

RESPONSIVENESS OF 'MID-DAY-MEAL' PROGRAMME IN HARYANA- AN ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

This paper examines the responsiveness of 'Mid-Day Meal Programme' for school going children in Haryana. In order to analysis the levels of satisfaction of this programme, an empirical study has been carried out in some of selected government schools, situated in six selected districts of Haryana. Hypothetically, it has been it has been tested by a t-tests technique, which indicates a considerable regional variability, as indicated by the respondents, selected from different government school's students and the parents of different areas of Haryana.

Education is a cradle of civilization. Without education healthy body, the mind does not develop without good food. It is therefore, become most essential to have a good and nutritious food for our growing children. It is quite obvious from the studies, carried out from time to time, indicate a considerable regional disparity in 'intake' taken by the children, and belong to rural and urban areas. Similarly, the children belonging to tribal and non tribal areas also indicate a considerable variability in the 'calories consumed by the children, belong to this major category.

Since independence, the constitution of India has provided constitutional safeguards to the children of India. In spite of numerous recommendations and suggestions given by Kothari Commission (1964-66) and National Education Policy (1986), the problem of school going children, especially in the rural areas have remained more or less same, as indicated by numerous of studies. It has been observed that the problems of these children are either directly or indirectly related to economic status of the families from where these students came off. And the economic conditions of these students directly affect the health of the children, who are studying in various schools in India.

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In order to reduce the dropout rate and compensate the 'deficiency of the intake calories' among the school going children, a National Programme of nutritional support to primary education was started in August 15, 1995 in Rohtak district of Haryana. This programme involve supply of food grain to the district authorizes and reimbursement of transportation cost for movement of food grain from the nearest go downs of Food Corporation of India to the villages and the schools to give a boost to universalization of primary education and nutritional support. It is believed that this programme has increased the strength of the children in the schools and helped for universalization of primary education. As it has been justified with legal support. The civil writ petition No. 196, of 2001 of people's union liberties vs Govt. of India in the Supreme Court of India indicate a the necessity of mid-day-meal scheme for the children, studying in the various schools. According to this decision, "cooked food should be given to the students of the government and government aided schools under the mid-day meal scheme, which contains 300 calories and 8-12 gm protein.

Budgetary Allocation for Mid-Day-Meal

The Centre government has allocated Rs. 10,00,000 lacs on the programme in 2011-12, excluding the contribution of the States and subsidy on food grain. The Centre provides 75 per cent funds, and States contribute the remaining 25 per cent for implementing the programme. In Haryana, During the year 2005-06, 16.45 lacs children of upto 5th classes in 9343 schools (Govt., Aided & Local bodies) and A.I.E. centers was provided cooked food. In this context, an amount of Rs. 5564.38 lacs (Central share 3464.38 lacs and State share Rs. 2100.00 lacs) was spent on this programme. For 2006-07, State Govt. has allocated Rs.7893.40 lacs (Rs.5793.40 lacs as Central share and Rs.2100 lacs State share). State Government has also enhanced its share to Rs.0.57 per child per school day, which was earlier Rs. 0.43 during 2006-07 period. The calorie and protein contents have also been increased from 300 calories to 450 calories. The protein contents have increased from 8 grams to 12 grams. This programme was introduced for children of upper primary classes in 36 blocks during the year 2007-08. Since this year, Mid-day-Meal programme has been introduced for all upper primary classes children. In the year 2008-09, Rs. 8252.00 lacs has been sanctioned for continue this scheme for primary classes students and Rs. 5544.00 lacs for upper primary classes students. For the year 2009-10, the resource allocation for the central govt. share has been Rs. 10849.83 lacs. On the other hand, the state share for this programme was Rs. 3616.61 lacs. The total amount sanction was Rs. 144466.44 lacs. In case of

Haryana state the share of this programme to the total budget allocated for this year was 0.45 per cent. The corresponding figures for the year 2010-11 has been Rs, 12304.5 lacs, as a centre share whereas the state figure was Rs. 4101.5 lacs. And the total amount sanctioned for this programme Rs. 16406 lacs. In context of share of this programme in to total budget allocated, we have worked out as 0.45 per cent.

