

## Impact Of Kanyashree Prakalpa In Empowering Adolescent Girls Of Jalangi In Murshidabad District Of West Bengal : Participation Of Public Library

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### Abstract

*Knowledge provides various dimensions of empowerment of the adolescent girls which are indicated to empower them. This is a challenge for women in the 2<sup>nd</sup> decade of twenty 1<sup>st</sup> century. Various projects introduced in the world to protect adolescent girls from the dark.. Out of them Kanyashree Prakalpa has been pioneered as an instrument for girl children to authorize them to empower in society. The analysis identified that there is influence of Kanyashree one time grant utilized for different purposes such as higher education, business, manufacturing, agricultural activities, horticultural, tailoring, opening of computer training centre for poor brothers and sisters of village and buying ornaments for their marriages. The analysis also revealed that the public library of West Bengal has the little influence to provide different services for women empowerment. Hence, it is concluded that public libraries with adequate infrastructures should provide information such as educational, jobs, agricultural, business for women empowerment.*

**Keywords:** Women Empowerment, Sustainable development, Women education, Public libraries, Kanyashree Prakalpa, Child marriage, Dropout, Regression Effect.

### Introduction

Women empowerment in rural areas helps to resolve problems relating to eradicate poverty, unemployment issues and economic catastrophe. The empowerment would well accelerate the development of rural areas specifically from women where growth and development are really needed. Swami Vivekananda emphasized that without the incarnation of the Divine Mother, we think we have no other way to raise ourselves. Education is essential for them to become an ultimate citizen. Under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 (PCMA), 18 years is the legal age of marriage for girls, and 21 years for boys in India. Despite several years of this Act being in existence, the early marriage of children continues to be practiced in West Bengal specially in minority areas. According to DLHS-4, in 2012-13, the percentage of 18 year old girls who are currently married before the age of 18 is 32.1% (36.3% in rural areas and 21.3% in urban areas). Murshidabad identified as the highest child marriage rate in the State of West Bengal<sup>1</sup>. According to the 2011 Census, the percentage of women married below the age of 18 is almost 40.24% of its 27.45 million ever married women, as compared to the national average of 30.21%<sup>2</sup>. According to the Rapid Survey on Children (2013-2014),

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<sup>1</sup> <http://rchiips.org/pdf/dlhs4/report/WB.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.censusindia.gov.in/2011Census/pes/Pesreport.pdf>

44.47% of women aged 20-24 are married before the age of 18<sup>3</sup>. According to data from DISE Flash Statistics 2013-14, the dropout rate of adolescent boys (6.3%) in the upper primary school is higher than that of girls (4.2%), while the dropout rate is higher in adolescent girls in the secondary and higher secondary levels. However, at the secondary level, this trend has been reversed, with almost 15% of adolescent boys and 19.4% of adolescent girls in West Bengal dropping out of school<sup>4</sup>.

Kanyashree Prakalpa introduced in 2013 for the teenage girls in the State of West Bengal of India. It is a scholarship for all girls' children to provide financial assistance to pursue higher studies and prevents child marriage and improves outcomes in terms of their health. Kanyashree Prakalpa has contributed towards empowerment of girls in this State.

Kanyashree Prakalpa is a Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) scheme that focuses on girls currently most at risk for dropping out of school and for child marriage between ages 13 to 18 years. Kanyashree Prakalpa ( $K_1$ ) has been implemented for 13 to 18 years old school girls students. Under this  $K_1$  scholarship scheme, girl students are getting Rs. 750 per year. Kanyashree Prakalpa ( $K_2$ ) is for unmarried girls' students when attain the age of 18 years will get one time grant Rs. 25,000. Kanyashree Prakalpa ( $K_3$ ) for University girl's students, who are pursuing a Postgraduate degree. On this category, no matter what is the marital status and what is the monthly family income. Government of West Bengal also announced that among those Kanyashree holders, top 10 girls who will go for further study and research (Ph.D. degree), their all the amount will be borne by NRI citizens<sup>5</sup>.

Rehabilitation of out-of-school girls in mainstream education through non-formal education or bridge education and livelihoods support, career counselling and coaching to girls enrolling for Kanyashree, life skills education (consisting of girls rights, soft skills development, health and nutrition and financial literacy) delivered to girls, facilitate each Kanyashree beneficiary's access to education, employment, business and services are enabled by performance-based contracts with qualified providers. Kanyashree conducts outreach, educational activities for parents, and care holders to make support to adolescent girls in socio-economic empowerment.

Public libraries are delivering their support towards formal and informal learning processes. As a public service open to all, the public library has a key role in accumulating, organizing exploiting and disseminating information, also providing access to a wide range of information sources. Public library provides support to community to inform debate and decision-making on the key issues. The public library can also make an important role for the common people for their daily survival, associative and economic development. The public libraries of Jalangi Community Development Block area are offering various types of information for adolescent girls such as educational, jobs, agricultural, business etc.

In the study of Khodeh and Dhar (2002) that information has always been a major factor in social development and economic growth and is often seen as an important national resource. Information as a factor of production has become an important part of our daily lives and should be provided when necessary. Information technology has a major impact and successfully changed the characteristics of information services created in libraries<sup>6</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://wcd.nic.in/acts/rapid-survey-children-rso-c-2013-14>

<sup>4</sup> <http://dise.in/Downloads/Publications/Documents/SecondaryFlash%20Statistics-2013-14.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.webexam.in/kanyashree-k3-scholarship/>

<sup>6</sup> Khodeh, S. & Dhar, U. (2002). Library services and functions in changing environment - An overview.

