



GOVERNMENT GENERAL DEGREE COLLEGE, CHAPRA
OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL
GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

VILL-SHIKRA, P.O.- PADMAMALA, P.S-CHAPRA, DIST- NADIA, PIN CODE: 741123, W.B, INDIA. Email: cgcollege2015@gmail.com

Notice No. 117/CGC

Date: 01/07/2019

Constitution of Research Advisory Committee [RAC]

Government General Degree College Chapra (GGDCC) constitutes its Research Advisory Committee (RAC) for the first time to foster the research work by the faculties as per UGC XIIth Plan guidelines.

Vision:

To create a creative, self-reliant and self-motivated student community who can pave the way for achieving unabated excellence in Humanities, Social Science, Science and Technology for the benefit of the society.

Mission:

1. To nurture and inculcate holistic research philosophy amongst our students mostly who have remote access and facilities.
2. To promote and augment industry-academia interface for providing a greater exposure and job opportunity to students according to their acquired skill set.
3. To promote field-based research both humanities and science

Chairman: Sri Sudipta Das, Officer-in-Charge & Assistant Professor of Physics

Convenor: Dr. Asim Kumar Das, Assistant Professor of Mathematics

Members:

1. Dr. Ayan Bandyopadhyay, Assistant Professor of Chemistry
2. Dr. Pabitra Kumar Mistri, Assistant Professor of Bengali
3. Dr. Supriya Mondal, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Physics
4. Dr. Pankaj Biswas, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Bengali
5. Sri Rudra Sekhar Basu, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Political Science
6. Sri Aninda Chakraborty, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Mathematics
7. Sri Babul Pramanik, Assistant Professor, Dept. of English
8. Smt. Kajal Pradhan, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Sociology

Officer-in-Charge
Govt. General Degree College Chapra





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Notice No. 42/23/CGC

Date: 03/05/2023

Reconstitution of Research Advisory Council [RAC]

Government General Degree College Chapra (GGDCC), one of the leading new colleges affiliated to the University of Kalyani, nurtures a tradition of holistic education and learning amongst its students beyond textbook inculcating the components of innovation, development of research aptitude and social outreach. Presently, the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 has mandated the inclusion of student research as an integral component of the Higher Education System with a strong emphasis on research, innovation and technology development to strengthen the foundation of Atma-Nirbhar Bharat (Self-reliant India). In accordance with the guidelines of Establishment of Research & Development Cell in Higher Education as laid down by University Grants Commission under the framework of NEP, 2020, the Research Advisory Council of the college has been reconstituted. Earlier "Research Advisory Committee (RAC)" is renamed as Research Advisory Council. Research Advisory Committee was constituted on 1st July 2019. Research Advisory Council of GGDCC is monitoring the Research and Development Cell (RDC) with the guidance of some eminent Scientists, Researchers and Scholars either retired or yet working in national and International institutes.

Vision:

To create a creative, self-reliant and self-motivated student community who can pave the way for achieving unabated excellence in Humanities, Social Science, Science and Technology for the benefit of the society.

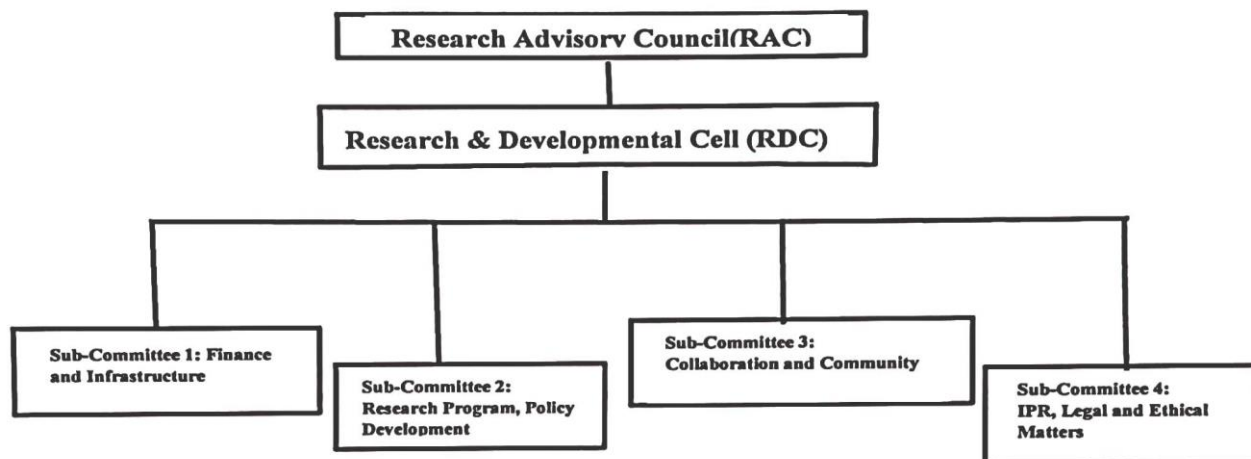
Mission:

