

Evaluation of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya in Assam with Special Reference to its Management

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Abstract

The Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) scheme was introduced by the Government of India in August 2004, then integrated in the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan program, to provide educational facilities for girls belonging to scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, other backward classes, minority communities, and families below the poverty line in educationally backward blocks in India. The present study presented a detailed analysis of the management system of the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV). The findings of the study revealed that the monitoring from different sources was not satisfactory. Therefore, convergence with different organizations and schemes is to be developed for strengthening the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya and also for proper implementation of the programme.

Keywords : evaluation, Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya, management

JEL Classification : H5, H75, Y3

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The Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) scheme was introduced by the Government of India in August 2004, then integrated in the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan program, to provide educational facilities for girls belonging to scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, other backward classes, minority communities and families below the poverty line in educationally backward blocks in India. Gender disparities still persist in rural areas and among disadvantaged communities in India. Looking at enrollment trends, there remain significant gaps in the enrollment of girls at the elementary level as compared to boys, especially at the upper primary levels. The objective of KGBV is to ensure that quality education is feasible and accessible to the girls of disadvantaged groups of society by setting up residential schools with boarding facilities at the elementary level (Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya, n.d.).

The national commitment to provide free and compulsory education to all children in the 6-14 years age group is now a fundamental right of every child in India after the passing of the Constitution (86th Amendment) Act in December 2002. However, it is seen that the education of the girl child has suffered for many reasons in our society. Reaching out to the girl child is central to the efforts to universalize elementary education in our country. The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) or 'Education for All' programme recognizes that ensuring girls' education requires changes not only in the education system, but also in societal norms and attitudes. To target pockets where education of girls is lagging behind, the Government of India launched the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) in 2004. The aim is to reach out to girls from marginalized social groups in over 3282 educationally backward blocks throughout the country, where the female rural literacy is below the national

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average, and the gender gap in literacy is above the national average. The SSA state implementation society is the implementing agency of the KGBV at the state level. Therefore, funds for this programme are routed through the SSA society of the state. At the state level, a 'Gender Coordinator' is appointed, who looks after the KGBVs. In states where the Mahila Samakhya (MS) programme is operational, the SSA society may give preference to the MS Society for starting the KGBVs. The management of the KGBVs in the country is given to the SSAs, MS, or NGOs. In Assam, the KGBVs are started by the SSA. Training for teachers and staff at the residential schools is coordinated by the District Institutes of Educational Training (DIET), Block Resource Centres (BRCs), and the Mahila Samakhya Resource Groups (MSRGs). An advisory state level coordination committee / state resource group (SRG) provides direction and support to the programme. This group consists of nominees from relevant state government departments, government of India, experts in the field of girls education, educationists, and so forth.

Literature Review

Kumar (2010) expressed that the institutionalization of the KGBV scheme is not going to be easy. Expansion and improvement of quality are major challenges. Mainstreaming of the KGBV alumni is also a difficult task, given the aggressive ethos which characterizes co-educational secondary schools. Recognition of KGBVs as institutions capable of creating a new generation of women leaders and scholars in rural India ought to become a policy goal. The NCERT has formulated a plan to reserve a few scholarships for them in the National Talent Search examination, but the proposal is still pending with the Human Resource Development (HRD) Ministry. If the Women and Child Development (WCD) Ministry decides to join the pool of resources available for the development of KGBVs, the outcome could well end the impasse one notices in many spheres of women's education and welfare.

Chaudhari, Awasthi, Amin, and Ragi (2012) conducted a study to ascertain the impact of KGBVs on education of girls. The findings of the study revealed that the regularity in maintenance of records was not observed in many places, which reflects the lack of concern from the authorities' side too. Most of the teachers stated that they got academic support from the district, cluster resource center coordinator (CRCC), block resource center coordinator (BRCC), and so forth in form of guidance as and when needed. The teachers also revealed that they received training regarding teaching learning material usage, training regarding teaching learning process, and feedback regarding the same.

