

2014

BASELINE SURVEY FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS IN WEST BENGAL

STATE FACTSHEET



INTRODUCTION

Child marriage continue to remain one of the most pressing and serious violation of children's rights in the present era. A nexus of multiple socio-economic factors contribute to the persistence of the phenomenon; gender norms and expectations, traditional practices around marriage, safety concerns and family honour, poverty, limited educational and livelihood opportunities and the poor implementation of the law prohibiting child marriage¹. Significantly this malpractice challenges children's right to health, education, protection and development. Though child marriage affects both adolescent boys and girls, the impact and intensity on girls is undoubtedly more pronounced. Further the strong correlation between child marriage and the increased female school drop-out rates in India is also an established fact.

The practice is still widespread in India and the prevalence is even higher among disadvantaged groups, the poorest families and in the rural areas. In this regard the State of West Bengal ranks fifth in the country in terms of the frequency of the reported instances. The districts of Murshidabad, Malda, Birbhum, Purulia, Bankura, Dakshin Dinajpur, South 24 Parganas, Nadia and Cooch Behar are areas with the highest incidence of child marriage and trafficking in the state.²

In view of the above, the Government of West Bengal has launched "**Kanyashree Prakalpa**" – a conditional cash transfer scheme with the aim of promoting a conducive environment for enhancing girls education and improving the status and well-being of the girl child in the state. The programme was initiated to help prevent girls from being married off at a young age by encouraging education, and has benefited almost 9 lakh girls, since its launch in October 2013.

Government of West Bengal felt the need to conduct a baseline survey to estimate approximate number of beneficiaries to be covered under the scheme and also to generate critical information on child marriage, reasons thereof, education and living standards in the household. As a part of its mandate towards advocating child sensitive policies and programmes, UNICEF supported in the formulation of the Kanyashree Prakalpa, its guidelines and advocacy materials as well as communications strategy. Accordingly UNICEF is actively involved in supporting Government of West Bengal in undertaking the Kanyashree baseline survey, 2014.

The baseline survey has been conducted with female adult members of the household, un-married girls (in the age group of 12 – 19 years), mothers and fathers /other caregivers for those girls and all ever-married women aged 15-49 years in the targeted households. The information regarding all the members of the households, socio-economic characteristics of the household has been captured in the household section, while the survey with the unmarried girl children and their parents helps gather an understanding of the current social norms as well as their attitude, behaviour and awareness on the issue of child marriage (such as the legal age of marriage, consequences of child marriage etc) and about the Kanyashree Prakalpa introduced by the Government of West Bengal.

¹ Child Marriage in India – An Analysis of Available Data (2012)

² Kanyashree Portal

A separate questionnaire has been developed to collect information from a schools/educational institutions. All the schools in the selected village/ward has been be contacted to collect the relevant information pertaining to the availability of forms for schemes under KP, their opinion about the long term impact of the scheme, access to MIS data base, provision uploading the form MIS data and the like.

The survey aims to cover all 19 districts in the state with a targeted sample size of 23750 households, 60 percent of which are rural households, while the rest are urban. 50 villages / wards have been selected from each district and 25 households have been selected from each village/ward.

The current factsheet gives information on the key indicators and trends for the **state of West Bengal**.

STATE FACT SHEET - KANYASHREE BASELINE SURVEY IN WEST BENGAL, 2014

Indicators	Total (%)	Rural (%)	Urban (%)	Total (N)	Rural (N)	Urban (N)
Sample Size						
Households				23423	14158	9265
Unmarried girl children in the age-group of 12-19 years				20752	12660	8092
Parents / Guardians of unmarried girl-children aged 12-19 years				18717	11315	7402
Ever-married women (aged 15-49 years)				22375	13575	8800
Estimated number³						
Households				20788130	14053625	6734505
Unmarried girl children in the age-group of 12-19 years				4471678	3122991	1348687
Parents/Guardian of unmarried girl-children aged 12-19 years				4028831	2805051	1223780
Ever-married women (aged 15-49 years)				18241427	12598515	5642912
Household Profile						
Mean household size (No.)	4.1	4.2	4.1			
Households having electricity	93.3	91.1	97.7	19388666	12807091	6581575
Households living in a katcha house ⁴	36.0	47.6	11.8	7483916	6691845	792070
Households living in a pucca house ⁵	32.5	22.3	53.6	6752384	3140694	3611691
Households having access to any improved toilet facility	71.7	62.6	90.6	14899712	8796157	6103555
Households sharing a toilet	30.0	29.8	30.3	4387851	2551091	1836760
Households having access to improved sources of drinking water	96.5	97.3	94.9	20058611	13667179	6391432
Households possessing a BPL card	33.2	39.3	20.5	6907421	5524100	1383320
Households possessing a ration card	94.1	94.8	92.7	19501292	13285058	6216234

