CHAPTER 6

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

6.1 INTRODUCTION

Insufficient food and malnutrition still remains a problem in developing countries and have significant effects on health status of children and their educational development. Mid-day meal scheme in Punjab covers primary and upper primary schools (VI-VIII) to improve nutrition as well as enrollment, retention and attendance of the students. This scheme have created substantial benefits for children’ learning and development. This mid-day meal programme tries to mitigate social inequalities by regulating a common platform. Although government is trying to deploy the scheme in best possible manner, still there are number of problems which create hurdles for proper implementation of the scheme. The study highlights those problems and tries to find out the solution to them. Another major focus of the scheme is on promoting enrollment, retention and attendance of the students along with improvement in their health status. Therefore, the present study is an attempt to study the impact of the scheme on enrollment, retention and attendance and health status of the students and has been carried out with the following objectives:

1. To study the implementation level of mid-day meal scheme in various districts

2. To analyze the impact of mid-day meal scheme on promoting enrollment, attendance and retention.

3. To study the perception of teachers, students & parents about the impact of mid-day meal scheme on improving health status of the students
4. To study teachers involvement in Mid-day Meal activities.

5. To study association of teachers, students & parents responses regarding implementation of Mid-day Meal scheme.

The study covered 3 districts (Sangrur, Barnala and Mansa) extended further to nine blocks selected on the basis of literacy rates in the State of Punjab. Schools from each block have been selected on random basis. The perception of teachers, children and parent is analyzed regarding various parameters relating to implementation and performance evaluation of mid-day meal scheme. Qualitative and quantitative survey has been taken to bridge the research gap. The data is collected through schedule from a sample size of 185 teachers representing each school, 925 students (5 students from each school) and 105 parents of beneficiary students (35 parents from each district).

To achieve the above mentioned objectives, the data has been analyzed using SPSS 20 to measure the relationship and differences between variables. Descriptive analysis using Frequency Distribution, Percentage, Compounded Annual Growth Rates was used for analysis of the collected data and to determine a significant relationship amongst the variables, techniques such as Chi Square Test of Independence, Correlation were used. Few multivariate tools like Multiple Discriminant Analysis and ANOVA were applied.

6.2 IMPLEMENTATION LEVEL OF MID-DAY MEAL SCHEME IN VARIOUS DISTRICTS

The findings regarding implementation level of Mid-day Meal scheme in various districts reveal that:
1) The study shows coverage of the scheme in three districts of Punjab. In the survey, 108 (58.50%) schools (Primary and upper primary) of Sangrur, 31 (16.7%) of Barnala and 46 (24.8%) of Mansa districts have been covered.

2) The selected three districts in Punjab show development in the scheme over the years. As per teachers’ response, 17.8% have shown development of this scheme in 2002 whereas others 41.4% are of the opinion that it became effective in 2004. The most speeded up activities started in 2008 when the scheme extended to provide meal to upper primary schools (VI-VIII).

3) Overall in nine blocks of three selected districts, 2 teachers on an average are involved in MDMS activities to make it effective. There are very few places where teachers’ involvement is higher.

4) Nearly half of the teachers revealed that 49.2% of the children like every item served to them as per weekly menu and 50.8% expressed negative response about likeliness of the students towards some items in the menu.

5) Through median value, it has been found that vegetable/daal and chapatti stood at first position followed by curry & rice which bagged second position, third rank was given to combination of daal & rice and lowest rank was given to sweet rice. In terms of likeliness, the menu is found to be sound for most of the items on the menu meeting the wholehearted approval of the children except for one item i.e., sweet rice.
6) With special concern on quality, 59.5% of teachers opinioned of good food, while 38.6% agreed of average food and only 3.8% of the teachers are opined of satisfactory food under mid-day meal scheme.

7) It is clear from teachers’ perspective that 79.5% of the students are availing mid-day meal regularly while 20.5% still face the problem of irregularity.

i. The major reasons which have been found from the survey reveal that the scheme is affected by both shortage of funds and irregular supply of grain. Schools experiencing shortage of only funds were more against shortage of grain. So the major problem investigated is shortage of funds.

ii. 74.05% of the schools opinioned that there is no delay in supply of grain. Remaining 25.95% had responded regarding the problem of availability of MDM grain at proper time. Further examination of districts showed that Barnala and Mansa districts are getting MDM grain properly as maximum positive response has been recorded in these districts. In Barnala district, 90.3% and in Mansa district 84.8% of the teachers reported regular supply. But the results turned slightly unfair regarding regularity in supply of MDM grain in Sangrur district as 35.2% teachers responded negatively.

iii. Maximum delay of 6-10 days have been observed by 19(39.58%) respondents followed by 13(27.08%) who showed a delay of more than 15 days and above.

iv. Lack of proper and timely information from department and problem in supply of grain are real reasons which have been extracted. 89.6% of the teachers clearly admitted that lack of proper and timely information from the
Department is the prime reason for delay in supply of ration. The teachers did not express much of their opinion on other reasons as they might not want to involve themselves in such disputable matters.

