



IMPACT OF SHUCHI PAD DISTRIBUTION SCHEME ON EDUCATION OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GIRLS

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ABSTRACT

In the present paper an attempt has been made to ascertain the impact of Shuchi pad distribution schemes on the enrolment, attendance, retention, dropout rates, participation, health status, awareness, absenteeism, feeling of shyness and coping abilities of girl students. All the headmasters working in government elementary schools for the academic year 2020-21 were the population of the study. Whereas, 30 headmasters of elementary schools working in government schools of selected taluks of Dharwad district are the samples of the present study and were drawn by stratified random sampling technique. A questionnaire for ascertaining the impact of Shuchi pads distribution scheme on the enrolment, attendance, retention, dropout rates, participation, health status, awareness, absenteeism, feeling of shyness and coping abilities of girl students constructed and validated by the researcher was used to collect the data. The data was collected from 30 headmasters of elementary schools working in government schools of selected taluks of Dharwad district by using the tool developed by the researcher by following research ethics. The data collected were analyzed using percentiles. Results revealed that, Shuchi pad distribution scheme improved the enrolment, attendance, retention, participation, health status, awareness about menstrual hygiene, coping abilities of elementary school girls. The findings also showed that, the scheme was found to be helpful in reducing the absenteeism, dropout rates, feeling of shyness among elementary girls during the crucial days of the month.

Key words: Shuchi pads distribution scheme, girls education, elementary level etc.,

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INTRODUCTION

In spite of all claims made by the government and nonprofit organizations, India's girls continue to be illiterate in large numbers. Much has been done to emancipate girls' education in the four decades after independence.

India is one of the most populous nations when it comes to demography. However, the nation's rate of female education is extremely low. The statistics in a nation where women are revered as deities are rather alarming. There has been a tremendous improvement in the numbers, but much work remains.

There were some quite traditional attitudes concerning girls in those early times. Even leaving their houses was forbidden for the girls. It was thought that girls were the family head's responsibility. Early marriage is advised for girls. Their primary duties are to take care of the children and handle home chores. They do not have any entitlement to education. Regardless of what they truly want to do with their lives. However, as we can see, times are changing, and people's attitudes about girls' education are also improving.

The government of our nation is also developing new measures to support the education of girls. Such initiatives and scholarships are being offered to support the girl's education. so that no obstacle would be able to prevent the girl from receiving the right education. Our country is built on its female population. Additionally, they are entitled to education. The most important factor in the development of the country, as we all know, is the education of girls.

Shuchi Pad Distribution Scheme

The Department of Primary and Secondary Education is the primary agency in charge of regulating school management in Karnataka. It does so with the aid of other departments, which undertake a range of interventions, including developing and running residential dorms, putting programmes for girls into place, and providing scholarships and other rewards.

Under Samagra Shikshana, the Department of Primary and Secondary Education implements interventions. The gender and equity plan of the Department of School Education and Literacy (2020) focuses on residential schools with dormitories and self-defense instruction for girls, and it is two-pronged. The specific project for equity includes programmes for girls and career advice. However, there is opportunity for improvement in the basic, secondary, and upper secondary treatments. Providing sanitary napkin dispensers and incinerators on

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school property, teaching students about sexual and reproductive health, promoting enrolment in rural and catchment areas, and promoting skill development are a few examples.

Girls receive free sanitary napkins through the Department of Health and Family Welfare under the Shuchi scheme, which was introduced in 2013–2014. However, because no money was set aside for it in the state budget for 2020–21, it came to an end during the pandemic (Yasmeen, 2020).

Objective

- To ascertain the impact of Shuchi schemes on the enrolment, attendance, retention, dropout rates, participation, health status, awareness, absenteeism, feeling of shyness and coping abilities of girl students.

Research Question

- Shuchi pads distribution schemes do not have any significant impact on the enrolment, attendance, retention, dropout rates, participation, health status, awareness, absenteeism, feeling of shyness and coping abilities of girl students.

Statement of the Problem

The present research is entitled: Impact of Shuchi Pad Distribution Scheme on Education of Elementary School Girls.

Scope of the Study

- The present research studies only the Impact of Shuchi Pad Distribution Scheme on Education of Elementary School Girls.
- The present study is limited only to elementary schools of selected taluks of Dharwad district

Population, Sample and Sampling Technique

All the headmasters working in government elementary schools for the academic year 2020-21 were the population of the study. Whereas, 30 headmasters of elementary schools working in government schools of selected taluks of Dharwad district are the samples of the present study and were drawn by stratified random sampling technique.