Deputy Director Planning (2012) conducted a physical verification in Bhagwah Tehsil, Doda, Jammu & Kashmir and an important fact which the warden brought to light was that a number of applications received from eligible students in the KGBV during the current year had to be turned down just because the approved strength of 50 students had already been achieved. The purpose of implementing the KGBV scheme is to stop drop out of girls belonging to SC/ST families from middle schools. In case the number of eligible applicants is more than the approved strength, then some mistakes seem to have been committed by the state/central government authorities in the education department in fixing the target of 50 for this particular village/educational backward block.

Ullas (2013) suggested providing security for girls enrolled in KGBV, and in this regard, the SSA asked the authorities of residential schools to enhance the security measures for the girl children. In a circular by the state project director to KGBV, the department instructed them to issue identity cards for girls, install CCTVs at gates, appoint security guards at the gate, and give them training in karate or other self defense techniques. A girl student protection committee was to be formed under the Block Education Office (BEO) in the taluk level and the District Programme Officer in district levels.

Objective of the Study

As this massive programme was implemented for the empowerment of girls, therefore, a need was felt to evaluate the management of the KGBVs. Hence, the present research was conducted from January 1, 2013 to August 31, 2013. The objective of the present study is to evaluate the management system in the KGBVs.

Methodology

A multi stage sampling design was adopted for the study. The sampling units in different stages were the state, districts, and KGBVs in Assam. The six districts namely, Dibrugarh, Sibsagar, Lakhimpur, Nagoan, Kamrup, and Barpeta district were selected purposively for the study. The main reason for selection of these areas was to study the KGBVs of Upper Assam, Middle Assam, and Lower Assam and to fulfill the criteria of representing the entire scenario of Assam. A total number of nine KGBVs were selected for the study ; one KGBV each in Dibrugarh, Sibsagar, Lakhimpur, Nagoan ; two KGBVs in Kamrup ; and three KGBVs in Barpeta districts . Purposive sampling technique was used for the present study. In all the nine KGBVs of the selected districts, all the wardens, teachers, caretakers, and staff were included to evaluate the management system in the KGBVs.

