



**GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA**

**AN EVALUATION OF “BETI BACHAO BETI  
PADHAO” SCHEME IMPLEMENTED IN  
VIJAYAPURA DISTRICT  
IN KARNATAKA STATE**



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**JULY 2020**

## **CHAPTER- I**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Indian Society is patriarchal and male-centric. Sons continue the family lineage while daughters marry and go away from the maternal home. Sons perform essential religious rituals, which help grandparents and parents to attain Moksha. Concrete social structure and relationship are bound by beliefs and traditions which predominantly prefer to give birth to the male child. Male children provide financial and emotional care in the old age; they add to family wealth and property, while daughters drain it through dowry and other expenses. Moreover, our Dharmashastra and religious texts uphold gender discrimination.

A Small family norm was propagated through the Family Planning programme implemented in India after independence. This program boosted the son preference more predominantly in the country, which was strongly prevailed in socio-cultural and religions value system. In this transition period, technologies like Amniocentesis and Sonography test entered the Indian Medical System. This type of technology meant to give birth to the male child itself makes him Independent and also for detecting the physical and cultural abnormalities in the foetus, paved the way for detecting the sex of the foetus. Introduction of these technologies in a patriarchal society like India and where the fertility rate is very high led to the unfavourable sex-ratio in the country. It has become boon or from the Indians who favoured (highly male child), son preference greatly, which in turn responsible for the decline of sex ratio in India.

Pre-Natal sex selection is one of the leading causes in India for a severe decline in the number of girls under the age of six. The Census, 2011 has shown a significant declining trend in Child Sex Ratio (CSR), with 918 girls per 1000 boys in the age group of 0-6 years. The unabated decline in CSR since 1961 (from 976 in 1961 to 927 in 2001 and 918 in 2011) is a matter of grave concern as it reflects the low status of women in our Society and indicates her sex discrimination. Prevalent social constructs that discriminate against girls on the one hand, and the availability and misuse of diagnostic tools that enable sex determination, on the other hand, pose serious challenges related to survival, protection and empowerment of girl child. In this scenario, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) was launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 22nd January 2015 to address the declining CSR and related issues of disempowerment of women over a life-

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cycle continuum. This is an ambitious scheme of the Union government aims to balance child sex ratio (CSR) in the country.

In the first Phase, 100 districts have been identified based on low Child Sex Ratio as per Census 2011 covering all States/UTs as a pilot with at least one district in each State. The Centre identified three types of districts for the project. The categories include districts that have lower CSR, those maintaining CSR for long, and districts with high fluctuation in CSR. Vijayapura district falls in the third category. Vijayapura has become the only district in Karnataka and one among the 100 districts in the country to have been chosen for the implementation of the 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' (BBBP) scheme. The central government had selected the district based on the census report of 2001 and 2011, which showed 'significant' fluctuation in child sex ratio. As per the statistics, in 2001, there were 928 females for every 1,000 males in the district, while the State's female population stood at 945 and the country's was 927. "In 2011, for every 1,000 males, the female population increased to 931 in the district, while the State figure stood at 962 and the national figure at 918. Considering the fluctuation, the Centre selected Vijayapura district to launch various programmes to improve the child sex ratio in the district.

### **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao**

With this background "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao" programme was launched on 26-01-2015 in Vijayapura district Karnataka State. On the same day, the programme was witnessed by Oath taking ceremony to implement the scheme in a real sense. Followed by this at the District Level Task Force Committee was formed with the convergence of Department of Health and Family Welfare (DOHFW), Department of Public Education and the local NGOs. Under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner of Vijayapura. The DTFC meets every quarterly (10 meetings held till date) and discusses the issues related to the effective implementation of the program. Followed by DTFC, TTFC and GPTFC have formed at the Taluk and the Gram Panchayat level respectively.

**Major Objectives of the scheme are:**

- 👤 To prevent gender-biased sex selective elimination.
- 👤 To ensure survival and protection of the girl child.
- 👤 To ensure education and participation of the girl child.

To achieve the above objectives awareness programmes, which include street plays and disseminating information on negative impacts of the declining female population and laws preventing female foeticide, hold from gram panchayat to the urban level. To create awareness about Beti Bachao Beti Padavo scheme, Hoardings, Handbills & Wall paintings, Slide shows in cinema house, Local Cable channels, Radio jingles & Awareness programmes- Road Shows, Street plays, and Folk groups were conducted.

**The need for the Evaluation**

The empowerment of women not only depends on the educational and economic empowerment of women but also it requires the transformation in socio-cultural and religious conditions of the Society for comprehensive (Integrated) empowerment of Indian women. The present study explores the influence of patriarchy in terms of Social, Cultural and religious practices on the sex-ratio. It tries to find out the psychology of doctor's who practice detecting sex with technology and the parents who highly aspire to give birth only to sons. It tries to provide solutions and strategies to stop the sex selection of the unborn child. This is the need of the hour and techniques should be formulated, which will put a stop to sex determination in India. At this juncture, the use of the feminist methodology for the Evaluation of 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' programme is felt quite essential.

**Evaluation Framework**

The study covers Vijayapura District in Karnataka State where the scheme is being implemented. It covers all the five talukas of the district. **The scheme is implemented from 2015 and period of Evaluation is 2015-2017.** The different dimensions of the scheme as related to sex selected elimination, protection and survival of girl child,

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education and participation, the existence of discriminatory practices and gender biases are covered under Evaluation. The scheme evaluated for the period 2015-17.