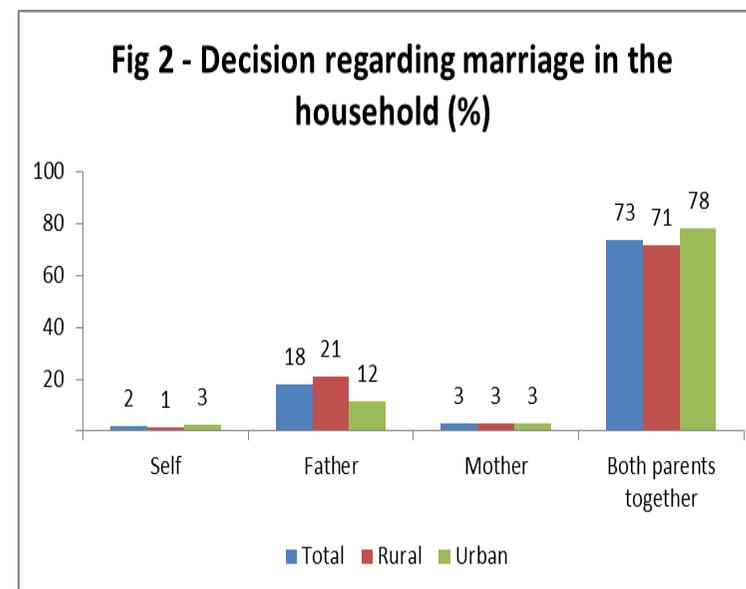
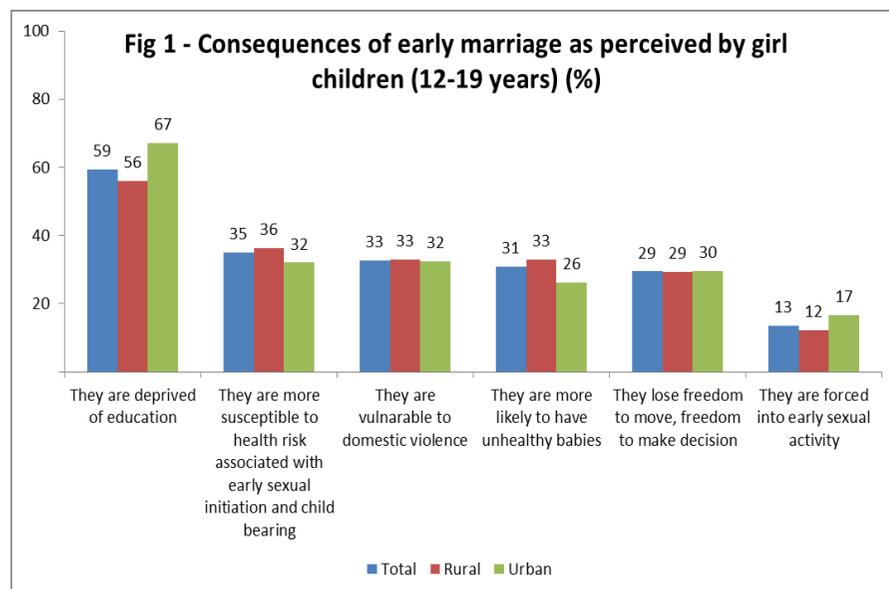
³ Weighted Figure

⁴ A Katcha structure is one whose major portion of walls and roof are made of non-pucca materials. Non-pucca materials include unburnt bricks, bamboo, mud, grass, leaves, reeds, thatch, plastic/polythene, loosely packed stones etc.

