

# CHAPTER- 2



## REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

### 2.1. Conceptual Framework

The initiation of Mid Day Meal Scheme in India can be seen much earlier looking back to 1925, when cooked meals were provided to the susceptible young students of Madras Corporation. K.Kamraj the then Chief Minister of Madras (now Chennai) started up 'poor feeding' program in 1956. All corporate and government schools were covered by the program in cities up to 1961, which was even catalyzed by the American aid. In 1982 the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu M G Ramachandran started the scheme throughout the state called as 'Nutritious Meal Program'.

During the middle of the decade of 1980s , some parts of India like Kerala, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry (now Puducherry) started serving cooked Mid Day Meals in primary schools universally at state levels but using their own resources (Bhardwaj, 2003; Dev Mahendra, 2003; Dreze and Goyal, 2003; Khera 2002; Mathew 2003; Parida, 2010).

Central-Western state of India Gujarat followed the provision of giving food to the primary school students in 1984 but in a different manner. The state provided the "Dry Ration" to the students enrolled in the schools, the quantity of which was usually 3 kg raw rice/wheat grains but the delivery of these dry rations were irregular and food was found to be low in quality (PROBE, 1999). The program covered twelve states with an identical state funded pattern by 1990; the states covered were Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura, Goa, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, U. P, Karnataka, Orissa and W.B. These states started the program with state resources in association with

international assistance where as A.P. and Rajasthan implemented the program purely on the basis of international support. (Bhardwaj, 2003; Dev Mahendra, 2003; Dreze and Goyal, 2003; Khera 2002; Mathew 2003; Parida, 2010)

Education is considered as a fundamental right because it was made free and compulsory between the age group of 6-14 years in 93<sup>rd</sup> amendment of constitution. . India is also a participant to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) according to which the country has to universalize the primary education by 2015. In this connection “National Program for Nutritional Support” was launched in 15<sup>th</sup> August 1995 across India by MHRD (Ministry of Human Resource Development), Government of India. The program was initially started in 2408 blocks but in 1997-98, the scheme covered all the blocks of India.

In 1995, “Public Expenditure” on education reported for 15.7% of total government outlay in developing countries (Bedi and Garg (2000). Majority of children in developing countries are getting education in publicly financed and publicly administered educational institutions. Almost 90% of primary and 70% of secondary student enrollments in developing countries are in government run schools (Jimenez and Lockheed, 1995).

On November 28, 2001 the Honorable Supreme Court released a provisional order which directed state authorities to start Mid Day Meal that is serving of hot cooked meals in public/government but not in private schools. More exclusively, the directive said, “Every child in every government and government-assisted school should be given a prepared midday meal”. In 2001 November, the Supreme Court ordered all state level authorities to provide cooked mid-day-meal in place of giving raw food grains to the

children, which they could not consume at school. Peculiar timing in implementation has been credited to thriving demands raised by civil society (Karunakaran and Krishnaraji, 2015). In the year 2002 the scheme was also stretched to the students studying in Alternative Informal Education (AIE) and Education Guarantee Scheme (EGS). .

In particular, the starting six months deadline by the Honorable Supreme Court was breached, when states claimed that insufficient funds were provided for implementation of the Scheme. This excuse was widely highlighted by the media, two Supreme Court commissioners along with activist community, who instead blamed that “lack of authoritative boosting recalcitrance make identical claims (Parikh and Yasmeen, 2004); Dreze and Goyal, 2003; Zaidi, 2005)

Public interests also reshaped it when press reported the drought related starvation deaths. PUCL (People’s Union for Civil Liberties) of Rajasthan submitted their objection in the Supreme Court about the reporting of starvation deaths which was in contrast with the fact that stock of food grains are more than the area of storage (Jayaraman and Simroth, 2011).

PUCL documentation reveals that state authorities should expand the statutory food and nutrition programs especially Mid Day Meals in schools. The PUCL documented that, despite their protests in opposition; states could in fact afford to widen a number of statutory food and nutrition programs, including the Mid Day Meal Scheme in schools. The writ which PUCL has submitted, insisted the court to direct the government for releasing of public food stocks, by strongly arguing that the right to life (Article 21) of the Indian Constitution also contains the right to food (Jayaraman and Simroth, 2011).

State government started operation of incentivized elementary activists, coordinated by India's "Right to Food Campaign" which came into the view because of PUCL's Supreme Court litigation to begin with public mobilization efforts. These efforts along with the monitoring and discipline on the part of two commissioners in association with media have induced the states to obey the Supreme Court Directive (Sharma et al. 2006 and Khera, 2006). The program was further revised in 2004 in which authorities decided to provide cooked Mid Day Meal to all children studying in EGS/AIE centers, government and government-aided primary schools containing 300 calories and 8-12 grams of protein. In October 2007 the scheme was extended to class VIII (up to the Elementary level) in 3479 educationally backward blocks. The number of beneficiaries under cooked meal scheme has been raised from 33400000 in 1995 to 120000000 in 2010 (Karunakaran and Krishnaraji, 2015). Primary school education in India normally covers the classes from I-V, which is the combined responsibility of state and central authorities. Central government is responsible for guidelines and funding, while as state level authorities deal with its implementation. The central government has a venerable obligation of providing meals to the children studying in schools (Harriss, 1991).

The execution of Mid Day Meal Scheme is the joint responsibility of state and central government as mentioned above. The central government offered financial help regarding the cost of food grains and their transportation. Certainly, the 'Food Corporation of India' (FCI) which is an institution established in 1964 to assist the central government's food policies, provides state authorities free delivery of food grains from the nearest of its stock stations. Each student has been decided to provide with 100 grams of wheat/Rice per day which cost central government nearly Rs 1.11 (NPNSPE 2004). Fair quality of

food grains were guaranteed by the FCI and full commitment for replacing the grains if found otherwise. The subsidy for the carriage charges of grains from FCI store house to primary schools were set Rs. 50 for every quintal which has an individual subsidy of Rs. 0.05 per child per school working day (NPNSPE, 2004).

The entire value of the central government subsidy during 2002-2004 amounted to Rs. 1.16 per child per school working day. The directive of Supreme Court 2001 authorized that Mid Day Meals have “a minimum content of 300 calories and 8-12 grams of protein each day of school; for a minimum of 200 days a year.” Responsibility of ground level execution of the scheme lies in the hands of local bodies (government) that can more typically be attributed to the village panchayats who sometimes handed over performance to Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs) or NGOs of that particular area. During the mid-day time in schools students assemble at a common place and sit in front of plates in which cooked meals are served that are usually prepared by a cook appointed by the school authorities exclusively for cooking purpose. The meal consists of rice/wheat along with other food items in the menu that varies from village to village and even from school to school (Dreze and Goyal, 2003).

