A MULTIDIMENSIONAL STUDY OF MID-DAY MEAL PROGRAMME (MDMP) IN INDIA: AN APPROACH TOWARDS UNIVERSALIZATION OF ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

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ABSTRACT
This study has been a maiden attempt to understand i) the different nutritional status of children in class I - IV in Government, Local body and Government aided schools, and ii) the current status whether the poor children, belonging to disadvantaged sections are attending the schools more regularly and it helps them to concentrate on classroom activities. Such a study is important to understand the efficacy of existing and newly created nutritional support system for primary children at the district level. An in-depth study would help in understanding multidimensional issues operating at the micro-level to relate those issues to the macro perspective of Indian body polity. The Mid-Day Meal Programme does not merely aim to provide cooked meal but to provide a meal which satisfies prescribed nutritional norms. At the same time, this has to be done within certain cost norms. Throughout this study, attempt has been made to find out answers to the fundamental question whether the present administrative arrangement at the level of the District is adequate enough to grapple with the problems towards achieving the objectives of Mid Day Meal Programme.

KEY WORDS: Mid Day Meal, Drop-out, Retention, enrolment, DPEP etc.

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