⁵ A pucca structure is one whose major portion of walls and roof are made of pucca materials such as cement, concrete, oven burnt bricks, hollow cement / ash bricks, stone, stone blocks, jack boards (cement plastered reeds), iron, zinc or other metal sheets, timber, tiles, slate, corrugated iron, asbestos cement sheet, veneer, plywood, artificial wood of synthetic material and polyvinyl chloride (PVC) material

Indicators	Total (%)	Rural (%)	Urban (%)	Total (N)	Rural (N)	Urban (N)
Households having a bank account	80.4	77.4	86.6	16713039	10879162	5833876
Households having a post office account	13.1	13.6	12.1	2729207	1914622	814584

Indicators	Total (%)	Rural (%)	Urban (%)	Total (N)	Rural (N)	Urban (N)
Early Marriage and Pregnancy⁶						
Mean age at first marriage	19.1	18.4	20.4			
Median age at first marriage	18.0	18.0	20.0			
Women married below 18 years	31.1	36.5	21.1	660424	505121	155303
Women who were pregnant before 18 years	20.1	24.5	11.8	305528	243886	61642
Mean age at first live birth	20.7	20.0	22.0			
Median age at first live birth	20.0	20.0	21.0			



⁶ Reference period – Women married after 2009

Indicators	Total (%)	Rural (%)	Urban (%)	Total (N)	Rural (N)	Urban (N)
Knowledge on legal age / Laws of Marriage						
Girls having correct knowledge on the legal age of marriage for girls	79.3	79.0	79.8	3544005	2467476	1076529
Girls having correct knowledge on the laws and acts on child marriage	69.7	67.5	74.6	3115809	2109389	1006420
Birth Registration						
Children less than 5 years whose birth have been registered	92.2	92.2	92.1	5746653	4231998	1514655
Children less than 5 years having a birth registration certificate (out of those registered)	97.9	97.8	98.0	5625913	4140994	1484919
Engagement of children in any work						
Children (5-18 years) engaged in any work outside the family ⁷	7.3	6.6	9.1	1644619	1054849	589770
Children (5-18 years) engaged in any domestic chores	38.6	40.8	33.3	8689329	6536939	2152391
Children (5-18 years) engaged in any form of paid work for the household ⁸	5.7	6.5	3.5	1270770	1045402	225368
Average number of hours of engagement in any form of work (for children aged 5-18 years)	0.9	1.0	0.6			

⁷ Reference period has been taken as the past 1 year preceding the date of survey

⁸ For the purpose of the survey, 'paid work' refers to any work done other than household chores/ housekeeping to help with family income generation or subsistence production. This may include a diverse range of activities such as raising livestock belonging to the household, working in a family business enterprise or selling food in the street and the like.

Education details (GAR – Gross Attendance Ratio, NAR – Net Attendance Ratio)

Fig 3 - GAR (Girls) (%)

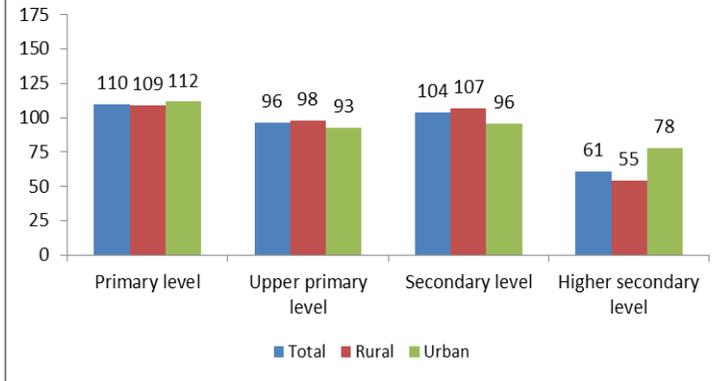


Fig 4 - GAR (Boys) (%)

