

STUDY ON THE IMPACT OF MEGA PARENT TEACHER MEETING (MPTM) ON STUDENT'S LEARNING OUTCOMES IN DELHI SOUTH-WEST.

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ABSTRACT

The Mega PTM programme is an attempt to provide an opportunity for improving human capabilities of all children through a healthy cultivation of parents'- teacher relationship. The present study was an attempt to study the awareness about the role of PTM & Mega PTM among the various stakeholders (Principals, teachers, parents & students)? What is the impact of Mega PTM on students' learning outcomes? To what extent is Mega PTM successful in connecting parents with school activities? What are the suggestive measures to overcome the challenges? How far have they been successful? Answers to these and many other related questions have been examined in the present study. The ultimate purpose of the investigation is to approximate the reality about the Mega PTM under the jurisdiction of all government schools of Directorate of Education Delhi. This research study was conducted to examine the impact of Mega PTM on the learning outcomes of students in multiple directions using Survey Methodology. The research was conducted in 10 Secondary school of South West Delhi. Schools, parents, students and teachers were selected through simple random sampling. 80 parents, 80 students and 80 teachers were selected randomly. All 10 principals were also taken into consideration. Principals and selected teachers were interviewed through structured questionnaire. Focused group discussion was used for parents & interview schedule was used for students. Data were analysis using quantitative method of percentage and followed by a qualitative analysis.

Keywords: *Learning Outcomes, Parents Teacher Meeting, Mega Parents Teachers Meeting.*

Introduction

School is the place where children's attitudes, interests, habits, educational abilities and their overall personality are developed. The involvement of parents in school activities is the most influential element in students teaching learning process and motivation.

A teacher is a person who imparts content, makes learning fun, shapes students' attitudes, exemplifies empathy, teaches teamwork and respect, and builds student confidence in several ways. Teacher is the first person from whom students learn their social, behavioral & intellectual skills in school. Teachers make students comfortable and guide them to navigate the learning concepts as well as the developmental skills of life.

Trust, mutual understanding & cordial relationship between parent and teachers are crucial for a child's happy learning. Regular support, guidance and cooperativeness from parents towards teachers help a lot to connect with, understand and work towards providing support to the child. Remarkable & unbelievable positive changes can be seen in a child if parents and teachers understand and work concurrently.

According to U.S. Department of Education (2001), parental involvement is a two-way expressive communication between parents and teachers concerning academic culture and school activities. Family members support their children socially, culturally, and emotionally that facilitate academic work (Deplanty, Coulter-Kern and Duchane, 2007). An inspiring educational environment fulfills students' needs and promotes learning outcomes. On the opposite side, low motivating environment leads to failure.

Rollande Deslandes, (2009). Parent teacher meetings bridge the gap between schools and parents. The involvement of parents in school issues not only enhances the student's learning in all subject areas but it also plays a vital role in the overall development of the child's personality

Mega Parents Teacher Meeting (MPTM)

In order to build a positive & healthy connection between parents and teachers of government schools the first Mega Parent Teacher Meeting (MPTM) was held on July 30, 2016. MPTM started across all government schools of Directorate of Education Delhi. Since then, Delhi government has decided to conduct the MPTM twice every year. Mega PTM is scheduled on the same date across all Delhi government Schools.

The various objectives of the MPTM are:

- To build a positive connection between parents and teachers of Government Schools.
- To build a harmonious relationship between teachers and parents
- To develop positive dialogues between parents and teachers of Government Schools.
- To improve the quality of education in government schools through sharing various initiatives.
- To ensure that Delhi Government students studying in Classes VI to IX can read their textbooks and learn to perform basic mathematics operations.
- To share the objectives of Mission Buniyaad with the parents.
- To create awareness amongst parents about the misuse of phone, internet& whatsapp.
- To create awareness among parents and children to sacrifice their holidays and dedicate their time to their education for a better future.
- To advice parents to take care of their children's' needs such as adequate food and sleep, so that their quality of education improves.
- To motivate parents to have daily dialogues with their children regarding school regarding school activities.
- To bring parents and teachers together, helping for a strong educational foundation of the children.

