

The Issue Of Indispensableness Of Public Libraries In Women Empowerment: A Study Of West Bengal In India

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ABSTRACT

Once again public libraries have proved that proper knowledge diffusion would bring major changes in women empowerment. Kanyashree Prakalpa was pioneered throughout West Bengal in 2013 in slow but steady pace but public libraries were not included at the initial stage. But slowly their contributions are being realized. Empowering women refers to the process of enhancing their spiritual, political, social or economic status. This also includes the right to raise their level of confidence regarding their own capabilities. Women empowerment is a gateway to the development of a country. This study was conducted to assess the attitude, behaviors and factors of parents towards and through different public services taken by the Government of West Bengal and the role of Public Libraries in empowering women of Canning- II Community Development Block. Kanyashree Prakalpa is one of the most important public service schemes which enabled the implementation of a quality life among the girls entangled within the chains of pecuniary and social restrictions of the said area. The main aim of this scheme apart from eliminating illiteracy is to reduce child labor, school dropouts, and violence against women, child marriage, and economic activities of students of weaker sections of the society. The public library is a nerve center of information that allows its users to acquire knowledge and information related to the society within and without. As a custodian of knowledge, public libraries have played a very important role in disseminating information and training on women's empowerment.

Keywords: Parental Attitude, Kanyashree Prakalpa, Women Empowerment, Public Libraries, Female Education, Child Marriage.

INTRODUCTION

From time immemorial women have been subjugated by the males in various ways. They were treated as maid servants, they were sold as market commodities and sometimes they were used as play materials by the gamblers. So, out of grief, the world famous poet Tagore says "NARIKE AAPAN BHAGYA JOY KORIBAR. KENO NAHI DIBE ADHIKAR HE BIDHATA" ("Why God will not give women the opportunity to earn good luck?").

In course of time women could realize their importance. Not that they could learn the importance of education. In this respect our Hon'ble Chief Minister's Kanyashree Prakalpa launched in October 2013 has played a great role to raise the status of women. Consequently, the women are now found everywhere. They have become teachers, engineers, pilots, airhostesses and what not.

To augment the lives and status of girls, Government of West Bengal launched the initiative in the form of Kanyashree. To stop the malpractice of child marriages that had the tentacles of Hydra around the present and future of girls, Kanyashree provides cash to the economically backward families. Kanyashree also helps the girls

to pursue their studies, which in most of the cases faced the insurmountable impediment of pecuniary restrictions. UNICEF has already recognized the initiative and given it an international color. Kanyashree is composed of three conditional cash benefit ingredients, viz. K1, an annual scholarship of Rs. 750/- for the girls between the ages of 13 and 18, if they are unmarried at the time.

The second ingredient is K2, a one-time grant of Rs. 25,000/-. This is to be granted to girls who are engaged in studying in any school or institution and is unmarried. This grant will be received when the girl becomes 18.

The second ingredient is K3, and to receive this, girls must obtain a college degree of at least 45% and be accepted into any post graduate program at any university. This is not applicable for students who are into open or distance universities. This ingredient provides monthly a sum of 2500 rupees to science students and 2000 rupees to arts.

Public libraries play an important role in empowering women as they disseminate information to all and modern era is driven by information and knowledge. Public libraries disseminate information by programs for users in the social, cultural and technical fields. By meeting the various needs of readers and providing information to the readers regarding resources and services, public libraries play their role in the society.

Wang (2019) found in his study that the Comparison between the two allocation results has implications for the efforts to improve community opportunity without exacerbating social inequality, by allocating future activities to positive but less effective locations¹.

According to Bassona and Kwasié (2019), this paper presents empirical evidence of how the socio-spatial, economic, political and cultural environments in Moranbah put its entrepreneurship stream under a siege. The study found three key threats to entrepreneurship in Moranbah: (i) the nature of the ties with all levels of government, (ii) lack of status for local entrepreneurs, and (ii) the current business model direction taken by the coal mining industry².