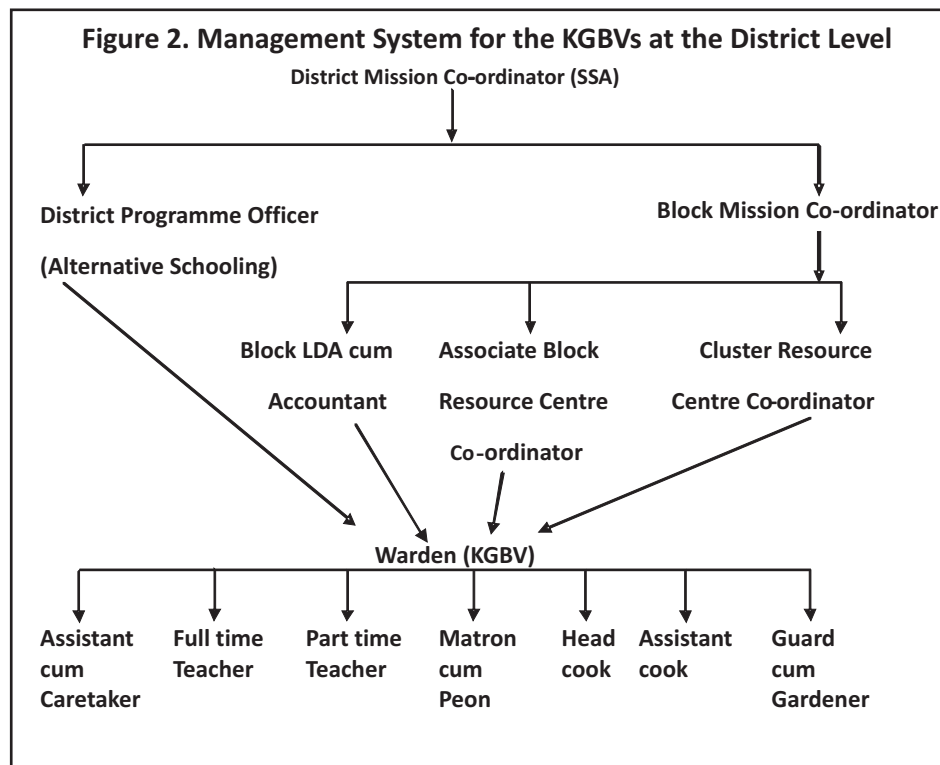
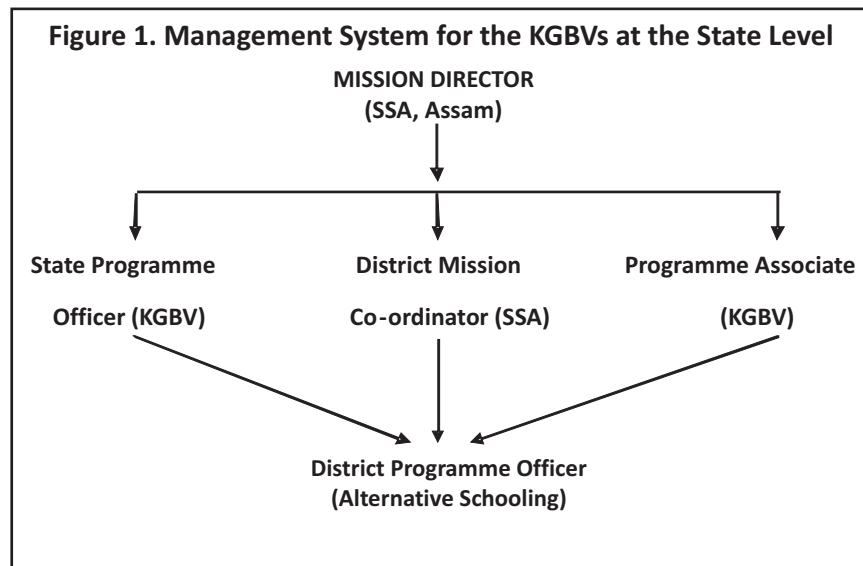
To elicit specific information, a self structured interview scheduled was prepared. The scheduled contained both open-and close-ended questions. I collected the data initially from the State Mission Office of SSA Assam from the State Programme Officer (SPO) of the KGBV component. The collected data was organized, coded, consolidated, and tabulated by using Microsoft excel sheet and were analyzed systematically. The preliminary analytical devices expressed in frequency and percentages were used in the evaluation of the management of the KGBVs. The field work was carried for a period of eight months starting from January 2014 to August 2014.

Results and Discussion

Although at the district level, the Head of the SSA is District Mission Co-ordinator, and at the block level, the Head of the SSA is Mission Co-ordinator, but when the respondents were asked about the in charge of the KGBVs, 100% expressed the Head to be the District Programme Officer, Alternative Schooling, DPO (AS). DPO (AS) is known to be the in charge of the KGBVs in the districts because he /she is the person responsible for the AS component, and the KGBs come under this component. As per the responsibilities entitled by the State Mission Office, the DPO (AS) is to look after the well being and proper functioning of the KGBV component. Moreover, for the smooth functioning of the KGBVs in the districts, the responsibilities were entitled to each of the functionaries as depicted in the Figures 1 and 2.

The Table 1 shows that only 11.11% of the in-charges visited the KGBVs daily, 11.11% visited weekly, and 11.11% of the in-charges visited the KGBVs once in two months. A majority (77.77%) of the in-charges visited the KGBVs as and when required. This may be because the KGBVs are mostly located in the interior places and it requires a lot of time to travel to these locations. Also, the condition of the roads is not good. Therefore, frequent visit to these places is not easy. However, it was observed that more detailed, in-depth, and frequent monitoring of KGBVs is needed. A transparent system for their monitoring needs to be evolved (along with a checklist). The checklist should include all the aspects such as enrolment, teachers' recruitment, dropouts and living conditions, safety of the girls, and supply of essential commodities. Therefore, with effective support, the in-charges should visit the KGBVs frequently for their smooth functioning.

