



EFFECT OF MID-DAY MEAL IN TRIBAL AREA WITH RESPECT TO URBAN AREA IN WEST BENGAL: A COMPARATIVE STUDY

Education

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ABSTRACT

The present study was conducted to provide some information and comparison about the effect of Mid-day Meal and enrolment in the Tribal area with respect to Urban area of Govt. Aided Primary School of West Bengal. Data was collected of 200 Teachers and 200 Parents from 200 Primary School Teachers (100 Urban & 100 Tribal) and 200 Parents (100 Rural and 100 tribal) respectively in around four District of West Bengal by randomly. The results revealed that 1) Opinion of urban and tribal differ significantly with regard to Mid-day meal & enrolment in Govt. Aided Primary School 2) Urban area Teachers & Tribal area Teachers differ significantly with regard to Mid-day meal & enrolment in Govt. Aided Primary School, 3) Urban Parents & Tribal Parents differ significantly with regard to Mid-day meal & enrolment in Govt. Aided Primary School

KEYWORDS:

Enrolment Difference, Teachers, Parents, Primary School, Mid-day Meal, 't'- test

**INTRODUCTION:** Classroom hunger affects children's ability to learn and grow. To solve this challenge, Akshaya Patra began the Food for Education initiative which is continuously making an effort to enable children from over 13,000 schools in India. On August 15, 1995, National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (NP-NSPE) was launched as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme and in the year 2001, the Supreme Court of India ordered all the state governments and union territories to implement Mid-Day Meal Scheme and provide cooked meals to school children from Government and Government-aided schools. With support from the Central and State Governments, Akshaya Patra began operating its Mid-Day Meal Programme in 2000 and has inculcated a set of rules and guidelines related to child health and growth, the quantity of calories and proteins required for children from specific age groups, the quantity of grains that can be allotted to each child, and so forth. With an effective Public-Private Partnership model, we have been able to serve mid-day meals for 16 years.

**The objectives of Mid-Day Meal as issued by the government:** Improving the nutritional status of children in class I-V in Government, Local Body and Government aided schools, and EGS and AIE centre Encouraging children, belonging to disadvantaged sections, to attend school more regularly and help them concentrate on classroom activities Providing nutritional support to children of primary stage in drought affected areas during summer vacation While focusing on improving nutritional level and attendance, Akshaya Patra also aims to address two Sustainable Development Goals: Zero Hunger and Quality Education.

But our observation is that due to socio-economical changes of the society. Parents are not interested to enroll their children in Govt. primary school. In respect of those who are employed, self employed their ability to earn and utilize the available opportunities is strongly determined by their educational level. Therefore, eradication of poverty will have strong correlation with the education level. The table below shows the percentage distribution of rural men along with women workers by poverty and their education status (taken from article by Nisha Srivastava, Ravi Srivastava on "Women, Work, and Employment Outcomes in Rural India" published in EPW, July 10, 2010).

Percentage Distribution of Women Workers by Poverty & Education Status (2004-2005)

Education status	Extremely Poor	Poor	Marginal	Vulnerable	Middle income	Higher Income	All
Illiterate	81.2	77.5	71.7	62.9	47.5	24.8	64.5
Primary and below	13.7	15.6	17.7	21.5	23.3	22.6	19.7
Middle level	3.9	4.8	7.6	9.9	14.0	16.6	9.2

Secondary & above but below graduate	1.2	1.9	2.7	5.2	12.8	23.5	5.7
Graduate and above	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.5	2.4	12.5	0.9
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

It is obvious from the table that the level of education of the workers has strong association with their income and even middle level of education makes a big difference.

Percentage of Tribal students enrolment in schools Managed by Government and Private Rural Area

Education level		2011-12		2012-13		2013-14		2014-15		2015-16	
		Govt.	Private								
Primary	West Bengal	99.43	0.57	99.38	0.62	99.26	0.74	99.20	0.80	92.11	7.89
	India	78.98	21.02	76.93	23.07	76.86	23.14	73.67	24.33	84.28	15.72
Primary with Upper Primary	West Bengal	98.71	1.29	98.37	1.63	97.78	2.22	98.16	1.84	96.86	3.14
	India	81.41	18.59	82.12	17.88	82.07	17.93	80.98	19.02	80.09	19.91

www.dise.in 2010-11, www.dise.in 2011-12, www.dise.in 2012-13, www.dise.in 2013-14, www.dise.in 2014-15 www.dise.in 2015-16