8) Majority of the teachers (74.70%) complained that they did not receive cooking cost (cooking cost covers the expenditure on pulses, vegetables, cooking oils, condiments, fuel etc.) on time. Only 25.30% agreed to timely receipt of amount of cooking cost. 69.20% of the teachers are satisfied with the sanctioned amount of cooking cost for carrying the above mentioned activities of mid-day meal scheme. Still 30.80% revealed that amount is not sufficient.

i. Positive significant association of $r = +.330$ is there between the money received on time and smooth functioning of MDM scheme at 1 percent level of significance. Majority of the school authorities complained regarding delay in receiving of cooking cost which creates impediment for the smooth running of mid-day meal scheme.

ii. By calculating the average, it is found that the amount mean score of approximately 18,589 (in Rs.) with Standard Deviation of 12667 (in Rs.) was deficit for smooth functioning. Also the range of the amount which should be in the accounts of the school for uninterrupted implementation of the scheme was calculated. Minimum balance of money range between 16000 -21000 (in Rs.) should be maintained in the accounts of the schools under various districts and further blocks under this scheme.
Amongst all the districts, Mansa district is facing critical problems regarding sanctioning of cooking/conversion cost on time. This district has shown deficit of amount of Rs. 21876.43 followed by Sangrur with deficit amount of Rs. 19325.60. Barnala district has also reported shortage of funds with deficit amount of Rs. 8456.13 for cooking cost but this district is in better position than Mansa and Sangrur.

9) 98.90% of the schools are having kitchen shed facility in the school. A very few have reported non-construction of the kitchen sheds. Further, cross tabulation analysis has been applied to check perception of teachers regarding sufficiency of amount for construction of kitchen shed. 145 (74.80%) respondents are satisfied with sufficiency in amount. Rest 40 (21.60%) showed dissatisfaction towards amount required for construction of kitchen. Teachers reported that the amount remains insufficient due to external factors of labour cost, material cost as a result of inflation.

i. It has been further traced that the school authorities arranged funds from various sources by themselves for completion of kitchen shed. It is revealed that maximum funds are generated by charities, donations and miscellaneous sources followed by contribution of staff (42.50%) and poor responding by Gram Panchayat.

ii. Pearson Correlation Coefficient Analysis revealed that there is negative weak association with $r=-0.055$ between the construction of kitchen shed and
sufficiency of amount. The main reason reported for insufficiency of funds is inflation which leads to increase in construction cost.

10) Significant Chi square value obtained proved that respondents feel that utensils are not sufficient for distribution of meal. 133 (73.1%) teachers responded that there are not sufficient utensils for the distribution of cooked mid-day meal. Only 49 (26.9%) responded positively.

i. Amongst districts, it is found that in Sangrur district, only 24.76% agreed to the availability of sufficient utensils for intake of MDM whereas 75.24% responded negatively towards the same. In Barnala district, 35.48% of the teachers reported availability of sufficient utensils for distribution of meal. Mansa district has responded similar to Sangrur district. But by and large, response was negative regarding availability of the sufficient utensils.

ii. Those who reported availability of utensils in the school arranged them from various sources like villages panchayat, members of the community who come forward to donate utensils for the children. So, Government authorities must provide utensils for distribution of cooked meal.

iii. 100% of the teachers responded that children bring the utensils from home if not available at school. Further, the teachers responded that 93.98% of the children bring katories (bowls) followed by plates (3.35%). Only 2.25% of the children bring both katories and plates.

11) 97.30% of the staff members reported the availability of proper water facility in the school and only 2.70% disagreed to this. Nevertheless amongst the districts,
Sangrur (96.30%), Mansa (100%) and Barnala (96.77%), all have expressed that they do have proper water facility. Most of them reported that distance of kitchen from water is just 50 meter.

12) 60.54% of the teachers responded that they distribute cooked meal to the students in the verandah of the school and 36.21% of the schools use classrooms for distribution of meal in the school. Only 3.24% provide meal in the open space.

