

Effectiveness of SABLA Scheme in Indian States

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ABSTRACT

Government of India has taken many strides to uplift the status of women and girls. The efforts of Ministry of Women and Child Development are especially creditable since the time it came into being in 2006. On April 01, 2011, Ministry one again showed its commitment towards the goal of “*Women Empowerment and Gender Equity*” by implementing a new scheme **Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG)–‘Sabla’**, a Centrally-sponsored scheme in 205 districts selected from all the States/UTs, meant for empowering adolescents girls (11-18 years) through nutrition, health care and life skills education. This Paper tries to measure the effectiveness and financial progress of the SABLA scheme using the data on Gross enrolment ratio, funds released and utilized from National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NEUPA), Ministry of Women and Child Development.

KEYWORDS: Government scheme, adolescent girl, nutrition, education

INTRODUCTION

Sabla scheme is a centrally sponsored program of Government of India initiated on April 1, 2011 under the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

Sabla scheme aims to support the empowerment and development of adolescent girls aged 11-18 years by making them self-reliant, improving their health and nutrition status, promoting awareness about health, hygiene, nutrition, Adolescent Reproductive and Sexual Health (ARSH), family and child care, Life-Skills Education and Vocational Training. It also aims at mainstreaming out-of school adolescent girls (OOSGs) into formal/non-formal education. It covers in-school adolescent girls (ISGs) in the same age group for certain key services. The scheme is being implemented on a pilot basis in 205 districts in all States / UTs across the country. To address differing age-specific concerns and to provide age-appropriate attention to girls, the target group is also divided into two different age-specific sub-groups, viz., 11-14 years and 15-18 years. Interventions on health and personal hygiene are planned differently for the two groups.

The scheme mainly focuses on Out of School Girls (OOSG) and has a range of activities particularly aimed at them. It intends to provide all 11-18 year old OOSGs nutritious food under the nutrition component either as Take Home Ration (THR) or as Hot Cooked Meal (HCM) cooked and served at the Anganwadi Centre. Mainstreaming OOSG into formal or non-formal education is an outlined objective of the scheme and the scheme seeks to address this by establishing convergence with the Department of Education. The non-nutrition component provides all OOSG to receive IFA supplementation, Health Check-ups and Referral services,

Nutrition and Health Education Counselling/Guidance on Family Welfare, ARSH, Childcare Practices, Life Skill Education and accessing public services. OOSGs in the 16-18 age-group are also given Vocational Training under the National Skill Development Programme (NSDP). A key conduit to bringing the girls together is mobilizing them into groups known as Kishori Samoohs that would assemble at the Anganwadi Centre (AWC) on a regular basis for collective activities and counselling.

The Nutrition component of Sabla covers In-school girls (ISG) in the 14-18 age group as younger adolescent girls are expected to be covered by the Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS).

Under the Non-Nutrition Component, ISGs, also meet at the AWC at least twice a month, and more frequently (four times a month- once a week) during holidays. Both groups are meant to receive life skills education, nutrition and health education, and awareness about socio- legal issues. The scheme aims to create a space to enable increased interaction between ISGs and OOSGs so that the latter can be motivated to join school.

OBJECTIVES

Following objectives were meant to be accomplished

- To analyse the effectiveness of SABLA Scheme using enrolment data.
- To analyse the financial progress of the Scheme.

SABLA and its Progress

Progress under the scheme as reported by the State Governments/UT Administration is given below:

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Table 1: Progress of Sabla Scheme in different year

Year	Funds released (Rs. in crore)	Funds utilized (Rs. in crore)	Beneficiaries covered (in lakh)	
			Nutrition	Non nutrition (IFA supplementation)
2010-11	296.73	52.93	44.42	0.72
2011-12	561.11	520.66	101.11	39.56
2012-13	478.9	619.27	114.26	49.22
2013-14	559.28	308.59	100.32	46.57
		(as on 31.12.2013)		(as on 31.12.2013)

***Source-Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India**

The Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG)-Now Sabla is proposed to be continued in the existing 205 districts only in the country. The nutrition component under the scheme is being implemented effectively as the coverage under nutrition has exceeded the target of one crore adolescent girls per annum in the year 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14. The pace of implementation for non-nutrition component which involves convergence with various line Ministries has been stabilized and shown progress over the years (Table-2).

