
Drop-Out of Adolescent Girls in Secondary Education; an Analytical Study with Special Reference to Sanitation Services in Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh

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ABSTRACT:

Adolescence is the stage of physical and biological changes which every boy and girl has to face and overcome. Drop out cases of girls reaching in their puberty stage are comparatively higher than any other stage especially in rural areas which is because of so many interrelated factors connected with facility of Institutional Toilets in secondary and higher secondary level as –lack of separate toilet units for boys and girls, unavailability of connected water supply, lack of cleanliness/maintenance of toilets, lack of privacy and security for girls. Statistics shows that absenteeism especially among adolescent girls during their menstruation is very common not only in rural areas but also in urban areas. Basic factor behind absenteeism is directly linked with the services available in the school to meet girl's sanitary requirements; it has been proved in some studies that where toilets have been provided in schools, absenteeism has decreased. But India is far behind to provide functional toilet facility with connected water supply in maximum government schools whether primary, upper primary schools or high/ intermediate school which is not only the right of a student but also raise question mark (?) on government of India which is spending thousands crores of fund per year on Total Sanitation Campaign – TSC a central sponsored scheme for elimination of open defecation from rural areas and eradicate manual scavenging from India. Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi is highly focusing on Sanitation in form of Swachha Bharat Abhiyaan and its allied programs to make India clean. The present paper tries to examine the factors that contribute to drop-out of adolescent girls in the secondary level. Preventive and restorative approaches, briefly discussed in the paper, are needed to tackle the issue of dropout for adolescent girls just because of unavailability of toilets in rural areas of India.

Keywords: Adolescent, drop-out, TSC, functional, puberty, incinerators, menstrual health

INTRODUCTION

Sanitation in a word means hygiene and practices related with it. Sanitation generally refers to principles, practices, provisions, or services related to cleanliness and hygiene in personal and public life for the protection and promotion of human health and well being and breaking the cycle of disease or illness. It is also related to the principles and practices relating to the collection, treatment, removal or disposal of human excreta, household waste water and other pollutants. The World Health Organization states that: Sanitation generally refers to the provision of facilities and services for the safe disposal of human urine and feces. Inadequate

sanitation is a major cause of disease world-wide and improving sanitation is known to have a significant beneficial impact on health both in households and across communities. The word 'sanitation' also refers to the maintenance of hygienic conditions, through services such as garbage collection and wastewater disposal. According to Mmom and Mmom (2011) environmental sanitation comprises disposal and treatment of human excreta, solid waste and waste water, control of disease vectors, and provision of washing facilities for personal and domestic hygiene. It aims at improving the quality of life of the individuals and contributing to social development. Sanitation has very broad dimensions and it relatively have an implications on society and nation.



Sanitation implication on various aspects of human life

TOTAL SANITATION CAMPAIGN (TSC)

TSC is a central scheme launched with name CRSP- Central Rural Sanitation Program in 1986 which later on modified in 1999 and re-launched in form of Total Sanitation Campaign with an objective:

- Bring about an improvement in the general quality of life in the rural areas.
- Accelerate sanitation coverage in rural areas.
- Generate felt demand for sanitation facilities through awareness creation and health education.
- Cover schools/ Anganwadis in rural areas with sanitation facilities and promote hygiene education and sanitary habits among students.
- Encourage cost effective and appropriate technologies in sanitation.
- Eliminate open defecation to minimize risk of contamination of drinking water sources and food.

- Convert dry latrines to pour flush latrines, and eliminate manual scavenging practice, wherever in existence in rural areas

CHHATTISGARH AND TOTAL SANITATION CAMPAIGN TSC

Chhattisgarh is a relatively new state which got separated from the bigger Madhya Pradesh state, with lowest level of urbanization in India and has the second highest percentage of tribal population in India after the state of Madhya Pradesh. The Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC), was launched under the aegis of the Ministry of Rural Development's Department of Drinking Water Supply, is being implemented in the state by the Public Health Engineering Department (PHED). The multi-pronged strategy implemented by the state involves capacity-building, awareness, logistics and participation and is overseen by a core committee under District Magistrates with members from the PHED and the departments of rural Development, Public Education, Panchayat and tribal Affairs. Out of the total 16 districts 1 received TSC sanction during 2001, 5 districts received fund during 2003, 4 districts during 2005 and 6 districts during 2006. And since 2008 onwards state is implementing TSC services in total 27 districts in Chhattisgarh.

