

“Implementation of Midday Meal Scheme in Primary School of Jharkhand: Problems and Prospective”

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Abstract:

Education is necessary not only to teach children a certain body of knowledge but to produce behave and changes in persons and groups in desired directions.

MID Day Meal scheme has been one of the earliest supplementary nutrition programs in the country. The scheme has nutritional as well as education objectives. The concept of serving the school children Mid-day meal to allay the classroom hunger, enhancing the schools enrolment and simultaneously improving the nutritional levels of the children is not new in India.

Keyword: - Mid-day meal, Elementary Stage, Community Participation, Education scenario, Govts Objective.

Introduction and History:

In 1962, the state government of Tamil Nadu introduced a MDMS in primary schools in Channai and later extended it to all the districts of Tamil Nadu. In 1984 the scheme was introduced in the state of Gujrat. On 18th August 1995 the Government of India launched the MDMS, as a national programme and named this programme as the National Programme of Nutritional Support TO Primary education (NP-NSPE).

Objective of the Study:

This study has the following objectives:

- To find out the effect of Midday meal on universal retention and enrolment of the students.
- To know the extent of community participation and their attitudes towards mid day meal.
- To enquire into the problem that impedes in this implementation of this scheme.

Literature Review:

AFRIDI, F. (2005) studied mid-day meals which comparing the financial and institutional organization of the programme in two states namely Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh. The study found that in M.P. the implementation of the programme is improving, but there is a lot that needs to be done, especially regarding quality of food and parent teacher associations which needs to be strengthened. In the context of Karnataka, it is found that the programme has been more planned and better managed and iron folic tablets as well as demarcating tablets have been regularly provided.

SHAH (1988) found that attendance in schools improved to some extent, after the introduction of mid-day meals scheme. But there were no change in the rate of dropouts.

SAXENA, R. AND MITAL, S.C. (1986) studied the impact of midday meals programme on enrolment and retention at primary stage and found out that through there is a great influence of midday meal on enrolment the influence on retention was not strong enough to be reflected in the analysis of data.

Importance of Studies:

The importance of studies of MDM is to address the issue of hunger and primary education in schools by serving hot cooked meal. MDM is considered as a means of promoting improved enrolment school attendance and retention rates in school. A midday meal is an important instrument for combating classroom hunger and promoting better learning.

Jharkhand State Mid-Day Meal Authority:

Jharkhand State Mid Day Meal was constituted on 31st March 2014. This is a registered society under Act 1860. The objective of this institution is to implement Mid Day Meal scheme in the State under this scheme hot cooked meal is served in all Govt, Primary of Middle schools, Govt Aided school, Madarsa. The expenditure is being contributed in ratio 60:40 between central and the state Govt for cooking cost and honorarium to the cook cum helper. Costs of food grain, Transportation cost are provided entirely by the Govt of India. The entire activity for implementation committees are as follows, State Level, District Level, Block Level and School Level.

School Education with Mid Day Meal Programme:

Today, this scheme seeks to address the following issues, food security, lack of nutritional food in rural areas and access to education. It is hoped that by providing hot meals to children in lower primary and upper primary classes more children will be encouraged to attend school regularly. A survey conducted by the Department of Economic and Statistical Analysis shows that 72% of schools do not have kitchen and facilities to cook. So food would be cooked meals away and transported to the school. When the food reaches these poor children it would have turned cold. But steps have to taken by the Government to ensure that schools have the proper facilities for cooking. So, the poor children come to school to fulfil his/her appetite.

Nutrition and Health:

One of the objectives of MDM is to address classroom hunger and provide sufficient nutrition to the children. There are many students who go empty stomach to school and could not concentrate on study thus MDM provide them nutrition and help them to concentrate on classroom activities. Even in absence of MDM students go to their home for lunch and never return (Dreze and Goyal 2003). As it is pointed out by Dreze (2004) , poor learning abilities and greater exposure to disease are directly related to hunger and under nutrition. A study by Ramachandran (2003) emphasis that children assured their name to be registered in schools as proof of their official enrolment. The absenteeism in this type of condition is basically due to poor economic condition.

Methodology:

Method - Survey method
Sample - From Bokaro District
Sample Size - Total number of 30 students from Urban and Rural areas and 10 Teachers, students and community members from each related school.

Tools:

- Questionnaire for teachers
- Questionnaire for community
- An interview for Students

- Collection of Information and Observation
- Study based on – Coverage of Study
 - ❖ Classes (School)
 - Primary (I-V)
 - Upper Primary / Middle (VI-Viii)
 - ❖ Institution
 - Government
 - Private Aided
 - Local Body

Data Collection:

- Primary Sources
- Secondary Sources

Information collected the attendance rate and enrollment from the school register with the help of Principal. Questionnaire and interview to the teachers, community member and the students to know the problem, implementation and community participation in the scheme. This study will help in further research but due to Covid 19 second wave survey not possible. But It didnt stopped me to survey my research continue by the use of social media, phone, whatapps group, news channel and locality.

Conclusion:

From the study it is concluded that MDM scheme give boost up in attendance of students in schools and increasing member of student increases the education level in primary level but nutrition value is too low.

Suggestion:

Government schools lack of proper infrastructure for teaching why is students prefer to study in private schools. Those who are unable to afford in education in private schools prefer to work because of the horrible conditions of government schools. So, the government have to responsibility of the education system and provide facilities for the welfare of the children in India.

References:

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- Department of School Education & Literacy (Government of Jharkhand)