TARGET GROUP FOR THE STUDY:

In the study, in order to gauge the effectiveness of Sabla Scheme, adolescent girls of age group 11-14 years have been targeted. The analysis is done on the basis of these girls enrolment data district and state-wise. The analysis of financial progress of Sabla scheme for funds released and utilized state wise is also done.

METHODOLOGY

To achieve objectives of the work following methodology has been utilized.

Data Preparation

Data Preparation is the process of collecting, cleaning, and consolidating data into one file or data table, primarily for use in analysis.

Procedures involved in the preparation of data for the fulfilling of the objective 1 are:

- Data Collection:** For the study of the effectiveness of SABLA scheme using enrolment data, I have collected the data of girl's enrolment district wise for all the states from the National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA). After collecting the enrolment data, the next step of data preparation i.e. Data cleaning was followed.
- Data Cleaning:** Missing and erroneous data can pose a significant problem to the reliability and validity of study outcomes. Many problems can be avoided through careful survey and study design. During the study, watchful monitoring and data cleaning can catch problems while they can still be fixed. At the end of the study, multiple imputation procedures may be used for data that are truly irretrievable.

In our study, after collecting the enrolment data from NUEPA, it was cleaned by the process of selecting and refining the relevant data for our use.

DATA ANALYSIS

Hypothesis Testing and the Statistics T-Test

The t-test is probably the most commonly used Statistical Data Analysis procedure for hypothesis testing. Actually, there are several kinds of t-tests, but the most common is the "two-sample t-test" also known as the "Student's t-test" or the "independent samples t-test".

The two sample t-test simply tests whether or not two independent populations have different mean values on some measure.

The statistics t-test allows us to answer this question by using the t-test statistic to determine a p-value that indicates how likely we could have gotten these results by chance, if in fact the null hypothesis were true (i.e. no difference in the population). By convention, if there is less than 5% chance of getting the observed differences by chance, we reject the null hypothesis and say we found a statistically significant difference between the two groups.

Independent Samples T-test

The Independent Samples T-test compares the means of two independent groups in order to determine whether there is statistical evidence that the associated population means are significantly different. The Independent Samples T-test is a parametric test.

Table 2: State-wise funds released/ utilized under Sabla in 2012-13, 2013-14 & 2014-15 (Rs In lakhs)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	2012-13		2013-14		2014-15	
		Released	Utilized	Released	Utilized	Released	Utilized
1	Andhra Pradesh	508.63	3213.92	1305.11	1456.75	805.48	1864.15
2	Arunachal Pradesh	135.26	135.26	116.83	67.63	120.94	95.29
3	Assam	1987.42	1944.59	2311.46	1717.88	1042.63	749.91
4	Bihar	1442.76	3114.7	3289.87	6541.17	6458.23	3838.03
5	Chhattisgarh	179.15	1853.69	1076.83	2779.55	4232.15	2105.57
6	Goa	135.36	137.19	130.56	138.28	225.68	225.68
7	Gujarat	2625.6	3737.05	4707.3	2995.01	2270.3	0
8	Haryana	455.38	563.68	269.66	629.31	792.09	836
9	Himachal Pradesh	595.68	797.79	574.95	599.67	583.71	626.76
10	Jammu & Kashmir	282.56	525.119	466.8	435.32	292.12	136.31
11	Jharkhand	1244.03	404.32	150.99	1334	944.5	0
12	Karnataka	2438.8	3293.85	3118.78	4119.58	4345.49	3244.55
13	Kerala	852.56	861.29	1511.57	1468.62	802.45	1639.12
14	Madhya Pradesh	6623	7609.28	6554.02	7288.29	7395.74	6972.94
15	Maharashtra	1550.81	5054.26	2797.64	2582.15	386.74	1970.85
16	Manipur	121.23	26.6	53.2	60.43	21.15	108.84
17	Meghalaya	179.16	267.46	383.58	341.77	296.91	338.72
18	Mizoram	84.94	84.94	111.15	103.46	96.37	112.87
19	Nagaland	183.6	183.6	240.73	240.74	185.31	188.51
20	Orissa	2404.9	3850.17	4003.62	3752.82	3528.36	3477.67
21	Punjab	538.53	447.34	0	20.21	0	425.66
22	Rajasthan	4031	4575.61	5163.67	5189.21	4301.48	5504.85
23	Sikkim	19.99	30.9	30.9	54.71	55.99	55.86
24	Tamil Nadu	2174.03	2519.75	3774.02	4661.01	4322.41	4205.15
26	Tripura	447.88	447.88	599.6	547.27	622.77	622.45
27	Uttar Pradesh	12975.15	13812	13836.29	15120.3	14642.59	15803.1
28	Uttaranchal	333.23	0	0	110.19	243.19	87.27
29	West Bengal	2621.14	1522.69	0	221.8	0	261.61
30	A&N Islands	93.61	89.38	24.36	69.66	93.11	22.25
31	Chandigarh	0	11.08	5.7	11.35	7.78	6.42
32	Daman & Diu	16.46	14.22	0	0	0	0
33	D & NH	0	22.99	22.99	0	0	0
34	Delhi	579.77	749.41	884.48	837.84	655.2	520.82
35	Lakshadweep	0	0	3.52	0	0	0
36	Pondicherry	28.59	25.47	16.26	19.37	24.02	24.01
	Total	47890.21	61927.4	57536.41	65515.4	61021.36	56071.2