Hence, it is quite obvious from the various figures which indicate more or less progressive trend. As we observe from the share budget allocated during different successive periods, indicate an almost a growing trend since 2005-06 to 2010-11. Similarly, the number of student beneficiaries also indicate an increasing trend barring with some minor fluctuations.

Table 1 Mid Day Meals Budget of Haryana

Sr. No.	Years	Centre Govt. Share (Rs. In Lacs)	State Govt. Share (Rs. In Lacs)	Total MDM Budget (Rs. In Lacs)	Total Haryana Budget (Rs. In Lacs)	% of Share	Year-wise No. of Beneficiary students
1.	2005-06	3464.38	2100	5564.38	1441376	0.39	1562949
2.	2006-07	5793.40	2100	7893.40	1891259	0.42	1465955
3.	2007-08	4764.41	2252	7016.41	1988649	0.35	1610733
4.	2008-09	10347	3449	13796	2503854	0.55	2141961
5.	2009-10	10849.83	3616.61	14466.44	3219452	0.45	2012781
6.	2010-11	12304.5	4101.5	16406	3424883	0.48	2123484

Sources: Statistical Abstract, Haryana 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011. Economic Survey, Haryana 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, Mid Day Meal, Report of Director of Elementary Education, Haryana 2011-12.

Historic past: If we review the retrospect of the past of 'Mid-Day-Meal' programme, then we have to make a periodic assessment of different successive periods. In 1923, a 'mid-day-meal' programme was introduced for the children; belong to poor socio economic status in the 'Madras Municipal Corporation'. In 1928, Keshav Academy of Kolkata introduced compulsory mid-day Tiffin for primary school boys on payment basis at the rate of four annas per child per month. In 1942, implementing a free mid-day-meal' scheme was introduced in Bombay city. Similarly, in 1953, Uttar Pradesh government had introduced a scheme on voluntary basis for providing meals consist of boiled and roasted grams, ground nuts, puffed rice, boiled potato or seasonal fruits. In

1950, large number of states have introduced mid-day-meal' programme with the assistance of different international organizations like Catholic Relief Services, Church World Service, CARE, U.S. Meals for millions etc. also came forward to assist in these programme. During 1958-59, an expanded Nutrition programme was introduced jointly by FAO, WHO, UNICEF and Govt. of India which was subsequently expended in to Applied Nutrition Programme.

In 1982, the idea of food of learning with FAO commodity assistance was introduced. This was absolutely meant for scheduled caste and scheduled tribe girls. The department of education in the Central Government and inter ministerial consultations, prepared a scheme as per the guidelines of the World Food Programme. In 1983, there were 13.6 million SC children and 10.09 ST girls students, studying in 1st class to Vth have been covered in 15 states and 3 UTs' enrolled of ST/Sc girls students.

A programme with Central government assistance for mid day meal for children in primary school throughout country was again considered during the year 1984-85. The broad rationales for the programme were as follows:

- Mid-Day-Meal' programme for primary schools could be considered as an anti poverty educational programme.
- Implementation of this programme for the age group of 6-11 years may enhance the enrolments and reduce the dropout rates of the children.
- It was expected to pave the way to assisting to provide the required nutrition to under feed and nourished children in the rural areas.

In December 1988, the department of education formulated a proposal for covering 994 ICDS blocks with consideration of SC/ST children. It was suggested that if the programme was to be implemented in all the ICDS blocks with consideration of SC/ST children. It will surely come with fruitful results.

It was suggested that if the programme was to be implemented in all the KDS blocks with concentration of tribal and scheduled caste population with Rs. 1/- per child per day for primary school children, the annual school expenditure was Rs. 277.32 crores. The important elements of the guidelines for this scheme which were based on earlier guide lines prepared by the Planning Commission.

Seventeen states governments have implemented mid-day-meal programme for primary school students within the age group of 6-11 years (1990-91). There were 12 states, where the

execution of mid-day-meal programme with their own resources. These states are Karnataka, Orissa and West Bengal. The implementation of programme was partly with their own resources and partly with the assistance of 'CARE', an International Non-Governmental Organization.