Tools Used for Collection of Data

A questionnaire for ascertaining the impact of Shuchi pads distribution scheme on the enrolment, attendance, retention, dropout rates, participation, health status, awareness, absenteeism, feeling of shyness and coping abilities of girl students constructed and validated by the researcher was used to collect the data.

Data Collection Procedure

The data was collected from 30 headmasters of elementary schools working in government schools of selected taluks of Dharwad district by using the tool developed by the researcher by following research ethics.

Statistical Techniques Used for Analysis of Data

The data collected were analyzed using percentiles by using the following formula.

$$\text{Percentile} = \frac{\text{Number of Responses}}{\text{Number of Respondents}} \times 100$$

Data Analysis and Interpretation

Table No.1: The percentile of responses to the statement- 'improvement in the enrolment of girl students in the school due to distribution of Shuchi pads'.

N	Statement	Yes	%	No	%
30	Is there an improvement in the enrolment of girl students in your school due to the distribution of Shuchi pads?	26	86.6%	04	13.4%

From the results of Table No.1 it is clear that, about 86.6% of head masters felt that enrolment of girls was improved considerably due to the distribution of Shuchi pads. Whereas, 13.4% of head masters have felt that there is no improvement in the enrolment of girls in their schools.

Table No.2: The percentile of responses to the statement- 'improvement in the attendance of girl students in the school due to distribution of Shuchi pads'.

N	Statement	Yes	%	No	%
30	Is there an improvement in the attendance of girl students due to use of distributed Shuchi pads?	25	83.3%	05	16.7%

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From the results of Table No.2 it is clear that, about 83.3% of head masters felt that, there is an improvement in the attendance of girl students due to the use of Shuchi pads. However, remaining 16.7% of the head masters expressed their opinion otherwise.

Table No.3: The percentile of responses to the statement- 'improvement in the retention of girl students in the school due to use of distributed Shuchi pads'.

N	Statement	Yes	%	No	%
30	Is there an improvement in the retention of girl students due to use of distributed Shuchi pads?	25	83.3%	05	16.7%

From the results of Table No.3 it is clear that, about 83.3% of head masters felt that, there is an improvement in the retention of girl students due to the use of distributed Shuchi pads. However, remaining 16.7% of the head masters opined that, there is no improvement in the retention of girl students.

Table No.4: The percentile of responses to the statement- 'improvement in the participation of girl students in the school activities and sports due to use of distributed Shuchi pads'.

N	Statement	Yes	%	No	%
30	Is there an improvement in the participation of girl students in school activities and sports due to use of distributed Shuchi pads?	27	90%	03	10%

From the results of Table No.4 it is clear that, about 90% of head masters felt that, there is an improvement in the participation of girl students in school activities and sports due to the use of distributed Shuchi pads. However, remaining 10% of the head masters opined that, there is no improvement in the retention of girl students.

Table No.5: The percentile of responses to the statement- 'improvement in the health of girl students due to use of distributed Shuchi pads'.

N	Statement	Yes	%	No	%
30	Is there an improvement in the health of girl students due to use of distributed Shuchi pads?	23	76.6%	07	23.4%

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From the results of Table No.5 it is clear that, about 76.6% of head masters felt that, there is an improvement in the health status of girl students due to the use of distributed Shuchi pads. However, remaining 23.4% of the head masters opined that, there is no improvement in the health status of girl students.

Table No.6: The percentile of responses to the statement- 'reduction in the dropout rates of girl students due to use of distributed Shuchi pads'.

N	Statement	Yes	%	No	%
30	Is there a reduction in the dropout rates of girl students due to use of distributed Shuchi pads?	24	80%	06	20%

From the results of Table No.6 it is clear that, about 83.3% of head masters felt that, there is a reduction in the dropout rates of girl students due to the use of distributed Shuchi pads. However, remaining 16.7% of the head masters opined that, there is no reduction in the dropout rates of girl students.

Table No.7: The percentile of responses to the statement- 'reduction in the absenteeism of girl students due to use of distributed Shuchi pads'.

N	Statement	Yes	%	No	%
30	Is there a reduction in the absenteeism of girl students due to use of distributed Shuchi pads?	25	83.3%	05	16.7%

From the results of Table No.7 it is clear that, about 83.3% of head masters felt that, there is a reduction in the absenteeism of girl students due to the use of distributed Shuchi pads. However, remaining 16.7% of the head masters opined that, there is no reduction in the absenteeism of girl students.

