

CHAPTER- 3

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The present study aimed at assessing the Mid Day Meal Scheme in district Srinagar with respect to evaluation of its effect on access to Education at elementary level. In carrying out present study a quantitative approach followed by a qualitative component was used.

3.1. Design of the Study

The present study was conducted using a descriptive survey method of research which has certainly one of the most popular and widely used research designs in education. Presently, descriptive survey is the only means through which the status of schemes/policies like Mid Day Meal, suggestions regarding development of the same and other data related to enrolment, attendance, retention of students studying in classes' I-VIII in relation to their gender and the type of social category can be obtained.

Therefore, in the execution of the present study descriptive survey method of research was employed. Descriptive surveys investigate phenomena in their natural setting. Such surveys, however, provide information useful to the solution of problems, making future improvements and at times provide data to form the basis of research of a more fundamental nature.

In addition to the figural data collected from the schools for the current study the research further more gives a qualitative touch to the study when some interviews of students and Head teachers were also added to the study for unveiling of some important factors, which a researcher was unable to do just with the quantitative data.

3.2. Research Questions

- I. What is the effect of Mid-Day Meal Scheme on total retention of students at Elementary level in District Srinagar?
- II. What is the effect of Mid-Day Meal Scheme on gender-wise retention of students at Elementary level in District Srinagar?
- III. What is the effect of Mid-Day Meal Scheme on social class-wise retention of students at Elementary level in District Srinagar?
- IV. What is the effect of Mid-Day Meal Scheme on Educational outcome of schools at Elementary level in District Srinagar?

3.3.1. Population and Sample

The population of the study was all the government and government aided elementary schools as well as EGS/AIE Centers of district Srinagar of Jammu and Kashmir.

In the present study simple random sampling procedure was followed. The total population of study was 209 Elementary schools in district Srinagar (DSEK, 2016). For having a representative and easy sampling procedure district Srinagar could be divided into eight educational zones, researcher then selected 10 schools from each educational zone using a simple random sampling method which comprises of total 80 schools the details of which are given below:

S. No	Name of the Educational Zone	Number of Schools Selected
1	Batamaloo	10
2	Gulab Bagh	10
3	Hawal	10
4	Iddgah	10
5	Nishat	10
6	Rainawari	10
7	Srinagar	10
8	Zaldagar	10
	Total	80

3.3.2. Sources of Data

The source for the data used for the study is primary as well as secondary.

3.3.3. Data Collection Procedure

Researcher was subjected to collect the data from the district Srinagar of Jammu and Kashmir a northern state of India. Researcher first received the consent from the Department of Education, Central University of Haryana where researcher is officially registered as a scholar with above mentioned research topic which authenticates the originality of research and avoids any hassle during the execution of data collection process.

After reaching Srinagar, the place from where data was supposed to collect the researcher went to the office of “Chief Education officer”, Srinagar who after verification of documents permitted researcher to go further and provided a permission letter addressing all the eight educational zones of district Srinagar. After that the required data was collected from 80 Elementary schools of Srinagar through the tool information blank. Every person during the whole data collection, provided researcher an adequate support and proper information as required.

3.4. Research tool used for the study

3.4.1 Dimensions of Access

Access to Education at Elementary Level Education are having different dimension already discussed in chapter-1, the two among those which the researcher considered for the study are

- 1) Gender
- 2) Social Class

The researcher has used the Information Blank in the modified form, which was earlier used by 'Kousar Jan' in her study "*Impact of Mid Day Meal Scheme on Enrollment of students at Upper Primary Level in Education*" administered on Headmasters/Principals and Teachers of the Elementary schools. The collected data would indicate an effect of the Scheme in terms of the achievements of access to education at elementary level in district Srinagar. The qualitative data was collected through the face-to-face interview with the students and Head teachers.

3.5. Statistical Techniques used for Analysis of Data

The data was analyzed using simple Mean and Percentage Analysis technique.

