Attitude Towards Tamilnadu Zero Ticket Bus Travel Scheme Among Working Women In Coimbatore

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Abstract- Tamil Nadu's public transportation plays an important role in rendering mobility affordable and accessible, particularly for working women. The Zero Ticket Bus Travel Scheme introduced in 2021 has significantly impacted the labour force participation of women through reduced commuting costs and enhanced accessibility. This study explores working women's perception of the scheme in Coimbatore, with a focus on their satisfaction level, faced challenges, and socio-economic benefits. Based on extensive data analysis, this study explains the impact of the scheme on work, education, and health services and identifies areas of improvement. The findings of the study are intended to provide policymakers with useful data to enhance the scheme's effectiveness, thereby enhancing women's mobility and empowerment in the long run.

Keywords- Public transportation, Zero Ticket Bus Travel Scheme, working women, Coimbatore, socio-economic impact.

I. INTRODUCTION

Public transport is a key feature of urban mobility, offering accessibility and affordability to millions of women commuters across Tamil Nadu. Among the numerous schemes put into practice, the Zero Ticket Bus Travel Scheme for Women initiated in 2021 has been particularly helpful for working women by reducing the cost of traveling and impacting more women to pursue work. In urban areas like Coimbatore, where there is a steady rise in the working population, this scheme has played a pivotal role in strengthening employment opportunities, education, and healthcare facilities for women. The current study aims to assess the views of working women in Coimbatore towards the scheme, measuring their levels of satisfaction, faced issues, and socio-economic impacts. Their views allow policymakers to improve the program for greater effectiveness, inclusivity, and sustainability in the long run, ensuring public transport continues to be a tool of empowering women and a means of inclusive urban development.

II. REVIEW OF LITERATUE

- 1. **Dr.C.RajeshandV.Anitha(January2025)**"ACriticalRevi ewofTamilNadu'sZeroTicket Bus Scheme:Policy Success or Financial Burden?" This study offers a critical analysis of the scheme's success as a welfare measure, questioning whether it has been a financial burdenon the government and evaluating its long-term sustainability.
- 2. A. Senthiland R. Priya (June 2024) "Women's Perception of PublicTransport Accessibility After the Implementation of the Zero Ticket Scheme. "This study assesses women's perspectives on public transportation following the introduction of Tamil Nadu's free bus scheme. The research examines key factors such as accessibility, safety, and service frequency, highlighting the scheme's role in improving women's overall commuting experience.
- 3. **K. Swathi and Dr. R. Kumar (September 2024)** "Socioeconomic Benefits of Free Public Transport for Women: Evidence from TamilNadu." This study provides evidence of the positive socioeconomic impacts of the free bus travel scheme. The study highlights how the scheme has contributed to women's financial stability and overall family well-being.
- 4. Dr. R.Manikandan, K.Sowmitha, and Dr. N.Vidhya (August2024)"Economic Benefits of Women Passengers Using the Zero Ticket Bus Travel Scheme: A Case Study from Rural and Urban Passengers of Coimbatore District." Their research highlighted that over 90% of regular users of the scheme were working women. The study also revealed that the scheme resulted in an average monthly saving of Rs. 253, reducing financial burdens on women from both urban and rural areas.

III. OBJECTIVES

- To investing at ethesocio economic impact of the scheme on working women, including its effects on their employment, education, and healthcare.
- To study the attitude of working women towards the ZeroTicket BusTravel Scheme.

• To assess the level of satisfaction among working women regarding the scheme.

III. RESEARCH GAP

Existing studies on Tamil Nadu's Zero Ticket Bus Travel Scheme for Women primarily focus on its economic feasibility and policy framework, with limited research on its socio-economic impact on working women. While the scheme is recognized for its financial benefits, its influence on employment, financial independence, education, and healthcare access remains underexplored. Key challenges such as overcrowding, safety concerns, bus frequency, and service quality lack detailed analysis. Additionally, there is a need for comparative studies with similar policies in other regions and assessments of its long-term sustainability and gender inclusivity.