Most of the Indian states started universal Mid Day Meal program in government run primary schools between the period 2002 and 2004. This would be further reshaped by a harsh drought that hit different states during the year 2001. There were seven major drought-affected states during the above mentioned period: Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh (Jayaraman and Simroth, 2011). Provision of school meals in India was started which targeted improvement in educational outcomes as well as learning capacity of students in

developing countries. These kinds of incentives have a potential to enrich the enrollment and improve regular participation of children in schools by virtue of meals. The early implementers also argued that it has reduced hunger and malnutrition, which is a cause of poor academic performance of the students. In the context of numerous benefits, the MDM Scheme is one of the world's largest feeding program covering 129 million children in its initial 2-3 years across the country (Afridi, 2007). The effect of this program in India is remarkably very low when we consider it with respect to the scope and significance (Planning Commission, 2000; Laxmaiah et al., 1999). The Scheme has increased the girl's enrollment as compare to the boy's enrollment in government primary schools. Since the authors have not addressed the problem in a simple frame, so interpretation of results should be done carefully (Dreze and Kingdon, 2000). The main focus of research on this scheme usually remained with respect to enrollment but it should also appeal the weak regular attendances of students in developing countries (Ahmed, 2004; Vermeersch and Kremes, 2005).

In a situation where enrollment does not necessarily indicate attendance, enrollment might not be a true indicator of participation rates in developing countries, even anecdotal evidences imply that there is large student's absenteeism seen in India although daily based attendance rates is nearly non-existent (Duflo and Hanna 2006). The extremely bad attendance rates in these schools can be directly attributed to the inferior educational quality and the financial barriers in families of children (Schultz, 2004; Duflo and Hanna 2006). Academic performance of students could be improved by maintaining the quality of daily attendance in schools, which in turn reduces retention and drop-out rates (Afridi, 2007). The impact of MDM program on learning outcomes, intellectual skills and long

term health benefits are not much evident while there are clues which suggest that immediate nutritional requirements and school participations were positively affected (Jacoby, 2002; Afridi 2005; Afridi, 2007; Dreze and Goyal, 2003).

In 2004, Kremer and Vermeersch found various cases of improvements in learning but only in those schools having experienced teachers, while Adelman et al (2008), found a blow on test scores confined to the children between age group 11-14 years but excluding younger ones. The positive impact on long term health benefits is still uncovered, where there are certain studies which show the impact of school meal programs on indicators of child nutrition, and those that are available discover vague effects (Kremer and Vermeersch, 2004).

A variety of aspects were seen in relation to social equity so far as contribution of Mid Day Meal is concerned. For example, practice of serving Mid Day Meal in Schools may weaken the caste unfairness by inculcation of sense of equality among students by teaching them to sit together and share the meals. It also promotes the gender equity by minimizing the gender gaps when providing more opportunities to females as cooks and made them independent and burden free from feeding their own children at home during the day time. Mid Day Meal has also reduced the caste bigotry as it was seen that a good population in government schools of India belong to socially disadvantaged section. The scheme proved as an economic support to poor families and increased the school participation among underprivileged sections (Hamid and Hamid, 2012).

## 2.2. Reviews

**Kadari & Roy (2016)**, conducted a study on strengthening of the Mid-Day Meal Program (MDMP) by the virtue of Management Information System (MIS). The authors have discussed the execution of MDMP in India and the present system used for its implementation. The drawbacks in the current system were identified and the authors highlighted the exercise of MIS and Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) in executing the MDMP in a more superior manner. Use of IVRS system has many benefits as it is a realistic system that can be processed without any difficulty. In allusion to MDM scheme, relation with food-grain consumption and cooking cost can be done which may help in stabilizing the system. The system may also help in facilitating the information on public realm which would make it more reliable and visible. Assessment reports and inspection photos etc. should be uploaded on website and complete database along with food grain lifted, amount consumed, etc. should be kept updated with time to time for proper intervention.

**Kaur (2016)**, revealed that before the scheme, average enrollment was more and after the scheme the average enrollment is less. There is a fall observed in dropout rates before and after the scheme. But the change is not much significant. All these issues points out that the mid-day meal scheme is not the single reason which attracts children towards school or minimizes their drop-out rates. There are certainly many other factors responsible for enrollment and dropout of children from schools. Mid Day Meal Scheme is without any doubt a very good effort by the government but there is a need of introducing some more measures, and simultaneously government should also work for

the removal of loopholes from existing form of scheme to ensure success in the mission of UEE.

**N. Karunakaran & Krishnaraji. (2015)**, revealed that in state of Kerala the Mid-Day Meal has been proved as one of the important policies at elementary school education level which depressed the cost of education for parents and also aided in improving the child nourishment to promote learning, hence allows an increment in returns to education. But during the course of study it seems that scheme could not improve the dietetic status of the lower primary school children. It was also revealed that scheme has not been proved very fruitful so far as the Nutrition Echelon, Enrolment and Dropout of students are concerned. But it may surely contribute in enhancing the nutritional status when the government would enrich the menu and start monitoring it sincerely.

**Nath & Nath (2015)**, revealed on the basis of the present study that parents were found more attracted to send their wards to the school. After the introduction of Mid-Day Meal Scheme, there is an increment in the percentage of retention in schools. The Headman opined that they are in support of the continuation of scheme. The Mid-Day Meal Program helped in increasing the attendance and enrolment of the students particularly coming from economically weaker families. The rural Headman and Teachers are having unanimously positive attitude towards the scheme. It was found that rural head teachers have shown encouraging attitude towards implementation of Mid-Day Meal Program.

**Penisetty (2015)**, revealed that due to the implementation of the scheme it can be clearly reflected that scheme has positively affected the enrolment, attendance and gender

equity at elementary school education level. It also affected the retention level, learning ability and inclusion. Children and community should participate actively for the sake of improvement in the quality of food. State and administration should look after the scheme very seriously. Children from about 84% families enjoy the scheme and ensure their educational survival. Parents reported that they get rid of the burden of their children's day meal. Teachers however observed that Scheme is showing some positive results regarding learning ability and academic achievement. It also brought social integrity and social equity among students. Scheme is more affective in the areas where there are poor families as compared to the areas with elite classes.

**Sarkar & Battacharyya (2015)**, revealed as per the present figures available through the study, that 42.5% of the primary level students below 5 years of age falling below the optimal value of weight. Usually most of the students did not get enough food to eat which may meet the needs of children. Thus there is an immediate concern to enrich the Mid Day Meal scheme with more packages. Another important issue is that the quality of food served should be seriously addressed as much as possible. The follow-up should be very much dynamic to make outcomes positive and hence the scheme can be truly advantageous and supportive for the poor children.

**Sri & Anusha (2015)**, revealed that 75% of schools use LPG as fuel while 25% use firewood as fuel, 67.8% of schools use iodized salt for food being served. No serious event has ever happened during the active period of Mid Day Meal Scheme. It was also reported that 87% of children is enrolled in schools with Mid Day meal Scheme whereas 13% were still out of school and health observation reported that 49.9% of children seems to be normal BMI, 10.3% children were thin and 19.1% were extremely thin when

seen from WHO (2007) z-scores context. Instructions like use of LPG fuel for preparation of food; using Iodized salt, etc. is a good sign of quality practices.

