# Implementation Of 'Gorumudda' (Mid Day Meal)Scheme In Primary Schools Of Visakhapatnam District

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#### **Abstract**

This study examined the effective implementation of Gorumudda Scheme in Primary Schools of Visakhapatnam district. Various Indian and foreign studies were reviewed. Descriptive Survey method has been used in this study. The purpose of this Gorumudda scheme is to provide attracting children from disadvantaged sections to school, improving regularity, nutritional services, socialization benefits, and benefits to women are some that got highlighted to improve the quality of education in the state. The sample consists of 100 parents of children studying in Primary Schools of Visakhapatnam district. The investigator used stratified random sampling technique for selecting the sample. Questionnaire was constructed for the parents to find out the opinions on the Implementation of Gorudmudda (Mid Day Meal) Scheme in Primary Schools of Visakhapatnam District. The data were analyzed using various statistical methods like mean, SD, 't' test and F-test were the statistical techniques used. The score obtained by different groups are compared across the variables like gender, age, educational status, Annual Income, caste and religion. The results were found that, there is a significant difference among the perceptions of parents according to their demographic variables i.e., gender, age, educational status, Annual Income, caste and religion. The results are discussed in previous research studied; suggestions Recommendations for further research were also suggested.

**Key Words:** government, meal, menu, parents, perceptions, scheme, schools, students

### Introduction

AP YSR Jagananna Gorumudda Scheme is a mid-day meal scheme which was started in the year 2003 in the state of Andhra Pradesh. Initially, this Scheme was applicable only for the primary level students from class I to class V. However, its benefit was extended to upperprimary students (Classes VI-VIII) and high school students (Classes IX-X) in October 2008. Later in the year 2010, students of special schools were also included in NCLP. this Scheme is applicable for the mentioned category of students studying in Government / Government Aided / Madarsas / Maktabs (under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan) / Local Bodies STC. Along withthis, citizens can check the new mid-day meal menu for students under AP Jaganna Goramudda Scheme and the same menu will be implemented for the whole week in the school. Gorumudda Scheme is the new initiative from the Andhra Government to encourage the midday meal concept. The Gorumudda Scheme is one brilliant idea and thought to re- visit the idea of midday meals & bring glory to the existing scenario in the mid-day meals. The Mid-Day Meal Scheme is one of India's most critical interventions and has encouraged some states to promote education. On 28 November 2001, the SC of India passed a mandate stating, "We direct the State Governments & Union Territories to implement the Mid-Day Meal Scheme by rendering every child in every state a benefit of mid-day meal scheme. The government to assist Primary School with a prepared mid-day meal."

Since then, the mid-day meal scheme and other parallel schemes have proved beneficial for all in the long run. Under these schemes, children of government schools receive free and nutritious meals on school days. It got observed that multiple Mid-Day Meal Schemes have had a significant impact on children's nutritional and educational status. Today the mid-day meal scheme is a popular concept. Over the years, the growing concept ofmid-day meals has been of great advantage for our country's government school. With the roaring name of mid-day meals, many students have got admitted to government schools. Because of the mid-day meal concept, many poor people have been interested in and admitted to India's government schools of different states. It is a new trend to encourage the education sector and help mitigate malnutrition from the source. Gorumudda Scheme has done a fantastic task by contributing to the purpose efficiently.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh launched the

Gorumudda Scheme, which helps poor people from rural and urban areas and resolves the issues of lack of nutrition, food security, and education access. With this program's help, free lunch is availed to students on school working days in Government Schools. Further, the Andhra Pradesh mid-day meal was revoked into the Gurumudda scheme because the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh state wanted to make the project comfortable for all students studying in Andhra Pradesh state in Government School. The CM of Andhra Pradesh mainly wanted to have all the nutrients in the foods of mid-day meals provided to government schools' students across the state. The plan behind launching the scheme was multi-fold. It encouraged maximum participation of students to develop the ecosystem of education amongst the masses. With this, it also aimed to improve the standard of society and do away with the emerging issue of malnutrition amongst the students. Students belonging to low-income families get midday meals in government schools all week through this scheme. Keeping this in view, Jagananna Gorumudda Scheme got started to provide nutritious food to the students while improving the nutritional approach. The Andhra Pradesh government has, on behalf of the chief minister, stated that they would also aim at increasing the monthly salary of the workers who distribute & prepare foods under mid-day meals at the schools of the entire state. Along with this, the government has also promised to mix up some more nutritious ingredients in the foods under AP mid-day meal, provided to the students of the government schools of Andhra Pradesh. Increasing the salary shall also help the workers to live their life correctly and make a healthy environment among the distributors of Andhra Pradesh Mid-Day Meal 2020. The Gorumudda Scheme has many potential benefits: attracting children from disadvantaged sections (especially women) to school, improving regularity, nutritional services, socialization benefits, and benefits to women are some that got highlighted. The scheme shall prove to be a successful one if implemented in the right manner.

