

Education On Two Wheels: A Case Study Of Mayurbhanj District Of Odisha

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The brightest and most educated youth in the country are its greatest asset when it comes to solving pressing national problems. The impact of the Free Bicycle Scheme initiated in Mayurbhanj, Odisha, with a focus on its role in enhancing educational access and retention among rural students, particularly girls. This case study investigates how mobility often an overlooked barrier in remote and tribal-dominated regions, influences school attendance and academic engagement. The study emphasizes noteworthy increases in enrollment rates, lower dropout rates and improved timeliness among recipients, drawing on both primary field data and secondary sources. In addition, it looks at the scheme's socioeconomic and gender-based aspects, highlighting how a straightforward intervention—bicycle—can have a significant impact on creating gender equity, empowering communities and closing the gap in schooling between urban and rural areas. According to the research, these focused mobility initiatives are effective instruments for social change as well as transportation.

Introduction

Mayurbhanj is a tribally dominated district in the center of Odisha that is renowned for its stunning natural surroundings and rich cultural heritage. Despite the region's rich cultural heritage, infrastructure and educational opportunities are severely limited, particularly in rural and isolated areas. Mobility has emerged as a subtle but substantial obstacle among these, especially for school-age children who frequently walk miles to get to their classrooms. In order to address this problem, the Government implemented the Free Bicycle Scheme which aims to close the actual and perceived gap between students and schools.

This article examines how gender parity, social empowerment and educational achievements have all changed dramatically in Mayurbhanj as a result of a straightforward intervention: giving pupils bicycles.

Background of the Scheme

The Free Bicycle Scheme is an initiative of the state Government that intends to assist high school students, especially females, from low-income homes. As part of this initiative, free bicycles are provided to Class IX students to ensure convenient, safe and timely transportation to and from school.

The aim is to reduce dropout rates, boost attendance and encourage higher educational achievement by eliminating the physical strain of long commutes—particularly in areas like Mayurbhanj, where access is often impeded by hilly terrain and a lack of public transit.

Research Methodology

This case study is based on a mixed-method approach that includes:

1. Primary data collection was done by interviewing Headmasters, parents and students in three Blocks of Mayurbhanj District.
2. Field observations to evaluate the influence of bicycles on students' daily life and their use in real time Primary data collection was done by interviewing Headmasters, Parents and students in three blocks of Mayurbhanj District.

ANALYSIS OF COLLECTED DATA FROM THE HEADMASTERS “FREE BICYCLE SCHEME”

Table 1.1 represents the responses of the Headmasters in the Free Bicycle Scheme regarding the impact and execution of the Scheme. 96.66 % of Headmasters strongly agreed that the scheme motivates the students to study 90% were satisfied with the bicycle distribution process. 90% of the headmasters agreed that free bicycles improved the punctuality as well as attendance. 90% agreed that it improved the students’ timeliness, 70% agreed that it developed academic achievement and 10% were neutral. The logistical influence of bicycles is evident; they lower absenteeism and tardiness which indirectly benefits academics. 96.67% concurred that the program helps students with their maintenance needs. The overall impact has been deemed satisfactory by 93.33% of the community and 63.33% of headmasters. 43.34% of respondents admit that the plan is challenging to implement and 26.67% specifically mention differences in opinion regarding its efficacy. 83.34% think additional assistance is required to improve the benefits of the system.

Table 1.1. Responses of the Headmasters in the Free Bicycle Scheme

Items	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Free Bicycle Scheme Motivates Students to Study	0	0	3.33	63.33	33.33
Bicycle Distribution Satisfies Students	0	3.33	6.67	70	20
Free Bicycles Improve Punctuality and Attendance	0	0	10	70	20
The scheme Supports Student Maintenance Needs	0	3.33	0	76.67	20

Bicycle Program Boosts Academic Achievement	6.67	3.33	20	56.67	13.33
Bicycles Improve Students' Timeliness.	0	6.67	3.33	70	20
Challenges Exist in Implementing the Scheme.	3.33	26.67	16.67	36.67	16.67
More Support Needed to Maximize Scheme Benefits	0	10	6.67	76.67	6.67
Headmaster Satisfied with Bicycle Scheme Impact	0	3.33	6.67	63.33	26.67
Community Satisfied with Bicycle Scheme.	0	0	6.67	70	23.33

Fig.1.1 HM Responses on Free Bicycle Scheme Motivates Students to Study

The Headmaster's response was collected on the free bicycle scheme and presented in Fig. 1.1. The figure demonstrates that more than 63% of headmasters agree that the free bicycle scheme motivates the students to study. The figure also depicts that more than 33.3% of headmasters strongly agree with the statement that the free bicycle scheme motivates students to learn.