13) The register prescribed for mid-day meal scheme has been maintained by all schools regularly. The register includes the information regarding number of students present on daily basis, utilization of food grain as per presence of the children, calculation of cooking cost, attendance record of the cook etc. This is confirmed by 176 (95.1%) respondents.

14) It is noted that 173 (93.5%) staff members admitted regular visit by upper authorities appointed for inspection of MDM scheme. The authorities showed keen interest in proper inspection of food grain, other ingredients purchased and utilized (like pulses, oil, spices, green vegetables, etc) for MDM, maintenance of MDM record registers, infrastructure availability and cooked food distributed to the students. A very less number of teachers complained about irregularity in inspection by upper authorities. Further, according to the response, 64.16% said maximum numbers of visits by government officials are between 0-5 in a year followed by 23.12% who reported 6-10 visits. Occasionally, there are 11-15 or more visits.
6.3 IMPACT OF MID-DAY MEAL SCHEME ON PROMOTING ENROLLMENT, ATTENDANCE AND RETENTION OF THE STUDENTS

The findings regarding impact of Mid-day Meal scheme on improving enrollment, attendance and retention of the students revealed that:

1) Compounded Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) is calculated to assess the growth in enrollment of the students after introduction of mid-day meal scheme in the schools. The analysis has been done district wise which are further divided into blocks. The findings of primary wing are the following:

i. The position of enrollment of boys and girls in district Sangrur for primary wing, after the introduction of MDMS scheme over the course of 5 year period, has declined from 6789 to 6686 for boys. CAGR for boys in primary wing is -0.31 percent. This showed instability over the period and there are fluctuations in these five years. The strength of girl students increased from 6103 to 6117 with its CAGR of +0.05 percent. Overall growth rate has declined by -0.14 percent for primary wing students in Sangrur district.

ii. Intra district status has also been analyzed. It was found that in primary wing in Lehragaga, CAGR has declined by -0.11 percent for boys and increased by 0.71 percent for girls. In Cheema, the situation is almost similar. CAGR in case of boys declined by -1.76 percent and increased by 0.88 percent for girls. But Sunam showed a different picture. It declined both for boys by -0.80 and for girls by -1.44. Overall CAGR was better for girls than for boys.
iii. Barnala district also showed negative CAGR for primary wing. It has been investigated that CAGR for boys is -1.50 and for girls it is +0.25. Overall growth rate of enrollment is negative (-0.69) in the district.

iv. The district Barnala is further divided into three blocks namely Mehal kalan, Sehna and Barnala. The enrollment is better in Sehna and Barnala blocks than Mehal Kalan. The picture of enrollment for boys and girls year wise is shown by student strength. Over the years, CAGR is calculated. The CAGR for both for boys and girls declined in strength by -3.98 & -2.04 percent respectively in Mehal Kalan. At Sehna the growth of enrollment is positive with CAGR +0.25 for boys and +1.92 percent for girls. In Barnala block itself, the CAGR for girls has increased while for boys it decreased. The CAGR for boys is -1.15 and for girls it is +0.42. So, girls’ strength is better than boys.

v. The last district undertaken for survey is Mansa district of Punjab. It is examined for enrollment of boys and girls for growth in primary wing. The data is taken from 2006-10 to study the CAGR. The overall results for primary wing in Mansa district indicated decline in enrollment for both boys and girls. The enrollment declined by -1.95 & -1.52 percent for boys and girls, respectively. Overall, there is a decline of -1.75 percent in primary wing enrollment.

vi. Further, it is observed that the CAGR for Budhlada declined for boys by -0.34 percent and increased for girls by +0.39 percent whereas for Mansa block, the situation of boys and girls both declined by -3.86 percent and -2.14 percent
respectively. In case of Bareta, the girls overall enrollment has declined by -4.15 percent while 0.84 percent boys. The situation of girls’ enrollment is worse than boys in Bareta block.

