

Discernment towards Public Library to the Framework of Women Empowerment of Lalgola Community Development Block in Murshidabad District of West Bengal

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Abstract

Over the past few decades, there has been a growing awareness of the need to empower women by increasing social, economic and political equity and broader access to fundamental rights. In this study, attempts have been made to evaluate the students' discernment towards public library to the framework of women empowerment. The study currently conducted on 100 students received a Kanyashree one time grant scholarship of Rs 25,000 after they were 18 years old in Lalgola Community Development Block in Murshidabad District of West Bengal. The main purpose of the study was to evaluate the role of public libraries in empowering women. It has been exposed that educational status, age of the respondent, occupation of parents, monthly income of parents, monthly income of family, availability of food during school /college hour, electricity at home, availability of Aadhaar card, and role of Block Development Office in getting public services had substantial implications on the level of perception of students about the effectiveness of Kanyashree one time grant. It has been also established that educational status, occupation of parents, availability of food during school /college hour, accessibility of private tuition, effectiveness of Kanyashree grant for dropout girls, role of school in getting Kanyashree grant, impact of women empowerment, effect of public service on women empowerment, role of public libraries towards women empowerment and role of public libraries in getting information towards women empowerment had immense bearing on the level of perception of students about the empowerment of women. It has been further recognized that impact of women empowerment, effect of public service on women empowerment, perception level of students on women empowerment, availability of public library, use of public library, role of public libraries towards public services, role of public libraries towards women empowerment, role of public libraries towards job related training, role of public libraries towards kind of information, uses of school or college library, and kind of books uses of school or college library had strong significance on the perception level of students role of public libraries in getting information towards women empowerment.

Keywords: Public Library, Women Empowerment, Child Marriage, Female Education, Social Change and Kanyashree Prakashana etc.

Introduction

Empowering women has become the focus of much discussion and attention around the world and is linked to research in many educational disciplines. Today, women are disrespected and condemned by most of the families and societies as their contribution are counted in economic terms of references. In order to bridge the gender gap in developing countries, different institutions are working to improve the status of women and make them increasingly visible in various roles such as socio-economic, political and civil leadership. More than five decades of women's movements have taken place throughout India, and we are now increasingly focusing on grass-roots organizations that promote women development and discuss the status and empowerment of women.

Kanyashree scholarship, introduced by Government West Bengal in 2013 is a conditional Cash Transfer Scheme for the girl students. The scholarship to provide financial assistance for girl children to pursue higher studies and reduce the chances of early marriage, reduce the incidence of dropouts, prevent trafficking and exploitation of girls etc. At present, the three-tier scholarships namely, Rs. 750 per year for continuing education (K1) below 18 years and one time grant of Rs. 25,000 on completion the of age 18 years provided that she is engaged in an academic or vocational pursuit and is unmarried (K2). Kanyashree girls, whether single or married, can receive financial assistance under Kanyashree Prakalpa (K3) during studying a Postgraduate degree in the State of West Bengal, provided that these girls have graduation marks of at least 45%. For pursuing Postgraduate degree in Arts & Commerce and Science each K3 beneficiary will receive Rs.2000 p.m. and Rs.2500 p.m. respectively.

Thus significant and unique consequences are needed for girl students and as well as the government has rightly replied by accepting beneficiaries in non-formal education with livelihood care along with life skill information. Government and non-government agencies are bridging the students to take such as linking for employment, entrepreneurships will create the actual path of women empowerment.

Public libraries continue to play an important and expanding role in serving the community. The public library is the local center of information, allowing users to access a variety of knowledge and information at any time. Its services are open to all, play a key role in collecting, organizing and utilizing information and provide access to a variety of sources. The public libraries of Lalgola Community Development Block areas are offered various types of information as educational, commercial or entertainment purposes for all related topics which contains relevant information for girl students in the area to empower them.

Ghosh (2019) reported that decision about marriage is being taken by the person worried in the household. Further comparison across social groups has remained consistent with parents being the chief decision maker for daughters' marriage. He also said that schemes like Kanyashree Prakalpa empower girls in being the chief decision maker of their life choices¹.

¹ Ghosh, A. (2019). Evaluation of Kanyashree Prakalpa Scheme of West Bengal

Mukherjee and Pal (2017) reported that Kanyashree Prakalpa is not only promoting policy of inclusive education by improving women education in terms of enrolment and retaining and attendance but qualitative evidence also document a change in perceptions about the importance of education for girl child in West Bengal, especially in rural sector. Also study found that Kanyashree Prakalpa is connecting with different agencies to bring such stakeholders with in link for employability, inculcating entrepreneurs will create the real path of women empowerment².