#### Need and Importance of the study

Education has always played a requisite role in the growth & development of human potential. The State Governments are spending a considerable portion of their limited resources to provide educational facilities all over the country. Despite these efforts, education's goal for all appears to be far & elusive due to inherent socio-economic factors present in

society. Most children from low socio-economic communities suffer from under nutrition; more often, they drop out of school at a very early age, which directly affects their personality development. Several programs have got launched to combat these issues. Given the correlation between educational attainment & economic growth, policies that effectively and efficiently decrease primary school education barriers are of extreme interest to government organizations.

The Government of India and several states have effectively implemented a school- feeding program to incentivize children to attend primary school by providing a subsidized mid-day meal. The Andhra Pradesh State Government up-gradated the existing Mid day meal scheme as Gorumudda scheme by providing more notorious food items helpingthe students for the betterment of students health. Gorumudda scheme is one such great initiative to enhance enrolment in schools and encourage education for all. Education is the most critical asset we have because our knowledge is the type of wealth that we can never lose no matter what, and the more we share it, the more it increases. Hence the investigator taken up this study on "Implementation of Gorumudda Scheme in Primary Schools of Visakhapatnam District".

## Objective of the study

- 1. To study the level of Implementation of Gorumudda Scheme in Primary Schools of Visakhapatnam District.
- To study the significant difference between the perception of parents based on their socio-economic variables i.e., gender, age, occupation, educational status, monthly income, Caste and religion towards Implementation of Gorumudda Scheme in Primary Schools of Visakhapatnam District.

## Hypotheses of the present study

- There will be no significant difference between the perceptions of male and female category parents towards Implementation of Gorumudda Scheme in Primary Schools of Visakhapatnam District.
- There will be no significant difference among the perceptions of parents based on their age group towards Implementation of Gorumudda Scheme in Primary Schools of Visakhapatnam District.
- 3. There will be no significant difference among the perceptions of parents based on their educational

- qualification towards Implementation of Gorumudda Scheme in Primary Schools of Visakhapatnam District.
- 4. There will be no significant difference among the perceptions of parents based on their annual income towards Implementation of Gorumudda Scheme in Primary Schools of Visakhapatnam District.
- There will be no significant difference among the perceptions of parents based on their caste towards Implementation of Gorumudda Scheme in Primary Schools of Visakhapatnam District.
- 6. There will be no significant difference among the perceptions of parents based on their religion towards Implementation of Gorumudda Scheme in Primary Schools of Visakhapatnam District.

# **Review of Related Literature:**

Prasannanjaneyulu and Subbarao (2023) studied on "Parents Perception On Government Policies On School Education (2019-2023) - A Study In Visakhapatnam District Of Andhra Pradesh". The government of Andhra Pradesh mainly focused on three programmes namely Jagananna Amma Vodi, Jagananna Vidya Kanuka, and Mana Badi Nadu-Nedu, for improving the quality of school education. The present paper aims to evaluate these programmes. The study selected two regions, namely tribal and non-tribal schools, in Visakhapatnam district of Andhra Pradesh. The higher proportion of parents, i.e., 60% of parents, admit their children to government or government-aided schools.