- To provide opportunities to the parents to check school buildings, classrooms, desks blackboards, toilets, facilities for clean drinking water, etc.
- To create awareness among parents regarding Chunauti 2018 and the process of dividing classes into groups according to their learning achievements.
- To be a medium for the school authorities to take cognizance of issues raised by parents.

Issues focused in Mega Parents Teacher Meeting

S.No	Date	Major focus
1	30 th July 2016	<p>Encourage one-to-one communication between parents and teachers.</p> <p>Explain to parents about the initiatives taken by the government to improve the quality of education.</p> <p>Be a platform for parents to give feedback to parents and share their grievances during such meetings.</p>
2	15 th October 2016	Sharing results of the first term exams held after the government started its ambitious Chunauti 2018 scheme to improve learning levels and take feedback from parents.
3	25 th February 2017	This MPTM was organized only for class 12 th students. The objective of the meeting was to ease the examination pressure of students as well as parents and provide the best possible assistance to every student.
4	1 st September 2017	Delhi Government MPTM Part 2: Class 10 Board exams was the primary topic of discussion.
5	21 April 2018	<p>The concept and benefits of “Mission Buniyaad” initiative was introduced to the parents.(1041 schools).</p> <p>Share children’s goals for Mission Buniyaad with their parents.</p> <p>Request to parents and children to sacrifice their holidays, and dedicate three months to their education and for their bright future.</p>
6	20 th October 2018	Celebration of Library Awareness Day through a Library Mela across all the Government Schools of DOE during the Mega PTM

7	12 July 2019	Teachers are asked to hold discussions on absenteeism and irregular attendance of students apart from the conversation on Happiness and Entrepreneurship Curriculum. Also the Heads of the schools are asked to prepare a list of “low achievers whose parents did not attend the PTM”. Such students will be identified based on their results of the last academic session 2018-19 and assessment under Mission Buniyaad. The parents of these students will be called for meeting at a later date.
8	19 October 2019	Inform parents about the initiative taken by the Directorate of Education regarding happiness & Entrepreneurship curriculum. Discuss the issue of truancy and irregular attendance with the parents during the meeting and brief the parents individually on each student’s progress.

Objectives of the Study:

1. To study the awareness about the role of PTM & Mega PTM among the stakeholders (students, parents, teachers & principals)
2. To study the impact of Mega PTM on students learning outcomes
3. To find out the extent of success of Mega PTM in connecting the parents with school activities.
4. To study the challenges and to suggest measures to overcome the challenges.

Operational Definition:

Learning outcomes: Learning outcomes are assessment standards indicating the expected level of learning that children should achieve for that class. Learning outcomes describe what teachers want students to know and to be able to do at the end of the course.

Mega PTM: Mega PTM is scheduled on the same date across all schools of Delhi government. It is a discussion which takes place when the parent, teacher, and the student sit down together to talk over student academic & nonacademic progress.

Parental Involvement: Parental involvement in school is defined as parent-reported participation at least once during the school year: attending a general school meeting, attending a scheduled parent-teacher conference, attending a school or class event, or volunteering in the school or serving on a school committee.

Sample for the study:

S.No	Schools	Principals	Teachers	Students	Parents
1	10	10	Class 7 th (4X10=40)	Class 7 th (10X4=40)	Class 7 th (10X4=40)
2			Class 8 th (4X10=40)	Class 8 th (10X4=40)	Class 8 th (10X4=40)
Total	10	10	80	80	80

Tools & Sample used for the Study

S. NO	Tools	No. of Items	Sample
1	Questionnaire	23	Principals & Teachers

2	Interview Schedule	13	Students
3	Focused group discussion	13	Parents

The interview schedule & Focus Group Discussion covered the following aspects:

- Importance of Mega PTM
- Issues discussed in Mega PTM.
- Achievements of the students
- Parental involvement in school activities
- Relationship with teachers
- Type of academic support given by the schools
- Problems faced by the parents & student in the school.
- Suggestions for improvement etc.