In Clabo's (2002) study, high school students were examined for the use of libraries and their resources. It examines how teachers influence students' use of library resources<sup>7</sup>.

Nzivo (2012) found in their research that most respondents are very active in seeing library services and information resources. Public libraries are focusing on printed documents (books) as the preferred source; readers mostly start searching for information on specific topics; general reading and research purposes and information resources provide users with appropriate knowledge<sup>8</sup>.

According to Kinoshita (2005) state that, the Women's Center is a public organization where we conduct integrated projects such as the Enlightenment Program, the Consulting Program and the Information Delivery Program. The Women's Centre Library undertakes one of the functions of women's information and aims to support the resolution of gender issues and the establishment of a gender-equal society by providing information<sup>9</sup>.

Sen (2016) reported that girls are even more backward, especially in slum areas with high dropout rates. In the slums of West Bengal, child marriage and dropout go hand in hand. As a result of the introduction of free and basic education, basic education has noted school enrolment and progress in completing school, but since secondary education is not free, most girls in slum areas have stopped learning after receiving basic education. Kanyashree project has played in the development of basic education for slum girls, and points out various aspects of socio-economic development that will maintain better development in the area<sup>10</sup>.

In his study, Das (2014) found that the tendency to drop out of school and the popularity of child marriage are the main factors limiting the basic literacy of Indian women. West Bengal is no exception. West Bengal government aware of this deficiency introduced Kanyashree Prakalpa in 2013. The implementation of this social welfare program will not only ensure the basic literacy of all girls in the state, it will also be an effective tool for inclusive growth through sustainable development<sup>11</sup>.

Roy Kanrar (2018) assessed the impact of the Kanasree project in the Howrah district of West Bengal. The program, they can start their education again and can delay marriage to at least 18 years of age. Studies have shown that the program is very helpful in improving student learning, delaying girls' marriage and reducing immaturity. The government of West Bengal needs to increase pressure on such programs to benefit more and more girls, but this is a huge effort by the government<sup>12</sup>.

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<sup>7</sup> <https://dc.etsu.edu/etd/635>

<sup>8</sup> Nzivo, Charles N. (2012). User perception on library services and information resources in Kenyan Public Libraries. Library Review

<sup>9</sup> Kinoshita, Miyuki. (2005). Library Services for the Women's Empowerment: Activities of the Library, Osaka Prefectural Women's Center Library. Lifelong education and libraries

<sup>10</sup> Sen, Ram Krishn. (2016). Kanyashree Prakalpa - The empowerment of adolescent girls in the slum area: A cost benefit analysis

<sup>11</sup> Das, Malay. (2014). Implementation of Kanyashree Prakalpa in West Bengal a step toward the inclusive growth through sustainable development: an analysis

<sup>12</sup> Roy Kanrar, Nitu. (2018). Impact of Kanyasree Project on the Academic Development of students: A Study With Special Reference to Howrah District of West Bengal

One of the difficulties for women of this country in building up their careers is that there is no all-inclusive system to have the opportunities to learn or acquire necessary information. The situation is equally applicable in every parts of this globe. For women, whether or not they have the ability or skills to make use of information will not only dictate the work efficiency, but exert great influence on their career building, or even their ways of living. The purpose to supply information required to our library specialized in women's information is becoming specialized and upgraded, which reflects people's greater aspiration for lifelong learning process.

From the above studies, we can accomplish that lot of research work are being showed on women empowerment and roles and function of public libraries mechanism. However no research is still finding where the role of public libraries in empowering women was conducted.

### **Objective of the Study**

1. To find the usefulness of Kanyashree one time grant (Y) from 17 casual variables;
2. To find the perception level of students on women empowerment (Z) from 23 casual variables;
3. To find the perception level of students on the participation of public libraries in getting information towards women empowerment (W) from 13 casual variables.
4. To identify the participation of public library in the Jalangi Community Development Block of Murshidabad towards women empowerment;

### **Scope of the Study**

The scope of present study is to measure the impact of Kanyashree Prakalpa in empowering adolescent girls of Jalangi in Murshidabad District of West Bengal along with the participation of Public Library, other areas are not considered.

### **Methodology**

This study is primary based on a rigorous household survey conducted at the Jalangi Community Development Block, Murshidabad District in West Bengal from November 2018 to March 2019. With the help of the random sampling method, 100 girls students recipient of Kanyashree one-time grant were selected. A semi-structured schedule containing different questions / statements / opinions were placed in front of each respondent, interviewed to measure their education status, age, occupation of the parents, etc. We used statistical methods as SPSS 2.0 version to explore our target with the help of correlation, regression, and step down regression.

