

Md. Fajlay Rabbi, Assistant Professor, Education Discipline,  
Khulna University, Khulna, Bangladesh

BACKGROUND

- **Problem Statement:** Bangladesh faces significant challenges in educational retention and nutritional deficiencies, especially in rural areas.
- **Context:** School feeding program’s aim to address these challenges by providing daily meals to primary school children.

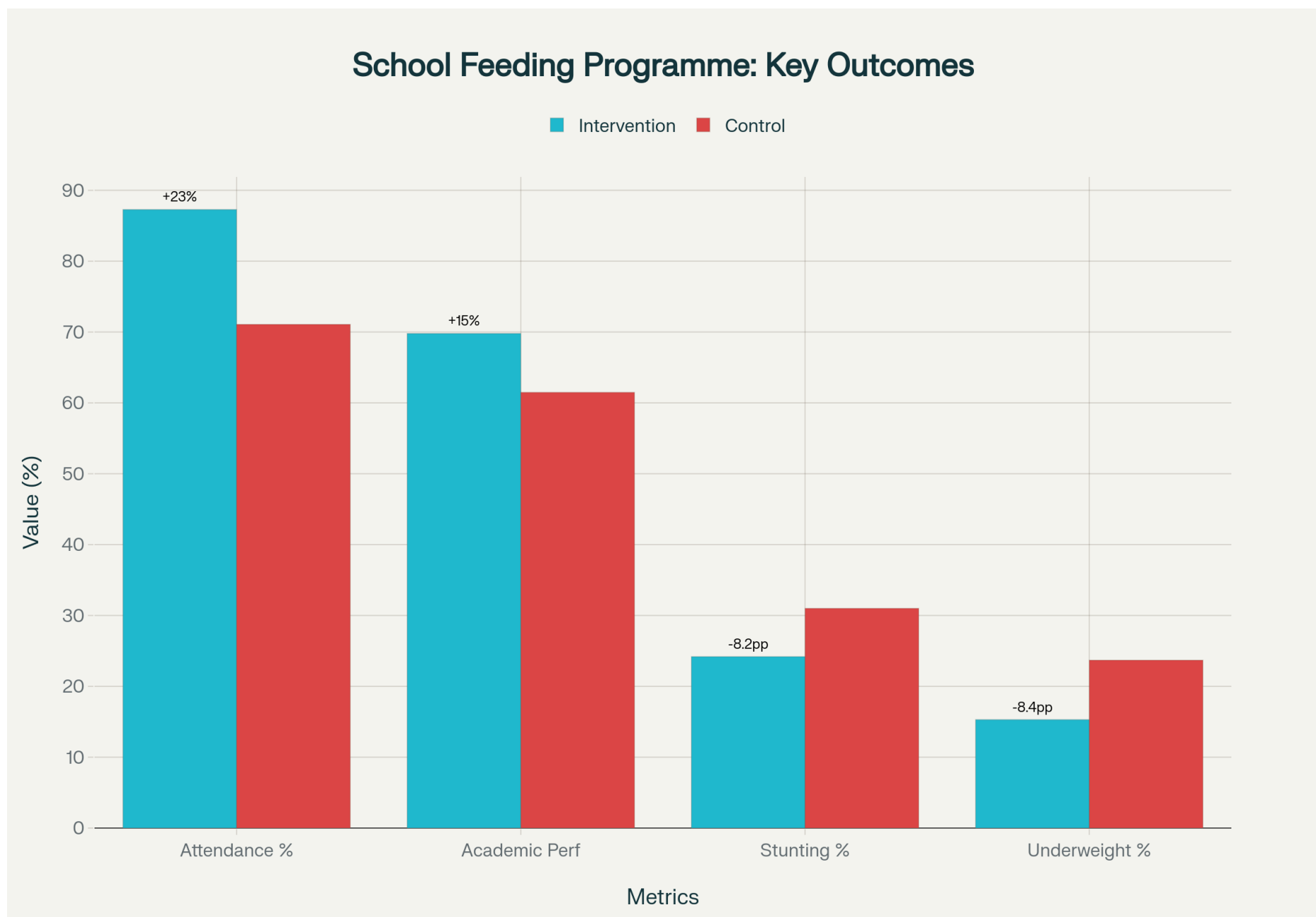


Fig 2: School Feeding Program: Key outcomes

METHODS

- A mixed-methods approach was used, involving both quantitative and qualitative analysis.
- 40 schools were involved: 20 intervention schools with feeding programs and 20 control schools.
- **Data Collection:** Academic performance, school attendance, anthropometric measurements, and community participation were measured.