Stewart (2014) shows that activities like library orientation, career guidance, lessons on avoiding plagiarism, proper record keeping and team work have enabled many high school students to acquire targeted life skills. However, they also pointed out that several school librarians did not take advantage of activities that might develop these targeted life skills, and the method of cooperation was not the norm³.

In the study of Mary and Dhanavandan (2014), the use and awareness of public library services to understand the purpose of women's access to the library, their sense of service, facilities, reading purposes, library collection, help of library staff in terms of the use of resources and services, it is necessary to meet the user's need for information and the factors that enable them to make full use of the library. Therefore, the library resources and services it provides should reflect the public and meet the information needs of these women⁴.

McCracken (2015) found in a study to explore the challenges and opportunities for empowering women through education. Based on an analysis of existing research, the study shows how factors such as poverty, gender stereotypes, and institutional culture affect educational outcomes. Therefore, there is a need for a more equitable distribution of educational resources, gender-sensitive institutional cultures and practices, and social norms and expectations that challenge men and women. More labour markets, better incomes and personal abilities will be rewarded. The challenge for policy makers is to find the right mix of policies and political will to address the complex factors that influence women and girls empowerment through education⁵.

The study by Aslam and Sonkar (2018) aims to discover user perceptions and expectations of public libraries. The public library is designed for the public and is operated by public funds to provide services to all members of society without any discrimination. The results of the study are as follows; the service is very good, the staff is very cooperative, and the computer and internet facilities are poor. Users of public libraries have more expectations, such as the lack of Internet and wireless network facilities, library websites, photocopying facilities, computer facilities, and so on⁶.

² Mukherjee, M and Pal, S. (2017). 'Conditional Cash Transfer' As a Public Policy Design on Women Education: A case Study of 'Kanyashree Prakalpa'

³ Stewart, Paulette L. (2014). Jamaican School Libraries Empowering Students with Life Skills: A Survey. *Journal of Library and Information Sciences*

⁴ Mary, A. Isabella and Dhanavandan, S. (2014). AI usage and awareness of public library services: an exclusive study on rural women. *International Journal of Digital Library Services*

⁵ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu>

⁶ Aslam, Sana and Sonker, Sharad Kumar, "Perceptions and Expectations of Public Library Users in Lucknow (India): A Study"

Kalugho (2018) surveyed public libraries to play an important role in empowering young people through the information they provide. However, young people face various challenges in accessing library information, which indicates that public libraries need to fill gaps to strengthen information services for youth. This study suggests that public libraries target youth-friendly programs/services, provide information literacy, enhance online information service delivery, non-book materials, and provide space for group discussions. It proposes a framework that can be followed to improve the effectiveness of service delivery⁷.

Objective of the study

General objectives:

The overall goal of the study was to identify students' perceptions and attitudes toward public libraries and the framework for empowering women in Lalgola Community Development Block in Murshidabad District of West Bengal. The study also explored the factors that affect the acceptability, accessibility, and utilization of women education through public services.

Specific Objectives of the Study

- To identify the effectiveness of Kanyashree Prakalpa in reducing early child marriage;
- To study the influence of Kanyashree Prakalpa in decreasing the incidence of dropouts, prevent trafficking and exploitation against girls;
- To identify the importance of public services in empowering women; and
- To assess the role of public libraries in empowering women.

Scope of the Study

The scope of present study is to identify students' perception and attitude toward public libraries and the framework for empowering women in Lalgola Community Development Block in Murshidabad District of West Bengal.

Methodology

The primary data was mainly drawn from the target students of Lalgola block of Murshidabad District in West Bengal having the beneficiary of getting Kanyashree Prakalpa one time grant of Rs. 25000. The survey was conducted during December, 2018 to April, 2019. With the help of the random sampling method, 100 beneficiary students were identified from whole block of Lalgola. A semi-structured schedule covering different questions / statements / opinions was placed in front of each respondent. Also interview of limited persons/officials was taken for the study. We used statistical approaches through SPSS 2.0 version to discover the calculation output under correlation, regression, and step down regression.

