



A study of the impact of implementation of midday meal program on enrolment of the students in class V in Haripal block of Hooghly district in West Bengal

Prodip Kr.Das

Abhisek Chattopadhyay

ABSTRACT: Education is one of the basic things which is needed to every child. Man is the best creation of the God .It is a continuous effort for the man to make his surrounding better. Education is the medium which make the better tomorrow. It was a continuous effort for the Government after Independence to bring every child under the elementary education .There are some basic areas identified to achieve the goal of education .These are enrolment, retention, easy access of the education and academic achievement .Government has adopted many project or schemes for the Universalization of education .Midday meal program is one of the project taken by the Government to help the Universalization of education. The main aim of the present study is to find out whether the Midday meal program has any effect on increase of enrolment of the students coming from primary level to class V in West Bengal. It is found that the average enrolment is continuously decreasing after the implementation of the Midday meal program. The researchers also found that the Head of the Institutions have a positive attitude towards Midday meal program though they also accepted about some problems in conducting the program successfully.

KEY WORDS : Midday meal, Enrolment, Universalization, Primary level, Head of the Institution(HOI)

INTRODUCTION:

Education plays a vital role in all-round development of the child .As the children of today is the future of the nation ,their all round development is very much important for the country to proceed towards the advancement .The government always trying to universalize the elementary education by introducing various schemes to enroll the students and minimize the dropouts .Midday meal is one of such important schemes introduced by the government of India with the aim of higher enrolment and retention in primary and upper primary levels. Universalization of education in India consists of free and compulsory education for the children up to the age of 14 years .This is also mentioned as the directive principle in our constitution .The ultimate time limit mentioned for that was 1960 (but due to some unavoidable reasons it was not achieved ,along other states midday meal program starts in West Bengal from 2005).The Universalization of education aims the Universalization of provisions ,enrolment and retention of the students .In India specially in the rural areas the people are generally poor .So, they are busy moistly in livelihood. Therefore it is very difficult for the parents to send their children to school for elementary education .Kothari commission also mentioned some reasons like inadequate resources ,illiteracy of the parents ,population

152 | Received: 5 April Revised: 13 April Accepted: 22 April

[Index in Cosmos](#)

May 2018 Volume 8 Number 5

UGC APPROVED



explosion ,negative attitude toward girls education behind the non attainment of the Universalization of education .As the education does not give the any immediate financial help to the parents ,they are generally reluctant to send their children to school.

As mentioned earlier the Universalization of education should be achieved within 1960 according to our constitution .But due to some reasons it was started late .In many parts of West Bengal it was started in 2005 but in Haripal block of Hooghly district in West Bengal the Midday meal program was started in upper primary level from 2009 .There were many studies that already revealed that in many primary section midday meal had a marked effect on increase of enrolment and retention . The present study is an effort to reveal whether the Midday meal program has any effect on increase of enrolment of students coming from primary level (class IV) to class V.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:

The specific statement of the problem is 'A study of the impact of the midday meal program on enrolment of the students coming from primary level to class V in Haripal block of Hooghly district'

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY: The objective of the study is to find out the impact of the midday meal program on enrolment of the students coming from primary level to class V .

RESEARCH QUESTION:

Whether the midday meal program help in increasing the enrolment of the students in class V .

METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY:

SAMPLING: Purposive sampling method was used to collect the sample for this study .Twelve (12) secondary schools of Haripal block in Hooghly district in West Bengal were selected from the rural areas. Socioeconomically the families from where the students are generally coming to the schools are almost same. The financial and other provisions to the students of the selected schools are almost same.

METHODS USED: The present study is descriptive in nature, the researchers have adopted sample survey method as this method will help to analyze the present Investigation that is the impact of the midday meal program on the enrolment of the students coming from primary level to class V .



PROCEDURE OF DATA COLLECTION:

To find the impact of the Midday Meal program on enrolment of the students in class V, the researchers have collected the data of enrolment of 9 (nine) years before the starting of the Midday meal program in 2009 (i.e.2008-2009 academic session) and9 consecutive years after the starting of the Midday meal program . The data were collected by the researchers from the school’s enrolment records with the help of the school authorities .The information about the impact of the Midday meal program on the enrolment of the students in class V was also collected from the Head of the Institutions .The researcher used a pre prepared questionnaires to collect the information from the Head Master /Head Mistress of the Institution.

