that although in this school there are 100% enrolment but student are not enrolled according to the guidelines which are mention in KGBV framework.

- ❑ In KGBV Mughal Maidan (S5) there are 25 enrolled students against allotted 100 seats. When wardens and teachers were inquired about reasons behind low enrolment, they maintain that parents don't want to enrol their children in residential school as they are worried to lose helping hands in domestic chores. It was also found that lack of awareness among people about this scheme also one of the possible causes behind the low enrolment. Warden of the school revealed that the local authority (panchayat) and higher authorities are not serious about the implementation of this scheme.
- ❑ In KGBV Basohli (S6) there are 57 enrolled students against allotted 100 seats. When enquired various possible reason behind the low enrolment warden and teachers of the school claimed that the reason behind the low enrolment is that the hostel facility was started in 2015 and in present building in which the school is functioning has limited space where 100 students can't be accommodated.
- ❑ In KGBV Surnakote (S7) there are 78 enrolled students against allotted 100 seats. When asked from the warden the causes behind this, she held that they have full enrolment every year but this year student left school and join another school due to their parents' pressure to join another school. They further maintained that after getting admission in this school students left the school without letting them know because their parents did not allow them to get admission in this school as domestic work is more important for the parents than the education of their children.
- ❑ In KGBV Magarkote (S8) there are 33 enrolled students against allotted 100 seats. When investigated from the warden about the reasons behind the low enrolment, she held that there is no residential facility available with the school. She quoted:
"Main waja ha low enrolment ki is school main hostel facility nai thi phele. Ye school 2009 ko open

hwa hai magar hostel 2016 se start hua ha. Ek ye baat dursi ye ki yaha pe sath main cremation ground ha jo ek dar ka karan hai logo main. Aur higher authority ko bhi koi intrest nai hai is scheame main. Bacho ke parents orthodox thinking rakhte hain aur communal bhi hai wo khete hain ki ek hi bulding main hindu aur muslim kaise paden ge''

Translation: *Main reason behind the low enrolment is not having hostel facility with the school. This school was started in 2009 but hostel facility was made available since 2016. In addition to this there is cremation ground near the school which is cause of fear among the folks. And even higher authorities are not serious about the implementation of this scheme. Parents are having orthodox thinking and communal approach and believe that how Hindu and Muslim students can be taught together under one roof.*

Table 4 reflects the enrolment status of all model two visited KGBVs as according to the KGBV guidelines

in model two type school there are 50 students vacancy its mean that 50 students are enrolled in all three class. It is also mention in KGBV framework that 75% seats are reserved for disadvantaged section of society and 25% for those who belong to below poverty line. In order to check whether all visited KGBVs have followed this guidelines researcher collected data in this regard from the warden of the school.. It was found that only 83 % students are availing benefit from this school although in all these school according to KGBV guidelines 400 hundred students can be enrolled but when the data are collected in this regard only 332 students are studied here against sectioned 400 students. When the reasons behind the low enrolment were explored, it was found that lack of cooperation on the part of parent and authority, rented building, lack of security measures and lack of awareness among people were predominant. When the category wise enrolment mentioned in the framework was explored, it was found that only

Table 4: Enrolment Status in Model – 2* KGBV Schools

Item Description	Schools								Total (Category Wise)
	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	S7	S8	N
Category Wise Enrolment:									
(a) Reserved Categories									
(i) SC	---	09	---	09	41	---	05	---	64
(ii) ST	26	16	16	06	---	24	---	42	130
(iii) OBC	10	12	---	02	01	11	26	---	72
Total Enrolment in Reserved Categories (TERC)	36	37	16	17	42	35	31	42	256
%(TERC/75*100)	96	98.66	42.6	45.33	112	93.33	82.66	112	85.33
(b) Total Enrolment in Other Categories (TEOC)	---	06	22	18	07	13	10	---	76
%(TEOC/25*100)	---	48	176	144	56	104	80	---	76
School Wise Total Enrolment (SWTE)	36	43	38	35	49	48	41	42	332
%(SWTE/100*100)	72	86	76	70	98	96	82	84	83

*The total population of students for Model – 2 KGBV Schools is 50 with 75% reservation of seats in favour of the students belonging to reserved categories

**School Codes (S₁₋₈): S1 KGBV Bhangai; S2: KGBV Thathri; S3 KGBV Mendar; S4 KGBV Tander Chennai; S5 KGBV Bhaddu; S6 KGBV Katarmal; S7 KGBV Doda; S8 KGBV Sungrri (Chassana).

85% students belongs to SC, ST, OBC and minority communities were enrolled in these schools for session 2016-17. Furthermore, 76% enrolled students in these were belongs to below poverty line. It clearly reflect that from the above table that there are low enrolment in all visited KGBVs apart from that no guidelines related to enrolment which was mention in KGBV guidelines are follow in all visited KGBVs. More specifically the school wise enrolment and various factors responsible for the low enrolment are discussed below:

- ❑ In KGBV Bhangi (S1) there are 36 students are enrolled against allotted 50 seats. When enquired various possible reason behind the low enrolment warden and teachers of the school claimed that the reason behind the low enrolment is that parents of the children residing nearby the school not willing to send their student to school even though those student who are enrolled in the school not allowed by their parents to stay during night in hostel. And they further added that such problem is not the same with parents of far flung children. Another cause they added behind the low enrolment is that school building is not own building as school is running in panchayat ghar which is not suitable for running residential institution and they also held that higher authorities forced us that no student should enrolled in school who have no fifth class pass certificate.

