

**MINOR RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED TO UNIVERSITY
GRANTS COMMISSION (UGC), WESTERN REGIONAL CENTRE
PUNE**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Mid-Day Meal (MDM) Scheme implemented through a provision of lunches to school going children (Primary and Upper Primary School students) played an important role in Ratnagiri District of Maharashtra State. This study is related to evaluation of MDM Scheme in Ratnagiri District of Maharashtra State. Researcher has taken information from beneficiary students, Head Masters, teachers, parents, Government Officers to carry out the study. The study reveals some defects pertaining to the scheme, also arrived at remarkable achievements of the scheme.

The researcher is indebted to Hon. Shri. Bhalchandra Raghunath Chavan, President and other office-bearers of Patpanhale Education Society and all the teaching and non-teaching staff members for the support they extended till the finalization of this project.

MDM Scheme (is India's) world's largest food security scheme started by the joint assistance of central and state governments.

MDM Scheme is designed to help the school going children in the following ways,

- i) Improvement of enrolment and regularity.
- ii) Reduction in drop out.
- iii) Improvement in level of learning.

Considering the vital importance of lunches to school going children, Mid-Day Meal Scheme has been implemented from Jan. 2003. Initially, the scheme was implemented in 15 tribal districts of Maharashtra State. After that the scope of implementation was extended to all districts of Maharashtra from Jan, 2003.

The scheme in Maharashtra covers primary and upper primary (I to V & VI to VIII). The scheme is implemented all over Maharashtra State from September, 2008.

Rationale of the study: MDM Scheme is a welfare programme implemented by the Government to enhance nutritional status and education status of school going children in India. It plays an important role in Maharashtra and its Ratnagiri District to uplift dignity and status of primary and higher primary school-going students.

Objectives of Research Work: Objectives of this study are-

- a) Review of literature on Mid-Day Meal Programme.
- b) To explain the nature of Mid-Day Meal Scheme in Maharashtra.
- c) To analyze the performance of Mid-Day Meal Scheme in Ratnagiri District.
- d) To suggest measures to improve the working of Mid-Day Meal Scheme.

Research Methodology: Researcher used primary and secondary methods of data collection. Primary sources used include observation, interviews of beneficiary-students, middlemen involved, teacher in-charges, parents etc.

Secondary data include- journals, reference books, booklets, reports of governmental and non-governmental agencies etc.

Evaluation of Mid-Day Meal Scheme is an interdisciplinary study. Its analysis touches nutritional science, value education, welfare economics and biological sciences.

Main features of MDM, among others, include- universalisation of primary education, increasing enrolment and attendance ratios of students in primary schools, stopping drop out of the students, etc.

The responsibility of implementation has been given on school management committee. Under this scheme the work to cook the food has been provided to needy women or non-government agencies or self-help groups.


At school level, mother-volunteers, school management committee members and inspecting staff of Education Department are held responsible for supervision and monitoring of the Scheme.

Analytical Points: Analytical points of MDM scheme include the following-

1. Mid-Day Meal Scheme helped to enhance status of beneficiary-students.
2. The Scheme has been found very beneficial to grow enrolment of students.
3. Scheme attracted students and as a result their attendance has increased.
4. Mid-Day Meal Scheme generated good habits viz. discipline, brotherhood relations, self-reliance, cleanliness etc.
5. Food was not cooked in most of the schools. External party cooked and distributed in very smaller quality to a fewer students.
6. In many schools there were no proper storage facilities to store the rice and other food.
7. Students in urban and semi-urban areas were not taking food.
8. It is reported that 100 – 150 grams of food to each students is excess and hence there is wastage of rice and other supported food grains.
9. Cook and helper in schools given Rs. 1500/- each.
10. Meal is not given as per regional variations.

Recommendations: As a result of this extensive research, the researcher wishes to offer following recommendations-

- 1) Superior quality of rice and supported food should be provided.
- 2) Third party is to be appointed as flying squads to test and observe the scheme.
- 3) Storage facility at school level should be proper.
- 4) Every day online submission of information should be made compulsory.
- 5) Scheme should be modified with rural or bottom base considering regional variations.
- 6) Remunerations of cooker and helper should be increased to Rs. 7,000/- and 5000/- respectively.
- 7) Awareness drive to motivate urban and semi-urban students should be arranged.


(Dr. R. G. Jadhav)