

Assessment Of Government Initiatives To Mitigate Gender Disparity Among The Gujar Tribe In Kotranka Tehsil, Rajouri District

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The study explores the impact of government initiatives on gender disparity in the Gujar community of Kotranka Tehsil, Rajouri District. By surveying 300 respondents, the study assesses the effectiveness of policies aimed at empowering women in areas such as education, healthcare, and economic opportunities. Findings reveal that while awareness of initiatives like Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao is high, their perceived effectiveness remains limited due to strong cultural norms and economic dependencies that restrict women's access to resources. Statistical analysis highlights differences in perceptions across age and residential location, with rural respondents perceiving a more significant impact of these programs compared to urban counterparts. The study suggests that culturally adapted policies, vocational training, and financial literacy programs could better address the needs of Gujar women, fostering economic independence and community acceptance.

Keywords: Gender Disparity, Government Initiatives, Gujar Tribe, Cultural Barriers.

Introduction

The study explores the gender disparity within the Gujar community in Kotranka Tehsil, Rajouri District, focusing on the effectiveness of government initiatives aimed at promoting gender equality. Despite India's progressive policies, such as Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao and Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, gender disparities persist, particularly in marginalized communities. In the Gujar tribe, women face unique socio-cultural barriers that restrict their access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities, which are crucial for personal empowerment and community development. These barriers are reinforced by traditional norms that confine women to household roles and limit their visibility in public spaces, perpetuating cycles of dependency and restricted autonomy.

The research examines how cultural and economic factors intersect to hinder the intended impact of these government initiatives, particularly in rural settings. By analyzing responses from 300 community members, the study aims to understand both the awareness and perceived effectiveness of these policies, as well as the ongoing challenges women encounter. The study also explores potential areas for improvement, suggesting that culturally sensitive and locally adapted approaches could play a vital role in bridging gender gaps, fostering empowerment, and enhancing the effectiveness of government programs within the Gujjar community.

Objectives

1. To examine gender disparity in access to education, healthcare, and economic resources.
2. To analyse the impact of government initiatives on reducing gender inequality.
3. To identify socio-cultural barriers in implementing these policies.
4. To propose policy adjustments suited to the socio-cultural context of the Gujjar tribe.

Hypotheses

- **Hypothesis 1:** Government initiatives positively impact gender equality perceptions in the Gujjar community.
- **Hypothesis 2:** Socio-cultural norms significantly limit the impact of government policies on gender equality.

Problem Statement

Gender disparity remains a critical issue within the Gujjar community in Kotranka Tehsil, Rajouri District, despite government programs aimed at empowering women. Initiatives like Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao and Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana intend to promote gender equality by increasing access to education, healthcare, and economic resources for women. However, the effectiveness of these policies is constrained by deeply ingrained cultural norms and economic dependencies that limit women's access to resources. Traditional roles confine Gujjar women to domestic responsibilities, reducing their participation in public life and economic activities, which reinforces cycles of dependency and diminishes opportunities for personal growth and autonomy.

These socio-cultural barriers are further compounded by geographic and infrastructural limitations in rural areas, which restrict the reach and impact of government programs. Moreover, awareness does not consistently translate into perceived effectiveness, as many community members feel the programs fail to address the specific challenges women face within the local cultural context. The study aims to examine the extent of these challenges and evaluate the current efforts to reduce gender disparity within the Gujjar community. Identifying specific socio-cultural and economic barriers to effective implementation will be crucial for proposing adjustments to these programs, making them more culturally sensitive and impactful in reducing gender inequality.

Theoretical Framework

The theoretical foundation of the study rests on three key frameworks: Social Role Theory, Empowerment Theory, and Intersectionality Theory, each offering a lens to understand gender

disparity in the Gujjar community. Social Role Theory suggests that gender roles are culturally assigned, shaping behaviours and opportunities based on societal expectations. In the Gujjar community, traditional roles that prioritize domestic responsibilities for women contribute to restricted access to education, healthcare, and economic resources, reinforcing gender inequalities.