**Dravid & Khan (2014)**, reported that maximum elementary schools in Allahabad distribute the meals regularly using a menu with variety. Almost all schools have appointed the cooks and helpers for the meal preparation without any intervention to the learning process. Maximum schools experience that material for food arrives at time and every school possesses a detached for the preparation of food. Schools check the quality of the food regularly. A large number of schools responded that the scheme is monitored well by the authorities for its smooth functioning. Finally, we may conclude that scheme has achieved its goals satisfactorily to some extent in most of the elementary institutions of Allahabad.

**Jan (2014)**, carried out a study regarding Mid Day Meal Scheme in district Pulwama, of Jammu and Kashmir, and revealed that scheme has a significant positive effect on enrollment of students, their retention in schools and relatively high growth of female enrollment at elementary level. The study found that Mid Day Meal scheme has created a positive effect with respect to enrollment, attendance and retention. Maximum students in the schools stated during the qualitative evaluation that Mid Day meal has proven as a main incentive for attracting them towards schools on regular basis. Collected information also indicated that the Mid Day Meal Scheme has made the parents relaxed from the worries of providing one time meal to their children at homes. Scheme is also proved to be a great support, especially to the families of lower socio-economic background. While conducting the study it was also experienced that Mid Day Meals Scheme is believed to be a support for active learning of children that directly influences

their academic performance. From the access point of view, scheme has played a vital role in bringing up social equity among students.

**Karande & Gogtay (2014)**, revealed the results in relation with Simeon's postulation that blood glucose level is enhanced on short term basis which helps in rectification of problems caused by classroom hunger which in turn forms a base for motivation, concentration and memory retention as fundamental parts of learning. It is recommended that in addition to the traditional food items given during Mid Day Meal, students should also be provided with special nutritious foods like seasonal fruits, milk etc.

**Sandeep (2014)**, studied the School Meal Program and revealed that health and future of elementary students is highly enriched by the Mid Day Meal Scheme. As evident from different studies that scheme has certain loop holes but still going forward not backward. It is a very form of catalyst for a good aspiration among parents of children belonging to the families of lower economic background and simultaneously it also helped students to get rid of the class room hunger which obstructs the learning and hence impedes the academic growth. However the weak structure and shortage of pledge is really a dimension to be considered. The barriers found in successful implementation include (I) low meal quality (II) weak coordination on the part of school and source organizations (III) delay in funds (IV) lack of hygiene (V) inadequate infra structure etc. It surely needs a political attention from policy perspective, assurance and concentration after looking into some serious incidents which even have charged the life of certain students as a fine. If not taken into account immediately, it may show us a dark future of this scheme.

**Singh, Park & Dercon (2014)**, revealed that despite the popularity of Mid Day Meal Scheme, very few studies show evidence on its health benefits. A research study was conducted by using recent longitudinal data from Andhra Pradesh to evaluate the effect of scheme program on anthropometric z-scores of primary children and inspects if the scheme restructured the worsening of wellbeing in children caused by a harsh drought. Approving for self-selection into the scheme through nonlinearity in how age influences the chance of enrollment, we find that the scheme proved itself as a protection for children, providing huge and momentous health benefits for students whose families got affected from drought.

**Aiyer et al. (2013)**, reported that PAISA survey is an entirely different kind of study to assess sanction of funds and grains in the name of Mid Day Meal Scheme. The survey indicates all weaknesses in allocation of funds along with observation of poor quality of Meals. It was found that inefficiency is at peak, which is caused due to administrative hurdles at block and district levels. The eminence of keeping record at district, block and school levels is very poor, that in turn leads to feebleness in monitoring. Finally it was concluded that scheme was good for the health and education of students but it has not attained the goal with which the scheme has been implemented.

**Lok Sabha (2013)**, reported that 22 students in Bihar died because of the presence of pesticides in meals and in Bhilwara district of Rajasthan 79 students were taken to the hospital after they take Mid Day Meals where a lizard was found in the food. In 2011, 126 students got health affected after taking Mid Day Meals at Sarvodaya Vidyalaya, in Assam insects were seen floating in the food and in Haryana 42 students fell ill at a time due to Mid Day Meal consumption. In the above context the centre then

decided to create monitoring committees at every stage for its smooth functioning. Decentralized monitoring units were established in all the states after the recommendation by the Ministry of Human Resource Development. Guidelines have been issued by the ministry to all the states for quality control, conduction of awareness programs for the people to get rid of ignorance about the scheme.

**Salomi (2013)**, conducted a study on Mid Day Meal Scheme in Bihar and revealed that above 1, 50, 00,000 elementary school children in Bihar did not receive the benefit of scheme. About 3,00, 000 government teachers are not the part of scheme as they expressed that the scheme as not a part of academic activity. The scheme was started for the poor children of India who got intervened during the classroom interaction due intensive hunger but the President of Teacher Association of Bihar declared that they would shun the duties of scheme forever in future.

**Tandon (2013)**, reported that government has failed to keep the promise that if children were not served Mid Day Meal due any reason, then they would be provided a cash amount equalizing the meal, as a compensation. Ministry of Human Resource Development were in the course of calculating the Mid-Day Meal stipend that is supposed to be compensated to children against missed meals by the respective state authorities according to food security law, as per the sources. It is evident that scheme has been easily implemented but failed to sustain. Student enrollment surely increased but due the poor quality and irregular distribution, scheme is in a state of failure.

**Bonds (2012)**, revealed that school meal programs was highly victorious in enhancing the enrollments particularly for the students coming from poor socio-economic backgrounds. This confirmation reiterates the optimistic effect of school meal programs

on educational production, and expects hopeful results in other areas as well. Analysis of data under study highly indicates number of significant factors of program participation. The effect of scheme is found more positive on girls as compared to the boys, similarly the scheme has proven good for the rural students as compared to urban students. The program beneficiaries may have a superior family “dependency ratio”, which can inflict a sprain on family wherewithal. Program participants who belong to financially weak families of primary rural areas, the weakness was from both the perspectives household income and parental education. But it seems that the Mid-Day Meal scheme is not expanding its grip to the places that are extremely needy. While, prior to matching, these impacts cannot be interpreted as causal, it does appear that the Mid-Day Meal program is extending its reach to areas that are most in need.

**Hamid & Hamid (2012)**, conducted a study on effect of school meal scheme in district Anantnag of Jammu and Kashmir state, and reported that attendance rate has risen from 64.71% to 82.42% which clearly shows an optimistic effect on average attendance over a period of time. After taking the opinions from teachers, parents and students to know the cause of enhancement of attendance rate, it was concluded that Mid Day Meal is the key factor. Study further revealed that mean drop-out rate has decreased after the introduction of scheme. The mean dropout rate has reduced from 25.15% to 14.22% which means a decline of 10.93% as a sharp indicator of success of scheme. During the study researchers encountered a number of socio-economic, ethnographic, monitorial and administrative hurdles that were strongly affecting the scheme. Caste and gender discrimination were the concerned issues, related with the scheme.