Leorke, Wyatt and McQuire (2018) found in their study that while libraries have been forced to make certain changes, they have also developed proactive responses to new technology. Efforts to reinvent themselves as 'hubs', 'maker spaces' and co-located community centres offering enriched spaces for social gathering, targeted learning, and new forms of creative production, including entrepreneurial activity and innovation, are strategies for maintaining and extending the traditional remit of the public library³.

According to the study conducted by Khoir et al. (2017), public libraries are ideally positioned to play an important role in solving the challenges of multiculturalism in countries with large numbers of immigrants. Finally, the results may be useful in reframing strategic plans to serve immigrant groups by focusing more on their needs⁴.

In the study of Thounaojam and Sonowal (2020), discussion takes place about various initiatives taken by Government of India for empowering women by analyzing position of India in Gender Inequality Index and Global Gender Gap Index of United Nations. Globalization is a process of increasing interdependence, interconnectedness and integration of economies and societies to such an extent that an event in one part of the globe affects people in other parts of world. Increasing levels of international interconnectedness has affected the

¹ Wang, C. H. (2019). A land-use and capital-investment allocation optimization model to develop a fair community opportunity framework for Columbus, Ohio.

² Bassona, M. & Kwasié, M. O. E. (2019). Entrepreneurship under siege in regional communities: Evidence from Moranbah in Queensland, Australia.

³ Leorke, D., Wyatt, D. & McQuire, Scott. (2018). "More than just a library": Public libraries in the 'smart city'.

⁴ Khoir, S., Du, J. T., Davison, R. M. & Koronios, A. (2017). Contributing to social capital: An investigation of Asian immigrants' use of public library services.

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social, economic, and political conditions for women in India. The study attempts to understand the indicators of women empowerment and the impact of globalization on the women of India⁵.

Jayasree and Murugeswari (2020) found in their study that when compared with men, the number of well known rural women in governance is less in the history of this God's own land. Social revolution was attained by reformers by addressing such challenges over the past millennia. Health encompasses mental as well as physical well-being of all. Rural women and girls with self-esteem will be able to eliminate psychological barriers to attain empowerment by themselves. Thus, understanding interrelation between self-esteem and empowerment of this beautiful creation too has become a necessity of the land. The backbone of a prosperous nation is healthy, well-informed women in all strata of the society. Ability to know issues can be gained through information retrieval and enhanced self-esteem attained through life skill training. Doing things differently in a positive mode will lead rural women and girls to empowerment⁶.

Saffina and Jayaseely (2020) focused in their study that microfinance is emerging as a powerful instrument for poverty alleviation in the new economy. In India, Microfinance scene is dominated by Self Help Group, Commercial Bank Linkage Programme as an effective mechanism for providing financial services to the "Un-reached Poor". This has been successful not only in meeting financial needs of the rural poor women but also strengthen collective self-help capacities of the poor women, leading to their empowerment. Women empowerment is vital for decision making on economic issues for the family as a whole. In reality, there is prevalence of unequal gender norms among the women in India in urban and rural area⁷.

Singh (2020) found in his study that empowerment of women is essentially the process of upliftment of economic, social and political status of women, the traditionally underprivileged ones, in the society. It is the process of guarding them against all forms of violence. Women empowerment involves the building up of a society, a political environment, wherein women can breathe without the fear of oppression, exploitation, apprehension, discrimination and the general feeling of persecution which goes with being a woman in a traditionally male dominated structure⁸.

According to Tamilselvan (2019) about 750 members who were engaged in their activities among them 72 (10%) were selected for the present study. These women were contacted in person and a survey was carried out for the study. The study found that the women engaged in SHG actives are supporting their families to a reasonable extent. Though the women have engaged themselves in a double role in family and the SHGs' activities it did not affect their personal life⁹.