### **Result and discussion**

Table - I: Correlation Analysis between dependent variable usefulness of Kanyashree one time grant (Y) and 17 casual variables

| Variables                                           | 'r' Value |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Educational status ( $X_2$ )                        | -0.3441** |
| Age of respondent ( $X_3$ )                         | -0.6166** |
| Occupation of parents ( $X_4$ )                     | -0.1427   |
| Monthly income of parents ( $X_5$ )                 | -0.1798   |
| Monthly income of family ( $X_6$ )                  | -0.1463   |
| Irregular attendance in school or college ( $X_7$ ) | -0.3152** |

|                                                                          |           |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Availability of food at school /college hour ( $X_8$ )                   | 0.1452    |
| Dearth of electricity at home ( $X_9$ )                                  | -0.2404*  |
| Scarcity of Aadhaar card ( $X_{10}$ )                                    | -0.4655** |
| School or college distance from home ( $X_{11}$ )                        | -0.1772   |
| Mode of Communication for school or college ( $X_{12}$ )                 | -0.1124   |
| Accessibility of private tuition ( $X_{13}$ )                            | 0.1189    |
| Usefulness of Kanyashree grant for dropout girls ( $X_{14}$ )            | 0.0166    |
| Family consent towards study in school or college ( $X_{15}$ )           | 0.2547*   |
| Role of Schools in getting Kanyashree grant ( $X_{16}$ )                 | 0.0213    |
| Role of Gram Panchayat in getting Kanyashree grant ( $X_{30}$ )          | -0.1805   |
| Role of Block Development Office in getting public services ( $X_{31}$ ) | 0.2108*   |

Critical value (2-Tail, 0.05) = +or- 0.197      \*Significant at 5% level  
Critical value (2-Tail, 0.01) = +or- 0.256      \*\* Significant at 1% level

Table-I describes the students perception on the usefulness of Kanyashree one time grant (Y) from independent variables, which are the most important and explain the predictor variable.

In these regions where the female literacy rates are low, parents' role in understanding educational status ( $X_2$ ) is important. Because parents are the key figures in family. Without family support Children do not conceptualize the proper meaning of empowerment. Here, the role of parents has a negative impact on the level of perception of their daughter towards the usefulness of Kanyashree one time grant. Most of students in the study areas are first-generation learners and they are interested to pursue education.

The Age of the respondent ( $X_3$ ) in the Jalangi block of Murshidabad district has an exceptional significance on level of perception towards the usefulness of Kanyashree one time grant. Here, age of the respondent ( $X_3$ ) had negative impact on the level of perception. This is natural. At the lower age, girls are not able to understand the meaning of empowerment, but as they grow up they understand the implications of such terminology.

In that sense, irregular attendance in school or college ( $X_7$ ), dearth of electricity at home ( $X_9$ ), and scarcity of Aadhaar card ( $X_{10}$ ) had negative impact on the level of perception about the usefulness of Kanyashree one time grant. These are the constraints towards achieving the goal.

Family consent towards study in school or college improves student performance, reduces absenteeism, and restores parents' confidence in their children's education. Students receive higher grades and test scores have better social skills and exhibit better behaviours. Here, Family consent towards study in school or college ( $X_{15}$ ) had a positive bearing on the level of perception regarding the usefulness of Kanyashree one time grant.

To implement these plans, block development officials are also responsible for ensuring that people may participate and maintain public impatience for the different plans adopted by the government. Therefore, the role of Block Development Office in getting public services ( $X_{31}$ ) of girl's students has the positive significance on the level of perception about the usefulness of Kanyashree one time grant.

It is astonishing that while surveying in Jalangi block, it is found that most of the Panchayat members know the term 'Kanyashree' and according to them it relates with the money that

every girls are entitled to receive just as SC/ST Scholarship. They do not familiar with the objectives behind the Kanyashree Prakalpa and its connotation with drop-out, early child marriage, women empowerment and other social issues. Some members expressed their feelings that since Kanyashree has no direct relationship with the Panchayat, hence they are not interested in it. According to them, it is headache of BDO, School, and Bank and nothing else.

Table II: Multiple Regression Analysis

| Variables                                                                      | “β” value | “t”   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------|
| Educational status (X <sub>2</sub> )                                           | -0.080662 | -     |
| 0.542                                                                          |           |       |
| Age of the respondent (X <sub>3</sub> )                                        | -0.578236 | -     |
| 4.097**                                                                        |           |       |
| Occupation of parents (X <sub>4</sub> )                                        | -0.059856 | -     |
| 0.630                                                                          |           |       |
| Monthly income of parents (X <sub>5</sub> )                                    | 0.066327  | 0.281 |
| Monthly income of family (X <sub>6</sub> )                                     | 0.085311  | 0.326 |
| Regularity in attending school or College (X <sub>7</sub> )                    | 0.154372  | 1.300 |
| Availability of food at school /college hour (X <sub>8</sub> )                 | 0.128453  | 0.943 |
| Dearth of electricity at home (X <sub>9</sub> )                                | -0.172576 | -     |
| 1.461                                                                          |           |       |
| Scarcity of Aadhaar card (X <sub>10</sub> )                                    | -0.111855 | -     |
| 1.047                                                                          |           |       |
| School or college distance from home (X <sub>11</sub> )                        | -0.303271 | -     |
| 1.946                                                                          |           |       |
| Mode of Communication for school or college (X <sub>12</sub> )                 | 0.396030  |       |
| 2.260*                                                                         |           |       |
| Accessibility of private tuition (X <sub>13</sub> )                            | 0.056977  | 0.476 |
| Usefulness of Kanyashree grant for dropout girls (X <sub>14</sub> )            | 0.033223  | 0.322 |
| Family consent towards study in school or college (X <sub>15</sub> )           | 0.055624  | 0.553 |
| Role of Schools in getting Kanyashree grant (X <sub>16</sub> )                 | 0.132945  | 1.289 |
| Role of Gram Panchayat in getting Kanyashree grant (X <sub>30</sub> )          | -0.177942 | -     |
| 2.175*                                                                         |           |       |
| Role of Block Development Office in getting public services (X <sub>31</sub> ) | 0.226112  |       |
| 2.736**                                                                        |           |       |

