



## “IMPACT OF MID-DAY MEAL PROGRAMME ON ENROLMENT OF CHILDREN IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS” A SOCIO-ECONOMIC STUDY OF LOHARU BLOCK IN HARYANA

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### Abstract

Introduction of Mid-Day meal programme in India occurred in 1995 to boost universalization of primary education by improving enrollment attendance, retention and learning level of children especially those belongs to disadvantaged section to attract poor children to school by providing MDM to them. This study evaluates the impact of mid-day meal programme on enrolment of children in primary school. Almost after two decades of scheme, it has become imperative to measure the usefulness of the MDM scheme, especially, whether the enrolment of children has been improved or not?

**Keywords:** MDM- Mid Day Meal, SSA- Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, FCI- Food Corporation of India, NGO- Non Governmental Organization, CARE- Cooperative for assistance and relief everywhere, SC- Schedule Caste, BC- Backward Caste.

### Introduction

Education plays a vibrant and vital role in fulfilling the essential and basic human needs i.e. food, shelter and clothing. The main objective of education is to develop and prepare the child physically, mentally and spirituality to attain a quality life. Education is a way to make child capable to reach the required proficiencies and abilities to perform the tasks in life to persist and to make themselves for their existence. Social equity and fairness are themselves a strong argument for providing education for all. The legitimate legal and national policies and declaration have time and again upheld the course of universal elementary education.

The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (S.S.A) is a historic stride towards achieving the long cherished goal of universalization of elementary education through a time bound integrated approach, in partnership with state SSA, which promises to change the face of the elementary education sector of the country, aims to provide useful and quality education to all children in the 6-14 age group.

### Mid Day Meal

Various schemes were implemented in the primary education sector by the govt. to reach the disadvantaged population. Access to primary education was universalized through flagship programs of govt. like SSA, however despite this a few children are still deprived of primary education due to inability of their parents to send them to schools because of their poor economical status.

For these parents, sending their children to school means not only incurring extra financial burden but also depriving them of some money which their children would have earned otherwise by doing labour that being the attitude of these economically backward parents, one may perhaps to motivate the parents and was to bring their children to school by providing food and nutritional needs.

### Objective of the MDM Programme

The main objectives of the programme are:-

- (a) To increase enrolment, retention and to tone up the learning abilities of the beneficiaries.
- (b) To provide nutritional meal to the school going children to achieve the goal of healthy mind.
- (c) To promote friendship and feelings of common brotherhood among the children belonging to different caste, colour and creed by providing meals to them together.

### Mid Day Meal Haryana State

Mid Day meal in Haryana was started in 1961 with the help of CARE and the dept. of Education. But as a centrally sponsored scheme, MDM scheme was launched in Haryana state on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2004. MDM is being implemented in all the govt., local bodies, govt. aided primary schools and all AIE centers started under SSA in the entire state. The Haryana Govt. has introduced MDM scheme for students of all upper primary classes. **Features**



- The school children are being provided cooked food i.e. mitha rice, vegetables, pulao, dalia, khichari and bakli.
- Free food grains i.e. wheat, rice and pulses are provided by Govt. of India through FCI.
- Ingredients like germs, jeera, salt, cooking oil etc. are purchased by school authorities.
- Perishable vegetables are purchased locally as per need.
- In some district like Faridabad, NGO's (ISCON) provided cooked meal to all schools and get grant from the govt.

### Objectives of the Study

- To see the impact on enrolment of students in primary schools in Loharu block of Haryana.
- To compare the impact on the enrolment amongst different categories i.e. General, SC, BC.
- To analyse the health conditions of the students.
- To see the impact on woman empowerment.
- To analyse the economic conditions of the student's parents.

### Methodology

To address the process and outcome indicators underlying the objectives of the study both primary and secondary data will be collected. I used the random stratified method, where one block i.e. Loharu (Bhiwani district) was selected. 10% of the Govt. primary schools from Loharu block were selected randomly i.e. 5 primary schools in urban area and 5 primary schools in rural areas.

The reference period of the study was 2009-12.

