CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSIONS, EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS
FOR FURTHER STUDIES

The Mid Day Meal Program is a multi-faceted scheme of the Government of India that, among other things, seeks to address issues of food security, lack of nutrition and access to education on a pan nation scale. It involves provision for free lunch on working days for children in Primary and Upper Primary Classes in Government, Government Aided, Local Body, Education Guarantee Scheme (EGS) and Alternate Innovative Education (AIE) Centres, Madarsa and Maqtabs supported under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and National Child Labor Project (NCLP) Schools run by Ministry of Labor. The primary objective of the scheme is to provide hot cooked meal to children of primary and upper primary classes.

With other objectives of improving nutritional status of children, encouraging poor children, belonging to disadvantaged sections, to attend school more regularly and help them concentrate on classroom activities, thereby increasing the enrolment, retention and attendance rates. According to the government, it is the world’s largest school feeding program, reaching out to about 120,000,000 children in over 1,265,000 schools and Education Guarantee Scheme (EGS) centres across the country.

5.1 Findings of the Study

In the light of the analysis and interpretation of data mentioned in the previous chapter, following conclusions were drawn:

1. The mid day meal program had significantly increased the enrolment of boys (From 3.64% to 11.38%) from class I to V of Rahi block (2005-2010).

2. The mid day meal program had significantly increased the enrolment of girls (From 3.85% to 10.60%) from class I to V of Rahi block (2005-2010).

3. The mid day meal program had slightly increased the enrolment of boys (From 3.64% to 11.38%) as compare to girls (From 3.85% to 10.60%) from class I to V of Rahi block (2005-10).

4. The mid day meal program had significantly increased the enrolment of students (From 3.75% to 10.29%) of class I of Rahi block (2005-2010).
5. The mid day meal program had significantly increased the enrolment of students of class II (From 4.11% to 8.75%) of Rahi block (2005-2010).

6. The mid day meal program had significantly increased the enrolment of students of class III (From 5.74% to 9.40%) of Rahi block (2005-2010).

7. The mid day meal program had significantly increased the enrolment of students of class IV (From 4.70% to 9.07%) of Rahi block (2005-2010).

8. The mid day meal program had significantly increased the enrolment of students of class V (From 5.64% to 10.03%) of Rahi block (2005-2010).

9. The mid day meal program had significantly increased the enrolment of students from class I to V (From 3.75% to 10.29%) of Rahi block (2005-10).

10. The mid day meal program had significantly increased the enrolment of rural students from class I to V (From 3.56% to 10.70%) of Rahi block (2005-2010).

11. The mid day meal program had significantly increased the enrolment of urban students from class I to V (From 2% to 10.28%) of Rahi block (2005-2010).

12. The mid day meal program had significantly increased the enrolment of rural students from class I to V (From 3.56% to 10.70%) as compare to urban students (From 2% to 10.28%) of Rahi block (2005-10).

13. The mid day meal program had significantly increased the enrolment of rural boys from class I to V (From 3.61% to 10.62%) of Rahi block (2005-2010).

14. The mid day meal program had significantly increased the enrolment of rural girls from class I to V (From 3.50% to 11.01%) of Rahi block (2005-2010).

15. The mid day meal program had slightly increased the enrolment of rural girls from class I to V (From 3.50% to 11.71%) as compare to rural boys (From 3.61% to 10.62%) of Rahi block (2005-10).

16. The mid day meal program had significantly increased the enrolment of urban boys (From 1.98% to 9.59%) from class I to V of Rahi block (2005-2010).

17. The mid day meal program had significantly increased the enrolment of urban girls (From 2.01% to 10.90%) from class I to V of Rahi block (2005-2010).
18. The mid day meal program had slightly increased the enrolment of urban girls from class I to V (From 2.01% to 10.90%) as compare to rural boys (From 1.98% to 9.59%) of Rahi block (2005-10).

19. The mid day meal program had significantly increased the retention of boys from class II to V (From 4.95% to 11.74%) of Rahi block (2005-2010).

20. The mid day meal program had significantly increased the retention of girls from class II to V (From 5.91% to 12.02%) of Rahi block (2005-2010).

21. The mid day meal program had slightly increased the retention of girls from class II to V (From 5.91% to 12.02%) as compare to boys (From 4.95% to 11.74%) of Rahi block (2005-10).

22. The mid day meal program had significantly increased the retention of students of class II (From 8.02% to 11.89%) of Rahi block (2005-2010).

23. The mid day meal program had significantly increased the retention of students of class III (From 5.41% to 8.90%) of Rahi block (2005-2010).

24. The mid day meal program had significantly increased the retention of students of class IV (From 6.36% to 9.98%) of Rahi block (2005-2010).

25. The mid day meal program had significantly increased the retention of students of class V (From 6.81% to 10.14%) of Rahi block (2005-2010).

26. The mid day meal program had significantly increased the retention of students from class II to V (From 5.41% to 11.89%) of Rahi block (2005-10).

27. The mid day meal program had significantly increased the retention of rural students from class II to V (From 5.77% to 12.38%) of Rahi block (2005-2010).

28. The mid day meal program had significantly increased the retention of urban students from class I to V (From 4.72% to 10.67%) of Rahi block (2005-2010).

29. The mid day meal program had significantly increased the retention of rural students from class I to V (From 5.77% to 12.38%) as compare to urban students (From 4.72% to 10.67%) of Rahi block (2005-10).

