

# Impact of Mid Day Meal on Enrollment, Attendance and Retention Rate of Primary School Children in Jalpaiguri District, West Bengal, India

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**Abstract:** The Mid Day Meal programmed which is launched by the government of India to improved the nutritional status of school going children. India has enter upon an challenging of providing Mid Day Meals programmed in the government and government-aided primary school. In this study try to analysis the nature and impart of Mid Day Meal programmed on academic achievement of student in some selected primary schools of Jalpaiguri District in West Bengal. The objective of this study was to evaluate the impact of mid-day meal programme on enrollment, attendance and retention of primary school children. Mid Day Meal and non Mid Day Meal schools were selected by random sampling method. The finding of this study reveal that the schools with Mid Day Meal scheme had more percentage of enrollment and retention of students in comparison to that of schools without Mid Day Meal scheme.

**Keywords:** Mid Day Meal, Enrollment, Attendance, Retention, Primary school.

## ❖ INTRODUCTION:

Education is the most significant of every stage of human life, especially at the childhood stage in the primary levels as it prepares the foundation of education constitute a very important part of the entire structure of education. It is at this stage that the child starts going to a formal institution and formal education starts. The education which he receives there provides the foundation of this physical, mental, emotional, intellectual and social development. Education plays a vital and important role in fulfilling the basic need of a common man. Education is a process through which a child is made capable to attend necessary competencies and skills to face the challenges in life to survive and to make a struggle for excellence. Free and compulsory education up to the age of 14<sup>th</sup> year in the constitutional commitment and it is estimated that elementary school children (6-14 year) from 20% of the total population.

Most of the children from low socio-economic society agonize from nutrition, more often they drop out from schools at an early age. Mid day meal scheme was started as a centrally sponsored scheme on 15<sup>th</sup> August 1995 with the education by increasing enrolment, attendance, retention and simultaneously impact on nutrition of students in primary classes.

## ❖ OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY:

Various objectives are discus given below-

1. To find out the impact of mid day meal program on enrollment of primary schools children.
2. To find out the impact of mid day meal program on attendance of primary schools children.
3. To find out the impact of mid day meal program on retention of primary schools children.

❖ **METHODOLOGY OF THIS STUDY:**

Study area-

The present study was conducted in Dhupguri block and Maynaguri block of Jalpaiguri District, West Bengal.

➤ **Selection of sample**

Sample is a smaller representation of a large population. Cluster random sampling method was used to collect sample for this study. Dhupguri block and Maynaguri block of Jalpaiguri District is taken to be the sample. Total 16 primary schools were selected for the study. The sample was taken on a random basis. Among them four were government primary schools (with MDM scheme) and four non government primary schools (without MDM scheme) of same geographical area were selected random from rural area of Dhupguri block. Similarly, from Maynaguri block urban area four government primary schools (with MDM scheme) and four non government primary schools (without MDM scheme) of same geographical area were selected randomly.

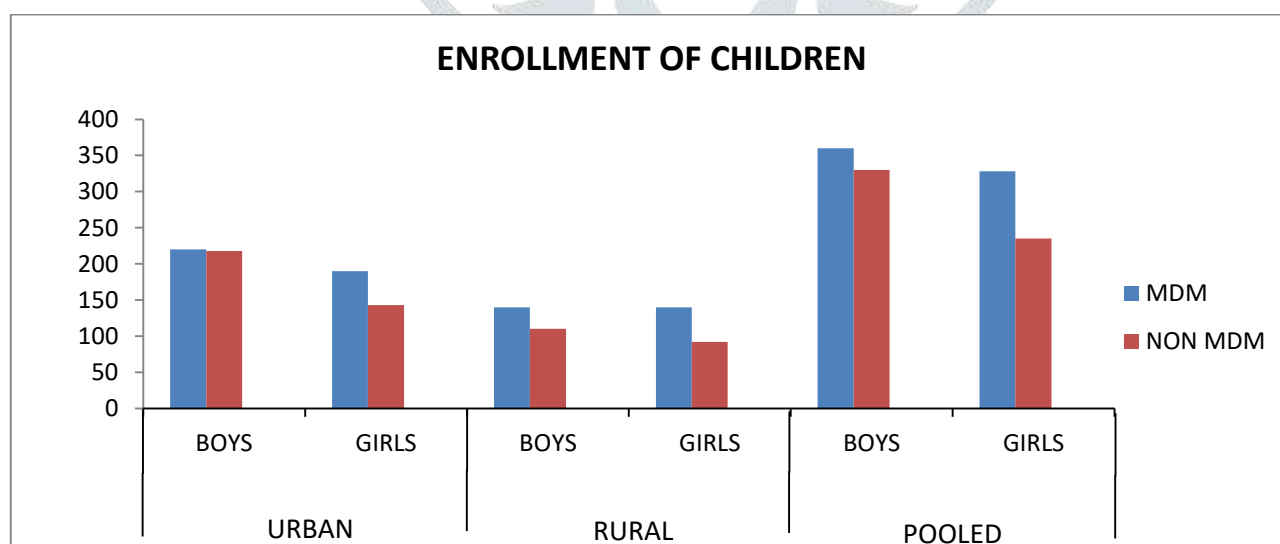
➤ **Data collection**

A Predesigned and pretested questionnaire was used as a tool for data collection. Data regarding enrolment, attendance and retention of primary schools children was collected from school records.