Urban Area

Education level		2011-12		2012-13		2013-14		2014-15		2015-16	
		Govt.	Private								
Primary	West Bengal	96.00	4.00	98.74	1.26	98.42	1.58	98.24	1.76	80.57	19.43
	India	45.82	54.18	43.83	56.17	43.78	56.22	42.89	57.11	37.18	62.82
Primary with Upper Primary	West Bengal	93.53	6.47	93.98	6.02	89.52	10.48	93.85	6.15	92.90	7.10
	India	42.34	57.66	42.12	57.88	42.30	57.70	41.61	58.31	42.47	57.53

www.dise.in 2010-11, www.dise.in 2011-12, www.dise.in 2012-13, www.dise.in 2013-14,

www.dise.in 2014-15 www.dise.in 2015-16 Percentage of enrolment in Government schools to total enrolment in India

School Category	All Areas								
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Primary	85.35%	85.03%	82.78%	82.50%	82.68%	81.91%	80.30%	79.81%	77.48%
Primary with Upper Primary	72.67%	72.83%	69.30%	68.43%	70.02%	69.12%	67.91%	67.50%	65.72%

www.dise.in 04-07, www.dise.in 08, www.dise.in 09, www.dise.in 10, www.dise.in 11 www.dise.in 12

School Category	Rural Areas/Tribal Area								
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Primary	89.91%	89.29%	87.16%	87.43%	87.73%	87.04%	79.83%	79.21%	83.45%
Primary with Upper Primary	81.30%	81.66%	78.81%	78.27%	79.69%	79.26%	74.29%	74.34%	77.51%

www.dise.in 04-07, www.dise.in 08, www.dise.in 09, www.dise.in 10, www.dise.in 11 www.dise.in 12

School Category	Urban Area								
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Primary	50.40%	51.40%	48.14%	51.04%	51.08%	50.43%	48.39%	48.37%	45.36%
Primary with Upper Primary	44.54%	41.74%	35.94%	36.53%	38.39%	36.31%	34.18%	32.36%	30.10%

www.dise.in 04-07, www.dise.in 08, www.dise.in 09, www.dise.in 10, www.dise.in 11 www.dise.in 12

The above information indicates that the rate of enrolment in primary & primary with upper primary under Govt. Aided schools rapidly decreases every year,

It is a very common experience of the teachers of primary and upper primary schools that due to many constraints in our education system transaction of curriculum through instructional procedure may not always fulfill the aims of education. Thus it's necessary to identify the alternatives to achieve the goal of primary education.

- Should there be potion for mid-day meal system in Govt. Aided School?
- Should quality as well as quantity of mid-day meal be provided as required?
- Should Teachers not be involved in the mid-day meal system?
- Should specific arrangement like man power, infrastructures, be there for mid-day meal?

**OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:**

To compare the overall opinion of the tribal and urban regarding mid-day meal & enrolments at the Primary stage in Govt. Aided School.

- To compare the opinion of urban teachers and tribal teachers regarding mid-day meal & enrolment in Govt. Aided primary school.
- To compare the opinion of urban parents and tribal parents regarding mid-day meal & enrolment in Govt. Aided primary school.
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- To compare the opinion of urban parents and tribal teachers regarding mid-day meal & enrolment in Govt. Aided primary school.

**HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY:**

H<sub>01</sub>. There is no overall opinion difference between urban and tribal regarding mid-day meal & enrolment in Govt. Aided primary school significantly.

H<sub>02</sub>. There is no opinion difference between urban teachers and tribal teachers regarding mid-day meal & enrolment in Govt. Aided primary school significantly.

H<sub>03</sub>. There is no opinion difference between urban parents and tribal parents regarding mid-day meal & enrolment in Govt. Aided primary school significantly.

H<sub>04</sub>. There is no opinion difference between urban teachers and tribal

parents regarding mid-day meal & enrolment in Govt. Aided primary school significantly.

H<sub>05</sub>. There is no opinion difference between urban parents and tribal teachers regarding mid-day meal & enrolment in Govt. Aided primary school significantly

**SCOPE AND DELIMITATION:**

To make the study intensive it was delimited in the following areas.

**I. School:**

All the Govt. Aided Primary School and all parents could be included in the study. But considering the facilities and time span, 200 Govt. Aided Primary School teachers (100 Urban and 100 Tribal) 200 Parents (100 Urban and 100 Tribal) were taken for the study.