In Haryana government had introduced MDM programme Initially 1995, implemented in 17 blocks of 6 districts & extended to 44 blocks where female literacy rate was lower than the national level in 1996-97. In Haryana, now mid-day-meal scheme has been extended up to 8th class students. The Haryana government has decided to launch a pilot project on mid-day-meal programme for all girl students, studying in class 9th to 12th in government schools, in six districts of the state. At present, mid-day-meal is provided to all boys and girls studying in government primary and middle schools on school days, all over the state.

Recently, the Haryana government has order a review of mid-day-meal scheme in government school after 100 students per district, have been fall ill due to consuming the school meal. Aiming at attaining TQM (Total Quality Management), it is essential to have a 'vigilant eye' on the functioning of the 'executive personnel' working at different levels.

Keeping in view some of problematic areas of this national programme, the present study is expected to contribute significantly for diagnosing the pit falls which lie in the functioning of the programme, especially at implementation front. Further, this type of study is also expected to give a periodic feedback to the policy makers, so that the Total Quality Management may be maintained in the whole programme.

Different authors and scholars belong to various streams have given their varied views on different problematic areas of mid day meal programme executed in different parts of India.

Jha and Jhingan (2002) have examined the pitfalls in the educational system for the elementary education. They have worked out the SWOT analysis of education system among the poorest and the other deprived groups. The authors have tried to establish 'cause-effect' relationship among various quantitative and qualitative parameters and drawn some of vital inferences from their studies.

Dreze and Goyal (2003) have projected some of projections on mid day meal programme for some of states. They have pointed out some of strong points for this programme and chalked out the capacity for mid day meal programme and assessed its potential for the programme's 'sustainability' for a long period.

Jain and Shah (2005) have carried out the study on mid day meal programme for some of pockets of Madhya Pradesh. The authors have highlighted some of strong points and referred the programme as 'Antyodaya Anna Yojana' especially for down trodden sections of rural society.

Samason and Noronhac (2005) have carried out the study on 'mid day meal' and analysed the benefits, especially for 'Dalits' and down trodden sections of society. It is because of the socio-economic condition of Dalits and down trodden have often been deprived from nutrias diets from their own sources and it has become supplement with tis programme.

Thorat and Lee (2005) have drawn a true picture in their study on mid day meal programme as food security, especially for Dalit and down caste people in Rural India. It has been pointed out that the programme is implemented with lop sided approach and a discriminated behavior has often been observed in their meal distributed system.

Deshpande, Gupta, Basu and Arpana have conducted a case study for mid day meal especially 'Cooked Meal' which is suffered with some of pitfalls and drawback. The authors have also suggested some of positive suggestions for making an improvement for this programme.

Khera (2006) has examined the achievements and challenges, posed by the mid day meal programme in the primary level students. It is an empirical study, carried out on primary level students and drawn some of vital inferences about mid day meal programme in India.

Hence, it is obvious that the authors belong to different streams have thrown an adequate light on multifaceted problematic issues of 'mid day meal' programme for various parts of India. They have carried out various studies on different segments of mid day meal policy formulation and execution fronts. They have also recommended some of recommendation for ameliorate the programme more effectively throughout India.

Objectives of the Study: The main objective of the programme was to increase the enrollment of students in the primary schools. Secondly, it was also aimed at improvement in retention and attendance and provides nutrition to the students in primary education. Meaning thereby, giving a boost to universalisation of primary education.

The objective of the present study is aimed at an evaluate the mid-day-meal programme in Haryana. To know the 'level of satisfaction' of the students and their parents about this programme. On the basis of empirical study, some of recommendations are to be made for further improvement of this programme.

