

## **A Study of the Ladli Behna Yojana in the Self-reliance of Women with Special Reference to Village Pathra, Dist-Katni (M.P.)**

**LAVKUSH SINGH<sup>\*1</sup> AND AMRITA SINGH<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Assistant Professor (Economics) and <sup>2</sup>Student B.A.(Honours)

Government College Badwara, Katni (M.P.) India

**\*Corresponding Author**

### **ABSTRACT**

Ladli Behna Yojana was started by the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh from 2023 to meet the small needs of women. Initially, every woman between 21 years to 60 years was given an assistance amount of Rs. 1000, after which the amount was increased to Rs. 1250. The Honorable Chief Minister has committed to increase this amount further time to time. Various schemes have been implemented by the government for women, out of which Ladli Behna Yojana is playing an important role in the self-reliance of women. In the present article, a brief study of Ladli Behna Yojana has been done in Pathra village of Barwada Janpad Panchayat located in Katni district of Madhya Pradesh. Most of the people of Pathra village earn their livelihood from agricultural work and agriculture related wages and other small businesses. The amount given by the government under Ladli Behna for women plays an important role in meeting their daily small needs. The study highlighted the group and socio-economic status of the benefited women and found that there were large significant differences in terms of age group and socio-economic status.

**Keywords:** Ladli Behna, Women, Yojna, X<sup>2</sup> Test, Pathra

### **INTRODUCTION**

The path to women empowerment and gender equality in India has been filled with struggle, resilience and hope. Although India has made remarkable achievements in eliminating gender inequality, there are still deep gaps in India. Women empowerment is the process of empowering women at social, economic, political and personal levels (Ashraf *et al.*, 2010; Aysha *et al.*, 2018). Its aim is to give women control over all aspects of their lives and make them more independent and independent than men. This includes promoting a sense of self-respect in women, their ability to make their own decisions, and their right to effect social change for themselves and others. According to UN Women, gender equality means women and men, boys and girls having equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities.

Although women empowerment is about empowering women in many dimensions, it can be broadly divided into three main dimensions:

#### **Socio-cultural empowerment:**

It means providing women the ability to express their ideas, take decisions and implement them in the social and cultural context.

#### **Economic Empowerment:**

It means making women financially independent and strong as well as enabling them to participate fully and freely in the economy (Armendáriz de Aghion and Morduch, 2005; Bhavya and Umesh, 2011).

#### **Political Empowerment:**

This includes women's right to participate in political processes, influence public policy and decision-making, and gain representation in political and governance structures at all levels.

Due to patriarchal thinking and gender inequality prevailing in India, women are facing problems. Women are forced to play contradictory roles. On the one hand, women's maternal role is portrayed as daughter, mothers,

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their strengths are promoted to enable them to perform effectively as wives and daughters-in-law. On the other hand, their stereotypical image of the “weak and helpless woman” is promoted to ensure complete dependency on her male counterparts.

As far as the debate on women empowerment is concerned, two completely opposite views can be seen in the current Indian society. The development of our society is directly related to the development of women in that society. Without the development of women, the development of an individual, family and society cannot be imagined. For the development of women, the government has launched some schemes like Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Ujjwala Yojana, Sukanya Samridhi Yojana and Kasturba Yojana. Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya Scheme. Same as Ladli Laxmi Yojana, Women Empowerment Programmes, Mahila Udyam Yojana, Women Self-Help Groups, Women Health Scheme Mahila Poshan Abhiyan, Women Health Centre, Women Helpline, Ladli Behna Yojana etc. The Madhya Pradesh government has launched several many programmes to empower women (Ritu *et al.*, 2003; Vishnuvarthini and Ayyothi, 2016).