Table No. 01 Presenting status of TSC at National level

Baseline Survey 2012 - All India Abstract Report		
SL.No.	Category	Percentage
1.	% of Household not having Toilet	59.65
2.	% of Household having Toilet	40.35
3.	% of Household having functional Toilet from HH having Toilet	79.83
4.	% of Household having defunctional Toilet from HH having Toilet	20.17
5.	% of Govt. Anganwadi having Latrine	74.87
6.	% of Govt. Anganwadi having adequate Water Facility	63.73
7.	% of GPs where VWSC formed	71.86
8.	% of GPs where VWSC Functional	64.80
9.	% of GPs where Swachchhata Doot is Posted	61.32
10.	% of Govt School Without Toilet	6.82
11.	% of Govt School Without Water Facility	10.63
12.	% of Private School Without Toilet	14.22
13.	% of Private School Without water Facility	9.69
14.	% of GPs Where other Organisation Involved	72.58
Note:-1) Report is based on entries done by 240622 out of 249913 (96.28 %) GPs as reported by 29 States		

Source: Government website of Total Sanitation Campaign

As per above table, data obtained by the website of government of India TSC, it is evident that at national level only 6.82 government schools (primary, upper primary, high and inter mediate schools) lacks proper toilets facilities. In TSC Sanitation Campaign under which institutional toilets are one of the major components and there is a provision of separate toilets- latrines and urinals with hand washing facilities for boys and girls. It means that 93% government schools

comprise separate toilets for boys and girls according to norms of TSC it is the paper formality or the practical situation, no need to say anything regarding it.

According to state officials, the state would be able to achieve MDG target related to sanitation by 2012, 3 years ahead of the MDG deadline. Till now 13 years passed away, the availability of separate toilet with hand washing facility for girls in schools is still a dream. During concurrent field work observation visits, girls of upper primary school in a gram panchayat Mangla were found going for urination in open and on asking that why they are not going in toilets they replied that there is no toilet facility in the school, well it's not shocking because this situation is almost in maximum schools in rural areas. In most of the schools there is no toilet and if there is a toilet it's not accessible to the students. Chhattisgarh got separated from MP and due regional problems implementation of TSC delayed. While in Bilaspur effect of TSC is not visible - Individual Household Latrines- IHHL, Institutional Toilets- School and aganwadi toilet, community complexes- CC and solid liquid waste management- SLWM all these components of TSC do not exist here. Below table presents that in state only 3% of government schools are without toilet that means near about 100% government schools- primary, upper primary, high and intermediate schools are fully equipped with toilet facilities.

Table No. 02 State Name :- CHHATTISGARH

Baseline Survey 2012 - State Abstract Report		
SL.No.	Category	Percentage
1.	% of Household not having Toilet	60.43
2.	% of Household having Toilet	39.57
3.	% of Household having functional Toilet from HH having Toilet	41.13
4.	% of Household having dysfunctional Toilet from HH having Toilet	58.87
5.	% of Govt. Anganwadi having Latrine	70.24
6.	% of Govt. Anganwadi having adequate Water Facility	68.58
7.	% of GPs where VWSC formed	79.66
8.	% of GPs where VWSC Functional	69.48
9.	% of GPs where Swachchhata Doot is Posted	70.69
10.	% of Govt. School Without Toilet	3.25
11.	% of Govt. School Without Water Facility	6.63
12.	% of Private School Without Toilet	15.22
13.	% of Private School Without water Facility	10.31
14.	% of GPs Where other Organization Involved	88.01
Note:-1) Report is based on entries done by 9726 out of 9726 (100 %) GPs as reported by 16 district(s).		

Source: Government website of Total Sanitation Campaign

It is important to note here that in schools toilets are constructed from the education department during construction of school premise which is the part of it existence of toilets in school does not make sure that the unit is constructed under TSC which has specific parameters of construction as- students and toilet ratio, separate toilet unit with urinal for boys and girls

including hand washing facility with running water supply and the same is for aganwadi in which there is provision of constructing child friendly toilet with running water supply.