In the study of Aasaiyan (2019) it was found that India is home to 33 per cent of the poor falling below the international poverty line. Such a high incidence of poverty is a matter of concern in view of the fact that poverty eradication has been one of the major objectives of the development planning process. Indeed, poverty is a global issue. Its eradication is considered integral to humanity's quest for sustainable development. Reduction of poverty in India is, therefore, vital for the attainment of national and international goals. In India the last decade of the twentieth century has seen a visible shift in the focus of development planning from the mere expansion of production of goods and services, and the consequent growth of per capita income, to planning for enhancement

⁵ Thounaojam, M. & Sonowal, M. (2020). Gender Justice System and Human Rights Issue with Special Focus on Equal Pay for Equal Work.

⁶ Jayasree, A. & Murugeswari, N. (2020). Empowerment of rural women and girls.

⁷ Saffina & Jayaseely, C.M. (2020). Role of Microfinance in Women Empowerment: A Comparative Study of Rural and Urban Groups in Kancheepuram District.

⁸ Singh, D. (2020). Issues and Challenges of Women Empowerment in India: A brief study.

⁹ Tamilselvan, P. (2019). A Study on Self Help Groups and Its Role on Rural Women Empowerment in Coimbatore Corporation.

of human well being. This approach has resulted in the reduction in poverty along with overall improvement in the quality of life¹⁰.

Our findings indicate that the study can conclude with the fact that extensive research is being conducted on the empowerment of women, public service policies implemented by the government, and the role and function of the public library system. However, there is still no research to find out how public services empower women through public libraries.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To study the level of participation of parents towards women empowerment.
- To observe the level of parental involvement in schools or colleges.
- To study the involvement of parents of different education levels concerning women empowerment.
- To recognize the attitude of parents towards women empowerment to achieve different income levels.
- To study parents' attitudes towards public libraries in providing information to improve women empowerment.
- To realize parents' attitudes towards the women empowerment by various government programs.

METHODS

a. **Study Design:** This study was conducted in the Canning-II Community Development Block in the 24 Parganas District of West Bengal. Data was collected through observation, schedule and interview methods. The survey was conducted from September 2019 to October 2019. The data was collected from 100 parents whose daughters received 25,000 rupees after attaining 18 years from Kanyashree Prakalpa grant. We used simple random sampling methods, conducted household surveys, accepted interviews from parents, and filled out semi-structured questionnaires to enhance women's abilities. We used statistical techniques like SPSS version 2.0 for analyzing the data from correlation, multiple regression analysis and step-down regression model. We also assessed the relationship of dependent variable and casual variables. In order to understand the level of participation and the importance of parents' attitudes towards women empowerment by obtaining and implementing public services through public libraries, the researchers analyzed the effectiveness of Kanyashree's onetime grants. The results are provided in the following table:

b. **Measures:** The results of this analysis involve three steps. In the first step, the analysis includes the effectiveness of Kanyashree one time grant (Y), age of the respondent (X₁), standard of education (X₂), financial status of the family (X₃), condition of residential quarter (X₄), liaison with the society (X₅), alliance with self help group (X₆), reason behind the alliance with self help group (X₇), aid of bank loan(X₈), necessity behind the aid of bank loan(X₉), type and expanse of savings(X₁₀), importance and necessity of daughter's education (X₁₁), expenses incurred on daughter's education (X₁₂), obstacles of daughter's education (X₁₃), Responsibility of Gram Panchayat in getting Kanyashree grant (X₁₄) and responsibility of Block Development Office in getting public services (X₁₅).

In the second step, we conducted a study to assess the perception level of parents on women empowerment (Z) from 22 causal factors such as the age of the respondent (X₁), standard of education (X₂), financial status of the family (X₃), condition of residential quarter (X₄), liaison with the society (X₅), alliance with self help group (X₆), reason behind the alliance with self help group (X₇), aid of bank loan(X₈), necessity behind the aid of bank loan(X₉), type and expanse of savings(X₁₀), importance and necessity of daughter's education (X₁₁), expenses incurred on daughter's education (X₁₂), obstacles of daughter's education (X₁₃), responsibility of Gram Panchayat in getting Kanyashree grant (X₁₄) and Responsibility of Block Development Office in getting public services (X₁₅), effectiveness of Kanyashree grant (X₁₆), utilizing Kanyashree scholarship grant for education (X₁₇), women empowerment and its relation to wages (X₁₈), encouraging implementation of women empowerment (X₁₉), women empowerment: a social taboo (X₂₀),