### **Ladli Behna Yojana: A Scheme for Empowering Women in Madhya Pradesh**

The Ladli Behna Yojana is a pioneering scheme launched by the Government of Madhya Pradesh to empower women and promote their socio-economic development. The scheme aims to provide financial assistance and support to women from economically weaker sections, enabling them to lead a dignified and self-sufficient life. The Ladli Behna Yojana has the potential to transform the lives of millions of women in Madhya Pradesh, promoting their socio-economic development and empowering them to become self-sufficient individuals. The Ladli Behna Yojana is mentioned in Articles 15(3) and 39 of the Constitution. According to Article 15(3), the state can make special provisions for women and children. According to Article 39, it is the duty of the State to provide women with equal rights and opportunities as men. Based on these articles, the Madhya Pradesh government has launched the Ladli Behna Yojana 2023, which aims to economically empower the women of the state. Ladli Behna Yojana is an ambitious scheme launched by the Madhya Pradesh government, which aims to economically empower the women of the state. This scheme is for women It is designed to make them self-reliant and improve their

standard of living. In the Start of This scheme, Madhya Pradesh government will give Rs. 1000 every month to the women of the state. In the Present M. P. government will give Rs. 1250 every month to the eligible Women. Providing financial assistance to women under the Ladli Behna Yojana is helping them become self-reliant.

### **Eligibility Criteria of Ladli Behna Yojana:**

1. **Age:** The age of the applicant should be between 21 to 60 years.
2. **Residence:** The applicant should be a permanent resident of Madhya Pradesh.
3. **Financial status:** The annual income of the applicant should be less than Rs. 2.5 Lakh.
4. **Education:** The applicant should have any type of education.
5. **Family Status:** No member of the applicant's family should be in government job.

### **Status of Ladli Behna Yojana in Katni district:**

Ladli Behna Yojana is an important scheme for the women of Katni district, which aims to empower them economically. This scheme can prove to be a boon for the women of Katni district, as it will help them in improving the financial condition of their family. Apart from this, this scheme will also help in making women self-reliant, which will enable them to take decisions about their lives. Women of Katni district can apply online or offline to avail the benefits of this scheme. For this they have to apply with their required documents. Overall, Ladli Behna Yojana is an important scheme for the women of Katni district, which aims to empower them economically.

### **Status of Ladli Behna Yojana in Janpad Panchayat Badwara :**

The implementation of Ladli Behna Yojana in Barwara Janpad Panchayat has improved the status of women. This scheme was started by the Madhya Pradesh government has been done, which aims to economically empower the women of the state. Under the Ladli Behna Yojana in Barwara Janpad Panchayat, women are being provided financial assistance of Rs. 1250 every month. This The assistance is helping women to improve the financial condition of their families.

### **Status of Ladli Behna Yojana in Village Pathara, Janpad Panchayat Badwara :**

Pathra Gram Sabha is situated under Badwara

Janpad Panchayat of Katni district. Ladli Behna Yojana is an important scheme for the self-respect of women. The economic condition of the people of Pathra Gram Sabha is very weak, in such a situation, women feel self-reliant by fulfilling their small needs with the money given by the government. Data till 2023 is available on the official website ([cmladlibahna.mp.gov.in](https://cmladlibahna.mp.gov.in)), in which 283 eligible women under Pathra village are benefited from CM Ladli Behna Yojana.

### Review of Literature:

1. Nelson Mandela - Long Walk to Freedom (1994) - Need to change approach in society for women empowerment.
2. Arundhati Roy - The God of Small Things (1997) - Need to change approach in society for women empowerment.
3. Martha Nusbaum - Women and Human Development (2000) - Need for vision of capabilities for women empowerment.
4. Amartya Sen - The Argentine Indian (2005) Education and Economic Freedom for Women Empowerment.
5. Malala Yousafzai - I. M. Malala (2013) Education and Social transformation required for women empowerment.

### Need and Importance of the Study:

Women of Pathra village located in Badwara Janpad Panchayat are dependent on men for even their smallest needs. In such a situation, it has become a matter of curiosity to know to what extent the amount of Ladli Behna Yojana given by the M.P. Government in honour of women is successful in fulfilling the small needs of women.

### Objectives of the Study:

- 1) To study the age group of women benefited from CM Ladli Behna Yojana.
- 2) To study the socio-economic classes of women benefited from CM Ladli Behna Yojana.

### Hypothesis:

- 1)  $H_0$ : No significant difference was observed in

the age group among the beneficiaries of C.M. Ladli Behna Yojana.

$H_1$ : Significant difference was observed in the age group among the beneficiaries of C.M. Ladli Behna Yojana.

