Poverty and Social Impact Analysis of Stipend Program for Secondary School Girls of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Vaqar Ahmed, Muhammad Zeshan, Muhammad Tahir Ali

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Corresponding Author (zeshan@sdpi.org)
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1. Introduction

The provincial government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa initiated a stipend program in 2007, which aimed to increase female secondary school enrolments. The target area of this program comprised seven backward districts, such as Batagram, Bonair, Hangu, Kohistan, Shangla, Tank, and Upper Dir. Stipend money of Rs 200 per month was given to each girl from the year 2006 onwards (between class 6-10). A preliminary analysis indicates that educational gender gap is much high at all levels of education, including primary, middle and high. For an indepth analysis, the present study has also conducted the household surveys and employed Probit regression technique. Table 1, as mentioned below, specifies some basic facts of education system in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Level</th>
<th>No. of Schools</th>
<th>Participation Rate</th>
<th>Budget Allocation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>14,600</td>
<td>7,583</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Class 1-5)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle</td>
<td>1,436</td>
<td>920</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Class 6-8)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>1,069</td>
<td>310</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Class 9-10)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: PC-1 Document, 2011

2. Issues Highlighted in the Stipend Program

This research highlights the following important issues related to the stipend program.

- Impact of outputs and outcomes associated with the program
3. Key Research Findings

Based on its survey findings and regression results, our research highlights the following facts:

- 93% households have availed the stipend program
- 35% girls might drop-out in the absence of stipend money
- 80% of the households were aware of the stipend program
- 84% households has reported that schools provide basic facilities like furniture, chairs, tables and desks
- 94% female schools have trained and qualified teaching staff
- Communal constraints restrict 14% girls to attend the secondary school
- Finacial constraints increase school dropouts by 32%
- Household work and non-farm activities increase school drop-outs by 10%.
- Female schooling decreases by 0.7% with an additional family member.
- One additional year of education of household head increases the chances of female schooling by 1.8%.
- One additional year of education of household head’s spouse increases the chances of female schooling by 3.3%. 

Change(s) required in program design and compensatory schemes to enhance the progress
Transmission channels and their capacity to reach the poor
Role played by the program in reducing the gender gap in educational indicators
Monitoring & evaluation mechanism in the program
Process of stipend distribution
The chances of female schooling decreases by 2.8% if the distance of home from school increased by 1%.

The chances of a female schooling increases by 11% if a family is satisfied with the educational services provided by the school.

A 1% rise in family incomes increases the chances of female education by 0.3%.

Socio-economic awareness of education increases the chances of female education by 5.2%.

Improved economic conditions of a household increase the chances of female education by 4.7%.

Improved economic conditions of an area increase the chances of female education by 1.1%.

4. Recommendations

In the light of its findings, the present study proposes the following recommendations:

- The current procedure of developing annual program (PC-1) is based upon arbitrary assumptions and should be carry out by scientific budgetary forecasting.
- A definite procedure for the monitoring and evaluation of stipend program is required. Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is responsible for laying down clear monitoring and evaluation mechanism for development budget in the province after the 18th Constitutional Amendment.
- It is proposed that a high powered committee should meet before the formulation of PC-I in order to identify the issues, which are causing delays in the receipts of stipend.
- A documented grievance redressal mechanism is needed, which should explain and publicize its output. Transaction costs of grievance redressal can be minimized through the use of IT, toll-free telephone lines and SMS service.
There are no synergies between the stipend program and other transfer programs for school going children in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Systems may be identified through which resource (human, physical and financial) sharing may be possible across transfer programs so that economies of scale could be achieved in service delivery.

The stipend amount did not reach to the needy persons dwelling in terrains with issues of physical access and areas hit by conflict. It still remains a challenge to address the problems of these deprived households.