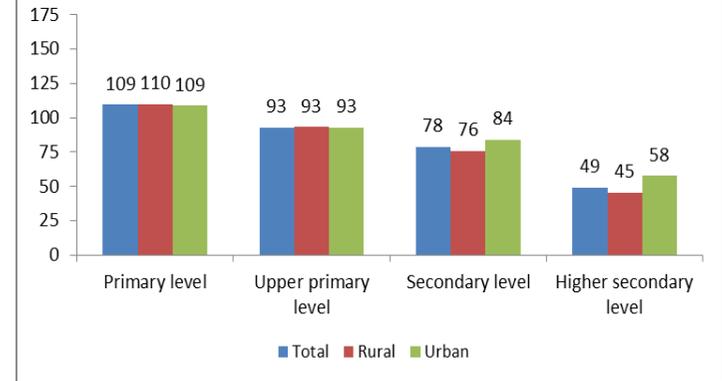


Fig 5 - NAR (Girls) (%)

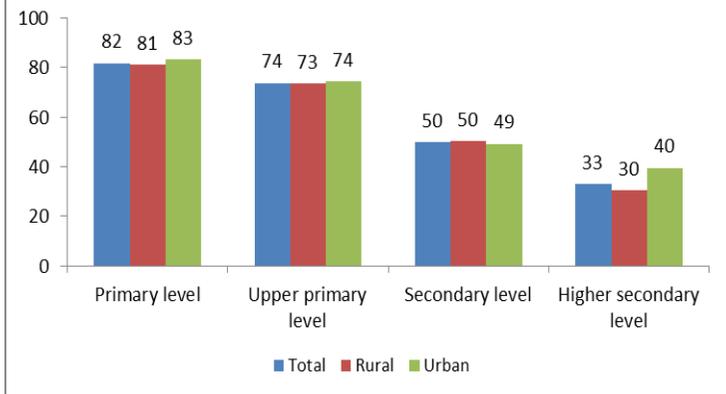
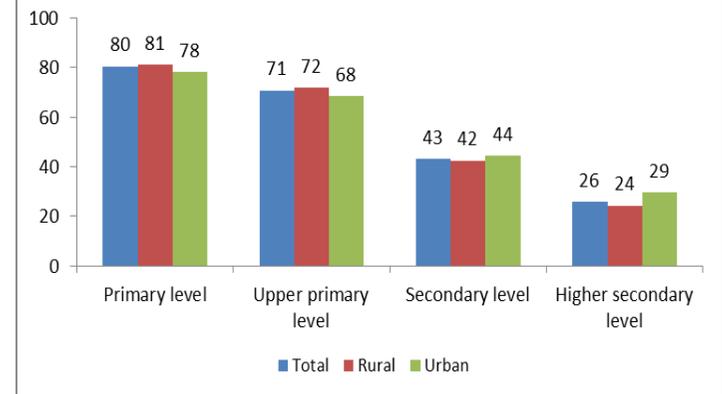
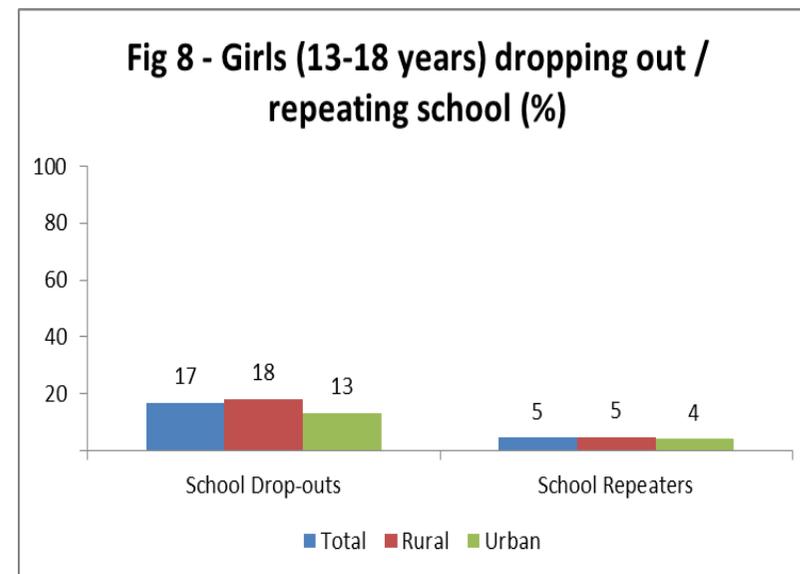
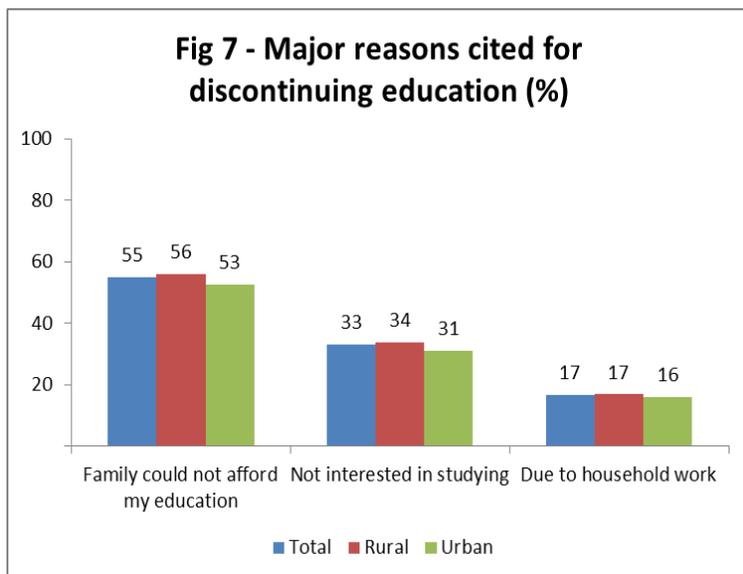


