

A Study on Impact of Mid-Day Meal Program on School Education in India: with reference to Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh, India

Dr. Rajesh C. Jampala¹ Dr. P. Adi Lakshmi² Dr. Srinivasa Rao Dokku^{3*}

¹P.B. Siddhartha College of Arts & Science, Andhra Pradesh, India

²P.V.P. Siddhartha Institute of Technology, Andhra Pradesh, India

³P.V.P. Siddhartha Institute of Technology, Andhra Pradesh, India 520 007,

Email: srinu_dokku@yahoo.co.in. (*Corresponding author's Dr. Srinivasa Rao Dokku email)

ABSTRACT:

The MDM programme aims to improve school enrollment, attendance, and retention to better the children's school performance, and to improve the nutritional status of primary school children. The objective of the study is to know the Impact of Mid-Day Meal Program on Educational Attainment in Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh, India. The primary data was collected with the help of specially prepared interview schedule (questionnaires). The study has covered schools numbering 180 located in Krishna District of Andhra Pradesh, India. The data was analysed with the help of SPSS and Excel. Percentages and Chi-Square test was used to analysed the data. The results of the study on the educational component indicated that, student's attendance has improved, increased retention rate with reduced dropout rates, and a marginal improvement in the scholastic performance. Not only the Mid-Day Meal program in Krishna District have a significant, positive effect on overall enrollment rates, but the effect was also more pronounced for those with the least educated parents and lowest economic status.

Key words: Mid-Day Meal, Education, Enrollment, Attainment, Retention,

Introduction:

Mid-Day Meal (MDM) Scheme was launched by the Government of India which helps poor pupils from rural and urban areas and resolves issues of lack of nutrition, food security and access to education. With the help of this programme free lunch is provided on school working days for children in Primary and Upper Primary Classes in Government, Government Aided, Local Body STC, Madaras and Maqtabs i.e supported under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA). The Scheme was launched in January, 2003 for the children studying in Primary Schools (Classes I to V) and in October 2008, the same was extended to the children studying in Upper Primary Schools (Classes VI to VIII) and to the children studying in High Schools (Classes IX & X) with 100% state funds. This was further extended to the children studying in Special Schools under NCLP from the academic year of 2010-11.