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

OBJECTIVE 1: To analyse the effectiveness of SABLA Scheme using enrolment data.

The enrolment for the girls in the SABLA districts have shown a positive growth from the academic year 2012-13 to 2013-14 except for the district Papum Pare. Districts, where the enrolment level has grown down, need more work has to be done, so the out-of- school girls can motivated and brought into the mainstream of in-going-school girls for the better implementation of the scheme in those districts.

Jammu and Kashmir showed effective implementation of Sabla scheme as no. of enrolled girls in Sabla districts increased from 2012 to 2013. However, Sabla districts like Anantnag and Jammu shows a slight decrease in girls' enrolment.

Madhya Pradesh has shown a great upsurge in number of enrolled girls during 2012-13 to 2013-14 under Sabla scheme. Districts like Indore, Rewa and Tikamgarh have been benefited effectively.

Sabla implemented districts in *Rajasthan* have shown a great boost in enrolment of girls from the academic year 2012-13 to 2013-14. Hence, it can be said that Sabla scheme is effective in Rajasthan. However, many districts where this scheme was not implemented yet are in good agreement with other benefited districts.

The enrolment of girls from the academic year 2012-13 to 2013-14 in all the Sabla district of *Tamil Nadu* have shown a positive increment except for one Sabla district, that is, Chennai. In Chennai, the girls' enrolment has decreased. So, overall it can be said that Sabla scheme is effective in Tamil Nadu. Also, the t-test result value proves the same.

The girl's enrolment in Sabla districts of *Uttar Pradesh* has almost the same enrolment for the two successive years 2012-13 and 2013-14. However, the districts like Deoria, Lucknow, Rae Bareli and Sitapur have been benefitted effectively by the Sabla scheme as they have shown a great jump in the girl's enrolment.

The enrolment of girls in the Sabla district is almost the same as that of the previous year or it has grown down. Nanded and Nasik have a little increment in girls' enrolment. So, overall, we can infer that Sabla scheme is not effective in *Maharashtra*.

Sabla implemented districts in *Bihar* have shown a smooth progress in enrolment of girls from the academic year 2012-13 to 2013-14. As, we can see from the above graph, that, in all the Sabla district of Bihar the enrolment of girls have positively increased from the previous year.

It can be concluded that the Sabla scheme is not that much effective in *West Bengal* as the Sabla implemented districts of West Bengal have shown a mixed type of growth in enrolment of girls from the academic year 2012-13 to 2013-14. For some Sabla district the enrolment has increased a little, whereas, for some Sabla districts the girl's enrolment has decreased.

