

An Evaluation of Mid-Day - Meal Scheme in Gujarat, A Case Study of Perception of Parents Towards Mdm With Reference To Panchmahal District

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1. Introduction:-

In favor of educational development, the Government of India has initiated various initiatives in a timely manner along with the implementation of the MDM scheme. Due to these efforts, the education in India has got better considerably from 18.33% in 1951 to 65.38% in 2001 among all sections of the society. Mid day meal scheme was one of the various schemes launched by central government under SSA to achieve the national goal. The present study analyzes the impact of the scheme in government primary school of Panchmahal district. For these purposes, various secondary sources such as research paper, journals, periodicals, study reports, working paper, investment report of government agencies, newspaper and study reports of committees, plan documents and web sites have been utilized.

It got revised in September 2004 and then in September 2006. MDM scheme is the world's largest school meal program. It serves an estimated 11 crore children in 12 lakh schools of India. The scheme is implemented via the State/UT governments. The central and state governments share the cost of the mid day meal scheme whereas the central government offers 75% and state offers 25%.

2. Objectives Of Mid Day Meal Scheme:-

- (i) Improving the nutritional status of children in standard 1st to 8th in Government, Local Body and Government-aided schools, and Education Guarantee Scheme (EGS) / Alternative and Innovative Education (AIE) centres.
- (ii) Motivating poor children hailing from disadvantaged sections, to come to school on a

regular basis and assist them in focussing on classroom activities.

- (iii) Offering nutritional support to children of elementary stage in drought-affected areas in summer vacation.

3. Objectives Of The Study :-

1. To study parents' perceptions towards the National Program of nutritional support to primary education (Mid Day Meal scheme) in Panchmahal.
2. To identify various problems obstructing the achievement of objectives of mid day meal scheme in Panchmahal.
3. To provide various suggestions for making the Mid Day meal scheme more effective.

4. Methods Of Data Collection:-

For this study data has been collected from the sample for the fulfillment of the research objectives and to verify the research hypothesis with the use of tool. The data was collected to study the mid day meal scheme in Gujarat, a case study of Panchmahal district. For this study both primary and secondary sources of the data have been utilized.

The primary data has been collected through questionnaire, prepared to study the mid day meal scheme in Gujarat data has been collected through interview and questionnaire form.

5. Sample Population:-

Parents of 25 schools of Panchmahal district have been targeted for this study

6. Analysis Of The Data:-

The data collected from the respondents has been categorized, tabularized and analyzed by using applicable statistical and mathematical techniques. Frequency tables, charts and statistical results have been derived by using Microsoft Excel tool and statistical computer software called SPSS.

7. Statistical Tool Used:-

The proposed statistical tools for the analysis of data are: Mean, Analysis of variances (Anova)

8. Research Hypothesis:-

Null Hypothesis

1. H0 = There is no significant relation in views of no. of parents by taluka for other benefits of MDM
2. H0 = There is no significant relation in views of no. of parents by taluka for reduction in house expenditure
3. H0 = There is no significant relation in views of no. of parents by taluka for health improvement of children after MDM scheme
4. H0 = There is no significant relation in views of no. of parents by taluka for children getting adequate food through MDM

Afternate Hypothesis

1. H1 = There is significant relation in views of no. of parents by taluka for other benefits of MDM
2. H1 = There is significant relation in views of no. of parents by taluka for reduction in house expenditure
3. H1 = There is significant relation in views of no. of parents by taluka for health improvement of children after MDM scheme
4. H1 = There is significant relation in views of no. of parents by taluka for children getting adequate food through MDM

9. Data Analysis:-

1. Location of your school

Variable	Frequency	%
Godhra	50	20%
Kalol	50	20%
Shahera	50	20%
Jambughoda	50	20%
Goghamba	50	20%
TOTAL	250	100%

Interpretation

From the above table it can be concluded that 20% of the respondents (50 parents) are each from five talukas of Panchamahar such as Godhra, Kalol, Shahera, Jambughoda and Goghamba

2. Gender

Variable	Frequency	%
Male	145	58%
Female	105	42%
TOTAL	250	100%

Interpretation

From the above table it can be concluded that 58% of the respondents are male while 42% of the respondents female.

