

## IMPACT OF MID-DAY MEAL PROGRAMME ON ENROLMENT AND RETENTION OF GIRLS STUDYING IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS OF JAIPUR DIVISION

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### ABSTRACT

*The present study was conducted in 80 government schools of Jaipur Division in Rajasthan. The purpose was to study the impact of MDMP on enrolment & retention of girls studying in primary schools and to study the opinion of teachers, students (girls) and their parents towards the impact of MDMP. It is a descriptive study and the researcher has taken 160 teachers, 320 students (girls) and 320 parents as sample for her investigation using Purposive Random sampling technique. The researcher has used Girl's Enrolment Data Sheet & questionnaire. For analysis and interpretation of data the investigator has used ANOVA. It was found that enrolment & retention of girls continuously falls down as we move from class I to V except at some situations. Also, there is a difference among the opinion of Parents, teachers and students towards the impact of MDMP.*

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### INTRODUCTION

Education is felt essential for success of democracy for improving productivity and for bringing about desirable changes for social as well as the national development. Free, compulsory and universal education is considered the strong pillar of democracy, not only because all citizens will have equal opportunities for all round development of their personalities, but also because they will become creative and productive members of a democratic society. With a view to enabling the children to efficiently discharge their responsibilities as citizens, universal primary education is a prerequisite. Education is free to all children, both boys and girls, rather some special facilities & incentives are given to the girls at the primary level.

Education of girls is an economical problem for those poor families where there are so many children in a family are ready for school education. Especially, this financial problem is faced in case of girl child. Infact, illiterate parents think that education is not needed for girls because they have to learn household work. Also there are so many villages and slums areas in our country where near by availability of school is less. In such condition parents are not interested to send their children especially girls to far distance schools. Even poor parents are

not able to arrange two times meals a day to their children. In majority of cases they get only one square a meal a day.

To overcome this, the Government of India introduced Nutritional Support to Primary Education Programme (Mid-Day Meal Scheme) in August, 1995 with the aim of Universalization of Primary Education by increasing enrolment, retention and attendance & simultaneously impacting on nutrition of students in Primary classes. MDM Programme attracts children to come to school daily. Thus, the Mid-Day Meal Programme for primary school children especially girls occupies an important place to alleviate poverty to an extent and at the same time strengthen the educational programme in the country by increasing enrolment, reducing schools drop-outs and improving the health of the children at the same level. Therefore, the researcher has studied the impact of Mid-Day Meal Programme on Enrolment and Retention of girls studying in Primary schools of Jaipur Division.

### OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- I. To study the impact of Mid- Day Meal Programme on enrolment of girls studying in primary schools.
- II. To study the impact of Mid- Day Meal Programme on retention of girls studying in primary schools.

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- III. To study the opinion of Parents, Students and Teachers towards the impact of Mid- Day Meal Programme on enrolment and retention of girls studying in primary schools.

### HYPOTHESIS

1. There is no impact of Mid-Day Meal Programme on the enrolment and retention of girls across the classes' i.e from I to V.
2. There is no impact of MDM Programme on Category-wise enrolment and retention of girls.
3. There is no impact of MDM Programme on enrolment and retention of girls studying in urban and rural areas.
4. There is no impact of MDM Programme on district-wise enrolment and retention of girls.
5. There is no difference among the opinion of students, teachers and parents towards the impact of MDM Programme on the enrolment and retention of girls.

### METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

In the present study, the researcher has used Survey Method to study the existing condition.

### SAMPLE OF THE STUDY

In the present study, the investigator has purposefully selected only those Government Primary Schools as a sample where Mid-Day Meal is being served. Thus, the selection of the sampling is Purposive. 80 schools have been selected randomly as a sample to collect girl's enrolment data of Jaipur Division. 20 schools from each district have been selected. Out of them, from each district 10 schools from urban area & 10 schools from rural area have been selected. Two (2) teachers from each school have been selected for sampling. Likely, four (4) parents & four (4) girls students have been considered as a sampling. Thus, 160 teachers, 320 parents & 320 students have been selected.

### TOOLS USED IN THE STUDY

The researcher has prepared Girl's Enrolment Data Sheet in which, Enrolment of girls has been taken from year 2001-02 to 2008-09 for class I to V. Further, in another sheet Enrolment of girls has been sub-divided into four categories i.e.