**ii. Area:**

This type of study could be conducted in any district of West Bengal, However considering the availability of data and cooperation from the schools in view; four districts having urban & tribal area were selected as the study area. As follows

District	Birbhum		Purulia		Paschim Medinipur		Bankura		Total
	Urban	Tribal	Urban	Tribal	Urban	Tribal	Urban	Tribal	
Rural/Urban Teachers	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	200
Parents	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	200

**I. Subject:**

This type of study could be conducted with any Stage of School and to estimate the enrolment gaps between Urban and Tribal. But initially it was decided that the study would be conducted on Govt. aided Primary School different enrolment between tribal and urban students due to Mid-day meal and other effect. So, only Govt. Aided Primary school was taken into account for calculating the opinion of the teachers and parents.

**SAMPLING:**

The random sampling procedure was adopted for selection of sample from the list of primary schools in West Bengal, 200 primary school teachers (100 Tribal schools and 100 urban schools) and 200 parents (100 urban and 100 Tribal) were selected randomly.

**DATABASE:**

The data was collected through the following manners:

- Name of the Teacher
- Name of the school
- Name of the parents
- Address of the parents
- Opinion of the teachers from structure questioners
- Opinion of the teachers from structure questioners
- Year wise enrolment of students of the Govt. Aided primary school

**ANALYSIS OF DATA INTERPRETATION:**

H<sub>01</sub>. There is no overall opinion difference between urban and tribal regarding mid-day meal & enrolment in Govt. Aided primary school significantly.

**Table: 1**

Comparison between urban and Tribal overall opinion regarding mid-day meal and enrolment of Govt. Aided primary school.

Category	N	Mean	SD	df	t	Remark
Urban opinion	200	80.9	7.7	398	7.09	Not significant
Tribal opinion	200	68.5	9.6			

**Interpretation:** Table 1 indicates that the Mean 80.9 & 68.5, SD 7.7 & 9.6 and calculated 't' value is 7.09 between urban and rural opinion regarding Mid-day Meal & enrolment of Govt. Aided primary school. Our calculated't' value is greater than table value at 0.01 level and 0.05 level (df 398, 0.01 level 2.58 and 0.05 level 1.96). Thus, it is evident that there is significant difference between urban and tribal opinion

regarding Mid-day meal & enrolment in Govt. Aided primary school. Hence, the Hypothesis No.1 is rejected.

H<sub>02</sub>. There is no opinion difference between urban teachers and tribal teachers regarding mid-day meal & enrolment in Govt. Aided primary school significantly

**Table: 2**  
Comparison between urban teachers and tribal teacher's opinion regarding mid-day meal and enrolment of Govt. Aided primary school.

Category	N	Mean	SD	df	t	Remark
Urban teacher	100	78.2	8.1	198	4.9	Not significant
Tribal teacher	100	65.7	9.6			

**Interpretation:** Table 2 indicates that the Mean 78.2 & 65.7, SD 8.1 & 9.6 and calculated 't' value is 4.9 between urban & tribal teachers opinion regarding Mid-day meal & enrolment of Govt. Aided primary school. Our calculated 't' value is greater than table value at 0.01 level and 0.05 level (df 198, 0.01 level 2.58 and 0.05 level 1.96). Thus, it is evident that there is significant difference between urban and tribal teacher's opinion regarding Mid-day meal & enrolment in Govt. Aided primary school. Hence, the Hypothesis No.2 is rejected.

H<sub>03</sub>. There is no opinion difference between urban parents and tribal parents regarding mid-day meal & enrolment in Govt. Aided primary school significantly.

**Table: 3**  
Comparison between urban parents and tribal parent's opinion regarding enrolment of Govt. Aided primary school

Category	N	Mean	SD	df	t	Remark
Urban parents	100	83.6	9.9	198	8.67	Not significant
Tribal parents	100	71.3	10.7			

**Interpretation:** Table 3 indicates that the Mean 83.6 & 71.3, SD 9.9 & 10.7 and calculated 't' value is 8.67 between urban & tribal parents opinion regarding mid-day meal & enrolment of Govt. Aided primary school. Our calculated 't' value is greater than table value at 0.01 level and 0.05 level (df 198, 0.01 level 2.58 and 0.05 level 1.96). Thus, it is evident that there is significant difference between urban and tribal parent's opinion mid-day meal & enrolment in Govt. Aided primary school. Hence, the Hypothesis No.3 is rejected.

H<sub>04</sub>. There is no opinion difference between urban teachers and tribal parents regarding mid-day meal & enrolment in Govt. Aided primary school significantly.

