

A Study of Effectiveness of Stories of Meena in Developing Attitude towards Education of Girl Child in Upper Primary Students



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Abstract

SSA with the help of UNICEF launched a cartoon character named Meena in 1998 as films and story books for students of upper primary level. Stories of Meena are in form of colorful and attractive comic books. Meena is the central character of these stories. Students can get an outline about girl child's rights and status. In the present study the investigator attempted to test the effectiveness of stories of Meena in developing the attitude towards education of girl child in upper primary students. Investigator adopted one group pre test-post test research design. 33 students were selected as the sample by random sampling method. Self made scale of attitude towards education of girl child was used to collect the data. Total 10 story books of Meena were used in the study. One story book was used in a day for reading and discussion. After collection and statistical treatment of data the mean scores of the post- tests were found significantly higher than the mean scores of pre-test in both groups i.e. female and male groups of students of upper primary level. This showed that in both sexes, stories of Meena had significant effect in developing positive attitude towards education of girl child. Therefore from the present study it can be concluded that stories of Meena were found effective in development of the positive attitude towards education of girl child in students of upper primary level.

Keywords: Stories of Meena, Meena manch, Attitude towards Education of Girl Child, Upper Primary Students.

Introduction

To understand and remove the obstacles of education of girl, the Indian government started NPEGEL (national program for education of girls at elementary level). NPEGEL program is constructed for school going and dropout girl child in selected areas. The main objectives of NPEGEL are to modify the level of learning of girl child and to eradicate the discrimination on various parameters between boys and girls. To change the behavioral pattern of community, family and girls towards girl's education, Meena campaign program under the aegis of SSA (Sarv Shiksh Abhiyan) & NPEGEL was started in 1998. In the year 2002 Meena campaign was started as a pilot project under SSA in Uttar Pradesh. SSA with the help of UNICEF launched a cartoon character named Meena in 1998 as films and story books for students of upper primary level. Every year 24th day of September is celebrated as Meena day throughout the country.

Stories of Meena

Stories of Meena are in form of colorful and attractive comic books for spreading in students the desires, dreams, wishes and problems of Meena & the solutions of these problems in getting right to education and equality of opportunity. Meena is the central character of these stories. Meena is an ordinary girl like any other girl of our surroundings. Her life and life situations are like other ordinary girls of our patriarchal Indian society. The problems of Meena are alike any other girl, born in relatively backward and deprived family. Meena is the icon of desire and dreams of deprived girls. Meena stories are centered on the various life situations of girl child. The aims of story books of Meena are to raise the problems related with girl child, to remove the barriers in improving the state of education of girls and to change the backwardness of mentality & thinking patterns of community and families towards girl child. Stories of Meena ask the questions to the community, families and other stake holders, concerning

the status and issues of educational, physical, mental, economic & social development of new generation of girl child in deprived situations.

Students can get an outline about girl child's rights and status. They can also develop competency in themselves to solve the problems of girls through these stories. Through stories of Meena students can understand the feeling and emotional status of those girls, who are in deprived situations. Meena stories do not preach anybody. These stories just spread awareness in students towards the education, rights, duties and true social status of girls & role of girl child in nation building. These stories empower the students to take significant action, to be taken, in making social, cultural, educational and economic positions of girls strong and up to the marked standards. Stories of Meena give opportunities to the girls to learn problem solving, decision making, to raise their voice against gender stereotyping, methods to tell their problems to their family, teachers, community and other stake holders. Stories of Meena also teach the students the behaviors and actions to up lift the social, educational, cultural and economic position of girls in the society like India.

Use of Story Books of Meena in Educational Settings

The use of story books of Meena in educational settings is of vital importance as schools are the center of change with teachers and curriculum, as agents of change. The utility of story books of Meena in school settings may be outlined as under:

1. To make the students aware about advantages of education so that they do not drop the schools until their formal education ends. To develop a positive attitude in students towards education of girl child, so that they can take necessary actions to make other girls join the educational process.
2. To develop self-confidence and competence in students to take necessary steps for changing the attitude of their family and community towards education of girls.
3. To make the girls aware about their rights and duties, so that they may live their future life in a dignified, dutiful and courageous manner.
4. To teach the girls life skills like sanitation, health related good habits, problem solving, decision making etc.

