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Q5(d)

Assess the role of the State in promoting education of girl child.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2018 · Sociology GS 2 · 10 marks · Perspectives on the study of Indian society
Perspectives on the study of Indian society: Indology (G.S. Ghurye); Structural functionalism (M.N. Srinivas); Marxist sociology (A.R. Desai).

Core demand of the question

- Assess the role of the State in promoting education of the girl child
- Keep the note to a 10-mark length

Revision summary

The state expanded girl-child education through RTE, meals, and schemes.

Enrolment gains are the main success.

Puberty, honour, and poor quality cut completion.

Safety on the road is part of education policy.

The role is a push, not a completed equality.

Introduction

The Indian state has promoted girl-child education through law, schools, meals, cycles, and cash schemes. Enrolment rose. Completion, safety, and the leap to secondary and college still meet kinship honour. The role is necessary and incomplete.

Body**What the state did**

- Right to education, midday meals, and scholarships lowered the immediate cost of sending a daughter.
- Beti-type campaigns and state schemes named the missing girl after DEMARU sex-ratio shocks.
- Reservation and teacher hiring put some women in school as models.

Limits of the role

- Leela Dube's Seed and Earth still withdraws girls at puberty for kanyadaan futures.
- Poor quality government schools push those who can into private coaching, a class filter.
- Distance, toilets, and public violence make the road to school a gendered risk.
- Child labour and unpaid care compete with attendance.

Assessment

- **Yogendra Singh:** the state is a heterogenetic moderniser. Households absorb it selectively.
- Outcomes are better at primary than at higher levels, better in some southern states than in the north-west.

Flow diagram

State RTE meals schemes -> Girl enrolment
Seed Earth puberty -> Dropout
Safety toilets quality -> Girl enrolment
Dropout -> Incomplete promotion

Conclusion

The state has been a real promoter of girl-child schooling through entitlements and campaigns. It cannot, by circulars alone, defeat patrilineal marriage maths. Assess the role as a push that works when toilets, teachers, and property rights travel with the textbook.

Facts & figures

RTE

Legal entitlement that made elementary schooling a state duty toward the girl child.

Midday meal

A practical incentive that also keeps some girls in school.

DEMARU link

Low sex ratio that forced the state to treat daughters as a public goal.

Puberty dropout

Kinship hinge where schemes often fail.

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