**Table: 4**  
Comparison between urban teachers and tribal parent's opinion regarding mid-day meal & enrolment of Govt. Aided primary school

Category	N	Mean	SD	df	t	Remark
Urban teachers	100	78.2	5.4	198	6.15	Not significant
Tribal parents	100	71.3	7.9			

**Interpretation:** Table 4 indicates that the Mean 78.2 & 71.3, SD 5.4 & 7.9 and calculated't' value is 6.15 between urban teachers and tribal parent's opinion regarding mid-day meal &enrolment of Govt. Aided primary school. Our calculated't' value is greater than table value at 0.01 level and 0.05 level (df 198, 0.01 level 2.58 and 0.05 level 1.96). Thus, it is evident that there is significant difference between urban teachers and tribal parent's opinion regarding mid-day meal & enrolment of Govt. Aided primary school on the basis of opinion of the primary teacher and parents. Hence, the Hypothesis No.4 is rejected. H<sub>05</sub>. There is no opinion difference between urban parents and tribal teachers regarding mid-day meal & enrolment in Govt. Aided primary school significantly

**Table: 5**  
Comparison between urban parents and tribal teacher's opinion

regarding mid-day meal & enrolment of Govt. Aided primary school

Category	N	Mean	SD	df	t	Remark
Urban parents	100	83.6	8.8	198	0.88	significant
Tribal teachers	100	65.7	10.7			

**Interpretation:** Table 5 indicates that the Mean 83.6 & 65.7, SD 8.8 & 10.7 and calculated 't' value is 0.88 between urban parents and tribal teacher's opinion regarding mid-day meal & enrolment of Govt. Aided primary school. Our calculated' value is greater than table value at 0.01 level and 0.05 level (df 198, 0.01 level 2.58 and 0.05 level 1.96). Thus, it is evident that there are significant difference urban parents and tribal teacher's opinion regarding mid-day meal & enrolment of Govt. Aided primary school on the basis of opinion of tribal primary teachers and urban parents. Hence, the Hypothesis is No.5 is accepted.

**ANALYSIS OF DATA OBTAINED FROM THE OPINION OF THE PRIMARY TEACHERS AND PARENTS.**

The relative important of the causes of mid-day meal & enrolment difference at primary level on the basis of primary teachers and parents opinion.

Total thirty (30) causes are identified by the investigator to estimate the relative importance the causes for the different enrolment at the Govt. Aided primary school. 3-point rating scale was used to transform the qualitative opinion into quantitative scores.

Therefore the following trend was accepted;

- i) Maximum score = 30 x 3 = 90
- ii) Minimum score = 30 x 1 = 30
- iii) Average score = 30 x 2 = 60

It was decided that if the summated rating score exceeds 60 then it will be expected that the opinion of the individual tend to the favorableness of the causes.

**Table-8:**  
The table showing the average score of the parents and teachers opinion on summated rating.

Category	Number	mean	Average Mean
Urban Primary teachers	100	78.2	74.7
Tribal Primary teachers	100	65.7	
Urban Parents	100	83.6	
Tribal Parents	100	71.3	

**Interpretation:** The average scores exceed the cutting point score. Therefore the parents and teachers viewed that the problems identified and presented in the questionnaire are responsible for different enrolment in Govt. Aided primary level at urban area with respect to tribal in west Bengal.

Both of the parents' and teachers (urban & tribal) have identified the following causes for the mid-day meal & enrolment different at primary level in West Bengal.

**Table-9**

Item no.	causes
1	Mid-day meal should be optional for school
3	Quality of mid-day meal are not provided by the management
10	Teaching environment affected by mid-day meal system
11	Political interaction affected to provide quality of mid-day meal.
16	Lack of Infrastructures to provide mid-day meal
20	Lack of information from local body and Stare /central administration

**OUR DIRECT OBSERVATION:** during our observation data collection, we have observed that the Enrolment in the urban and rural area are directly related with mid-day meal issue as follows

Urban area school	Rural area school
Mid-day meal issue discourage the enrolment system	Mid-day meal issue encourage for the enrolment system
Enrolment affected by Mid-day meal issue	Most of the area no mid-day meal no enrolment

**FINDINGS OF THE PRESENT STUDY:**

Following are the findings of the present investigation:

- Mid-day meal should be optional in the urban area as well as rural area,
- Specific arrangement should be there for mid-day meal system.
- Teachers should not be involved in the mid-day meal system.
- Quality as well as quantity of meal should be provided.
- Cooking arrangement should be outside of the school.
- Political involvement should be avoided by the management.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:**

The author is thankful to all the B.Ed. Trainees those who have helped for data collection in the different Rural and Tribal area.

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