In order to evaluating the mid-day-meal programme in the state, six villages have been selected from six different blocks from six districts located in different region of Haryana. These villages are having different socio-economic background with varied demographic profile. Though the main stay of economy of the villages, have been agriculture but the villages are varied in occupational structure, land ownership, size of land holding and the impact of urbanism on the people, living in different areas of Haryana. The following villages have been selected through stratified random sampling for carrying out the study:

Table 2: List of Selected Villages, Blocks and Districts

Sr. No.	Villages	Blocks	District
1.	Ismaila	Sampla	Rohtak
2.	Sultanpur	Faruknagar	Gurgoan
3.	Ghagas	Nagina	Mewat
4.	Jundla	Nissing	Karnal
5.	Bitna	Pinjor	Punchkula
6.	Bairawas	Monidergarh	Mohindergarh

Size of Sample: There are fifty respondents which have selected from the each village. It means, total 300 respondents represent whole of Haryana. The sample of the respondents have selected from the students, belong to government schools. In this context, a random sampling technique has been applied for selectivity for the student, studying in different schools.

Methodology: The universe of the study undertaken is the state of Haryana. In order to evaluate the 'satisfactory level' of the services, rendered by the local bodies like Gram Panchayats and concerned school teachers have selected. An interview schedule method has been employed for knowing the 'satisfactory level' from the students and the parents of the students, who were beneficiaries from this programme. In order to know the uniformity and variability in the level of satisfaction, a 't-test' technique has been employed for the services of 'mid-day-meal' in different schools of Haryana.

Data Analysis: In order to summarize the results, the observed data has been analyzed for drawing the inferences from various observations, taken in the field. Data analyses indicate the 'cause-effect relationship' among various qualitative and quantitative parameters, taken for the study. In order to testing the hypothesis a 't-test' technique has been employed for drawing the desired inferences.

For t-test

$$t = \frac{x_1 - x_2}{s} \sqrt{\frac{n_1 + n_2}{n_1 + n_2}}$$

Here 't' is based on (n - 2) degree of freedom. If the calculated value of 't' exceed 0.05 for d. f. we say that the value 't' is significant at 5 per cent levels.

Table 3: Village/Block/District wise Level of Satisfaction of Respondents

Sr. No.	Village (Block-District)	Satisfied	Strongly Satisfied	No Opinion	Un-Satisfied	Strongly Un-Satisfied	Total Respondents
1.	Ismaila (Sampla-Rohtak)	20 (46.51)	14 (32.56)	2 (4.65)	2 (4.65)	5 (11.63)	43 (100)
2.	Sultanpur (Faruknagar-Gurgoan)	18 (45.00)	15 (37.50)	3 (7.50)	2 (5.00)	2 (5.00)	40 (100)
3.	Ghagas (Nagina-Mewat)	10 (38.46)	9 (34.62)	3 (11.54)	1 (3.85)	3 (11.54)	26 (100)
4.	Jundla (Nissing-Karnal)	14 (48.28)	8 (37.50)	3 (10.34)	2 (6.90)	2 (6.90)	29 (100)
5.	Bitna (Pinjore-Panchkula)	12 (40.00)	8 (26.67)	2 (6.67)	5 (16.67)	3 (10.00)	30 (100)
6.	Bairawas (M/garh-Mohinder)	15 (46.88)	3 (9.38)	2 (6.25)	4 (12.50)	8 (25.00)	32 (100)
Total Respondents		89 (44.50)	57 (28.5)	15 (7.50)	16 (8.00)	23 (11.50)	200 (100)

Source: Primary data (Percentages are given in brackets)

In the present problem, which is associated with mid day meal programme's level of satisfaction which is hypothetically uniform throughout Haryana? This hypothesis has tested through t-test technique.

Suppose Sample	Null Hypothesis Highly Developed	Ho = $\mu_1 = \mu_2$ Lesser Developed	Calculated Value	Tabulated Value
Mean	71.75	63.75	3.64	2.28
S.D	4.97	2.90		

$$V = 4 + 8 - 2 = 10$$

On the basis of observed and tabulated data, we found that the calculated value is more than the tabulated value. Hence, it is indicate that the level of satisfaction of the respondents, indicate a considerable variability of the personnel, belong to administrative machinery' engaged for accomplish this programme.