1. To nurture and inculcate holistic research philosophy amongst our students mostly who have remote access and facilities.
2. To promote innovation and enterprise amongst enthusiastic student community for technology development with a simultaneous development of awareness regarding Intellectual Property Rights and patents.
3. To promote and augment industry-academia interface for providing a greater exposure and job opportunity to students according to their acquired skill set.
4. To promote field-based research both humanities and science



(DR. SUBHASIS PANDA)
Principal
Govt. General Degree College, Chapra
Vill.-Shikra, P.O.-Padmamala
Nadia-741123

Organogram of RAC



Chairman: GGDC Research Advisory Council

Dr. Subhasis Panda [M.Sc., Ph.D., FIAT, FEHSST]

Principal [West Bengal Senior Education Service]

In-Charge, Biodiversity & Conservation Lab, GGDC, Chapra.

Former Associate Professor, Dept of Botany, Maulana Azad College Kolkata; served Post Graduate Dept. of Botany in Darjeeling Govt College & Barasat Govt College and Dept. of Botany, Bankura Christian College; Former Research Fellow in Central National Herbarium, Botanical Survey of India; K.S. Manilal National Awardee in 2007 for commanding works on Indian Floristics; Visited Erfurt Naturkunde Museum in Germany in 2017 to present an invited Lead Lecture on Himalayan Biodiversity; Selected to visit Muhammad Premire University in Morocco in 2014 by INSA under Bilateral Exchange Programme. Trained expert in Sacred Grove Research & PBR (Peoples' Biodiversity Register).

Mail id: subhasistaxonomy@gmail.com

Director - Research and Developmental Cell

Dr. Shaikh Safikul Alam, M.Sc., Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Dept. of Physics.


Trained in International Premiere Research Institute, Variable Energy Cyclotron Centre, Kolkata affiliated to Homi Bhaba National Institute, Mumbai.

Mail id: mesafi.alam12@gmail.com

Sub-Committee 1: Finance and Infrastructure

1. Sri Sudipta Das, M.Sc., Ph.D. (pursuing), Assistant Professor of Physics, IQAC Coordinator & Former OIC
2. Dr. Ayan Bandyopadhyay, M.Sc., Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Chemistry & HOD
3. Dr. Pabitra Kumar Mistri, M.A., Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Bengali
4. Dr. Asim Kumar Das, M.Sc., Ph.D., assistant Professor, Dept. of Mathematics
5. Sri Arghya Thakur, M.Sc., M.Lib.I.Sc., Ph.D. (pursuing), Librarian




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Sub-Committee 2: Research Program, Policy Development

1. Dr. Supriya Mondal, M.Sc., Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Dept. of Physics
2. Dr. Manan Saha, M.Sc., Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Dept. of Chemistry
3. Sri Biswajit Paul, M.Sc., Assistant Professor, Dept. of Mathematics
4. Dr. Pankaj Biswas, M.A., Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Dept. of Bengali
5. Sri Arunava Sinha, M.A., M.Phil., Assistant Professor, Dept. of History
6. Sri Rudra Sekhar Basu, M.A., M.Phil., Assistant Professor, Dept. of Political Science
7. Sri Sunayan Mukherjee, M.A., Ph.D. (pursuing), Assistant Professor, Dept. of English
8. Smt. Priyanka Pradhan, M.A., Assistant Professor, Dept. of Sociology
9. Sri Arghya Thakur, M.Sc., M.Lib.I.Sc., Ph.D. (pursuing), Librarian