2) In case of upper primary wing, the results have been analyzed from the year 2008 as the scheme became effective for VI-VIII students from October 2007. The findings for upper primary wing are the following:

i. The status of enrollment of upper primary wing in Sangrur district is worse as it showed CAGR of -2.82 percent for boys and -0.69 for girls for period between 2008-10. Overall, this scheme showed CAGR of -1.84 percent in Sangrur district for upper primary wing. By and large, we can conclude that the enrollment has not shown any positive results after introduction of mid-day meal in the schools.

ii. In Lehragaga block of Sangrur district, from selected sample of 18 schools, CAGR for boys is -3.69 percent whereas for female students it is -1.26 percent. In Cheema, over a course of 3 years students’ strength for both boys and girls has declined. Decline of CAGR for boys (-2.09) is higher than for girls (-0.72). In Sunam the conditions of CAGR for period of 3 years for boys is -1.58 percent and for girls it is +0.87 percent. So, for upper primary wing, the situation of girls’ enrollment is overall better than boys.

iii. In Barnala district, the CAGR of boys decreased by -2.06 percent whereas for girls declined by -1.98 percent. Overall, there has been downfall (-2.02) in enrollment status of upper primary students.
iv. The condition of enrollment in upper primary wing is good at Barnala than Mehal Kalan & Sehna for duration of 3 years period. Barnala block has performed positively during that period. Mehal Kalan showed decline in enrollment for both boys (-2.67) and girls (-5.71). The decline in percentage is almost double for girls than for boys. At Sehna, CAGR for a period of 3 years declined by -1.15 percent for boys whereas for girls it declined by -1.57 percent. While at Barnala block, CAGR is positive for boys (4.85) and girls (0.14).

v. In case of upper primary wing the condition of enrollment of all blocks of Mansa district viz. Budhlada, Mansa and Bareta is much better than primary wing enrollment. In upper primary wing the CAGR is positive for boys and it increased by +2.92 percent but there is downfall in enrollment status of girls and decreased by -0.28 percent. At Mansa Block, boys CAGR in enrollment increased by +0.17 percent and for girls it is decreased by -2.44 percent. In Bareta, it increased for both boys and girls by +2.28 percent and +0.19 percent respectively. It has been recorded highest in Budhlada amongst all blocks of Mansa for a three year period (2008-10). The enrollment for boys increased by +5.63 percent and +1.92 percent for girls.

3) In case of primary wing, the trend of enrollment has shown decline in boys by -0.97 percent and in girls by -0.37 percent. Overall, for both boys & girls declined by -0.69 percent. While comparing the districts it has been found that Sangrur districts is in better position than Barnala and Mansa although all three districts have shown a decline in enrollment after introduction of mid-day meal scheme.
4) In upper primary wing, overall survey has shown negative results with CAGR of -0.83 percent. The decline in enrollment status of boys and girls is nearly similar as CAGR for boys is -0.81 and for girls it is -0.85. While comparing the sample districts, it has been instituted that Sangrur and Barnala districts performed negatively for enrollment with CAGR of -1.85 and -2.02 percent respectively. But in both the districts, percentage decline in enrollment of girls is less than boys. The performance of Mansa district for enrollment is better than both the districts as it performed positively with CAGR of +1.37 percent. In Mansa district also, there is an increase in enrollment of boys with +2.92 percent of CAGR but the enrollment for girls declined. The enrollment in primary wing is better than upper primary wing. There are still a number of areas like lack of motivation among parents, lack of educational environment at home and lack of proper infrastructure which should be bridged out. So, we can be concluded there was intense action is required to focus on the reasons for decline in the enrollment status.

5) It was found that there exists some association between Caste of the students and their income status. The enrolment in general and SC categories is linked with income status. By cross tabulation of both the variables, 79.5% of the teachers responded that majority of SC students belong to low income category and remaining belong to moderate income category. 14.6% of the teachers reported enrollment of general category students with poor household income. Only 5.9% responded that they come to schools from moderate income group. As Chi-square testing procedure is used and results are found significant, this means that there is
association between categories and income status. There is no respondent who expressed about enrollment of any student with high income status.

6) It has been found that attendance of the children in school is moderated. Only 49.7% of the teachers agreed that after introduction of mid day meal scheme, the attendance of children in school has been moderated. 50.3% did not agree to it and opined that mid day meal scheme has not improved attendance. In nutshell, it is found that less moderation in attendance since the introduction of mid day meal scheme.

i. After launching of MDMS, Chi square test proved that teachers responded significantly different from each other with regard to improvement in attendance in all the schools as calculated value of Chi-square (0.04) is significant.

ii. Further extension to positive response for increase in attendance after commencement of MDMS, it has been found that 58.7% of the schools responded an increase of 0-10%, in 29.3% schools attendance increased by 11-20% and 5.4% of the schools recommended an increase of 21-30%, 2.3% of the teachers responded an increase of 31-40% and in remaining 4.3% it is increased by 41-50%. Overall increase in attendance after the introduction of MDM was very less as most of the respondents reported just an increase of 0-10%.