Adolescent Stage: Journey of human life passes through various stages and adolescence is one of the most vital stages. Adolescence is the period of transition from childhood to adulthood and plays a decisive role in the formation of pro-social/antisocial adult. All of us undergo this stage which poses many challenges and is full of excitement. At the same time it demands adjustment on many fronts. Adolescence is characterized by physical maturation of the brain and body, giving rise to intense psychological and physical change. One primary class of psychological change typical of adolescents is an intensification of emotional experiences. Whatever an adolescent have to face in this stage further accounts significant contribution in constructing their personality.

Problems of Adolescent Girls

Adolescent stage is more challenging for girls than boys due to some biological reasons which took place in the life of every girl going through puberty age, which is starting of their menstruation cycle. Girls have to overcome different challenges related to menstruation as physical, psychological and social as well. It needs lots of courage to accept the body change in form of menstruation which will occur every month and continues 30-35 years of their whole life, they have to go through severe stress and trauma while overcoming it as well as social stigma is also one the most vital factor which make any girl to easily adjust with this physical change or to make her impulsive as she is not normal now. All these problems get aggravated when conditions are not favorable for any girl well it is in her family, community or schools. Adolescent girls cannot attend school in the absence of toilets during their menstruation. Many girls stay home when they are menstruating if there is no toilet in the school or they do not have any water. Even the female teachers are largely facing this problem, as a result the regular learning and teaching process are found to be hampered.

The matter may seem simple, but the trouble the girls face when there isn't a toilet in the school, we can find in plenty. This is clear from what 14 year old Ankita a class eight student of Secondary School in Lokhandi has to say. She says, "Girls go through lot of difficulties during their menstrual cycle in the school. I skip my classes for five days due to the unavailability of pad (cloth), hand washing soap and inadequate water in the school." According to her, even her friends prefer not to go to school during their menstruation. Deepa Dewangan of class tenth expresses that she is compelled to use toilets without electricity and latches. She also mostly does not attend school during her periods.

Studies show that despite having big school buildings, constructing toilets are least in their priority. However, in the government schools the numbers of students are high, hence, despite the availability of water and toilets they are not adequate to fulfill the demand of the students. The teachers admit themselves that the school management is to blame for the poor school sanitation environment. Even being aware that the school environment needs to be clean and hygienic, negligence is usually practiced. Many principals of government schools justify that because the government does not appoint any cleaners to the school, it is not regularly cleaned. Poor school sanitation facilities have been cited as a factor that can push children, particularly

girls, out of school. Qualitative research indicates that some girls may be discouraged from attending school without adequate toilet facilities (Water Aid 2009), and the claim has been supported by water and sanitation practitioners and organizations. For example, Lidonde writes in *Waterlines*, “Poor sanitation in schools limits school attendance... School drop-out and low literacy rates, especially among the girl children, can be largely attributed to poor sanitation” (Lidonde 2005). Arguing more specifically that the lack of access to separate and decent toilets is impeding girls’ access to their education, UNICEF and the International Water and Sanitation Centre have commented that “Education for girls can be supported and fostered by something as basic as a girls-only toilet,”(UNICEF 2005).

In schools for adolescent girls disposal of sanitary cloth and sanitary napkins is also a big problem. No arrangement for disposing the soiled cloths or napkins, compel girls to throw it in a latrine which causes choking of latrine and serious health problems if thrown out in garbage dumps or in the open. There is, thus an imminent need to address this important sanitary waste disposal effectively especially in terms of developing cost effective and simple technology for composite waste disposal for schools.

BENEFITS OF EDUCATION TO FEMALE:

It is said that if a man is educated it is only individual education but if a woman is educated then her whole family is benefitted with her education and knowledge. Educated women compared to illiterate woman are more aware about their health as well as their children and family health. Education increases awareness level and make women practice hygiene habits in daily life which further have impact in form of improved health and minimized expenditure on health problems and diseases. Proper sanitation facility in schools is closely interwoven with female literacy, especially after the age 14 when the girls attain Puberty. **Female literacy is given much importance as it is associated with various factors which are:**