Sub-Committee 3: Collaboration and Community

1. Dr. Aninda Chakraborty, M.Sc., Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Dept. of Mathematics
2. Dr. Supriya Mondal, M.Sc., Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Dept. of Physics
3. Sri Krishna Gopal Mohanto, M.A., M.Phil., Assistant Professor, Dept. of Political Science
4. Sri Sumit Rajak, M.A., Ph.D. (pursuing), Assistant Professor, Dept. of English
5. Sri Ajoy Ghosh, M.A., Ph.D. (pursuing), Assistant Professor, Dept. of History
6. Smt. Kajal Pradhan, M.A., Assistant Professor, Dept. of Sociology

Sub-Committee 4: IPR, Legal & Ethical Matters

1. Dr. Subhasis Panda, M.Sc., Ph.D., FIAT, FEHSST, Principal
2. Dr. Aninda Chakraborty, M.Sc., Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Dept. of Mathematics
3. Sri Sudipta Das, M.Sc., Ph.D. (pursuing), IQAC Coordinator, Assistant Professor, & Head, Dept. of Physics
4. Sri Arghya Thakur, M.Sc., M.Lib.I.Sc., Ph.D. (pursuing), Librarian
5. Sri Rudra Sekhar Basu, M.A., M.Phil., Assistant Prof., Dept. of Political Science.
6. Sri Jaydeb Mandal, M.A., M.Phil., Assistant Professor, Dept. of History



Panda
(DR. SUBHASIS PANDA)

Principal
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National and International Eminent Scholars, Scientists and Researchers Monitoring GGDCC Research Advisor Council (RAC):-

1. **Prof. Mostafa Elachouri**, M.Sc., Ph.D., Professor, Dept. of Biology, Mohammed I University, Bd Mohamed VI, B.P. 717, 60000-Oujda, Morocco. Email: elachourimostafa@gmail.com
2. **Dr. Matthias Hartmann, Director**, Erfurt Naturkunde Museum, Große Arche 14, D-99084 Erfurt, T./F. + 49 (0)361-6555681, E mail: matthias.hartmann@erfurt.de
3. **Dr. Tilottoma Roy**, M.Sc., Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Biology, Missouri Western State University, Agenstein Hall 237F | 4525 Downs Dr, St. Joseph, MO 64507, Editor - The Vasculum newsletter, Society of Herbarium Curators. Email: troy1@missourowestern.edu
4. **Dr. T. K. Mukherjee**, M.Sc., Ph.D., Former Chief Scientist, CSIR, New Delhi and Editor, IJTK journal of CSIR-NISCAIR. Email: drtkm50@gmail.com
5. **Prof. Subhash C Mandal**, M.Sc., Ph.D., Professor, Dept. of Pharmacognosy & Phytotherapy Research Lab, Division of Pharmaceutical Technology, Jadavpur University, Kolkata-700032. Email: scm.pharm@jadavpuruniversity.in
6. **Dr. Sibsankar Jana**, Associate Professor, Dept. of Library & Information Science, University of Kalyani. Email: sibs_jana@yahoo.com
7. **Dr. Sumit Manna**, M.Sc., Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Dept. of Botany, Moyna College (Vidyasagar University), trained as Green Auditor; Former Assistant Professor, Post-Graduate Dept. of Botany, Scottish Church College, Kolkata; Former Research Associate, West Bengal Biodiversity Board, Kolkata; Trained Expert in Sacred Grove Research and PBR (Peoples' Biodiversity Register). Email: sumitmanna85@gmail.com
8. **Sri Santu Jana, M.A.** (History & English), Individual Researcher in Indian Ancient History, Assistant Teacher in English, Gajipur KJR High School, Paschim Medinipur, West Bengal, India. Founder Secretary, Dandabhukti Regional History & Folk Cultural Research Foundation; Editor, Dandabhukti—A regional History, Literature & Folk-Cultural based Magazine. Remembered for his Notable works on *Moghalmari Bauddha Mahavihar*, unravelling '*Siyalgiri tribes*' and collector of more than 6000 old historical manuscripts. Email: santu.jana22@gmail.com



