

Teachers' Perception towards National School Lunch Programme (Mid-Day Meal Scheme) In District Kangra of Himachal Pradesh at Elementary Level

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Abstract

The purpose of this study was to study the teacher's perception towards national school lunch programme (mid-day meal scheme) in district kangra of Himachal Pradesh at elementary level. A sample of 100 teachers, which included 74 female and 26 male teachers, were selected using purposive sampling technique. Teachers' perceptions towards national school lunch programme (Mid-Day Meal Scheme) studied by using questionnaire. The information collected through teacher's questionnaire, was put to percentage analysis to give meaning to data. This study will be very helpful to the teachers, policy makers and all others who are concerned with the mission to develop elementary education and reach the goal of universalization of Elementary Education in India.

KEYWORDS: Teachers Perception, National School Lunch Programme, MDM, Elementary level Himachal Pradesh.

Introduction

The Mid day Meal Scheme was launched by Government of India with the objective of giving a boost to universalisation of education by increasing enrollment, attendance and retention and simultaneously improving the nutritional status of students in primary/upper primary classes. Mid Day Meal in schools has had a long history in India. In 1925, a Mid Day Meal Programme was introduced for disadvantaged children in Madras Municipal Corporation. Levinger (1994) the impact of School Feeding Programmes (SFPs); National Council of Educational Research and Training (2000) improve the enrolment and retention of girls in schools; Grewal et al. (2004) Nutritional Status of Rural Punjabi Children; Rana (2005) Utilization of Resources at Primary Stage; De et al. (2005) Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) ; Kumar (2005) Effectiveness of National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (Mid Day Meal scheme); Gangadharan (2006) Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) (termed as noon-meal scheme in Kerala); Gupta (2006) Effectiveness of National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (Mid Day Meal scheme); Deodhar (2007) Mid Day Meal Scheme; Hadi (2009) Mid Day Meal Schemes; Sharma et al. (2010) Impact of wholesome mid day meal (MDM) program; Mehta and Kour (2012) The nutritional contribution of MDM to the actual daily dietary intake of children; Paul and Mondal (2012) Impact of Mid-day Meal Programme on Academic Performance of Students; Kales (2014) Mid-day meal scheme; Chhabra and Rao (2014) The Challenges and interventions in meeting delivery of nutrition in mid-day meal scheme; Grover and Kaur (2014) examine the execution of Mid Day Meal Scheme; Lalita (2016) examine the nutritional contribution of MDM norms at Upper primary Classes; Jayalakshmi and Jissa

(2017) The Nutritional status of Mid-Day Meal programme beneficiaries and Samal and Dehury (2017) Family Impact Analysis of Mid-day Meal (MDM) Scheme in India with Special Focus on Child Education and Nutrition.

Need:

Almost all of the above studies were conducted on enrolment and retention, utilization of Resources at Primary Stage, effectiveness of national programme of nutritional support to primary education (Mid Day Meal scheme) and no efforts have so far been to see the teachers' perception towards national school lunch programme (mid-day meal scheme). So, to study the teachers' perception at elementary level this study was selected.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To study teachers' perceptions towards national programme of nutritional support to elementary education in Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh with regard to achievement of objectives of mid day meal scheme.
2. To study teachers' perceptions towards national programme of nutritional support to elementary education in Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh with regard to quality of meal provided under mid day meal scheme and its preparation.
3. To study teachers' perceptions towards national programme of nutritional support to elementary education in Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh with regard to perceived effect of value inclination and development of hygienic habits among students.
4. To study teachers' perceptions towards national programme of nutritional support to elementary education in Kangra District of Himachal Pradesh with regarding their own role.
5. To study teachers' perceptions towards national programme of nutritional Support to elementary education in Kangra District of Himachal Pradesh with regard to perceived effect of mid day meal scheme with respect to some miscellaneous factors.

Tools:

To conduct the study effectively a questionnaire was developed by the researcher for the purpose of obtaining responses from the teachers. This questionnaire consisted of three parts in which Part-I is introductory, Parts-II consisted of closed type 30 items concerning all the important aspect of Mid-Day Meal Scheme and Parts-III consisted of open ended questions in which teachers were allowed to write down freely the problems related to implementation of Mid-Day Meal Scheme and also the suggestions for its improvements and making the scheme more effective.

Methodology:

To achieve the objectives of the present study effectively survey technique under descriptive method of research was used.

Sampling:

A sample of 100 Government primary school teachers both 26 males and 74 females was selected by using purposive sampling procedures.