Empowerment Theory focuses on providing resources and opportunities to foster autonomy and decision-making power. In the context of government initiatives, it supports the idea that increasing access to education, vocational training, and financial independence can empower Gujjar women, enabling them to overcome socio-economic barriers and engage more fully in community life. Intersectionality Theory examines how overlapping identities – such as gender, socio-economic status, and geographic location – compound challenges faced by marginalized groups. For Gujjar women, the intersection of factors intensifies their exclusion from resource access and limits the impact of generic policy interventions. Together, these theories underscore the need for culturally sensitive and multifaceted approaches in implementing government initiatives to effectively address gender disparity within the Gujjar community.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

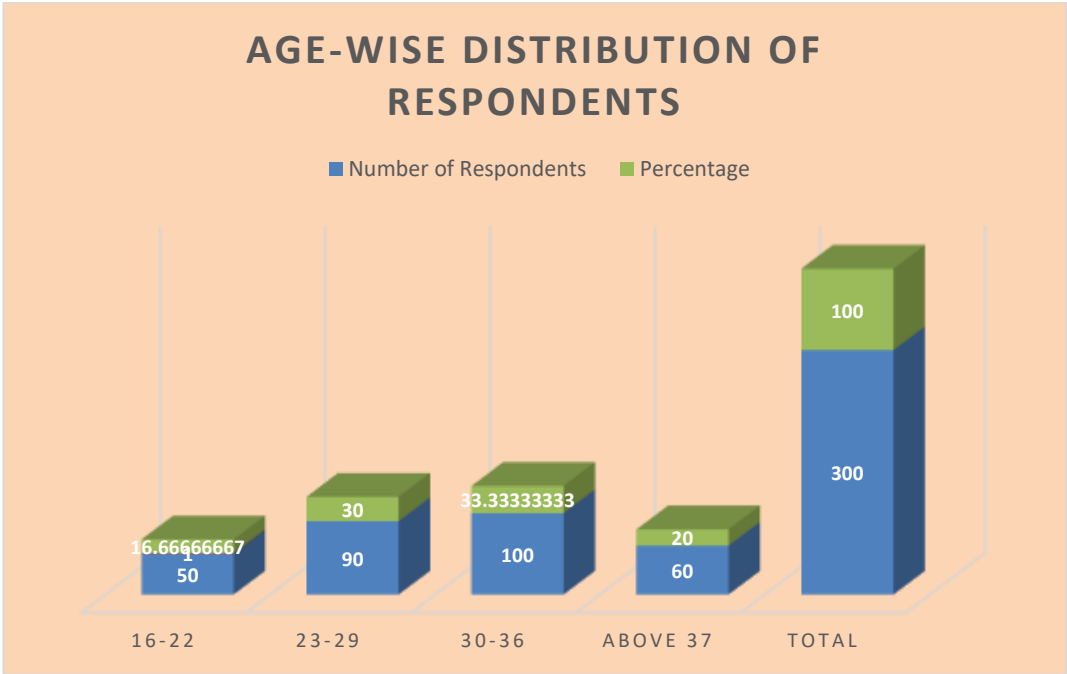
The study utilizes a comprehensive quantitative approach to assess gender disparity within the Gujjar community in Kotranka Tehsil. Data were collected from a stratified sample of 300 households through structured surveys using a three-point Likert scale to gauge perceptions of government initiatives. Additional qualitative insights were gathered from interviews with local leaders and community members to provide context. SPSS software was used for data analysis, employing descriptive statistics, t-tests, and ANOVA to explore the relationships between demographic factors and the perceived impact of policies on gender equality.

Variables

The selected variables in the study include dependent variables like access to education, healthcare, and economic resources, which are key indicators of gender disparity. Independent variables, including place of living (rural and urban areas) and government initiatives aimed at gender equality, are used to determine their influence on resource access among Gujjar women. Control variables such as age groups (16-22 years, 23-29 years, 30-36 years, and above 37 years) allow the study to analyse variations in responses across different demographic segments. The approach helps identify how factors like geographic location, government policy, and age impact gender equality perceptions within the community.