From the Table 2, it can be inferred that 55.55% of the DPO (AS) monitored the functioning of the KGBVs followed by 11.11%, who provided training to the teachers, and 33.33% provided training to the wardens and staff, and only 11.11% provided training to the assistants cum caretakers. However, when I discussed with



different functionaries of the KGBVs, it was revealed that most of them did not have clarity about the KGBV program, and there was no clear understanding of its missions and goals. The teachers and the staff also expressed their views that they required more training and orientation in this field. Therefore, the DPO (AS) being the in - charge of the component should take the initiative to provide some need-based training for the staff and teachers of the KGBVs ; 33.33 % of the respondents also expressed that the DPO (AS) provided support in evaluating the programme of the girls in the KGBVs, and 33.33 % also took the initiative to bring the girls into the mainstream from the KGBVs. The DPO (AS) did not take up the sole responsibility of the KGBVs

Table 1. Distribution of Responses on Visit of In charge in KGBVs

Visit of Incharge in KGBVs	Frequency (N =9)	(%)
How often the in charge visits the KGBVs		
Daily		
Yes	1	11.11
No	8	88.88
Weekly		
Yes	1	11.11
No	8	88.88
Monthly		
Yes	0	0
No	9	100
Bi-monthly		
Yes	1	11.11
No	8	88.88
Whenever required		
Yes	7	77.77
No	2	22.22

Table 2. Distribution of the Responses on Providing Support in the KGBVs

Support in the KGBVs	Frequency (N = 9)	(%)
Monitor the functioning of KGBVs		
Yes	5	55.55
No	4	44.44
Provide training to teachers		
Yes	1	11.11
No	8	88.88
Provide training to wardens		
Yes	3	33.33
No	6	66.66
Provide training to staff		
Yes	3	33.33
No	6	66.66
Provide training to assistants cum caretakers		
Yes	1	11.11
No	8	88.88
Evaluate the program for girls in KGBVs		
Yes	3	33.33
No	6	66.66
Mainstream girls from KGBVs		
Yes	3	33.33
No	6	66.66

as many functionaries such as the teachers, staff, and wardens are involved in the KGBVs along with the block-level functionaries such as the Block Mission Coordinator and others. Therefore, the responsibilities were divided among all of them regarding evaluating the programme and mainstreaming the girls. It was also observed that the DPO (AS) were not much involved at the grassroots level due to various work pressures at the district level.

The teaching-learning needs of the girls in the KGBVs are a challenge and also an opportunity. As the girls have a break in their schooling due to family or other circumstances, and they all come from poor families and villages which are educationally backward, it is, therefore, expected that such girls will likely be lagging behind academically. Therefore, the programme officer should take innovative strategies to make the KGBV a model school, where it could be effectively and visibly demonstrated that educational backwardness of many generations could be overcome, and girls could be made into role models.

The KGBVs provide multidimensional opportunities to girls who are exploring education for the first time. These girls can become role models in the community and can be visualized as a special cadre of girls who can play a catalytic role in the communities through the message and practices which they take back from the schools and their education. This will not only help them to participate more creatively into their community, but would also make them pioneers in different ways. For this, they will require leadership training, which is required to be integrated into the KGBV curriculum.

From the Table 3, it can be observed that the respondents revealed that the help of the police was not taken to provide security in the KGBVs or to help in enrolling the child labor or dropout girls. Help was also not taken to warn the owners of homes, shops, and factories (who employed child labour) about the consequences of employing young children and not allowing them to go to school. The enrolment of girls was basically done with the help of block-level functionaries. Moreover, in villages, the girls are not engaged as child laborers so such problems - like warning the owners of households, shops, and factories did not arise. Only 14.28% of the respondents revealed that they had taken the help of local police for getting the land for building of KGBVs and 85.71% of the respondents revealed that they had never asked for help from the police because such a situation has not arisen in case of the KGBVs.

