

# A Study on Influence of Mid-Day Meal Programme on Enrolment and Retention of Elementary School Students of Mayurbhanj District

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**Abstract:** For realizing the aim of Education for All, four key areas have been highlighted. Access to education, enrolment of children, retention of enrolled children, as well as academic success, are all important factors. The Midday Meal Program is an attempt to meet and assist these goals. The purpose of this study was to determine the influence of midday meal plan on primary school enrolment, attendance, and retention in the Badagan panchayat of Mayurbhanj district. The study adopted survey method of research. Tools used to collect data were enrolment and retention data sheets, questionnaire, perception assessment. Data were analysed using percentage calculation. According to the findings, the MDM plan is a significant means of increasing enrolment and attendance. The enrollment and retention of girls were increased as compared to boys in primary schools. Some efforts are required to enhance retention of students by increasing variety and quality of Mid-Day Meal.

**Key Words:** Midday meal, enrolment, retention, elementary student

## 1. INTRODUCTION:

Education is seen as a critical component of both economic and social development. It is the most crucial stage of human existence, especially during childhood in the primary levels, because it lays the framework for education and is an integral part of the educational structure. At this point when the children begins formal education and attends a formal institution. His physical, mental, emotional, intellectual, and social growth are all based on the education he receives there, When a child's fundamental need, such as food, are not addressed, schooling takes a back seat. The Mid-Day Meal Scheme was founded on the belief that "children cannot concentrate on learning if they are forced to sit in class on an empty stomach". It is a supportive dimension that has been implemented across the country to not only attract children to school, but also to give nutritional assistance in order to generate the required physical and psychological interest in the children in order to secure their attendance at school. In India, universalization of primary education implies that all children must get free and compulsory education until they reach the age of 14. It is one of our constitution's Directive Principles. Of course, by 1960, we should have met this goal. Yes, we were unable to make it. Now we're working hard to make it happen. Universalization of education implies three things viz. Universalization of provision, Universalization of enrolment and Universalization of retention. It involves putting a primary school within reasonable walking distance of every child's home. If it is made easier for every parent to send his or her children to school after establishing provisions for pupils, the next step is to figure out how to enroll all children who are of school age in primary school. It implies that the youngster should attend school till he has completed his elementary courses. The Mid-Day Meals programme is seen to have the ability to motivate schoolchildren to attend school on a regular basis since it supplies them with meals on a regular basis. As a result, the Mid-Day Meals programme is seen as a major contribution to the development of primary education.

## 2. REVIEW OF RELATED STUDIES:

**Sinha (2019)** studied that there is no direct and substantial relationship between infrastructural facilities and MDM, according to the research. In terms of children receiving MDM, there is a spatial disparity. However, there was

no evidence of gender disparity or prejudice. Rather, MDM has increased the number of females enrolled and attending school. MDM is much more popular in rural India, according to research. It has been determined that the image may differ at the rural and urban levels, for which no research has been done. However, there is a class-by-class difference in MDM availability. As compared to low-income groups, high-income groups had a lower chance of receiving MDM.

**Panigrahi (2018)** studied the impact of MDM scheme on the school system. The study found that in the 2003-04 school year, the average enrolment of students per school was lowest (48.78) in comparison to the previous two years in the Balasore district of Odisha, and that a large majority of government primary school teachers (76%) believe that the Mid-Day meal scheme is helping to achieve the goals of universalization of elementary education.

**Mondal (2017)** studied that the proportion of enrolment has grown since the launch of the Mid-Day Meals Program, according to research. The rural teachers and headmen are united in their support for the Mid-Day Meals Program. The implementation of the Mid-Day Meals Program at the elementary level was found to be popular with rural head teachers.

**Poonam & Kaur (2017)** had conducted a study of the mid-day-meal scheme in the implementation of U.E.E. in terms of enrolment and retention of girls in upper primary found that the Mid-Day Meal has a significant impact on schools, not only in terms of having more children enrolled, but also in terms of regular pupil attendance.

**Sofal (2017)** had conducted a study on influence of the mid-day meal plan on the enrollment status of secondary school children in district Anantnag was investigated, and it was discovered that the mid-day meal scheme had a substantial impact on the enrolment and retention of students in upper primary education.

**Rao (2015)** studied MDM scheme in gajapati district of odisha. The mid-day food programme has had little effect on student enrollment, according to this report. Students' everyday attendance has risen, notably in the afternoon session. MDM has reduced the number of students who drop out of school. It has aided in the socialisation of children from all castes. It has narrowed the gender divide. The initiative has enhanced women's empowerment through giving work, according to the findings. Improved infrastructure, excellent instruction, and mid-day meals can all help to boost student enrolment.

