IMPACT OF MID-DAY MEAL SCHEME ON ENROLLMENT OF STUDENTS IN GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS

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ABSTRACT

The present study deals with the impact of Mid Day Meal Scheme on the enrollment of students in govt. rural schools of Punjab. The study focused on enrollment of total students before and after the implementation of scheme. The data was taken from the office record of schools. Analysis was done with help of percentage and graphical representation of data. The results showed that total strength of students increased after implementation of Mid Day Meal Scheme.

Keywords: Mid-Day Meal Scheme; Enrollment

INTRODUCTION

The elementary education system of India is one of the largest in the world. There are about 150 million children officially enrolled in nearly 800 thousand schools throughout the country (Department of Education, Government of India, 2002-03). Almost 40 million children in the age group of 6-14 years are out of school (Department of Education, Government of India, 2002-03). According to 2011 census report, India male (literacy rate) is 82.14% and female (literacy rate) is 65.46%, in particular Punjab male (literacy rate) according to census 2011 is 81.5% and female (literacy rate) is 71.3%. Furthermore, those who join primary schools, only one third continue beyond the primary level. The dropout rate is quite high in primary schools. To overcome this problem and to increase the literacy rate, reduce drop-out rate, the government has introduced several schemes since independence for promoting education among school going children such as Integrated Child Development Scheme, Balwadi Nutritional Program, NGO supported schools, Asharam Schools etc. But when these schemes failed to achieve the desired goal, the union Government launched new educational promotion scheme under the name of Mid-day Meals Scheme (MDM Scheme) to universalize primary education. Under MDM scheme the students are given cooked food for lunch at school premises by the govt. The MDM scheme was actually implemented in the schools in session 2007-2008 as per the information from schools.

The MDMS was started with varied objectives like:

- To increase the nutritional level of the school going children.
- To enhance the educational attainment of the children.
- To retain the children in the school for a long period of time.
JUSTIFICATION OF THE PROBLEM

Education is necessary for overall development of a citizen. Although central and state govt. are putting their efforts to attract more and more children and parents to school, still they are to cover a long journey. The central govt. has started the Mid-Day Meal scheme on 15th Aug, 1995. One of the objectives of Mid-Day Meal is to encourage the poor children to attend school more regularly and help them to concentrate on classroom activities. Through present research investigators want to study how far the objectives of increasing enrollment through MDM are successful.

Secondly, MDM has been one of the earliest supplementary programme in our country. For providing feedback to the govt. regarding the impact of Mid-Day Meal scheme on enrollment of students in Govt. schools, the investigators have gone through this research.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

To study the impact of the Mid-Day Meal programme on enrollment of students studying in primary classes.

HYPOTHESIS OF THE STUDY

There is a positive impact of Mid-Day Meal programme on the enrollment of students in primary classes.

DELIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

1. Only Ludhiana and Moga Districts of Punjab were taken for study.
2. Only 20 rural govt. schools were taken up for the study.

METHODOLOGY

Design

Descriptive survey Method was used in the present study. Data was collected by qualitative means.

Sample

Randomly 20 schools from Ludhiana and Moga district of Punjab were taken for collecting data.

Tools

Enrollment data was taken from the school office record.

DATA COLLECTION

The data collected was on nominal scale as the number of students enrolled every year were taken.

Statistical Technique

The data was on nominal scale. Percentage technique was used to analyze data. The graph was also prepared to show the trend.

ANALYSIS OF DATA

Table 1. Showing total strength of students in rural schools and percentage gain or loss in every session

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. no.</th>
<th>Year/session</th>
<th>Total strength in all schools taken</th>
<th>Gain/loss</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>2003-2004</td>
<td>3895</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>2004-2005</td>
<td>3532</td>
<td>-9.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>2005-2006</td>
<td>3424</td>
<td>-3.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>2006-2007</td>
<td>3663</td>
<td>6.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>2007-2008</td>
<td>3500</td>
<td>-4.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>2008-2009</td>
<td>3230</td>
<td>-7.71</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 1. Showing total strength of students in rural schools and percentage gain or loss in every session (Contd…..)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. no.</th>
<th>Year/session</th>
<th>Total strength in all schools taken</th>
<th>Gain/loss</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>2009-2010</td>
<td>3265</td>
<td>1.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>2010-2011</td>
<td>3316</td>
<td>1.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>2011-2012</td>
<td>3377</td>
<td>1.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>2012-2013</td>
<td>3653</td>
<td>8.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>2013-2014</td>
<td>3740</td>
<td>2.38</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: -ve sign shows a loss in total strength or +ve sign shows growth in total strength.

Fig 1. Graph showing the trend before the onset of MDM scheme and after actually implementing MDM scheme in 2007-08

The table 1 and figure 1 show that in session 2003-2004 the total strength of the schools under study was 3895. If we observe session 2004-2005 then 2005-2006 the strength is decreasing, the percentage loss can be seen in table 4.1. In session 2004-2005 are loss of 9.31% can be seen and in session 2005-2006 further a loss of 3.05% can be observed in the strength of students in govt. schools. In session 2006-2007 a growth of 6.98% can be seen. Again in session 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 a loss of 4.44% and 7.71% can be observed respectively. After that in all the sessions the strength is increasing and it is noticeably high in session 2012-2013 where a growth of 8.17% can be seen. The MDM scheme was actually implemented in the schools in session 2007-2008. In the year 2008-2009 it gained the popularity and people came to know about this facility in the govt. schools which was up to middle classes.

The growth in enrollment in the govt. schools after the session 2008-2009 can be easily related and understood as impact of MDM scheme as with the onset of MDM scheme a positive strength can be seen. This means that the enrollment is increasing in govt. schools after implementing of the MDM scheme.

CONCLUSION

On the basis of analysis and interpretation of data it is found that:

After implementing the mid-day meal scheme the enrollment of total students in govt. schools has been increased.

EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

1. The result of the study gives the feedback to educational planners about the success of scheme.
2. It helps the planners to start other new schemes to increase enrollment of students.

REFERENCES

Books


Journals


