



IMPACT OF MID DAY MEAL SCHEME ON GETTING INCENTIVES

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ABSTRACT

Important areas for achieving the goal of Education are Access to Education, Enrolment of children, and Retention of the enrolled children. The Mid Day Meal scheme helps in achieving these objectives. The objective of the present study is to evaluate the impact of mid day meal in incentivizing parents of the school children. It relieves mothers from early morning cooking for their children. But sometimes children may help as earners. So we may want that through mid day meal not only children get benefit but parents also get some relief so that they can give their time on the other area which helps in increasing their earnings.

KEYWORDS :**Introduction**

Education serves as a tool in protecting, equipping and refining intellectual areas. Education by which the scale of living of the people, their growth and security can be subsequently upgraded is considered as an effective tool of rapid and efficient growth and development of a nation. In recent times, the world has experienced an outburst of knowledge in almost each and every field and a key dare to education is to keep speed with it, this is also in the field of science and technology, with wide scope for applicability in all the fields of human interest Education provides the person with basic knowledge and technical talent required for work, growth and economic survival. Education upgrades personal achievement, economic growth and social effectiveness. Education is also analyzed as a tool in the long range perception of making social equality. Moreover, the development of a country today depends - on its capability to acquire, adjust and then to gain knowledge. This capacity depends mainly upon the limit to which the nation's population has gained literacy, interlinking and problem solving abilities. Giving education to all is thus a dare for the developing nations. But modern education and training requires to be laid on solid base foundation, which is importantly the outcome of primary education system. Children must learn to make themselves attentive of their rights and obligations and also prepare themselves for bringing a change in the social issues when felt correct. The requirement for any kind of change in the society is seen in the educational system, and it is through medium of education that the social needs are fulfilled. Mid Day Meal Program- 'Nutritional aid to primary education' is said to be a medium of supplying free and necessary universalized primary education of desirable quality to all children under the age of 14 years. A National Program of Nutritional Aid to Primary Education popularly known as MID DAY MEAL PROGRAM (MDMP) was re-established by the then Prime Minister of India on 15th August 1995. It was started with a goal of boosting up enrolling attendance and reservation while at the same time upgrading the nutritional level of students in primary classes. Generalization of primary education as our national agenda, MDMP was introduced with the following targets:-

- Increment in admission, upgrading school attendance as well as withholding the students.
- Foster social merger.
- Enhance nourishment level of the primary school children.
- Instill proper food habits in children.

"Children are the most precious human resources and they deserve the best possible upbringing. Any nation, which neglects them, would do so as its peril." (Panigrahi, 1999). According to international law, a 'child' means every human being below the age of 18 years. This is a universally accepted definition of a child and comes from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), an international legal instrument accepted and ratified by most

countries. (Jacquelynn S. Eccles, 1999) The "right to food" and "right to education" are among the key fundamental rights of every citizen of India. The Secretariat, Right to Food Campaign (2008) under the heading "SUPREME COURT ORDERS ON THE RIGHT TO FOOD, A Tool for Action, August 2008" showcases desirable Articles of the Indian Constitution and the opinions of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) given in the proceedings of the hearing held on January 17, 2003.

Reetika khera (2006), she studied about school lunch programme in elementary schools and found out that scheme had overcome many problems. This is now a universal programme, helping many elementary school students in satiating their hunger. But the problem still faces several challenges such as personal hygiene and no proper cleanliness etc.

Prema Ramachandran (2007), in his paper Poverty nutrition linkages, highlighted that, India experienced the fast paced economic growth without going graphically down in poverty ratios. Despite sufficient food availability at normal cost, there has been decrease in food/energy intake. However, in spite of balanced alterations to protect and eradicate child under nutrition, there has not been effective reduction in child under nutrition rate. As there has been an effective reduction in physical actions in all stratas of population, extra nutrition is coming out as a public health issue in all age groups. Further, author explained that, there is an alarming need to inspect the present scenario and relation between economic growth, poverty, dietary consumption, and nutritional level which will help to mark the appropriate action which makes positive linkage strong and break down all the negative linkages.