Table No.8: The percentile of responses to the statement- 'increase in the awareness of menstrual hygiene of girl students due to distribution of Shuchi pads'.

N	Statement	Yes	%	No	%
30	Is there an increase in the awareness of menstrual hygiene of girl students due to distribution of Shuchi pads?	28	93.3%	02	6.7%

From the results of Table No.8 it is clear that, about 93.3% of head masters felt that, distribution of Shuchi pads considerably improved the awareness of menstrual hygiene of girl students. However, remaining 6.7% of the head masters opined that, distribution of Shuchi pads did not increase awareness among girl students.

Table No.9: The percentile of responses to the statement- ‘helped the girls to overcome the feeling of shyness due to the use of distributed Shuchi pads’.

N	Statement	Yes	%	No	%
30	Has distribution of Shuchi pad scheme helped the girls to overcome the feeling of shyness?	23	76.6%	07	23.4%

From the results of Table No.9 it is clear that, about 83.3% of head masters felt that, distribution of Shuchi pads scheme helped the girl students to overcome the feeling of shyness. However, remaining 16.7% of the head masters opined that, distribution of Shuchi pads scheme did not help the girl students to overcome the feeling of shyness.

Table No.10: The percentile of responses to the statement- ‘increase in the ability of girl students to cope up with the crucial days of the month due to the use of distributed Shuchi pads’.

N	Statement	Yes	%	No	%
30	Is there an increase in the ability of girl students to cope up with the crucial days of the month due to the use of distributed Shuchi pads?	24	80%	06	20%

From the results of Table No.10 it is clear that, about 80% of head masters felt that, distribution of Shuchi pads considerably improved the ability of girl students to cope up with the crucial days of the month. However, remaining 20% of the head masters opined that, distribution of Shuchi pads did not improve the coping abilities of girls in the crucial days of the month.

Findings of the Study

- About 86.6% of head masters felt that enrolment of girls was improved considerably due to the distribution of Shuchi pads. Whereas, 13.4% of head masters have felt that there is no improvement in the enrolment of girls in their schools.

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- About 83.3% of head masters felt that, there is an improvement in the attendance of girl students due to the use of Shuchi pads. However, remaining 16.7% of the head masters expressed their opinion otherwise.
- About 83.3% of head masters felt that, there is an improvement in the retention of girl students due to the use of distributed Shuchi pads. However, remaining 16.7% of the head masters opined that, there is no improvement in the retention of girl students.
- About 90% of head masters felt that, there is an improvement in the participation of girl students in school activities and sports due to the use of distributed Shuchi pads. However, remaining 10% of the head masters opined that, there is no improvement in the retention of girl students.
- About 76.6% of head masters felt that, there is an improvement in the health status of girl students due to the use of distributed Shuchi pads. However, remaining 23.4% of the head masters opined that, there is no improvement in the health status of girl students.
- About 83.3% of head masters felt that, there is a reduction in the dropout rates of girl students due to the use of distributed Shuchi pads. However, remaining 16.7% of the head masters opined that, there is no reduction in the dropout rates of girl students.
- About 83.3% of head masters felt that, there is a reduction in the absenteeism of girl students due to the use of distributed Shuchi pads. However, remaining 16.7% of the head masters opined that, there is no reduction in the absenteeism of girl students.
- About 93.3% of head masters felt that, distribution of Shuchi pads considerably improved the awareness of menstrual hygiene of girl students. However, remaining 6.7% of the head masters opined that, distribution of Shuchi pads did not increase awareness among girl students.
- About 83.3% of head masters felt that, distribution of Shuchi pads scheme helped the girl students to overcome the feeling of shyness. However, remaining 16.7% of the head masters opined that, distribution of Shuchi pads scheme did not help the girl students to overcome the feeling of shyness.
- About 80% of head masters felt that, distribution of Shuchi pads considerably improved the ability of girl students to cope up with the crucial days of the month. However, remaining 20% of the head masters opined that, distribution of Shuchi pads did not improve the coping abilities of girls in the crucial days of the month.



CONCLUSION

The proverb 'girls have the power to alter the world' is well known. A female who has received a good education can take on any role in life. She will be able to distinguish between good and wrong and speak out against it if she is properly educated. There should be no discrimination against women. They should be treated with respect. They should have the same chance to showcase their talent as boys do.

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