Panda
(DR. SUBHASIS PANDA)

Principal
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Nadia-741123

Place: Shikra, Padmamala, Chapra
Nadia-741123
Date: 3rd May, 2023

Principal
Govt. General Degree College Chapra



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Notice No. 41/23/CGC


Date: 03/05/2023

Resolution taken in the Meeting held on 3rd May, 2023 for the Reconstitution of
Research Advisory Council [RAC]

Formation of 'Research Advisory Council (RAC)' Meeting was held at Principal's Chamber for the purpose of reconstitution of earlier 'Research Advisory Committee' in accordance with the guidelines of Establishment of Research & Development Cell in Higher Education as laid down by University Grants Commission under the framework of NEP, 2020, the Research Advisory Council of the college has been reconstituted.


It is resolved that:-


1. Existing 'Research Advisory Committee' is renamed as 'Research Advisory Council'.
2. Research Advisory Council (RAC) will monitor Research & Development Cell (RDC) and subsequently RDC of GGDC Chapra constitutes four subcommittees as per NEP, 2020---
Subcommittee 1: Finance & Infrastructure, Subcommittee 2: Research Programme & Policy Development, Subcommittee 3: Collaboration and Community and Subcommittee 4. IPR, Legal and Ethical Matters.
3. Dr. Subhasis Panda, Principal of GGDC Chapra is unanimously selected as the Chairman of Research Advisory Council (RAC).
4. Dr. Shaikh Safikul Alam, Assistant Professor of Physics, is unanimously selected as the Director of Research and Development Cell (RDC).
5. Sri Sudipta Das, Assistant Professor of Physics and IQAC Coordinator is unanimously selected as the convenor of Subcommittee 1. Finance and Infrastructure. Subsequently four members are also selected unanimously:-
 - i. Dr. Ayan Bandyopadhyay, M.Sc., Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Chemistry & HOD
 - ii. Dr. Pabitra Kumar Mistri, M.A., Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Bengali
 - iii. Dr. Asim Kumar Das, M.Sc., Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Dept. of Mathematics
 - iv. Sri Arghya Thakur, M.Sc., M.Lib.I.Sc., Ph.D. (pursuing), Librarian.


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Teachers' Council Secretary

6. Dr. Supriya Mondal, Assistant Professor of Physics, is unanimously selected as the convenor of Subcommittee 2. Research Programme & Policy Development. Subsequently eight members are also selected unanimously:-
- Dr. Manan Saha, M.Sc., Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Dept. of Chemistry
 - Sri Biswajit Paul, M.Sc., Assistant Professor, Dept. of Mathematics
 - Dr. Pankaj Biswas, M.A., Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Dept. of Bengali
 - Sri Arunava Sinha, M.A., M.Phil., Assistant Professor, Dept. of History
 - Sri Rudra Sekhar Basu, M.A., M.Phil., Assistant Professor, Dept. of Political Science
 - Sri Sunayan Mukherjee, M.A., Ph.D. (pursuing), Assistant Professor, Dept. of English
 - Smt. Priyanka Pradhan, M.A., Assistant Professor, Dept. of Sociology
 - Sri Arghya Thakur, M.Sc., M.Lib.I.Sc., Ph.D. (pursuing), Librarian
7. Dr. Aninda Chakraborty, Assistant Professor of Mathematics, is unanimously selected as the convenor of Subcommittee 3. Collaboration and Community. Subsequently five members are also selected unanimously:-
- Dr. Supriya Mondal, M.Sc., Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Dept. of Physics
 - Sri Krishna Gopal Mohanto, M.A., M.Phil., Assistant Prof, Dept. of Political Science
 - Sri Sumit Rajak, M.A., Ph.D. (pursuing), Assistant Professor, Dept. of English
 - Sri Ajoy Ghosh, M.A., Ph.D. (pursuing), Assistant Professor, Dept. of History
 - Smt. Kajal Pradhan, M.A., Assistant Professor, Dept. of Sociology
8. Dr. Aninda Chakraborty, Assistant Professor of Mathematics, is unanimously selected as the convenor of Subcommittee 3. Collaboration and Community. Subsequently five members are also selected unanimously:-
9. Dr. Subhasis Panda, Principal is unanimously selected as the convenor of Subcommittee 4. IPR, Legal & Ethical Matters. Subsequently five members are also selected unanimously:-
- Dr. Aninda Chakraborty, M.Sc., Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Dept. of Mathematics
 - Sri Sudipta Das, M.Sc., Ph.D. (pursuing), IQAC Coordinator, Assistant Professor, & Head, Dept. of Physics
 - Sri Arghya Thakur, M.Sc., M.Lib.I.Sc., Ph.D. (pursuing), Librarian
 - Sri Rudra Sekhar Basu, M.A., M.Phil., Assistant Prof., Dept. of Political Science
 - Sri Jaydeb Mandal, M.A., M.Phil., Assistant Professor, Dept. of History