Suresh C. Ghosh (2007), History of Education in India, in this book writer tries to categorise the history of schooling in India in the course of three different parts, according to first part in Ancient India, 3000 B.C.- 1192 A.D., second part includes Medieval India, from 1192 A.D.- 1757 A.D. and third part includes Modern India, 1757-1999. As per writer in ancient India education was mainly controlled by Hindu ideology, where spiritual ceremonies and sacrifices were the major function of the humanity. In medieval India, with the advent of Islamic rule in India and introduced its own ideologies, the Muslims implied their own method of education, which displaced the already existing Hindu religion and Buddhist education to cover the growing requirement of the Islamic management. In the third part he describes the growth of English education on Indian land under British rule and education structure in India after freedom.

Manju Gupta (2007), Education in India, where writer attempts to analyze the History of education system, expansion and its creation in India. In this book, writer explains the steps taken by British administration for the growth of education level in India before freedom and by Indian government after freedom.

Naresh Kumar Sharma and Anima Rani Si (2008), studied An Empirical Study of the Mid-Day Meal Programme in Khurda, Orissa, where researcher concluded That,improper school infrastructure and lack of staff affect the scheme and because of this, the limited teachers are also involved in this and worked for this Programme, the menu was repetitive but healthy for the students. The programme has generated some jobs opportunities for the unemployed deprived section. Most of the population believe that due to mid meal scheme there is an increase in enrolment ratio, presence and cut the dropout ratio.

Objectives of the current research:

1) To analyze whether mid day meal scheme provide incentive to the parents to send their kids to school.

Tools & Technique: The statistical tool i.e. percentage method is used to arrive at the percent share respondents familyare getting any incentive from mid day meal or not. We have used percentage method to find out our results. From the responses of the respondents family we have found out that there is an upward trend of family of the respondent that they are getting incentive from mid-day meal scheme.

To collect the primary data we asked the question from the parents of students who are receiving mid day meal and relevant information was collected from the interview of 100 parents.

Table 1.1: Classification of family of the respondent whether they are getting incentive from mid- day meal or not

Response	Rural	Urban	Total %
Yes	38 (52.77%)	34 (47.23%)	72 (100%)
No	12 (42.85%)	16 (57.15%)	28 (100%)
Total	50	50	100

Source-primary data

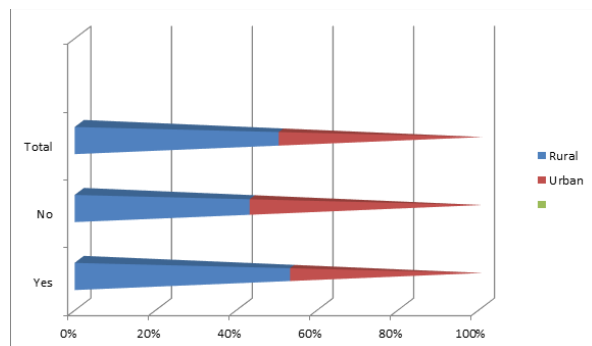


Figure 1.1 Bar graph depicts the classification of family of the respondent whether they are getting incentive from mid- day meal or not

This table shows that 72 respondents parents are agreed that they are getting incentive from mid day meal scheme in which 38 (52.77%) are rural and 34 (47.23%) are belongs to urban and 28 respondents parents are disagreed on getting any incentive from mid-day meal scheme in which 12 (42.85%) are belongs to rural and 16 (57.15%) are belongs to urban area.

Conclusion:

This is the finding of our study that respondent's family getting any incentive or not from our data it is quite evident that more & more parents are willing to send their kids to schools. This shows that government has been able to incentivize these poor families over the years to send their children to school. Though it may be argued that due to the presence of institutions like child labour in our country, sending them to schools involves an opportunity cost they could have earned something at that time. But still an increasing

enrolment and participation rate shows there is a stronger effect of other factors at play.

Firstly, Mid-day meal relieves working mothers in poor families from their duty of cooking early for children and look after them. They get food in the school and their mothers can go to work. There is also increasing awareness among the poor folk regarding the role of education and hence want to educate their children. Beyond the scope of our model, there is also this dismantling of the institution of child labour by government efforts which has diverted these young minds in productive and gainful activities like gaining education. Thus we have established through our results that mid day meal scheme has indeed played a vital role that family of respondent are getting incentives from the mid day meal scheme.

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