Statistical Technique:

The data collected through questionnaire was analyzed. In the study percentage was used for the interpretation of data. The percentage means that the results are calculated and discussed from per 100 in order to understand the results in a better manner.

Results and Discussion:

Major Findings of the Study based on Teachers' Perceptions towards national school lunch programme (mid-day meal scheme) in district Kangra of Himachal Pradesh at elementary level

- 92% government elementary school teachers were of the view that Mid Day Meal Scheme is helping to achieve the goals of Universalization of Elementary' Education and 53% teachers responded that there is no increase in enrolment at all.
- Maximum 59% teachers responded that there is no increase in the attendance of students as a result of Mid Day Meal Scheme and 80% of the teachers are against the reduction in number of dropouts.
- Improvement in learning levels as per the reviews maximum number of 80% teachers responded that there is very little improvement in learning levels and 49% government school teachers were of the view that a very little improvement in nutritional status by the Mid Day Meal Scheme.
- 98% government elementary school teachers were of view that Mid Day Meal scheme is helping to balanced and nutritious diet and 90% school teachers are in favour whereas rest 10% teachers are of the view that Mid Day Meal scheme is helping to some extent only.
- 98% government school teachers are in favour that the quality of food grains (rice) provided by F.C.I. is good in quality and 99% teachers are with the view that all the precautions has been adopted by the staff while preparing Mid Day Meal.
- 98% teachers are in favour of inculcation of values through this Mid Day Meal scheme and as per the statistic 100% teachers are in favour of scheme to eradicate discrimination.
- Sitting arrangement of children from different castes as per the result 100% teachers are in favour of sitting together children of all caste.
- 100% teachers of the government school supported the idea of development of hygiene habits through this Mid Day Meal and 82% teachers are not taking the Mid Day Meal as a problem whereas 14% teachers are taking it as a problem.

- 91% teachers responded that they should be free from the responsibility of Mid Day Meal Scheme and 77% teachers are no problem of motivation for proper implementation of Mid Day Meal Scheme.
- 88% teachers that implementation of various schemes like Mid Day Meal . Sarav Shiksha Abhiyan etc. scheme is primary concern in government elementary schools and 82% teachers were in favour of Mid Day Meal Scheme in Himachal Pradesh they realized its need in the H.P.
- 91% teachers were that Mid Day Meal Scheme is not a wastes the teaching-learning time of teachers and students and 95% teachers were in favour of providing hot cooked mid day meal daily to the students in the school.
- 97% teachers were that after the launching of cooked Mid Day Meal Scheme there is inspection by parents/guardian of children in the context to this scheme and 63% teachers have expressed that students do not feel sleepy after taking mid day meal.
- 100% teachers perceived that the meal, which is provided to the children under Mid Day Meal Scheme is liked by the students and 100% teachers responded that there is no help received on the part of local people for the implementation of Mid Day Meal Scheme.

Major Findings of the Study based on Problems Related to Mid-Day Meal Scheme in district Kangra of Himachal Pradesh at elementary level

- In district Kangra mostly there is no separate kitchen in the elementary schools for preparation of mid day meal and the preparation of meals in the same surrounding near the classes disturb the students and teachers.
- The attention of students is distracted due to this inappropriate distance of kitchen from classrooms.
- Proper storage provisions are not available in most of the elementary schools.
- There are no safety provisions in case of any accident like fire, leakage of gas cylinder etc.
- The grant for National School Lunch Programme (Mid Day Meal) is not made available timely by the concerned department dealing with Mid Day Meal Scheme.
- There is no participation and help received from the local community for the implementation of National school lunch programme (Mid-day meal).

Major Findings of the Study based on Suggestions for Making the Scheme More Effective in district Kangra of Himachal Pradesh at elementary level

1. Elementary School Teachers should be relieved of all National School Lunch Programme (Mid Day Meal) responsibilities, except supervising the preparation and distribution of mid day meal.
2. Separate kitchen-cum- store should be made available to all government elementary schools and it should be at an appropriate distance from the classrooms.

3. The National School Lunch Programme (Mid Day Meal) should be implemented in such a manner that in any circumstances it does not adversely affect teaching-learning activities in schools.
4. The grant for National School Lunch Programme (Mid Day Meal) should be increased by taking into consideration the inflation rate and should be provided monthly well in time.
5. Encourage the participation of the local school management committee in the implementation of National School Lunch Programme (Mid Day Meal).

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