¹⁰ Aasaiyan, S. (2019). A Study on Women in Poverty Eradication-An Indian Perspective.

public libraries and its task of implementing women empowerment (X₂₅) and public libraries and their activities (X₂₇). In the third step, data were collected to assess the role of public libraries in empowering women (W) from 15 following variables, such as the Kanyashree grant (X₁₆), use of Kanyashree scholarship grant towards education (X₁₇), women empowerment and its relation to wages (X₁₈), encouraging implementation of women empowerment (X₁₉), women empowerment : a social taboo (X₂₀), assessment of the standard of women empowerment (X₂₁), availability of public library (X₂₂), regularity of liaison with rural public library (X₂₃), standard of liaison with rural library (X₂₄), public libraries and its task of implementing women empowerment (X₂₅), procurable services of rural library (X₂₆), public libraries and their activities (X₂₇), services expected out of a rural library (X₂₈), improvement and customization of public library (X₂₉) and suggesting developments of public libraries (X₃₀).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Table - I: Correlation Analysis between dependent variable effectiveness of Kanyashree one time grant (Y) and 15 casual variables

Variables	'r' Value
Age of the respondent (X ₁)	0.0902
Standard of education (X ₂)	0.1914
Financial status of the family (X ₃)	0.6531**
Condition of residential quarter (X ₄)	0.7275**
Liaison with the society (X ₅)	0.2861**
Association with Self Help Group (X ₆)	-0.6579**
Reason behind the association with Self Help Group (X ₇)	-0.4116**
Aid of bank loan(X ₈)	-0.5067**
Necessity behind the aid of bank loan(X ₉)	-0.3699**
Type and expanse of savings(X ₁₀)	-0.4960**
Importance and necessity of daughter's education (X ₁₁)	0.7016**
Expenses incurred on daughter's education (X ₁₂)	0.8262**
Obstacles of daughter's education (X ₁₃)	-0.8623**
Responsibility of Gram Panchayat in getting Kanyashree grant (X ₁₄)	-0.3835**
Responsibility of Block Development Office in getting public services (X ₁₅)	-0.6584**

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 parents perception on the effectiveness of Kanyashree one time grant (Y), which comes from 15 independent variables. From the table of correlation coefficient, it has been found that the variable named financial status of the family (X₃), condition of residential quarter (X₄), liaison with the society (X₅), importance and necessity of daughter's education (X₁₁) and expenses incurred on daughter's education (X₁₂) had strong positive impact on the level of perception about the effectiveness of Kanyashree one time grant.

On the other hand the variables like association with Self Help Group (X₆), reason behind the association with Self Help Group (X₇), aid of bank loan(X₈), necessity behind the aid of bank loan(X₉), type and expanse of savings(X₁₀), obstacles of daughter's education (X₁₃), responsibility of Gram Panchayat in getting Kanyashree grant (X₁₄) and responsibility of Block Development Office in getting public services (X₁₅) had strong negative impact on the level of perception about the effectiveness of Kanyashree one time grant.