The following content was included in the questionnaire:

- Reporting system adopted
- Assessment of student's performance
- Impact of Mega PTM on students' academic & nonacademic achievements
- Problems encountered in discharge of their duties
- Frequency of visits by parents
- Major difficulties experienced by teachers with regard to Mega PTM
- Perception of the overall effectiveness of Mega PTM etc

Delimitations

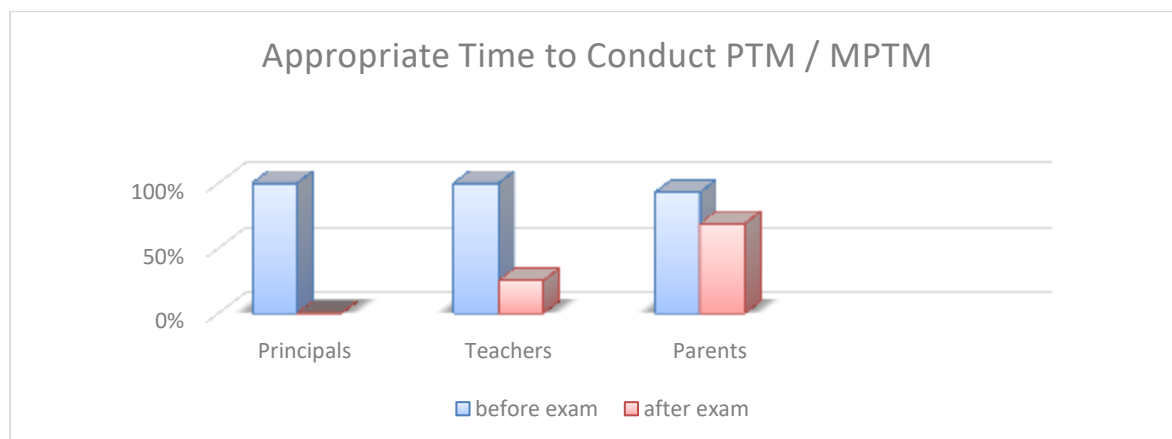
- The present study was confined to 10 senior secondary schools of South West Delhi.
- The present study was restricted to the academic achievements of Hindi & Maths under Mission Buniyad & non academic achievements of the students of class 7th & 8th.

Conclusions in relation to objective 1

To study the awareness about the role of PTM & Mega PTM among the stakeholders (Principals, teachers, parents & students)