### 3. RATIONALE OF THE STUDY:

The Mid-Day Meal Scheme is a great initiative that feeds millions of children every day around the country. The Mid-Day Meal Scheme is one of the most important efforts aimed at attaining India's objective of universalizing primary education. Depending on how it is implemented, the Scheme has the ability to positively or negatively impact continuing teaching-learning processes. In terms of its implementation and the goals for which it was launched, the evaluation of the Mid-day Meal Scheme is critical. The researcher attempted to determine the strengths and limitations of the National Program of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (Mid-day Meal Scheme) in Odisha, as well as its current level of implementation, in this study. Because the effectiveness of any programme is determined by how well it is implemented, it is necessary to evaluate such programmes in order to learn about the reality on the ground. Such research will be extremely useful in developing a comprehensive picture of the State's Midday Meal Program.

### 4. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:

With the above backdrop, the researchers proposed to investigate the following problem: “A Study Of Influence Of Mid-Day Meal Programme On Enrolment And Retention Of Student At Elementary Level In Badagan Panchayat Of Mayurbhanj District”.

### 5. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

1. To find out the effect of MDM programme on enrolment of students from class I-V with respect to gender (boys/girls).
2. To find out the effect of MDM programme on retention of students from class II-V with respect to gender (boys/girls).
3. To find out the perception of the teachers towards the mid-day meal program on enrolment and retention of student.

### 6. HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY:

- There is no significant increase in enrolment of students from class I-V with respect to gender (boys/girls) by MDM programme.
- There is no significant increase in retention of students from class II-V with respect to gender (boys/girls) by MDM programme.
- There is no significant on positive and favourable perception of the teachers towards the mid-day meal program on enrolment and retention.

### Independent variables

Mid-Day Meal Programme  
Elementary student

### Dependent variables

Enrolment of student  
Retention of student

## 7. DEFINITIONS OF KEY TERMS USED:

### Mid-day Meal

In this study Mid-Day Meal refers to a school meal programme of the government of India designed to better nutritional standing of school-age children nationwide. This programme supplies free lunch on working days for children in primary and upper primary classes in government and government aided schools.

### Enrolment of students

The formal documentation of pupils' admission into a specific school is known as enrolment. Enrolment in this research refers to pupils being accepted as normal candidates for elementary school (I-VIII). In this study enrolment refers to the number of students properly registered and/or attending classes at a school.

### Elementary school: -

In this study elementary school refers to a period of formal education following pre-school but before secondary school. It usually encompasses grades from class-I to class-VIII.

### Badagan Panchayat

Badagan panchayat's location code is 388876, according to Census 2011 data. In the Indian state of Odisha, Badagan Panchayat is located in the Karanjia Tehsil of the Mayurbhanj district. It is 15 kilometers from the sub-district headquarters in Karanjia and 117 kilometers from the district headquarters in Baripada. Badagan is a gram panchayat, according to 2009 data. Badagan Panchayat is made up of 16 villages. It has a total population of 6529. There are about 16 elementary schools and 1 high school in Badagan.

### Mayurbhanj

Mayurbhanj district is one of the 30 districts in Odisha state. Baripada city is its headquarter. Mayurbhanj is land-locked with a geographical area of 10,418 km<sup>2</sup> (4,022 sq mi) and is in the northern boundary of the state. It is bounded in the northeast by Jhargram district of West Bengal, West Singhbhum and East Singhbhum districts of Jharkhand in the northwest, Balasore district in the southeast and by Keonjhar in the southwest.

## DELIMITATION OF THE STUDY:

The study was delimited to Badagan panchayat of Mayurbhanj District of Odisha.

The study had covered only the government schools which provide Mid-day meal.

The study had covered only the impact of midday meal on enrolment and retention of students.

## 8. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

Descriptive Survey method of research was employed to conduct this study.

## POPULATION & SAMPLE

In the present study, the population comprised 17 government elementary schools of Badagan panchayat. The students of academic year 2003-08 were considered in the population of the present study. Among these 17 schools Researcher purposively selected 8 schools as a sample to collect elementary stage learner's enrolment and retention data.

## TOOLS

A self-prepared enrolment data sheet was used to collect information from school documents.

## STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

Calculation of Percentage was used to analyze the collected data.

## 9. RESULTS :

**Table-1 Enrolment of Boy Students from Class I-V in reference to MDM programme**

class/session→ ↓	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
I	96	95	105	115
II	86	84	92	104

III	75	78	81	91
IV	64	67	76	80
V	59	54	65	76

**Table -2 Enrolment of Girl Students from Class I-V in reference to MDM programme**

class/session→ ↓	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
I	64	52	76	86
II	54	58	65	75
III	43	48	56	64
IV	34	36	47	56
V	33	30	36	47

It is evident from the Table-1 and Table-2 that there is significant increase in enrolment of student from class I-V in case of boys as well as in case of girls by MDM programme. So, the null hypothesis that “There is no significant increase in enrolment of students from class I-V with respect to gender (boys/girls) by MDM programme “ is rejected.

