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### Midday meals scheme in Karnataka with special reference to Channagiri taluk

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#### Abstract

The Midday Meal Scheme is the popular name for school meal programme in India which started in the 1960s. It involves provision of lunch free of working days. The key objectives of the programme are protecting children from classroom hunger, increasing school enrollment and attendance, improved socialization among children belonging to all castes, addressing malnutrition, and social empowerment through provision of employment to women. The scheme has a long history, especially in the state of Tamil Nadu. The scheme was introduced statewide by the then Chief Minister K. Kama raj in the 1960s and later expanded by the M. G. Ramachandran government in 1982. It has been adopted by most Indian states after a landmark direction by the Supreme Court of India on November 28, 2001. The success of this scheme is illustrated by the tremendous increase in the school participation and completion rates in Tamil Nadu. The Midday Meal program 'Akshara-Dasoha' was first implemented in July 2002 in 7 backward districts of northern Karnataka. The paper is considers Improving the nutritional status of children in classes 1-5, Encouraging poor children, belonging to dis advantaged section, to attend school Improve socialization among castes address malnutrition and empower. This article uses primary and secondary sources.

**Keywords:** Midday meal scheme, Akshara-Dasoha, nutritional status, malnutrition

#### Introduction

The Midday Meal Scheme is the popular name for school meal programme in India which started in the 1960s. It involves provision of lunch free of working days. The key objectives of the programme are protecting children from classroom hunger, increasing school enrollment and attendance, improved socialization among children belonging to all castes, addressing malnutrition, and social empowerment through provision of employment to women. The scheme has a long history, especially in the state of Tamil Nadu. The scheme was introduced statewide by the then Chief Minister K. Kama raj in the 1960s and later expanded by the M. G. Ramachandran government in 1982. It has been adopted by most Indian states after a landmark direction by the Supreme Court of India on November 28, 2001. The success of this scheme is illustrated by the tremendous increase in the school participation and completion rates in Tamil Nadu.

The Midday Meal programmeor 'Akshara-Dasoha' was first implemented in July 2002 in 7 backward districts of northern Karnataka. In the second stage the programme has been extended to all the remaining 20 districts of the state. Since Karnataka is primarily a rice eating area, children are provided 100 grams of rice with 20 grams of pulses and 25 grams of vegetables with some variation in the cooked meals per week. The most common meal is rice and sambhar across the schools. This meal constitutes approximately 400 kcal of consumption.

The government has also tried to introduce variation in the programme by suggesting a menu for the entire school. Thus, in comparison with the meal programme in Karnataka, the expenditure per student is higher and the programme has been designed to be more attractive to the students. There has also been good community participation in the programme. Since lower primary classes (1 to 5) and upper primary classes (6 and 7) are usually held in the same school building simultaneously, the programme has been extended to the 7th grade, through the generation of additional community resources.

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This activism on the part of the school administration is better understood in the context of the financial and administrative organization of the programme.

### Meaning of MDM Scheme

The mid-day meals scheme is the popular name for school meal Programme in India. It involves provision of lunch free of cost to school children on all working days. The key objectives of the Programme are protecting children from classroom hunger, increasing school enrollment and attendance, improved socialization among children belonging to all castes addressing malnutrition and social empowerment through provision of employment to women.

### Review Literature

S.E Mahadevappa and K.V Aiahna (2008) [2], in their research article "Mid-Day Meal Scheme: Attracts Children to Attend School", identified to eliminate illiteracy various scheme and being lunched in India. The study found that the dropout and to increase the enrollment government of India introduce MDMs scheme in 1995. The author highlights of the scheme are to prove at meal to prevent the irregular attendance of children supplement nutrition level of the school children who are under nourished also discussed in the paper.

An research article entitled "An Empirical Study or the Mid-Day Meal Programm in Khurda Orissa", by Animarani S. and Naresh Kumar Sharma (2008) [2], analyzed the Mid-Day Meal programme initiated as a means of achieving universal primary education of satisfactory quality or all school children below the age of 14 by increasing enrollment improving, attendance and retention and simultaneously improving nutritional status. Made an attempts to investigation some of these aspects based, on primary data collected from Kurdha district of Orissa data was collected on primary data collected from a sample of households of school children the investigation includes a study of the organizational structure of the programme and also examines the cooked meal and dry ration variants.