- 2)  $H_0$ : No significant difference was observed between socio-economic classes among the Women beneficiaries of C.M. Ladli Behna Yojana.

$H_1$ : A significant difference was observed between socio-economic classes among the female beneficiaries of the C.M. Ladli Behna Yojana.

## METHODOLOGY

The collection of data has been mainly obtained from the official website given under the Chief Minister Ladli Behan Yojana. These data are under secondary data. The data obtained is non-parametric type. Hence, Chi Square Test has been used to test the hypothesis of the objectives. Generally, three types of hypothesis are used in research. First, the hypothesis of being equal distributed, second, the hypothesis of being normally distributed, third, the hypothesis of being independently distributed. The formula for  $X^2$  square test is as follows:

$$X^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{(O_i - E_i)^2}{E_i}$$

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

It is not enough to obtain data for the study, rather various types of meaningful conclusions are obtained by analyzing the data. In the present study, data of women benefited from the Ladli Behan Yojana has been obtained from the official website of the Madhya Pradesh government. On the basis of which conclusions have been obtained by testing the objective hypotheses.

### To study the age group of women benefited from CM Ladli Behna Yojana:

The Table 1 shows the number of women benefited under various further groups. In the table, the class interval

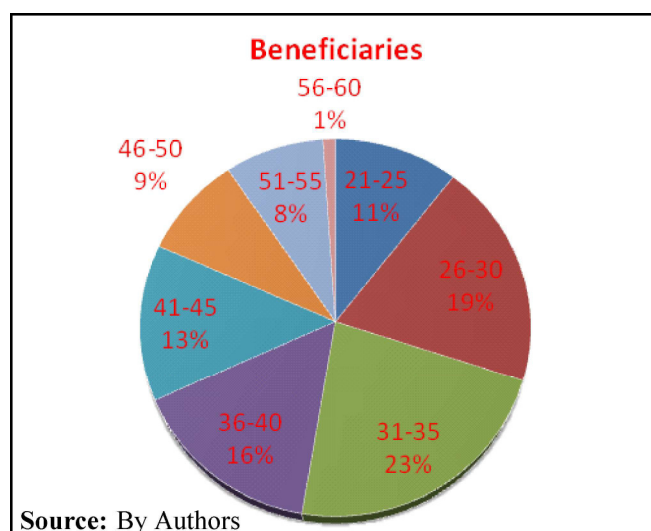
**Table 1 : Age groups of women benefited from CM Ladli Behna Yojana**

Age Group	21-25	26-30	31-35	36-40	41-45	46-50	51-55	56-60	Total
Beneficiaries	30	55	64	44	38	25	24	3	283

Source: <https://cmladlibahna.mp.gov.in>

of the five -year Age Group has been taken. The number of women benefited from first further age group 21 to 25 years is 30. Similarly, in 26 to 30 age groups 55 women, 31 to 35 will come in 64 women, 36 to 40 age group 44 women, in 41- 45 age group 38 women, in 46 to 50 age group 25 women, in 51 to 55 age group 24 women. There are only 3 benefited women in 56-60 age group.

In the Fig. 1, the percentage of women of different age groups benefited from the Chief Minister Ladli Behan Yojana is given. From the observation of the graph, it is clear that the most benefited age group is 31 to 35 years, in which the maximum 23% women have benefited from



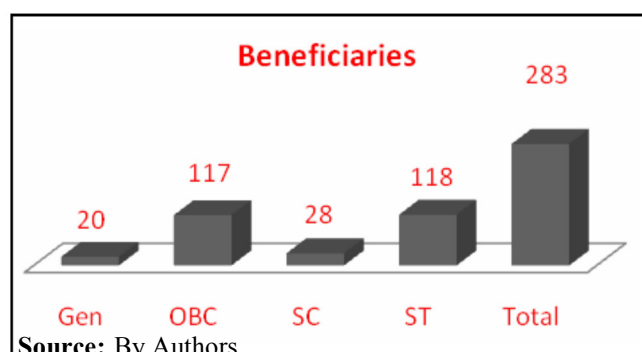
**Fig. 1 : Percentage of Age groups of women benefited from CM Ladli Behna Yojana**

the Chief Minister Ladli Behan Yojana. After this, the number of benefited women has been continuously decreasing with increasing age group. In the last age group of 56 to 60 years, only 3% women is benefited from the C.M. Ladli Behan Yojana.