**Table-3 Retention of Boy Students from Class II-V in reference to MDM programme**

class/session→ ↓	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
II	84	92	104	113
III	78	81	91	102
IV	67	76	80	89
V	54	65	76	80

It is clear from above table that Mid-day meal program had positive impact on boys’ retention status. Each year, numerous boys retained from class II to V because of the magnetism in the direction of Mid-day meal program. The null hypothesis is rejected as there is significant increase in retention of student from class II-V in case of boys by MDM programme.

**Table-4 Retention of Girl Students from Class II-V in reference to MDM programme**

class/session→ ↓	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
II	58	65	75	85
III	48	56	64	74
IV	36	47	56	64
V	30	36	47	56

It is clear from above Table-3 and Table-4 that Mid-day meal program had positive impact on girls’ retention status. There is significant increase in retention of student from class II-V in case of both boys and girls by MDM programme. The null hypothesis that “There is no significant increase in retention of students from class II-V with respect to gender (boys/girls) by MDM programme” is rejected.

**Table -5 Year wise comparison between Boys and Girls on Enrolment**

Session	Boys	Percentage	Girls	percentage	total	Percentage
2004-05	380	—	228	—	608	—
2005-06	378	-0.52	226	-0.87	604	-0.65

2006-07	419	10.26	280	22.80	699	14.96
2007-08	466	22.63	328	43.59	794	30.59

It is clear from above table that mid day meal program had positive impact on both boys' and girls' enrolment status and that the percentage of enrolment have increased from 2005 to 2007.

**Table-6 Year wise comparison between Boys and Girls on Retention**

Session	Boys	Percentage	Girls	percentage	total	Percentage
2004-05	283	_____	172	_____	455	_____
2005-06	314	10.95	204	18.60	518	13.84
2006-07	351	24.02	242	40.69	593	30.32
2007-08	384	35.68	279	62.20	663	45.71

It was shown that the total retention of boys had constantly amplified from session 2005-06 onwards every year, as the affirmative impact of mid day meal program. Increase of retention rate in every class shows the positive impact of mid day meal program on boys retention status. Therefore, hypothesis that mid day meal program will help in significant increase in retention of the students from class II to V of Badagan panchayat with respect to gender (boys) is accepted.

**Table-7 Teachers' perception toward student's enrolment and retention**

Sl.no	Statement	S.A	A	U. D	D	S.D.
1	All students reside in school later than taking MDM.	80%	7%	0%	5%	8%
2	Students enrolment has increased since the execution of MDM.	92%	5%	0%	1%	2%
3	Student attendance has increased after implementation of MDM.	91%	6%	0%	2%	1%
4	Since the implementation of MDM, the yearly retention level of students has increased	92%	6%	0%	1%	1%
5	Dropout rate decreased after implementation of MDM	89%	6%	0%	3%	2%
6	Students concentration towards study has increased after implementation of MDM.	90%	5%	0%	3%	2%
7	Several students attend school merely for MDM food.	80%	6%	0%	6%	8%

From the above table it found that students' attendance and enrolment are increased when they have lunch in the middle of the day. Furthermore, because the midday meal satisfies their hunger, the children stay in school for the whole day.

## 10. FINDINGS :

Finding of the study based on descriptive and differential analysis of the data related to impact of MDM on enrolment and retention are described below-

- The Mid-day meal programme had significantly increased the enrolment of boys (from -0.52% to 20.63%) from class I to V of Badagan panchayat (2003-07).
- The Mid-day meal programme had significantly increased the enrolment of girls (from -0.87 to 43.59%) from class I to V of Badagan panchayat (2003-07).

- The Mid-day meal programme had increased the enrolment percentage of girls as compared to boys from class I to V.
- The Mid-day meal programme had significantly increased the retention of boys (from 10.95% to 35.68%) from class II to V of Badagan panchayat (2004-08).
- The Mid-day meal programme had significantly increased the retention of girls (from 13.84% to 45.71%) from class II to V of Badagan panchayat (2004-08).
- The midday meal programme had increased the retention percentage of girls as compared to boys from class II to V.

## **11. CONCLUSION:**

- Since the implementation of the Mid-Day Meals Program, the percentage of students enrolled has risen.
- Parents are more enthusiastic about sending their children to school.
- The headmaster has voiced support for the primary school's implementation of the Mid-Day Meals Program.
- The Mid-Day Meals Program aids in boosting disadvantaged students' attendance and enrolment.
- The rural teachers and headmaster have all expressed support for the Mid-Day Meals Program. It is found that rural head teachers have showed favourable attitude towards introduction of Mid-Day Meals Programme at primary level.
- It is evident that the Mid-day Meal Program is a large-scale social welfare programme aimed at drawing children into the educational mainstream while simultaneously giving them with much-needed supplemental nourishment in order to help them become valuable citizens of the country. As a result, if the programme is effectively implemented, it will undoubtedly improve the working environment and the program's success.

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