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Teachers' Council Secretary

10. All members are unanimously agreed that following eminent scholars, scientists and researchers of National and International repute will advise and monitor GGDCC Research Advisor Council:-

- i. Prof. Mostafa Elachouri, Professor, Dept. of Biology, Mohammed I University, Bd Mohamed VI, B.P. 717, 60000-Oujda, Morocco.
- ii. Dr. Matthias Hartmann, Director, Erfurt Naturkunde Museum, Große Arche 14, D-99084, Erfurt.
- iii. Dr. Tilottoma Roy, Associate Professor, Department of Biology, Missouri Western State University, Agenstein Hall 237F | 4525 Downs Dr, St. Joseph, MO 64507.
- iv. Dr. T. K. Mukherjee, Former Chief Scientist, CSIR, New Delhi and Editor, IJTK journal of CSIR-NISCAIR.
- v. Prof. Subhash C Mandal, Professor, Dept. of Pharmacognosy & Phytotherapy Research Lab, Division of Pharmaceutical Technology, Jadavpur University, Kolkata-700032.
- vi. Dr. Sibsankar Jana, Associate Professor, Dept. of Library & Information Science, University of Kalyani.
- vii. Dr. Sumit Manna, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Botany, Moyna College (Vidyasagar University), trained as Green Auditor.
- viii. Sri Santu Jana, Individual Researcher in Indian Ancient History, Founder Secretary, Dandabhukti Regional History & Folk Cultural Research Foundation and Editor, Dandabhukti—A regional History, Literature & Folk-Cultural based Magazine.

Signatures of the Members present in this meeting


(DR. SUBHASIS PANDA)
Principal
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VIII-Shikra, P.O.-Padmamala
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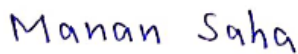
















Place: Shikra, Padmamala, Chapra
Nadia-741123
Date: 3rd May, 2023





GOVERNMENT GENERAL DEGREE COLLEGE, CHAPRA
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HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
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(AFFILIATED TO UNIVERSITY OF KALYANI)

No:

Date: 20.02.2023

NOTICE

It is hereby notified that the 6th Semester B.A. (Hons.) students of Department of Political Science are requested to attend the Departmental Meeting on 06.03.2023 for discussion on the Dissertation Paper, POL-H-DSE-T-4. Those who are willing to take the option for Dissertation, will have to mention the topic/ area of the same in the above-mentioned meeting. Tentative date of submission of the same is 03.05.2023 following a viva voce conducted by the department as per the routine of 6th Semester B.A. (Hons.) Examination, 2023, University of Kalyani.