P.K Paul and N.K Modal (2012) [3], in their research paper on "Impact of Mid-Day Meal Programme on Academic Performance of Students: Evidence from Few Upper Primary School of Brundavan District in West Bengal", made an attempts to analyze the nature and impact of midday meal programme on academic achievement of students in some selected upper primary schools of Brundavan district in west Bengal. The study found that three hundred students both in urban and rural area encompassing Below Poverty Line and above poverty line. The result of chi-square test revealed that midday meal programme has had a significant positive impact in academic achievement of students. A multiple regression models has been used to determine the extent of relationship between midday meal programme and academic achievement of students. Again student t hypothesis whether any variation of effect of midday meal among economics status of the students or area and enrollment, attendance, retention or dropout among rural and urban students exists or not.

### Objectives of MDM Scheme

- Improving the nutritional status of children in classes 1-5 in government local body and government aided schools and EGS and AIE centers.
- Encouraging poor children, belonging to disadvantaged

section, to attend school more regular and help them concentrate on class room activities.

- Providing nutritional support to children of primary stage in drought affected areas during summer vacation.
- Improve socialization among castes address malnutrition and empower women through employment.
- To improve nutritional and health standard of the growing children.

### Salient Features of MDM Scheme

The salient features of the MDM scheme are as follows:

- The central government provides food grains (wheat and rice) free of Cost through the Food Corporation of India (FCI)
- Food grains (wheat/rice) are allocated at the rate of 100 grams per child per school day where cooked/ processed hot meal is being served and 3 kg per student per month subject to a minimum attendance of 80 per cent by the students where food grains are being distributed.
- The programme is being implemented through panchayat and Mahanagarpalika. The scheme envisages for serving of cooked meals having a calorific value of equivalent of 100 grams of wheat and rice per student per school.
- Food grains were to be distributed in the interim period as a prelude to provisions of cooked meals till institutional arrangements are made however, all schools under the programme are expected to switch to cooked meal at the earliest.

### The Norms and Coverage of the Primer Schools:

The scale of food staff prescribed per student per meal is as under.

- Rice 125 grams per student per day.
- Dal 15 grams per student per day.
- Oil 1 gram per student per day.
- Salt 2 grams per student per day.
- Vegetable/condiment Rs.0.09 per student per day.
- Fuel and stationery Rs. 1.30 per beneficiary per month.
- Honorarium to cook Rs. 200/- per month.
- Honorarium to helper Rs.100/- per month.

Cooked meal the lunch hour is provided to all the students enrollment In class I to V excepting schools located in urban areas where dry rations is given at 3kgs of rice per student per month having 80% of attendance of the student in previous years.

### The Norms and Coverage of the Programme High School

The scale of food stuff prescribed per student per meal is as under.

- Rice 150 grams per student per day.
- Dal 25 grams per student per day.
- Oil 06 gram per student per day.
- Salt 04 grams per student per day.
- Vegetable/condiment Rs.60 per student per day.
- Fuel and stationery Rs. 1.30 per beneficiary per month.
- Honorarium to 4 cooks Rs. 2000 per month.

The cooked meal at launch hour is provided to the entire student enrolled in class 8 to 10, the student per month

having 80% of attendance of student in previous year and at present year also.

**Objectives of the Study**

- To examine the nature and objective of midday meal programme.
- To study the impact of midday meal programme on the school enrollment and dropout rate since 2016 to2019 in five government schools.
- To study the advantages and disadvantages of the midday meal programme to the student in five government primary schools.

**Methodology**

The present paper is descriptive and analytical in nature. For the purpose of analysis, both the primary and secondary data were being used. Primary data collected from were personally interviewed by the Channagiri, taluk, chosen randomly, paper using structured interview schedule. And the secondary source of data collected from various books, journal articles, education department reports and relevant websites.

**Analysis and Interpretation**

**Impact of Mid-Day Meal Programme**

Advantage of Midday Meal programme to student in 5 primary schools show a large majority of the afternoon attendance that is roughly the same as morning attendance. If adequate facilities are available, classroom activity can be readily insulated from the cooking process. The midday meal programme is a scheme which provides school children with one meal per day, free of cost, on all student days. Midday meals are an important terrain of future

engagement not just for the state. But also for social movements and certainly the public at large.