Critical value (2-Tail, 0.05) = +or- 1.987

\*Significant at 5% level

Critical value (2-Tail, 0.01) = +or- 2.637

\*\* Significant at 1% level

Multiple R = 0.73844

R Square = 0.54530

Adjusted R Square = 0.45103

Standard Error = 1.27097

#### Analysis of Variance

|            | DF | Sum of Squares | Mean Square |
|------------|----|----------------|-------------|
| Regression | 17 | 158.85071      | 9.34416     |

Residual            82            132.45929            1.61536

F =        5.78458        Signif F = .0000

It is found from table II that all seventeen (17) variables show their regression effects with  $\beta$  and corresponding t values. All seventeen causal variables can explain 54.53 per cent ( $R^2 = 0.54530$ ) of the total aggregated effect towards usefulness on Kanyashree one-time grant (Y). Four variables were identified in turn, such as Age of the respondent ( $X_3$ ), Mode of Communication for school or college ( $X_{12}$ ), role of Gram Panchayat in getting Kanyashree grant ( $X_{30}$ ) and role of Block Development Office in getting public services ( $X_{31}$ ), which are the most important and explains the effect of total regression on predictor variable.

Table III: Step-down Regression Model

Step I:  $X_3$   
Multiple R                                = 0.61659  
R Square                                    = 0.38018  
Adjusted R Square                        = 0.37386  
Standard Error                            = 1.35737

Step II:  $X_{31}$   
Multiple R                                = 0.63807  
R Square                                    = 0.40714  
Adjusted R Square                        = 0.39491  
Standard Error                            = 1.33435

Step III:  $X_7$   
Multiple R                                = 0.65926  
R Square                                    = 0.43462  
Adjusted R Square                        = 0.41695  
Standard Error                            = 1.30983

From the variables in table III to the regression model of regression analysis, it is found that after step 3, three variables are the age of the respondent ( $X_3$ ), role of Block Development Office in getting public services ( $X_{31}$ ) and regularity in attending school or College ( $X_7$ ) had explained 43.46 per cent of the total effect. Therefore, the remaining 14 variables explain only about 11.07 percent of the total effect. Interestingly, in the step down model, age of the respondent girl student has innovatively increased to characterize the aggregated effect of these three variables on the level of perception regarding the usefulness of Kanyashree one time grant.

Table - IV: Correlation Analysis between dependent variable the perception level of students on women empowerment (Z) and 23 casual variables

| Variables                           | 'r' Value |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| Educational status ( $X_2$ )        | 0.2050*   |
| Age of the respondent ( $X_3$ )     | -0.0687   |
| Occupation of parents ( $X_4$ )     | 0.1245    |
| Monthly income of parents ( $X_5$ ) | 0.3574**  |

|                                                                                        |          |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Monthly income of family ( $X_6$ )                                                     | 0.3514** |
| Regularity in attending school or College ( $X_7$ )                                    | -0.0442  |
| Availability of food at school /college hour ( $X_8$ )                                 | -0.1653  |
| Dearth of electricity at home ( $X_9$ )                                                | 0.2866** |
| Scarcity of Aadhaar card ( $X_{10}$ )                                                  | 0.0407   |
| School or college distance from home ( $X_{11}$ )                                      | 0.0343   |
| Mode of Communication for school or college ( $X_{12}$ )                               | 0.0816   |
| Accessibility of private tuition ( $X_{13}$ )                                          | 0.2321** |
| Usefulness of Kanyashree grant for dropout girls ( $X_{14}$ )                          | 0.4969** |
| Family consent towards study in school or college ( $X_{15}$ )                         | 0.2090*  |
| Role of Schools in getting Kanyashree grant ( $X_{16}$ )                               | 0.6352** |
| Role of Gram Panchayat in getting Kanyashree grant ( $X_{30}$ )                        | 0.3247** |
| Role of Block Development Office in getting public services ( $X_{31}$ )               | 0.0853   |
| Usefulness of Kanyashree one time grant ( $X_1$ )                                      | 0.1075   |
| Impact of women empowerment ( $X_{17}$ )                                               | 0.0339   |
| Public services will help the women empowerment ( $X_{19}$ )                           | 0.4003** |
| Encourage towards job related work ( $X_{20}$ )                                        | -0.2313* |
| Role of public libraries towards women empowerment ( $X_{24}$ )                        | 0.3847** |
| Role of public libraries in getting information towards women empowerment ( $X_{26}$ ) | 0.3921** |

Critical value (2-Tail, 0.05) = +or- 0.197      \*Significant at 5% level  
Critical value (2-Tail, 0.01) = +or- 0.256      \*\* Significant at 1% level

Table IV describes the perception level of students on women empowerment (Z) from consequent factors, which are the most important and explain the perception level of students on women empowerment.

