Understanding Barriers and Enablers to Girls' Secondary Education in Rajasthan Post Covid-19

Development Solutions, in partnership with the **Institute of Development Studies, Jaipur** studied adolescent girls and their parents' perceptions on education, role of scholarships, and the impact of COVID on girls' education and lives. The girls were in the age-group of 13-16 years and were from SC, ST, and OBC communities in Rajasthan.



Results of the study were shared with Ms. Aparna Arora, Principal Secretary, School Education, Government of Rajasthan on December 4th 2020.

Objectives of the study

To Understand:

- The access (to) and demand (for) and perspectives on the pre-matric scholarship scheme.
- The impact of COVID-19 on their lives in context to their education due to COVID-19
- Expectations from the government in enabling opportunities for continued education in the context of COVID-19.

Method used

- A cross sectional quantitative survey with 666 girls and their parents in Dausa, Karauli, Tonk, and Udaipur districts. Respondents were listed from 41 clusters (villages) to develop the sampling frame.
- Qualitative interactions with girls, their parents, panchayat members and school teachers

Some Key Findings

- More than 90% of the school going girls were enrolled in Government schools while boys were in private schools.
- Girl's education was viewed mainly from its utility of marriage.
- 66% of girls and 62% of parents were aware of the pre-matric scholarship scheme
- Of the eligible girls, only 44% reported receipt of the scholarship. 45% of those who received reported amounts at variance with the stipulated amount.
- Support expected from the government for girl's education was improving infrastructure and quality in Government schools, safety measures against eve-teasing and teaching girls how to use laptops/mobile phones.
- An increased scholarship was requested, along with the reopening of schools with safety precautions against COVID



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