**Table 1:** Teacher’s opinion of Student Attendance in 5 Primary Schools in MDM Programme

Sl. No.	Attendance of the Students	Percentage
1	Maximum attendance	78
2	Minimum attendance	22
	Total	100

Above the data presented in the Table-01, show that students attendance in 5 primary school in MDM programme, opinion that 78 percent respondents belongs to Maximum attendance, out of 22 percent respondents belongs to Minimum attendance, teacher said that the midday meal programme increasing the student enrollment, increasing the students attendance, ovoid the class room hunger, improve nutritional and health standard of the growing children after the midday meal programme.

**Table 2:** Students’ opinion of MDM Programme in 5 Primary Schools

Sl. No.	Students opinion	Percentage
1	Like	87
2	Dislike	13
	Total	100

Above the Table-02, show that the students opinion of the MDM programme has expressed that 87 percent of the students like midday meal, only 13 percent of the students said that they don’t like MDM programme because the students take the same food in every day of lunch break.

**Table 3:** Positive Effects of MDM Programme in 5 Primary Schools

Sl. No.	Name of Schools	Opinion on MDM programme.
1	Mavinakatte	MDM programme helps the reduction on student dropout rate.
2	Sarathi	The programme enhances the efficiency of students attention in classes
3	Nalluru	MDM is a good programme for the students to come to the school daily.
4	Benkikere	MDM helps the poor students to attend the classes regularly
5	Hodigere	The students enjoy the classes from morning to afternoon class.

The main problem is that, in spite of the state governments declared commitment to midday meals, money is too short. Lack of money is also the main reason why most of the schools continue to serve food day after day, instead of

varying the menu. Casual implementation is likely to be one major reason why midday meals have failed to catch the imagination of school teachers.

**Table 4:** Negative Effects of MDM Programme in 5 Primary Schools

Sl. No.	Name of the school	Opinion on MDM programme
1	Mavinakatte	No store-cum-kitchen available in lunch cook
2	Sarathi	No various foods provide to the students, the foods are mostly the same
3	Nalluru	No more sanitation after lunch cook, making the school area dirt
4	Benkikere	No store-cum-kitchen available in lunch cook
5	Hodigere	Kitchen store is too close to the class and make some noise for sometimes.

**Student Enrollment**

**Primary School of Mavinakatte**

Overall, the number of students shows the significant increase of student enrollment. The total number of student

from 2015-16 covered of 90 students in 2016-17 reduced to 73 students and increase significantly from 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20 as the details below.

**Table 5:** The Number of Student Enrollment in Mavinakatte

Sl. No.	Classes	Year				
		2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
1	I	10	9	12	9	13
2	II	12	11	9	17	9
3	III	17	10	11	13	17
4	IV	10	12	9	15	12
5	V	15	9	20	15	15
6	VI	9	13	8	25	16
7	VII	17	9	13	13	23
	Total	90	73	82	107	105

The data presented the Table-05 show that, in later year as in class VI to VII, the number of students has increased. Whereas, in class I to II, have reduced in small amount. After the midday meal programme student enrollment year by year increases the total number of student from 2015-16 covered of 90 students the number of students from 2019-20 covered of 105 student, there were little bit the student enrollment increases.

**Primary School of Sarathi:** In the school, there was a bit decline in 2015-16 and 2019-20 due to the drop out of the student to other settle of their living

**Table 6:** The Number of Student Enrollment in Sarathi

Sl. No.	Classes	Year				
		2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
1	I	37	55	55	33	54
2	II	41	33	50	40	43
3	III	38	43	31	37	44
4	IV	49	39	43	34	50
5	V	46	47	41	41	34
6	VI	70	60	68	58	52
7	VII	64	70	61	69	56
	Total	345	347	349	312	333

Above the table-06 show that we identified something only the few number of students had increase year by year, the total number of student from 2018-19 covered of 312, but 2019-20 the student enrollment covered 333 student only 21 students increased in the present year. There were higher increase of students in class VI-VII. in class III-V there were some different increases and decreases.

**Primary School in Nalluru**

Number of students had increased year by year, but not too large amount. From 2015-16 the student enrollment covered 154 students and increased to 159 students in 2013. there was a decline in 2020 which covered of 152.