General (Gen.), Other Backward Class (OBC), Schedule Castes (SC) & Schedule Tribes (ST) from year 2001-02 to 2008-09 for class I to V. Also, the researcher has prepared three self-made questionnaire in the statements form for teachers, students and parents to collect their opinion.

### STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES USED IN THE STUDY

The present study is based on Qualitative & Quantitative study. Qualitative study covers analysis of Enrolment in Part-A & Retention in Part-B. The data have been analyzed by percentage, tables & Line-graphs. Quantitative study covers opinion of parents, teachers & students in Part-C. The data have been analyzed by ANOVA (F-test) and Percentage analysis.

### RESULTS & DISCUSSION

1. The effect of MDM Programme on enrolment of girls across the class from I to V in Jaipur Division is tabulated below.

**Table No.1: Class-wise Enrolment of Girls**

Year Class	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
I	1432	1641	1425	1384	1319	1193	1197	1241
%	14.59	-13.16	-2.88	-4.93	-9.55	0.33	3.54	
II	1164	1312	1247	1139	1264	1177	1092	1135
%	12.71	-4.95	-8.66	10.97	-6.88	-7.22	3.93	
III	1087	1090	989	1091	1046	1040	1053	972
%	0.27	-9.26	10.31	-4.12	-0.52	1.25	-7.69	
IV	905	975	888	932	1044	912	832	907
%	7.73	-8.92	4.95	13.01	-12.64	-8.77	9.01	
V	777	872	904	878	904	980	820	888
%	12.22	3.67	-2.88	2.96	8.40	-16.32	8.29	

Table 1 shows class-wise total enrolment of girls from classes I to V in Jaipur Division. In Year 2001-02, the total enrolment of girls in class I was 1432 which increased to 1641 in 2002-03 i.e. enrolment of girls increased by 14.59% in 2002-03. But, soon after that it started continuously declining followed by a slight increase in 2007-08 & 2008-09 i.e. it goes down by 13.16% in 2003-04, 2.88% in 2004-05, 4.93% in 2005-06 & 9.55% in 2006-07 followed by slight increase of 0.33% in 2007-08 & 3.54% in 2008-09.

In class II, the total enrolment of girls was 1164 in 2001-02 which increased to 1312 in 2002-03 i.e. 12.71% more girls enrolled in 2002-03 as compared to 2001-02. But after that it started declining i.e. it declined by 4.95% in 2003-04 & 8.66% in 2004-05. Further, it increased to 1264 in 2005-06 i.e. 10.97% more girls enrolled in 2005-06. But again it started declining i.e. in 2006-07 it declined by 6.88% followed by 7.22% in 2007-08. Further, it increased by 3.93% in 2008-09.

Similarly, in class III, enrolment of girls was 1087 in 2001-02 which increased by 1090 in 2002-03 i.e. 0.27% more girls' enrolled during 2002-03. But after that it declined to 989 in 2003-04 i.e. 9.26% fewer girls enrolled during 2003-04. Though it started increasing in 2004-05 when 10.31% more girl's enrolled yet it declined by 4.12% in 2005-06 & 0.52% in 2006-07 followed by a slight increase of 1.25% in 2007-08 but again it declined by 7.69% in 2008-09.

In class IV, enrolment of girls was 905 in 2001-02 which increased to 975 in 2002-03 i.e. 7.73% more girls enrolled during 2002-03. But in 2003-04, enrolment of girls declined to 888 i.e. 8.92% fall in enrolment of girls in 2003-04 as compared to 2002-03. Further, it increased by 4.95% in 2004-05 & 13.01% in 2005-06. Though it declined by 12.64% in 2006-07 & 8.77% in 2007-08 yet enrolment of girls was increased by 9.01% in 2008-09.

In class V, enrolment of girls increased by 12.22% in 2002-03 & 3.67% in 2003-04.. But after that, it showed a slight decrease of 2.88% in 2004 - 05. Further, it increased by 2.96% in 2005-06 & 8.40% in 2006-07. While in 2007-08 enrolment of girls declined by 16.32% but it increased by 8.29% in 2008-09.

At a glance, it is clear that there are variations in enrolment of girls from class I to V in Jaipur Division. In class I to III enrolment of girls declined in 2008-09 as compared to 2001-02 followed by slight increased in class IV but that is negligible. Only in class V enrolment of girls increased in 2008-09 as compared to 2001-02. Also, as we move from class I to V enrolment of girls have been continuously declining in all the years. Therefore, there is no impact of Mid-Day Meal Programme on enrolment of girls across the classes i.e. from I to V.