### Data Collection

Primary as well as secondary data are collected for the study. Graphical method is used to reflect the growth rate trend of enrolments.

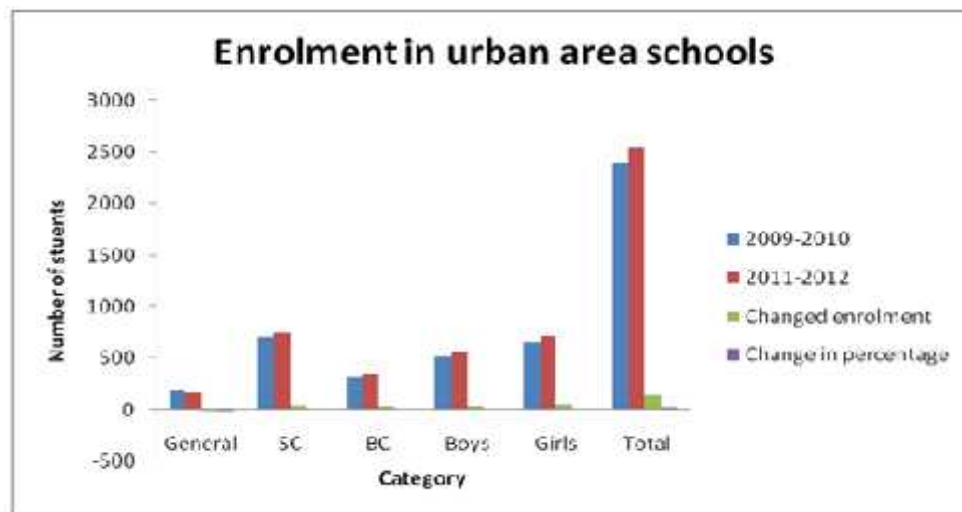
### Tabulation and Analysis

The prescribed method of analysis and percentage method was mainly used to analysis the collected data.

### Result

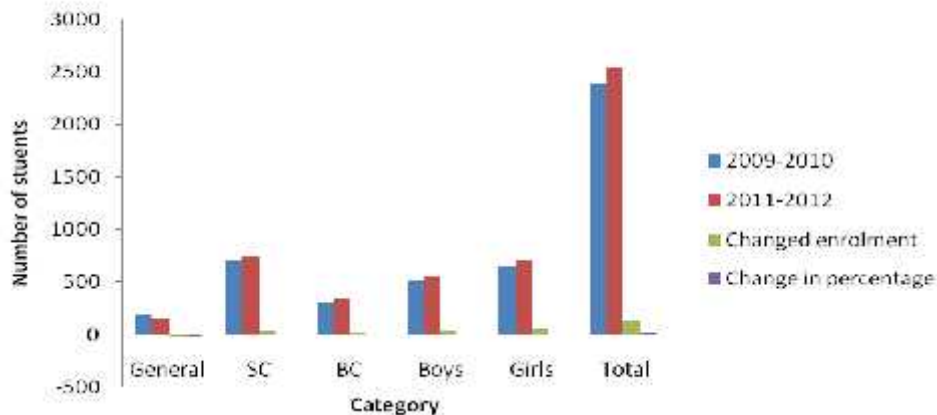
**Table 1: Enrolment in Urban Area Schools**

S. No	Category	2009-2010	2011-2012	Changed enrolment	Change in percentage
1	General	185	170	-15	-8.10
2	SC	705	752	47	6.66
3	BC	319	342	23	7.21
4	Boys	525	564	39	7.42
5	Girls	659	716	57	8.64
	Total	2393	2544	151	21.83