Measures

⁷ Kalugho, Betty A. (2018). The role of the Kenya National Library Service in the provision of information for youth empowerment in Nairobi County, Kenya. *Journal of Librarianship and Information Science*

Outcomes

The results of this analysis have three folds. The first stage analysis determines the effectiveness of Kanyashree one time grant (Y), in terms of 17 casual variables namely, Educational status (X₂), Age of the respondent (X₃), Occupation of parents (X₄), Monthly income of parents (X₅), Monthly income of family (X₆), Go to regular school or College (X₇), Availability of food during school /college hour (X₈), Electricity at home (X₉), Availability of Aadhaar card (X₁₀), the school or college distance from home (X₁₁), How does she go to school or college (X₁₂), Accessibility of private tuition (X₁₃), Effectiveness of Kanyashree grant for dropout girls (X₁₄), Family consent for study in school or college (X₁₅), Role of Schools in getting Kanyashree grant (X₁₆), Role of Gram Panchayats in getting Kanyashree grant (X₃₀) and Role of Block Development Office in getting public services (X₃₁).

In the second stage, study has been conducted to assess the perceptual level of students on women empowerment (Z) from 23 causal factors like Educational status (X₂), Age of the respondent (X₃), Occupation of parents (X₄), Monthly income of parents (X₅), Monthly income of family (X₆), Go to regular school or College (X₇), Availability of food during school /college hour (X₈), Electricity at home (X₉), Availability of Aadhaar card (X₁₀), the school or college distance from home (X₁₁), How does she go to school or college (X₁₂), Accessibility of private tuition (X₁₃), Effectiveness of Kanyashree grant for dropout girls (X₁₄), Family consent for study in school or college (X₁₅), Role of Schools in getting Kanyashree grant (X₁₆), Role of Gram Panchayats in getting Kanyashree grant (X₃₀), Role of Block Development Office in getting public services (X₃₁), Effectiveness of Kanyashree one time grant (X₁), Impact of women empowerment (X₁₇), public services towards women empowerment (X₁₉), encouragement towards job related works (X₂₀), Role of public libraries towards women empowerment (X₂₄) and Role of public libraries in getting information towards women empowerment (X₂₆).

In the third stage, data has been collected in order to evaluate the perceptual level of students on the role of public libraries in getting information towards women empowerment (W) from 13 consequent variables such as effectiveness of Kanyashree one time grant (X₁), Impact of women empowerment (X₁₇), public services towards women empowerment (X₁₉), encouragement towards job related works (X₂₀), the perception level of students on women empowerment (X₁₈), Availability of public library (X₂₁), Use of public library (X₂₂), Role of public libraries towards public services (X₂₃), Role of public libraries towards women empowerment (X₂₄), Role of public libraries towards job related training (X₂₅), Role of public libraries towards kind of information (X₂₇), Uses of School or College library (X₂₈), and Kind of books used in School or College library (X₂₉).

Analysis

Table I: Correlation Analysis between dependent variable i.e. effectiveness of Kanyashree one time grant (Y) and 17 casual variables

Variables	‘r’ Value
Educational status (X ₂)	-0.2216*
Age of the respondent (X ₃)	-0.5531**

Occupation of parents (X ₄)	-0.2191*
Monthly income of parents (X ₅)	-0.3742**
Monthly income of family (X ₆)	-0.3712**
Go to regular school or College (X ₇)	0.0790
Availability of food during school /college hour (X ₈)	0.2004*
Electricity at home (X ₉)	0.2293*
Availability of Aadhaar card (X ₁₀)	-0.3228**
The school or college distance from home (X ₁₁)	-0.0731
How does she go to school or college (X ₁₂)	-0.0165
Accessibility of private tuition (X ₁₃)	-0.1387
Effectiveness of Kanyashree grant for dropout girls (X ₁₄)	0.1703
Family consent for study in school or college (X ₁₅)	0.0485
Role of Schools in getting Kanyashree grant (X ₁₆)	0.1300
Role of Gram Panchayats in getting Kanyashree grant (X ₃₀)	0.0327
Role of Block Development Office in getting public services (X ₃₁)	-0.2022*

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 depicts the students’ perception on the effectiveness of Kanyashree one time grant (Y) from 17 independent variables such as Educational status (X₂), Age of the respondent (X₃), Occupation of parents (X₄), Monthly income of parents (X₅), Monthly income of family (X₆), Go to regular school or College (X₇), Availability of food during school /college hour (X₈), Electricity at home (X₉), Availability of Aadhaar card (X₁₀), the school or college distance from home (X₁₁), How does she go to school or college (X₁₂), Accessibility of private tuition (X₁₃), Effectiveness of Kanyashree grant for dropout girls (X₁₄), Family consent for study in school or college (X₁₅), Role of Schools in getting Kanyashree grant (X₁₆), Role of Gram Panchayats in getting Kanyashree grant (X₃₀) and Role of Block Development Office in getting public services (X₃₁). From the table of correlation coefficient, it has been found that educational status (X₂), age of the respondent (X₃), occupation of parents (X₄), monthly income of parents (X₅), monthly income of family (X₆), Availability of food during school /college hour (X₈), Electricity at home (X₉), Availability of Aadhaar card (X₁₀), and role of Block Development Office in getting public services (X₃₁) have immense impact on the predictor variable Y and Kanyashree one-time grant has greatly affected the effectiveness of women’s empowerment.

