



Assessing the Financial Impact of the Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana on Women's Economic Empowerment in Maharashtra

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Abstract – This study examines the financial impact of the Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana on women's economic empowerment in Maharashtra. The research focuses on key aspects such as income stability, savings behavior, expenditure patterns, and financial independence of women beneficiaries. The study is based on both primary data collected through a structured questionnaire and secondary data from relevant sources. Using descriptive and analytical methods, the research aims to evaluate the effectiveness of the scheme in improving women's financial condition. The findings are expected to provide insights into the role of government welfare schemes in promoting women's empowerment and suggest measures for further improvement.

Keywords – Women Empowerment, Financial Assistance, Income Stability, Savings.

I. INTRODUCTION

The Government of Maharashtra for the wellbeing of women introduced the Mukhyamantri Ladki Bahin Yojana for needy and poor women. The scheme is based on the objective of making women financial empowered by providing financial assistance of Rs. 1,500 per month. The benefits of the scheme is restricted to the women having annual family income below Rs. 2,50,000 and their age ranging from 18 years to 60 years. As per this scheme the eligible women get financial support to meet their daily expenses, healthcare facilities, education and personal expenses. The main objective of study is to know the scheme fully and also see the impact of the scheme on women of Maharashtra as well as to study the limitation of the scheme. This study is based on the 233 respondents selected randomly of Nagpur city who are the direct beneficiaries as well as non-beneficiaries. The primary data is collected from structured questionnaire, personal interviews and discussion with the respondents. The study is also based on the secondary data which has collected from the newspapers, online news, published research, Government websites etc. This research paper tried to cover all the parameter of the scheme and throw the light on opinions of the respondent about the scheme. In this paper the actual position of women like financial independency, financial empowerment, changes in financial status, undue advantages of scheme taken by some women, increasing the debts on state and effect on scheme on political party etc. are covered.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Several studies have highlighted the role of government welfare schemes in promoting women's economic empowerment and financial inclusion in India. Economic empowerment of women has been widely associated with increased control over income, improved savings behavior, and enhanced participation in household decision-making.

Studies on women-centric cash transfer schemes indicate that direct financial assistance helps reduce economic vulnerability and improves consumption stability among low-income households. Researchers have observed that regular monetary support enables women to meet basic needs, reduce dependency on informal borrowing, and contribute more effectively to household finances. Such schemes also encourage women to open and actively use bank accounts, thereby strengthening financial inclusion. Research related to Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) programs suggests that transferring funds directly to beneficiaries' bank accounts enhances transparency, minimizes leakages, and improves the efficiency of welfare delivery. Various studies have emphasized that DBT schemes positively influence savings habits and promote responsible financial behavior among women beneficiaries.

Literature on women's economic empowerment in Maharashtra indicates that financial assistance schemes play a crucial role in improving women's socio-economic status, particularly in rural and semi-urban areas. However, some studies have pointed out challenges such as lack of financial literacy, limited awareness about scheme benefits, and difficulties in accessing banking facilities, which may reduce the overall effectiveness of such initiatives.

Although several studies have examined women empowerment schemes and DBT programs in India, limited research has been conducted specifically on the financial impact of the Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana. Most existing studies focus on social outcomes rather than detailed financial analysis. Therefore, the present study attempts to bridge this research gap by assessing the financial impact of the scheme on women's economic empowerment in Maharashtra.



ISSN:3048-7722

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To study the financial impact of the Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana on women beneficiaries in Maharashtra.
2. To analyze the effect of the scheme on women’s income stability and savings behavior.
3. To examine the role of the scheme in improving women’s economic independence and financial decision-making.
4. To identify the challenges faced by women beneficiaries in utilizing the financial benefits of the scheme.

III. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

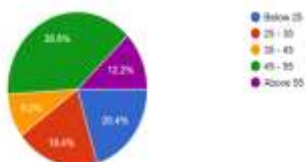
Q8. How did you come to know about the Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana? Question type: Multiple Choice
99 responses



Interpretation

Out of 99 responses, the highest awareness (37.4%) is through Self-Help Groups, followed by friends and relatives (26.3%). Social media (12.1%), media (13.1%), and government officials (11.1%) contributed comparatively less. This indicates that community-based sources are the most effective in spreading awareness about the scheme.

Q2. Age Group
98 responses



Interpretation:

The majority of respondents (38.8%) belong to the 35–45 age group, indicating strong participation from middle-aged women. This is followed by below 25 (20.4%) and above 55 (19.4%), showing representation from both younger and older groups. The least respondents are from 45–55 (9.2%) and 25–35 (12.2%) categories. Overall, the data reflects a diverse age distribution with higher involvement from women in their mid-life stage.

Q3. Marital Status
100 responses



Interpretation

The majority of respondents (55%) are married, indicating that the scheme largely benefits women managing household responsibilities. Widowed women account for 37%, showing significant support for financially vulnerable groups. Only a small percentage (7%) are single, with minimal representation from divorced or separated women. This suggests the scheme mainly reaches married and dependent women.

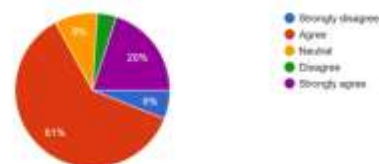
Q9. Duration of availing benefits under the scheme Question type: Multiple Choice
99 responses



Interpretation :

The majority of respondents (52%) have been availing benefits for 6 months to 1 year, indicating moderate experience with the scheme. About 31.6% have received benefits for more than a year, showing sustained participation. Only 16.3% are recent beneficiaries with less than 6 months. This suggests that most respondents have sufficient exposure to assess the scheme’s impact.

Q20. My confidence in financial planning and budgeting has increased.
100 responses



Interpretation :

A majority of respondents (61%) agree that their confidence in financial planning and budgeting has increased after receiving benefits. Additionally, 20% strongly agree, showing a strong positive impact of the scheme. Only a small percentage (9% neutral and 6% strongly disagree) indicate limited or no improvement. Overall, the scheme has significantly enhanced financial confidence among women.

Scope of the Study

The scope of the present study is limited to assessing the financial impact of the Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana on women’s economic empowerment in Maharashtra. The study focuses specifically on women beneficiaries who are receiving financial assistance under the scheme.

The research covers selected urban and semi-urban areas of Maharashtra and examines financial aspects such as income stability, savings behavior, expenditure patterns, and women’s participation in household financial decision-making. The study is confined to analyzing the economic and financial outcomes of the scheme and does not cover



ISSN:3048-7722

social, political, or psychological aspects of women empowerment.

The scope of the study is further limited by the use of a structured questionnaire and a selected sample of respondents due to time and resource constraints. The findings of the study are based on the responses provided by the beneficiaries and are applicable only within the defined geographical area and time period of the research.

IV. CONCLUSION

The study on “Assessing the Financial Impact of the Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana on Women’s Economic Empowerment in Maharashtra” highlights that the scheme has played a significant role in improving the financial stability and independence of women beneficiaries. The findings indicate that regular financial assistance provided under the scheme has contributed to increased savings, better household financial management, and enhanced confidence among women in making economic decisions.

A majority of respondents reported a positive shift in their financial behavior, including improved budgeting practices and reduced dependence on other family members. The scheme has also encouraged women to participate more actively in income-generating activities, thereby strengthening their role in the household as well as in the local economy. This reflects a gradual movement towards financial inclusion and empowerment.

However, the study also identifies certain limitations such as lack of awareness in rural areas, delays in fund disbursement, and limited financial literacy among some beneficiaries. These challenges restrict the full potential of the scheme and highlight the need for better implementation strategies.

Overall, the Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana can be considered an effective initiative toward women’s empowerment in Maharashtra. With improved awareness programs, timely financial support, and financial education initiatives, the scheme has the potential to create a more sustainable and long-term impact on women’s economic independence and social upliftment.

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