The majority of the respondents were girl children, accounting for 161 (53.67%), and boys, 139 (46.33%), in the study region. In both sample mandals, a sizable portion of pupils drop out of school at the secondary level. A whopping 96% of parents who responded to the survey said the Amma Vodi scheme was highly effective in preventing dropouts and that the money they earned through it was used for their kids' benefit. About 97 percent of parents were aware of the implementation of the Nadu-Nedu programme. 100% of parents are happy with Jagananna Vidya Kanuka, and all of them expressed that their children are receiving books and uniforms on time. There is a need to provide English and computer labs to the schools in rural areas.

Tattwamasi Paltasingh and Prakash Bhue (2022) studied on "Efficacy of Mid-Day Meal Scheme in India:

Challenges and Policy Concerns". The Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) in India is considered to be the world's largest school meal programme, serving hot cooked meals to the underprivileged children. The ideas behind the introduction of this programme are to remove malnutrition, supplement nutritional foods in school meals, to motivate outschool children towards regular school, to decrease absenteeism and dropout rate, and to bridge inequality among the children irrespective of their caste, class and gender backgrounds. After the enactment of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act (RTE), 2009, the programme is being monitored by the School Management Committees. The article intends to highlight the effectiveness of the MDMS in improving schools and the local communities in India. It also focuses on the challenges being confronted with the implementation of the programme and suggests some relevant policy measures for reforms.

## News from Indian Express (21st November 2022).

"New Mid-Day-Meal menu on board under Jagananna Gorumuddha scheme in Andhra As per government norms, the mid day meals agencies should provide rice, vegetable curry, dal sambar, egg curry, chutney and other edible items". To strengthen physical fitness among the students, the Andhra Pradesh government has changed the menu of Mid-Day-Meal (MDM) on Monday, which is supplied to the government school children under Jagananna Gorumudda scheme. With the new menu, the students will get better nutritious food than earlier, claimed Kurnool district mid day meal scheme incharge Samuel Pal. The scheme supplies free lunch on working days to children who are studying in primary and upper classes in government and government-aided primary schools. Moreover, the students can avail quality and healthy food under this scheme. As many as 3,65,533 students from 2,854 schools across the erstwhile Kurnool district have been benefiting from this scheme. Nearly 7,300 workers, including cooks and helpers, are rendering their services to successfully implement this scheme.

Naga Raju (2021) studied on "Welfare schemes in Andhra Pradesh". International Journal of Creative Research Thoughts (IJCRT), Volume 9, Issue 9 September 2021. fundamental feature of the welfare schemes is social insurance , a provision common to most advanced industrialized countries. YSRCP leader YS Jagan Mohan Reddy promised to

deliver 'Rajanna Rajyam' (welfare regime of his father Y.S. Rajasekar Reddy in A.P during 2004 - 09 ) to the people of Andhra Pradesh . Ja gan Mohan Reddy chief of YSRCP has come up with an elaborate model of governance comprised of 9 broad welfare schemes called the 'NAVARATNALU'. Navaratnalu is a Concept coined by the Government to improve the delivery systems and improve the quality of the Governance in the state. Rythu bharosa is to provide financial assistance to farmer families including the tenant farmers across the state at Rs.12,500/ - per farmer per year to support the cultivators in meeting the investment during the crop season. Scholarships are of great importance to students who are unable to pay their fee due to financial burden, so this scheme provides full fee reimbursement benefits to approximately 14 lakh students of the state. AP government provides free treatment for specific illness to the eligible patients in any hospital in the state and the country. The YSRCP promises to put in place a ban on sale of alcohol across the State because Liquor is one of the main reasons for dispute in families due to which human relations are collapsing. YSR Aasara main objective is at empowering women and improving their financial stability. The Navaratnalu (nine jewels) welfare schemes and a slew of other populist schemes that began during the first year of the YSRCP coming to power have picked up pace during the second year of Y.S. Jagan's rule, the corona virus (Covid - 19) pandemic notwithstanding, consolidating his vote bank and fetching him tremendous mileagein the local body elections.