30. The mid day meal program had significantly increased the retention of rural boys from class I to V (From 5.85% to 11.87%) of Rahi block (2005-2010).
31. The mid day meal program had significantly increased the retention of rural girls from class I to V (From 5.69% to 12.86%) of Rahi block (2005-2010).

32. The mid day meal program had slightly increased the retention of rural girls from class I to V (From 5.69% to 12.86%) as compare to rural boys (From 5.85% to 11.87%) of Rahi block (2005-10).

33. The mid day meal program had significantly increased the retention of urban boys from class I to V (From 4.85% to 10.97%) of Rahi block (2005-2010).

34. The mid day meal program had significantly increased the retention of urban girls from class I to V (From 4.60% to 10.39%) of Rahi block (2005-2010).

35. The mid day meal program had slightly increased the retention of urban boys from class I to V (From 4.85% to 10.97%) as compare to urban girls (From 4.60% to 10.39%) of Rahi block (2005-10).

36. Teachers have positive perception towards mid day meal program. However in some dimensions, majority of teachers illustrate their unenthusiastic and unconstructive attitude towards mid day meal program because they felt this program as additional burden for their job perspective. Teachers locate mid day meal as good inducement for student’s study, enrolment and regular attendance.

37. Students have positive perception towards mid day meal program. Majority of students find good quality as well as adequate quantity of mid day meal in school. They find mid day meal good inducement for their study and regular attendance.

38. Parents have positive perception related with mid day meal program. Their children got high-quality nutritional food as well as with adequate quantity. Parents confirm their positive concern with mid day meal and they recommend that this program should keep on for the betterment of their children.

39. During interview various aspects of mid day meal like the frequency of meals served, the type of food, the quality of food and the impact of mid day meal on children attendance and performance was enquired to assess the program. Researcher found positive views on all the related issues.
5.2 Educational Implications of the Study

Education is everybody’s human right. The development of the country depends on the educated people of that particular nation. Education of the people of the country is considered to be the most sensitive index of social and national development. Since education of people has greater positive impact on society and human development therefore, government has started many schemes and programs i.e. DPEP, Operation Black Board, free text books, free uniforms, scholarships etc.

Above these one of the most important and popular program run by government is mid day meal program to enrol more and more children and to improve their nutritional status. Through this study the researcher had studied the impact of mid day meal program on enrolment and retention of primary stage learners of Rahi block.

Following are the educational implications of the study-

1. It helps the planners to start new strategies to increase enrolment and retention of students such as increase of funds, proper inspection of program etc.

2. It suggests planners to take equal initiative to develop the program for all the districts and remote areas of different states in India.

3. It helps the planners to plan some new strategies for the improvement of mid day meal program i.e. supply of dry food & fruits, hygienic conditions, proper water and sanitation facilities, proper infrastructure facilities etc.

4. It helps parents to understand the importance of the education of children.

5. It suggests teachers that they should be attentive regarding the distribution of mid day meal during lunch hours systematically and properly so that the time for the studies is not wasted.

6. It suggests government to provide better quality and sufficient quantity of food through mid day meal so that students can achieve good marks in studies and can actively participate in co-curricular activities.

7. It helps government to start some new schemes to increase mid day meal program effectiveness to enrol more students in schools.
8. It suggests poor parents that nutritious food can help in their ward’s health and growth. So parents must send their children to school so that they can get mid day meal there.

9. It helps society to understand that only healthy children can create developed nation.

10. It motivated people of society to donate money and useful resources to the government schools for the welfare of society so that maximum number of students becomes educated and benefited.

11. It suggests government to understand that extra remuneration should be paid to teachers so that they can dedicatedly do their job for both teaching and implementation of mid day meal program.

12. It supports parents to present their suggestions in school for the better implementation of mid day meal program.

13. It suggests planners that time of serving mid day meal should be separated from school working hours so that the time for studies could be saved.

14. It suggests to not only parents but also to society, NGO’s and government authorities that they should regularly monitor the proper implementations of mid day meal program in schools.

15. It suggests students to inform teachers/ school authorities/ officials about the quality of food regularly so that essential changes can be made to improve the quality of meal.

Thus it is clear that mid day meal program is a massive social welfare program aiming at attracting children into the educational mainstream and also providing them with the much needed supplementary nutrition to make them the worthy citizens of the country. Therefore, if the program is adopted properly, it would certainly make the working and program would be more successful.
5.3 Suggestions for Further Studies

Every piece of research, which is well executed, tends to provide clues for further exploration. This is true of research in any area of life. The present study is a humble but pioneer attempt. Due to lack of sufficient time and material at the disposal of investigator all areas of the research could not possibly be studied in its completeness, but the present study opens up certain avenues for further research which are briefly listed below-

1. A study of the impact of mid day meal on enrolment and retention of students studying in Middle schools may be undertaken.

2. In the present study, only two variables have been taken i.e. enrolment and retention. The study can be made on other variables like attendance, nutritional status, attention span and academic achievement and participation of learners in classroom.

3. A study may be proposed on the administrative officials, Block Development Officer, Principals of schools regarding administration and management of mid day meal program.

4. A study may be conducted to compare the factors (Enrolment, Retention, Attendance, Drop out rate, Wastage, Stagnation) between Government and Private (where mid day meal is being provided) schools.

5. A study can be made to find the impact of mid day meal program on teacher’s teaching effectiveness.

6. A study may be proposed to assess and compare the nutritional level of mid day meal in Government and Private (where mid day meal is being provided) schools.

7. In the present study conclusions are based upon only one block of district. The study can be made more comprehensive by extending it to the district or state level.

8. The study of same nature can be undertaken to compare remote or tribal areas of different states of India.