

Impact of Mid Day Meal Scheme on Enrollment, Attendance and Dropout rate of Primary School Children in District Deoria

Kajal Shahi¹

¹Research student, M.G.C.G.V, Chitrakoot Satna (M.P.)

Abstract: These are access to enhance education, enrollment of children and attendance of the enrolled children to boost up in academic achievement. The Mid Day Meal scheme is an effort to achieve and facilitate these objectives. The objective of present study is to evaluate the impact of Mid Day Meal on enrollment, attendance and dropout of primary school children in Deoria District (Uttar Pradesh). MDM and NMDM schools of five blocks in District Deoria was selected cross-sectional and multistage random sampling method. Result revealed that MDM scheme prove a major mean in improving enrollment and attendance comparatively. Some efforts should be needed to decrease dropout rate of students by increasing variety and quality of Mid Day Meal and by incorporating interesting method of teaching.

Keywords: Enrollment, Attendance, Dropout rate, MDM, NMDM, Deoria .

Introduction

The government has left no stone unturned to achieve the aim of universalisation of elementary education by launching various schemes to enroll and retain the maximum number of students and minimize the dropout rate. One such scheme launched by the government was Mid day meal scheme that aims to primary and upper primary level in improving the nutritional status of children, encouraging poor children, belonging to disadvantaged sections, to attend school more regularly and help them concentrate on classroom activities. The success of this scheme is illustrated by the tremendous increase in the school participation and enrolment rates in Tamil Nadu[1]. Various studies have been conducted in India about mid-day meal scheme and students achievement in schools. Most of the studies revealed that there exist a positive relationship between mid-day meal program and enrolment and attendance of students [2]-[3]-[4]-[5]

Education plays a vital role in the development of human potential. Free and compulsory education up to the age of 14 years is the constitutional commitment and it is estimated that Elementary school children (6-14 years)

form about 20% of the total population[6]. The important thing to consider is that the expenditures on this programme have been huge. For example in 2003-04 the expenditure was Rs. 1400 cores and 2007-2008 budget of the central government has allocated about Rs. 7324 crores for the MDM scheme. Performance audit (2011) conducted by Centre for Environment and Food Security on food security schemes in Orissa and Uttar Pradesh; The sample survey in 130 villages spread over 12 districts of Orissa and Uttar Pradesh (Bundelkhand) was carried out and reported that performance of the MDM scheme is far better in Orissa in comparison with the Uttar Pradesh. An overwhelming 86.7 per cent of Orissa children were getting second best category of MDM (regular but inadequate and unsatisfactory meal), only 51.8 per cent of children in UP were getting regular but inadequate and unsatisfactory meal in their respective schools[7].

Objective :- In view of all , it is imperative to evaluate the impact of mid day meal on enrollment, attendance and dropout rate of MDM and NMDM primary schools' children in district Deoria.

MATERIALS AND METHODS :-

Study population – The study was carried out among 250 school children (125 Mid Day Meal (MDM) school children and 125 Non-Mid Day Meal (NMDM) school children) aged 7 to 11 years .

Study area: - To assess the impact of program a set of five schools with Mid Day Meal scheme and five school without Mid Day Meal scheme with comparable socio-economic background were used in five blocks of Deoria District.

Study design: - A cross sectional and multistage random sampling technique was followed.

Data collection :- By using predesigned and pretested schedule (Interview technique and observation) .

Tools developed: - A predesigned and pretested performa was used as a tool for collection of information for each parameter.

Data regarding enrollment, attendance and dropout rate of children was collected as per school record

Table1: Year - wise enrollment of primary school children (2011-2016) in District Deoria

