Impact of Extension Activities in Sensitizing Students to Social Issues and Holistic Development

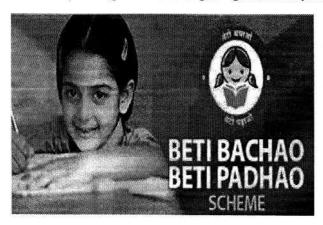
Case Study 5

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Girl Child Education Drive

Organized by:

Shobhit University, Gangoh, Saharanpur

Shobhit University, Gangoh, in alignment with its commitment to inclusive growth and nation-building, actively organized a **Girl Child Education Awareness Campaign** under the umbrella of the national movement "**Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (Save the daughter, Educate the daughter)**". This drive was not just an awareness campaign, but a vibrant and participatory outreach initiative that brought students, faculty, schools, and community members together to address one of India's most pressing social challenges—**gender inequality in education**.



Purpose and Relevance:

Addressing Gender Disparity in Education: In many parts of rural and semi-urban India, including regions around Gangoh, girls often face multiple barriers to accessing quality education—ranging from social stigma and early marriage to lack of support and infrastructure. This campaign was initiated to challenge such deep-rooted beliefs and practices.

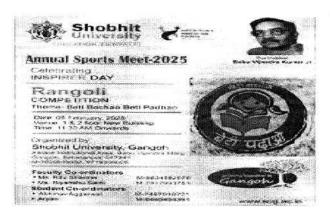
Fostering Social Responsibility Among Students: Through active participation, university students developed a better understanding of social inequalities and the importance of gender equity. The campaign served as a practical platform to instil empathy, civic duty, and ethical leadership.

Bridging University and Community: By stepping out of classrooms and engaging with local schools, panchayats, and families, students became real-life change agents. The initiative aimed to **connect academic knowledge with grassroots realities**, creating a ripple effect of awareness and change.

Objectives of the Girl Child Education Drive:

 Raise Awareness about Girl Child Rights: To spread knowledge regarding the fundamental rights of the girl child, including her right to equal education, safety, and dignity.

- Promote the Value of Girls' Education: To shift mindsets by emphasizing that
 educating girls benefits families, communities, and the nation at large—leading to
 better health, economic progress, and social justice.
- Create a student-led Advocacy Platform: To encourage students to design and lead community engagement activities, thereby nurturing their abilities to advocate for social causes.
- Engage the Community in Dialogue: To involve community elders, local teachers, and parents in open discussions about the benefits of delaying marriage and investing in girls' education.
- Contribute to National Mission Goals: To support the Government of India's ongoing Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) campaign through local-level action and measurable outcomes.



Campaign Highlights and Activities:

1. Poster Making and Slogan Competitions:

Students across departments designed **inspirational and thought-provoking posters** focusing on themes such as "Let Her Learn," "Educate a Girl, Educate a Family," and "Empowered Daughters, Empowered Nation." These were displayed across campus corridors, community halls, and shared digitally.

Slogan Example:

"Beti Padhegi, Toh Desh Badhega (If the daughter studies, the nation will progress)"

2. Street Plays and Public Performances (Nukkad Nataks):

Creative and impactful street plays were performed by NSS volunteers at marketplaces, schools, and village chaupals. These plays highlighted the struggles of young girls denied education and illustrated the long-term impact of educated women in society.

Key Themes Addressed:

- Child marriage
- Dowry system
- · Gender bias in schooling
- · Empowerment through education
- 3. Seminars and Motivational Talks: Guest speakers—including female educators, social activists, and successful local women professionals—were invited to share their stories, thereby inspiring both the youth and community. Interactive sessions were held to allow villagers and students to ask questions, share concerns, and propose solutions.
- 4. School Outreach Visits: Groups of university students visited government and private schools in the Gangoh region, where they:
 - Distributed stationery kits and books to girl students
 - · Shared motivational stories of women achievers
 - Conducted fun-learning workshops on science, art, and technology to foster aspiration in young girls
- 5. Social Media Campaign: A parallel digital campaign was launched using university handles, featuring short videos, infographics, reels, and student-led testimonials promoting girl child education. Hashtags like #EducateHerEmpowerIndia, #BBBPShobhit, and #SaveTheDaughter were used to amplify the message online.
- 6. Community Meetings with Parents and Local Leaders:

Special meetings were held in villages with mothers, fathers, and local influencers, where university faculty and students spoke about:

- Financial schemes for girls' education
- · Legal consequences of early marriage
- Role of fathers in supporting daughters' education
- · Career guidance for adolescent girls
- 7. Pledge Ceremony: To conclude the campaign, students and participants took an oath to support girl child education, act against discrimination, and advocate for equal opportunities in their communities.

Outcomes and Impact:

- Holistic Student Development: Students enhanced their public speaking, leadership, collaboration, and community engagement skills through campaign planning and execution. They emerged as sensitive and socially responsible individuals.
- Community Reach and Transformation: Over 1,500 individuals were directly reached through offline activities and many more through online engagement.
 Several families committed to keeping their daughters in school and supporting their career aspirations.
- Strengthened University-Community Bond: The campaign fostered a sense of trust
 and collaboration between Shobhit University and the local community, establishing
 the university as a change catalyst.
- Media and Institutional Recognition: The campaign was appreciated by local leaders, schools, and media, and was documented as a best practice in community engagement and gender sensitization for future reference and NAAC documentation.

Sustainable Impact Plans:

The university plans to institutionalize this drive annually through NSS activities and collaborate with government schemes like Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana and Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya for extended impact.



The Beti Bachao Beti Padhao – Girl Child Education Drive organized by Shobhit University, Gangoh, was not just an event but a movement of change, awareness, and empowerment. It successfully united students and community stakeholders in a shared mission to value, educate, and uplift the girl child. As a model of integrated learning and community outreach, it stands as a testament to how universities can drive real-world impact, foster holistic development, and contribute meaningfully to nation-building and social justice.

