



A STUDY ON IMPLEMENTATION OF MID DAY MEAL SCHEME WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO UPPER PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN INDIA

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Abstract

Government of India launched National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (Commonly known as Mid-Day Meal Scheme) on August 15, 1995 to provide mid-day meal to the children studying at primary stage. In 2002, the Supreme Court directed the Government to provide cooked Mid-Day Meals (as opposed to providing dry rations) in all Government and Government aided primary schools³. It was revised in September 2004 and in September 2006. MDMS is the world's largest school meal programme and reaches an estimated 11 crore children across 12 lakh upper primary schools in India. The scheme is implemented through the State/UT Governments. The central and state governments share the cost of the Midday Meal Scheme, with the centre providing 75 percent and the states 25 percent. It acts as regular source of supplementary nutrition for children and facilitates their healthy growth. It helps to learn to sit together and share on common meal. It erodes the barriers that prevent girls from going to school.

Keywords: Children, Class room, Education, Hunger, Midday meal, Schools.

Introduction

Mid-Day meal have big effects on school participation, not just in terms of getting more children enrolled in the registers but also in terms of regular pupil attendance on a daily basis. Many children reach school on empty stomach. Children who do not have lunch box are not able to concentrate on study. Mid-day meal can help to overcome this problem by preventing classroom hunger. With a view to enhancing enrolment, encouraging poor children, help them concentrate on classroom activities and simultaneously improving nutritional level among children, the National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (NP-NSPE) was launched on 15th August, 1995. In 2001 the Supreme Court of India has made mandatory to all State Governments to provide Mid-day Meal in the schools. All schools in Jalpaiguri are covered under the MDM scheme. Many of developing countries including India greatest challenge is to overcome from Hunger and poverty. These are big enemy for National development, children represent the future and ensuring their healthy growth and development ought to be a prime concern of all the societies our government is also trying its best to control and get back their rights. The Supreme court directed the Government to fully implement its scheme of providing cooked meals to all school going children in Primary Schools. This land mark direction converted mid-day meal scheme into a legal entitlement. The violation of such can be taken up in the count of law. The direction and further follow up universalizing the scheme.

Objectives of the Study

The participation of MDM ensures involvement in elementary education. MDM has resulted preventing classroom hunger, promoting school participation, bridging social equity. The Present research work is an attempt to analyse the Mid-day meal scheme under food security with special references to upper-primary schools in India. Importance to know how well they are aware about the Mid-Day Meal Scheme practiced in the upper primary schools as per state wise and also to know their information if violated against the child who is eligible to enjoy benefits of Mid-Day Meal Scheme, their knowledge about filing the complaint and do they trust in the process of complaining if not why?

Research Area

This study limited to upper primary schools in randomly selected states in India. The study covers securing of food for the children of upper primary schools. It evaluates the enrolments and attendance ratio in the primary schools. It assesses the quality of education and drop-out ratio also.

Technique

Statistical approach is used for collection and analysis in the present research. For analysis and interpretation, data classification and basic percentage formula are used

TOOLS

The following tools were used for the study:

1. Questionnaire: Questionnaire were prepared for guardians or parents.
2. Survey: For this study the investigator contacted with students guardians or parents personally through telephonic mood so that their view on the mid-day meal can be known

5. Results and Discussion

It is considered essential to see whether the group of teachers in the two sample area significantly differed or not on six variables. Therefore it is attempted to study the significance of difference between the mean performance of different states in enrolment, drop out, attendance, improvement in studies, quantity of MDM served and increase in girls' enrolment towards MDM effectiveness through testing the following hypotheses using Independent sample for significance of difference between the means and details are represented in the table.

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Enrolment	children availing MDM (As per Sample Distribution)	Diff	%Diff
1	2	3	4	5=4-3	6=5/3*100
1	Kerala	114651	114069	-582	-1%
2	Himachal Pradesh	235784	232585	-3199	-1%
3	Punjab	141343	135403	-5940	-4%
4	Uttar Pradesh	391477	372005	-19472	-5%
5	West Bengal	57300	56620	-680	-1%
6	Jharkhand	288864	249775	-39089	-14%
7	Gujrat	180361	157800	-22561	-13%
8	Tamilnaru	493768	435279	-58489	-12%
9	Bihar	78628	78183	-445	-1%

Table1: Upper Primary Children Coverage in Different States Under Mid day Meal Scheme

RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION:

1. The schools which are not having kitchen, vessels and other materials they should have all these.
2. Many schools are not having the pure and clean drinking water facility. Such schools should be given the water facility.
3. Government should supply good quality of Food grains, that to on time.
4. Gas agency should supply gas in time.
5. The other non educational burden on the teachers should be reduced for the success of Mid Day Meal.
6. SDMC members should give full co-operation to the teachers. It reduces the burden on the teachers.
7. The responsibilities of the scheme should not be given to the teachers. It should be given to the local organizations.
8. Periodic monitoring and evaluation of the scheme is necessary

The best option to invite private agencies, corporate along with NGOs to contribute sufficiently in MDM scheme's against such contribution from corporate, Government may allow rebates or reliefs to the corporate.

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