Table II: Multiple Regression Analysis

Variables	“β” value	“t” value
Age of the respondent (X ₁)	0.025128	0.483
Standard of education (X ₂)	-0.057274	-1.064
Financial status of the family (X ₃)	-0.039241	-0.237
Condition of residential quarter (X ₄)	0.214164	2.769**
Liaison with the society (X ₅)	-0.038022	-0.624
Association with Self Help Group (X ₆)	0.921998	1.500
Reason behind the association with Self Help Group (X ₇)	0.009509	0.072
Aid of bank loan(X ₈)	-0.039186	-0.108
Necessity behind the aid of bank loan(X ₉)	-0.073268	-0.192
Type and expense of savings(X ₁₀)	-0.427006	-0.568
Importance and necessity of daughter’s education (X ₁₁)	0.169355	0.307
Expenses incurred on daughter’s education (X ₁₂)	-0.276162	-0.615
Obstacles of daughter’s education (X ₁₃)	-1.375739	-3.490**
Responsibility of Gram Panchayat in getting grant (X ₁₄)	0.041392	0.339
Responsibility of BDO in getting public services (X ₁₅)	0.030516	0.241
Critical value (2-Tail, 0.05) = +or- 1.989* Significant at 5% level		
Critical value (2-Tail, 0.01) = +or- 2.636** Significant at 1% level		
Multiple R	= 0.89440	
R Square	= 0.79996	
Adjusted R Square	= 0.76424	
Standard Error	= 0.46139	

Analysis of Variance

DF	Sum of Squares	Mean Square
Regression	15	71.50819
Residual	84	17.88181
		.21288

F = 22.39403 Signif F = .0000

Table II presents the multiple regression analyses with β values and corresponding t-values. Different factors have been identified that affect the effectiveness of the Kanyashree one-time grant. It should also be mentioned that all fifteen variables put together can explain 79.99 per cent of the total effect ($R^2 = 0.79996$).

Table III: Step-down Regression ModelStep I: X₁₃

Multiple R	= 0.86235
R Square	= 0.74365
Adjusted R Square	= 0.74103
Standard Error	= 0.48356

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Step II: X_4

Multiple R	= 0.87837
R Square	= 0.77154
Adjusted R Square	= 0.76683
Standard Error	= 0.45884

Step III: X_{14}

Multiple R	= 0.88526
R Square	= 0.78369
Adjusted R Square	= 0.77693
Standard Error	= 0.44879

Table III shows the stepwise regression model. We used socio-economic and personal variables of the perception of parents of women empowerment the effectiveness of the Kanyashree one-time grant. It is found that after the 3rd step, 3 variables obstacles of daughter's education (X_{13}), condition of residential quarter (X_4) and responsibility of Gram Panchayat in getting grant (X_{14}) together can explain 78.36 per cent of the estimated effect 79.99 per cent.

Table - IV: Correlation Analysis between dependent variable the perception level of parents on women empowerment (Z) and 22 casual variables

Variables	'r' Value
Age of the respondent (X_1)	0.0885
Standard of education (X_2)	0.2203*
Financial status of the family (X_3)	0.7186**
Condition of residential quarter (X_4)	0.8001**
Liaison with the society (X_5)	0.3040**
Association with Self Help Group (X_6)	-0.7205**
Reason behind the association with Self Help Group (X_7)	-0.4455**
Aid of bank loan(X_8)	-0.5517**
Necessity behind the aid of bank loan(X_9)	-0.3995**
Type and expanse of savings(X_{10})	-0.5396**
Importance and necessity of daughter's education (X_{11})	0.7444**
Expenses incurred on daughter's education (X_{12})	0.8400**
Obstacles of daughter's education (X_{13})	-0.8680**
Responsibility of Gram Panchayat in getting Kanyashree grant (X_{14})	-0.4773**
Responsibility of Block Development Office in getting public services (X_{15})	-0.7143**
Effectiveness of Kanyashree grant (X_{16})	0.8372**
Use of Kanyashree scholarship grant towards education (X_{17})	-0.5559**
Women empowerment and its relation to wages (X_{18})	-0.8635**
Encouraging implementation of women empowerment (X_{19})	-0.8443**

Women empowerment: a social taboo (X ₂₀)	0.5894**
Public libraries and its task of implementing women empowerment (X ₂₅)	0.5670**
Public libraries and their activities (X ₂₇)	0.4532**

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 level of parents on women empowerment in 22 causal factors (Z). From the correlation coefficient table, it has been found that the variables such as standard of education (X₂),

financial status of the family (X₃), condition of residential quarter (X₄), liaison with the society (X₅), Importance and necessity of daughter's education (X₁₁), expenses incurred on daughter's education (X₁₂), effectiveness of Kanyashree grant (X₁₆), women empowerment: a social taboo (X₂₀), public libraries and its task of implementing women empowerment (X₂₅) and public libraries and their activities (X₂₇) had strong positive bearing on the perceptual level of parents on women empowerment.

