

Course title: Gender and education

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Schemes and Programs for Girls' Education

India has introduced several impactful educational policies and programs to bridge the gender gap in education. While progress has been made, continuous efforts are needed to address dropout rates, access to quality education, menstrual hygiene, and gender-based violence in schools, especially in rural and marginalized communities. Some of the initiatives that have been taken by the government are:

National Education Policy (NEP) 2020:

The new education policy (2020) emphasizes gender inclusion and equity in education. It proposes setting up Gender-Inclusion Fund to help marginalized and disadvantaged girls, including transgender students. It also encourages safe and inclusive school environments. It promotes gender sensitization training for teachers and curriculum reform.

Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009:

The RTE act ensures free and compulsory education for all children (6–14 years). It prohibits gender-based discrimination in school admissions and education. It also mandates neighbourhood schools and inclusive curriculum.

Government Schemes and Programs for Girls' Education

1. Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (BBBP): It was launched in the year 2015. Its primary objectives were to improve the Child Sex Ratio and to promote education and empowerment of girls. The focus areas are- Prevent gender-biased sex selection, improve enrolment and retention of girls in schools, ensure survival and protection of the girl child.

2. Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV): this school was established in the year 2004. Only girl from SC/ST/OBC/Minority and BPL families can enrol in this school. It is Residential schools includes classes from 6 to 12 for girls in educationally backward blocks. It provides boarding, food, meals, textbook, education, uniforms, and other supplies.

3. National Scheme of Incentive to Girls for Secondary Education (NSIGSE): This scheme was launched in 2008 by Govt. of India, Ministry of Education. Only SC/ST girls who pass Class 8 and enrol in Class 9 and who remain unmarried until age 18. The primary purpose of the scheme was to encourage continuation of education beyond primary level, reduce dropouts, and delay early marriages. In this scheme, ₹3,000 is deposited in the girl's name, which she receives after turning 18 and completing Class 10.

4. Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA): It is an umbrella program integrating Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan, and Teacher Education. It focuses on bridges gender gaps in enrolment, retention, and learning. It supports gender-sensitive teaching, girl-friendly infrastructure, and community mobilization. It provides free uniforms and textbooks to students and there is provision of Provision of separate toilets for girls.

5. UDAAN Scheme (by CBSE and MHRD): it was launched in 2004 by Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) under the Ministry of Education, Government of India. The main purpose of the scheme was to increase the number of girls in STEM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). It provides free online resources, tutorials, study material, virtual classes and mentoring to Class 11 and 12 girls. The main objective of the scheme was to prepare girls for engineering entrance exams (JEE)

6. Sukanya Samridhi Yojana (SSY): It was launched in 2015 by Government of India under the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (BBBP) initiative. It is a small savings scheme for the girl child's future education and marriage expenses. It encourages families to invest in girls' long-term future development and education.