Women faced various types of obstacles to achieve success. These obstacles are illiteracy, domestic and social violence, and lack of motivation. Education is a milestone for women's empowerment because educated women can play an important role in national development. According to the Government of India, "Empowerment means moving from a weak position to execute a power<sup>13</sup>." Education for women is the most powerful tool for change of position in society. Here, Educational status ( $X_2$ ) had a positive bearing on the perception level of students on women empowerment.

The higher income level of parent has a positive impact on women's decision-making power and has greatly promoted the empowerment of women. Today, we are to add another layer to the empowerment discussion, that energy can play a vital role in empowering women, especially in remote areas of the power station. Here, monthly income of parents ( $X_5$ ), monthly income of family ( $X_6$ ) and dearth of electricity at home ( $X_9$ ) had a positive bearing on the perception level of students on women empowerment.

Here, accessibility of private tuition ( $X_{13}$ ) had a positive bearing on the perception level of students on women empowerment. It gives the additional boost up for students to acquire knowledge and information. Most of the institutions, now-a-days, are the place of registration of names. After registering the name, the entire responsibility of education is now vested on the concerned students. Hence, the demand of private tuition is increasing day by day though

<sup>13</sup>Thilakavathy, M. (2015). Women's Development and Social Conflicts in India

the huge amount of money was incurred from Government exchequer for the purpose of salary and other recurring expenses of the aided institutions. The State Government has to find out the plausible way out to ensure that students must get one hundred per cent classes from the teachers.

Kanyashree Prakalpa is a flagship scheme for the prevalence of delaying girl child marriage, empowerment of adolescent girls, promoting girls education, to make them independent, skillful to improve the status and wellbeing of girls. This scheme also enhances the social power and self-esteem of the girls. The Government of West Bengal introduced Kanyashree Prakalpa to address two of the main challenges in society, namely the dropout of girls and the widespread child marriage, which are considered to be the most influential obstacles to women's education and empowerment. Hence, the usefulness of Kanyashree grant for dropout girls ( $X_{14}$ ) of student has the positive significance towards the perception level of students on women empowerment.

Women's education in rural areas is very slow, which means that there are still a large numbers of women in our country who are illiterate, weak, backward and exploited. Therefore, "educating women" is the most powerful tool that can bring changes in the status of women in society, thereby reducing inequality and functions as a means to improve women's status in the family. Education means not only acquiring knowledge, but also transforming knowledge into applications through vocational training and skills development. Here, family consent towards study in school or college ( $X_{15}$ ) had a positive bearing on the perception level of students on women empowerment.

Kanyashree Prakalpa is to improve the status of girls in the state by encouraging all girls to attend school and preventing their early marriage. Hence, the role of schools in getting Kanyashree grant ( $X_{16}$ ) of student has the positive significance on the dependent variable.

Gram Panchayat Pradhan or 3-tier Panchayat members are the social leaders in rural areas where the applicant lives. Panchayat is the local self government. Any developmental activity has a direct relationship with the Panchayat. Here, role of Gram Panchayat in getting Kanyashree grant ( $X_{30}$ ) had a positive bearing on the perception level of students on women empowerment.

Kanyashree Prakalpa focuses on the role of social protection systems, access to public services, and sustainable infrastructure to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls worldwide. Here, public services will help the women empowerment ( $X_{19}$ ) had a positive bearing on the perception level of students on women empowerment.

Public libraries also play a vital role in the decision-making process, providing women with the right information so they can make the right decisions at the right time. Education and training for women are vigilant in their every progress. Hence, the role of public libraries towards women empowerment ( $X_{24}$ ) of student has the positive significance on the dependent variable.

Public library as mechanism for empowering women and their learning efforts affirm their identities as independent women learners. Here, role of public libraries in getting information towards women empowerment ( $X_{26}$ ) had a positive bearing on the perception level of students on women empowerment.

Empowerment is the course of inspiring individuals to think, act, manage, take action and make decisions for their professional goals. Being empowered means she can control her work situation and know that she can make decisions about her responsibilities with self-confidence. Here, encourage towards job related work ( $X_{20}$ ) had negative impact on the perception level of students on women empowerment. This indicates that in the rural areas, most of the persons discourages towards the job related work for women. Existence of gender biasness is very much present in the minds of rural male leaders.