On the other hand the variables such as association with Self Help Group (X₆), reason behind the association with Self Help Group (X₇), aid of bank loan(X₈), necessity behind the aid of bank loan(X₉), type and expanse of savings(X₁₀), obstacles of daughter's education (X₁₃), responsibility of Gram Panchayat in getting Kanyashree grant (X₁₄), responsibility of Block Development Office in getting public services (X₁₅), use of Kanyashree scholarship grant towards education (X₁₇), women empowerment and its relation to wages (X₁₈) and encouraging implementation of women empowerment (X₁₉) had strong negative bearing on the level of the perception level of parents on women empowerment(Z).

Table V: Multiple Regression Analysis

Variables	"β" value	"t" value
Age of the respondent (X ₁)	-0.018996	-0.406
Standard of education (X ₂)	0.001375	0.029
Financial status of the family (X ₃)	0.071375	0.434
Condition of residential quarter (X ₄)	0.293403	3.887**
Liaison with the society (X ₅)	0.017279	0.317
Reason behind the association with Self Help Group (X ₇)	-0.077002	-0.474
Aid of bank loan(X ₈)	-0.044300	-0.135
Necessity behind the aid of bank loan(X ₉)	-0.028610	-0.085
Type and expanse of savings(X ₁₀)	0.130777	0.233
Expenses incurred on daughter's education (X ₁₂)	0.106944	0.227
Responsibility of Gram Panchayat in getting Kanyashree grant (X ₁₄)	0.011216	0.103
Responsibility of Block Development Office in getting public services (X ₁₅)	-0.045244	-0.360
Effectiveness of Kanyashree grant (X ₁₆)	0.289320	3.042**
Use of Kanyashree scholarship grant towards education (X ₁₇)	-0.244028	-0.733
Women empowerment and its relation to wages (X ₁₈)	-0.006502	-0.015
Encouraging implementation of women empowerment (X ₁₉)	0.158825	0.542
Women empowerment: a social taboo (X ₂₀)	0.346904	2.595*

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Public libraries and its task of implementing women empowerment (X_{25}) -0.089530 -0.594

Public libraries and their activities (X_{27}) 0.104308 0.682

Critical value (2-Tail, 0.05) = +or- 1.991* Significant at 5% level

Critical value (2-Tail, 0.01) = +or- 2.641** Significant at 1% level

Multiple R = 0.92557

R Square = 0.85667

Adjusted R Square = 0.82263

Standard Error = 0.33925

Analysis of Variance

DF	Sum of Squares	Mean Square	
Regression	19	55.03276	2.89646
Residual	80	9.20724	.11509

F = 25.16681 Signif F = .0000

Table V presents the multiple regression analyses with β values and corresponding t-values. Major regression has been found that the perception level of parents on women empowerment. We show the connection between the role of public libraries and socio-economic and personal variables. It should also be cited that all twenty two variables put together can explain 85.66 per cent of the total effect ($R^2 = 0.85667$).

Table VI: Step-down Regression Model

Step I: X_{13}

Multiple R = 0.86800

R Square = 0.75343

Adjusted R Square = 0.75091

Standard Error = 0.40203

Step II: X_4

Multiple R = 0.90723

R Square = 0.82306

Adjusted R Square = 0.81941

Standard Error = 0.34232

Step III: X_{16}

Multiple R = 0.91201

R Square = 0.83176

Adjusted R Square = 0.82650

Standard Error = 0.33553

Table VI shows the use of a stepwise regression model to independent variables then it is found that after step 3, the 3 variables obstacles of daughter's education (X_{13}), condition of residential quarter (X_4) and effectiveness of Kanyashree grant (X_{16}) can together explain 83.17 per cent of the total effect 85.66 per cent on the perception level of parents on women empowerment.