Table 3. Distribution of the Involvement of the Local Police in the Functioning of the KGBVs

Help taken of Local Police in the Functioning of the KGBVs	Frequency (N =9)	(%)
To provide security in KGBVs		
No	9	100
Help to enroll the child labor		
No	9	100
Help to enroll the drop out girls		
No	9	100
To warn owners of home who use child labor		
No	9	100
To warn owners of shops who do not allow the girls to go to school		
No	9	100
To warn owners of factories who do not allow the girls to go to school		
No	9	100
Any other	(N =7)	(%)
For land purpose during construction	1	14.28
Not yet required	6	85.71

Table 4. Distribution of the Responses of the Communities' Involvement in KGBVs

Specification of communities' involvement	Frequency (N =9)	Percentage (%)
Attend function in KGBVs	3	33.33
No interference	2	22.22
Cooperative	4	44.44

When the respondents were asked to specify the involvement of the community in the KGBVs, 33.33% expressed that whenever any cultural programs or functions were organized at the KGBVs, the community members generally participated and gave their support. They encouraged the girls and enjoyed their performance. From the Table 4, it can be ascertained that 22% of the respondents said that the community members had never interfered in any of the activities of KGBVs. This was experienced by me during my visit to Chamaria KGBV for data collection. The Chamaria KGBV of Kamrup district was located in a minority dominated area, where the local people were mostly of minority community. All the girls of KGBV were too from a minority community. I participated in a cultural program organized by the KGBV, where 30-40 girls sang a melodious song ("hari rama rama rama ram hari rama rama ram), and the entire community participated in the program to show their support for the girls.

During discussions with the community members, I came to know that the community had welcomed the KGBV. Since the KGBV was a completely free intervention for the girls, it, therefore, was a major attraction for the people.

Sustainability of the KGBVs would emerge from the close community ownership of the KGBVs. Thus, meaningful community participation should be encouraged. The school management committee (SMC) must be constituted for all KGBVs, with at least 50% women members. They should be oriented regarding their roles and responsibilities. Meetings should be recorded and minutes of the meetings should be maintained. They should be involved in decisions regarding the management of the KGBVs and should be a part of the planning and monitoring process of the KGBVs.

Role of Block Functionaries in the Functioning of the KGBVs

When the respondents were asked to specify the role of block-level functionaries, a different view came into the picture from the different KGBVs. Most of the wardens had expressed that the block-level functionaries were cooperative and provided support, whenever required. Most of the teachers and wardens also stated that they got academic support and guidance from the block mission officials, whenever required. On the other hand, 33.33% of the respondents also stated that the role of the block level functionaries was not satisfactory, and 11.11% also expressed that the block accountant asked for a percentage of the fund which they released to the KGBVs. In such matters, conflict was seen among the block functionaries and the KGBV functionaries.

Role of the Gaon Panchayat President and Village Education Committee in Functioning of the KGBVs

When discussed with the respondents of the KGBVs, 100% of the respondents expressed that no involvement of the gaon panchayat and village education committee were found in the KGBVs. They had never come to oversee/inspect the functioning of the KGBVs. This may be because either (a) they were not informed about their roles and responsibilities towards the KGBVs, or (b) they were not interested to come and visit the KGBVs.

The Government of India has formed the local advisory board for the KGBVs comprising of the following

members:

- ↪ Office in-charge of the local police station or police out post,
- ↪ Doctor of the local public health centre / hospital,
- ↪ Local Anchalik panchayat members,
- ↪ Local gaon panchayat president,
- ↪ Local village education committee / tea garden education committee president,
- ↪ Two gaon panchayat members of the area,
- ↪ Additional Block Resource Centre Coordinator of the concerned block,
- ↪ One retired teacher (preferably female),
- ↪ One distinguished citizen/social worker of the concerned area (preferably female).