Table V: Multiple Regression Analysis

| Variables                                                                              | “ $\beta$ ” value | “t” value |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------|
| Educational status ( $X_2$ )                                                           | 0.091558          | 0.585     |
| Age of the respondent ( $X_3$ )                                                        | -0.300411         | -1.839    |
| Occupation of parents ( $X_4$ )                                                        | -0.060453         | -0.603    |
| Monthly income of parents ( $X_5$ )                                                    | 0.204145          | 0.838     |
| Monthly income of family ( $X_6$ )                                                     | -0.115215         | -0.427    |
| Regularity in attending school or College ( $X_7$ )                                    | 0.104619          | 0.855     |
| Availability of food at school /college hour ( $X_8$ )                                 | 0.084268          | 0.575     |
| Dearth of electricity at home ( $X_9$ )                                                | 0.063376          | 0.495     |
| Scarcity of Aadhaar card ( $X_{10}$ )                                                  | 0.062805          | 0.571     |
| School or college distance from home ( $X_{11}$ )                                      | -0.080877         | -0.494    |
| Mode of Communication for school or college ( $X_{12}$ )                               | -0.044724         | -0.240    |
| Accessibility of private tuition ( $X_{13}$ )                                          | -0.092488         | -0.737    |
| Usefulness of Kanyashree grant for dropout girls ( $X_{14}$ )                          | 0.189251          | 1.749     |
| Family consent towards study in school or college ( $X_{15}$ )                         | 0.030122          | 0.290     |
| Role of Schools in getting Kanyashree grant ( $X_{16}$ )                               | 0.360704          | 3.230**   |
| Role of Gram Panchayat in getting Kanyashree grant ( $X_{30}$ )                        | 0.174150          | 1.994*    |
| Role of Block Development Office in getting public services ( $X_{31}$ )               | 0.088719          | 0.977     |
| Usefulness of Kanyashree one time grant ( $X_1$ )                                      | -0.029790         | -0.258    |
| Impact of women empowerment ( $X_{17}$ )                                               | -0.070667         | -0.826    |
| Public services will help the women empowerment ( $X_{19}$ )                           | 0.038523          | 0.380     |
| Encourage about job related work ( $X_{20}$ )                                          | -0.233957         | -2.297*   |
| Role of public libraries towards women empowerment ( $X_{24}$ )                        | 0.120130          | 0.978     |
| Role of public libraries in getting information towards women empowerment ( $X_{26}$ ) | 0.081088          | 0.702     |

Critical value (2-Tail, 0.05) = +or- 1.987      \*Significant at 5% level  
Critical value (2-Tail, 0.01) = +or- 2.637      \*\* Significant at 1% level

Multiple R = 0.75770

R Square = 0.57412  
Adjusted R Square = 0.44523  
Standard Error = 0.68625

**Analysis of Variance**

|            | DF | Sum of Squares | Mean Square |
|------------|----|----------------|-------------|
| Regression | 23 | 48.24877       | 2.09777     |
| Residual   | 76 | 35.79123       | 0.47094     |

F = 4.45446      Signif F = .0000

It is found from Table V that all twenty three (23) variables show their regression effects with  $\beta$  and corresponding t values. These 23 consequent variables put together can explain 57.41 per cent ( $R^2 = 0.57412$ ) of the total aggregation effect towards the perception level of students on women empowerment (Z). Three variables were identified in turn, such as role of Schools in getting Kanyashree grant ( $X_{16}$ ), role of Gram Panchayat in getting Kanyashree grant ( $X_{30}$ ) and encourage about job related work ( $X_{20}$ ) which are the most important and explains the effect of total regression on predictors.

**Table VI: Step-down Regression Model**

Step I:  $X_{16}$   
Multiple R = 0.63518  
R Square = 0.40345  
Adjusted R Square = 0.39736  
Standard Error = 0.71524

Step II:  $X_{15}$   
Multiple R = 0.66324  
R Square = 0.43989  
Adjusted R Square = 0.42834  
Standard Error = 0.69662

Step III:  $X_{30}$   
Multiple R = 0.68168  
R Square = 0.46469  
Adjusted R Square = 0.44796  
Standard Error = 0.68456

Table VI presents the step down regression model was applied to separate the prominent independent variables, then it was found that after step III, three variables are role of Schools in getting Kanyashree grant ( $X_{16}$ ), family consent towards study in school or college ( $X_{15}$ ) and role of Gram Panchayat in getting Kanyashree grant ( $X_{30}$ ) had explained 46.46 per cent of the total effect. Therefore, the remaining 20 variables explain only about 10.95 per cent of the total effect on the perception level of students on women empowerment.

Table - VII: Correlation Analysis between dependent variable the perception level of students on the role of public libraries in getting information towards women empowerment (W) from 13 consequent variables

| Variables                                                          | 'r' Value |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Usefulness of Kanyashree one time grant ( $X_1$ )                  | 0.0291    |
| Impact of women empowerment ( $X_{17}$ )                           | 0.1655    |
| Public services will help the women empowerment ( $X_{19}$ )       | 0.4145**  |
| Encourage about job related work ( $X_{20}$ )                      | 0.1631    |
| The perception level of students on women empowerment ( $X_{18}$ ) | 0.3921**  |
| Availability of public library ( $X_{21}$ )                        | 0.7075**  |
| Use of public library ( $X_{22}$ )                                 | 0.5986**  |
| Role of public libraries towards public services ( $X_{23}$ )      | 0.6258**  |
| Role of public libraries towards women empowerment ( $X_{24}$ )    | 0.6358**  |
| Role of public libraries towards job related training ( $X_{25}$ ) | 0.4810**  |
| Role of public libraries towards kind of information ( $X_{27}$ )  | 0.4802**  |
| Uses of School or College library ( $X_{28}$ )                     | 0.0417    |
| Kind of books used in School or College library ( $X_{29}$ )       | 0.2896**  |

Critical value (2-Tail, 0.05) = +or- 0.197      \*Significant at 5% level  
Critical value (2-Tail, 0.01) = +or- 0.256      \*\* Significant at 1% level

Table VII describes the perception level of students on the role of public libraries in getting information towards women empowerment (W) from consequent variables, which are the most important and explains the effect through correlation.

The role of public services is to empower women through innovative and useful service transfer mechanisms, where the role of public services will help the women empowerment ( $X_{19}$ ) plays a prominent responsibility. In this sense, the perception level of students on women empowerment ( $X_{18}$ ) had positive impact on the perception level of student on the role of public libraries in getting information towards women empowerment.