### Enrolment in urban area schools



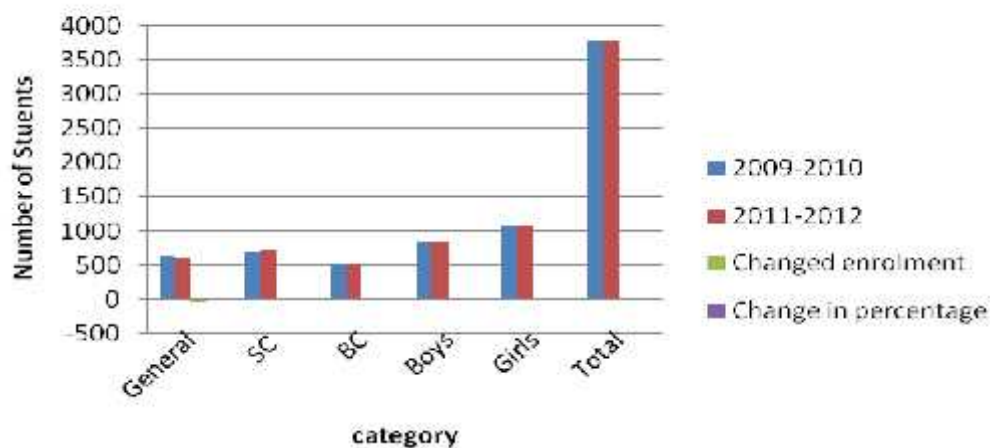
**Explain** Table 1. Shows the impact of MDM on the enrolment of different categories i.e. General, SC, BC, Boys, Girls in Govt. primary schools situated in urban area.

Growth rate of enrolment of General category was -8.51% which showing negative trend. Growth rate of SC enrolment was 5.32% showing positive trend. Growth rate of BC enrolment was 10.53% showing positive trend. Growth rate of Boys enrolment was 6.34% and Girls was 3.09% showing positive impact as far as over all enrolment in urban area was increased by 4.52%.

**Table 2: Rural Area Schools**

S. No	Category	2009-2010	2011-2012	Changed enrolment	Change in percentage
1	General	638	599	-39	-6.11
2	SC	690	719	29	4.20
3	BC	516	542	26	5.03
4	Boys	840	843	3	0.35
5	Girls	1087	1079	-8	-0.73
	Total	3771	3782	11	0.29

### Enrolment in rural schools

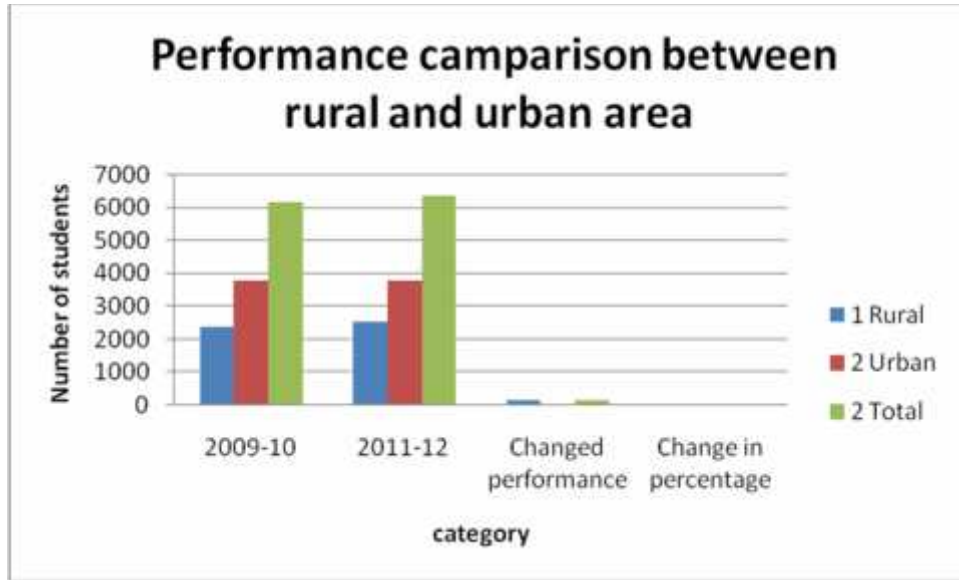


**Explain:** Table 1. Shows the change in the enrolment of different category i.e. General, SC, BC, Boys, Girls in Govt. primary schools situated in rural area. Growth rate of enrolment of general category was -6.11% showing negative trend. Growth rate of enrolment of SC was 4.20% showing positive trend. Growth rate of enrolment of boys was 0.35 % showing slight increment. Total enrolment in rural area had declined by -2.61%.