Head of the Department
Department of Political Science
Government General Degree College, Chapra

UNIVERSITY
OF
KALYANI

B.A HONS 6th SEMESTER

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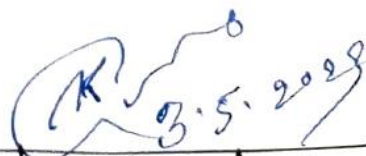
REG NO - 043606

PAPER - DISSERTATION



Nirmala Mallick
Student Signature

Date - 03/05/23


Teacher Signature

TITLE – DISSERTATION

একটি আনুষ্ঠানিক কু-প্রথা হিসাবে বাল্যবিবাহ
যেটি কলার জন্য বিভিন্ন সরকারি
স্বাক্ষরের প্রক্রিয়া পর্যালোচনা ৐





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No:

Date: 31.08.2023

The following students from the Department of Political Science of Government General Degree College, Chapra, have appeared in the 6th Semester B.A. (Honours) Examination, 2023 , University of Kalyani. They had opted for the Dissertation Paper (POL-H-DSE-T-4(B)), submitted successfully the same and appeared at the viva- voce conducted by the department. The marks obtained by the students in the dissertation paper are as the following:

Name of the student	Registration Number	Roll Number	Full Marks for the Dissertation Paper	Obtained Marks for the Dissertation Paper
Monmila Ghosh	041547	3116154-1941559	75	58
Chaina Khatun	043605	3116154-2043474	75	56
Nirmala Mallick	043606	3116154-2043477	75	57
Samiran Khatun	043607	3116154-2043483	75	56
Tajmina Khatun	043608	3116154-2043487	75	57

The Department of Political Science
Government General Degree College, Chapra



GOVERNMENT GENERAL DEGREE COLLEGE, CHAPRA

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(AFFILIATED TO UNIVERSITY OF KALYANI)

No:

Date: 05.09.2023

**Report from the Department of Political Science, Government General Degree College, Chapra
on the Dissertations submitted by the students of 6th Semester , Political Science (Honours)**

The students of 6th Semester, Political Science (Honours) had opted for the Dissertation Paper, POL-H-DSE-T-4 for the 6th Semester B.A. (Honours) Examination, 2023, conducted by the University of Kalyani. The Department of Political Science had issued a formal notice of a Departmental Meeting on 20.02.2023 requesting the students to attend the same on 06.03.2023. The faculty members of the department allowed the students to express their willingness to opt for Dissertation in the meeting and the students of 6th Semester Honours enlisted their names after sharing their thoughts for the same. This batch of students was consisting of five female candidates who expressed their willingness to work on the role of various schemes, programmes and projects offered by the government to prevent child marriage in our society, from different approaches and angles. The students have made an effort to analyse the role of the schemes and programmes offered by both of the Government of West Bengal and Government of India.

Being a part of the rural Bengal, the students have mentioned the important role of Kanya Shree Prakalpa in their Dissertations. As they mentioned in their works, the Kanyashree Prakalpa is a West Bengal government initiative that seeks to improve the status and wellbeing of girls, specifically those from socio-economically disadvantaged families through Conditional Cash Transfers. It is being implemented by the Department of Women Development and Social Welfare, Government of West Bengal. Some of the students had made an effort to state the background of Kanyashree Prakalpa. They stated that West Bengal has an adolescent (10-19 years) population of 1.73 Crores, out of which 48.11% are girls. The age group 10-14 years forms 9.3% of the total population while 15-19 forms 9.7% of the total population. WHO has identified this age group as the period of preparation for adulthood during which several key developmental experiences occur like acquiring social and economic independence, development of identity, the acquisition of skills needed to carry out adult relationships and roles and the capacity for abstract reasoning. While adolescence is a time of tremendous growth and potential, it is also a time of considerable risk during which social contexts exert powerful influences. Child marriage is one such social concern and a violation of children's rights. According to DLHS - 3 (2007-08), West Bengal shows the fifth highest prevalence of child marriage amongst all the states with 54.7% currently married women (age 20-24) being married before 18. The incidence is even higher in rural areas (57.9%). Every second girl in the high prevalence child marriage districts of West Bengal [Murshidabad (61.04%), Birbhum (58.03%), Malda (56.07%) and Purulia (54.03%)] were married off before they reach 18, the legal age for girls to get wedded. These are also districts with high incidence of trafficking.