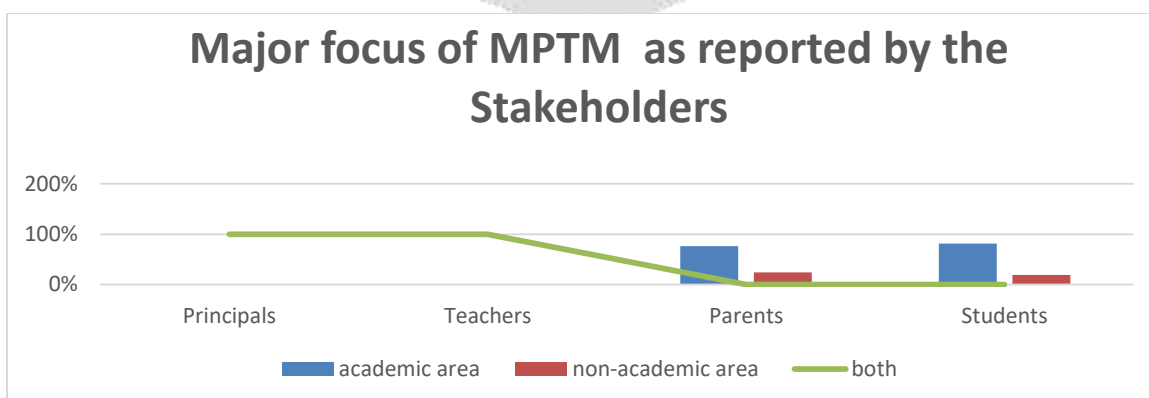
- Awareness about the objectives of PTM was found to be excellent among teachers & principals. 50% of the parents and 35% of the students were not fully aware of the objectives of PTM. They think complaining about of the student is one of the major objective of PTM.
- All principals, teachers & (81%) parents said that that one of the major role of PTM is to bridge communication gaps and develop a strong relationship between parents and teachers and to discuss about the child's strengths, weaknesses, achievements, interests, aptitudes and study habits etc individually with their parents whereas 68% parents agreed with this fact. Only 50% principals, 33% teachers and 29% parents agreed that PTM is also playing a role in utilization of community resources in schools. All the stakeholders agreed that Mega PTM is not playing any role in curriculum development.
- All the principals & teachers agreed that they did not organize PTM for all classes at the same time & on the same date in their schools before the start of Mega PTM.

- All the principals, teachers and 93% parents said that appropriate time to organize or conduct the Mega PTM is before the examination of the student whereas 25% teachers & 69% parents wanted PTM to be organized once again after the examination so that they can share the progress of the students with their parents.



Graph No.1

- All the principals & teachers reported that all the parents of their students were invited in Mega PTM whether the students are undisciplined, academically weak, intelligent, disobedient, truant or first generation learners or belong to any other category.
- All the principals and 95% teachers agreed that they discuss various issues with parents during the Mega PTM such as children strengths, weaknesses, their level of learning, attendance, home work related issues, progress in school subjects, behavioral problems, their interesting specific areas, linguistic problems, creativity, social behavior & role of parents in this regard. All the teachers keep the records of PTM & Mega PTM, no. of enrolled children, their attendances, progress reports & they also keep the child wise profile of all children. It was found that there is discrepancy in the data provided by the principals, teachers, parents and students. There is (8%-27%) discrepancy in the data of (other achievements such as, sports, art, competition etc.), (5%-11%) in the data of strategies to reduce examination phobia and (5%-25%) in the data of linguistic problems between principals, teachers, parents and students.
- According to the principals and teachers both areas (academic & nonacademic) were discussed in Mega PTM whereas 76% parents said during the discussion that major focus of Mega PTM is on students' academic performance. 81% students also agreed with this. It was found after the discussion with parents that there is 24% discrepancy in the data provided by the principals and teachers.