Graphs

Graph 1.1: Age-wise Distribution of Respondents



Graph 1.2: Place of Living-wise Distribution of Respondents

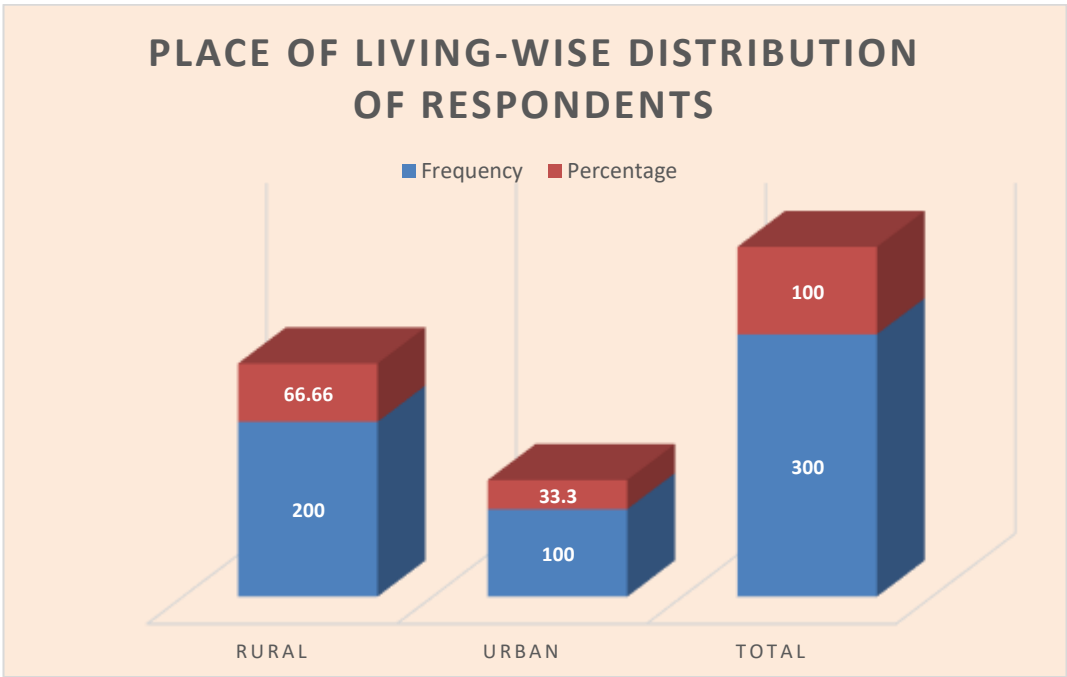


Table 1.1: Frequency Distribution of Responses on Gender Disparity, Resource Access, and Impact of Government Initiatives

S. No.	Statement	Yes	No	Unsure	Yes (%)	No (%)	Unsure (%)
1	Do you believe there is significant gender disparity in access to resources?	240	30	30	80.0%	10.0%	10.0%
2	Are you aware of government initiatives addressing gender disparity?	255	25	20	85.0%	8.3%	6.7%
3	Have these initiatives positively impacted gender equality?	180	60	60	60.0%	20.0%	20.0%
4	Do traditional norms hinder women's access to resources?	210	45	45	70.0%	15.0%	15.0%
5	Would access to education empower Gujjar women?	270	15	15	90.0%	5.0%	5.0%
6	Does economic dependence on male family members hinder empowerment?	225	45	30	75.0%	15.0%	10.0%
7	Do you support vocational training programs for women?	285	10	5	95.0%	3.3%	1.7%

Source: Survey data

Table 1.1 shows that a notable majority of respondents, 80%, believe there is significant gender disparity in access to resources among the Gujjar community. Only 10% disagreed with this statement, and another 10% were unsure. The high level of agreement suggests a strong community perception of gender inequality, which may be influenced by cultural norms, economic dependence, and limited access to education and healthcare for women. Awareness of government initiatives addressing gender disparity is also high, with 85% of respondents indicating they are aware of these programs, while 8.3% reported a lack of awareness, and 6.7% were unsure. The awareness suggests that information on gender equity initiatives has reached much of the community, likely due to government outreach, media, or community discussions. However, high awareness does not equate to perceived effectiveness, as explored in subsequent responses.

When asked whether these government initiatives have positively impacted gender equality, only 60% of respondents felt there had been a positive effect. In contrast, 20% disagreed, and another 20% were uncertain about the initiatives' impact. The gap between awareness and perceived effectiveness suggests that many community members either do not see tangible improvements or remain uncertain about the actual impact. It may highlight potential challenges in the implementation of these policies, cultural resistance, or the need for more tailored approaches that address local conditions. Regarding whether traditional norms hinder women's access to resources, 70% of respondents agreed, while 15% disagreed, and another 15% were uncertain. The data suggest that cultural norms are a significant factor

limiting women’s access to resources, underscoring the need for culturally sensitive approaches to policy implementation. Traditional norms appear to pose deep-rooted challenges that policies alone may struggle to overcome unless complemented by shifts in community values and attitudes.