Thus, there is no impact of MDM Programme on enrolment of girls across the classes i.e. from I to V.

The effect of MDM Programme on retention of girls across the classes from I to V in Jaipur Division is tabulated below.

**Table No. 2: Class-wise Retention of Girls**

Year Class	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
I	1432	1641	1425	1384	1319	1193	1197	1241
%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
II	1164	1312	1247	1139	1264	1177	1092	1135
%	-	-8.37	-24.00	-20.07	-8.67	-10.07	-8.46	-5.17
III	1087	1090	989	1091	1046	1040	1053	972
%	-	-6.35	-24.6	-12.51	-8.16	-17.72	-10.53	-10.98
IV	905	975	888	932	1044	912	832	907
%	-	-10.30	-18.53	-5.76	-4.30	-12.81	-0.2	-13.86
V	777	872	904	878	904	980	820	888
%	-	-3.64	-7.28	-1.12	-3.00	-0.61	-10.08	6.73

Table 2 shows class-wise retention of girls from class I to V in Jaipur Division. In class II, girls enrolled were 1312 in 2002-03 as compared to 1432 in class I during 2001-02 i.e. retention of girls declined by 8.37% in 2002-03. Further, it declined by 24.6% in class III during 2003-04, 5.76% in class IV during 2004-05 & by 3% in class V during 2005-06.

Similarly, retention of girls declined by 24% in class II during 2003-04 as compared to 2002-03 which is further followed by 12.51% in class III, 4.30% in class IV & 0.61% in class V during 2004-05, 2005-06 & 2006-07 simultaneously.

Also, retention of girls declined to 20.07% in class II during 2004-05 as compared to 2003-04 which further followed by 8.16% in class III during 2005-06, 12.81% in class IV during 2006-07 & 10.08% in class V during 2007-08.

Though retention of girls continuously reduced by 8.67% in class II during 2005-06 as compared to 2004-05 which further is followed by 17.72% in class III during 2006-07 & 0.2% in class IV during 2007-08 but it increased by 6.73% in class V during 2008-09 i.e. 888 girls enrolled in class V during 2008-09 as compared to 832 in class IV during 2007-08.

Overall, it is seen that in 2005-06, retention of girls declined by 36.87% i.e. 1432 girls enrolled in 2001-02 which reduced to 904 in

2005-06. Similarly, retention of girls declined by 40.38%, 42.45% & 35.83% in 2006-07, 2007-08 & 2008-09 simultaneously.

Thus, retention of girls is continuously declined by varying in number of girls enrolled in the above classes in the next succeeding year except a slight increase in class V during 2008-09 as compared to 2007-08. Therefore, there is no impact of Mid-Day Meal Programme on retention of girls across the classes i.e. from I to V.

Thus, the Sub-Hypothesis that, "There is no impact of MDM Programme on retention of girls across the classes i.e. from I to V" is accepted.

### CONCLUSION FROM THE FINDINGS

It has found that enrolment of girls continuously falls down as we move from class I to V. District-wise Enrolment of girls have shown that though minimum numbers of girls enrolled in Alwar & Jaipur district yet they show increasing trends. While maximum number of girls enrolled in Dausa & Sikar District but they shows declining trends. Category-wise Enrolment of girls has shown that though maximum number of girls has been enrolled in OBC category yet it shows declining trend. Girls belonging to General, SC & ST category show increasing trend. There is no impact of MDMP on Enrolment of girls studying in urban & rural area.

Retention of girls has shown continuously declining trend as we move from class I to V. District-wise Retention of girls has increased only in Jaipur District while in Alwar, Dausa & Sikar Districts Retention of girls has decreased. Retention of girls has decreased in all the categories i.e. General, OBC, SC and ST. Also, there is no impact of MDMP on retention of girls studying in urban & rural area.

Also, there is a difference among the opinion of Parents, Teachers & Students towards the impact of MDM Programme on Enrolment & Retention of Girls.

### EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

1. It helps the planners to start new strategies to increase enrolment & retention of students especially girls.
2. It suggests planners to take equal initiatives to develop the programme for all the districts.

3. It supports parents to give suggestions in school for improving the quality of food which is served in schools.
4. It suggests planners that time of serving Mid-Day Meal should be separated from school working hours so that time for studies can be saved.
5. It suggests teachers that they should be aware about the distribution of Mid-Day Meal during lunch hours systematically and properly so that time for studies is not being wasted.

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