Significantly, child betrothal and marriage is completely gendered practice - and an overwhelmingly large percentage of girls are married at before reaching adulthood - and only a miniscule percentage of boys are subjected to the same fate. This phenomenon adversely affects the education, health, nutritional status, growth and development of girls. While a number of factors contribute towards girls dropping out of school, human rights research shows that the greatest obstacles to girls' education are child marriage, pregnancy and domestic chores, and that ensuring that girls stay in school is one of most effective protective measures against child marriage. In the above context, the Government of West Bengal has decided on creating an enabling environment for elevating the education, health and nutrition status of women and children through an innovative scheme - "Kanyashree Prakalpa".

The students had made an effort to analyse the Rationale of the project first. They mentioned that, under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 (PCMA), 18 is the legal age of marriage for girls, and 21 for boys in India. Despite several years of this Act being in existence, the early marriage of children continues to be practiced in West Bengal. Child marriage is a gendered practice, affecting far more girls than boys. It is perhaps the most prevalent form of sexual abuse of minor girls, and has a negative impact on their health and the health of their children, leaves them financially and socially disempowered, and vulnerable to child labour, trafficking and other forms of exploitation. In fact, the districts with the highest incidence of child marriage in West Bengal are also those where trafficking is rampant. After the enactment of the PCMA 2006, the Department of Women Development and Social Welfare and Child Development (DWD) implemented anti-child marriage campaigns spreading the message of prevention, and endorsing enforcement of the law and its penal provisions for adults aiding and abetting child marriage,. However it quickly became evident that legal prohibition and social messaging are largely ineffective in addressing child marriage. For one, India's multiplicity of formal and religious laws complicates the issue of what constitutes the appropriate age of marriage for girls. Secondly, because the practice is ascribed to time-honoured tradition and is justified from a patriarchal perspective as essential for protection of girls from the evils of society, eradicating it requires tangible drivers of social change that can transform victims made vulnerable by their age and gender into actors determining their own lives.

The students had analysed that the Kanyashree Prakalpa aims to improve the status and well being of the girl child in West Bengal by various measures, some of them are as follows,

- A. Incentivizing them to continue in education for a longer period of time, and complete secondary or higher secondary education, or equivalent in technical or vocational steams, thereby giving them a better footing in both the economic and social spheres.
- B. Disincentivising marriage till at least the age of 18, the legal age of marriage, thereby reducing the risks of early pregnancies, associated risks of maternal and child mortality, and other debilitating health conditions, including those of malnutrition.
- C. Scheme to confer more than just monetary support; it should be a means of financial inclusion and a tool of empowerment for adolescent girls. The schemes benefits are therefore paid directly to bank accounts in the girls names, leaving the decision of utilization of the money in their hands.
- D. To reinforce the positive impact of increased education and delayed marriages, the scheme also works to enhance the social power and self-esteem of girls through a targeted behaviour change communication strategy. The communication strategy not only builds awareness of the scheme, but includes adolescent-friendly approaches like events, competitions and Kanyashree clubs, and the endorsement of strong women figures as role models to promote social and psychological empowerment.

Some of the students interestingly analyzed the practical challenges of the scheme also. They stated that

1. Cash incentives and existing laws have failed to check child marriages in West Bengal.
2. Poverty forces the family to continue with the custom of child marriage. Murshidabad, economically poorer district of the State, has one of the highest numbers of child marriages.
3. A significant population of the State go out to work (migration) in other States and they don't want to leave unmarried daughters at home. Despite high literacy, the incidence of child marriage is also disproportionately high in some districts. For example, the Purba Medinipur district with over 88% literacy rate has the highest incidence of child marriage of more than 57.6% as per NFHS- 5.
4. Certain families avail cash benefits of both the schemes to organise marriage of girls, sometimes soon after cashing in on the school scheme.
5. Lower number of cases registered under Prohibition of Child Marriages Act, 2006 due to the lack of awareness.
6. In 2021, West Bengal registered only 105 cases whereas States like Assam with smaller population and lesser instances of child marriage registered more cases in the past 5 years.

The students also mentioned and analysed some other projects offered by the Government of India like Beti Bachao Beti Padhao. In 2015, the Indian government introduced the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme to address concerns about gender discrimination and women empowerment in the country. The name Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao translates to 'Save the girl child, educate the girl child'. The scheme aims to educate citizens against gender bias and improve the efficacy of welfare services for girls. It was launched with initial funding of Rs. 100 crore (US\$ 13.5 million).