3. Age

Variable	Frequency	%
20 to 35 years	120	48%
36 to 50 years	122	49%
More than 50 years	8	3%
TOTAL	250	100%

Interpretation

From the above table it can be concluded that 48% of the respondents are between age group of 20 to 35 years, 49% of the respondents are between age group of 36 to 50 years while 3% of the respondents are more than 50 years

4. Do your child get MDM in school?

Variable	Frequency	%
Yes	250	100%
No	0	0%
TOTAL	250	100%

Interpretation

From the above table it can be concluded that 100% of the respondents believe that their child get MDM in school.

5. On an average how many days a week your child gets cooked meals served in the school?

Variable	Frequency	%
Everyday(except holiday)	245	98%
Most days (4-5 days)	5	2%
TOTAL	250	100%

Interpretation

From the above table it can be concluded that 98% of the respondents believe that their child get cooked meal everyday while 2% of the

respondents believe that their child get cooked meal most of the days (4-5 days)

6. Do you feel that, your children are able to get adequate food through MDM?

VARIABLE	FREQUENCY	%
Yes	99	39%
No	72	29%
Don't know	79	32%
TOTAL	250	100%

Interpretation

From the above table it can be concluded that 40% of the respondents believe that their child able to get adequate food through MDM, 29% of the respondents believe that their child do not able to get adequate food through MDM

7. Do you feel that your children feel happy with the Mid-Day Meal?

Variable	Frequency	%
Yes	188	75%
No	62	25%
TOTAL	250	100%

Interpretation

From the above table it can be concluded that 75% of the respondents believe that their children feel happy with the Mid-Day Meal 25% of the respondents do not believe that their children feel happy with the Mid-Day Meal

8. Do you think that while cooking/serving, hygiene is maintained?

Variable	Frequency	%
Yes	225	90%
No	25	10%
TOTAL	250	100%

Interpretation

From the above table it can be concluded that 90% of the respondents believe that hygiene is maintained while cooking/serving whereas 10% of the respondents of Godhra and Kalol taluka believe that central kitchen scheme is more hygienic

9. Whether school has got pure drinking water arrangement?

Variable	Frequency	%
Yes	250	100%
No	0	0%
TOTAL	250	100%

Interpretation

From the above table it can be concluded that 100% of the respondents believe that school has got pure drinking water arrangement like hand pump or water tank.

10. Has it ever happened that your children developed any kind of health problem after eating MDM?

Variable	Frequency	%
Yes	0	0%
No	250	100%
TOTAL	250	100%

Interpretation

From the above table it can be concluded that 100% of the respondents believe that their children do not developed any kind of health problem after eating MDM

11. Is there any sort of health improvement in your child after having MDM?

Variable	Frequency	%
Yes	175	70%
No	25	10%
Don't know	50	20%
TOTAL	250	100%

Interpretation

From the above table it can be concluded that 70% of the respondents believe that their children's health improved after having MDM, 10% of the respondents don't believe that their children's health improved after having MDM whereas 20% of the respondents of Jambughoda and Goghamba can't say proper answer.

12. Do you think that due to MDM, the dropout rate has reduced?

Variable	Frequency	%
Yes	205	82%
No	45	18%
TOTAL	250	100%

Interpretation

From the above table it can be concluded that 82% of the respondents believe that due to MDM, the dropout rate has been reduced while 18% of the respondents believe that girl child has household work so they could not complete their study.

