**PREFACE**

Education plays a vital and important role in fulfilling the basic needs of a common man viz. food, shelter and clothing. The main aim of Education is to prepare and develop the child physically, mentally and spiritually to lead a quality life. Education is a process through which a child is made capable to attain the necessary competencies and skills to face the challenges in life to survive, and to make struggle for existence. Four important factors are identified for achieving the goal of Education for all. These are Access to Education, Enrolment of children, Retention of the enrolled children and Achievement.

Various schemes were implemented in the Primary Education sector by the Government to reach the disadvantaged population. Access to Primary Education was universalized through flagship programmes of Government like Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, however, despite this, a few children are still deprived of Primary Education due to inability of their parents to send them to schools because of their poor economical status. For, these parents, sending their children to school means not only incurring extra financial burden but also depriving them of some money which their children would have earned otherwise by doing labour. That being the attitude of these economically backward parents, one may, perhaps, to motivate the parents and children was to bring their children to school by providing food and nutritional needs.

Government of India, on Oct 2nd 1995, launched the scheme of National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education also known as Mid-Day-Meal Programme. Under this scheme, students of Primary classes were to be provided wheat @ 3 kg per student per month (for 10 months in a year) subject to 80% attendance with an objective to give boost to universalization of primary education by increasing enrolment, retention and attendance and simultaneously impacting upon nutritional status of students in primary classes. It is widely acknowledged that mid day meal scheme has impact on enrollment, attendance, retention, achievement, nutritional status and health of students. And, the teachers and administrators concerned with the scheme faces many problems during its
implementation. The present research is a humble attempt to study the impact of mid day meal scheme on enrolment, attendance, retention and learning outcome of students as well as to identify various problem faced by the teachers and administrators during implementation of this scheme.

The report of the present investigation has been presented in five chapters:

**Chapter-1** Deals with the introduction to mid day meal scheme and to the problem in hand, description of the variables, objectives and hypotheses to be tested.

**Chapter-2** Focuses around review of related literature.

**Chapter-3** Deals with sample, design, description of the tools and their development and procedure of the study.

**Chapter-4** Presents analysis and interpretation of data and discussion of results.

**Chapter-5** Includes summary of the findings, implications of the research findings and suggestions for further research.