Table-1

Story Books of Meena Having Message about Education of Girl child

1.	Murgiyon Ki Ginti	2.	Kya Meena Ko School Chhodna Padega
3.	Choti Si Dulhan	4.	Betiyan Ki Dekhrehk
5.	Mujhe School AchchaLagtaHai	6.	Ladka Hi Hoga
7.	Dhaunsiye Se Kaun Darta Hai	8.	Ham School Chalen Sang
9.	Meena Aur Cricket	10.	Meena Shahar Mein

Attitude towards Education of Girl Child

An attitude towards education of girl child is a hypothetical construct that depicts in the competence of creating harmony between thinking and action of an individual about the education of girl

Emergence and Significance of the Problem

In the present study the investigator attempted to test the effectiveness of stories of Meena in developing the attitude towards education of girl child in upper primary students. Every research problem emerges either from curiosity or from gap in knowledge. The present research problem is the product of both. Investigator's curiosity was, whether the stories of Meena are effective, in developing attitude towards education of girl child in students of upper primary level. After extensive review of literature the investigator found no study regarding the effectiveness of stories of Meena. Therefore for filling this chasm of knowledge the investigator undertook the present study.

Today's students will be the future parents and the first teachers of their young ones. Therefore it is vital to inculcate in today's students the positive attitude towards education, especially girl child's education. It is of vital importance to develop any intervention program that develop positive attitude in students of all level towards education of girls. Meena campaign program is such kind of intervention program that claims to develop attitude towards education of girls in students of upper primary level through its various activities. Therefore the results of present study shall be useful in establishing credibility and trustworthiness of Meena campaign and story books of Meena with respect to their efforts in developing attitude towards education of girl child in students of upper primary level.

Statement of Problem

A study of effectiveness of stories of Meena in developing attitude towards education of girl child in students of upper primary level.

Definition of Key Terms Used

Stories of Meena

Stories of Meena are in the form of cartoon story books, which are published by Roopayan, New Delhi in the year 2008 with various titles. So far, 24 story books of Meena have been published; out of which 10 story books have the message about the education of girl child. These 10 stories have been used by the investigator in conducting the present study. The titles of the story books, which were used in the present study, are given in table-1

child. This is the individual's intensity of positive and negative feelings about the education of girl child.

Students of Upper Primary Level

Students of upper primary are the students of class 8th of both sexes i.e. female and male, in the

schools recognized by Uttar Pradesh Basic Shiksha Parishad.

Objectives

1. To study the effectiveness of stories of Meena in developing attitude towards education of girl child in female students of upper primary level.
2. To study the effectiveness of stories of Meena in developing attitude towards education of girl child in male students of upper primary level.

Hypothesis

H₀₁

There will be no significant difference between pre test and post test scores of attitude towards education of girl child in female students of upper primary level.

H₀₂

There will be no significant difference between pre test and post test scores of attitude towards education of girl child in male students of upper primary level.

Research Methodology

Keeping in view, the nature of the study, investigator adopted one group pre test-post test research design.

Sample and Sampling Method

33 students (20 female & 13 male) of class 8th (Hindi Medium) of Gyan Convent Public School, Gwari Village, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow (India.) were selected as sample by random sampling method.

Variables of Study

Independent Variable

Stories of Meena

Dependent Variable

Attitude towards education of girl child

Tool Used

The tool used in present study was a self made scale of attitude towards education of girl child. The scale, after item analysis and deleting invalid items, finally was left with 30 items. The scale was a five point scale.