- Sustainable fertility rates and decreased no. of births
- Increased birth spacing and lower maternal death
- Increased adoption of family planning measures to stop conception.
- Reproductive right of self- determination i.e. timing of conception, medical termination of pregnancy, freedom from non consensus sexual relations etc.
- Educated women are self –conscious towards health and can prevent themselves against common disease by following health and hygiene practices in daily life. (during work in Total Sanitation Campaign its experienced that hand washing with soap before taking meal and after defecation is not prevalent in community, even many women’s did not clean their hand with soap after washing their children stool, they simply wash their hand with water or mud which cause different stomach related problems, typhoid and diarrhea)
- Literate mothers are more aware about immunization of their children and improve their nutritional status.
- Acquiring knowledge on improved child feeding practices, food preservation and better sanitation is a key for breaking the cycle of malnutrition.
- Literacy decreases infant mortality rate
- Educated women take care better in educational matter of their children a well as can minimize expenditure on tuition classes.

- Educated women are empowered in various aspects- very often they are self dependent, share in earning, are more self- confident and more aware about children present and future.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Sample: Belha block was purposively selected from Bilaspur district out of which rural communities through lottery method in radius of 5-10 Kms from Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya have been selected for concurrent field work of students of Department of Social Work which are: Tifra (Nagar Panchayat), Mangla, Sendri, Lokhandi, Kachhaar & Nirtu (Gram Panchayat). All six communities were taken as sample for study of sanitation services existing in schools exclusive of primary school.

Sources of data: Primary data in reference with sanitation facilities from Government Schools was collected as well as analysis of secondary data of availability of Sanitation services (base line survey 2012) in Chhattisgarh from government TSC website was also done.

Research Tools: Focused Group Discussion with adolescent girls of upper primary & high school of all these communities was held focusing on **sanitation services- expectations availability, and problems faced by girls in school** and brief interview of school female teachers were taken to assess the status of sanitation services there.

FINDINGS & OBSERVATIONS

Problems compelling adolescent girls for drop out of school can be classified as follow:

1. Factors associated with School:

- Lack of toilet facility in school- institutional toilet.
- Lack of separate toilet units for girls and boys, which is mandatory under TSC.
- Non- functional toilets in schools.
- Unavailability of functional water supply in latrines.
- Lack of electricity and latches in toilets.
- Lack of hand washing facility including water supply, soap with wash basin in school, which is also under norms of TSC.
- Non- accessibility of toilets to students- if toilets are constructed through education department students are not allowed to use, its locked and only used by teachers. Mentality is that if students will use the toilet they will not use properly, make dirty and unit will get damaged so its better lock the toilet.
- Lack of education and information about usage of toilet, maintenance of health and hygiene.
- Unavailability of napkins in school.
- Disposal problem of soiled cloth or napkins in school.
- Distance of school also matters, if a girl has to cover more distance, she avoids going school during menstruation.
- No. of toilets are not according to the number of students, ratio of toilet and students is also one of the important reasons.

2. Attitudinal factors responsible for skipping school

- Parent's attitude for girls attaining their puberty is very conventional in India, girls are not permitted to go outside and move frequently during menstruation.
- Menstruation is considered to be very dirty, because of impure blood coming out of body, this type of perception of family members make girls to be away and isolated from other people in these days.
- Influence of friends, one is skipping school during menstruation; her friend will do the same.
- Lack of information about menstrual health & hygiene among adolescent girls
- Because of menstruation, girls are considered to be mature, which changes attitude and create more consciousness towards girls among teachers, parents and everyone, that's why girls often live education after upper primary.

3. Reasons behind Non Functional Institutional Toilet:

- Toilets are not connected with water supply is one of the most pivotal cause which leads to non utilization of institutional toilets. Functional water supply is the main leading factor in dirty and in unused condition of toilets, because a person feel little ashamed of taking water in bucket and putting it in toilet, people will see what they will say? This type of thinking is mostly in students or people. In India toilets and matters related with it is very dirty and personal matter usually no conversation is on this topic, same condition is with menstruation also.
- Lack of cleanliness and maintenance of toilets.
- Construction is not according the quality parameter, most of the things as- entrance door are small, the size of toilet room is very small & congested, and no ventilation, no source of light and so many factors are responsible for stopping students to use toilets. In a sentence it can be said that construction is just only a formality to achieve the target of toilets construction, quality of construction is not ensured.
- Target is of constructing units whether IHHL, Institutional toilets etc. more focus is on achievement of target which is the hardware aspect of TSC rather than sustainability of the constructed units. Software component i.e. IEC- information, education & communication- awareness and knowledge about usage of toilets is not focused, this is the most neglected aspect, which leads to non usage of the constructed components. There is need to make people aware about utilization of constructed toilet not merely focusing in having toilet and making it store. High level of sensitization is required to make people aware and conscious towards sanitation to avoid wastage of huge amount of fund every year.
- Community created problems are also there, sometime community people destructs the government property i.e. school assets as- damaging toilet sheets water taps and washbasin etc, breaking glasses, tiles, water tanks and hand pumps etc. there are various reasons behind it- some people disliking the local representative – Pradhan/ Sarpanch, rivalry with any one or other antisocial elements as drug users, gamblers who sometime for the sake of some penny rob the things and sell it.