When asked if access to education would empower Gujjar women, a strong majority of 90% responded affirmatively, with only 5% disagreeing and another 5% unsure. Such overwhelming support suggests that the community recognizes education as a vital factor in women’s empowerment, indicating that initiatives to promote education for women may gain widespread acceptance. Education is seen as a potential pathway to greater social and economic independence for women, positioning it as a key factor in addressing gender disparity. Economic dependence on male family members is perceived as a barrier to women’s empowerment by 75% of respondents. In comparison, 15% disagreed with the statement, and 10% were uncertain. The finding highlights the significant role economic dependence plays in limiting women’s autonomy and decision-making power. Such dependence restricts women’s ability to make independent choices, suggesting that programs focusing on financial literacy, income generation, and access to credit for women could effectively address gender disparity by fostering greater economic self-sufficiency. The community shows overwhelming support for vocational training programs for women, with 95% of respondents expressing approval. Only 3.3% opposed these programs, while a minimal 1.7% were unsure. The near-unanimous support for vocational training reflects a strong community endorsement for initiatives that would provide women with skills and opportunities for economic engagement. The widespread support suggests that vocational training initiatives could be especially impactful in addressing gender disparity by empowering women economically and enhancing their contributions to household income.

Hypothesis Testing

Table 1.2: Mean Difference in Perceptions of Government Initiatives Based on Place of Living

Variable	Place of Living	N	Mean	SD	t	p
Impact of Government Initiatives on Gender Equality	Rural	200	3.1	0.5	3.41	0.001
	Urban	100	2.8	0.6		

Table 1.2 shows the perceived impact of government initiatives on gender equality among respondents from rural and urban areas within the Gujjar community. The table presents mean scores for perceptions of the impact, showing that respondents from rural areas have a higher mean perception score (3.1) compared to those from urban areas (2.8). Such difference suggests that rural respondents are more likely to view government initiatives as positively impacting gender equality than their urban counterparts. The standard deviation values, 0.5 for rural respondents and 0.6 for urban respondents, indicate a relatively similar level of variance in perceptions within each group, though there is slightly greater variability in the urban group. The higher variability among urban respondents may reflect a more diverse range of opinions on the effectiveness of these initiatives, perhaps due to a combination of

varying levels of awareness, socio-economic diversity, and differences in individual experiences with gender equality initiatives.

The t-test statistic of 3.41 and the associated p-value of 0.001 suggest that the difference in mean perceptions between rural and urban respondents is statistically significant. The p-value, being well below the commonly accepted threshold of 0.05, indicates that there is a less than 0.1% probability that this observed difference in perceptions is due to random chance. Therefore, we can conclude with confidence that there is a significant difference in how rural and urban respondents perceive the impact of government initiatives on gender equality. The significant difference may point to several underlying factors that contribute to the varying perceptions across rural and urban areas. Rural respondents may experience more direct or visible effects of government initiatives aimed at gender equality, such as local programs promoting education, healthcare, or financial support specifically targeted at rural communities. Rural areas may be more affected by traditional gender norms, making any government intervention appear more impactful compared to urban settings, where perceptions of gender equality may already be somewhat progressive due to higher exposure to diverse perspectives and economic opportunities. On the other hand, urban respondents may have different expectations or benchmarks for measuring the effectiveness of these initiatives. Due to a relatively higher level of resources, exposure to information, and alternative means of empowerment available in urban areas, respondents might perceive government efforts as having a lower relative impact. The perception could also stem from the fact that urban populations may face less pronounced traditional restrictions, thereby reducing the visible impact of government interventions compared to more culturally conservative rural areas.

Table 1.3: Mean Difference in Perceptions by Age

Variable	Age	N	Mean	SD	F	p
Impact of Government Initiatives on Gender Equality	16-22	50	2.9	0.4	2.21	0.07
	23-29	90	3.0	0.5		
	30-36	100	2.7	0.5		
	Above 37	60	3.1	0.6		

Table 1.3 presents the mean differences in perceptions of the impact of government initiatives on gender equality across different age groups within the Gujjar community. The table reveals varying levels of perceived impact among age groups, with respondents aged 16-22 showing a mean perception score of 2.9, those aged 23-29 with a mean of 3.0, the 30-36 age group with a lower mean of 2.7, and respondents above 37 reporting the highest mean perception score at 3.1. These differences suggest a trend where older respondents (those above 37) perceive government initiatives as more effective in promoting gender equality, while younger respondents, particularly those in the 30-36 age group, report lower perceived impact. The standard deviation values for each group (ranging from 0.4 to 0.6) indicate that perceptions within each age group vary to some degree, with slightly more variability observed in the older age groups. The variability among older respondents may reflect diverse individual experiences and interactions with government programs over a longer period of time, leading to differing opinions on their effectiveness.