The main function of the advisory board is to monitor the day to day activities of KGBVs and to provide academic support to the teaching staff as well as the girls, monitor health and hygiene issues of the girls, and coordinate and support the centre on emergency issues. But from the findings, it was revealed that the monitoring of the KGBVs from different sources and organizations was not satisfactory. Therefore, convergence with different organizations and schemes is to be developed by the DPO (AS) for strengthening the KGBVs and also for proper implementation of the programme.

Role of the District Level Committee in Functioning of the KGBVs

As per the Government of India, a district level committee is to be constituted in all the KGBVs to implement and supervise the activities of the KGBVs. The committee comprises of the following members :

- ↪ District Magistrate (DM) - Chairman,
- ↪ Chief Development Officer - Vice Chairman,
- ↪ Zila Basic Siksha Adhikari/Principal DIET- Member Secretary,
- ↪ District Programme Officer- Member,
- ↪ Principal Govt. Girls Inter College - Member,
- ↪ District Co-ordinator Girls - Member Education,
- ↪ National award teacher nominated by DM - Member,
- ↪ Two voluntary agencies nominated by DM - Member,
- ↪ Representative from Mahila Samakhya in Mahila Samikahya District - Member.

However, from the findings, it was revealed that 100% of the respondents expressed that the committee was not formed properly. Therefore, the role of the committee was not known by the respondents. But all of them had an idea that this committee was formed to monitor the proper functioning of KGBVs and inform the in - charge of the District SSA about its implementation.

On the basis of the report, the effectiveness of the KGBVs is determined ; 66.66% of the respondents expressed that people came for monitoring the KGBVs. When they were asked to be specific, then 22.22% expressed that the Cluster Resource Center Coordinator (CRCC) and Associate Block Resource Center Coordinator (ABRCC) came for the monitoring ; another 22.22% said that the DPO and BMC came for the monitoring ; 11.11% revealed that the student union ; and another 11.11% revealed that officials from UNICEF came in for the monitoring of the KGBVs. The program needed to be checked regularly for appropriate functioning of each unit and also to ascertain that it was not being misused. This would help in keeping a check on the proper utilization of the facilities provided. The recruitment of the staff exclusively for the KGBV functioning will help in better orientation and achievement of the goal of the scheme. This will also reduce the

Table 5. Distribution of the Responses on Contact with Authorities and Satisfaction Levels with the Management

Authority and Management	Frequency (N=9)	Percentage (%)
Contact authority during emergency situation		
Yes	9	100
If yes whom	Frequency (N =12)	Percentage (%)
DPO	8	66.66
BMC	3	25
DMC	1	8.33
Satisfied with the management system	(N =9)	Percentage (%)
Yes	7	77.77
No	2	22.22
If no, reasons for not being satisfied	(N =4)	Percentage (%)
No response to the problems faced at KGBVs	2	50
No guidelines for fund release	2	50

burden of the CRCC and ABRCC who have to look after other responsibilities on a regular basis. For improvement of the existing status of the KGBVs in the state, monitoring is a major area of concern, which should be efficiently looked often by the in charge of the KGBV component.

From the Table 5, 100% of the respondents expressed that they contacted the concerned authority immediately during any emergency situation. When they were asked to specify whom they contacted first, 66.66% revealed that they contacted the DPO, followed BMC (25%), and then the DMC (8.33%). This was because the DPO is the overall in charge of the KGBV, and he/she is available in the district office when required. He/she is the only person in the district office who is well aware of the guidelines and procedures for running of the KGBVs.