The enrolment of girls in Sabla districts of Gujrat is almost same or a little increment in 2013-14 as compared to that of the previous year 2012-13. The Sabla district Ahmedabad has benefitted effectively as the enrolment of girls in this district has upsurge from the last year. Overall, Sabla scheme is not that much effective in Gujrat.

However, many districts where this scheme has not implemented yet are in good agreement with other benefited districts.

Table 3: Enrolment (mean) of the Sabla and Non-Sabla for the academic calendar 2012-13 & 2013-14

S. No.	STATES	AC_2012-2013		AC_2013-2014	
		SABLA	NON- SABLA	SABLA	NON- SABLA
1	Andhra Pradesh	135684.14	125391.25	139154	126790.4375
2	Arunachal Pradesh	7685*(0.00693)	3484.58	7470.5*(0.0115)	3719.5
3	Assam	52731.50	50030.37	54447.375	50902.78947
4	Bihar	103106.83	99107.00	118639.8333	115256.4231
5	Chhattisgarh	54037.10	43446.24	56984.7	43810.82353
6	Goa Gujarat	91850.11	74634.71	96152.33333	77666.11765
7	Haryana	46774.50	46592.53	47804.16667	49113.86667
8	Himachal Pradesh	34897.25	21261.88	34476.5	21117.375
9	Jammu & Kashmir	29223.2*(0.039014)	18010.06	28963.2*(0.042172)	17972.64706
10	Jharkhand	74831.43	53295.24	78494.28571	56472
11	Karnataka	59002.78	68859.48	58419.77778	68591.88
12	Kerala	111782.25	84387.40	114174.25	86189.7
13	Madhya Pradesh	82701.26667*(0.038329)	66075.69	87301.06667*(0.023302)	67756.97143
14	Maharashtra	119973.09	125271.21	120285.8182	127303.75
15	Manipur	13174.33	12176.00	14266.33333	12286.83333
16	Meghalaya	28571.00	15829.50	30592	17278.75
17	Mizoram	11294.67	4785.20	10585.66667	4295.6
18	Nagaland	8738.33	7894.25	9009.66667	8019.375
19	Orissa	63978.11	49617.29	64478	49915.09524
20	Punjab	54647.33	42701.69	53830.33333	42880.3125
21	Rajasthan	101189.4*(0.05)	71856.70	105048*(0.046639)	73028.17391
22	Sikkim	8902.00	8292.50	9235	8773.5
23	Tamil Nadu	118855.77778*(0.0211)	84951.52	119011.77778*(0.0201)	85097.85714
24	Tripura	28447.50	19046.50	28612.5	19111
25	Uttar Pradesh	92633.55	109634.58	104822.3636	116402.3396
26	Uttaranchal	38311.00	35284.	37810.5	35301.3333

**** in the above table signify @ 5% significance level. In bracket () after the * shows the calculated P (T<=t) value.**

An independent sample t-test was conducted between Sabla and Non-Sabla of their enrolment mean to study the effectiveness of Sabla scheme.

In the analysis of Sabla and Non-Sabla of their enrolment mean for the academic year 2012-13 & 2013-14, I found that t-test was significant in five states like Arunachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. In other states, there was not a significant difference in the enrolment mean of two sample means.

We can infer from the table (3) that $t_{calculated} < t_{table}$, hence the test is not significant.

OBJECTIVE 2: Financial analysis of SABLA Scheme.

Among the *Union territories*, Andaman & Nicobar Islands,

Daman & Diu and Pondicherry has almost 100% utilization of the fund released in 2012-13 for Sabla scheme. Whereas, there is no fund released for Lakshadweep. Delhi has utilized the fund more than it has been released.

From the below graph, we can infer that the utilization of fund is more than the released fund for Sabla scheme in almost all the *south & west zone states of India* in the year 2012-13. Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra have greater utilization among all. Whereas, in Kerala and Goa the released and utilized fund are equal and hence, they have utilized the released fund 100%.

Among *north, east and central zone states of India*, the utilization of fund for Sabla scheme in 2012- 13 is greater in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Chhattisgarh, whereas in the states

like Jharkhand and West Bengal the utilized fund is less than the released fund.