Addressing these gaps through focused research will offer valuable insights for policymakers to refine the scheme, improve accessibility and safety, and ensure sustained benefits for working women in Tamil Nadu.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study uses a descriptive research design, collecting primary data through questionnaires and interviews and secondary data from official reports and studies. A convenience sampling method is used, with statistical and qualitative analysis to assess accessibility, service quality, safety, and satisfaction. The findings will help improve the scheme's effectiveness for working women.

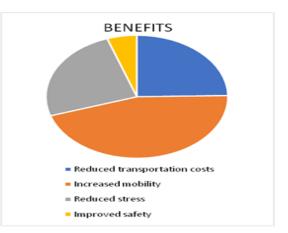
STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The Zero Ticket Bus Travel Scheme, launched in 2021, aims to promote gender inclusivity and economic independence for women. While it offers financial relief, factors like overcrowding, service quality, accessibility, safety, and bus frequency may impact its effectiveness. This study analyzes the attitudes of working women in Coimbatore, evaluating the scheme's benefits and challenges. The findings will help policymakers refine the program for better implementation and impact.

IV. ANALYSIS

BENEFITS FOR FREE BUS SERVICE OF THE RESPONDENT

BENEFITS	NOOFRESPON DENTS	PERCENTAGE
Reducedtrans portationcosts	37	24.7
Increasedmob ility	68	45.3
Reducedstres s	37	24.7
Improvedsafe ty	08	5.3
TOTAL	150	100

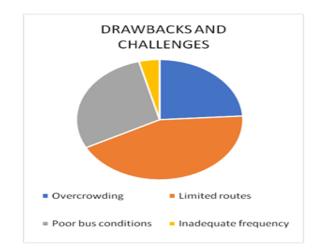


Interpretation

Among 150 respondents, 45.3% prioritized mobility, 24.7% cited cost savings and stress relief, and 5.3% noted safety. This highlights mobility as the scheme's key benefit.

DRAWBACKSANDCHALLENGESOFTHERESPONDE NT

DRAWBACKS AND CHALLENGES	NOOFRESPOND ENTS	PERCENT AGE
Overcrowding	36	24.0
Limitedroutes	65	43.3
Poor busconditions	43	28.7
Ina dequate freque ncy	06	4.0
TOTAL	150	100



Interpretation

Among 150 respondents, 43.3% highlighted limited routes as the primary challenge, while 28.7% pointed to poor bus conditions and 24.0% mentioned overcrowding.

IMPACTONABILITYTOREACHWORKPLACEONTIM EOFTHE RESPONDENTS

ABILITY TO BEON TIME	NOOFRESPOND ENTS	PERCENTAGE
Improvedsignific antly	32	21.3
Improvedslightly	78	52.0
Nochange	32	21.3
Madeitharder	8	5.3
TOTAL	150	100



Interpretation

Among respondents, 52.0% experienced a slight improvement in timeliness, 21.3% saw a significant improvement, and 21.3% noticed no change. 5.3% felt it made reaching work more difficult.

V. CONCLUSION

The Zero Ticket Bus Travel Scheme in Tamil Nadu has positively impacted working women in Coimbatore by improving economic savings, mobility, and workforce participation. While the scheme has helped women reduce transportation costs and access essential services, challenges like overcrowding, safety concerns, and service quality remain. To enhance effectiveness, improvements such as more buses, better safety measures, and increased frequency are needed. Continuous feedback from beneficiaries and comparisons with similar schemes in other states will help refine the program. With these adjustments, the scheme can further empower women and serve as a model for genderinclusive transportation policies.

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This book chapter discusses Tamil Nadu's public transport initiatives, particularly the role of genderinclusive schemes in improving women's workforce participation.

 [3] Murthy, M., & Subramanian, P. (2022). Challenges and Opportunities in Gender-Inclusive Transportation Policies in India. Urban Studies Journal, 29(3), 199-213. This article examines the challenges and opportunities in implementing gender-inclusive transport policies, including issues like safety and overcrowding.