13. Has it reduced your house expenditure?

Variable	Frequency	%
Yes	75	30%
No	50	20%
Don't know	125	50%
TOTAL	250	100%

Interpretation

From the above table it can be concluded that 30% of the parents believe that their house expenditure is reduced because of MDM and "Anna Sangam Yojana" 20% of the parents believe that there is no big change in their house expenditure while 20% of the parents can't give proper answer

14. Does school provide sukhandi in lunch?

Variable	Frequency	%
Yes	250	100%
No	0	0%
TOTAL	250	100%

Interpretation

From the above table it can be concluded that 100% of the respondents believe that school provide sukhandi in lunch

15. What according you are the other benefits of mid-day meal scheme?

VARIABLE	FREQUENCY	%
Nutritional development	59	24%
Educational advancement	66	26%
Decrease child labour	48	19%
Decrease drop outs	77	31%
TOTAL	250	100%

Interpretation

Based on the interview and questionnaire it can be concluded that 24% of the respondents believe that Nutritional development is the other benefits of mid-day meal scheme, 26% of the respondents believe that Educational advancement is

the other benefits of mid-day meal scheme, 19% of the respondents believe that Decrease child labour is the other benefits of mid-day meal scheme while 31% of the respondents believe that Decrease drop outs is the other benefits of mid-day meal scheme

16. Do your girl child getting 30 + 30 Kg grain as part of "Anna Triveni Yojana"?

Variable	Frequency	%
Yes	150	60%
No	100	40%
TOTAL	250	100%

Interpretation

From the above table it can be concluded that 60% of the ST cast parents believe that their girl child getting 30 + 30 Kg grain as part of "Anna Triveni Yojana" while 40% of the other cast parents believe that their girl child not getting 30 + 30 Kg grain as part of "Anna Triveni Yojana"

17. Do your child get flavoured milk as part of Dudh Sanjivani Yojana?

Variable	Frequency	%
Yes	50	20%
No	200	80%
TOTAL	250	100%

Interpretation

From the above table it can be concluded that 20% of the respondents believe that child from only Shahera taluka get flavoured milk as part of Dudh Sanjivani Yojana while 80% of the respondents don't believe child get flavoured milk as part of Dudh Sanjivani Yojana

18. Do you think that MDM should continue?

Variable	Frequency	%
Yes	250	100%
No	0	0%
TOTAL	250	100%

Interpretation

From the above table it can be concluded that 100% of the respondents believe MDM should continue

10.Hypothesis Testing:-

1. Relation Between No. Of Parents By Taluka And Other Benefits Of Mdm

Anova: Single Factor

Anova: Single Factor

SUMMARY

Groups	Count	Sum	Average	Variance
No. of Parents by Taluka	250	750	3	2.008
Other Benefits of MDM	250	643	2.572	1.3382

ANOVA

Source of Variation	SS	df	MS	F	P-value	F crit
Between Groups	22.898	1	22.898	13.686	0.0002	3.8602
Within Groups	833.2	498	1.6731			
Total	856.1	499				

Interpretation

H0 = There is no significant relation in views of no. of parents by taluka for other benefits of MDM

H1 = There is significant relation in views of no. of parents by taluka for other benefits of MDM

From above table for 1 and 498 degree of freedom.

Fcal is 13.68 and Ftab is 3.86.

Thus, Fcal>Ftab and p-value is less than specified α of 0.05.

So, null hypothesis is rejected and it is concluded that there is significant relation in views of no. of parents by taluka for other benefits of MDM.

2. Relation Between No. Of Parents By Taluka And Reduction In House Expenditure

Anova: Single Factor

SUMMARY

Groups	Count	Sum	Average	Variance
No. of Parents by Taluka	250	750	3	2.008
House Expenditure	250	550	2.2	0.7631

ANOVA

Source of Variation	SS	df	MS	F	P-value	F crit
Between Groups	80	1	80	57.739	1E-13	3.8602
Within Groups	690	498	1.3855			
Total	770	499				

Interpretation

H0 = There is no significant relation in views of no. of parents by taluka for reduction in house expenditure

H1 = There is significant relation in views of no. of parents by taluka for reduction in house expenditure

From above table for 1 and 498 degree of freedom.

Fcal is 57.74 and Ftab is 3.86.

Thus, Fcal>Ftab and p-value is less than specified α of 0.05.

So, null hypothesis is rejected and it is concluded that there is significant relation in views of no. of parents by taluka for reduction in house expenditure.