TOOLS USED:

- i. ENROLMENT RECORDS OF THE SCHOOLS: The researchers used the school admission register with the help of the school authorities to know the exact number of the admission of the students in class V .
- ii. QUESTIONNAIRES FOR THE HOI: The present researchers developed a questionnaires to know about the Midday meal program .

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Data collected from the Head of the Institutions:

CATEGORIES	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
HEAD MASTER	09	75
HEAD MISTRESS	03	25

From table 1: it is found that out of 12 schools ,participating in the survey in 9 schools Head Masters and in 3 schools Head Mistress were in position of the Head of the institution .So the percentage of Head Masters were 75 %and that of Head Mistress were 25%.

Description of the responses given by the HOI as per teacher’s questionnaires made by the researchers : In assessment of the impact of the Midday meal program on enrolment of the students from primary section to class V ,the first question of the schedule was that the midday meal program is operating in every upper primary and secondary schools of Haripal or not . T he answers are all positive from the Head of the institutions. The second question of the schedule for HOI deals with



whether there is any problem faced by the HOI in starting or conducting the Midday meal program . 8 out of 12 HOI responded in positive where as other 4 gave negative response .The percentage of positive answer was 66.67%whereas for negative answer it was 33.33%.This data clearly indicates that there is some problems for the Head of the institutions in conducting the Midday meal program .the third question of the questionnaires was whether every student are being included in the Midday meal program .Seven(07) out of 12 HOI replied 'Yes' and 5 out of 12 HOI replied 'No'. The percentage of positive answer was 58.33% and that of the negative answer was 41.67%.Certain percentage of negative answer indicates that there were some children left who were not the part of the Midday meal program .The researchers observed that there were some economic and social differences between the students who were not included in the Midday meal program with the students who were the part of the program. Generally the students whose parents were from higher social status and better economic condition reluctant to take part of the Midday meal program .The next question to the HOI was whether the majority of the students (more than half) of the students of a class were involved in the Midday meal program or not . 10 out of 12 HOI replied 'Yes' whereas only 2 out of 12 HOI replied 'No'. The researchers get the percentage of positive answer as 83.33% and that of the negative answers as 16.67%.The result thus obtained clearly indicates that a majority of the students coming from primary level to the upper primary level (class V)are mostly benefited by the Midday meal program . The next question of the schedule was dealing with the adequacy of the teachers in the schools for conducting Midday meal program or daily teaching learning procedure .The Head of the Institutions were also asked about the student –teacher ratio was properly maintained or not .The researchers got a mixed answer for these questions .75% of the HOI replied that there was some problems faced by them due to inadequate number of teachers. All the Head of the Institution agreed about the fact that there was a shortage of teachers to maintain the proper student-teacher ratio. The next question of the questionnaires was whether the amount allotted per student for everyday's meal is sufficient or not. All the HOI replied the negative, that means the amount allotted is not sufficient to provide proper nutritious food to all the students .

EFFECT OF MIDDAY MEAL ON THE ENROLMENT OF THE STUDENTS IN CLASS V:

Here the researchers main aim is to analyze the effect of midday meal on the enrolment of the students in class V .The researchers choose twelve schools (12)from the Haripal block in Hooghly district .All the schools are from rural areas where the main occupation of the people is agriculture and day labour .The researchers collected the enrolment records of nine years before the start of the Midday meal program in 2009 .



YEAR	ENROLMENT CLASS V	IN	AVERAGE
2000	1877		1964.22
2001	2036		
2002	1883		
2003	2042		
2004	1972		
2005	2112		
2006	2026		
2007	1909		
2008	1821		

Average enrolment of nine years (i.e. 2000 to 2008) before the implementation of Midday meal program is therefore 1964.22

Enrolment of students in class V after implementation of Midday meal :

YEAR	ENROLMENT CLASS V	IN	AVERAGE
2009	1862		1440.77
2010	1540		
2011	1668		
2012	1606		
2013	1425		
2014	1423		
2015	1411		
2016	1440		
2017	592		

Average enrolment of the last nine years (i.e. 2009 -2017) after the implementation of Mid day meal program is therefore 1440.77