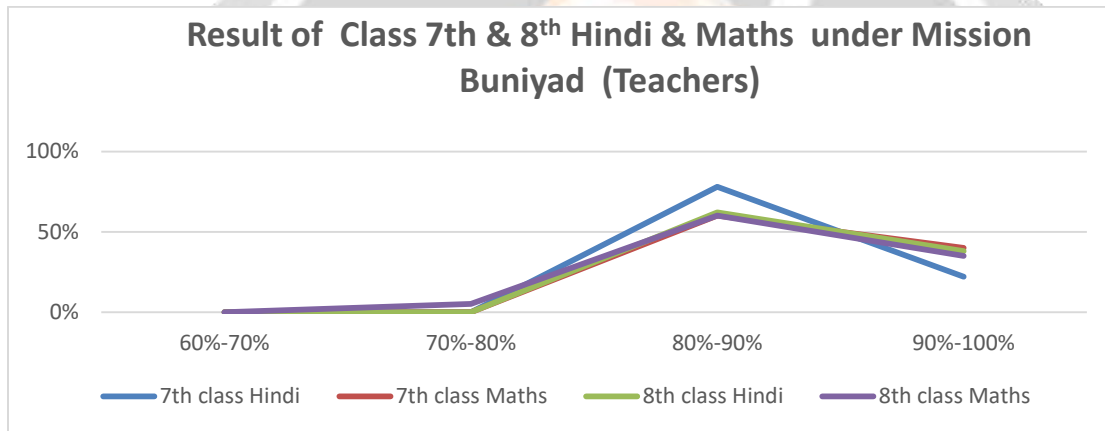


Graph 1.2

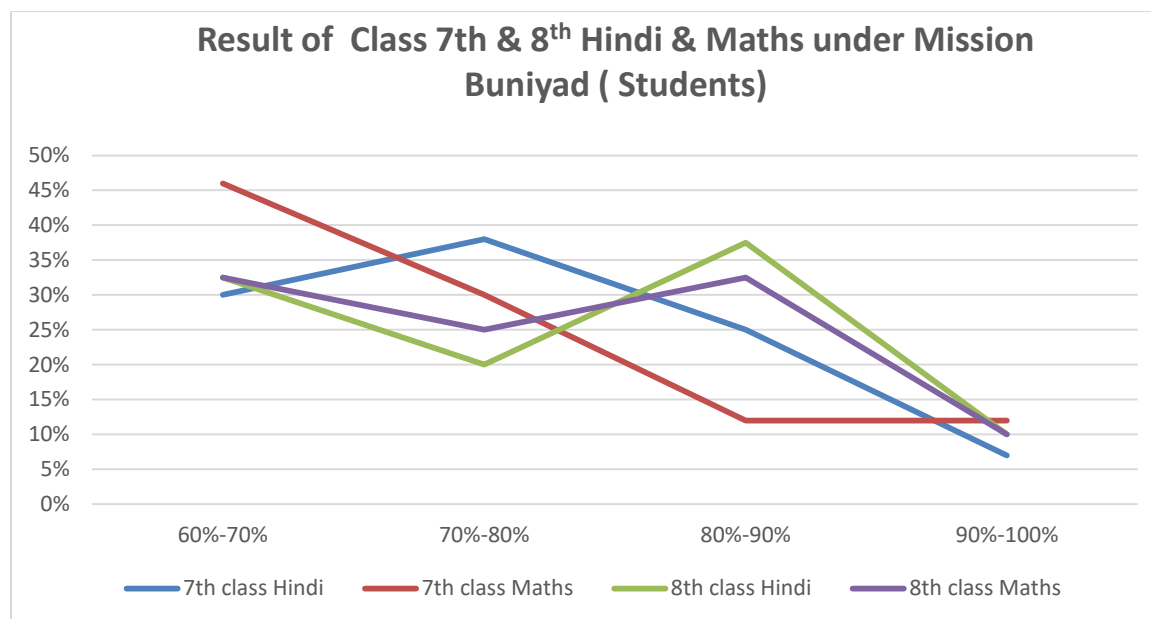
Conclusions in relation to objective 2:

To study the impact of Mega PTM on students learning outcomes

- All the principals and teachers agreed that academic performance (exam result) of students have improved after the implementation of Mega PTM whereas (7%- 14%) parents and students agreed that academic performance was same as before.
- (60%- 78%) Maths & Hindi teachers of class 7th and 8th said that their class result is in between 80%-90% whereas 22%- 40% said that the percentage of the class result is in between 90% - 100%.
- 30%- 46% students of Class 7th and 8th said that they obtained 60%-70% marks in Hindi and Maths , 20%- 38% obtained 70%-80% , 12%- 38% obtained 80%-90% and only 7%-10% obtained 90%-100%. (shown in graph no 3)
- 80%-86% stakeholders agreed that regularity of students have improved after the implementation of Mega PTM whereas (14%-20%) stakeholders said that regularity of students was same as before (Shown in graph no 2)