The F-test statistic of 2.21 and a p-value of 0.07 provide insight into the statistical significance of these differences in perceptions across age groups. The p-value of 0.07 is slightly above the conventional threshold of 0.05, suggesting that while there is some evidence of variation in perceptions based on age, this difference is not statistically significant at the 5% level. However, the proximity of the p-value to the 0.05 threshold may indicate a trend worth considering, as it suggests that age may have some influence on perceptions, even if it does not reach strict statistical significance.

The observed trend in perception differences could be attributed to a variety of factors. Older respondents may have had longer exposure to and potentially greater reliance on government support, especially in areas like healthcare, education, and financial initiatives aimed at empowering marginalized groups. The extended experience might lead to a higher perceived impact, as older individuals may have witnessed incremental changes in gender equality over time due to these initiatives. In contrast, younger respondents, particularly those in the 30-36 age group, may have different expectations or criteria for assessing the effectiveness of these initiatives. Growing up in an era where gender equality has gained increased attention globally, younger respondents might expect more comprehensive or faster-paced changes and may thus perceive the current initiatives as less impactful. Younger age groups may have more access to alternative sources of empowerment, such as social media, private education, or employment opportunities, which could reduce their reliance on government initiatives as primary drivers of gender equality.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Gender Disparity in Access to Resources in the Gujjar Community

Gender disparity in access to resources within the Gujjar community of Kotranka Tehsil is a significant issue, as indicated by 80% of survey respondents who reported that women face substantial inequalities in accessing education, healthcare, and economic opportunities. The disparity is deeply rooted in cultural norms that define strict gender roles, limiting women's autonomy and reinforcing cycles of economic and social dependency. Traditional norms often dictate that women's roles remain primarily domestic, restricting their participation in areas outside the household and reducing their access to education and employment opportunities. The lack of access to resources perpetuates a cycle of dependency and diminishes the potential for women to gain financial independence or engage in community leadership roles.

Although several government initiatives aim to address gender disparities, this deep-seated cultural barrier indicates that broader strategies are needed to achieve meaningful progress. Traditional norms within the Gujjar community present a significant challenge, as even well-meaning policies may fail to reach their full potential if they do not align with the cultural context of the community. Without addressing these cultural expectations, women may face limitations not only in resource access but also in making independent decisions about their education, health, and economic involvement. The lower visibility of women in public spaces due to cultural restrictions may also reinforce the perception that they are unfit or undeserving of the same resources afforded to men, creating a self-perpetuating cycle of gender disparity.

Respondents indicated that while awareness of government initiatives is relatively high (85%), only 60% believe that these programs have made a tangible positive impact on

gender equality. The gap between awareness and perceived effectiveness suggests that awareness alone is insufficient to achieve substantial change. Despite the reach of these initiatives, cultural resistance or barriers to effective implementation limit their impact within the Gujar community. These findings reveal the importance of contextualizing policies to fit the specific needs and cultural dynamics of the community, as broader, generic approaches may not resonate with or effectively support Gujar women.

The persistent influence of cultural norms in restricting women's access to resources underscores the need for a community-centric approach to addressing gender inequality. Engaging local leaders and family decision-makers could be a valuable strategy to promote gradual shifts in these norms. By involving community stakeholders in awareness programs and discussions around the value of women's empowerment, policymakers can help foster an environment where cultural attitudes evolve in support of gender equality. Role models from within the community, particularly educated or economically successful women, could be engaged in such programs to demonstrate the benefits of equitable resource access, showing families that empowering women does not disrupt but rather strengthens family and community structures. Through such approaches, the government and community leaders can work collaboratively to create a foundation for long-term change.