**Table 3: High Performance in Rural or Urban Area**

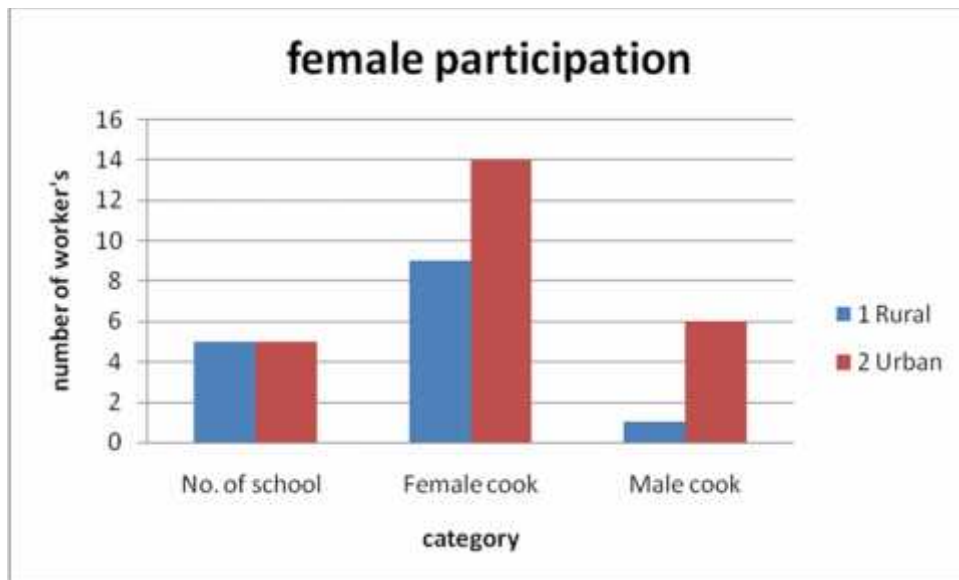
S. No	Category	2009-10	2011-12	Changed performance	Change in percentage
1	Rural	2393	2544	151	6.31
2	Urban	3771	3782	11	0.29
	Total	6164	6326	162	2.56



**Explain:** Table 3. Shows that MDM is playing a good role for increasing the enrolment in urban area. Over all MDM has positive impact on enrolment. Some valid steps should be undertaken to increase the enrolment in rural area also. I notice the lower rural enrolment i.e. due to caste. Upper caste people do not want that their children eat together with students who belongs to SC and BC category.

**Table 4: Female Participation**

S. No.	Category	No. of school	Female cook	Male cook
1	Rural	5	9	1
2	Urban	5	14	6





**Explain:** Table 4. Represents how MDM scheme is providing employment opportunities to people and making themselves dependent. In MDM female participation is more than men.

### Findings of the Study

1. The study revealed MDM's positive impact on the enrolment in urban area and recorded 3.1% growth rate of total enrolment in urban area.
2. The study revealed negative growth rate of enrolment in rural area and recorded 3.7% growth rate of total enrolment.
3. MDM's has positive impact especially on the enrolment SC, BC and Girls students.
4. 77% of the schools do not have a kitchen shed while only 73% have a separate store room.
5. Most schools in lack adequate cooking and storage facilities.
6. 60% of the cooks interviewed said that the MDM was cooked in the open, which is unhygienic.
7. The study revealed that more time is spent in MDM's activities.
8. More than 90% parents and students were satisfied with MDM's.
9. MDM's has positively affected female participation.
10. The study revealed that in rural area people of upper caste discriminate the people of lower caste.
11. The study also reveals that people do not want to studied there boys in govt. schools.
12. In villages people discriminate within boys and girls.

### Suggestions

Despite the success of the programme, child hunger as a problem persists in India. According to statics 42.5% of the children under 5 are under weight. This is due to simple reasons such as not using iodised food insecure population.

The success of the MDM programme revolves around the manner in which it is implemented at the school. Safety and hygienic standards must be set and practiced with rigour.

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