Table - VII: Correlation Analysis between dependent variable public libraries and its task of implementing women empowerment (W) and 15 casual variables

Variables	'r' Value
Effectiveness of Kanyashree grant (X ₁₆)	0.5024**
Use of Kanyashree scholarship grant towards education (X ₁₇)	0.0485
Women empowerment and its relation to wages (X ₁₈)	-0.5298**
Encouraging implementation of women empowerment (X ₁₉)	-0.5428**
Women empowerment: a social taboo (X ₂₀)	0.7768**
Assess the level of women empowerment (X ₂₁)	0.5342**
Availability of public library (X ₂₂)	0.3986**
Regularity of liaison with rural public library (X ₂₃)	0.5359**
Standard of liaison with rural library (X ₂₄)	0.5034**
Public libraries and its task of implementing women empowerment (X ₂₅)	0.5408**
Procurable services of rural library (X ₂₆)	0.5272**
Public libraries and their activities (X ₂₇)	0.3921**
Services expected out of a rural library (X ₂₈)	0.5046**
Improvement and customization of public library (X ₂₉)	0.5234**
Suggesting developments of public libraries (X ₃₀)	0.4947**

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 is subsequent the parents' perception between dependent variable roles of public libraries towards women empowerment (W) from 15 casual variables. From the correlation coefficient table, we can find the connection with effectiveness of Kanyashree grant (X₁₆), women empowerment: a social taboo (X₂₀), assess the level of women empowerment (X₂₁), availability of public library (X₂₂), regularity of liaison with rural public library (X₂₃), standard of liaison with rural library (X₂₄), public libraries and its task of implementing women empowerment (X₂₅), procurable services of rural library (X₂₆), public libraries and their activities (X₂₇), services expected out of a rural library (X₂₈), improvement and customization of public library (X₂₉), suggesting developments of public libraries (X₃₀) had strong positive bearing on the public libraries and its task of implementing women empowerment.

On the other hand the variables such as women empowerment and its relation to wages (X₁₈) and encouraging implementation of women empowerment (X₁₉) has shown its strong negative bearing on the dependent variable that is, public libraries and its task of implementing women empowerment.

Table VIII: Multiple Regression Analysis

Variables	"β" value	"t" value
Effectiveness of Kanyashree grant (X ₁₆)	-0.070183	-0.709
Use of Kanyashree scholarship grant towards education (X ₁₇)	0.203796	1.209
Women empowerment and its relation to wages (X ₁₈)	0.111606	0.543
Encouraging implementation of women empowerment (X ₁₉)	-0.853811	-4.100**
Women empowerment: a social taboo (X ₂₀)	0.424232	3.498**
Assess the level of women empowerment (X ₂₁)	0.046451	0.449

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Availability of public library (X ₂₂)	0.107219	1.907
Standard of liaison with rural library (X ₂₄)	0.252716	2.035*
Public libraries and its task of implementing women empowerment(X ₂₅)	0.469289	1.077
Procurable services of rural library (X ₂₆)	-0.144713	-0.604
Public libraries and their activities (X ₂₇)	0.125800	1.191
Services expected out of a rural library (X ₂₈)	0.001934	0.017
Improvement and customization of public library (X ₂₉)	-1.320504	-3.742**
Suggesting developments of public libraries (X ₃₀)	0.817475	3.965**

Critical value (2-Tail, 0.05) = +or- 1.989* Significant at 5% level

Critical value (2-Tail, 0.01) = +or- 2.636** Significant at 1% level

Multiple R = 0.91889

R Square = 0.84435

Adjusted R Square = 0.81872

Standard Error = 0.43376

Analysis of Variance

DF	Sum of Squares	Mean Square	
Regression	14	86.75747	6.19696
Residual	85	15.99253	.18815

F = 32.93673 Signif F = .0000

Table VIII delivers a multiple regression analysis with β values and corresponding t-values. It can be seen that the various factors were found that the public libraries and its task of implementing women empowerment. It is also shown that all fifteen variables together can explain 84.43 percent ($R^2 = 0.84435$) of the total effect.