Public libraries play an important role in empowering women, and the availability of public library ( $X_{21}$ ) plays a vital role in women's lives because it provides information to empower women. This will help their own development, family and community development. In this sense, the use of public library ( $X_{22}$ ), role of public libraries towards women empowerment ( $X_{24}$ ), role of public libraries towards job related training ( $X_{25}$ ) and role of public libraries towards kind of information ( $X_{27}$ ) had positive impact towards the perception level of student on the role of public libraries in getting information towards women empowerment.

Most of students in the villages are the first generation learners when a girl gets access to her text books then she will be more interested in learning. In this sense, kind of books used in School or College library ( $X_{29}$ ) had positive impact on the perception level of student on the role of public libraries in getting information towards women empowerment.

Table VIII: Multiple Regression Analysis

| Variables                                                          | " $\beta$ " value | "t" value |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------|
| Usefulness of Kanyashree one time grant ( $X_1$ )                  | 0.050968          | 0.887     |
| Impact of women empowerment ( $X_{17}$ )                           | 0.094219          | 1.658     |
| Public services will help the women empowerment ( $X_{19}$ )       | -0.028773         | -0.397    |
| Encourage about job related work ( $X_{20}$ )                      | 0.040497          | 0.668     |
| The perception level of students on women empowerment ( $X_{18}$ ) | 0.136266          | 1.896     |

|                                                                    |           |         |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|---------|
| Availability of public library ( $X_{21}$ )                        | 0.432440  | 6.225** |
| Use of public library ( $X_{22}$ )                                 | 0.237156  | 3.028** |
| Role of public libraries towards public services ( $X_{23}$ )      | 0.051117  | 0.582   |
| Role of public libraries towards women empowerment ( $X_{24}$ )    | 0.234857  | 3.033** |
| Role of public libraries towards job related training ( $X_{25}$ ) | 0.087875  | 1.162   |
| Role of public libraries towards kind of information ( $X_{27}$ )  | -0.008772 | -0.107  |
| Uses of School or College library ( $X_{28}$ )                     | 0.015207  | 0.240   |
| Kind of books uses of School or College library ( $X_{29}$ )       | 0.049140  | 0.735   |

Critical value (2-Tail, 0.05) = +or- 1.987      \*Significant at 5% level  
 Critical value (2-Tail, 0.01) = +or- 2.637      \*\* Significant at 1% level

Multiple R                = 0.86449  
 R Square                = 0.74734  
 Adjusted R Square    = 0.70915  
 Standard Error        = 1.74604

#### Analysis of Variance

|            | DF | Sum of Squares | Mean Square |
|------------|----|----------------|-------------|
| Regression | 13 | 775.52639      | 59.65588    |
| Residual   | 86 | 262.18361      | 3.04865     |

F = 19.56799      Signif F = .0000

It is found from Table VIII that all thirteen (3) variables show their regression effects with  $\beta$  and corresponding t values, their perception level of student's role of public libraries in getting information towards women empowerment (W), and they can explain 74.73 per cent ( $R^2 = 0.74734$ ) of the total aggregation effect. Three variables were identified in turn, such as availability of public library ( $X_{21}$ ), use of public library ( $X_{22}$ ) and role of public libraries towards women empowerment ( $X_{24}$ ), which are the most important and explain the effect of total regression on predictor.

#### Table IX: Step-down Regression Model

##### Step I: $X_{21}$

Multiple R                = 0.70752  
 R Square                = 0.50058  
 Adjusted R Square    = 0.49548  
 Standard Error        = 2.29963

##### Step II: $X_{24}$

Multiple R                = 0.79402  
 R Square                = 0.63047  
 Adjusted R Square    = 0.62285  
 Standard Error        = 1.98827

##### Step III: $X_{22}$

|                   |           |
|-------------------|-----------|
| Multiple R        | = 0.84233 |
| R Square          | = 0.70951 |
| Adjusted R Square | = 0.70044 |
| Standard Error    | = 1.77200 |

Step IV:  $X_{18}$

|                   |           |
|-------------------|-----------|
| Multiple R        | = 0.85262 |
| R Square          | = 0.72696 |
| Adjusted R Square | = 0.71546 |
| Standard Error    | = 1.72700 |

Table IX presents the step down regression model and is applied to separate the prominent independent variables. Then it is found that after step IV, four variables such as availability of public library ( $X_{21}$ ), role of public libraries towards women empowerment ( $X_{24}$ ), use of public library ( $X_{22}$ ) and perception level of students on women empowerment ( $X_{18}$ ) had explained 72.69 per cent of the total effect. Therefore, the remaining 9 (nine) variables explain only about 2.04 per cent of the total effect towards the perception level of student on the role of public libraries in getting information towards women empowerment.

### Findings

Kanyashree Prakalpa plays an important role in the study area. The area was considered as Muslim and poor dominion. They would marry in early ages as in the teenage, dropped out as they remain illiterates and they become victim of health, child tariffing, child labour etc. After introducing of Kanyashree Prakalpa, the adolescent girls freed from the dropout, early child marriage, child labour and they led a standard living maintaining their health, took higher education, marry at proper age. Availing the scholarship they became highly educated, self-employed, acquire skills, literate, get rid of illiteracy etc.