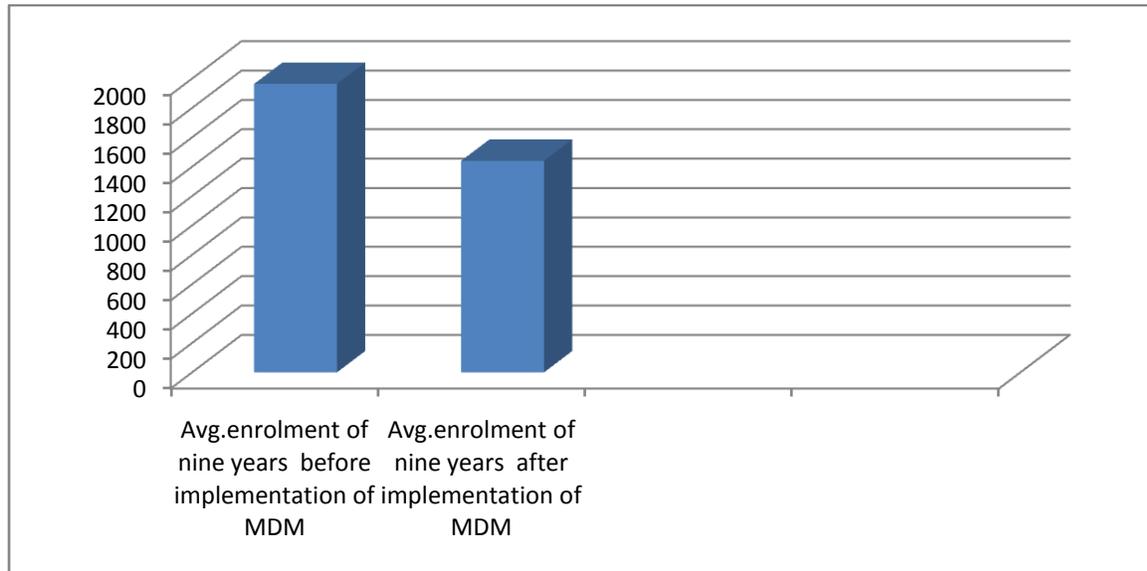


Change in the enrolment percentage of students in class after implementation of the Mid day meal program :

TOTAL ENROLMENT OF THE STUDENTS BEFORE NINE YEARS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MIDDAY MEAL PROGRAM	TOTAL ENROLMENT OF THE STUDENTS AFTER NINE YEARS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF MIDDAY MEAL PROGRAM	CHANGE IN THE PERCENTAGE OF ENROLMENT OF STUDENTS
17678	12967	26.65%

The result clearly signifies that the percentage of enrolment of students decreases after the implementation of the Mid day meal program .

Graphical representation of the enrolment of the students in class V for nine years before and after the implementation of Mid day meal program :





International journal of basic and applied research

www.pragatipublication.com

ISSN 2249-3352 (P) 2278-0505 (E)

Cosmos Impact Factor-5.86

CONCLUSION: From the recent study the researchers have found that after the implementation of Midday meal program the enrolment of the students in class V not increased. The percentage of decrease of student's enrolment in fact is significant. There may be other reasons for this decrease in enrolment. The researchers have revealed that the Mid day meal program though helpful to the students coming from socioeconomically backward students but the students from somewhat higher financial background are actually reluctant to the said program. The lower student to teacher ratio may also be a reason for the decrease in enrolment. The amount allotted for serving cooked nutritious food is also not sufficient which also a problem to conduct the program. Moreover lower rate of population increase may also be a contributing factor. In a nutshell it can be concluded that though there may be various reasons, implementation of Mid day meal has no marked effect on increase in enrolment of the students in class V.

REFERENCE :

1. Paul, P.K., Mondal N.K. Impact of midday meal programme on academic performance of students, evidence from few upper primary schools of Burdwan district in West Bengal
2. Dreze, Jean and Aparajita Goyal, „Future of Midday meals, Economic and Political Weekly, November 1.2003
3. Mondal, Naba Kumar, Tuhin kumar Samanta and Sirshendu Mandal, Effect of Midday meal in Primary Education, Anwesa, vol2.:28-32 April 2007
4. Best, J. And Khan, J. (2006) Research in education (10th Edition). New Jersey: Pearson Education Inc
5. Koul, Lokesh (2018). Methodology Of Educational Research (Fourth Edition). Vikas Publishing House Private limited

158 | Received: 5 April Revised: 13 April Accepted: 22 April

Index in Cosmos

May 2018 Volume 8 Number 5

UGC APPROVED