Fig 6 - NAR (Boys) (%)



Indicators	Total (%)	Rural (%)	Urban (%)	Total (N)	Rural (N)	Urban (N)
Current Attendance for Girls						
Girls aged 13-18 years attending schools / other recognised institutions ⁹	79.8	78.9	81.9	3646727	2544575	1102152
Currently out-of-school						
Girls aged 13-18 years who are currently out-of-school	20.2	21.1	18.1	924896	681841	243055

Discontinuing education / Drop-outs / Repeaters



⁹ This includes Madrasas as well as recognized vocational institutions

Indicators	Total (%)	Rural (%)	Urban (%)	Total (N)	Rural (N)	Urban (N)
Scheme Implementation Related Indicators						
Awareness of KP						
Girls who have heard about the scheme	89.2	90.0	87.5	3990796	2811113	1179683
Parents/guardian who have heard about the scheme	79.9	79.4	80.9	3218196	2227974	990222

Fig 9 - Major sources of information for girls (%)

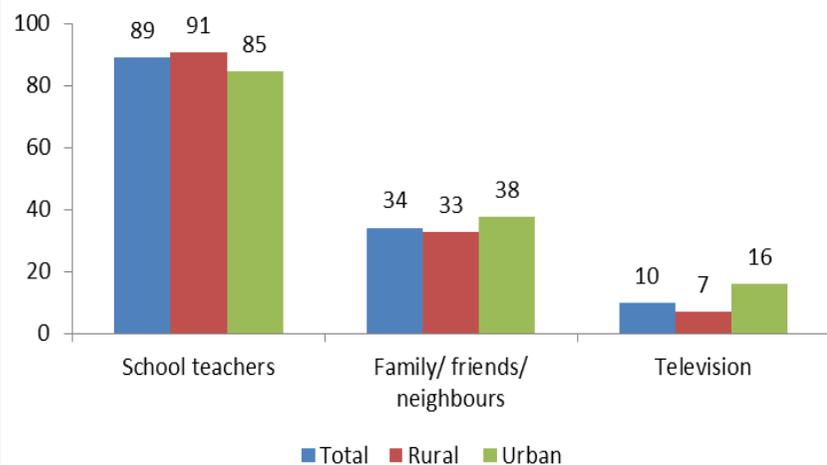
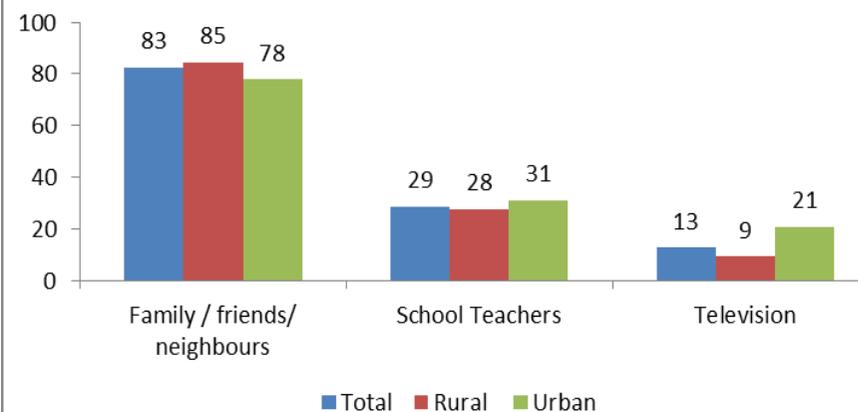