In *North-Eastern and Himalayan states*, where Central government is contributing 90% and the respective state is contributing 10% in fund released for Sabla scheme, we can see from the above graph that in 2012-13, the fund released for Sabla scheme is utilized effectively in almost all the states except in the states like Manipur and Uttarakhand. Manipur has very less utilization of fund whereas, in Uttarakhand has not utilized the fund at all released for Sabla.

Among the *Union territories*, Delhi and Pondicherry have almost 100% utilization of the fund released in 2013-14 for Sabla scheme. Whereas, there is no fund released for Daman & Diu. Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Chandigarh have utilized the fund more than it has been released.

From the graph, we can infer that the fund released in *South & West zone states of India* for Sabla scheme in 2013-14 have been utilized effectively. Whereas, in Gujrat and Maharashtra, the fund utilized is less than the fund released. Among *north, east and central zone states of India*, the utilization of fund for Sabla scheme in 2013-14 is greater than released fund in Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. Whereas, in Orissa, the utilized fund is less than the released fund and there is no fund released in Punjab for Sabla scheme in 2013-14.

In *North-Eastern and Himalayan states*, where Central government is contributing 90% and the respective state is contributing 10% in fund released for Sabla scheme, we can see from the above graph that in 2013-14, the fund released for Sabla scheme is utilized effectively in Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Sikkim, whereas, the states like Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya,

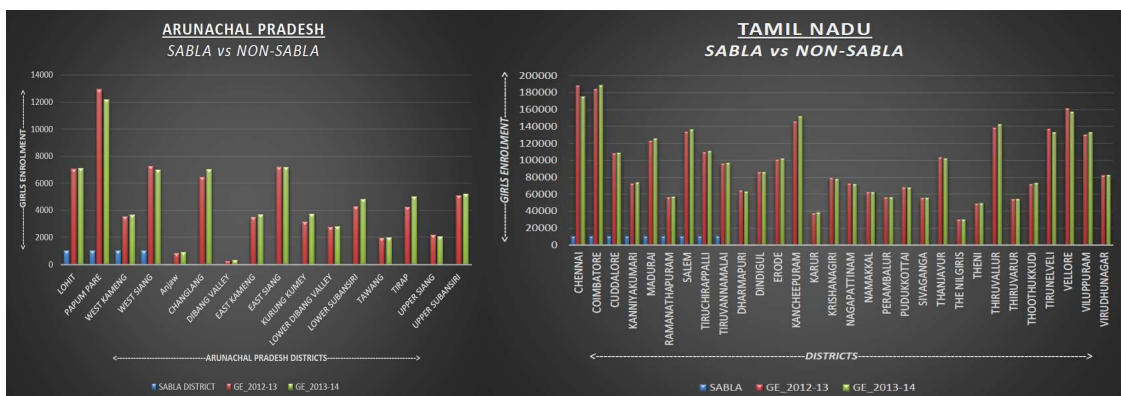
Tripura and Jammu & Kashmir have not utilized fully the released fund for Sabla.

CONCLUSIONS

After analysis of the available data on the enrolment of girls, I learned that there still exist many Sabla districts where girls enrolment is quite low or it decreased in the next year (2013-14) as compared to the previous year (2012-13).

This paves the way for the fact that either the fund released for Sabla scheme is not effectively utilized in targeting the adolescent girls to get them enrolled into schools or, it can be thought as stigma thinking still prevails in the society. For

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too long, discriminatory stereotypes have prevented girls from having equal access to education and employment. It is important to make people aware of the facts that these stereotypes are flat wrong. They deny girls any chance by depriving the world of the ingenuity and innovation of half of the population.

In terms of key recommendations, I would like to state that such programmes need to be organized more. Special attention needs to be given to the Sabla districts where the enrolment of girls is minimal in order to achieve our goal of bringing out-of-school girls into the mainstream of in-going-school girls. A major part of the fund released for Sabla needs to be utilised in organizing seminars, quizzes, and games which offer prizes to encourage and motivate the out-of-school girls to get them enrolled on a larger scale to increase enrolment of girls. It can be asserted that when a major part of girls population is being imparted a quality education, then we can hope to build upon eradicating illiteracy and work towards making an educated India. It is essential to promote and encourage girls enrolment by making them educated for an overall development of the nation.

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