Regarding satisfaction with the management system, 77.77% of the respondents revealed that they were satisfied with the management system and got the required advice and help whenever required. Another 22.22% also expressed that they were not satisfied with the management system and the reasons were that the concerned authorities did not respond to their problems immediately, and they also did not give any advice for resolving the problems, which further created problems in the KGBVs. The budget and guidelines for fund release were also not sent to the KGBVs, which later created problems in the day to day running of the KGBVs. It was observed that during data collection, the respondents, due to fear of loss of job, did not reveal the names of the persons who were creating difficulties. Therefore, the actual person could not be identified in many cases.

Financial Management in KGBVs

When the respondents were asked regarding the norms of monthly expenditure against each girl, 100% of the respondents said that it was ₹ 30 per girl per day. Within this minimum cost, they have to provide food and other materials such as brush, paste, soap, shampoo, and oil for the girls. The total amount of fund was generally transferred into the account of the KGBVs by the concerned block official and later, the caretaker of the KGBVs along with the wardens do the purchasing of food stuff from the shops which are already approved by the district level committee as per SSA norms.

From the Table 6, it can be inferred that 77.77% of the respondents expressed that the grant received by the KGBVs was fully utilized and 22.22% expressed that the grant was not utilized fully. It may be because since the full amount was not transferred to the KGBVs, and the major procurement of goods was done at the block

Table 6. Distribution of the Responses w.r.t the Financial Management of the KGBVs

Financial management	Frequency (N =9)	Percentage (%)
Grant received fully utilized		
Yes	7	77.77
No	2	22.22
Donation from other sources		
Yes	1	11.11
No	8	88.88
Receive funds regularly in KGBVs		
Yes	7	77.77
No	2	22.22
Accountant in KGBVs		
Yes	8	88.88
No	1	11.11
Regularly maintain the accounts		
Yes	9	100
Regularly maintain the cash book		
Yes	9	100
Auditor comes for audit in KGBVs		
Yes	9	100
Detail expenditure register in the KGBVs		
Yes	9	100
Provision of giving travelling allowance to girls of KGBV for to and fro journey from/to their home		
No	9	100

level, therefore, the functionaries were not aware of the matter, and they felt that certain profits were made from the total amount. According to Vashishtha (2008), there was no clarity about the utilization of funds, and therefore, a lot of unspent balance is reported in most of the KGBVs.

Regarding donation, it can be inferred from the Table 6 that only 11.11% of the respondents revealed that donation was given for the KGBVs by the Indian Army. The other KGBVs had never received any donations. Hence, there is a need to strengthen the scheme by adopting a policy of convergence with other schemes in operation and also evolve suitable strategies for mobilizing funds for sustenance of the scheme. The KGBVs should be permitted to ask for some minimum contribution of any kind from parents and the local communities. It could be believed that expecting them to contribute even minimally towards the education of their wards is a reflection of their commitment towards their wards. The system for maintaining a record of such contributions must be developed to make the management accountable, and avoid any misuse of the same.

The KGBV staff felt secure as they were receiving all the required things from the SSA regularly, and therefore, the need for donation was never felt by them. However, a linkage should be developed with some reputed organizations and some international NGOs so that if the funding support is stopped by the GOI or during a crisis, they could approach these organizations and find some resources to sustain their KGBVs and take over the cost of running the KGBVs in the future.

From the Table 6, it can be inferred that 77.77% of the respondents expressed that they received the funds regularly. Sometimes, if the fund flow got delayed due to obvious reasons, then it caused inconvenience at the grassroot level. The common reasons for such delays as stated by the respondents were : (a) delay in submission

of working certificate to GOI, (b) delay in contribution of state share, and so forth ; 88.88% of the respondents also expressed that they had an accountant in the KGBVs and 100% of the respondents also revealed that the accounts and cash books were regularly updated and maintained by the accountants. When I looked at the cash book, I found that all the records were updated, verified, and checked by the block accountant.

