

## **Study of the impact of mid-day meal scheme on the enrollment and retention of students in government upper primary schools of Tonk district**

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### **Abstract**

The objective of this research work was to study the impact of mid-day meal scheme on the enrollment and retention of students from rural and urban areas in government upper primary schools of Tonk district. In this research, 200 students of Tonk district were selected as a sample by simple random method. The survey method was used for this study; the researcher collected the data using a self-made questionnaire. Data were analyzed by mean, standard deviation and t-test. The obtained results showed that there is no significant difference in the impact of mid-day meal scheme on the retention of students of rural and urban areas in the government upper primary schools of Tonk district.

**Key Words** – Mid-Day Meal Scheme, Enrollment and Retention

### **Introduction**

The development of any nation can be completely possible only when the rate of literacy is equal in all sections of the society in that nation. India is a poor developing country where children are still seen as a source of income in poor families. In the condition of low economic status of the family, many children are selling their labor at an early age (6-14 years) to fulfill their family obligations for the purpose of earning a living. It is natural that in such children "supplement" is more important than education. In this situation, it is very difficult to have the same rate of literacy in all sections of the society.

Keeping in view the goal of complete literacy in the nation, several efforts have been made by the Government of India. For this many new educational institutions were established in the whole nation and the number of primary and secondary schools was increased. The most important effort to promote education was made in the direction of making primary education free. A massive campaign was launched to make primary education available. Under this, primary education was made compulsory, as well as to give concrete shape to this campaign, primary textbooks for poor children and free mid-day meals were also arranged. The Government of India implemented an important scheme like "Midday Meal" with the aim of meeting the needs of poor children's education and nutritious food. In this scheme, special attention was paid to free food and education for the children of the poor families of the society.

The mid-day meal program was started on August 15, 1995, which is a form of nutritional support to primary education, a central scheme implemented earlier. The National Program of Mid-Day Meal in Schools covers about 9.70 crore children who are covered by 9.50 lakh government (including local bodies), Getting education at the primary level of education in government-aided schools and centers run under the Education Guarantee Scheme and alternative and innovative education schemes.

In the beginning, 3 kg wheat-rice was given, but following the instructions given by the Supreme Court on November 28, 2001, the plan to make cooked food available in primary schools was started from September 1, 2004. The program was expanded to 3479 educationally backward blocks for children at the upper primary level of education (classes 6 to 8) with effect from 1 October 2007. It is expected to cover about 1.70 crore additional children in classes 6 to 8.

**Mid-Day Meal Scheme in Rajasthan:-**

Mid-day meal scheme was started in Rajasthan from 2002 itself. This scheme was implemented with the aim of improving the educational level in the state. At present, 1,16,107 primary schools and 53,499 upper primary schools are covered under this scheme. In these schools, 1,42,55,482 students studying at primary level and 60,87,620 students at upper primary level are getting benefited. At present, Rajasthan has failed to reach the national average in the field of education. Rajasthan ranks 15th among the states taking admission in schools. According to report one, mid-day meal is available to only 66 percent of the students in Rajasthan. Rajasthan is at 21st position in this matter. In Rajasthan, the system of mid-day meal is very poor in some districts. 14 districts of the state are facing more problems in providing mid-day meal. Presently a new innovation has been done by the Government of Rajasthan in the mid-day meal scheme. According to this, now any person or organization other than the government will be able to provide midday meal to children in government schools. It has been started by the Education Department as a new effort to increase the enrollment of children in government schools as well as to increase the retention of children in schools.