3. Relation Between No. Of Parents By Taluka And Health Improvement After Mdm Scheme

Anova: Single Factor

SUMMARY

Groups	Count	Sum	Average	Variance
No. of Parents by Taluka	250	750	3	2.008
Health Improvement	250	375	1.5	0.6526

ANOVA

Source of Variation	SS	df	MS	F	P-value	F crit
Between Groups	281.25	1	281.25	211.42	4E-40	3.8602
Within Groups	662.5	498	1.3303			
Total	943.75	499				

Interpretation

H0 = There is no significant relation in views of no. of parents by taluka for health improvement of children after MDM scheme

H1 = There is significant relation in views of no. of parents by taluka for health improvement of children after MDM scheme

From above table for 1 and 498 degree of freedom.

Fcal is 211.42 and Ftab is 3.86.

Thus, Fcal>Ftab and p-value is less than specified α of 0.05.

So, null hypothesis is rejected and it is concluded that there is significant relation in views of no. of parents by taluka for health improvement of children after MDM scheme.

4. Relation Between No. Of Parents By Taluka And Adequate Food Through Mdm

Anova: Single Factor

SUMMARY

Groups	Count	Sum	Average	Variance
No. of Parents by Taluka	250	750	3	2.008
Adequate Food	250	480	1.92	0.7084

ANOVA

Source of Variation	SS	df	MS	F	P-value	F crit
Between Groups	145.8	1	145.8	107.35	7E-23	3.8602
Within Groups	676.4	498			1.3582	
Total		822.2		499		

Interpretation

H0 = There is no significant relation in views of no. of parents by taluka for children getting adequate food through MDM

H1 = There is significant relation in views of no. of parents by taluka for children getting adequate food through MDM

From above table for 1 and 498 degree of freedom.

Fcal is 107.35 and Ftab is 3.86.

Thus, Fcal>Ftab and p-value is less than specified α of 0.05.

So, null hypothesis is rejected and it is concluded that there is significant relation in views of no. of

parents by taluka for children getting adequate food through MDM.

11. Findings:-

- 20% of the respondents (50 parents) are each from five talukas of Panchmahal such as Godhra, Kalol, Shahera, Jambughoda and Goghamba
- 58% of the respondents are male while 42% of the respondents female
- 48% of the respondents are between age group of 20 to 35 years, 49% of the respondents are between age group of 36 to 50 years while 3% of the respondents are more than 50 years
- 82% of the respondents believe that due to MDM, the dropout rate has been reduced while 18% of the respondents believe that girl child has household work so they could not complete their study
- 30% of the parents believe that their house expenditure is reduced because of MDM and "Anna Sangam Yojana" 20% of the parents
- 24% of the respondents believe that Nutritional development is the other benefits of mid-day meal scheme, 26% of the respondents believe that Educational advancement is the other benefits of mid-day meal scheme, 19% of the respondents believe that Decrease child labour is the other benefits of mid-day meal scheme while 31% of the respondents believe that Decrease drop outs is the other benefits of mid-day meal scheme
- 60% of the ST cast parents believe that their girl child getting 30 + 30 Kg grain as part of "Anna Triveni Yojana" while 40% of the other cast parents believe that their girl child not getting 30 + 30 Kg grain as part of "Anna Triveni Yojana"
- 20% of the respondents believe that child from only Shahera taluka get flavoured milk as part of Dudh Sanjivani Yojana while 80% of the respondents don't believe child get flavoured milk as part of Dudh Sanjivani Yojana
- 100% of the respondents believe MDM should continue

12. Conclusion:-

The scheme has the potential to boost or adversely affect the ongoing teaching learning processes depending on its way of implementation. The evaluation of mid day meal scheme is very important in terms of its implementation and the objectives for which it is launched. In this study an attempt has been made by the researcher to know the perspective of the parents towards (Mid Day meal scheme) in Panchmahal along with its present status of implementation.

13. Suggestion:-

- Proper maintenance of Mid-Day Meal Scheme registers and cash books.
- Provision of timely availability of funds.
- Provision of advance food for winter season.
- Educating community about MDMS.
- Meals should be given according to the taste of students.
- Every School must possess proper drinking water facility.
- Provision for proper seating arrangement while meals taken.
- Proper hygiene should be maintained during cooking.
- Regular Inspection should be done by the Government authority.

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