Table IX: Step-down Regression Model

Step I: X₂₀

Multiple R = 0.77679

R Square = 0.60341

Adjusted R Square = 0.59936

Standard Error = 0.64484

Step II: X₃₀

Multiple R = 0.86520

R Square = 0.74858

Adjusted R Square = 0.74339

Standard Error = 0.51607

Table IX shows the step-down regression process, it was noted that only 2 variables like women empowerment: a social taboo (X₂₀) and suggesting developments of public libraries (X₃₀) can explain 74.85 per cent of the total effect 84.43 percent.

Table X: Parents' expenditures according to their preferences:

Expenditure to be done on education of a daughter	49Per cent
Expenditure to be done on education of a son	21Per cent
Investment to be done on Agriculture/ Business	07 Per cent
Expenses to be incurred on medication of family	03 Per cent
Investment to construct proper sanitation facilities and living quarter maintenance	05 Per cent
Expanse of savings	03 Per cent
Expenditure to be done on daughter's marriage	12 Per cent

Table X explains that among the 100 interviewees, 49 per cent respondents prefer to spend their income for their daughter's education. 21 per cent spend their money for their sons' education. 7 per cent invest their income for Agriculture/ Business purposes. 3 per cent spend their money for their family treatment. 5per cent spend their income for Construction of sanitation facilities and maintenance of houses. Only 3 per cent are allotted for savings. And rest of the 12 per cent spends their income for their daughter's marriage.

Table XI: Desired societal changes according to parents:

Extermination of illiteracy	To get rid of child labour and school dropouts	Extermination of violence against women	Obliterating child marriage
35 Per cent	19 Per cent	21Per cent	25 Per cent

Table XI explains that among the 100 interviewees, 35 per cent respondents prefer to go with the 1st priority, Eradication of illiteracy; 25 per cent parents among them prioritize to make changes in child marriage rates at their surroundings; 21per cent among them go for Violence against to women.; lastly19 per cent have their priorities for changes over Child labour or school dropout rates

Table XII: Perception regarding women empowerment:

Financial empowerment	Decision-maker within the family	Decision-maker in the society	Decision-maker in rural administration
44 Per cent	20 Per cent	28 Per cent	08 Per cent

Table XII describes that questions asked to 100 respondents about their point of view regarding women empowerment, 44 per cent of them agreed to go with the 1st priority that is financial empowerment; 28 per cent of them prefer to go with the 2nd priorities that is Societal decision making; 20 per cent of them would like to stay on the 3rd priorities which is decision making within the family matters; lastly 8 per cent among them having 4th priorities in decision making in local administrative matters.

CONCLUSION

The present study indicates the perception of parents' attitude through Kanyashree Prakalpa initiated by the Government of west Bengal to empower women through Public Libraries in Canning- II Community Development Block. To serve the nation, the role of Public Libraries cannot be denied. Besides giving much information they stand by the readers at the time of need. When the students find difficulties on the way, the Public Library mitigates their troubles giving information readily. For example if any student wants to get any information regarding 'Kanyashree Prakalpa' launched in October, 2013 by Mamata Banerjee, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal, the Public Library instantly gives the information and mitigates her quest. Side by side many girl students have become self supporting irrespective of cast, creed and color with the males. They are working amazingly and efficiently in different sectors in our country. Thus, women empowerment is manifested everywhere.

Alarming: In spite of legal provision of minimum age of marriage of women, huge number of public services available in the country especially Kanyashree, still a large numbers of females under 18 years have been recorded in the list of early child marriage in the marginal areas like Canning II block of South 24 Parganas district of West Bengal, India.

Recommendation: Three tier Panchayat system should be activated in resisting such crimes of early child marriage in minority dominated areas. Minority religious leaders of the affected areas should be associated with such social movement.

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