❖ **RESULT AND DISCUSSION:**

- **Enrollment:** Total number of student enrolment in schools in the academic year 2016-2017.

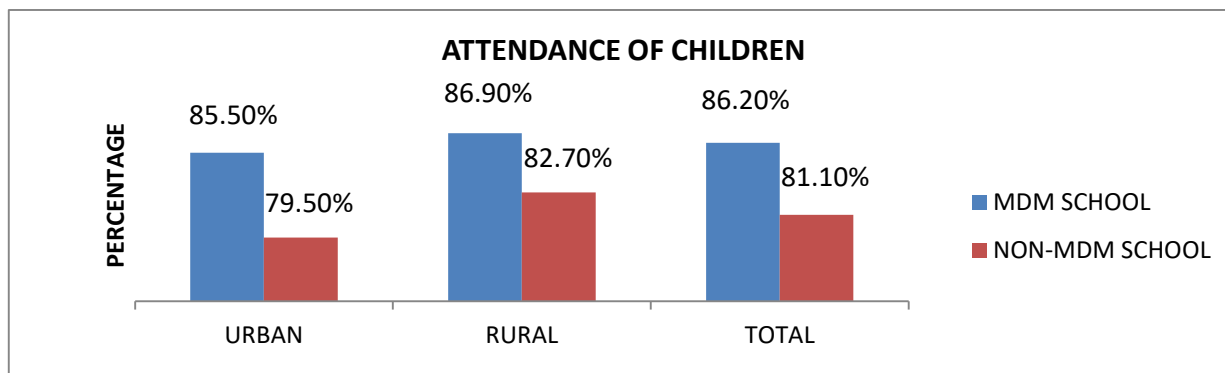
**Figure- 1:** That enrollment of both boys and girls was higher in MDM schools as compared to non MDM schools. Boys enrolment was significantly higher in both MDM and NON-MDM schools as compared to girls. Positive intervention of MDM was reported in universalisation of primary education by increasing enrolment. This study founded that the enrolment rate higher in government than in private schools.



**Figure 1:** Enrollment of children

- **Attendance:** It represents the total number of children who attended the class on total working day in the academic year 2016-2017.

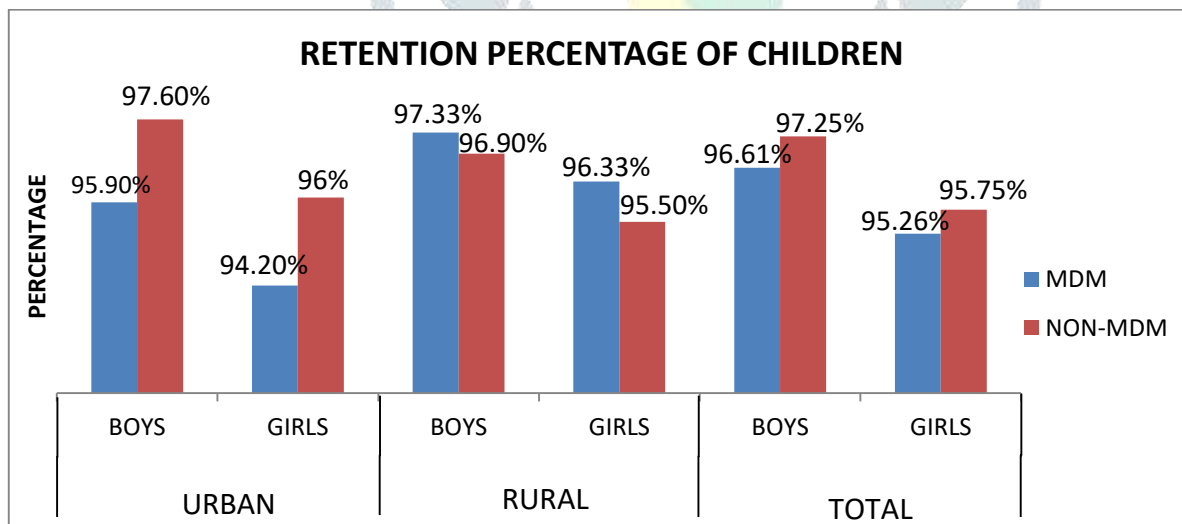
**Figure-2:** Admittedly the higher attendance percentage in MDM school children of urban area. In a similar way, tendency was observed in rural area across gender. Difference in attendance percentage between both MDM and NON-MDM school children was more in urban area as compared to rural area. This study founded that the percentage of children with better attendance is higher 86.20% in MDM schools than in NON-MDM schools is 81.10%.



**Figure-2:** Attendance of children

- **Retention:** The total number of children who continued their education in the respective class and attendant for the end term examination of that class refers to the number of retained children in a class for the academic year 2016-2017.

**Figure-3:** Retention percentage was higher in urban NON-MDM school boys that is 97.60% and girls that is 96% respectively, where as in rural area opposite picture was observed diagonally gender. Results of the study on the educational component indicate improved increased retention rates.



**Figure-3:** Retention Percentage of Children

❖ **CONCLUSION:**

After the introduction of Mid- Day Meals programme the percentage of enrolment has been increased. The Mid-Day Meal programmed helps increasing the attendance and enrolment of the poor students. Due to the introduction MDM programme percentage of retention has been increased. Parents are more

interested to send their children in schools. It is found that rural head teacher have showed favorable attitude towards introduction of Mid-Day Meals programmed at primary level.

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