Table II: Multiple Regression Analysis

Variables	“β” value	“t” value
Educational status (X ₂)	-0.012735	-0.107
Age of the respondent (X ₃)	-0.529048	-5.433**
Occupation of parents (X ₄)	-0.177778	-1.838
Monthly income of parents (X ₅)	-0.034466	-0.167
Monthly income of family (X ₆)	-0.310975	-1.449
Go to regular school or College (X ₇)	0.045257	0.443
Availability of food during school /college hour (X ₈)	-0.065147	-0.484

Electricity at home (X ₉)	0.049040	0.471
Availability of Aadhaar card (X ₁₀)	0.047285	0.468
The school or college distance from home (X ₁₁)	0.033752	0.245
How does she go to school or college (X ₁₂)	0.039607	0.286
Accessibility of private tuition (X ₁₃)	-0.083112	-0.655
Effectiveness of Kanyashree grant for dropout girls (X ₁₄)	0.177980	1.576
Family consent for study in school or college (X ₁₅)	-0.028200	-0.289
Role of Schools in getting Kanyashree grant (X ₁₆)	0.046621	0.451
Role of Gram Panchayats in getting Kanyashree grant (X ₃₀)	0.030854	0.343
Role of Block Development Office in getting public services (X ₃₁)	-0.040874	-0.455

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 = 0.69241
 R Square = 0.47943
 Adjusted R Square = 0.37150
 Standard Error = 1.52298

Analysis of Variance

	DF	Sum of Squares	Mean Square
Regression	17	175.16311	10.30371
Residual	82	190.19689	2.31947

F = 4.44226 Signif F = .0000

Table II presents the multiple regression analysis with β values and corresponding t values. It is discernible that the variables like educational status (X₂), age of the respondent (X₃), occupation of parents (X₄), monthly income of parents (X₅), monthly income of family (X₆), go to regular school or College (X₇), availability of food during school /college hour (X₈), electricity at home (X₉), availability of Aadhaar card (X₁₀), the school or college distance from home (X₁₁), how does she go to school or college (X₁₂), accessibility of private tuition (X₁₃), effectiveness of Kanyashree grant for dropout girls (X₁₄), family consent for study in school or college (X₁₅), role of Schools in getting Kanyashree grant (X₁₆), role of Gram Panchayats in getting Kanyashree grant (X₃₀) and role of Block Development Office in getting public services (X₃₁) have significant regressional effect on the level of effectiveness of Kanyashree one-time grant.

Different factors have been identified which affect the effectiveness of the one-time grant of Kanyashree. It should also be mentioned that all seventeen variables put together to account for 47.94 per cent of the total effect ($R^2 = 0.47943$).

Table III: Step-down Regression Model

Step I: X₃

Multiple R = 0.55313
 R Square = 0.30595

Adjusted R Square = 0.29887
Standard Error = 1.60858

Step II: X_6

Multiple R = 0.64261
R Square = 0.41295
Adjusted R Square = 0.40085
Standard Error = 1.48700

Step III: X_{14}

Multiple R = 0.66484
R Square = 0.44201
Adjusted R Square = 0.42458
Standard Error = 1.45726

Table III presents the step down regression model. It has been found that after step III, only 3 variables namely, age of the respondent (X_3), monthly income of family (X_6), and effectiveness of Kanyashree grant for dropout girls (X_{14}) can together explain 44.20 per cent of the total estimated effect of 47.94 per cent.

The role of Gram Panchayats and the Block Development Office are seen as independent variables if the relationship between the perception of students on women empowering and socio-economic with personal variables are concerned.

Table IV: Correlation Analysis between dependent variable i.e. students' perception level on women empowerment (Z) and 23 casual variables

Variables	'r' Value
Educational status (X_2)	0.3418**
Age of the respondent (X_3)	0.0218
Occupation of parents (X_4)	0.4124**
Monthly income of parents (X_5)	0.1961
Monthly income of family (X_6)	0.1536
Go to regular school or College (X_7)	0.0795
Availability of food during school /college hour (X_8)	-0.2283*
Electricity at home (X_9)	0.0989
Availability of Aadhaar card (X_{10})	0.0455
The school or college distance from home (X_{11})	0.1071
How does she go to school or college (X_{12})	0.1907
Accessibility of private tuition (X_{13})	0.2646**
Effectiveness of Kanyashree grant for dropout girls (X_{14})	0.4882**
Family consent for study in school or college (X_{15})	0.1793
Role of Schools in getting Kanyashree grant (X_{16})	0.5489**