Table No. 3 State Name: Chhattisgarh District: Bilaspur

Baseline Survey 2012 - District Abstract Report		
SL.No.	Category	Percentage
1.	% of Household not having Toilet	55.95
2.	% of Household having Toilet	44.05
3.	% of Household having functional Toilet from HH having Toilet	55.78
4.	% of Household having dysfunctional Toilet from HH having Toilet	44.22
5.	% of Govt. Anganwadi having Latrine	98.20
6.	% of Govt. Anganwadi having adequate Water Facility	97.85
7.	% of GPs where VWSC formed	80.42
8.	% of GPs where VWSC Functional	77.74
9.	% of GPs where Swachchhata Doot is Posted	34.15
10.	% of Govt. School Without Toilet	0.00
11.	% of Govt. School Without Water Facility	0.00
12.	% of Private School Without Toilet	4.21
13.	% of Private School Without water Facility	2.36
14.	% of GPs Where other Organization Involved	98.72

Note:-1) Report is based on entries done by 858 out of 858 (100 %) GPs as reported by 10 block(s).

Source: Government website of Total Sanitation Campaign

The above table (03) in which status of Bilaspur district can be observed, 100% schools are equipped with functional toilet and water supply and almost 100 percent aganwadi have toilets with adequate water supply. Which means Bilaspur district is saturated, but the practical realities states the paper formalities and at grass root level most of the schools have inadequate non-functional toilets with non functional water supply

State Name :- CHHATTISGARH

District Name :- BILASPUR

Block Name :- BELHA

Table

No. 04

Baseline Survey 2012 - Block Abstract Report		
SL.No.	Category	Percentage
1.	% of Household not having Toilet	40.81
2.	% of Household having Toilet	59.19
3.	% of Household having functional Toilet from HH having Toilet	56.82
4.	% of Household having dysfunctional Toilet from HH having Toilet	43.18
5.	% of Govt. Anganwadi having Latrine	100
6.	% of Govt. Anganwadi having adequate Water Facility	100
7.	% of GPs where VWSC formed	100
8.	% of GPs where VWSC Functional	100
9.	% of GPs where Swachchhata Doot is Posted	0.00
10.	% of Govt. School Without Toilet	0.00
11.	% of Govt. School Without Water Facility	0.00

12.	% of Private School Without Toilet	2.08
13.	% of Private School Without water Facility	2.13
14.	% of GPs Where other Organization Involved	100
Note:-1) Report is based on entries done by 123 out of 123 (100 %) GPs as reported.		

Source: Government website of Total Sanitation Campaign

Mangla gram panchayat comes under Belha Block of Bilaspur district. Figures highlighted from the above table represent that 100% schools and aganwadi centers are fully equipped with toilet along with water facilities. But during my visit not even a single school was found where toilet units were constructed according to TSC parameters and no aganwadi center was having toilet. In TSC- Total Sanitation Campaign there is a provision of constructing child friendly toilet in aganwadi centers, which are running in government buildings. But situation is very pathetic no aganwadi center is having facilities of toilet with functional water supply, whether it is running in government premise or in a rented room.

In every table from 01 to table 04 statuses of institutional toilets is near about same representing around more 95% coverage of toilets in schools and aganwadi too, if the condition is what the data available is showing then why students are going outside for toilet, why girls reaching to the puberty are leaving education or absenteeism rate during menstruation are high comparatively normal days. All these question states that situation is not in accordance with the reports in paper, to complete target government officials upgrade status of their district, which is visible from the reports in form of table obtained from government website.

