

Influence of locale over guardians' and school teachers' opinion towards mid-day meal programme

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ABSTRACT

The present study was undertaken to see the influence of locale over guardians and teachers opinion towards mid day meal scheme. By using descriptive survey method the task got accomplished on a sample of two hundred fifty, selected from district Varanasi (U.P.). Here stratified random sampling technique was used to find a representative data. Keeping in view the objectives of study a self structured tool – opinionnaire was developed on three points with thirty items on Likert pattern. The data were collected by administering the opinionnaire on guardians and basic school teachers both belonging to urban and rural locale. The raw scores so obtained were analysed objective wise through null hypothesis on all the six domains of mid day meal programme. Domain wise mean opinion differences were assessed through two tailed test of significance Depending upon comparable groups critical ratio values were calculated and there after significance was marked only when 't' value exceeded by standard values (C.R.- 1.98 for 0.05 and 2.62 for 0.01 level). In capsule the overall assessment revealed that guardians opinion towards mid day meal is not influenced by urban or rural locale, although in limited perspective specially in domain variety, quality and pitfalls rural locale significantly showed more favourable opinion. As regards teacher's group, basic school teachers' opinion under the domains variety and quality as well as merits were found more favourable than those of urban counterparts. Apart, the opinion of urban basic school teacher's with respect to attendance and enrollment was found more favourable when compared with those of rural counterparts. In over all assessment the basic school teachers from rural locale with 't' value 3.01 at 0.01 level of significance against 123 degree of freedom were found to have opinion more favourable when compared with counterparts belonging to urban background and thus the influence of locale over opinion is inferred to be real and not by chance

INTRODUCTION

The development of nation and its citizens depends on education. It is education which provides health, happiness and prosperity to all in today's world of science and technology. It shoulders the responsibility of drawing out the innate tendencies and all other talents with a view to help the child and man embrace all the perfection to

which they are susceptible. Swami Vivekanand truly termed education as manifestation of perfection already in man. All the three tiers of education are keeping pace in the same direction with the motto of providing adequate opportunity. The role of primary education is of utmost importance as it is quite like a foundation and endeavours towards identifying as well as bringing out

the latent abilities. The government and non-government agencies are active towards shaping the future of the child, who is also defined as tomorrow of the country. The child enrolled in school receives a nucleus position in centre with periphery of education. Obviously, the health of learner with nutritional food values seems crucial for a healthy system of education and healthy nation as well.

In congruence with universal saying-healthy mind in a health body, the government endeavours to strengthen primary education. Keeping in view the unequal nutritional status of basic school children belonging to un-even socio-economic society on the one hand and provisions of right to education on the other hand the government of India launched national programme of nutritional support on August 15, 1995 and endeavoured to offer free cooked meal to students in primary school through mid day meal welfare scheme.

To Srivastava (2014), mid-day meal scheme is one of country's flagships launched to improve the nutritional and educational status of primary school children. Mid-day meal scheme with its sound aims was highly accepted on the one hand and equally criticized at length by allies on the otherhand. A part from theoretical claims the untoward reactions frequently come through media regarding attendance and enrollment, quality of meal management, merit and pit falls of the scheme etc. A pertinent study conducted by Pathak (2012) also reveals that quality of meal is poor and the additional load on teachers adversely affect the teaching learning in school Guriyar (2017) merely as a specimen lodged complaint with director Mid-day meal against involvement of Pradhan in operation of bank account of Mid-day meal program. Precisely, the program in basic schools is directly associated to students, teachers and guardians with a healthy aim to improve the nutritional and educational status of children. There seems no paucity of untoward reactions or observations over prevailing scheme through views and reports. Thus the views of concerned teachers and the guardians appears equally useful for desired level of development of children on the line of healthy mind in a healthy body. In nutshell, the ground reality of mid-day meal program in basic schools appears to be incompatible against expectation and in view of paucity of researches on stake holders of this division the present study has been undertaken.

Objectives :

- To study the guardians' opinion over mid-day meal scheme being run in basic schools with regard to urban and rural locale.
- To see whether or not the locality exerts any influence over teachers' opinion towards mid day meal scheme being run in basic schools.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Following descriptive survey method the present study was carried out on a representative sample of two hundred fifty units chosen from district Varanasi (U.P) involving guardians and basic school teachers engaged to 6-8 grade with number 125 each which, in turn were associated with government basic schools where mid-day meal programmes are run. Mouley (1970) expresses as no perfect or universally adequate sampling design has yet been devised. Practically the method used in the investigation depends upon the nature of problem available resources conveniences, etc. Keeping these in mind stratified random sampling technique was used to select the units under locale perspective. The data were collected by using a self prepared tool known as opinionnaire containing a list of positive-negative thirty items structured in agree or disagree direction. The score of respondent ranged from thirty to maximum ninety. The tool was administered by developing rapport with concerned units in urban and rural set up. The raw scores so received were analysed objective wise through null hypothesis by using critical ratio to assess the significance level of visible differences between respective mean groups. Accordingly, significance was recorded only when the calculated critical ratio value at degree of freedom 123 exceeded by accepted standard value (C.R.- 1.98 for 0.05 and 2.62 for 0.01 levels).