Discussion & results: On the basis of empirical study, based on six schools, selected from different districts of Haryana, indicate a considerable variability in their implementation. However, variability has been tested by t-test. The hypothesis has developed on preliminary investigation on the students, studying in different schools of Haryana.

Table 4: Public Opinion on Mid-day-Meal Programme

Sr. No.	Village (Block-District)	Favorable	No Opinion	Poor Meal Quality	Failed to Provide Vitamins & Proteins	Total Respondents
1.	Ismaila (Sampla-Rohtak)	36 (72.00)	1 (2.00)	5 (10.00)	8 (16.00)	50 (100)
2.	Sultanpur (Faruknagar-Gurgoan)	35 (70.00)	0 (0)	7 (14.00)	8 (16.00)	50 (100)
3.	Ghagas (Nagina-Mewat)	41 (82.00)	0 (0)	5 (10.00)	4 (8.00)	50 (100)
4.	Jundla (Nissing-Karnal)	36 (72.00)	0 (0)	5 (10.00)	9 (18.00)	50 (100)
5.	Bitna (Pinjore-Panchkula)	38 (76.00)	0 (0)	5 (10.00)	7 (14.00)	50 (100)
6.	Bairawas (M/garh-Mohinder)	34 (68)	5 (10.00)	3 (6.00)	8 (16.00)	50 (100)
Total Respondents		220 (73.33)	6 (2.00)	30 (10.00)	44 (14.66)	300 (100)

Source: Primary data

(Percentages are given in

brackets)

On the basis of the study, we found that the parents of 73.33 per cent of the students, studying in different schools are in a favour of the 'mid day meal' programme with some of modifications. However, there are only 2 per cent of the parents who have shown a 'indifferent attitude' towards this programme. On the basis of multiple responses, given by the 10 per cent of the

students and their parents, have pointed out as 'poor quality' of meal, is served to the students. On the basis of responses, given by the 14.66 per cent of the parents, we found that the programme has failed to provide required 'vitamins and proteins' to the students. However, the majority of parents have observed that there is no considerable improvement in the health indicated in their children. On the basis of testing of hypothesis, we observed that the 'level of satisfaction' given by 200 respondents which includes the parents of the students, member of the panchayats have been given their views in a subjective way. Hence, it is obvious that a 'considerable subjectivity' has been found on this issue.

Conclusion: On the basis of year-wise successive execution of the mid-day-meal programme, it may conclude that the strength and weakness of the programme may be periodically evaluated. In order to attaining the TQM (Total Quality Management) of this national programme, it is very essential to take an active participation of the people, belong to different strata of society. It is also essential to take regular feedback from the personnel, belong to 'administrative machinery'. The executing officials should be 'transparent and highly responsive for rendering their services. Only then, this programme will attain the 'total quality management' position and effectively achieve the desired objectives of this programme uniformly throughout Haryana.

Recommendations and Suggestions:

- The parents are not suppose to hesitate to check the mid day meal from time to time.
- A periodic feedback by the parents, students, teachers and the members of public representatives e.g. Gram Panchayat/Block Samiti/ Zila Parishad are very essential.
- The action plan should be formulated in a way, so that the students may not be disturbed from their general routine.
- As far as it is possible, the female cook should be managed for cooking the meal. They should be imparted a formal training too.
- A demand derive approach should be adopted for managing the cooking material eg. grain, rice, wheat, fuel etc.
- A proper record should be maintained, so that the programme may be up-dated with its well maintained record.

- The personnel, who are directly or indirectly engaged in execution process of mid day meal programme, should be highly responsive, transparent and accountable to be the public and their officials.
- The wages should be revised periodically, so that the 'skilled workers' may retain for long time.
- A periodic SWOT analysis should be worked out, so that TQM (Total Quality Management), position may be attained for whole programme.

Hence, it obvious that the programme will attain the 'Total Quality' position, when there is periodic vigilance and fully transparency at multi-level front. The community and the civil society can play a vital role for 'constant vigil' on the working for the personnel, engaged in implementing the 'Mid-meal-Programme' in rural and semi-rural areas. Only then, the programme will be uniformly successful in all regions of Haryana.

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