iii. The perception of common group of respondents regarding caste wise increase in attendance, it is found that 71(77.2%) teachers admitted that highest
attendance has been noted in case of Schedule Caste (SC) students followed by General and OBC students. So far as district wise description is concerned in all three districts the highest attendance has been recorded in category of SC students.

iv. 84 (91.3%) teacher perceived that highest increase in attendance has been recorded in the category of lower income group followed by moderate income group. The pattern of increase in attendance has been noticed as same in all the districts under study. By testing procedure, it is revealed that there is no significant difference amongst districts in context to income status. So, we can conclude that in all the three districts, highest attendance is recorded in lower income group students under MDM Scheme. Hence, the children from poorer households attend more school as these types of schemes work as motivating factor for the students who are from economically and socially backward sections of the society.

v. Out of 92 respondents who admitted improvement in the attendance with launching of MDM, 49(55.7%) perceived that attendance of boys had increased more than girls. In Sangrur and Barnala districts more positive change had been noticed in the attendance of boys but in Mansa the percentage was higher for girls than boys.

7) The condition of retention is worse in all the districts. Only 8.6% teachers were agreed that the retention improved after the introduction of mid day meal, while 91.4% of the teachers responded that the students who are enrolled in schools did
not retain in the school just because of mid day meal. Out of three districts, Barnala district responded entirely negative for improvement in the retention of the students after introduction of mid-day meal scheme. Sangrur and Mansa districts showed a very little sign of improvement in retention due to mid-day meal scheme.

i. It has been noted that the respondents who replied positively towards retention after launching of MDM further revealed the percentage increase in retention. In 60% of the schools, the retention of the students increased only up to 10%. 19.75% of the schools retained by 11-20% and 21-30%. Only 0.5% retained a proportion of 50 and above.

ii. It has been found that 13 (81.25%) teachers admitted that highest retention has been observed in the category of SC students followed by General category (12.5%) and OBC (6.25%) students.

iii. It has been revealed that out of 16 respondents, 12(75%) perceived that highest increase in retention has been recorded in the category of low income group followed by moderate income group (25%). The same pattern of retention has been observed in all the districts under study.

iv. It has been found that 56.25% perceived that overall retention of girls increased more than boys. But the scenario is different in case of Sangrur district where the retention among boys is 53.84% which is more than 44.16% among girls.
6.4 PERCEPTION OF TEACHERS, STUDENTS & PARENT REGARDING THE IMPACT OF MID-DAY MEAL SCHEME ON IMPROVING HEALTH STATUS OF THE STUDENTS

The results related to impact of Mid-day Meal on improving health status of the students revealed that:

1) 96.18% of the teachers confirmed that quantity of MDM provided to students is sufficient for the growth of children whereas only 3.2% admitted that it is insufficient.

i. Through Correlation Analysis, relationship has been studied between the two variables i.e, sufficient quantity and health problems. It has been found that the association was positive but not significant. The value of Kendall’s tau-b is 0.364 which meant that by providing the sufficient quantity there is possibility that students would face less health related problems. Majority of teachers responded that even if there is sufficient quantity but still children are suffering from various health problems.

ii. Maximum weightage is given to multiple problems like low HB, low weight, low eyesight, skin related problems, etc. followed by low weight, low HB & Malnutrition which are commonly found problems according to teachers. The scheme still suffer from structural problems, the biggest being lack of proper monitoring mechanism. As these problems discussed have serious and long term consequences, it impacts sensory, social and emotional development. As
a result, the students are unlikely to perform well in schools and are more prone to diseases and early deaths.

2) It is revealed by the students that 96.5 percent of them are happy with quantity aspects of MDM and responded that food is served in sufficient quantity. They are satisfied with quantity served under mid-day meal scheme. And 97.8% reported no health problem. Increase in sufficient quantity would not lead to lesser problems as negative association \((r = -.053)\) is expressed by children.

3) Majority of parents (88.6 percent) in our sample did not appreciate the quantity and quality of cooked meals served to their children. Food is not even sufficient for the growth of their children and does not make difference to child’s hunger. There is positive association between insufficient quantity and health problems which means that there is insufficient quantity of food which has led to various health problems.

4) Majority of teachers are concerned about frequent visits of doctors for routine checkup as the association between regular visits and positive changes in health has been detected. The frequency of visit should be increased which would generate positive health changes. Frequency of visits is highest for once in 6 months followed by annual visits.