Akshay Kumar Panigrahi (2018) studied on "Mid-Day Meal In School and Its Impact on Educational System: A Study Of Of Balasore District In Odisha". Education plays a vital role in the development of human potential. The State Governments are spending considerable portion of their limited resources to provide educational facilities all over the country. In spite of these efforts the goal of cent per cent Universalization of elementary education appears to be far and elusive due to inherent socio-economic factors present in the society. Most of the children from low socioeconomic society suffer from under nutrition; more often they drop out from schools at an early age, which directly affects their personality development. Government of India implemented a schoolfeeding program to incentives children to attend primary school through the provision of a subsidized mid-day meal. The average enrolment of students per school is minimum (48.78) in session 2014-15 in comparison to last two years. In other words neither cooked Mid Day Meal Scheme nor uncooked Mid Day Meal Scheme has given a boost to enrolment of students in government primary schools of Odisha attending the primary schools in comparison to male students.

### **Design of the Study**

The researcher followed the survey method of the descriptive research. For this investigation the questionnaire had been considered as a suitable tool for the collection of data. The questionnaire consisted of 30 statements as perceived by the parents of children at Primary level.

## **Reliability and Validity:**

For the purpose of the present study the split- half method was adopted. The split- half reliability co-efficient for the Implementation of Gorumudda (Mid Day Meal) Scheme at Primary School scales as perceived by parents was 0.92 and for the validity of the scale it is based on the content and construct validity.

#### Administration of Tool:

The tool was administered among parents of children, necessary instructions were given in filling the tool. All the respondents followed the instructions and filled the tool by reading the all the items carefully.

#### **Data Collection:**

The investigator personally visited the sampled schools and administered the tool among the sampled respondents. The data collected through questionnaire was used for analytical purposes.

# **Statistical Techniques Used:**

The statistical techniques used mainly for analytical purposes were means, standard deviations were used To study the significant differences in between the socio-economic variables, 't'-test and 'F-test (ANOVA) have been used by the investigator with the help of Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS).

Table -1: Overall perceptions of parents towards Implementation of GorumuddaScheme in Primary Schools of Visakhapatnam district

N		Min.	Max.	Mean	Mean	Std. Dev.
		Score	Score		Percent	
10	00	30	150	123.45	82.30	16.52

Table -1. observed that the, parents expressed high perceptions towards Implementation of Gorumudda Scheme in Primary Schools of Visakhapatnam district. The mean value was 123.45 and mean percentage was 82.30% on their total score.

Table 2: Significant difference between the perceptions of male and female categoryparents towards Implementation of Gorumudda Scheme in Primary Schools of Visakhapatnam district

Gender	N	Mean	Std. Dev.	t-value	p-value
Male	73	123.42	14.34	4.28**	0.00
Female	27	119.80	13.18		

Table -2, discloses that the mean perceptual scores of parents based on their gender towards Implementation of Gorumudda Scheme in Primary Schools of Visakhapatnam district, the mean perceptual score of male category parents was 123.42, whereas it is for the female category parents was 119.80 and SD Values were 14.34 and 13.18 respectively. The derived t – value was 4.28 and the p-value was 0.00 which was significant at 0.01 level. This shows that, there is a significant difference between the perceptions of male and female category parents and male category parents perceived high towards Implementation of Gorumudda Scheme in Primary Schools of Visakhapatnam district than that of female category parents.

Table -3: Significant difference among the perceptions of parents based on their agegroup towards Implementation of Gorumudda Scheme in Primary Schools of Visakhapatnam district

Age	N	Mean	Std. Dev.	F-value	p-value
Below 30	31	122.34	16.63		
30 to 40	56	118.55	15.54	3.10**	0.00
Above 40	13	120.18	16.16		

Table -3, observed that, the mean perceptual scores of parents based on their age group towards Implementation of Gorumudda Scheme in Primary Schools of Visakhapatnam

district, the mean perceptual scores of parents for below 30 years age group was 122.34, whereas it is for 30 to 40 years age group was 118.55 and it is for above 40 years age group was 120.18 and the SD values were 16.63, 15.54 and 16.16 respectively. The 'F'-value was

3.10 and the p-value was 0.00, which was statistically significant at 0.01 level. This shows

that there is a significant difference on the perceptions of parents based on their age group and below 30 years age group parents perceived high towards Implementation of Gorumudda Scheme in Primary Schools of Visakhapatnam district than that of 30 to 40 and above 40 years age group parents.

