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Student Speak

Food Security and Mid-Day Meal Program: A Comparison Between Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka



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Food security has put the entire planet, hundreds of nations, and millions of societies at risk. It has also cemented the status of living and established "serious" standards instead in several states. Food security is a critical issue that now affects more than half of the world's population. Currently, food insecurity affects over 54 IDA member countries. Identifying global food insecurity and risk factors for food insecurity can aid in this process. Governments and aid organizations concentrate their efforts on the neediest populations and consequently develop more effective support programs. Researchers discovered that 27% of people globally were food insecure in 2014; approximately half of those in low-income countries face the problem of food insecurity, compared to 10 per cent in high-income ones.

This study examined the implementation and effectiveness of food security policies through mid-day meal programs between two south Indian states, namely Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka (basically Southern India). Additionally, resource persons were interviewed to grasp the MDM Scheme better. India has grown significantly over the last two decades due to technological and infrastructure advancements. However, when the problem of food security is brought up, it signals a grave threat to its netizens. According to studies, children are the most malnourished and require adequate nutrition and a balanced diet. The states of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh considered this and implemented MDM schemes in 2002-03 and 2007-08, respectively, following the central government's lead in 1995.

The state of Karnataka's rate of hunger alleviation is "alarming," while the state of Andhra Pradesh's rate is "severe." The study aimed to make comparisons on the efficacy of implementing these MDM Schemes in both States using regulated data, statistics, viable information, other resources, and certain

resource persons. The study compared the system's involvement, foundation, growth, and development to the real world.

The AP Mid-day Meal Scheme is implemented as the Andhra Pradesh government's school meal program. The program provides free lunches to kids in elementary and upper primary classes at public and government-aided schools on working days. They seek to improve school-aged children's

nutritional status. The Jagananna Gorumudda (MDM) Scheme dates back to ancient times. The Government of India established the Jaganna Gorumudda (MDM) Scheme to aid disadvantaged youngsters in rural and urban areas with nutrition, food security, and school access. On school working days, this project gives a free lunch to children in Primary and Upper Primary Classes who attend Government, Government-Aided, Local Body STC, Madarsas, and Maqtabs sponsored by the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA). The Jagananna Gorumudda Scheme was launched in January 2003 for primary school children (Classes I to V). Then in October 2008, it was expanded to include 100 percent state funding for children in Upper Primary Schools (Classes VI to VIII) and High Schools (Classes IX and X). This was extended to children enrolled in Special Schools under the NCLP in 2010-11.

In Karnataka, the government launched the mid-day meal program in 2002-03 in seven districts in the state's north-eastern regions, identified as the most educationally and economically disadvantaged. This number increased to accommodate the remaining 23 districts.

Students in the first through eighth grades receive free rice through the MDM program, while those in the ninth and tenth grades receive rice at L-1 pricing from registered suppliers via the NCDEX EAuction system. Since 2011, the following products have been available: Toordhal, RBD Palmolien, Channagram, and Double Fortified Vitamin A and D. NCDEX E-Auction is used to purchase food grains, and edible oil NAFED will be utilized to buy Toordhal beginning in June 2018.

The NCML, Hyderabad, a third-party, evaluates the quality of Common Rice and Channagram. The Corporation owns five go-downs located around the state. In some areas, 42 distinct go-downs perform MDM transactions. There are 207 PDS godowns, several of which are connected to MDM food grain godowns.

In 1997, the Karnataka-based Children's Love-Castles Trust began providing free lunches to children in need. Both the food bank and the Anganwadi milk program were introduced, and the eight schools that had been chosen. The Midday Meal Program of the State Government has taken the place of the food-bank program.

It was discovered that the effectiveness and implementation of the scheme were nearly identical in both States, with very little growth observed in Karnataka as compared to Andhra Pradesh. Additionally, it was discovered that Andhra Pradesh MDM followed a single sort of system till the recent emergence of a new administration in Andhra. Regular dinners ceased to exist following the election of a new government.

Both states implemented a well-planned food program and guaranteed that children received a nutritious and balanced meal. Instead of that, unique meals were created each week. Taking a balanced meal and diet into consideration, the MDM scheme provided new food that significantly and efficiently increased the quality in terms of proteins, nutrients, carbs, and other indicators for a specified meal plan. Not only that, but student attendance has increased, resulting in improved school admissions and an overall improvement in education policy. This stated that the need for Self Help Groups (SHGs) that prepared food had increased, so their salary must be included in the check.

However, in Andhra Pradesh, harsh administrative consequences resulted in the non-payment of bills, resulting in pending expenses for government schools and self-help groups. This almost certainly resulted in some deviance from the MDM Scheme's success. However, it is worth noting that the State of Karnataka has not encountered this problem and so operates its program with a self-driven motivation to feed the pupils with high regard.

Taking these into account, some of the key policy recommendations include: certain flexibility should be involved as far as self-help groups those who prepare the food, students' opinions must be elicited on type of food they require, there must be constant up-gradation of the scheme, and lookout for

improvement factors. It was discovered that MDM programs must be changed every two years to ensure optimal resource utilization and nutrition quality plans. States must contribute cash to the MDM program's administration and office to assure the program's efficiency and further advance the scheme's objectives. The budget must be given in a stipulated time for effective implementation of the program by the schools. The scheme should abide by the main goal and try to improve the ISHI (Indian State Hunger State Index) ratios collectively.