Year	Solepur Block						Z-test (Sig)	Ballia Block						Z-test (Sig)	Bhaini Block						Z-test (Sig)	Bhatnagar Block						Z-test (Sig)	Bankata Block						Z-test (Sig)
	MDM School			NMDM School				MDM School			NMDM School				MDM School			NMDM School				MDM School			NMDM School				MDM School			NMDM School			
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total		Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total		Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total		Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total		Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	
2011-12	87	94	181	81	74	155	<0.05	77	83	160	76	71	147	NS	71	84	155	74	68	142	55	57	112	75	74	149	<0.05	51	58	109	57	61	118	NS	
	(48.07)	(51.93)	(100.00)	(51.58)	(48.42)	(100.00)		(48.21)	(51.79)	(100.00)	(51.86)	(48.14)	(100.00)		(52.39)	(47.61)	(100.00)	(52.28)	(47.72)	(100.00)	(50.37)	(49.63)	(100.00)	(54.34)	(45.66)	(100.00)	(47.27)	(52.73)	(100.00)	(47.50)	(52.50)	(100.00)			
2012-13	105	110	215	96	92	188	<0.05	107	113	220	94	88	182	<0.05	84	78	162	79	71	150	72	78	150	78	78	156	NS	58	58	116	67	61	128	<0.05	
	(48.50)	(51.50)	(100.00)	(50.69)	(49.31)	(100.00)		(49.51)	(50.49)	(100.00)	(51.59)	(48.41)	(100.00)		(52.17)	(47.83)	(100.00)	(52.25)	(47.75)	(100.00)	(50.70)	(49.30)	(100.00)	(54.57)	(45.43)	(100.00)	(48.70)	(51.30)	(100.00)	(54.76)	(45.24)	(100.00)			
2013-14	128	130	258	109	91	200	<0.05	104	108	212	111	88	199	<0.05	104	98	202	90	71	161	70	74	144	78	82	160	NS	57	65	122	71	67	138	<0.05	
	(51.17)	(48.83)	(100.00)	(54.01)	(45.99)	(100.00)		(45.22)	(54.78)	(100.00)	(50.24)	(49.76)	(100.00)		(54.74)	(45.26)	(100.00)	(55.29)	(44.71)	(100.00)	(48.61)	(51.39)	(100.00)	(48.75)	(51.25)	(100.00)	(48.21)	(51.79)	(100.00)	(52.14)	(47.86)	(100.00)			
2014-15	122	128	250	118	97	215	<0.05	111	121	232	110	102	212	<0.05	117	91	208	91	88	179	81	77	158	92	84	176	NS	60	65	125	71	77	148	<0.05	
	(48.80)	(51.20)	(100.00)	(54.67)	(45.33)	(100.00)		(48.29)	(51.71)	(100.00)	(51.84)	(48.16)	(100.00)		(51.50)	(48.50)	(100.00)	(54.33)	(45.67)	(100.00)	(52.47)	(47.53)	(100.00)	(52.27)	(47.73)	(100.00)	(48.80)	(51.20)	(100.00)	(47.67)	(52.33)	(100.00)			
2015-16	118	147	265	123	102	225	<0.05	111	140	251	125	97	222	<0.05	119	96	215	101	79	180	82	88	170	91	88	179	<0.05	61	79	140	78	62	140	<0.05	
	(48.52)	(51.48)	(100.00)	(54.38)	(45.62)	(100.00)		(44.22)	(55.78)	(100.00)	(54.21)	(45.79)	(100.00)		(50.35)	(49.65)	(100.00)	(54.25)	(45.75)	(100.00)	(48.81)	(51.19)	(100.00)	(48.75)	(51.25)	(100.00)	(48.21)	(51.79)	(100.00)	(52.14)	(47.86)	(100.00)			
Total	352	389	741	327	436	763	<0.05	311	389	700	338	447	785	<0.05	485	413	898	421	347	768	352	357	709	373	401	774	<0.05	248	282	530	317	344	661	<0.05	
	(48.31)	(51.69)	(100.00)	(50.21)	(49.79)	(100.00)		(44.89)	(55.11)	(100.00)	(50.39)	(49.61)	(100.00)		(50.79)	(49.21)	(100.00)	(54.33)	(45.67)	(100.00)	(48.81)	(51.19)	(100.00)	(48.75)	(51.25)	(100.00)	(48.21)	(51.79)	(100.00)	(52.14)	(47.86)	(100.00)			

2 in the attendance of children in a school ic year (2011-2016) in overall attendance und that attendance of both boys and girls

were slightly more in MDM schools as comparison to NMDM schools where as Bhatni block the attendance of both boys and girls were slightly higher in NMDM schools than MDM schools. However, in Salempur block enrolment of both boys and girls were more in MDM schools as compared to NMDM schools among all selected blocks. The boys attendance was maximum in MDM schools as compared to girls whereas, in NMDM schools girls attendance was observed higher than boys of five selected block in District Deoria . Therefore, statistically non- significant difference was observed in school attendance of MDM and NMDM children. However, it was evident from almost similar attendance of MDM and NMDM schools' children of five blocks in Deoria District. On the whole the findings of present study on school attendance of children in general and particularly those of MDM group were very encouraging. There was sufficient literature to support this finding Kushwaha reviewed the situation in the year (2008) and reported that over the years there was considerable improvement in school attendance of children on the whole in U.P. state as well as in other part of the country.

Table 3:- Year wise dropout rate of primary school children in District Deoria 2011-2016