**Paul & Mondal (2012)**, revealed the impact of Mid Day Meal Scheme on academic achievement of those students who are consuming the meals regularly. The study is exclusively conducted in district Burdwan of W.B, among the elementary schools. It was found that scheme has a definite positive effect on increasing enrollment, strengthening of attendance, low retention rate and minimizing dropouts which seems to be an important aspect for high academic achievement particularly students belonging to the lower economic backgrounds. The chi-square test results indicate a significant positive impact on academic performance by the virtue of Mid Day Meal Scheme. The fallouts of multiple regression models point out that there is a significant positive effect of scheme on educational outcomes of students by taking into deliberation the factors like enrolment, daily attendance, and retention level, even dropout rate of students. To make it more affective it should be associated and collaborated with awareness programs.

**Banerjee et al (2011)**, conducted a study in the year 2008 to assess the effect of nutritional program on age group of 10-19 years in rural Goa. It was found that 33% of students who attended the health camps were under weight and 59.2% experience hunger due to inadequate amount of food taken. Number of underweight boys was more in comparison to girls. There is an instant requirement of addressing the hunger problem among both the sexes during childhood and adolescence. A special counseling for underweight students must be provided, along with a proper awareness about nutrition, which might be followed by a strong research by the scholars of concerned field. The malnutrition among the students of elementary level has badly affected the enrolment and academic achievement of students at such an early age.

**Jayaraman & Simroth (2011)**, revealed that scheme witnesses the large increment in enrollment among the primary school. Our indicator shows that there is 13% increase in enrollment at primary level. 6.3 million extra children attended the school after scheme. House hold survey data is an evidence for enrollment of children in schools from poor socioeconomic background and educationally backward groups. Grade first experienced highest increase in enrollment which was about 21%. The enrolment in remaining higher grades was comparatively low. The later grade enrollment can also be increased by reducing the dropout rate in lower grades. Mid Day has successfully increased the enrollment in lower grades as compared to upper classes. The reason for which is the allocation of same amount of food to all classes from 1<sup>st</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Singh & Verma (2011)**, conducted a study in 36 schools of Faridabad, Kurukshetra, Fatehabad, and Rohtak districts. Number of beneficiaries approached by the researcher is 400 among which 47% belong to SC category; OBC were 29% and 41% belonging to BPL category. The respondents say that they are provided with milk, fruits, vegetables, pulses, rice etc and are satisfied with scheme. Cooks are appointed from the local areas and are performing their duty well on time. The teachers also help in preparation, distribution and monitoring. Beneficiaries replied that lunch break is the appropriate time for Mid Day Meal in these Schools among which 83.5% of students were favoring of hot cooked meals but only 16.5% children were in favor of packed meals. The students of district Faridabad replied that packed food was distributed among all the schools by just one agency. When meals reach the schools it has become useless to eat, having no taste due to large time gap between delivery and preparation. During survey it was revealed that 72.2% schools are without proper kitchen, 15% schools are

not having food storing place but 32 among 36 schools are having proper drinking facility. The school enrollment among these four districts is surely increased but scheme still needs intensive monitoring and enrichment of quality at larger extent.

**Kaur (2010)**, revealed that mid day meal scheme has a positive effect on enrolment of children belonging to any class, category and gender in government and government aided schools of Ferozpur. The more rise in enrollment were seen in case of reserved categories. Enrollment has showed more attention in case of girls. The meal is having an optimistic effect on students of all categories general, ST, SC, OBC, etc. The attendance of girls was seen more affective as compared to boys. Retention also increased among all the classes and both of the genders in Ferozpur.

**Parida (2010)**, revealed that in state of Orissa the scheme is suffering from many irregularities as implementation is concerned, but still the impact is impressive regarding enrolment, retention and dropout rate. It is evident that enrollment of children at elementary level has enhanced significantly. The regular attendance of school going children is also increased at above average rate. As a case study of Orissa it was found that the quality of food is very poor and as a whole the quality of scheme is not so impressive. From one side financial allocation for Mid Day Meal Scheme is not sufficient and from other, corruption is decaying the scheme. Study and learning process is hampered due to extra assignments for teachers and students. No special staff is present for the monitoring and supervision of scheme.

**Angom (2009)**, investigated the implementation of the scheme namely Mid Day Meal Scheme in five districts of Manipur. Mostly all practices are common except the maintaining of kitchen garden in school premises, use of gas fuel for cooking, register

and attendance record regularly and display of daily based menu for the meals. These extraordinary features must be encouraged by the authorities. It was found that head masters take care of all requirements that should reach the school well in advance despite the delay in releasing of funds. Dedication, cooperation and sincerity were found as important qualities to make the scheme successful. The follow up by the concerned members should be taken seriously with regular inspections to the schools for smooth functioning of program and avoidance of corruption regarding the food material which was unlikely evident in other states.

**Bhargav & Bhargav (2009)**, revealed that teachers are of the opinion that Mid Day Meal scheme should continue, as scheme has been proven as a catalyst for increasing the enrollment at elementary level. 70% teachers are not satisfied with the quality of scheme, 60% teachers are annoyed with delay in the supply of food material, 76% teacher are cooperative to the scheme but 36% teachers also replied that parents did not provide adequate support to the scheme. 66% teachers say that scheme is a burden on them. 68% teachers believe that it has enhanced the attendance and 56% responded that scheme should be extended to higher classes. 94% teachers responded that the cooked meal provided is of best quality.

**Bhasin (2009)**, reported that the quality of Mid Day Meal served to the students of Kondli A-Block village in Delhi was worst as a rat was found floating in dal supplied by an NGO, during an inspection. The civic agency has enhanced the money to be utilized for quality improvement of food and the scheme as a whole. The amount was increased by Rs 2.5 per child. It was also decided by the standing committee to go for surprise inspections to see the ground level situations which usually are kept hidden by

the school authorities. The higher authorities are tightening their grips on the executing bodies, but the struggle for quality will remain there till the executing bodies realize their responsibilities.

**Bhushan (2009)**, conducted study in Bihar and reported that in Mushari Block the Panchayat level committees help in preparation of food and ensure its safe transportation to the schools in the hot form within one hour of its preparation. Women empowerment was also evident by establishment of Mahila Samkhyas which helps in preparation of food against the wages paid from the funds. The serving of food to the children was organized systematically with proper care of hygiene and without any disturbance. Government of Bihar has keenly taken interest in transportation of food raw material to the schools to prevent any kind of delay which may affect the teaching learning process, hence could hamper the scheme.

**Devi (2009)**, recorded the opinion of teachers about the Mid Day Meal Scheme in Ballabgargh, Haryana. It was found that 15% teachers said that children are getting satisfactory benefit of the scheme. Scheme is serving its purpose and fulfilling the aims as per norms at Elementary School Level was opined by 94% teachers. No such problems regarding the quality and suitability were seen, was stated by 87% teachers. 91% of teachers are saying that parents and guardians/caretakers of students are satisfied, having optimistic attitude towards the scheme. 80% of teachers are in favor of its continuation in future and 70% opined that VEC should actively take part to avoid the extra burden to the teachers and even the functioning of scheme. 80% teachers were of the view that students are pleased with eminence of food. 84% teachers opined that officers concerned at higher level are interested in the scheme, and teachers are satisfied

with time interval and delivery of food. 60% of teachers feel that it is an unnecessary burden on them. They also found that funds allocated by the government are enough to run the scheme. 7% said quality is poor while 93% are satisfied with quality of food that is being served in the schools.