Fig 10 - Major sources of information for parents (%)



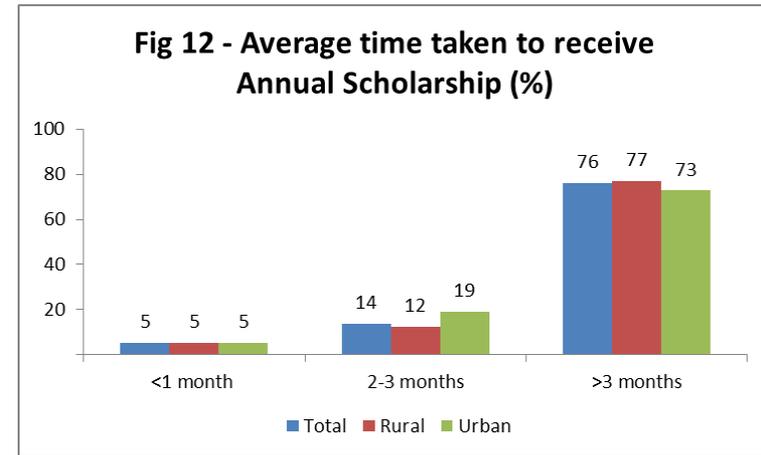
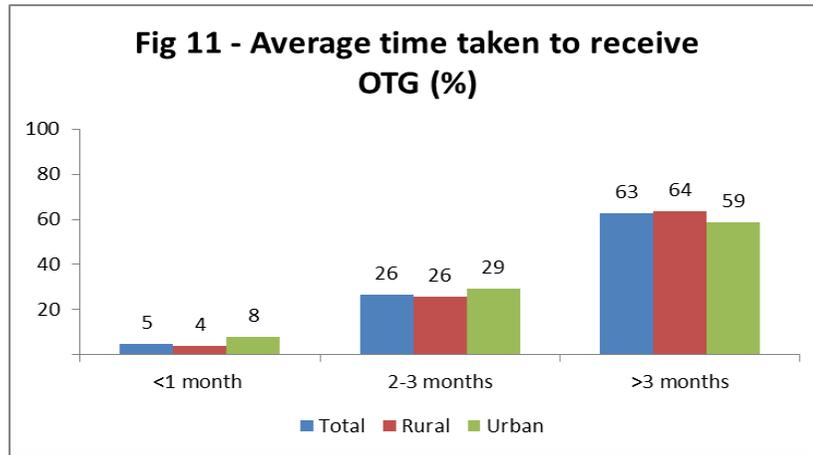
Indicators	Total (%)	Rural (%)	Urban (%)	Total (N)	Rural (N)	Urban (N)
ONE TIME GRANT						
Eligible girls for OTG ¹⁰ in the current year (2014-15)	33.3	33.0	34.1	296746	203806	92940
Girls having correct knowledge about the eligibility criteria	76.7	76.0	78.3	2078593	1476928	601665
Girls aware of the documents required for OTG ¹¹	98.0	97.9	98.5	285153	231112	54041
Girls who had received OTG in the last school year (2013-14)	15.3	15.3	15.3	44433	36061	8372
Girls who had applied for OTG in the current school year (2014-15)	63.9	64.1	62.9	157473	128253	29220
Girls who had received OTG in the current school year (2014-15)	9.9	9.7	10.5	15580	12498	3081
Intention to apply in the current school year (those who have never applied) (2014-15)	60.5	57.4	72.5	48242	36398	11844
ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP						
Eligible girls for Annual Scholarship ¹² in the current year (2014-15)	84.8	89.2	74.2	2219057	1647403	571654
Girls having correct knowledge about the eligibility criteria	74.7	74.3	75.7	2025639	1443682	581957
Girls aware of the documents required for Annual Scholarship ¹³	98.6	98.8	98.2	1696330	1239017	457313
Girls who had received Annual Scholarship in the last school year (2013-14)	38.4	38.4	38.5	660970	481818	179152
Girls who had applied for Annual Scholarship in the current school year (2014-15)	58.0	60.7	50.9	997521	760704	236817
Girls who had received Annual Scholarship in the current school year (2014-15)	29.5	31.0	24.9	294711	235708	59003
Intention to apply in the current school year (those who have never applied) (2014-15)	87.5	86.8	89.2	585098	399060	186038