5) Regular visits of doctors are associated with regular record maintenance and have a positive and significant effect on health status of the students.

6) Certain issues of regular checking by doctors and record maintenance have been very well addressed by parents. They believed that increase in regular visits would
definitely increase the learning abilities of their children. Children also gave a clear honest picture about very less frequency of visits by doctors.

7) It is found that 95.1 percent of the teachers said they ask students to wash their hands, only 4.9 percent negatively responded towards issuing instructions for washing hands before eating mid-day meal. It is found that washing hands has a positive significant association (r=0.527) with positive changes in health. Thus, it can be said that washing hands before meal would lead to positive changes in the health conditions of the students.

8) Students’ and teachers’ opinion match with each other. 93.9 percent of students are now involved in washing hands; only 6.0 percent of them do not practice the same. There is positive significant association between washing hands and positive health status according to students’ perception. It shows that definitely this has improved the health and hygiene condition of the students. More they are away from the diseases better would be the learning abilities.

9) Teachers are of opinion that due to mid-day meal there is increase in HB followed by increase in weight and hence learning ability.

6.5 TEACHERS’ INVOLVEMENT IN MID-DAY MEAL ACTIVITIES

The findings related to teachers’ involvement in various MDM activities revealed that:

1) 100% of the teachers gave negative opinion regarding appointment of any independent teacher for supervising or coordinating various mid-day meal scheme
activities. They recommended for the appointment of separate official as a coordinator for coordinating the activities, so that the scheme can be implemented properly.

2) It is found that the teachers assist in activities like collecting ration, distributing meal, maintaining records other than preparation of meal. Approximately, 79.5% of the teachers responded for their participation in these activities and only 20.5% are engaged in all activities including preparation of meal. The type of records maintained by teachers include attendance of the students for the day, food grain records, utilization of cooking cost funds on preparation of food, salary of cook and helper etc.

3) Maximum number of teachers across all the districts responded that they spend 0-1 hr daily on MDM activities.

4) Teachers agreed that there is negative impact on the study of students as a result of Mid-day Meal Scheme. It has been analyzed that in Sangrur district, majority of the teachers i.e., 75.92% of them perceived that there is negative impact on teaching as teachers are spending considerable time on MDM activities. So, the involvement of teachers in various activities of MDM diverts their mind from teaching. The response of Barnala district is almost similar to Sangrur district but the response of Mansa district is slightly different from these. In Mansa district, 39.14% teachers did not feel any obstacle in the teaching even after being associated with MDM activities.
6.6 ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS’, STUDENTS’ & PARENTS’ RESPONSE(S) REGARDING IMPLEMENTATION OF MID-DAY MEAL SCHEME

The findings of this objective of the study revealed that:

1) By Correlation Analysis, it is observed that children and parents have negatively responded in contrast to the teachers on regular provision of Mid-day Meal. But there is least deviation between teachers, parents and children regarding daily/regular availability of mid-day meal served in schools.

2) By Correlation Analysis, it has been examined that there is negative (r = -.028) and insignificant relationship between teachers and parents while there is negative and significant association between teachers and children (r = -.127). But, there is less deviation between parents, teachers and students. Almost everyone responded that food is good and satisfactory. Very less of them claimed of poor quality of mid-day meal served to the students.

3) There were different opinions of the stakeholders regarding quantity of MDM. Teachers believed that food is sufficient but parents and children believed that it is less as per the requirement.

4) There was negative association between teachers & parents (r = -.077) and between teachers & children (r = -.032), but it is very less and insignificant which means students are given good combination of items for noon meal hence is little scope for change.
5) It has been investigated by teachers and students response that there is positive association between teachers and students \((r = +.120)\) regarding unavailability of utensils for distributing meal under mid-day meal scheme. Children bring utensils like plates, katoris (bowls) and glasses from their home.

6) It has been found that teachers and students are positively associated \((r = +.029)\) which means that as desired by teachers, students are washing hands before meals. As the association is less, so it is assumed that still there is gap between the understanding of teachers and students.

7) As per parents believe that academic environment is being spoiled by mid-day meal as the students are only concerned about food in contrast to studies as depicted in table 84. There is insignificant association between parents’ and children’ opinion \((r = -0.024)\).

8) There is negative association between Parent’ and children’ perception for the purpose of going to school. Children responded that they go to school because of mid-day meal and are less interested in learning on the other hand, the parents believed that they used to go to school for learning. As per parents opinion mid-day meal is an added benefit in the school to make their children healthy and fit.