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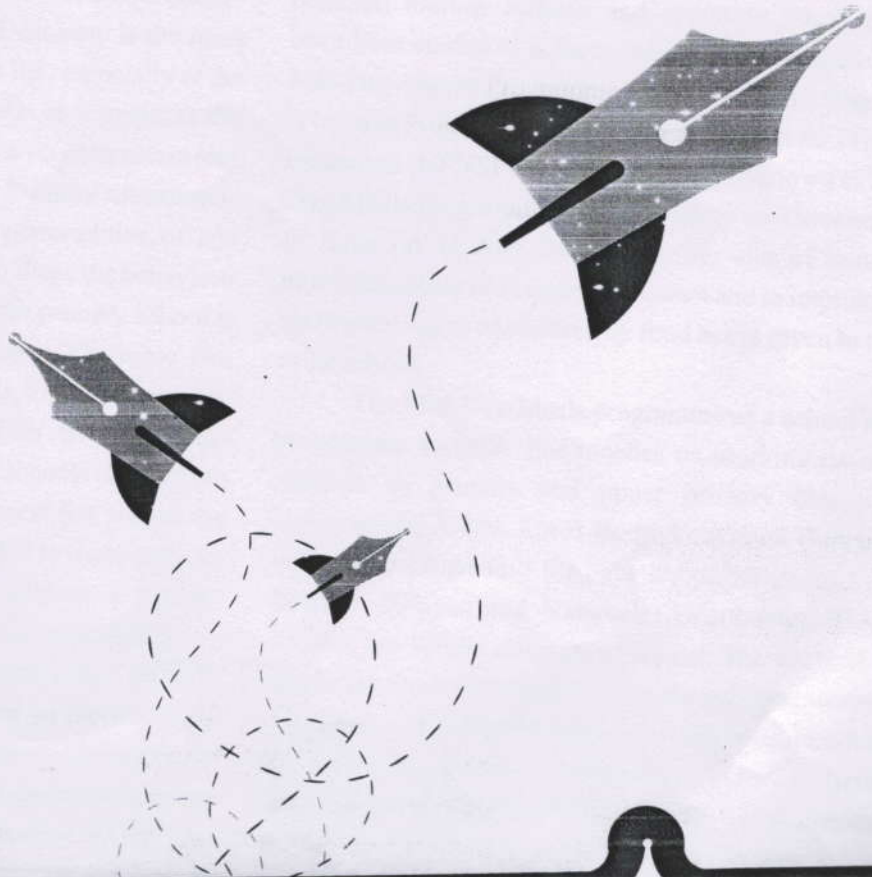
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THE IMPACT OF MID-DAY-MEALS SCHEME ON DALIT CHILDRENS : A CASE STUDY OF VIJAYAPURA CITY

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ABSTRACT

The main aim of this present study is to highlight the impact of Mid-Day-Meals Scheme on primary level children. Under the Mid-Day-Meals Scheme the government is providing food for school going children to primary level in India. The Scheme has made a remarkable improvement in health and education status of children. After the introduction of Mid-Day-Meals Scheme the percentage of children attendance and enrolment has been increased. The main objectives of present research paper are to know the Mid-Day-Meals Scheme and to find out the impact of Mid-Day-Meals Scheme on dalit children in Vijayapura City. The study comes to know that the Mid-Day-Meals Scheme helps increasing the Dalit children attendance and enrollment at the primary level.

Keywords : Mid-Day-Meals Scheme, Enrollment, Attendance, Dalit and Children.

I. Introduction :

Education is a sound foundation of a knowledge-based economy in years to come. Education is the most significant of every stage of human life, especially at the childhood stage in the primary levels as it prepares the foundation of education constitutes a very important part of the entire structure of education. Primary education is important because it moulds the personalities of our children to lead a better life. It tries to shape the behaviour of younger generations. Therefore, the primary school is an important institution of our society. There are two levels of primary schools. One is called as lower primary schools (LPS) from first standard to fifth standard and the other one is called as higher primary schools (HPS) from sixth to eighth standard. The parliament has passed the Constitution 86th Amendment Act, 2002 to make primary education a fundamental right for children in the age group 6-14 years. Programme of universalization of primary education has, thus, been given a high priority. India is also signatory to the "Millennium Development Goals" made during the UN Millennium summit on 8th Sep, 2000. According to this MDG, India has to achieve the goal of universal elementary education by the year

2015. Many schemes like Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), National literacy mission and operation Black Board have been started to achieve this goal. In the same way, Mid-Day-Meals Programme is such scheme also. The "National Programme of Nutritional Support for Primary Education (NPNSPE)" which is properly known as Mid-Day-Meals programme was initiated by the Government of India on 15 Aug, 1995, with the aim of boosting universalization of Primary Education and to improve the nutritional status of children by food being given to them at the school.

The Mid-Day-Meals programme as a school meal programme supplies free lunches on working days for children in primary and upper primary classes in Government, Aided, Local Body, Education Guarantee Scheme, Madrasa and Maqtab supported under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and National Child Labour Project schools run by the ministry of labour. The roots of the programme can be traced back to the pre-independence era, when a Mid-Day-Meals programme was introduced in 1925 in Madras Corporation by the British administration. Gujarat was the second state to introduce a Mid-Day-Meals scheme in 1984. As Supreme Court

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