Role of Gram Panchayats in getting Kanyashree grant (X ₃₀)	0.1711
Role of Block Development Office in getting public services (X ₃₁)	-0.0308
Effectiveness of Kanyashree one time grant (X ₁)	-0.0038
Impact of women empowerment (X ₁₇)	-0.2610**
Public services towards women empowerment (X ₁₉)	0.2682**
Encouragement towards job related works (X ₂₀)	0.1221
Role of public libraries towards women empowerment (X ₂₄)	0.4193**
Role of public libraries in getting information towards women empowerment (X ₂₆)	0.4264**

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 student's perception on women empowerment (Z) from 23 causal factors, such as educational status (X₂), age of the respondent (X₃), occupation of parents (X₄), monthly income of parents (X₅), monthly income of family (X₆), go to regular school or College (X₇), availability of food during school /college hour (X₈), electricity at home (X₉), availability of Aadhaar card (X₁₀), the school or college distance from home (X₁₁), how does she go to school or college (X₁₂), accessibility of private tuition (X₁₃), effectiveness of Kanyashree grant for dropout girls (X₁₄), family consent for study in school or college (X₁₅), role of Schools in getting Kanyashree grant (X₁₆), role of Gram Panchayats in getting Kanyashree grant (X₃₀), role of Block Development Office in getting public services (X₃₁), effectiveness of Kanyashree one time grant (X₁), impact of women empowerment (X₁₇), public services towards women empowerment (X₁₉), encouragement towards job related works (X₂₀), role of public libraries towards women empowerment (X₂₄) and role of public libraries in getting information towards women empowerment (X₂₆). From the table of correlation coefficient, it has been found that educational status (X₂), occupation of parents (X₄), availability of food during school /college hour (X₈), accessibility of private tuition (X₁₃), effectiveness of Kanyashree grant for dropout girls (X₁₄), role of Schools in getting Kanyashree grant (X₁₆), impact of women empowerment (X₁₇), public services towards women empowerment (X₁₉), role of public libraries towards women empowerment (X₂₄) and role of public libraries in getting information towards women empowerment (X₂₆). These consequent variables have large impact on the perception of students regarding women's empowerment.

Table V: Multiple Regression Analysis

Variables	“β” value	“t” value
Educational status (X ₂)	0.198915	1.789
Age of the respondent (X ₃)	0.010884	0.098
Occupation of parents (X ₄)	0.237590	2.527*
Monthly income of parents (X ₅)	0.042321	0.210
Monthly income of family (X ₆)	-0.247915	-1.168
Go to regular school or College (X ₇)	-0.015133	-0.153
Availability of food during school /college hour (X ₈)	0.056706	0.428

Electricity at home (X ₉)	-0.077579	-0.745
Availability of Aadhaar card (X ₁₀)	0.027729	0.294
The school or college distance from home (X ₁₁)	-0.207913	-1.555
How does she go to school or college (X ₁₂)	0.081735	0.611
Accessibility of private tuition (X ₁₃)	0.225369	1.849
Effectiveness of Kanyashree grant for dropout girls (X ₁₄)	0.077699	0.710
Family consent for study in school or college (X ₁₅)	-0.037250	-0.396
Role of Schools in getting Kanyashree grant (X ₁₆)	0.367536	3.836**
Role of Gram Panchayats in getting Kanyashree grant (X ₃₀)	0.082043	0.951
Role of Block Development Office in getting public services (X ₃₁)	0.026101	0.310
Effectiveness of Kanyashree one time grant (X ₁)	-0.048824	-0.446
Impact of women empowerment (X ₁₇)	-0.059256	-0.634
Public services towards women empowerment (X ₁₉)	0.034041	0.365
Encouragement towards job related works (X ₂₀)	0.188487	1.999*
Role of public libraries towards women empowerment (X ₂₄)	0.237286	2.331*
Role of public libraries in getting information towards women empowerment (X ₂₆)	0.067565	0.544

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	= 0.76886
R Square	= 0.59114
Adjusted R Square	= 0.46741
Standard Error	= 0.64512
Analysis of Variance	
	DF Sum of Squares Mean Square
Regression	23 45.73074 1.98829
Residual	76 31.62926 .41617
F =	4.77755 Signif F = .0000