**Kaushal(2009)**, revealed in a study of Mid Day Meal Scheme conducted in the state of Rajasthan that according to 3<sup>rd</sup> quarterly evaluation and assessment report of SIERT, retention of primary level classes has increased by 15% from the year 2003 to the year 2007 but increment reduced to 6% in the session 2007-2008. Enrolment has continuously increased between the years 2003 to 2008 in district Jaisalmer and daily attendance rate over crosses 80% in the districts like Udaipur, Jholare and Sikar by the virtue of Mid Day Meal scheme. According to the report provided by DPEP enrolment during the year 2006-07 was 1,24,73,410 in primary grades among public and private schools, out of which just a 0.95% of student dropouts were reported. .

**Kumari, Devi & Rani (2009)**, studied the effect of Mid Day Meal Scheme in a tribal area of Andhra Pradesh namely Godawri district and concluded that 70% of teachers believe that scheme has proven fruitful in enhancing the attendance and retention level of elementary schools because meal participation was only for those who are present. Children became active and healthy after the emergence of scheme was opined by 84% of parents, even 87% parents believe that the food provided in the schools is better than their children are getting at their respective homes. 55 among 60 students said that taste of food was satisfactory. 88% of children who attend the school said that they are attending the school because of Mid Day Meal. Cooks after being interviewed replied that there is more need of utensils.

**Lodhia, Shah & Desai (2009)**, conducted a study in Gujarat and concluded that Mid Day Meal has become a part and parcel of the lives of students, teachers, cooks, helpers etc. The enrolment and attendance has sharply increased after the emergence of the scheme in Gujarat over specific period of time. However the scheme is found to be unsuccessful in motivating the children to attend the school regularly the reason for which was unveiled as inefficiency and irregularity of the scheme. Quantity of food was observed inadequate, quality was inferior and variety of food was also absent which is believed to be the major constraints in success of scheme.

**Lohe (2009)**, reported about the study on Mid Day Meal Scheme conducted in Pekk District of Nagaland that enrolment level has raised from 7.9% to 26% in 15 years. The above assessment was done before and after the implementation of scheme. The retention rate was also found enhanced from 58.1% to 78.9% during the same period of fifteen years. The dropout rate was 33.43% in 1994-95 when scheme was not introduced and reduced to 31.15% in 1995-96 (immediately after the implementation of programs) and further condensed to 17.43% in 2008-09 correspondingly. The meal rate per child on daily basis was charted at the amount of Rs. 1.80 per child in concerned schools.

**Menon (2009)**, studied Mid Day Meal in the state of Tripura and got amazed to see that state government has implemented the programs on 1<sup>st</sup> March, 1980 at primary level in government and government aided private schools. Each child received Rs 2.30 in the form of cooked meal on daily basis (only working days). No complaint was received about the quantity and the quality of food in the state. Quantity and quality was regularly checked up by the clubbed association of teachers and mothers. The job of coordinator in sustaining an uninterrupted and regular supply of foodstuff was laudable.

**Narula (2009)**, revealed that in Jharkhand the meal programs is successful and attained an important place in the hearts of the people. The food raw material is usually seen to be reached on time and cooks utilize them properly. Funds are released on time and the people accepted scheme passionately. It was found that girls joined the school more as compared to the boys. The attendance of girls and their retention level were increased over the period of time. It is strongly believed that scheme has improved overall enrollment and retention in elementary schools. Mid Day Meal scheme acted as an incentive to the children more specifically belonging to the drought prone areas and those of unlimited poverty. No discrimination of caste were seen during the distribution of food.

**Panda (2009)**, conducted a research study with the topic international perspective of school feeding program in context with Mid Day Meal Scheme with special reference of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh and observed that women ‘Self Help Groups’ (SHGs) were established at school level for general implementation of scheme. They take responsibility of transportation of food grains. They take care of cooking ingredients, appointment of cooks and helping staff, supply of food with habitual preservation of documentation. Village Education Committee (VEC) has actively participated in all the matters especially gives opinion about the menu for meals.

**Raju (2009)**, revealed that most of the schools in the state of Assam have students enrolled only because of Mid Day Meal scheme. The average attendance of schools was found to 85% during the surprise visits by the School Education Department and at the same day menu included soya bean, green vegetable, pulses, and rice. Maximum students in the school were found over age as they have enrolled late. The schools are getting just

100gm per student per day instead of 300gm per student per day as genuine requirement. The enrollment rate has been increased from 50% to 80% in villages. The regular attendance was also found enhanced, after exploring the attendance of past years by the officials on visit. The scheme is regularly monitored by mothers group and SMC members of the village. Teachers appointed in schools are mostly residents of same localities and are continuously in conversation with parents, teachers reported that parents are satisfied with attendance of schools as it was found on spot by the team at average about 90%.

**Snehi (2009)**, studied Mid Day Meal practices in Goa, and came to know that children are being served hot cooked Mid Day Meal during lunch. By 9:30 am Self Help Group provides the containers in which meal is cooked and it is their responsibility to deliver meals on time to the school. It was found that the sense of hygiene was not created by the concerned persons, as students does not wash their hands before taking meals but it was seen that students wash their respective utensils after completion of meals. From one perspective it cannot be denied that retention is augmented by the scheme, but from second one quality needs improvement.

**Tayagi (2009)**, studied Mid Day Meal scheme in the state of Tamil Nadu found that there was a strong base established by the state government without any kind of political bias in Kanchipuram, Vallupuram and Cuddalore districts where scheme sustained well with respect to the daily based supply of food in the schools. State Nutritional meal department made a club with couple of organizations to ensure non breakable supply of food, even the quality was taken such a care that Goiter prone areas are being provided with Double Fortified salts. Beneficiaries were endowed with eggs as

per the proposal of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), 1989. Kitchens were modified as per the latest requirement and LPG was used for cooking as 5, 81, 00, 000 was given for up-gradation of 5440 centers. All the concerned members of Mid Day Meal scheme along with the VECs participate in preparation and distribution. There is a surely a positive impact of scheme on enrolment and Dropout rate.

**Varma (2009)**, revealed that program has attained popularity among the parents of 41% children who are worried about the health of their wards who are underweight. 11,74,00,000 children were taking Mid Day Meal in all elementary classes in 2009, making the scheme as the largest school meal programs in the world. 8, 40, 00,000 children were in primary division (class 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>). The scheme was successful in rocketing growth of enrolment at the primary level.