### **Major Findings:**

#### **I-Prevention of Gender biased sex selection elimination:**

1. Change in gender biases are; the woman is capable of taking all kinds of responsibilities (83.2 percent); the perspective of looking at a woman is changed (61.3 percent);
2. Impact of the BBBP is on developing awareness that 18 years is the minimum age for a girl to get marry (85.3 percent); the marriage of a girl under 18 is punishable (80.2 percent), and female foeticide is a crime (78.0 percent).
3. TV had a major impact in the dissemination of BBBP scheme (48.2 percent); followed by Newspapers (36.7 percent).
4. IEC material, i.e., Wall writings impacted (70.8 percent); and awareness programmes (60.1 percent).
5. Newly married men impacted more (81.9 percent) in changing perspective of looking at a girl child and treating equal between children (86.3 percent). Mothers are comparatively less impacted (44.1 percent) and (56.6 percent), respectively.
6. Parents wish to have a female child (4.3 percent); wish to have a male child (41.2 percent); have a female child and want a male child (31.7 percent); and never want a female child (11.8 percent).
7. Reasons for non-preference of a female child is to be paid dowry (71.9 percent); girl child is vulnerable to atrocities (62.6 percent); girl child is too expensive (57.4); difficult to arrange the marriage of daughter (41.8 percent); and difficult to make delivery of daughter (36.6 percent)
8. Reasons for the declined Child Sex Ratio in the district are female foeticide (89.8 percent); sex detection (85.3 percent); and Doctors help in foeticide (81.7 percent).

## **II-Ensure survival and protection of the girl child:**

1. Death of girl child born after 2015 is reduced (10.1 percent) when compared to (10.5 percent) male child.
2. Deaths of the girl child are high in Vijayapura taluka (8.9 percent).
3. Causes of death are; Respiratory disorder (48.1 percent); and Diarrhoea (44.9 percent).
4. Parents wish to arrange the marriage of a girl child under 18 years (4.0 percent), and under 21 years for son (4.3 percent).
5. The level of impact in treating equal between a male and female child is (81.5 percent) in Sindagi; (80.0 percent) in Basavanabagewadi; (78.4 percent) in Indi; (73.4 percent) in Vijayapura; and (68.3 percent) in Muddebihal.
6. The level of impact in taking care of girl child health is (93.7 percent) in Vijayapura; (90.6 percent) in Sindagi; (83.1 percent) in Indi; (74.5 percent) in Basavanabagewadi; and (42.9 percent) in Muddebihal.

## **III-Ensure Education and Participation of the Girl Child:**

1. Girl child attending to Government school is (24.0 percent); male child (22.4 percent).
2. Parents wish their girl child to offer education till high school (24.9 percent); till graduation, it is only (8.7 percent).
3. The girl child is expected to study until post-graduation (3.1 percent) and professional education (3.3 percent) when compared to a male child (6.6 percent) post-graduation and (6.8 percent) professional education.
4. Parents wish to send girl child to residential school (0.7 percent) when compared to a male child (0.5 percent).
5. The girl child is encouraged to participate in play (37.4 percent); study (35.3 percent); sweeping (33.2 percent); washing utensils (29.9 percent), and assist in cooking (28.2 percent).

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6. The male child is encouraged to participate in the study (36.2 percent); attend tuition (28.2 percent); and outdoor works (22.0 percent).

### **Recommendations:**

After Evaluation of Beti Bachao Beti Padavo scheme, the most important finding is that majority of the respondents are aware of the Beti Bachao Beti Padho scheme. The study revealed that there is significant discrimination between a male and female child in offering education at all the levels except pre-university. The study also shows that there is a positive change taken place in gender perspective among the respondents in Vijayapura district. It is to be noted that a significant percent of the parents, 4.3 and 4.0 percent are intended to arrange child marriage of their son and daughter respectively. It is believed that there are several steps for improving the quality and quantity of Beti Bachao Beti Padavo scheme that will make a positive difference. With this background and based on the present study, following recommendations are made:

### **Prevent Gender Biased Sex-selective elimination**

#### **Strategies:**

1. Dowry and protecting girl child from sexual crime are major worries of parents. Hence a protective environment is created.
2. Institutional deliveries need to be promoted.
3. The sonography equipment needs to be monitored to prevent its misuse.
4. Strict implementation of the PC & PNDT Act is required to prevent female foeticide.
5. Sensitization can be made using TV, Newspapers and Wall writings as effective tools.

### **Ensure the survival and protection of the girl child\**

6. There is an increase of Child Sex Ratio in the district after 2015. BBBP interventions should be continued to sustain the ratio.
7. Deaths of the girl child are high in Vijayapura taluka when compared to other taluks. Proper Immunization and nutrition interventions are required in this region.

8. The practice of child marriage is present in the district. Strict vigilance in this regard is required.

**Ensure education, fair opportunity and participation of the girl child**

9. The girl child is sent to Government school up to Matriculation as it is free.  
Provide quality education in Government schools.
10. Higher and professional education also needs to be made free for girls.
11. 50% Job reservation for women should be implemented.
12. Gender discrimination needs to be addressed by eliminating the adverse socio-cultural values.
13. Awareness programmes need to be increased especially in the remote regions of the district, i.e. Muddebihal Taluk.
14. There is a need to promote awareness that residential, educational institutions are safe for the girls.