### **Rational of the study**

India is the seventh largest geographically, the second most populous and the twelfth largest economy in the world. Presently India is recognized as a fast developing country. Despite India's decadal growth rate of 21.34 percent and literacy rate of 66 percent, the problem of malnutrition, anemia, vitamin-A and iodine deficiency among children is common in India for decades. About 94 percent of children aged 6 to 9 years are moderately or severely underweight. About 67.5 percent and 69 percent of adolescent girls under 5 years of age are suffering from anemia due to iron and folic acid deficiency. In childhood, the pace of physical and mental development and growth is very fast. Children have higher nutritional needs than adults. Good food, of adequate quality and quantity, is essential for regulating the growth and bodily function of children and for supplying energy. These problems have attracted the attention of Government of India, State Government, education, social and nutrition workers that the health of children is the most important asset for the community. Keeping this in mind, the Government of India has given a prominent place to child welfare in the community development programme. Thus, as a part of the program of child welfare, the mid-day meal scheme is one of our national schemes. At present, many efforts have been made in the direction of universalization of primary education and many schemes and programs are also being implemented.

The mid-day meal scheme implemented in primary schools is also an effort in this direction. But this is not enough if we have to get good result from this scheme then it is necessary to evaluate its working and expected results again and again. So, that we can amend and improve this scheme. The present study is a humble attempt in this direction. Through which an attempt has been made to know that what has been the effect of this scheme on the enrollment and retention of the students?

### **Objectives of the study**

- 1 To study of the impact of mid-day meal scheme on the enrollment of students in government upper primary schools of Tonk district.
- 2 To study of the impact of mid-day meal scheme on the retention of students in government upper primary schools of Tonk district.

### **Hypothesis of the study**

- 1 There is no significant difference in the impact of mid-day meal scheme on the enrollment of students from rural and urban areas in government upper primary schools of Tonk district.
- 2 There is no significant difference in the impact of mid-day meal scheme on the retention of students of rural and urban areas in government upper primary schools of Tonk district.

### **Research Methodology**

In the present study descriptive survey method has been used. A total of 200 students of Tonk district have been selected for the sample by simple random method. A self-made questionnaire has been used to collect the data. The obtained data were analyzed by mean, standard deviation and t-test.

**Analysis and interpretation**

**Hypothesis 1 - There is no significant difference in the impact of mid-day meal scheme on the enrollment of students from rural and urban areas in government upper primary schools of Tonk district.**

**Table : 1**

**Significant difference in the impact of mid-day meal scheme on the enrollment of students from rural and urban areas in government upper primary schools of Tonk district**

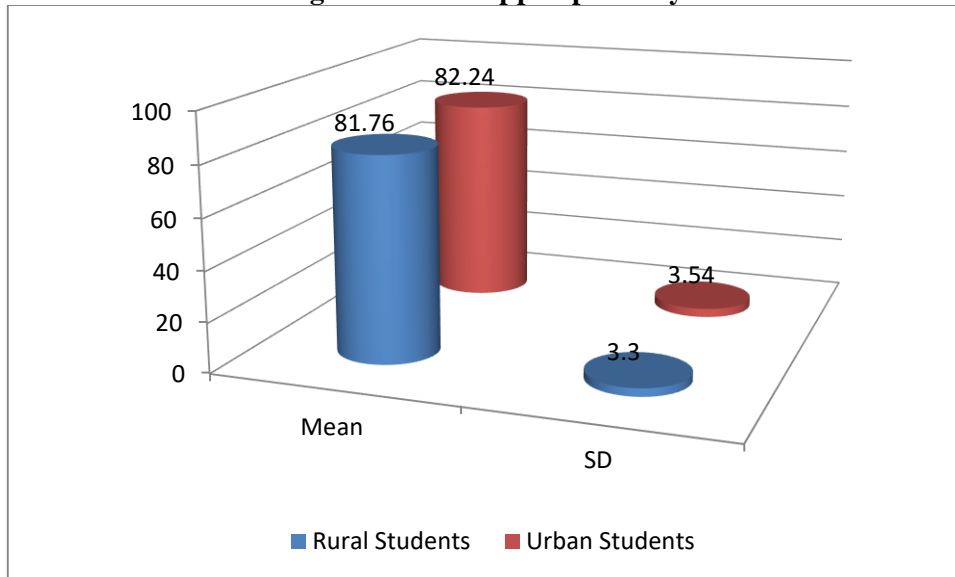
Group	N	Mean	SD	t-test	Result
Rural Student	100	81.76	3.30	0.99	Accepted
Urban Student	100	82.24	3.54		