Table V gives a multiple regression analysis with β values and corresponding t values. It is seen that variables like educational status (X₂), age of the respondent (X₃), occupation of parents (X₄), monthly income of parents (X₅), monthly income of family (X₆), go to regular school or College (X₇), availability of food during school /college hour (X₈), electricity at home (X₉), availability of Aadhaar card (X₁₀), the school or college distance from home (X₁₁), how does she go to school or college (X₁₂), accessibility of private tuition (X₁₃), effectiveness of Kanyashree grant for dropout girls (X₁₄), family consent for study in school or college (X₁₅), role of Schools in getting Kanyashree grant (X₁₆), role of Gram Panchayats in getting Kanyashree grant (X₃₀), role of Block Development Office in getting public services (X₃₁), effectiveness of Kanyashree one time grant (X₁), impact of women empowerment (X₁₇), public services towards women empowerment (X₁₉), encouragement towards job related works (X₂₀), role of public libraries towards women empowerment (X₂₄) and role of public libraries in getting information towards

women empowerment (X_{26}) have significant regressional effect on assessing students' level of awareness on women's empowerment. Different factors affecting women's empowerment levels have been identified. It should also be mentioned that all twenty-three variables put together to explain 59.11 per cent ($R^2 = 0.59114$) of the total effect.

Table VI: Step-down Regression Model

Step I: X_{16}

Multiple R	= 0.54890
R Square	= 0.30129
Adjusted R Square	= 0.29416
Standard Error	= 0.74267

Step II: X_{24}

Multiple R	= 0.64542
R Square	= 0.41657
Adjusted R Square	= 0.40454
Standard Error	= 0.68213

Step III: X_4

Multiple R	= 0.68895
R Square	= 0.47466
Adjusted R Square	= 0.45824
Standard Error	= 0.65065

Step IV: X_{20}

Multiple R	= 0.70747
R Square	= 0.50052
Adjusted R Square	= 0.47948
Standard Error	= 0.63776

Table VI presents the step down regression model. It is successful in identifying the prominent independent variables. It is found that after step IV, the four variables namely, role of Schools in getting Kanyashree grant (X_{16}), role of public libraries towards women empowerment (X_{24}), occupation of parents (X_4), and encouragement towards job related works (X_{20}) can collectively explain 50.05 per cent of the total estimated effect of 59.11 per cent.

With the assistance of bivariate correlation and multiple regression analysis, we assessed the relationship between the role of public libraries and socio-economic with personal variables. The role of local self-government, the effectiveness of the Kanyashree one-time grant, women empowerment, and impact of public libraries on women empowerment are seen as independent variables in respect to the dependent variable.

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

Variables	‘r’ Value
Effectiveness of Kanyashree one time grant (X ₁)	0.0576
Impact of women empowerment (X ₁₇)	-0.3249**
Public services towards women empowerment (X ₁₉)	0.4211**
Encouragement towards job related works (X ₂₀)	0.1228
The perception level of students on women empowerment (X ₁₈)	0.4264**
Availability of public library (X ₂₁)	0.7226**
Use of public library (X ₂₂)	0.8225**
Role of public libraries towards public services (X ₂₃)	0.4328**
Role of public libraries towards women empowerment (X ₂₄)	0.5736**
Role of public libraries towards job related training (X ₂₅)	0.3997**
Role of public libraries towards kind of information (X ₂₇)	0.4040**
Uses of School or College library (X ₂₈)	0.2474*
Kind of books used in School or College library (X ₂₉)	0.4113**

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 students' views on the role of public libraries in women's empowerment (W) from 13 consequent variables such as effectiveness of Kanyashree one time grant (X₁), impact of women empowerment (X₁₇), public services towards women empowerment (X₁₉), encouragement towards job related works (X₂₀), the perception level of students on women empowerment (X₁₈), availability of public library (X₂₁), use of public library (X₂₂), role of public libraries towards public services (X₂₃), role of public libraries towards women empowerment (X₂₄), role of public libraries towards job related training (X₂₅), role of public libraries towards kind of information (X₂₇), uses of school or college library (X₂₈), and kind of books used in school or college library (X₂₉). It has been found from the table of correlation coefficient that impact of women empowerment (X₁₇), public services towards women empowerment (X₁₉), the perception level of students on women empowerment (X₁₈), availability of public library (X₂₁), use of public library (X₂₂), role of public libraries towards public services (X₂₃), role of public libraries towards women empowerment (X₂₄), role of public libraries towards job related training (X₂₅), role of public libraries towards kind of information (X₂₇), uses of school or college library (X₂₈), and kind of books used in school or college library (X₂₉) have large impact on the role of public libraries in empowering women.