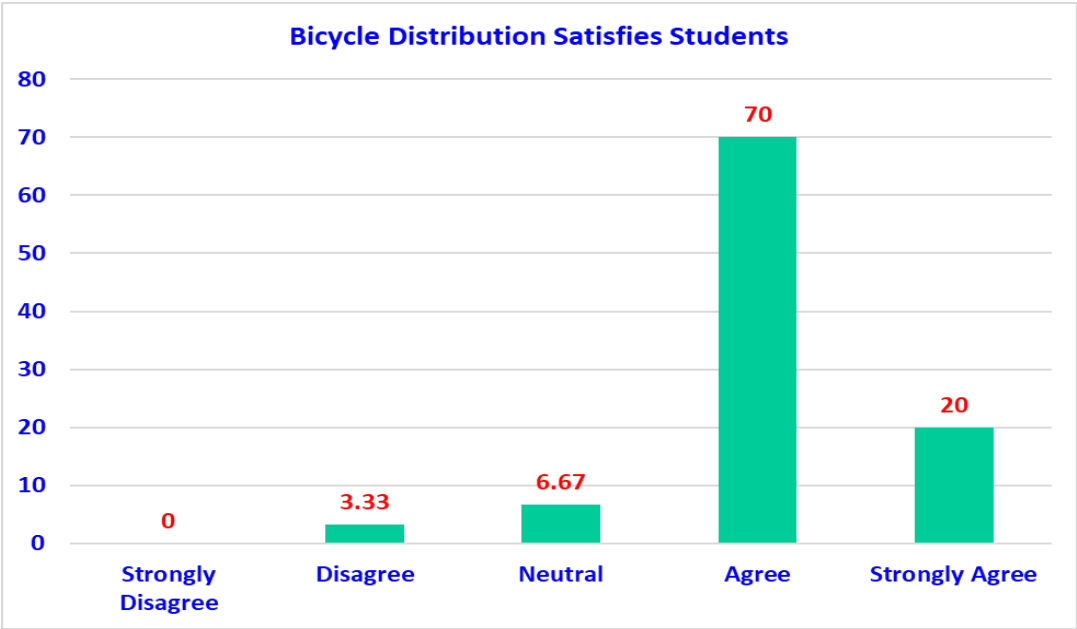


Fig.1.1 HM Responses on Bicycle Distribution Satisfy Students

Fig.1.2 highlights the headmaster's response to students' satisfaction due to bicycle distribution. The figure demonstrates that 70% of headmasters agree that the students are satisfied with the bicycle distribution. 20% of headmasters strongly agree with this statement, while 6.67% remain silent.

Fig. highlights the headmaster's response to improving students' punctuality and attendance due to bicycle distribution. The figure demonstrates that 70% of headmasters agree that the student's punctuality rate, along with attendance, is increased due to the implementation of the bicycle distribution. 20% of headmasters strongly agree with this statement, while 10% remain silent. In general, it can be said that the free bicycle scheme is a good initiative taken by the Government.