**Analysis:-**

It is clear from the study of the above table, that the mean of rural students was found to be 81.76, standard deviation 3.30, and the mean of urban students was 82.24, towards the impact of mid-day meal scheme on the enrollment of students in government upper primary schools of Tonk district. The standard deviation is found to be 3.54. From these scores, the value of t-test was found to be 0.99, which is less than the value of 1.96 obtained for t-test at 0.05 level of degree of freedom. Hence null hypothesis is accepted.

**Graph : 1**

**Mean and SD of the impact of mid-day meal scheme on the enrollment of students from rural and urban areas in government upper primary schools of Tonk district**



**Hypothesis 2 - There is no significant difference in the impact of mid-day meal scheme on the retention of students of rural and urban areas in government upper primary schools of Tonk district.**

**Table : 2**

**Significant difference in the impact of mid-day meal scheme on the retention of students of rural and urban areas in government upper primary schools of Tonk district**

Group	N	Mean	SD	t-test	Result
Rural Student	100	83.49	3.63	1.39	Accepted

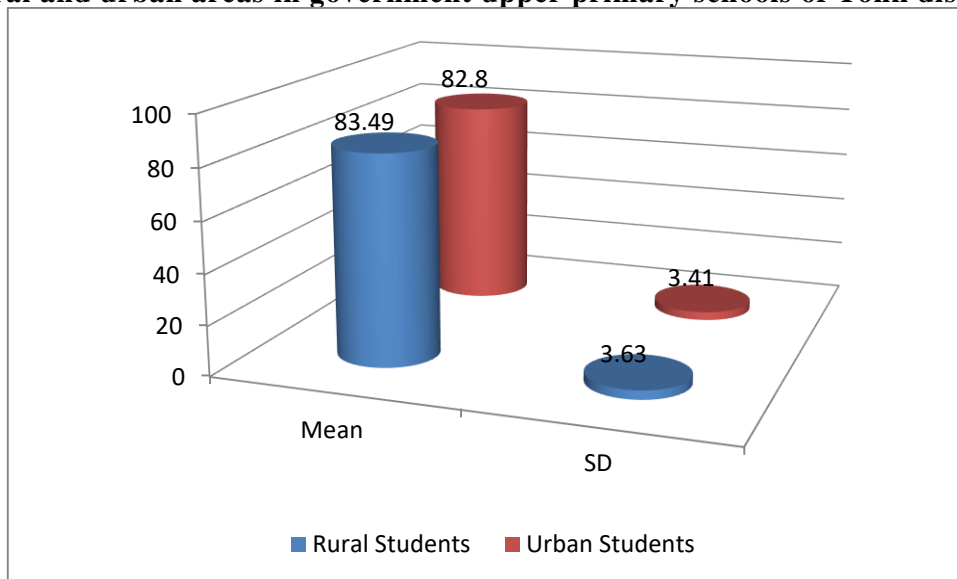
Urban Student	100	82.80	3.41		
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**Analysis:-**

It is clear from the study of the above table, that the mean of rural students was found to be 81.76, standard deviation 3.30, and the mean of urban students was 82.24, towards the impact of mid-day meal scheme on the enrollment of students in government upper primary schools of Tonk district. The standard deviation is found to be 3.54. From these scores, the value of t-test was found to be 0.99, which is less than the value of 1.96 obtained for t-test at 0.05 level of degree of freedom. Hence null hypothesis is accepted.

**Graph : 2**

**Mean and SD of the impact of mid-day meal scheme on the retention of students of rural and urban areas in government upper primary schools of Tonk district**



**Conclusion-**

The results of the presented research have depicted the reality of the mid-day meal scheme. From the analysis of the data, it has been found that the mid-day meal scheme operated in the government upper primary schools of Tonk district has an impact on the enrollment and retention of the students of rural and urban areas. No significant difference is found in the effect.

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