Table VIII: Multiple Regression Analysis

Variables	“β” value	“t” value
Effectiveness of Kanyashree one time grant (X ₁)	0.065053	1.268

Impact of women empowerment (X_{17})	-0.047112	-0.876
Public services towards women empowerment (X_{19})	0.107571	1.923
Encouragement towards job related works (X_{20})	-0.071967	-1.284
The perception level of students on women empowerment (X_{18})	0.014953	0.263
Availability of public library (X_{21})	0.271929	3.908**
Use of public library (X_{22})	0.469593	5.310**
Role of public libraries towards public services (X_{23})	-0.016232	-0.276
Role of public libraries towards women empowerment (X_{24})	0.217325	3.575**
Role of public libraries towards job related training (X_{25})	-0.023166	-0.394
Role of public libraries towards kind of information (X_{27})	0.112986	2.096*
Uses of School or College library (X_{28})	-0.053404	-0.981
Kind of books used in School or College library (X_{29})	0.068810	1.271

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 = 0.90207
 R Square = 0.81372
 Adjusted R Square = 0.78557
 Standard Error = 1.26414

Analysis of Variance

	DF	Sum of Squares	Mean Square
Regression	13	600.35708	46.18131
Residual	86	137.43292	1.59806
F =	28.89841	Signif F = .0000	

Table VIII gives a multiple regression analysis with β values and corresponding t values. It is found that variables like effectiveness of Kanyashree one time grant (X_1), impact of women empowerment (X_{17}), Public services towards women empowerment (X_{19}), encouragement towards job related works (X_{20}), the perception level of students on women empowerment (X_{18}), availability of public library (X_{21}), use of public library (X_{22}), role of public libraries towards public services (X_{23}), role of public libraries towards women empowerment (X_{24}), role of public libraries towards job related training (X_{25}), role of public libraries towards kind of information (X_{27}), uses of school or college library (X_{28}), and kind of books used in school or college library (X_{29}) have significant regressional effect on the role of public libraries in empowering women.

Different prominent factors have come on the surface which affect the role of public libraries in empowering women. It should also be mentioned that all thirteen variables put together to explain 81.37 per cent ($R^2 = 0.81372$) of the total effect.

Table IX: Step-down Regression Model

Step I: X_{22}

Multiple R	= 0.82246
R Square	= 0.67643
Adjusted R Square	= 0.67313
Standard Error	= 1.56075

Step II: X_{24}

Multiple R	= 0.84691
R Square	= 0.71725
Adjusted R Square	= 0.71142
Standard Error	= 1.46649

Step III: X_{21}

Multiple R	= 0.87109
R Square	= 0.75879
Adjusted R Square	= 0.75126
Standard Error	= 1.36152

Step IV: X_{27}

Multiple R	= 0.88516
R Square	= 0.78351
Adjusted R Square	= 0.77440
Standard Error	= 1.29665

Step V: X_{19}

Multiple R	= 0.89164
R Square	= 0.79501
Adjusted R Square	= 0.78411
Standard Error	= 1.26842

Table IX describes the step down regression model and it has been found that 5 variables namely, use of public library (X_{22}), role of public libraries towards women empowerment (X_{24}), availability of public library (X_{21}), role of public libraries towards kind of information (X_{27}), and public services towards women empowerment (X_{19}) can explain 79.50 per cent of the total regression effect.

With the help of bivariate correlation and multiple regression analysis, we assessed the significant relationship between the role of public libraries and socio-economic with personal variables. The effectiveness of the Kanyashree one-time grant, factors that connecting towards women empowerment and functioning of public libraries are taken into account as independent variables.

Result and Discussion

During measurement of the level of perception of students who have received Kanyashree one-time grant of Rs. 25,000 after attaining the age of 18 years, we found that the educational status, the age of the respondent, the parents occupation, the monthly income of the parents, the monthly income of the family, the availability of Aadhaar card, and the Block Development Office's role in obtaining public service students have a negative impact on the perception level. Availability of food during school /college hour and the electricity at home indicate a positive impact on the level of perception. The English daily "India Express" published a research report on March 11, 2019 where it has been shown regarding the commitment of parent of a school girl in a school in West Bengal near the border with Bangladesh towards the continuation of her education. Teachers of the school said that the goal is clear: empower girls, prevent school dropouts and eliminate child marriage. 1,800 parents have signed up at Lashkarpur High School in Lalgola of Murshidabad district on one page commitment paper voluntarily. The school has 1,957 girls, far more than half of the 3,205 total students coming from 22 villages in that region. The National Committee for the Protection of Children's Rights issued a report based on the National Family Health Survey IV, which showed that West Bengal was among the best in terms of child marriage rates, with 25.6 per cent of girls aged between 15 and 19. And Murshidabad heading all districts, accounting for 39.9 per cent, according to a survey conducted in 2015-16 whereas the national average was 11.9 per cent during that year⁸.