The students had identified the key objectives of the programme as follows,

1. Improve the child sex ratio
2. Ensure gender equality and women empowerment
3. Prevent gender-biased, sex-selective elimination
4. Ensure survival and protection of the girl child
5. Encourage education and participation of the girl child

The students had made an effort to analyse the entire scheme and mentioned that it is divided into three components:

- (1) Advocacy Campaigns were launched to address the issue of declining CSR and SBR;
- (2) Multi-sectoral Interventions were planned and are being implemented in gender-critical districts across the country; and
- (3) A Financial Incentive-Linked Scheme—Sukanya Samridhi scheme—was launched to encourage parents to build a fund for female children.

The students mentioned that the Key beneficiaries under the BBBP initiative are as follows,

- A. Primary Segment: Young and newly married couples; pregnant and lactating mothers; and parents.
- B. Secondary Segment: Youth, adolescents (girls and boys), in-laws, medical doctors/ practitioners, private hospitals, nursing homes and diagnostic centres.
- C. Tertiary Segment: Officials, PRIs, frontline workers, women SHGs/collectives, religious leaders, voluntary organizations, media, medical associations, industry associations and the people at large.

It was mentioned that various programmes and interventions designed to incentivise improvements in the CSR and SRB ratios are being implemented in the shortlisted gender-critical districts. The scheme outlines measurable outcomes and indicators to monitor progress in these 640 districts. The performance targets are as follows:

1. Improve SRB in select gender-critical districts by 2 points per year
2. Reduce gender differentials in the under-five child mortality rate metric by 1.5 points per year
3. Provide functional toilets for girls in every school in select districts
4. Increase first trimester antenatal care registration by 1% per year
5. Improve nutritional status by reducing the number of underweight and anaemic girls (under five years of age)

The students had identified some Key Developments of the programme, such as,

1. The National SRB Index has shown an upward trend from 918 (2014-15) to 934 (2019-20), an improvement of 16 points in five years.
2. 422 districts out of the 640 districts covered under BBBP have shown improvement in SRB from 2014-15 to 2018-19.
3. The National Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of girls in secondary schools improved from 77.45 (2014-15) to 81.32 (2018-19)—3.87 points in four years.
4. Proportion of schools with separate, functional toilets for girls rose from 92.1% in 2014-15 to 95.1% in 2018-19.
5. 1st trimester ANC registration rate increased from 61% in 2014-15 to 71% in 2019-20. Institutional deliveries rate soared from 87% in 2014-15 to 94% in 2019-20.

After mentioning and analysing some other schemes , programmes, child marriage prevention act etc. the students commonly mentioned that

India has made remarkable progress toward ending child marriage, though this country remains home to the largest number of child brides worldwide. Despite advancements on many fronts, the rate of decline is not sufficient to reach the target of eliminating the practice by 2030, as set out in the Sustainable Development Goals. One in three of the world's child brides live in India. Child brides include girls under 18 who are already married, as well as women of all ages who first married in childhood. Over half of the girls and women in India who married in childhood live in five states: Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Maharashtra and Madhya

Pradesh. Uttar Pradesh is home to the largest number. Nearly one in four young women in India (23 per cent) were married or in union before their 18th birthday. The prevalence of child marriage varies across states and union territories in India. At least 40 per cent of young women were married before turning 18 in West Bengal, Bihar and Tripura, compared to 1 per cent in Lakshadweep. A girl's risk of child marriage depends on certain background characteristics. Girls who live in rural areas or come from poorer households are at greater risk, and a higher proportion of child brides are found among those with little or no education. The majority of young women who married in childhood gave birth as adolescents. Child brides face challenges in continuing their education. Fewer than 2 in 10 married girls remain in school. The practice of child marriage is less common today than in previous generations. Evidence shows accelerating progress over the last 15 years. India's progress is strong compared to other countries in South Asia. Nonetheless, if child marriage is to be eliminated by 2030, additional efforts will be required.



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