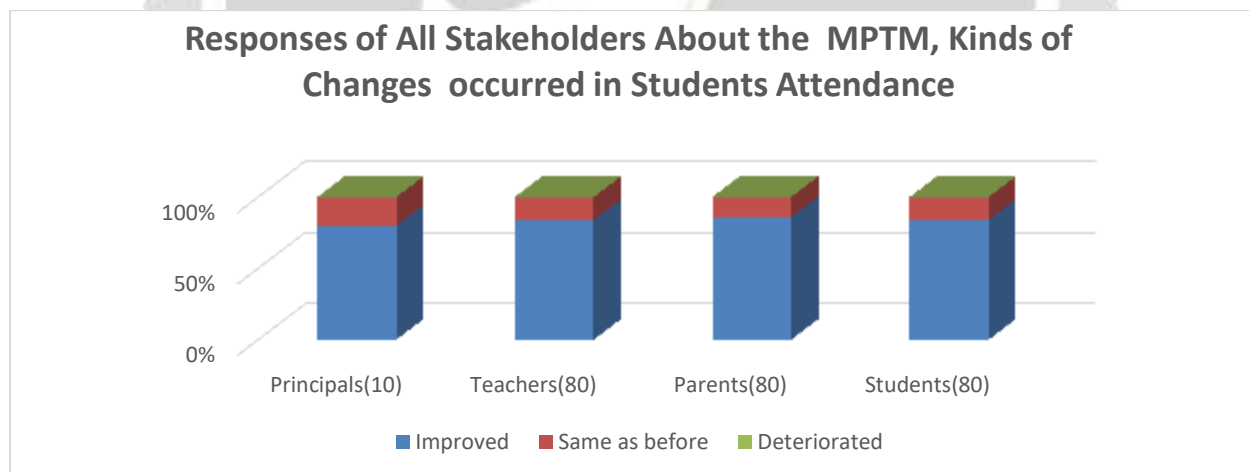


Graph No 2



Graph No 2.1

- Majority of the parents (86%) told the researcher during the discussion that due to their visits in Mega PTM, overall discipline of the school such as children’s absenteeism, punctuality, timely correction of notebooks, homework related problems has been solved and removed.