**Wizarat (2009)**, conducted a research study in U.P and reported that government is adopting different strategies to streamline the scheme with respect to safe and hygienic distribution of food. Hygiene maintained by the students in the schools was praiseworthy, students wash their hands before approaching the food and they were found to maintain a queue when food was distributed. In addition to above students were found performing a short prayer before they start eating which indicates such a high inculcation of spiritual values by the teachers. No gender or caste differences were seen among the students, rather having a sound impression of social inclusion and abolition of gender gaps. The students and parents were given a chance for expressing their views about the scheme, and their replies were highly optimistic in nature. SSA has worked well as girls got dresses and books free of cost which increased the number of girls in schools as compared to the boys.

**Bala (2008)**, carried out a study with respect to Mid Day Meal Scheme in Faridabad district of Haryana and found that maximum number of students and parents are supporting its continuation while teachers opined the scheme as an extra burden from the department. Quality of food has been remarked satisfactory by the teaching staff while as majority of parents felt that the food is inferior in quality. All the students, teachers and parents have an agreement on the opinion that MDMS provides knowledge of nutrition and hygiene. A proper system of food storage and drinking water facility was present in schools, considered as an important part of health consciousness in a country like India where number of water borne diseases are found. Teachers concluded that the amount for the scheme provided by the government is insufficient. Cooks have been provided the training but were rewarded less. Most of the parents denied being the part of scheme as community participants, on asking the cause, they replied that the scheme should be controlled by some different organization. Teachers and students are supporting the packed food supply while as parents are not in favor of that. Mostly teachers are not interested that scheme should be continued in future but parents are highly of the opinion for its continuation.

**Baru, Dasgupta & Mohanty (2008)**, revealed that recent decision of replacing cooked meals by dry and packed foods in the name of Mid Day Meal may malign the beauty of the scheme and was strongly resisted by all government and private organizations throughout the country. The practice of providing dry packed food or dry ration to the children before Mid Day Meal was actually an element of National Program of Nutritional Support at Primary Level. In that program it was found most of the children did not like to eat that food, thus this type of practice had surely enhanced the

enrolment but not affected the attendance and retention in schools. The consequence of packed food regarding health was inferior as compared to serving hot cooked meal. Health experts explained how these biscuits and other packed foods are harmful to the health of children. They contain large number of calories, high amount of Trans-fatty acids which is a major cause of coronary heart disease in India. Packed foods are both costlier as well as low quality diets. Cooked meal mostly aids the mission of Universal of Elementary Education.

**Chauhan (2008)**, revealed that in Delhi the condition of Mid Day Meal scheme is uneven as one third of the food grains bought for Mid Day Meal was shattered. The children were served very lesser amount of food as compared to sanctioned one and very few calories in contrast with the norms. Study shows that a practice of serving just 65gm of cooked meals instead of 100gm was common among more than 10,43,000 primary schools throughout the country. Ministry level information revealed that weakest monitoring of Mid Day Meal is in Delhi, the capital. It was also reported that despite the educational authorities of Delhi has received only 51% of food grains from HRD ministry, whereas Delhi government claims that they have provided the hot cooked Mid Day Meal to the cent per cent children enrolled in primary schools of Delhi. But argue of Delhi state governments had plunged horizontal in the rouse of an internal assessment made by HRD Ministry.

**Chuaungo (2008)**, concluded that 100% participation of students in the school meal programs has made the atmosphere of school better. The atmosphere of equality is being created when the students from different backgrounds consume the meals prepared at universal kitchen of school at same place and time. It has also been practiced at

different states for maintaining the quality that teachers not only taste the food but participate actively with the students at the end against a cash payment as applicable. Some of the schools in Mizoram have used the lawn of school for cultivation of fruits that are used as a supplement during the meals and provide freshness in atmosphere.

**Chugh (2008)**, in a case study on Mid Day Meal Scheme in the state of Maharashtra revealed that Mid Day Meal implementation is successful for which credit goes to the active participants of village Education Committees (VECs) and non government organizations (NGOs) who always remained on toes for the victorious implementation of scheme. All the students enrolled in schools and EGS centers are getting aided by the scheme efficiently. The raw material reaches in time to the school with appropriate utilization and minimum wastage is ensured by the schools. The concerned bodies mostly deliver funds on time to ensure uninterrupted functioning of scheme. The cooking is usually performed at place specified by the locals in the school vicinity, but detached from the school premises to avoid the disturbance caused by cooking and relief from over-tasking of students and teachers.

**Dreze (2008)**, stated that a large number of research have been conducted on the scheme in past which gives a clear insight of its short long term benefits in Education. He further stated that implementation of scheme is satisfactory and regular in maximum states of India. Both the students as well as their parents express show their opinion about the scheme to be continued. But in some places the caste issues emerged when parents started objection over sharing of meals with dalit students. Some measures for changing such type of attitude among people should be taken as it may intervene tomorrow at

larger platforms. In maintaining regular attendance of schools, contribution of Mid Day Meal is impressive.

**Giri (2008)**, revealed that Mid Day Meal is an agent for the enhancement of school enrollment at all stages and grades. Implementation of the scheme has proven itself as a strong resource for poor children to satisfy their basic need, in the form of an immediate rescue for hunger and a key factor for the motivation to get attracted towards education in the long run. Scheme also eradicated the caste discrimination and hence tries to ensure the basic and fundamental right to equality as per Indian Constitution. Scheme has also been found as strong denier of a long term curse in our country that is un-touchability. Scheme provides an encouragement to the students of deprived section to be more regular in the school, to focus on learning and to ensure inclusion in the society for future. Lastly, the scheme is a backbone for the parents of children belonging to the drought prone areas of the country as it has provided the meals for such children even during the summer vacation, which is a remarkable feature.

**Gupta (2008)**, conducted a research in Uttarakhand state of India about the implementation of Mid Day Meal Scheme and found that a new sub scheme has been started called “Bhojan Mata” but lacking in the part of true valor. “Bhojan Mata” is one among those employees, who is on wages and suffering from all such wage related problems which other employees have, instead of a mother from the society who may charity her physical work to academic well being of her local school. “Bhojan Mata” strictly does not belong to the family of below poverty line (BPL) status. The real meaning of the name Bhojan Mata was not evident from the practice and its execution

was found unsatisfactory. Links among the important sub organization of scheme were found to be missing.

**Josephine (2008)**, conducted a study in the state of Arunachal Pradesh regarding the practices of Mid Day Meal Scheme and found systematic and well organized strategy for successful execution of the scheme as they were having VEC's commonly known as Village Education Committees. The VECs regularly hold meetings creating a good environment at schools. The cooks appointed in the schools are usually from the ST category and from the same locality to which the respective schools belong. Any kind of caste discrimination or objection from the parents belonging to general category was not found. The daily attendance of students had been very impressive and enhanced with respect to the past.