Discussion

- **Alignment with Prior Research:** The 23% attendance increase aligns with IMED's documented 17% improvement, while nutritional outcomes confirm previous studies on body-weight and helminth infection reductions.
- This study extends existing evidence by comprehensively integrating education, nutrition, and community engagement dimensions.

RESULTS

- **Attendance Improvement:** Significant increases in school attendance, particularly among girls and ultra-poor households.
- **Nutritional Outcomes:** Stunting reduction by 8.2%, improvement in BMI-for-age.
- **Academic Performance:** Improvements in mathematics and Bangla scores by 15% and 12%, respectively.
- **Community Engagement:** High participation in school feeding programmes, with 78% of PTAs actively involved.

CONCLUSION

- The National School Feeding Program is highly effective in improving educational outcomes and nutritional status, particularly for marginalized children.
- **Recommendations:** Strengthening supply chain management, investing in infrastructure, and diversifying food menus are essential for maximizing effectiveness.

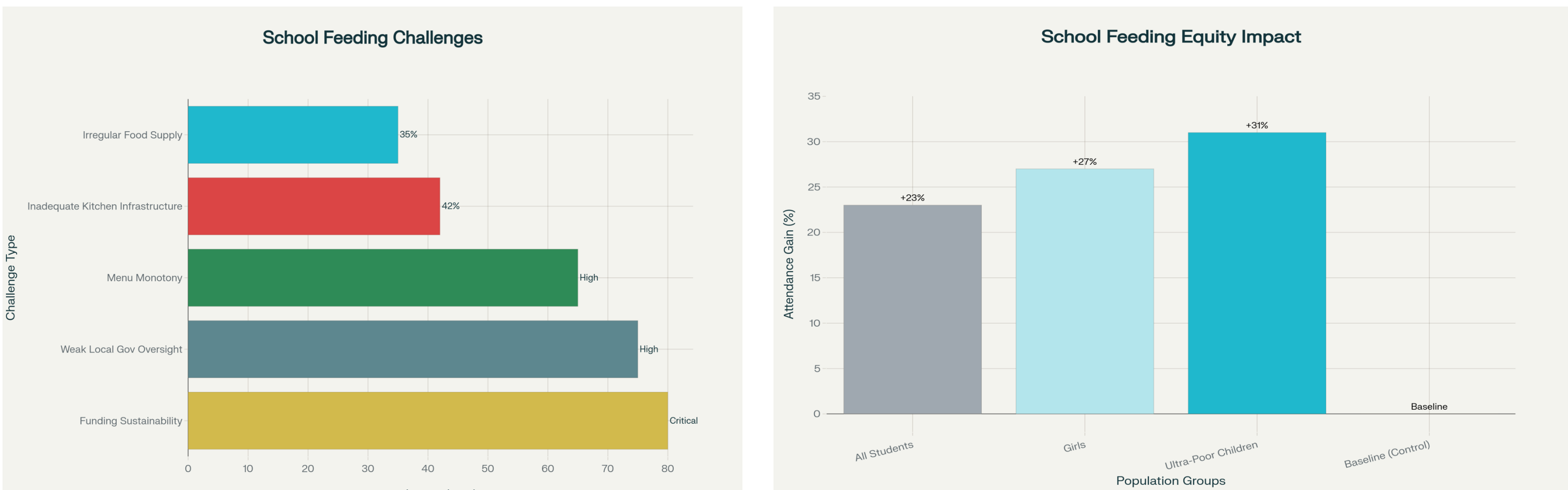


Fig: School Feeding Challenges & Equity Impact

**Acknowledgement:** We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the primary schools, local authorities, students, and parents who generously participated in this study. Without their active involvement, support, and cooperation, this research would not have been possible. Their contributions have been invaluable in evaluating and enhancing the National School Feeding Program in rural Bangladesh.