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## 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.

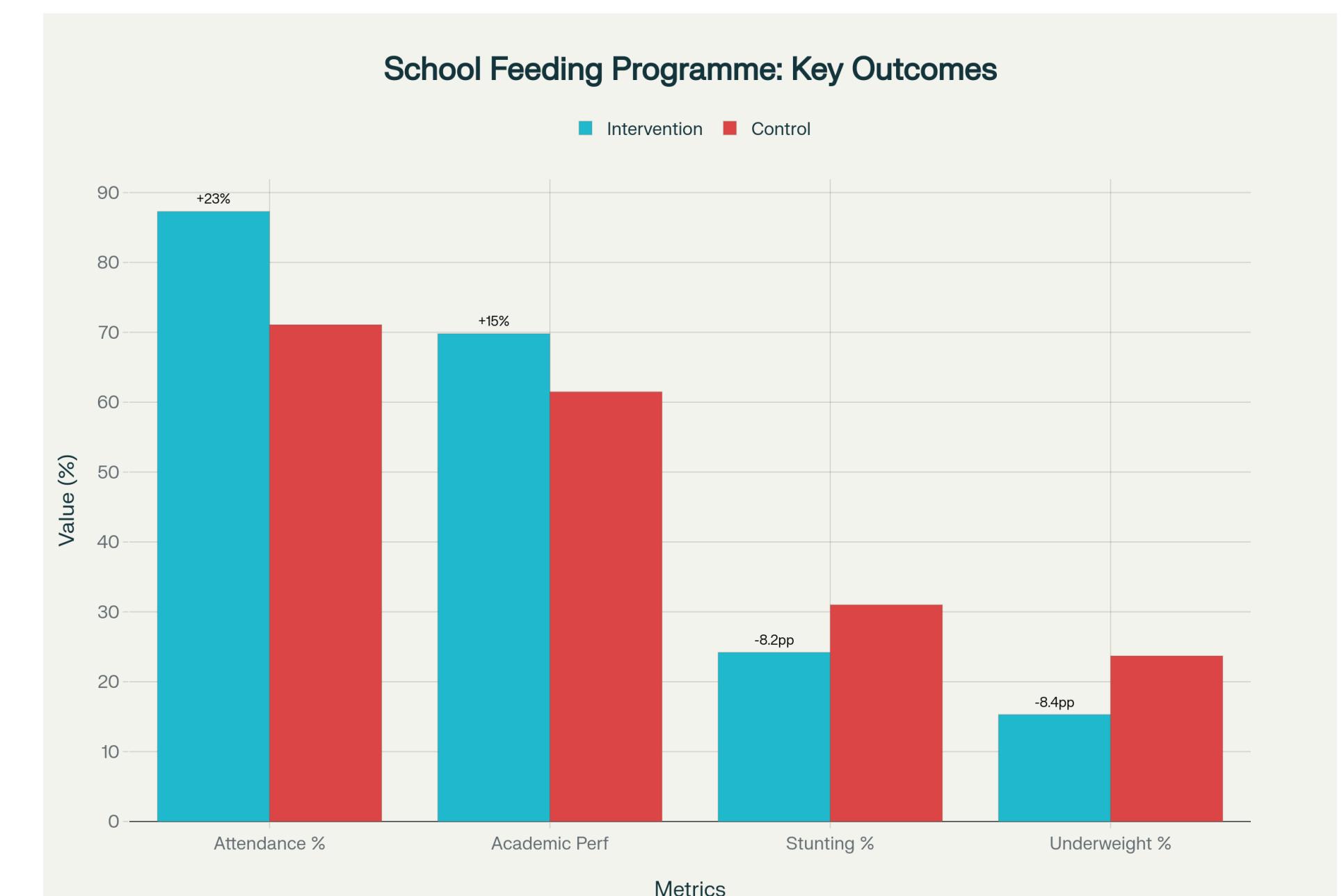


Fig 2: School Feeding Program: Key outcomes

## 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.

## 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.

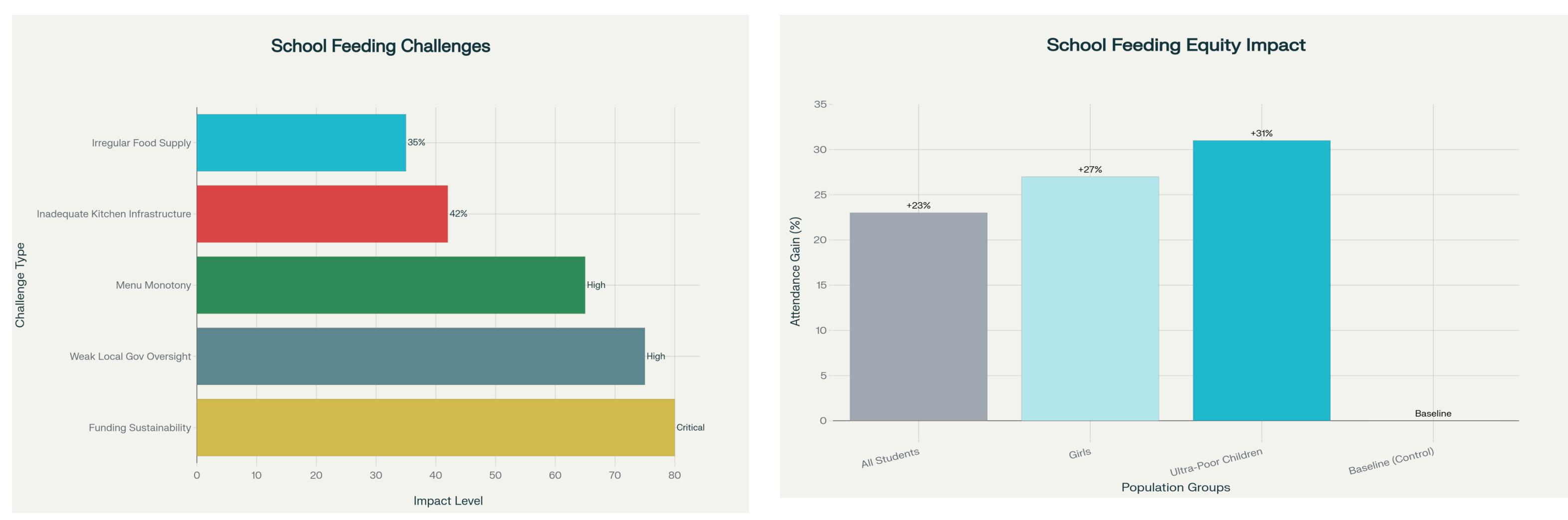


Fig: School Feeding Challenges & Equity Impact

## 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.

## 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.

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