Year	Year wise dropout rate of MDM and NMDM primary school children in District Deoria (2011-2016)																																				
	Solepur Block						Z-test (Sig)	Ballia Block						Z-test (Sig)	Bhaini Block						Z-test (Sig)	Bhatnagar Block						Z-test (Sig)	Bankata Block						Z-test (Sig)		
	MDM School			NMDM School				MDM School			NMDM School				MDM School			NMDM School				MDM School			NMDM School				MDM School			NMDM School					
Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total					
2011-12	8	7	15	5	5	10	<0.05	14	12	26	5	10	15	<0.05	8	14	22	15	9	24	8	10	18	12	9	21	9	18	27	NS	12	5	17	16	12	28	NS
	(47.62)	(52.38)	(100.00)	(47.36)	(52.64)	(100.00)		(52.05)	(47.95)	(100.00)	(44.44)	(55.56)	(100.00)		(33.00)	(67.00)	(100.00)	(71.37)	(28.63)	(100.00)	(52.28)	(47.72)	(100.00)	(48.61)	(51.39)	(100.00)	(48.75)	(51.25)	(100.00)	(48.21)	(51.79)	(100.00)	(52.14)	(47.86)	(100.00)		
2012-13	9	16	25	7	9	16	NS	11	9	20	10	7	17	<0.05	14	9	23	10	16	26	10	9	19	10	9	19	10	9	19	NS	10	5	15	11	7	18	NS
	(47.27)	(52.73)	(100.00)	(43.75)	(56.25)	(100.00)		(59.09)	(40.91)	(100.00)	(50.00)	(50.00)	(100.00)		(50.00)	(50.00)	(100.00)	(50.00)	(50.00)	(100.00)	(48.61)	(51.39)	(100.00)	(48.75)	(51.25)	(100.00)	(48.21)	(51.79)	(100.00)	(52.14)	(47.86)	(100.00)					
2013-14	5	5	10	3	7	10	<0.05	10	7	17	8	5	13	<0.05	10	7	17	11	11	22	9	9	18	12	9	21	9	18	27	NS	7	5	12	9	7	16	NS
	(28.79)	(71.21)	(100.00)	(30.00)	(70.00)	(100.00)		(58.82)	(41.18)	(100.00)	(57.94)	(42.06)	(100.00)		(58.82)	(41.18)	(100.00)	(42.86)	(57.14)	(100.00)	(51.94)	(48.06)	(100.00)	(45.45)	(54.55)	(100.00)	(51.94)	(48.06)	(100.00)	(51.94)	(48.06)	(100.00)	(51.94)	(48.06)	(100.00)		
2014-15	5	4	9	7	5	12	NS	5	5	10	6	7	13	NS	8	7	15	6	10	16	6	6	12	7	4	11	9	18	NS	5	5	10	4	7	11	NS	
	(35.59)	(64.41)	(100.00)	(58.33)	(41.67)	(100.00)		(38.46)	(61.54)	(100.00)	(46.15)	(53.85)	(100.00)		(57.14)	(42.86)	(100.00)	(44.44)	(55.56)	(100.00)	(50.00)	(50.00)	(100.00)	(52.38)	(47.62)	(100.00)	(50.00)	(50.00)	(100.00)	(48.61)	(51.39)	(100.00)	(48.75)	(51.25)	(100.00)		
2015-16	5	4	9	5	5	10	NS	6	5	11	7	4	11	NS	5	5	10	8	6	14	7	3	10	5	3	8	9	18	NS	3	4	7	6	4	10	<0.05	
	(35.59)	(64.41)	(100.00)	(54.55)	(45.45)	(100.00)		(54.55)	(45.45)	(100.00)	(57.14)	(42.86)	(100.00)		(38.46)	(61.54)	(100.00)	(64.71)	(35.29)	(100.00)	(71.00)	(29.00)	(100.00)	(62.50)	(37.50)	(100.00)	(42.86)	(57.14)	(100.00)	(50.00)	(50.00)	(100.00)	(40.00)	(60.00)	(100.00)		
Total	34	39	73	38	35	73	NS	48	41	89	38	32	70	<0.05	42	44	86	58	51	109	42	32	74	33	30	63	35	70	105	NS	27	28	55	41	37	78	<0.05
	(47.22)	(52.78)	(100.00)	(46.57)	(53.43)	(100.00)		(51.92)	(48.08)	(100.00)	(54.17)	(45.83)	(100.00)		(49.43)	(50.57)	(100.00)	(52.25)	(47.75)	(100.00)	(48.79)	(51.21)	(100.00)	(48.75)	(51.25)	(100.00)	(48.21)	(51.79)	(100.00)	(52.30)	(47.70)	(100.00)					

<0.05 = Significant at 5% level, NS = Not – Significant,

Dropout rate: - The data portrayed in table 3 with year wise dropout rate of MDM and NMDM school (2011-2016). In shown in table 3.3 in the present study the dropout rates were based on reports of the principals/teachers, it was decreased from 2011 to 2016 in both MDM and NMDM schools. The NMDM schools under study were all private schools where as all the MDM schools were run by govt. However, dropout rate was lightly reducing in NMDM schools' children as compared to MDM schools' children in Salempur, Baitalpur and Bhatpar blocks whereas, Bhatni and Bankata blocks dropout rate was reducing in MDM schools' children than NMDM children. Girls dropout rate was decreased in both MDM and NMDM schools as compared to boys of five blocks in District Deoria when Z test was applied to the data the observed Z value had been found that there was non-significant ($P>0.05$) difference in school dropout rate of MDM and NMDM children. There was sufficient literature to support these findings, GOI (2008) from reducing dropout rate in MDM schools. NPNS, (1995) reported that the Mid Day Meal is a centrally funded welfare scheme which offers cooked meal to students in primary schools as an incentive to attend classes and is aimed to reduce the dropout rate in schools.

Conclusion:- It was reported that all the sample schools in blocks like Salempur, Baitalpur, Bhatni, Bhatpar and Bankata in District Deoria in a nutshell it can be concluded that MDM scheme should continue in the District Deoria as it had positive impact on enrollment and attendance of children. Dropout rate was yet to decrease. This would change the inclination of masses towards government schools and thus helpful uplift to educational and boost up in area.

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