**Josephine & Raju (2008)**, studied Mid Day Meal scheme in state of Andhra Pradesh and concluded that scheme effectively reduced the classroom hunger and convinced backward/ disadvantaged families to send their children to schools. The students enrolled in the government school belong to the poorest families of that locality. The maximum students under study are those who take Mid Day Meal the only meal for their whole day in schools. The women appointed at most of the places for cooking were Dalits. The caste issue in the society was minimized even maximum parents has expressed no objection about their children having food with students of other castes. The overall enrolment of schools has increased especially the girls and children with poor economic background. The scheme has strongly aided in fighting with problems of absenteeism, dropouts and out of schoolchildren.

**Josephine & Vetukuri (2008)**, revealed that in the state of Andhra Pradesh the effect of introducing the Mid Day Meal scheme can be clearly seen as it has reduced the dropout rate among the concerned primary schools and also contributed to the progress in retention. It acts as a resistance to the habitual absence of teachers and bridges the gaps among the different social groups prevailing in a particular locality. The executive staff for the scheme is severely disturbed by certain kind of hurdles related to the infrastructure but their dedication is still constructive to keep the flag of scheme erected. A few objections regarding the quality of food grains were noticed. Monitoring and follow up process of Mid Day Meal scheme in Andhra Pradesh was always weak due to the absence of good human resource. The scheme is alive due to alliance of public and private organizations.

**Malik (2008)**, observed that cooking team in the schools keep fire wood as a reserve fuel because sometimes they come across a shortage of coal or sudden completion of fuel, but they have managed the things in such a manner that no halt was experienced in the process of preparing food to the students. A group of women in the name of “Self Help Group” has appointed the cook and helper for preparation of food. The “Self Help Group” prepares the food in the absence of cook and helper. This self help group takes care of all belonging related to the preparation along with the raw material used for meal like dal and grains even they keep raw material at their respective home to avoid any kind of harm to it. Children were found very much disciplined as they wash their hands before meals and sit properly at respective places without creating any kind of disturbance. A good enrolment was seen after enrichment of such a qualitative atmosphere. People of the villages are highly motivated to admit their wards into the

schools. The scheme is under proper monitoring of VECs (Village Education Committees).

**Nagarajan (2008)**, reported more than half of the total children enrolled is the contribution of Mid Day Meal Scheme. Even it was the same time when a number of states like UP, Bihar, Assam etc have not implemented the scheme in primary schools. But food served did not meet the needs as expected due the lack of monitoring. The proper nutritive diet was not provided to the children that resulted into their physical weakness. The hygiene of food was not properly maintained as a huge number of children have encountered digestion problems after consuming the meals.

**Satinder (2008)**, revealed that in Punjab (Nawanshehar area) Education Minister has implemented the scheme in a different chapter of providing cooked hot Mid Day Meal to the children in stainless steel containers which covered about 60,000 children in 650 elementary level schools. It was started in the form of initiation ceremony by flagging off a vehicle in Barnala village after preparing food in a centralized kitchen of that particular area/village. The Honorable Minister for education gave a statement in which scheme was expecting to lessen the burden of 70,000 teachers in government schools of Punjab, as a lot of precious time of teachers was consumed in preparation and organizing the meals for students. The number of students for which the Mid Day Meal was prepared daily were 22, 00,000.

**Srinivas (2008)**, conducted a study about cooked Mid Day Meal at Karnataka and revealed that due to the active involvement of teachers the scheme is successful. An attempt of maintaining kitchen gardens and cultivation of fruit trees in the compound of school was very attractive. In every school mess, one cook has been appointed who

belongs to the SC/ST category to ensure equality and eradicate social discrimination in the school. The cooks appointed were necessarily females, more likely the selection committee preferred the widows and single mothers. Fuel used for the preparation of food was LPG, as maintenance of environmental safeguard should be kept in mind. The cooks were given training about the hygiene and practice of good habits while taking meals, may be inculcated among students. Concrete kitchen sheds were constructed for preparation of food and students were allowed to eat only when they maintain discipline.

**Swaminathan (2008)**, stated that expansion of programs of nutritional support especially for the group of school children including the infants are highly strained by upper and lower level judiciary powers in the form of healthy cooked meal to all children of a particular age group. The main objective behind the programs is eradication of hunger, which intervenes, in educational process and progress along with a safety of meals. It surely helps to get rid of the worries of parents regarding the day meals of child, which usually forms the base of child labor and becomes a main hurdle for admission of a child to an educational institution.

**Abhijeet (2007)**, studied that the reasons for enhancement of language and intellectual skills among the primary school students may be the large amount of enrollment and provision of well nutrition, which in turn produce long term outcomes and short term classroom benefits, like eradicating classroom hunger of the students. Impact of scheme on learning process is very cheering. The scheme is not enough to augment the learning outcomes but it is still notable that scheme helped to bring the child into the school which may be correlated with the fact that the time period for formal learning of child is till he may be retained in the institution or classroom. Intrinsic and extrinsic

motivation for learning might be in a mode of conflict but our study certainly provides a salute for its contribution regarding enrollment, attendance, reduction in dropouts and overall educational outcomes. We believe that our results clearly indicate continuation of scheme further more but surely with some modifications. It is counted among large attempts in Indian context that has catalyzed Universal Enrolment, as scheme covers 120 million students nation-wide.

**Afridi (2007)**, revealed that there is an optimum increase in enrollment immediately after the Mid Day Meal Program was introduced. The average attendance per month was increased at the rate of 10% especially in female students but the cross sectional domestic data indicates that there is no significant impact on overall enrollment in primary schools. In contrast with the above data, the panel data shows a relatively optimistic impact in girls enrollment who belong to the disadvantaged section with poor socio-economic background. In aggregate, the scheme helped to reduce the gender disparity by improving participation of female students at primary school level. The initial decision of providing dry ration to the students was not affective, but when it was switched to the serving of hot cooked meal, the enrollment of girls especially ST girls have received a remarkable attention. The positive impact of cooked meals was seen when attendance increased among first grade boys and girls, parents got motivated to send their wards to school. Data received from the Headmasters/Principals of the respective schools indicate that the scheme is more effective in case of younger children. The quantity of diet should be enhanced proportionally by the age.

**Banik (2007)**, sated that effect of Mid Day Meal Scheme on nutritional status and intellectual growth of students in Kalahandi is not easily assessable but a positive effect

on the enrollment and attendance is seen in the same area. Scheme has served 90000 students even being active for just two years as it faced problems of late arrival of funds which were released from the central authorities on time. The above figure comprises of 60 percent schools at primary level in the Kalahandi area. A large food stock of 88188 quintal was inhibited due to the shortage of fuel and irregular facility of transportation. Lack of extra staff (that might be kept spare) for food preparation also contributed in hampering the regular class room work.

**Chaudhuri (2007)**, revealed that effect of Mid Day Meal Program has a positive outcome regarding the minimization of child labor, a major cause and a hurdle for maintaining regular school attendance. One of the results of the scheme like Mid Day Meal is that it lessens the burden of providing one time meal to the child as a family member, in particular to those families that cannot afford the basic expenses of a child, and hence expenditure on education keeps them further apart. According to the equilibrium model, in current age students attending the schools are more likely to get the return as compared to the period of time when schemes like Mid Day Meal did not exist.