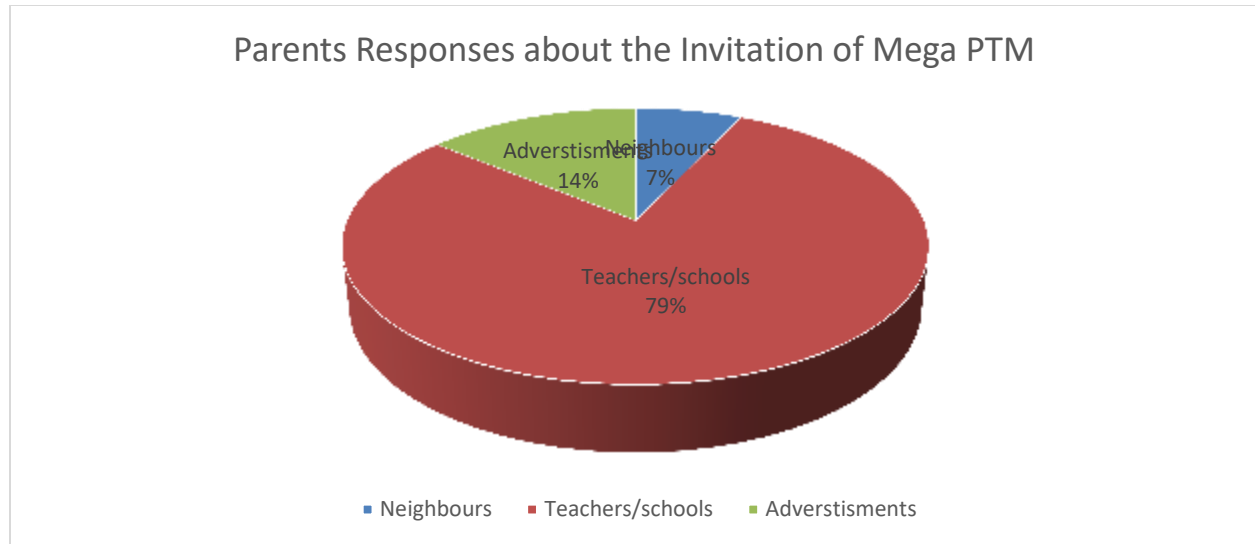
Graph No.2.2

- 74%-80% stakeholders agreed that the interest and awareness of students about their education have improved after the implementation of Mega PTM whereas. Various activities are conducted in the school which is helpful in releasing stress in examination days. Teachers encourage and praise children in front of their parents, therefore their children never feel scared. There has been a tremendous change in the attitude of the children due to Happiness Curriculum and Mission Buniyad activities like group discussion, storytelling, poetry recitation, peer group activities and skits etc. Children have become more expressive and less hesitant in sharing their views. Attitude of parents towards their ward after mega PTM has positively changed.

Conclusions in relation to objective 3:

The extent of success of MPTM in connecting the parents with school activities.

- All the principals and teachers reported that before MPTM the average presence of parents in PTM in their school was 40%-60%.
- All principals and 95% teachers said that most of the parents did not attend the PTM due to the timing of their occupation because most of them are daily wagers and 87% parents did not get the information at the right time from their children about the conduct of PTM whereas 84%-86% teachers said that apathy of parents towards education of their children and lack of awareness about the role of PTM are also responsible for low presence.
- Majority of parents (84%) responded during the discussion that they have problems in attending the PTM. According to them it is difficult for them to attend the meeting on a specific day and time because they are daily wagers. 31% agreed that they are not fully aware about the role of PTM. They think the major function of PTM is to complain about the students' activities with the parents. 42% said that due to this reason most of the children did not inform them about the day and time of PTM.
- 90% students responded that their parents were not able to attend the meeting due to their work this one is the major reason. This is one of the major reasons. 70% students think the major function of PTM is to complain about the students' activities with their parents. 57% said that due to this reason or fear most of them did not inform their parents about the day and timing of PTM. 48% agreed that they are not fully aware about the role & function of PTM.
- All the principals and teachers reported that average presence rate of parents in Mega PTM in their school was 60% - 80 %. All agreed the presence of parents has improved after the implementation of Mega PTM.
- 73% parents and 75% students reported that their parents took part in PTM whereas only 25% parents and 27% students reported that their parents sometimes took part in PTM. Good attendance in Mega PTM indicated that parents were interested. Parents gained more insight into the work their child was doing. All teachers & principals tried to establish good relationship with parents to convince them about the importance of the education in the lives of their children.
- According to the all the stakeholders there are various factors which are responsible for increasing the presence of parents in Mega PTM. These are (1) Better arrangement at schools for parents (2) Positive appeal for attending meeting (3) High lighting
- The date & timing of Mega PTM (4) Creating awareness about the purpose Mega PTM (5) Positive attitude of teachers & parents towards PTM.
- 79% parents of students knew about Mega PTM from the teachers of the school & advertisements through FM radio whereas (7%-24%) parents knew through neighbors & other persons. Thus, it can be said that teachers are creating awareness among the parents about the objectives of Mega PTM.



- 70%-72 % principals and teachers agreed that parent's involvement and participation in school activities like participation has increased in school management committee and mid day meal committee. Most of the parents (72%) were of the opinion that they spend time in the evening with their children, discuss the learning activity carried out by them, and check their notebooks. They also said that they always discuss with their children in a positive manner.
- The relation between parent and teacher, teacher and student, and also between the parent and child, has improved. The teacher suggests ways to improve and guide the child's future progress, present constructive criticism, and explain how the parent could help.
- All the principals & teachers agreed that after the Mega PTM, principals called a meeting and discussed the issues raised in Mega PTM by the parents.

