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## AN OUTLINE ON SAVE THE GIRL CHILD, EDUCATE THE GIRL CHILD PROGRAMME



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### ABSTRACT

The Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme was launched by PM Modi to save and empower the girl child in making waves all over the nation. The census (2011) data showed a significant declining trend in the child sex ratio (CSR) calculated as number of girls for every 1000 boys between age group of 0-6 years, with all time low of 918. The decline in CSR has been unabated since 1961. A skewed CSR indicates that number of girls is getting disproportionately less in comparison to the boys. It reflects both pre birth discrimination manifested through gender biased sex selection and post birth discrimination against girls. Realizing the gravity of the situation the

Government announced “Beti Bachao Beti Padhao” initiative which has the objectives of Prevention of gender biased sex selective elimination; Ensuring survival and protection of girl’s child; and Ensuring education and participation of the girl child.

The village that succeeds in attaining a balanced sex ratio will be awarded Rs 1 core, this strong incentives will reduce the declining CSR ensuring that the girl child gets equal



opportunities to shine.

**KEYWORDS :** Chile Sex Ratio, Gender biased sex selection, girls education.

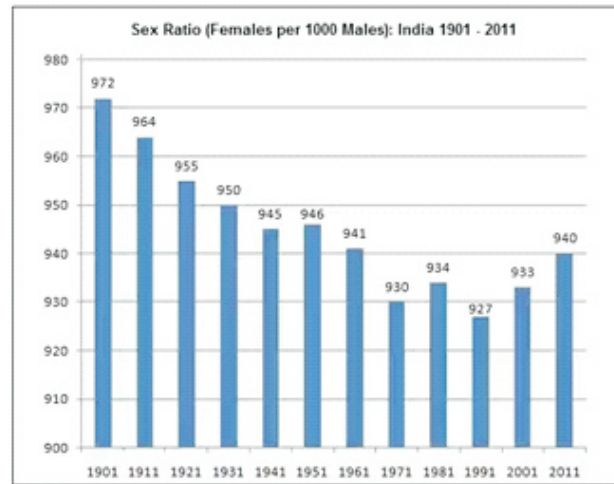
### INTRODUCTION :

As Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru Said, “In order to awaken the people it the women who have to awaken. Once she is on move, the family moves, the village moves, the nation also moves. Women education in India plays a very important role in the overall development of the country. It not only help

in the development of half the human resources, but in improving the quality of life at home and outside. There is a proverb saying Educate a man, you will educate but one, educate a woman, you will educate a nation. It is to remember development trilogy Nutrition, Health and Education depend on women to a large extent.

The last two censuses of India in 2001 and 2011, registered a declining Child Sex Ratio (CSR) in India. CSR is defined as “the number of females per 1000 males in 0-6 years of human population’. According to a UN data, CSR dropped from 964 in 1971 to 918 in 2011. The girl child faces persistent threats to life and security due to the socioeconomic structure of India. Wide spread discrimination against girl children, adolescent girls and women continues to exist in almost all the parts of our country. The decline in the CSR is a major indicator or disempowerment of women and their subordinate status in the society. The skewed child sex ratio reflects degree of discrimination against girl child even before the birth when with the help of gender biased sex selection test the parents get the abortion done. Similarly there is discrimination even after birth. Social, cultural and religious practices discriminating against girls. On the other hand increasing sex selective elimination of girls has led to low CSR in the country. The problem of the missing women has been analysed in the academic world in the recent decades. In an article published in the British Medical Journal in 1992, Amartya Sen analysed the neglect of the girl child in Asia and Africa. Beyond female infanticide and sex selective abortion, he identified economic status and social standing as crucial variables that contributed to the women’s survival and dignity.

Child sex has been on decline in India since 1961 from 945 in 1991 to 927 in 2001 and further 919 in 2011. Since 1991, 80 percent of districts in India have recorded a declining sex ratio with the state of Punjab being the worst. States like Maharashtra, Gujarat, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana have recorded a more than 50 point decline in the child sex ratio in this period. A 2012 UNICEF report ranked India 41st among all states in the country, standing at just 879 females per 1000 males. In the NE region, Arunachal Pradesh has a better child sex ratio while Manipur has the worst. According to the 2011 census, Arunachal Pradesh’s ratio of 972 was an improvement from 964 in 2001, while Nagaland ratio came down to 943 from 964 in 2001, in Manipur it was 957 on 2001 which declined to 936 in the 2011 census. Ratio in Mizoram also went up from 964 in 2001 census to 970 in 2011. In Tripura it declined to 957 in the 2011 census from 966 in the 2001 census and from 973 to 970 in matrilineal Meghalaya and Assam’s child sex ratio decline 965 in 2001 to 962 in 2011. As per the study “children in India 2012 A statistical Appraisal” conducted by the central statistical organisation, During 2001-2011, the share of children to total population has declined and the decline was sharper for female children than male children in the age group 0-6 years.’ The study further establishes that “Through the overall sex ratio of the country is showing a trend of improvement, the child sex ratio is showing a declining trend, which is a matter of concern”. According to the report female child population in the age group of 0-6 years was 78.83 million in 2001 which decline to 75.84 million in 2011. The population of girl child was 15.88 percent of the total female population of 496.5 million in 2001, which decline to 12.9 percent of total number of 586.7 million women in 2011.