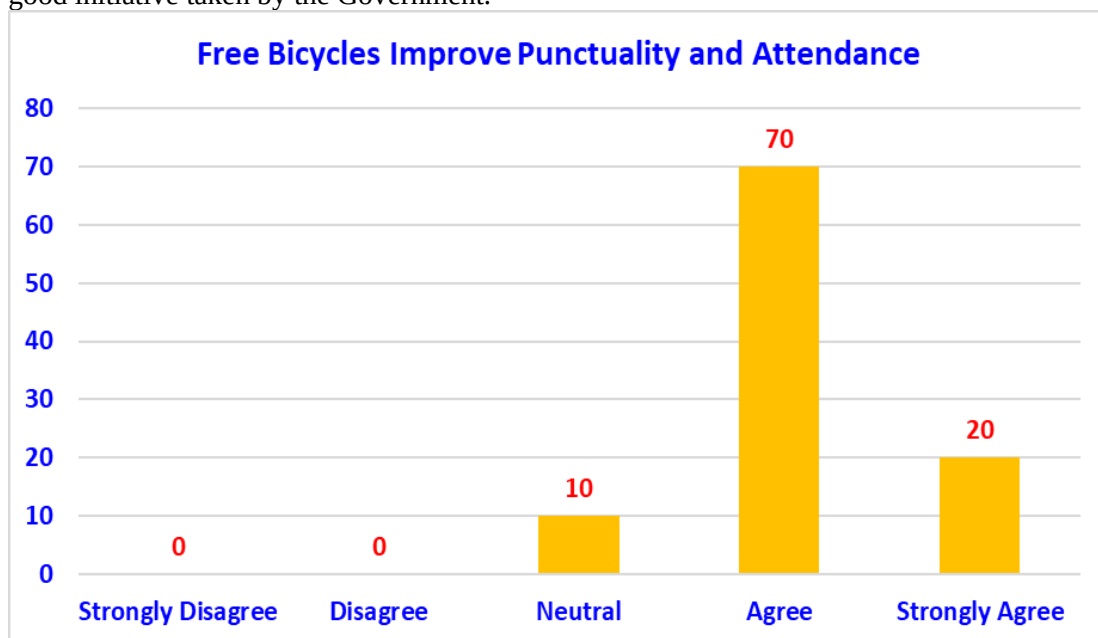


Fig 1.2 HM Responses on Bicycle scheme about the Punctuality and Attendance

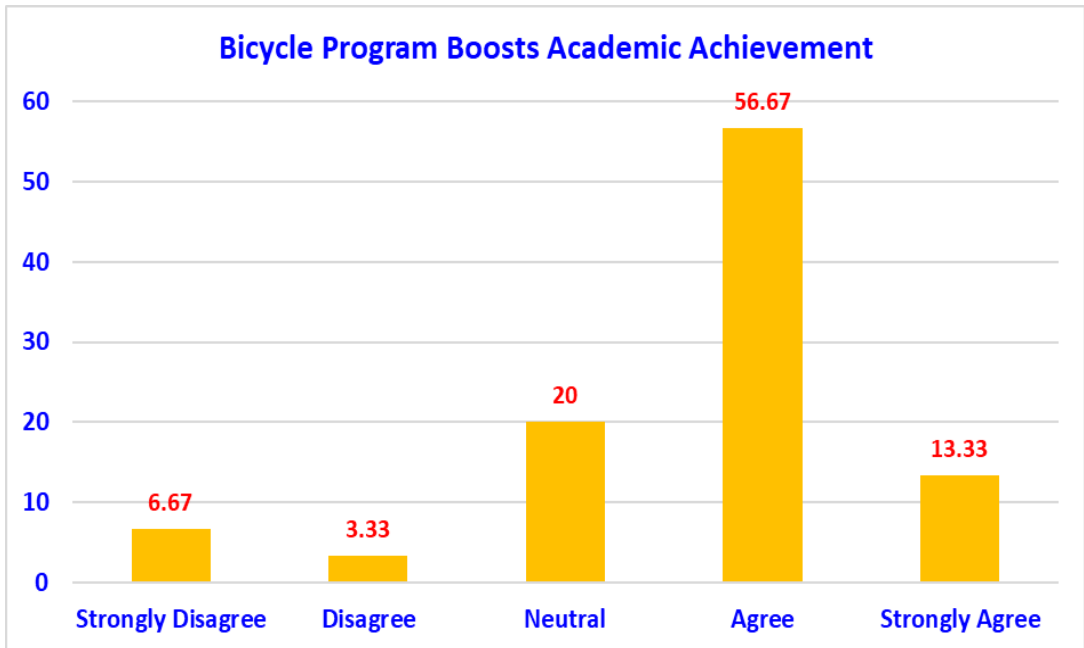
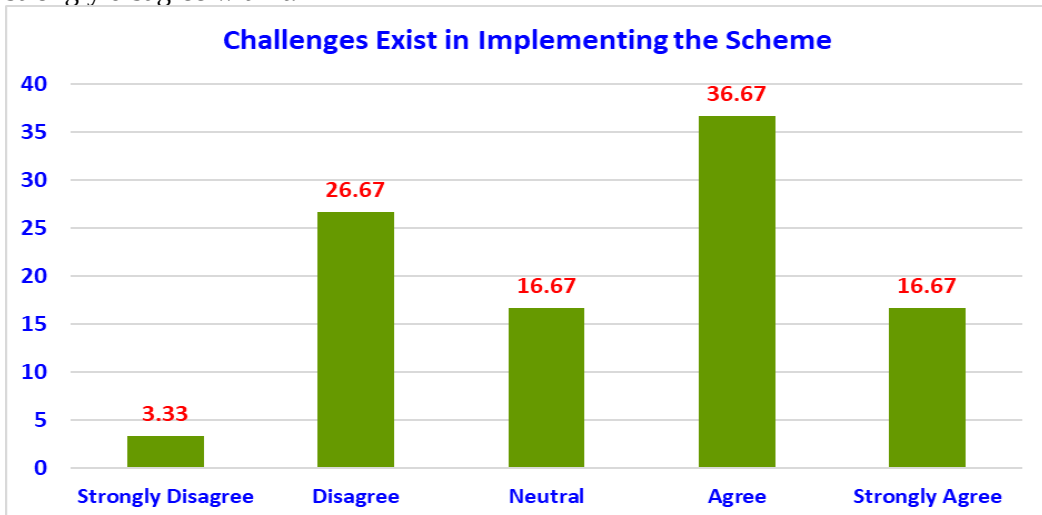