Thus The calculated value is much higher than the critical value of the Chi Square test, due to which the null hypothesis is rejected. This makes it clear that a significant difference has been observed between different age groups and benefited women (Table 2).

#### To study the socio-economic classes of women benefited from CM Ladli Behna:

The Table 3 and Fig. 2 shows the socio-economic classes of the beneficiary women of the Chief Minister Ladli Behan Yojana. Four types of classes have been included in the data given by the government. In which



**Fig. 2 : Socio-economic classes of women benefited from CM Ladli Behna Yojana**

**Table 2 : Testing of Hypothesis and Discussion**

Age Group	21-25	26-30	31-35	36-40	41-45	46-50	51-55	56-60	Total
Beneficiaries (fo)	30	55	64	44	38	25	24	3	283
fe=N/K	70.75	70.75	70.75	70.75	70.75	70.75	70.75	70.75	NA
fo-fe	-40.75	-15.75	-6.75	-26.75	-32.75	-45.75	-46.75	-67.75	NA
(fo-fe) <sup>2</sup>	1660.563	248.0625	45.5625	715.5625	1072.563	2093.063	2185.563	4590.063	NA
(fo-fe) <sup>2</sup> /fe	23.47085	3.506184	0.643993	10.11396	15.15989	29.58392	30.89134	64.87721	178.24735

Calculated by authors

$X^2=178.24735$  (Calculated Value)

Df=k-1, or 9-1=8

Level of significance= 0.05

Critical Value of  $X^2=15.507$

Null Hypothesis is Rejected

**Table 3 : Socio-economic classes of women benefited from CM Ladli Behna Yojana**

Socio-Eco Classes	Gen	OBC	SC	ST	Total
Beneficiaries	20	117	28	118	283

Source: <https://cmladlibahna.mp.gov.in>

**Table 4 : Testing of Hypothesis and Discussion**

Socio-Eco Classes	Gen	OBC	SC	ST	Total
Beneficiaries	20	117	28	118	283
fe=N/K	70.75	70.75	70.75	70.75	NA
fo-fe	-50.75	46.25	-42.75	47.25	NA
(fo-fe) <sup>2</sup>	2575.5625	2139.0625	1827.5625	2232.5625	NA
(fo-fe) <sup>2</sup> /fe	36.4037102	30.2340989	25.8312721	31.5556537	124.02473

**Calculated by authors**X<sup>2</sup>=124.02473 (Calculated Value)

Df=k-1, or 4-1=3

Level of significance= 0.05

Tabulated Value=7.815

Null Hypothesis is Rejected

women beneficiaries are divided as General, Other Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. On the basis of 2023 data related to Ladli Behan Yojana, there are 283 eligible female beneficiaries. Among the 283 eligible beneficiaries, there are 20 eligible beneficiaries of the general category, 117 of Other Backward Classes, 28 of Scheduled Castes and 118 of Scheduled Tribes. It is clear from the above observation that the number of beneficiaries of General and Scheduled Castes is very less while the number of Other Backward Classes and Scheduled Tribes beneficiaries is the highest.

Thus The calculated value is much higher than the critical value of the Chi Square test, due to which the null hypothesis is rejected. This makes it clear that a significant difference has been observed between different Socio-Economic Classes and benefited women (Table 4).

**Conclusion:**

It is clear from the study that women of Pathra village are dependent on men for their small needs. Women eligible for CM Ladli Behan Yojana feel self-reliant for their small needs by receiving an amount of Rs. 1250 per month. An attempt has been made to obtain information about two objectives of the benefited women. In the first objective, several class tests have been done to know the significant difference between the women benefited from the scheme and their age group, in which it has been found that there is a very significant difference between the benefited women and different age groups. Similarly, in the second objective, several class tests have been done to know the significance of the difference between the women benefited from the scheme and their

socio-economic classes and here also it has been found that there is a very significant difference between the benefited women and their socio-economic classes.

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