It obtains the perception level of students on women empowerment from 23 casual variables. We found that availability of food during school /college hour and impact of women empowerment students have a negative impact on the perception level of women empowerment. Educational status, occupation of parents, accessibility of private tuition, effectiveness of Kanyashree grant for dropout girls, role of Schools in getting Kanyashree grant, public services towards the women empowerment, role of public libraries towards women empowerment and role of public libraries in getting information towards women empowerment which have indicated positive impact on the perception of women empowerment. In 2010, the Government of India adopted the National Empowerment of Women (NMEW) mission. This is a comprehensive empowerment initiative by ensuring consistency in the schemes or programmes of different Ministries or Department of Central Government and State Governments. In addition to these plans, the government has organized several conferences, seminars and events on women's empowerment in the past few years. The Government of West Bengal adopted 'Kanyashree Prakalpa' by motivating all teenage girls to attend school and postponing their marriage to a legal age of 18, this will help improve the status and well-being of girls in West Bengal.

Public libraries play an important role in empowering women. It obtains the perception level of students on the role of public libraries in getting information towards women empowerment from 13 consequent variables. It is found that the impact of women empowerment which has a negative impact on the perception level of students on the role of public libraries in getting information towards women empowerment. Public library towards women empowerment, the perception level of students on women empowerment, availability of public library, use of public library, role of public libraries towards public services, role of public libraries towards women

⁸ <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/bengal-school-takes-on-child-marriage-with-a-parents-promise-5619790/>

empowerment, role of public libraries towards job related training, role of public libraries towards kind of information, uses of school or college library, and kind of books uses of school or college library have shown their positive impact on the perception level of student's on the role of public libraries in getting information towards women empowerment.

Conclusion

The purpose of this study is to realize information accessed by girl students and also with an understanding of the ability of public libraries to empower women in a Lalgola Community Development Block in the Murshidabad District of West Bengal. The impact of the Kanyashree Prakalpa is deeply implemented in the society of West Bengal. In most cases, Kanyashree one-time grant of Rs. 25,000 is used to continue their studies or participate in other recognized institutions for skills development courses. Kanyashree Prakalpa is now becoming a social reformation and in order to prevent child marriage, the effort encourages girls and considers girls to receive higher education for becoming their own employments, and also their legal rights. The Kanyashree Prakalpa enables to provide skills and voice for the family and society, reduction of the risk of maternal issues like child health and mortality, lowering the risk of violence, abuse and exploitation and financial inclusion for girls between the ages of 13 to 18. Around the world, many rural community members believed that rural public libraries support and assistance would help in building the self-development and self-improvement of women. Public libraries of Lalgola Community Development Block areas are offering various types of information on education, commercial or entertainment purposes for all related topics which are relevant for girl students in the area to empower them.

Implications

The research findings clearly imply that, in addition to provide information on education, commercial or entertainment, public libraries of study area can provide activities to develop critical life skills in students so that they can function in the society at large. They also indicate that if public libraries are well-equipped with adequate resources and qualified librarians, they will be more capable of helping to empower women of that block.

Recommendations

As a result of the findings, three critical recommendations can be made.

1. There is a clear need for greater collaboration between public libraries and local self-government institutions in the planning and implementation of activities that take place in the block level to develop the targeted life skills in order to empower girls.
2. District Administration should conduct workshops on public library and local self-government institution collaboration with Panchayat Samity Sabhapati, Block Development Officer and other Panchayat Prodhans so they will understand the necessity of making allowance for such collaboration towards the successful implementation of the public services available in the State.

3. More emphasis needs to be placed at the public library on the concept of abovementioned collaboration so that greater benefits can be realised by all the stakeholders in the Block community.
4. There should be continual networking among public librarians so they can share ideas regarding activities that can be practiced by students for them to advance along the continuum of the social responsibility category of the Information Literacy Skills for Students Learning.
5. The Government should provide Internet and wireless network facilities, library websites, photocopying facilities, computer facilities to public libraries in order to attract more numbers of beneficiaries.
6. This study suggests that public libraries should target youth-friendly programs/services, provide information literacy, enhance online information service delivery, non-book materials, and provide space for group discussions. A concrete framework to be prepared to improve the effectiveness of service delivery.
7. Numbers of Librarians are so poor that one Librarian is in charge of 2 to 3 public libraries. As a result, one public library opens 2 to 3 days in a week. In most of the libraries, Librarian is the sole person to deliver his duties without any assistant.

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