¹⁰ Girls of 18 years, pursuing any kind of education and monthly income less than Rs.10000 has been considered

¹¹ Out of those who have correct knowledge on the eligibility criteria of One Time Grant

¹² Girls in the age group of 13-18 years, enrolled in grades 8-12 and monthly family income <Rs.10000 has been considered

¹³ Out of those who have correct knowledge on the eligibility criteria of Annual Scholarship



Indicators	Total (%)	Rural (%)	Urban (%)	Total (N)	Rural (N)	Urban (N)
Beneficialty of the Scheme						
Parents / Guardians reporting that the scheme is beneficial ¹⁵	98.9	98.9	99.1	1272998	921781	351217
Girls reporting that the scheme is beneficial ¹⁶	99.4	99.4	99.6	2012719	1495131	517588
Income Certificate						
Households (out of those who have ever applied for OTG) reporting to have any income certificate duly authorised by the competent authority	27.7	30.6	15.7	54152	48150	6002
Households (out of those who have ever applied for Annual Scholarship) reporting to have any income certificate duly authorised by the competent authority	26.6	29.3	20.2	268615	207234	61381

¹⁴ Average time taken to receive Annual Scholarship has been calculated out of those girls who have received Annual Scholarship in the previous school year

¹⁵ Out of the parents/guardian of the girls who have applied for either OTG or Annual Scholarship

¹⁶ Out of the girls who have applied for either OTG or Annual Scholarship

Disability Status						
Girls aged 13-18 years who are physically handicapped	0.7	0.8	0.5	29320	23538	5782
Girls aged 13-18 years who have any disability certificate ¹⁷	61.4	58.0	75.4	18012	13650	4362
Indicators	Total (%)	Rural (%)	Urban (%)	Total (N)	Rural (N)	Urban (N)
Money Transfer						
Girls who had applied for OTG						
Girls who reported to have a bank account	93.5	93.0	95.8	182843	146204	36639
Girls who did not receive pass book from the bank	15.9	18.7	4.8	29054	27293	1761
Girls who did not receive any support while opening bank account	8.6	9.6	4.7	15810	14099	1711
Girls who had applied for Annual Scholarship						
Girls who reported to have a bank account	97.0	97.5	95.8	980096	689496	290600
Girls who did not receive pass book from the bank	11.3	12.4	8.8	110848	85321	25527
Girls who did not receive any support while opening bank account	6.4	6.6	5.8	62694	45707	16987
Difficulties faced while applying for / receiving grants from Kanyashree						
Girls facing concerns related to availability of documents or certification	4.6	4.8	4.0	92662	71976	20686
Facility Survey						
Number of institutions which reported not receiving sufficient forms for Kanyashree (out of 275 institutions surveyed)				97	55	42
Number of institutions having access to Kanyashree MIS database (out of those institutions which reported of having an internet connection)				186	98	88

¹⁷ Out of those who are physically handicapped