Table 4: Significant difference among the perceptions of parents based on their occupation towards Implementation of Gorumudda Scheme in Primary Schools of Visakhapatnam district

Occupation	N	Mean	Std. Dev.	F-value	p-value
Daily Labour	34	122.10	15.35		
Cultivation	23	120.54	16.40		
Business	9	118.65	16.20	3.60**	0.00
Employee	23	119.43	14.80		
Others	11	118.90	15.70		

Table 4, depicts that, the mean perceptual scores of parents based on their occupation towards Implementation of Gorumudda Scheme in Primary Schools of Visakhapatnam district, the mean perceptual scores of parents for Daily wage was 122.10, whereas it is for Cultivation was 16.40, it was for Business was 118.65, it was for Employee was 119.43 andit was for other occupations was 118.90 and the SD values were 15.35, 16.40, 16.20, 14.80 and 15.70 respectively. The 'F'-value was 3.60 and the p-value was 0.00, which was significant at 0.01 level. This shows that, there is a significant difference on the perceptions of parents based on their occupation and Daily labour of parents of children perceived high towards Implementation of Gorumudda Scheme in Primary Schools of Visakhapatnam district than that of the rest.

Table- 5: Significant difference among the perceptions of parents based on their educational status towards Implementation of Gorumudda Scheme in Primary Schoolsof Visakhapatnam district

EducationalStatus					
	N	Mean	Std. Dev.	t-value	p-value
Illiterate	37	119.56	14.80		
Literate	63	123.12	14.25	5.45**	0.00

Table -5 observed that, the mean perceptual scores of parents based on their educational status towards Implementation of Gorumudda Scheme in Primary Schools of Visakhapatnam district, the mean perceptual scores of Illiterate parents was 119.56, whereas it is for Literate parents was 123.12 and the SD values were 14.80 and 14.12 respectively. The 't'-value was 5.45 and the p-value was 0.00, which was statistically significant at 0.01 level. This shows that, there is a significant difference between the perceptions of Illiterate and Literate parents and Literate parents perceived high towards Implementation of Gorumudda Scheme in Primary Schools of Visakhapatnam district than that of Illiterate parents.

Table -6: Significant difference among the perceptions of parents based on their annual income towards Implementation of Gorumudda Scheme in Primary Schools of Visakhapatnam district

Annual Income	N	Mean	Std. Dev.	F-value	p-value
Below Rs. 10000	27	121.90	15.48		
Rs. 10000 – 25000	54	122.12	16.10	1.21 <sup>NS</sup>	0.34
Above Rs. 25000	19	121.46	14.85		

Table -6, revealed that, the mean perceptual scores of parents based on their annual income towards Implementation of Gorumudda Scheme in Primary Schools of Visakhapatnam district, the mean perceptual score of below Rs. 10000 annual income of parents was 121.90, whereas it is for Rs. 10000 to 25000 annual income of parents was

122.12 and above Rs. 25000 annual income of parents was 121.46 and SD Values were 15.48, 16.10 and 14.85 respectively. The derived t — value was 1.21 and the p-value was 0.34which was statistically not significant at any level. This shows that, there is no significant difference among the perceptions of parents based on their annual income and they perceived similar opinion towards Implementation of Gorumudda Scheme in Primary Schools of Visakhapatnam district.

Table -7: Significant difference among the perceptions of parents based on their caste towards Implementation of Gorumudda Scheme in Primary Schools of Visakhapatnamdistrict

Caste	N	Mean	Std. Dev.	F-value	p-value
ОС	15	118.76	14.36		
ВС	57	122.18	16.57	3.07*	0.04
SC	21	121.40	16.40		
ST	7	119.68	15.65		

Table- 7, depicts that, the mean perceptual scores of parents based on their caste towards Implementation of Gorumudda Scheme in Primary Schools of Visakhapatnam district, the mean perceptual scores of parents for OC caste was 118.76, whereas it is for BC caste was 122.18, it was for SC caste was 121.40 and it for ST caste was 119.68 and the SD values were 14.36, 16.57, 16.40 and 15.65 respectively. The 'F'-value was 3.07 and the p-value was 0.04, which was significant at 0.05 level. This shows that, there is a significant difference on the perceptions of parents based on their caste and BC caste parents perceived high towards Implementation of Gorumudda Scheme in Primary Schools of Visakhapatnam district than that of the rest.