SUGGESTIONS:

Incinerators and sanitary napkin vending machines in schools and **menstrual health and hygiene education program** can decrease the drop out cases of adolescent girls from schools.

There is norm to build Incinerator attached with girl's toilet in higher secondary and senior secondary schools, for convenience and maintenance of privacy of any girl. A girl wants to change or dispose the used napkin she can do it without any shyness or hesitation, because throwing or disposing the napkin is also a big problem in absence of incinerator. Some of the states as Tamil Nadu have set an example of best practices in TSC focusing and working on the need of adolescent girls as provision of Incinerator and also providing them facility of napkin vending machine. Incinerators are the innovative low cost technology for proper disposal of sanitary wastes which is simple, safe and cost effective. The incinerator burns/incinerates wastes like soiled cloth, cotton waste, sanitary napkins, paper towels etc., the waste gets converted into ash and other non-hazardous residues. The incinerator is user friendly and manually operated. This is very cost- effective and the expenditure is around Rs.1200 -1500/- only. This simple addition to the toilets is highly appreciated by girls and teachers. The use of incinerator has removed the inhibitions among girls on attending schools during menstruation and has made them comfortable attending the school during those days. There are also no blockages of toilets due to sanitary waste disposal into the toilets. With such low investment required for incinerators, schools can install such technology in toilets for better disposal of sanitary waste to check health hazards and subsequently ensure clean toilets and healthy learning environment for children especially girls.

Just like Incinerators a **vending machine for napkins** is also a remarkable achievement for government to make girls feel free and easy if their periods come while they are in school.

It is the ground reality that there is no provision of arrangement for sanitary napkins in schools colleges and universities whether in rural or urban areas. In India, toilets and sanitary practices have been given always the least priority. Vending machine in schools can help girls and lead to minimize the absenteeism to some extent.

Menstrual health and hygiene program should be an essential component of school curriculum; through this program need of adolescent girls can be met. Counseling services along with informing and educating girls about their menstrual health- knowing their own body and their functions and hygiene maintenance will lead girls to understand myths about menstruation and build confidence in them. Knowledge and facilities necessary for good menstrual hygiene is a key to the girl's dignity, privacy, educational achievement and their health. Adolescent girls can be empowered through improved menstrual hygiene management. There is need for an awareness campaigns for mothers and caregivers. Student friendly school atmosphere is prerequisite of today's education system to minimize and control drop-out of students especially of girls reaching their adolescent stage.

CONCLUSION:

Toilets are not adapted to the needs of the children in particular adolescent girls. Latrines are locked because children are not trusted to use them properly –teachers keep them for personal use only. Schools provide an excellent opportunity for children and parents to learn about healthy hygiene practices. There is an urgent need for adequate, well-maintained water supply and hygiene facilities which include proper toilets and hand washing basins in schools all across India. Inadequate water supply and sanitation in schools are health hazards and affect school attendance, retention and educational performance. School after family plays vital role in cognitive, creative and social development of children. Schools are learning laboratories where habits of good sanitation practices, personal health and hygiene can go a long way in inculcating these habits when they become adults. Children are the best change agents influencing their parents and community. In order to reduce wastage and improve the efficiency of education system, the educational planners need to understand these problems and identify the social groups that are more susceptible to dropout and the reasons for their dropping out.

The Supreme Court of India passed directives to all States and Union Territories in 2011 for providing toilet facility in all government schools by the November 2011. This is one of the major hindrance in exercising the right to free and compulsory education of children which is a fundamental right in Article 12 A. The deadline given by the Supreme Court for construction of toilet in all schools has been passed and till date only 58.82% schools in all over India have separate toilet facility for girls and boys. Focus should be given on sustainability of the constructed units in schools which can only be ensured when constructed units are used properly and maintained effectively in which participation of students and IEC plays prominent role. IEC- Information Education and Communication is a software component in TSC with an objective to make people aware, sensitize towards sanitation and ensure proper utilization and maintenance of constructed units in form of IHHL, Institutional Toilets- School and Aganwadi Toilets, Community Complex and Solid liquid waste management (SLWM). Availability and accessibility of sanitation services is a right of every person and specially females. Drop out of

adolescent girls can only be controlled when this group needs are given preference and met according to their convenience. Development of nation can be achieved through women education and education itself leads to empowerment.

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