The Table 6 also reveals that 100% of the respondents expressed that the auditor came for doing the audit of the KGBVs. But when asked in detail, I was informed that the caretakers of the KGBVs had to update the cash book and all the related documents and take it to the block office and submit for verification by the auditors. This was because as the KGBVs were only for girls, therefore, male persons were not allowed to come and visit the KGBVs. As per the SSA norms, the audit of the KGBVs was to be conducted every year by the chartered accountants appointed by the SSA Mission, Guwahati.

According to the Table 6, 100% of the respondents also expressed that they were regularly maintaining a detailed expenditure register in KGBVs. As per the KGBV guidelines, there should be various registers such as daily cash book, ledger, cheque issue register, bank reconciliation statements, imprest cash book, tender register, file comparative statement register, voucher, bill numbering register, contingency register, TA bill register, statement acquaintance register, stipend register, work done statements register, and so forth. The Table 6 also reveals that there was no provision of giving travelling allowance to the girls of the KGBVs while going and coming from home. They were allowed to go home only during vacations, Eid, Puja, and Bihu holidays when their parents came to take them home. The to and fro expenditure was usually borne by their parents, and sometimes, the girls utilized the money they got as a stipend every month. This stipend helped them to meet their financial needs. The girls can spend the amount as per their discretion, which helps them in terms of decision making and prioritizing the essential needs which help in capacity building in their personal lives also.

When the respondents were asked to specify the financial allocation against the different heads in the KGBVs, the responses were not definite and did not match with one another. Many of the respondents were not aware of the financial allocation allotted under different heads. The wardens and those in - charge of the day to day management needs needed to be made aware of the budget detail and accounting process. The funds for food items and stationeries should be decentralized to the KGBVs by giving detailed guidelines for their expenditure. This would ensure effective use of the funds at the KGBVs.

The grants provided for conducting different activities were found to be sufficient for the KGBVs. However, the amount was not properly utilized at the KGBVs and at the block level. The decentralization of power in case of finance is eventual; it will lead to different kinds of activities happening at the KGBVs. However, it will also require proper monitoring so that the power is not being misused. This would help in keeping a check on the proper utilization of the facilities provided, and procuring of the items required at the KGBVs. Among the respondents, 66.66% expressed that the facilities of Axom Gramin Bikash Bank were utilized for transaction of funds for the KGBVs, 22.22% expressed that the facilities of Allahabad Bank were used, and 11.11% claimed that the facilities of United Bank of India were being utilized.

Suggestions and Conclusion

- (1)** The seat capacity of the KGBVs should not be limited to 50-100. It should be increased to accommodate the increasing numbers of girls.
- (2)** Capacity building of the teachers and more training is required at regular intervals with reference to the content to be taught to the girls and to address the needs of the girls at the KGBVs.
- (3)** The KGBV teachers and staff should be provided with better salary keeping in mind the rising cost of living.

(4) Meeting the parents to motivate and create awareness regarding the importance of education should be done at regular intervals so that they send their daughters to school after studying at the KGBVs. The KGBV functionaries should develop a relationship with the teachers of mainstream schools where the girls are enrolled after completing their stint at KGBVs to get the information and records of the educational status of their girls.

(5) Convergence with different organizations is to be developed by the DPO (AS) so that different need based training can be provided to the teachers from other sources. Many benefits can be received by NRHM and ICDS for the adolescent girls.

(6) The different activities and the provisions under the scheme should be published for awareness generation among the marginalized communities by road shows, videos, posturing, announcements, and so forth. This program should be advertised in the media.

(7) The program and activities of the KGBVs should be closely supervised and monitored for appropriate functioning of each unit, and also to keep a check so that the funds and powers are not being misused.

To make the KGBV scheme a successful one, all the members of the KGBVs at the district level, block level, administration, and guardians will have to work whole heartedly for the same goal in a co-operative manner. They need to respect each other's work, and respect in the management of the KGBV is very much essential. Transparency should be maintained at all levels, and once the members are aware of any malfunctioning/siphoning of funds at any level, the matter should be brought to the notice of the concerned authorities immediately.

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