- ❑ In KGBV Thathri (S2) there are 43 enrolled students against allotted 50 seats. When asked from the teacher of school why there is low enrolment they replied that in their words –

“Hum gaon gaon jate hain bachon ke parents ko motivate krte hain ki wo unhen school bhejen us waqt wo maan jaate hain magar baad main nahi bhejte hain”

Translation: We use to visit every nearby village to motivate the parents to send their wards in the KGBV. They agree at the face but not willing to send them later on.

- ❑ In KGBV Mendar (S3) there are 38 students enrolled against allotted 50 seats. When further explored the reason behind low enrolment, warden and teacher of the school claimed that one of the major reasons of low enrolment

is rented building of the school. Even the rented building in which school is running is still under construction and the condition of building is very miserable. And another threat to the enrolment was lack of cooperation on the part of parent and higher authority.

- ❑ In KGBV Tander (Chennai) (S4) there are 35 enrolled students against allotted 50 seats. When enquired various possible reason behind the low enrolment warden and teachers of the school claimed that the reason behind the low enrolment is that there is no hostel facilities in this school. This school is running in middle school where there is accommodation problem and they have only one hall and two rooms where they take classes.
- ❑ In KGBV Bhaddu (S5) there are 49 enrolled students against allotted 50 seats. It was found that when further explored that warden of the school claimed there is always 100% enrolment in this school. She further added that we have no problem related to enrolment. An interesting fact was found here that before getting admission student go through screening test. It was against the guidelines which was mention in KGBV framework. Only meritorious students get admission here who are able to pass the screening test.
- ❑ In KGBV Kattarmal (S6) there are 48 students against allotted 50 seats. When asked from the warden about the two vacant seats, she held that these two students left this school and joins another school due to some reasons. The enrolment record of the present school was satisfactory.
- ❑ In KGBV Doda (S7) there are 42 enrolled students against allotted 50 seats. When enquired various possible reasons behind the low enrolment warden of school quoted:

“Humare area main logon ko kisi bhi cheez ka bahut der se pata chalta hai is school ko eight year hue hain open hue magar logon ko awareness hi nahin hai ki esa bhi koi school chal raha hai”

Translation: In our area people are very late in knowing about any latest development. This school is opened since 8 years but people are not aware that such school is running in their locality.

- ❑ In KGBV Sungri (Chassana) (S8) there are 42 enrolled students against allotted 50 Seats. When enquired various possible reason behind the low enrolment warden and teachers of the school claimed that the reason behind the low enrolment is lack of cooperation from parent's sides.

Snapshot of the exploration in terms of objectives of the study

- ❑ To study enrolment status of girls in KGBVs of Jammu division with respect to the KGBV guidelines.
- ❑ The findings of the study clearly revealed that the enrolment in KGBVs' falling under Jammu division is far less than the allotted number of seats. In 8 schools fall under model-1 category the enrolment was found to be just 60% and the enrolment in 8 schools fall under model-2 category was found to be 83%.
- ❑ To study the category-wise trends in enrolment of girls in KGBVs of Jammu Division in the light of KGBV guidelines.
- ❑ As far as the category wise (as mentioned in framework) enrolment in these schools is concerned, it was found that criteria was not taken care of while enrolment. 75% of seats in these schools are reserved for the girls belonged to marginalised sections of the society and rest 25% for the girls belongs to other category (below poverty line). In this context, it is evident that only 46% girls enrolled in model-1 schools are belonged to marginalised sections and 102% enrolled girls are belonged to the other category. As far as the enrolment pattern of model-2 schools are concerned, it was found that 85.33% girls enrolled in model two schools are belonged to marginalised section of the society and 76% enrolled girls are belonged to the other category.
- ❑ To explore the factors behind the enrolment trends (of girls in KGBVs of Jammu Division) emerged the study.
- ❑ Through discussion with the various stakeholders of the schools, factors like lack of cooperation from the parents and unwillingness of the parents to send their daughter to school, less interest shown by higher authority,

Unawareness about the scheme, lack of basic infrastructural faculties, accommodation problem due to functioning of KGBVs' in rental building, security breach in the hostels etc.

- ❑ To suggest some measures to match the enrolment of girls in KGBVs of Jammu Division to the specified KGBV guidelines.
- ❑ In the light of problem visible through the present study following are the measures to deal with those issues and concerns faced by the administration to implement the scheme effectively are as under: (i) either the school should have their own building or the rented building should be congenial and spacious enough to run the residential school effectively; (ii) Teachers, students and community members actively participate in getting the girls to Schools; (iii) awareness camps should be organised for the masses residing nearby the school locality by the concerned authorities of the scheme, by the school administration and by the local social and political bodies to mobilize them about the various benefits for the children under the scheme; (iv) Better maintenance of infrastructure facilities in hostels as well as in school is mandated as this emerges as a necessary condition for retention of students and success of KGBVs; (v) Revitalizing safety and security aspects like provision of boundary walls, security personnel etc. are required in KGBVs.

CONCLUSION

From the above section, it is visible that KGBVs' of Jammu division are not able to attain their objectives with regard to enrolment as it is clearly evident that there is low enrolment in all visited kgbv as well as no guidelines regarding enrolment was followed. So there is a great need to look into this matter as early as possible by the authority as well as by the target community. The obstacles which are root cause of low enrolment should be addressed within shortest period of time to ensure educational inclusion and to save the existence of this scheme.

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