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

It is evident from opinion-statistics given in Table 1 that out of envisaged dimensions of the mid day meal programme, as regards the component variety and quality the guardians' opinion of rural background is significantly more favourable than the counterparts of urban background. On the other hand in terms of merit domain urban guardians' opinion was found significantly higher than those of rural counter parts ($t=8.65$). This picture slightly changed when when guardians' of rural locale-

significantly opine towards pitfalls of scheme ($t=7.55$, 0.01 level). Apart from this the picture against overall assessment deviates as the mean difference between opinion of guardians belonging to rural and urban background was found to be not significant.

The Table 2 reveals that with respect to domain of attendance and enrolment the mean opinion score of urban locality school teachers is higher than counter parts of rural locality. This observation is real and not by chance because critical ratio value ($t=2.49$) is significant at 0.05 level.

Further in domain of variety and quality the mean opinion score of rural set up school teachers was found higher than those of urban set up. The critical ratio value (2.10) is significant at 5 per cent confidence interval, which infers that the observation is real and not by chance.

Regarding the domain merit of the scheme the mean opinion score of rural set up school teachers was found higher than those of urban set up. This excellence of rural set up teachers is highly significant at 0.01 level with C.R. Value 7.91.

The Table 2 vide its last row depicts the comparative statistics of units in terms of overall assessment. The

mean opinion score of basic school teachers of rural setup towards Mid-day meal program was found more positive than their counterparts of urban set up. This higher mean performance is highly significant at 0.01 level ($t = 3.01$) which shows that significant impact of rural background is real and not by chance. The finding also gets corroboration to some extent with that of Pathak (2012) on similar studies.

By and large, it may be inferred from the discussion that mid day meal programme in basic schools has varied components. In view of values depicted in tables, guardians of rural locale show more favourable opinion over its variety and quality. Partially, the guardians of urban set up show more favour in component merit where as those of rural set up seem towards pitfalls. The overall assessment is that opinion is not influenced by their locale.

The basic school teachers of urban locale opine more favourably towards attendance and enrolment as compared to rural counterparts. It may also be inferred that basic school teachers belonging to rural locale as compared to that of urban locale opine more favourably towards Mid-day meal programme over the domains- variety and quality as well as merit aspect. The overall

Table 1 : Guardian's opinion – statistics over mid-day meal programme

MDM dimensions	Guardians (Rural Background) $n_1=63$		Guardians (Urban Background) $n_2=62$		C.R. Value /L.O.S.	
	M_1	σ_1	M_2	σ_2	t Value	Sign. level
Attendance and enrolment	11.38	1.26	11.65	1.53	1.08	NS
Variety and quality	16.27+	1.05	15.76	1.47	2.23	.05
Management and participation	20.65	2.50	20.60	2.41	0.11	NS
Merit of scheme	12.24	2.01	15.31+	1.96	8.65	0.01
Pitfalls of scheme	15.17+	2.25	12.15	2.22	7.55	0.01
Total over view	75.71	5.02	75.45	5.16	0.29	NS

Note: σ =Standard deviation, t = Critical ratio, NS= Non-significant

Table 2 : Influence of locality over teacher's opinion towards mid-day meal programme

MDM dimensions	School teachers (Rural setup) $n_1=63$		School teachers (Urban setup) $n_2=62$		C.R. value/ L.O.S.	
	M_1	σ_1	M_2	σ_2	t Value	Sign. level
Attendance and enrolment	11.84	1.53	12.70+	2.26	2.49	0.05
Variety and quality	15.95+	1.44	15.30	1.98	2.10	0.05
Management and participation	19.98	3.13	20.05	2.93	0.13	NS
Merit of scheme	15.24+	2.01	12.05	1.99	7.91	0.01
Pitfalls of scheme	12.45	2.31	11.98	1.74	1.28	NS
Total over view	75.47+	5.81	72.44	5.42	3.01	0.01

Note : σ =Standard deviation, t = Critical ratio, NS= Non-significant

observation is the rural locale exerts significant influence over opinion of school teachers towards mid day meal programme. The need is thus on the part of government to pay attention over the launched scheme for improving the nutritional and educational status of children with the help of basic school teachers as well as guardians.

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