Conclusions in relation to objective 4:

To study the challenges and to suggest measures to overcome the challenges

- 40% parents are not satisfied with the timing of MPTM. A majority of parents responded that they face problems in attending the MPTM. According to them it was difficult for them to attend as they are daily wagers. They cannot take leave for this purpose. According to them, the timing of MPTM should be flexible and some other economic support should also be given to them by the government.
- Majority of parents were uneducated or primary, middle & secondary pass out and therefore, they are not able to provide academic help to their children at home. So there is a need for extra classes.
- Most of the parents were very concerned about the negative & aggressive behavior of their children. They said that there should be a provision for counselors in schools.
- The MPTM has some limitations. For example, it does not provide any written records for verbal communication for later comparison. It is totally based on mutual understanding. Sometimes parents & teachers ignored the facts discussed with them with each other.

Findings and Suggestions:

- Parent involvement can prevent school absenteeism -and drop-out and can contribute to transitions to higher education, safer learning environments, positive attitudes towards learning, social behavior, persistence, and the wellbeing of children. Impact of parental involvement in student's learning may not be

confined to nursery, primary or elementary grades. This research shows strong evidences that parental involvement is highly effective at secondary level for the moral development of student in addition to academic development. The vision of Mega PTM is to enable each child to understand his / her skill, dignity ability and capability. So Mega PTM should be organized four times in a year instead of two times.

- Policy makers are advised to design such policies that involve parents and family members in school's activities there is a need to introduce a new model of school education which could be highly interactive, collaborative and communicative among all stake holders of education.
- Schools should organize seminars, open houses and conduct workshops to educate parents regarding ways to help them. During a parent's teachers meeting, these items can be explained to the parent. They can be told why the child is not progressing and what they can do to help provide experiences which the child needs. The child's relative strengths and weaknesses, his/her interests, his/her aptitudes and study habits can be brought out, and the teacher and parent will have a basis on which to counsel.
- Frequently parents criticize the form of school reporting because they do not understand the underlying philosophy. Parents and schools are desirous of having children well prepared in those leanings which are essential for good citizenship. The Mega PTM revealed that the purposes of this method had been made clear to the parents in as much as they understood the goals and wanted a complete report of their children.
- Researchers found that a positive, effective relationship between parents and teachers can help students prosper, and a teacher training program can help strengthen the quality of these relationships.
- This study further illustrates those positive relationships between parents and teachers leads to improved community perceptions of the school. Teachers can take steps to strengthen their relationships with parents.
- Parents often want to know what's happening in the classroom and how their children are faring. Ensure teachers share information about their classroom activities and projects. They can do this in ways that makes sense for their classroom management .Therefore Encourage teachers to open the lines of communication and incorporate parent communication into teachers' growth and evaluation plans.
- Other advantages of the parent-teacher meeting are that the teacher learns of the parents reactions to children and to school; it attempts to prevent failure and encourages success; parents have a better chance to obtain an idea of what a teacher is trying to accomplish and to express their opinions; it establishes a basis of friendliness between the teacher and parent in work with children; problems which baffle a teacher or parent alone may be solved cooperatively; standings which were used to compare one with another are eliminated.
- When parent-teacher planning is based on sound, mutual respect, it will bring an immeasurable value to the child in terms of the parent's and teacher's increased insight into his/her personality and his /her needs, as well as the child's own grateful recognition of the happy consistency of purpose which results when home and school are working together for him.
- Good school-community relations existed. The fact that the parent visited the school knew the teacher, understood that he/ she was attempting to do, and saw that there was interest in the child made him more cooperative and more confident in the schools.

Educational Implications:

Teachers and parents provide a vital support system to help students flourish. Both groups are important. When parents and teachers communicate and work together effectively, it can significantly impact each student's long-term success. This Study will help to create awareness among parents and teachers about their role for their children and students & involve them for the educational achievement of their children

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