Source: ENVIS Center on population and environment

Keeping in mind this skewed figure, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the “Beti Bachao Beti Padho Scheme” (Save the girl child, educate the girl child) nationwide on January 22, 2015 at Panipat in Haryana to generate awareness and improve the efficiency of delivery of welfare services meant for women with an initial corpus of Rs 100 crore. Referring to Haryana, P.M. Modi said it was very painful for him to see that in a state which produced a woman like Kalpana Chawla, the first Indian woman to have travelled in space, other Kalpana Chawlas are killed in the wombs of their mothers. He also launched Sukanya Samridhi Yojna (girl child prosperity scheme) under which girl children below 10 years will have bank accounts with more interest and income tax benefits.

The government of India, through the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao aims to address the serious issue of declining Child Sex Ratio (CSR) through a mass campaign across the country and focused intervention and multi-sectoral action. The overall goal of the scheme is to celebrate the girl child and enable her education to make coordinated and convergent efforts to ensure her survival, protection and education. Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao is a significant step towards reinforcing sense of responsibility towards girls by seeking to address gender imbalance and discrimination against the girl child.

**The main objectives of Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao are:**

1. Prevent gender biased sex selective eliminations.
2. Ensure survival and protection of the girl child
3. Ensure education of the girl child.

The scheme focused intervention and multisectoral action in 100 districts with low CSR. The criteria for 100 districts under the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao programme are as under-

1. 87 Districts have been selected from 23 states/UTs having Child Sex Ratio below the National average of 918.
2. 8 districts have been selected from 8 states/UTs having CSR above National average of 918 but showing declining trend.
3. 5 districts have been selected from 5 states/UTs having CSR above National average of 918 and showing improving trend so that other parts of country can learn from them.

**STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION:**

1. Focus on Gender Critical Districts and cities, low on CSR for intensive and integrated action.
2. Place the issue of decline in CSR/ Sex ratio at birth in public discourse, improvement of which would be an indicator for good governance.
3. To implement a sustained social mobilization and communication campaign to create equal value for the girl child and promote her education.
4. Enable inter sectoral and inter institutional convergence at District/Block/Grassroots level.
5. Mobilize and train Panchayati Raj Institutions/ Urban local bodies/ Grassroots workers as catalysts for social change, in partnership with local community/ women's/youth groups.
6. Ensure service delivery structures/ schemes and programmes are sufficiently responsive to issues of gender and children's rights.

**TARGET FOR ACCOMPLISHMENT:**

1. Provide girl's toilet in every school in 100 CSR districts by 2017.
2. Increase the girl's enrolment in secondary education from 76 percent in 2013-14 to 79 percent by



2017.

- 3.Improve the SRB in 100 gender critical districts by 10 points in a year.
- 4.Improve the Nutrition Status of girls by reducing number of underweight and anemic girls under 5 years of age.
- 5.Reduce Gender differentials in under five child mortality rate from 8 points in 2011 to 4 points by 2017.
- 6.Train elected representatives/ Grassroots Functionaries as community champions to mobilize communities to improve CSR and promote girls education.
- 7.Promote a productive environment for girl children through implementation of protecting of children from sexual offences Act 2012.

Various state and central level programs and schemes are already in place, giving adequate thrust to the safety and education of the girl child. Department of education has initiated schemes to reduce the gender gap in the education of children, viz:

**1. Early Child care Education Center (ECCE):** These centers are set up to ensure better enrolment and retention of girls in the primary schools. Since the girl-child has the responsibility to look after the young siblings.

**2. National Programme on Education for Girls at Elementary Level (NPEGEL):** The scheme intends to focus attention on the educationally deprived schemes and to encourage the enrolment, retention and quality education of the girls belonging to the SC/ST communities.

**3. Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalay (KGBV):** The scheme is intended for girls belonging to the SC's, ST's, OBC, religious minorities and below poverty line households. The basic idea behind the scheme is to give a second chance for common rural girls belonging to deprived social backgrounds who could not study up to or beyond class V. The second opportunity consists of the facility to stay in a hostel while studying the classes VI to VIII.

**4. Innovative scheme for the adolescent girls:** In order to create and sustain the interest of girls in education, they are trained to produce items that can be used in their daily lives. They are also offered components of empowerment strategies such as personal development, confidence building abilities and life skills oriented education.

5. Mahila Samakhya was the first major scheme launched by the central government that owed its genesis to the National Policy on education recognizing the empowering potential of education and education as an agent of basic change in the status of women.

A convergence of policy environment between the center and states as well as between various ministers is an appropriate strategy to tackle a deep rooted problem like the declining Child sex ratio. In India the gender inequality or disparity is manifest or visible in various ways. One of the most obvious indicators of this situation is the continuously declining female ratio in the population in the last few decades. The Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao is indeed a new and innovative step taken by the government of India to improve the condition of women in the society. After the successful implementation of the govt. ambitious Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao programme of first one year the government extended (on 16 Feb 2016) its flagship programme Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao initially launched in 100 districts to 61 more districts across 11 states. The 11 states are Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand. The first achievement of Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao programme is that there has been almost 100 percent institutional delivery. Now little girls who were killed in the womb are now being born and some of them are sent to orphanages where they are

adopted almost immediately. "Today girls are the source of power and energies all walks of life. They hold a very special position in all fields, be it personal or professional."

**"Women are the real architects of society"**

- Harriet Beecher Stowe

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