**Table 7:** The Number of Students Enrollment in Nalluru

Sl. No.	Classes	Year				
		2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
1	I	23	23	18	25	25
2	II	22	24	22	19	24
3	II	26	23	25	22	16
4	IV	15	25	24	25	22
5	V	22	17	24	24	26
6	VI	25	21	19	23	24
7	VII	21	22	20	16	22
	total	154	155	152	154	159

Above the figure, there were not varying in the number of students each year, but there were a bit decline in class V and VI in 2019-20. Hence also we identified same thing

only the few number of students had little bit increase but not large amount, 2018-19 the student enrollment covered 154 students, but 2019-20 the student enrollment covered 159 only 5 student increased in the next year

**The Primary School of Benkikere**

The number of students had increased year by year, but not too large amount. From 2015-16, the student enrollment covered 113 students and increased to 115 students in 2013.

**Table 8:** The Number of Student Enrollment in Benkikere

Sl. No.	Classes	Year				
		2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
1	I	28	23	20	19	24
2	II	26	29	22	22	25
3	II	21	25	28	20	20
4	IV	20	20	25	27	20
5	V	18	20	18	25	25
6	VI	45	48	52	55	58
7	VII	42	51	59	61	70
	Total	200	216	224	229	243

Data presented the Table-09 show that, there were little bit increasing of the students in every year. 2009-10 higher increase of students. Hence also we identified same thing only the few number of student increases 2010-11 student enrollment covered 113 student, 2011-12 student enrollment covered 113, 2012-13 year only 2 student had increased.

**Primary School of Hodigere**

The number of students had increased year by year, but not too large amount from 2015-16 the student enrollment covered 309 students and increased from 2019-20 the total number covered of 331 students

**Table 9:** The Number of Student Enrollment in Hodigere

Classes	Year				
	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
I	25	26	30	30	32
II	29	34	37	40	40
II	40	39	49	47	46
IV	55	59	56	51	48
V	53	49	59	47	50
VI	53	58	55	59	59
VII	54	57	57	54	56
Total	309	322	343	328	331

Every class had increased its number of students in higher amount comparing each year. 2017-18 the student enrollment covered 343 student, this year higher amount of student enrollment than any other year, 2018-19 student enrollment covered 328 student, 2019-20 year student enrollment covered 331 students. But not large amount of increase

**The Student Enrollment in 5 Primary School in Overall**

**Table 11:** The Number of Student Enrollment in 5 Primary Schools

Villages	Year				
	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Mavinakatte	90	73	82	107	105
Sarathi	345	347	349	312	333
Nalluru	154	155	152	154	159
Benkikere	200	216	224	229	243
Hodigere	309	322	343	328	331

Above the Table-11 show that, Mavinakatte and Sarathie covered more number of students than another schools, this is due to the positive effect of MDM programme which motivates more students to enrollment. In these schools and some other facilities that support a good equality, thus this bring the students to attend more classes of the school. After the midday meal programme student enrollment increases year by year. Hence we identified little bit increase student enrollment few schools student enrollment large amount of increases, but few school little bit increases.

### Findings

A long with the study, this minor project has found some accurate results as the details given below:

- The students have either decreased or, whereas the schools need to enhance the number of students enrolment each year.
- There is high difference in quality of the schools, for instance, public and private school. Mostly, private school has higher enrolment of students than public school due to high quality and equipment of teaching, clean, more activities, and so forth.
- The parents of the students do not encourage the public school as long as the public school is unable to provide sufficient facilities supporting their education to those students of the school.
- The strong opinion of the teacher is that they should be delinked from the MDM programme and this responsibility should be entrusted to a different specialized department which can take care of all the dimensions of MDM programme. It not this would increase the burden of the faculty and reduce their teaching and administrative efficiency.

### Conclusion

Education is essential to all the students to have equivalently educated and to the parents of lower earning income it is different for them to send their children to acquire primary education. A student with an empty stomach devotes most of his attention to food rather than learning. The coked midday meal programme has yielded some very positive results. It is playing a defensive role in combating the problem of attendance the students. A part from the influencing, the rate of attendance is in a positive manner. The programme has also known to have some other important impacts, which include combating nutrition, reducing absenteeism of the students, improvements in teaching and learning nutritious not cooked meals, micronutrient supplementation, adequate manpower, society equity and school health programme.

In the midday meal programme, these are the amount of the students in 5 primary school where the study had gathered and since the establish of the midday meal programme the schools have obtained some higher amount of the students and illustrate more positive changes of midday meal programme to the students enrollment through their attending day by day.

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