Kanyashree one time grant is used for different purposes such as higher education, nursing course training, purchased books & exercise for studies, helping towards fathers business, manufacturing trade, engagement in agricultural activities, horticultural, computer training, batik & terracotta, tailoring, beautician, pottery etc. Some girls bought old computer and used it as a training centre for villagers on the other hand, some girls constructed a sanitary latrine and bought advance ornaments for their marriage. Thus the stakeholders empowered themselves. Now we can say adolescent girls of Jalangi Community Development Block in Murshidabad District are developing themselves with the successful utilisation of Kanyashree one time grant.

The public library can make an important role in economic development by way of giving information to common people. The public libraries of Jalangi Community Development Block area are offered various types of information for adolescent girls such as educational, jobs, agricultural, business etc.

### Situations Surrounding Adolescent Girls

We would like to explain the backgrounds of the needs seen at our library on the basis of intensive survey. One is about what kinds of image adolescent girls have about their future careers. The outcome of the research which targeted adolescent girls showed that maximum numbers of rural adolescent girls had no image or no idea about their future life and they largely depended on the decision of their parents specially father. Less than ten percent of Kanyashree girls had clear image or ten-year-after image through their life. It also revealed

that the clear image Kanyashree girls had about their future, the more securely they were considering their future careers. In our public library, there should an occasional provision of "study counselling" related to jobs, this shows Kanyashree girls need information to secure clear illustration about their careers.

The second is the research result about what is needed for Kanyashree girls to be treated equal with their male counterpart in every field. Seen by sex, the percent of respondents who were in favour of "Women should actively empower themselves by economically competent or acquiring knowledge and skills" rose less than 10 percent.

The third is the result outcome about what kinds of lifelong learning activities Kanyashree girls were doing. At the initial stage, most of parents of Kanyashree girls agreed to continue their study for getting Kanyashree one time grant of Rs. 25,000. Later, few parents of Kanyashree girls agreed to continue their study for K<sub>3</sub> scheme. This shows that Kanyashree girls prefer public institutions to do their lifelong activities though the facilities available are poor at the block level. Thus, Kanyashree girl's center libraries as public institutions are highly effective and realizable in supporting lifelong learning which will help them to empower in future.

### **Conclusion**

Not only child marriage but also dropout at school level for the poor family are parts and parcels in the fate of these disadvantage people. They were exploited from the different corners of life. To stop such exploitations, Government of West Bengal has launched the Kanyashree Prakalpa. It is a Conditional Cash Transfer Scheme that focuses on girls between the ages of 13 and 18 and achieved the success in reducing dropout at school and early child marriage. No doubt female education has increased to a sustainable rate due to implementation of Kanyashree Prakalpa. Effect of this scheme has a little outcome towards women empowerment. Reasons are many. Social taboo has not diminished till date. Attitudinal problem towards women will take time to improve. Government machineries at the Block level are to be activated. Non Government Organizations should come in this unexplored environs. Public library has the enormous opportunity to take up the issue. But due to lack of motivation among librarians and deficiency of infrastructural up-gradation from the part of Government, public library is not in a position to participate actively towards women empowerment through process of knowledge and information dissemination.

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**Recommendations for Practice**

Based on the study's findings, several recommendations are proposed to encourage continuing research in this field and changing practices in public library:

1. Public library should provide extended hours and services to meet the needs of their young generations specially girls.
2. Panchayati Raj Institutions (3-tier Panchayat system) should play the important role to enhance the relationship between the library and its young Kanyashree girls of the locality and assist in expanding the collection and services required to meet the unique needs of the young adult population.
3. Individual library should analyze the ratio of Kanyashree girls to the materials available to assist the needs of that age group. Appropriate actions to overcome any identified deficiencies should be incorporated into the library's long range plans.
4. Public library should examine the requests for and use of copy machines, computers, Internet, and other electronic media to determine the need for each item. Appropriate actions should be taken to provide access to each item as and when required basis.
5. Public library should develop long range plans to encourage the regular use of the library by children, young adults and the surrounding communities. Because of the growing number of single parent families, plans should be made to attract and encourage the use of the library by the various age groups. Specific programmes should be based on local interests.
6. State Government should re-design the formation of library committee. Educated persons, Social leaders, Kanyashree girls should be incorporated. Committee should explore the possibility of fund-flow mechanism from MPLADS, MLALADS, BCWD, Border Area Development Fund, District and State Administration for the infrastructural and other development of the library.

7. Adjacent Public libraries should work cooperatively in providing library resources and encouraging library use. They should also develop both short and long range plans; they should identify how materials could be shuttled between the two locations to ensure access; and they should make the availability and location of resources easily identifiable for stakeholders.

**Recommendations for Further Research**

1. Research in this field is needed to guide the funding to both the public libraries.
2. Research is needed to identify the best methods for librarians to assist their Kanyashree girls.
3. Research is needed in how Kanyashree girls and librarians view and interact with one another with the goal of improving the relationship between the two groups.
4. Research is needed on the relationship between the availability and use of a quality library collection and academic achievement.
5. Research is needed on the possible implications of various reading programs, such as Accelerated Reader and Reading Counts, on library use and collection sizes at different age levels.
6. Research is needed on both local and regional levels to identify the library needs of Kanyashree girls. The research should focus on the difference between what librarians perceive to be the needs of this age group and the actual needs of this age group.