Treatment Given to the Sample and Its Schedule

In the present study the investigator read out the story books of Meena, as treatment, in loud and clear voice in front of the sample of the study i.e. students of class 8th (Hindi Medium) of Gyan Convent Public School, Gwari Village, Gomati Nagar, Lucknow. After listening to the story of Meena, the sample was allowed to discuss about the essence, conclusion, situations, problems and its solutions, the feasibility of solution, and the message of the story. Total 10 story books of Meena were used in the study, as shown in table-1. Only one story book was used in a day for reading and discussion. Total time for complete reading and discussion of a story book of Meena was approximately 40-50 minutes, depending on the content of the story book. Hence total time for treatment was 10 days.

Collection of Data and Statistical Techniques Used in the Study

The data for present study were collected in two phases i.e. before treatment and after treatment by using the self made scale of attitude towards education of girl child. Hence two sets of data i.e. pre treatment data and post treatment data sets of attitude towards education of girl child were prepared by the investigator for both the sexes i.e. male and female for statistical analysis. In present study the investigator used the mean, S.D. and *t*-test for statistical analysis.

Result and Discussion

Table-2: Summary of Mean, S.D. And *t*- Value of Attitude towards Education of Girl Child of Students of Upper Primary Level

S. No.	Group	Mean		S.D.		d.f.	t-Value	Level of significance
		Pre test (M ₁)	Post test (M ₂)	Pre test (σ ₁)	Post test (σ ₂)			
1	Female students (N=20)	74.3	137.95	26.29	7.54	19	11.83	Significant at .01 level (> 2.86)
2	Male students (N=13)	60.30	135.15	20.01	10.17	12	15.27	Significant at .01 level (> 3.06)

From the analysis of table-2 it is clear that mean of the female students of upper primary level in pre test and post test were 74.3 & 137.95 respectively and S.D. of the female students of upper primary level in pre test and post test were 26.29 & 7.54 respectively. At 19 degree of freedom (d.f.) the computed *t*-value (11.83) was higher than the table value (2.86). Hence the null hypothesis (H₀₁) that *there will be no significant difference between pre test and post test scores of attitude towards education of girl child in female students of upper primary level* was rejected. Similarly mean of the male students of upper primary level in pre test and post test were 60.30 & 135.15 respectively and S.D. of the male students of upper primary level in pre test and post test were 20.01 & 10.17 respectively. At 12 degree of freedom (d.f.) the computed *t*-value (15.27) was higher than

the table value (3.06). Hence the null hypothesis (H₀₂) that *there will be no significant difference between pre test and post test scores of attitude towards education of girl child in male students of upper primary level* was rejected.

The mean scores of the post- tests were found significantly higher than the mean scores of pre-test in both groups i.e. female and male groups of students of upper primary level. This showed that in both sexes, stories of Meena had significant effect in developing positive attitude towards education of girl child. Children love to listen to stories. Stories of Meena very impressively and creatively presents the situation and problems regarding education of girl child in front of story listener or reader. The way of communication, the use of appropriate words, the confident dialogues of story books of Meena may

affect magically the listeners and readers of the stories. The point of view in stories of Meena, the exciting and listener's attention capturing drama with emotional content in stories of Meena may be the reason of the results.

Godbole (1988) concluded that story telling had a positive effect in developing personality for wide variety of people irrespective of their intelligence and linguistic skills. Same results were found by Majumdar (1990) that the experimental group, which treated with the story telling, was found significantly better in academic performance and conceptual development from control group. These results favor the result of present study. Therefore from the present study it can be concluded that stories of Meena were found effective in development of the positive attitude towards education of girl child in students of upper primary level.

Educational Implications

As we all know that in India story telling is the most powerful tool used by our parents and grandparents for developing values, morality, ethics and other good virtues in the young generation from early days. Stories of Meena are doing the same job. In the light of the conclusion of the present study, stories of Meena are found effective in developing the positive attitude towards education of girl child in students of upper primary level. More stories comprising other burning issues of Indian scenario can be raised through Meena stories or in form of any other intervention program, which has its content to be presented in a child friendly manner, will be very effective in searching the solutions. The conclusion of present study suggests the stake holders of education to embrace the story telling as an effective strategy to solve problems regarding education of girl child or other relevant issues and in developing values, morality, ethics and other good virtues in the young generation.

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