Economic Dependency and Educational Gaps as Barriers to Women's Empowerment

Economic dependency on male family members is another significant barrier to women's empowerment within the Gujar community, as indicated by 75% of respondents. Such a dependency restricts women's financial autonomy, limits their decision-making power, and ultimately reinforces traditional gender roles. Without the ability to independently manage finances or access economic resources, women are left dependent on male relatives, who often control family finances and thus have the ultimate say in household decision-making. Such a lack of financial independence not only restricts women's ability to invest in their education or healthcare but also makes it more challenging for them to pursue opportunities that could foster personal and economic growth.

The community's overwhelming support (90%) for the empowerment of women through education highlights a potential pathway for change. Education is widely recognized as a powerful tool for empowerment, as it enables women to develop critical skills, expand their worldviews, and engage in social and economic activities. With education, women are more likely to understand and advocate for their rights, access better healthcare, and make informed decisions regarding their families and careers. However, the practical challenges of implementing educational programs in rural settings, where infrastructure may be limited and cultural expectations discourage women's participation in formal education, remain a significant barrier. Even when educational opportunities are available, the indirect costs associated with schooling, such as transportation, supplies, or the loss of potential labour at home, may deter families from investing in the education of female members.

Vocational training programs present a promising solution to bridge the gap between education and economic independence. An impressive 95% of respondents expressed support for vocational training, suggesting a strong community endorsement for programs that equip women with marketable skills. Vocational training offers a more flexible and locally relevant alternative to formal education, as it focuses on skills that women can apply directly within their communities. For instance, training programs in agriculture, animal husbandry, or

handicrafts could empower women to contribute to the local economy without needing to migrate for work, which aligns with cultural expectations of women remaining close to home. Such skills also enable women to engage in economic activities compatible with their household roles, thus increasing their financial autonomy without challenging traditional norms too abruptly.

To foster financial independence, initiatives like microfinance programs or self-help groups could further complement educational and vocational training efforts. By providing women with access to small loans, these programs enable them to start small businesses or invest in income-generating activities, offering a viable path to financial independence. Economic empowerment of this nature could gradually shift the balance of decision-making within families, allowing women to gain respect and influence as contributors to household income. Financial literacy programs could enhance the effectiveness of such initiatives, ensuring that women have the knowledge and confidence to manage their earnings and investments. Through these combined efforts, women within the Gujar community could be empowered to overcome economic dependency, laying the groundwork for sustainable gender equality.

Support for Vocational Training Programs and the Need for Culturally Sensitive Implementation of Government Initiatives

The strong community support for vocational training programs, with 95% of respondents expressing approval, indicates a shared recognition of the benefits these programs could bring. Vocational training is seen as a practical way for women to gain skills that translate into economic opportunities, which could improve their quality of life and contribute to the community's overall economic development. Unlike traditional education, which may require extended time away from family responsibilities, vocational training can often be completed in shorter intervals and may focus on skills directly applicable to local economic activities. It makes it a suitable solution for the Gujar community, where cultural norms still prioritize women's roles within the home and local community.

However, to ensure that vocational training programs reach their full potential, it is essential that they be implemented in a culturally sensitive manner. Programs that disregard local customs or fail to engage community leaders are unlikely to achieve widespread acceptance or participation. To address this, vocational programs could be integrated into existing community structures, with local leaders or trusted community figures involved in promoting these opportunities. Offering training in areas that align with community needs, such as agriculture, animal care, or crafts, vocational programs can appeal to both women and their families as a way to enhance household income without disrupting cultural norms.

Perceptions of the effectiveness of government initiatives aimed at bridging gender disparities were mixed, with only 60% of respondents indicating that these initiatives had a positive impact. The finding suggests that while the community is aware of such initiatives, there may be challenges in how they are implemented or received. Generic policies, while beneficial on a national scale, may fail to resonate within unique cultural contexts like that of the Gujar community. Thus, there is a need for policies to be adapted or supplemented with locally specific programs that address the distinct challenges faced by Gujar women. For instance, rural areas could benefit from mobile education units or on-site vocational training workshops that reduce the need for women to travel far from home, which may be culturally

restrictive. Involving community members in the design and implementation of these initiatives could enhance their relevance and acceptance. Local leaders, particularly female role models who have achieved success through education or economic engagement, could serve as ambassadors for these programs, helping to build trust and encourage participation. Such an approach not only increases the likelihood of program success but also fosters a sense of ownership within the community, as members see their input reflected in the initiatives. By working with the community, policymakers can create programs that are both effective in promoting gender equality and respectful of cultural traditions, thereby fostering sustainable change.