**Deodhar et al (2007)**, conducted a study which reveals that children in India are suffering from different kind of deficiencies caused due to lack of nutrition, as a result the percentage of girls in India that suffers from anemia due to low intake of folic acid and iron is 69%. While as 94% students belonging to the age group of six to nine were seen underweight. The scheme has been improved and results are better after receiving the attention of government organizations and legal authorities. The scheme helped in improving the wellbeing of younger breed and found important in terms of atrociousness of the wealth paid through taxes by the common people. The direct observation in

schools revealed that the process of cooking if not directly affect the teaching learning but it was felt that meals should be provided to the students in combination of warm cooked meals and packed meals to reduce the loss of time in academic context.

**Gayatri (2007)**, revealed that Mid Day Meal Scheme has proven itself as an agent for reducing and checking the dropout rates in schools and helped in the process of bringing out of school children in to the schools. Parents considered Mid Day Meal Scheme as tempt for their children towards the school. School meal has even activated the local women to take part in the program, construct it well and made the school accessible for the children of locality. It has been found that 1494000 students at Elementary Level have received the scheme so far.

**Kumari (2007)**, Studied Mid Day Meal Scheme in Delhi and found that the team selected for the execution of scheme is showing carelessness and non seriousness about the health of children who are consuming the Mid Day Meal, as number of times the packed food was served, the seals were observed as broken in advance. School is not providing adequate amount of nutrients as per the guidelines of the Scheme. But still 70% of teachers opined that scheme has positively affected the regular attendance and enrollment. Lower primary students are satisfied with quantity but the need of upper primary students has not sufficed properly. 60% of parents said that the quality of food is below average but satisfied with the cooked meal as compared to the dry ration as practiced in earlier period of scheme at some places.

**Lohumi (2007)**, reported that the goal of Mid Day Meal was already achieved in the state of Himachal Pradesh even before implementation of the scheme as schools of the state are having enrolment near to 99%. There is no such hunger for which a scheme like

Mid Day Meal is needed. Neither students nor educational authorities are attracted towards the scheme. The state is having some percentage of poor people but not to the extent that they get motivated to send their wards to the school for Mid Day Meal. Teachers pointed out the scheme as an unwanted burden and are still shoved to serve Mid Day Meal in schools.

**Naim (2007)**, reported that in Uttar Pradesh no such attractive increase in enrolment has seen despite of the fact that 18600000 children are to be covered through Mid Day Meal Scheme among 70 districts in the same state. The concerned government authorities have done well to make the scheme effective. Mid Day Meal authorial bodies were set up in the form of registered societies, right from the year 2006, for the sake of quality control and streamlining the scheme along with a proper supervision.

**Robinson (2007)**, carried out a study on Mid Day Meal Scheme in the state of M.P among four different districts where scheme has been implemented in 100% in the primary schools but still lacking the achievement of the goals. It was seen Mid Day Meal was not executed properly due multiple factors like absence of teachers in schools, corruption by the concerned officials and inadequate infrastructure.

**Seth (2007)**, revealed that the quality of food served in the primary schools of Kaithal District in Haryana is not satisfactory as large number of students fell ill in a Govt. Primary School, Kailram after taking Mid Day Meal. Parents requested to stop the serving of meals while the authorities did not encourage the concerned people to stop but to improve the quality of the food which may heal the wounded minds of parents hence allow more students to get enrolled.

**Sethi (2007)**, revealed that in Punjab only the people with severe poverty send their wards to the schools but still in these areas the scheme has proven very attractive for the increasing enrollment. The qualitative aspect of the scheme is not so attractive and infrastructure should undergo proper development as a case in Manakpur Sharif village, near about 180 children were not been able to take the meals due to the heavy rainfall with no alternative place available for taking meals. He also studied Mid Day Meal Scheme in Chandigarh city and concluded that administration has done satisfactory efforts in the implementation of scheme because the area and size of the city is relatively small and easy to handle. No such complaints about quality were received in the city as the scheme authority has centralized the preparation of food and almost 40000 children enrolled in government schools are getting benefitted by the scheme. A large enrolment in government schools is evident from the above mentioned figure which speaks its affect in silent words.

**Sharma (2007)**, observed the quality of Mid Day Meal in Delhi, which was very low and pitiable at the part of maintaining hygiene. As a case study with self observation, it could be seen that students are considered as beggars and food is provided out of consideration of their right which put clear question on their dignity. In wazirabaad and Aazadpur area, a few cases of food poisoning were seen. The good quality food provided by the government were sold to the public and is replaced by the inferior one which is served to the students and creating the health issues.

**Tandon (2007)**, reported with a reference of Biraj Patnayak who is a member of Supreme Court commission that the Mid Day Scheme is not properly implemented in areas like Bihar and Punjab, and hence the results and outcomes cannot appropriately be

attribute to the scheme in such areas that whether the scheme has proven fruitful for the enrolment and retention or not.

### **2.3. Summary and Research Gaps**

The above review of literature makes it clear that the Mid Day Meal Scheme has a positive effect on school Enrollment, Retention, Drop-out rates, bringing out of school children into the school or broadly on access. Mid Day Meal Program also provides an opportunity to bridge the gender gaps, it is an attempt to end the caste conflict in our nation, brings an opportunity of initiation of social equity, rectifies the problem of class room hunger, reduction of child labor, learning outcomes of children and as a sum total it may be assumed as a growing dawn for seeing India as a unite nation.

But when the same scheme is viewed through a diverse lens the situation seems to be entirely different but deteriorating. The implementation and execution part of scheme is struggling very much as reports of food poisoning among children, mass admission of children into the hospitals at several places where cause of illness ultimately detected was the consumption of Mid Day Meals, serving of a very low quality food and even deaths of children were also reported. The scheme is suffering badly due to the lack of infrastructure, weak administration and execution, no monitoring and follow up services. No proper coordination between officials, mass corruption, non-seriousness of concerned employees and unfaithfulness to the nation as a whole are other major issues.

The main goal and objective of the Mid Day Meal Scheme was Universal Elementary Education as per literature available. But the most of the research conducted is purely regarding the implementation and from the administration point of view. It can seen from the above studies that a very few studies have been conducted on the scheme

with respect to access. There is a large number of students who are still out of schools, as per the study of (Sri and Anusha, 2015), 13% of children are out of school. Thus looking into the target of MDG, 2015 is the year in which we were supposed to have a 100% enrollment in schools. There is also a literacy gap between males and females in India which is revealed in census after every ten years. There are areas where socially disadvantaged sections have no access to Education.

Another issue about the previous related research is that the maximum research is conducted in the rural areas while a very few in urban areas (Shiwakoti and Pant, 2015). No doubt some studies reveal that scheme is less affective in urban areas but the argument here is that there are still some areas in cities where there is a large population of people suffering from poverty, hunger, and are marginalized, hence their children is having no access to education especially the slummy areas in big cities.

Therefore addressing the above gaps and taking the significant issues into consideration the researcher has decided to select the above stated problem for the study.