Table-8: Significant difference among the perceptions of parents based on their religiontowards Implementation of Gorumudda Scheme in Primary Schools of Visakhapatnam district

Religion	N	Mean	Std. Dev.	F-value	p-value
Hindu	67	122.08	14.30		
Christian	21	122.13	14.24	1.85 <sup>NS</sup>	0.19
Muslim	12	121.90	14.43		

Table -8, it was noticed that, the mean perceptual scores of parents based on their religion towards Implementation of Gorumudda Scheme in Primary Schools of Visakhapatnam district, the mean perceptual scores of parents for Hindus was 122.08, whereas it is for Christians was 122.13, and it was for Muslims was 121.90 and the SD values were 14.30, 14.24, and 14.43 respectively. The 'F'-value was 1.85 and the p-valuewas 0.19, which was statistically not significant at any level. This shows that, there is no significant difference on the perceptions of parents based on their religion and they

perceived similar opinion towards Implementation of Gorumudda Scheme in Primary Schools of Visakhapatnam district.

## Findings of the study:

- Parents expressed high perceptions towards Implementation of Gorumudda Scheme in Primary Schools of Visakhapatnam district.
- There is a significant difference between the perceptions of male and female category parents and male category parents perceived high towards Implementation of Gorumudda Scheme in Primary Schools of Visakhapatnam district than that of female category parents.
- 3. There is a significant difference on the perceptions of parents based on their age group and below 30 years age group parents perceived high towards Implementation of Gorumudda Scheme in Primary Schools of Visakhapatnam district than that of 30 to 40 and above 40 years age group parents.
- 4. There is a significant difference on the perceptions of parents based on their occupation and Daily labour of parents of children perceived high towards Implementation of Gorumudda Scheme in Primary Schools of Visakhapatnam district than that of the rest.
- 5. There is a significant difference between the perceptions of Illiterate and Literate parents and Literate parents perceived high towards Implementation of Gorumudda Scheme in Primary Schools of Visakhapatnam district than that of Illiterate parents.
- 6. There is no significant difference among the perceptions of parents based on their annual income and they perceived similar opinion towards Implementation of Gorumudda Scheme in Primary Schools of Visakhapatnam district.
- 7. There is a significant difference on the perceptions of parents based on their caste and BC caste parents perceived high towards Implementation of Gorumudda Scheme in Primary Schools of Visakhapatnam district than that of the rest.
- 8. There is no significant difference on the perceptions of parents based on their religion and they perceived similar opinion towards Implementation of Gorumudda Scheme in Primary Schools of Visakhapatnam district.

#### **Recommendations:**

1. Many schools are not having the pure and clean drinking

- water facility. Such schools should be given the water facility.
- 2. Government should supply gook quality of Food grains, that to on time.
- The other non educational burden on the teachers should be reduced for the successof Gorumudda Scheme (Mid Day Meal).
- 4. SMC members should give full co-operation to the teachers. It reduces the burden onthe teachers.
- 5. The responsibilities of the scheme should not be given to the teachers. It should begiven to the local organizations.
- 6. Periodic monitoring and evaluation of the scheme is necessary.
- 7. The schools which are not having kitchen, vessels and other materials they shouldhave all these.

## **Suggestions for further Research:**

- A study may be planned on the administrative officials, Head masters of schoolsregarding administration and management of Gorumudda Scheme.
- 2. A study may be led to compare the factors (Enrolment, Retention, Attendance, Dropout rate, Wastage, Stagnation) between Government and Private schools.
- A study can be conducted to find the impact of Gorumudda (Mid-Day Meal) Scheme on teacher's teaching effectiveness.
- A study may be made to assess the nutritional level of Gorumudda ( Mid-Day Meal)scheme in primary schools.
- The study of same nature can be undertaken to compare remote or tribal areas of different districts of Andhra Pradesh.

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