Final Reflections of the Study

1. Cultural norms within the Gujar community significantly restrict women's access to education, healthcare, and economic resources.
2. Economic dependency on male family members is a major barrier to women's empowerment, limiting their autonomy and financial independence.
3. Awareness of government initiatives aimed at gender equality is high, but the perceived impact of these programs is moderate.
4. Traditional views on gender roles confine women to domestic responsibilities, reducing their opportunities for social and economic engagement.
5. There is overwhelming support within the community for vocational training programs as a means to empower women and improve their economic prospects.
6. Access to education is widely viewed as a crucial pathway for empowering Gujar women, indicating a readiness for change in the community.
7. Gender disparity is more pronounced in rural areas, where limited infrastructure and traditional norms further restrict women's access to resources.
8. The perceived effectiveness of government programs varies, highlighting the need for culturally adapted policies that address local challenges.
9. Financial literacy programs, along with access to microfinance, could help reduce economic dependency and promote women's financial independence.
10. Engaging local leaders and respected community figures could help facilitate gradual shifts in cultural attitudes toward women's empowerment.
11. A community-centered approach is essential, involving collaboration between policymakers and community members to ensure initiatives are relevant and effective.
12. Holistic, culturally sensitive strategies that combine education, economic empowerment, and community engagement are key to achieving long-term gender equality in the Gujar community.

Suggestions

1. Develop community-centered educational programs, including mobile learning units or community-based schools, to reduce travel and associated costs for women and girls in the Gujar community.
2. Design vocational training programs focused on locally relevant skills, such as agriculture, animal husbandry, and handicrafts, which align with the community's economic activities and cultural expectations.

3. Introduce financial literacy programs alongside microfinance opportunities to empower women with financial knowledge and resources, enabling them to contribute to household income and reduce economic dependency.
4. Engage respected community leaders in awareness campaigns to advocate for women's empowerment and challenge restrictive gender norms, fostering community acceptance and support for gender equality initiatives.
5. Set up mobile health clinics or telemedicine services in rural areas to improve healthcare access for women, particularly in maternal and reproductive health.
6. Organize regular community dialogues and workshops on the benefits of gender equality, allowing community members to openly discuss and gradually reshape restrictive cultural norms.
7. Conduct awareness campaigns that clearly communicate the benefits and objectives of gender equality initiatives, ensuring that community members understand and trust these programs.
8. Establish community centers or safe spaces where women can access resources, participate in educational programs, and receive support without fear of cultural backlash.
9. Highlight successful women within the Gujjar community as role models to inspire other women and show families the positive outcomes of empowering female members.
10. Adapt government policies to better reflect the unique needs and cultural context of the Gujjar community, ensuring that initiatives are respectful and relevant.
11. Offer financial incentives or scholarships for families who support the education of female children, reducing the economic burden and motivating families to invest in girls' education.
12. Support women's cooperatives where women can collectively produce and sell goods, fostering economic independence and creating a support network for entrepreneurial activities.
13. Collaborate with NGOs experienced in gender-focused development to design and implement programs that address specific local barriers to women's empowerment in Kotranka Tehsil.
14. Create programs that engage men and boys in discussions about gender equality to foster understanding and support for women's empowerment within families and the broader community.
15. Establish regular monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to assess the effectiveness of gender equality initiatives, allowing for ongoing adjustments to better meet the needs of the Gujjar community and improve program outcomes.

Conclusion

The findings of the study reveal the complex challenges of reducing gender disparity within the Gujjar community in Kotranka Tehsil, despite existing government initiatives aimed at promoting gender equality. While policies such as Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao and Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana have increased awareness, their effectiveness remains limited due to cultural norms and economic dependency that persist within the community. These norms confine women to domestic roles, restrict their access to education and healthcare, and hinder

their economic independence, creating barriers that policy alone struggles to address. A significant difference in perceptions between rural and urban respondents and among age groups indicates that local context deeply affects the reception and impact of government programs. Therefore, a one-size-fits-all approach is insufficient to foster meaningful change. Tailored solutions, such as vocational training, financial literacy programs, and community-driven awareness campaigns, are essential to address these deeply rooted challenges. By incorporating culturally sensitive and context-specific strategies, future initiatives can better support Gujjar women in achieving greater autonomy, improved resource access, and, ultimately, more equitable participation in their community.

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