Fig.1.3 HM Responses on Bicycle Program Boosts Academic Achievement

Fig.1.3. highlights the headmaster's response to boost the academic achievement of the students due to bicycle distribution. The figure demonstrates that 56.67% of headmasters agree that the academic achievement of the school is influenced by the bicycle distribution. 13.33% of headmasters strongly agree with this statement, while 20% remain silent and 6.67% strongly disagree with it.



1.4 HM Responses on challenges in implementing the Scheme

Fig.1.4 highlights the headmaster's response towards the challenges that exist in implementing the scheme. The figure demonstrates that 36.67% of headmasters agree that challenges are there in implementing the scheme. 16.67% of headmasters strongly agree with this statement, while 16.67% remain silent and 26.67% disagree with it. This result depicts that challenges are there in implementing the scheme.

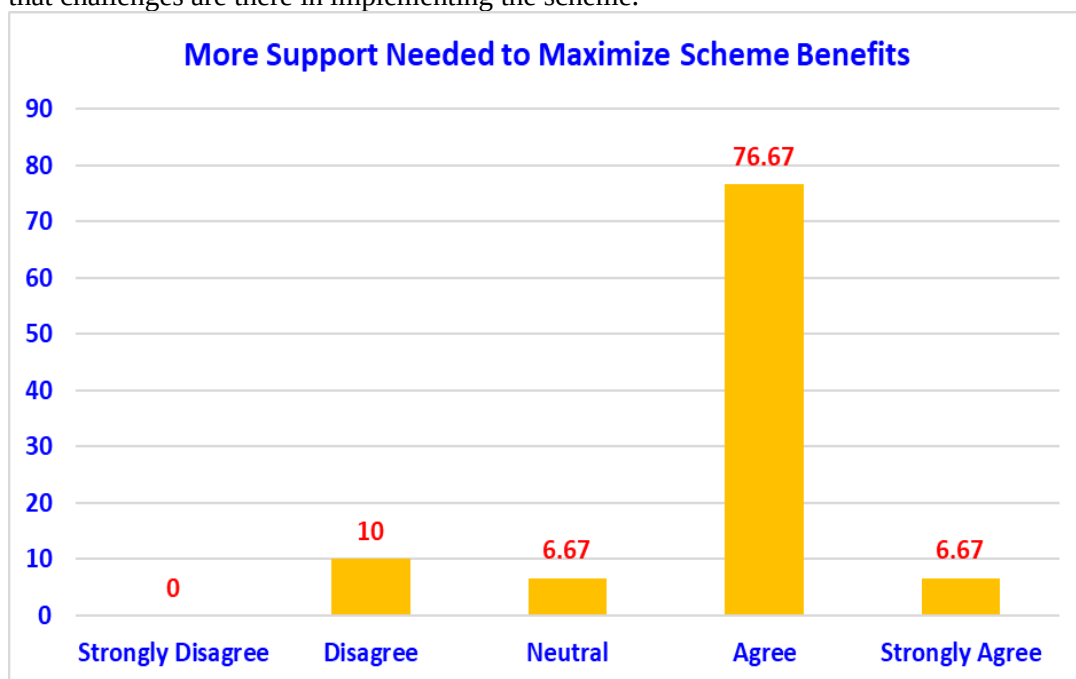


Fig 1.5 HM Responses on support for maximizing the benefits of the Scheme

Fig.1.5 highlights the headmaster's response to the required support to maximize the scheme benefits for the school. The figure demonstrates that 76.67% of headmasters agree that they need more support to maximize the benefits of the scheme. 6.67% of headmasters strongly agree with this statement, while 6.67% remain silent and 10% strongly disagree with it.

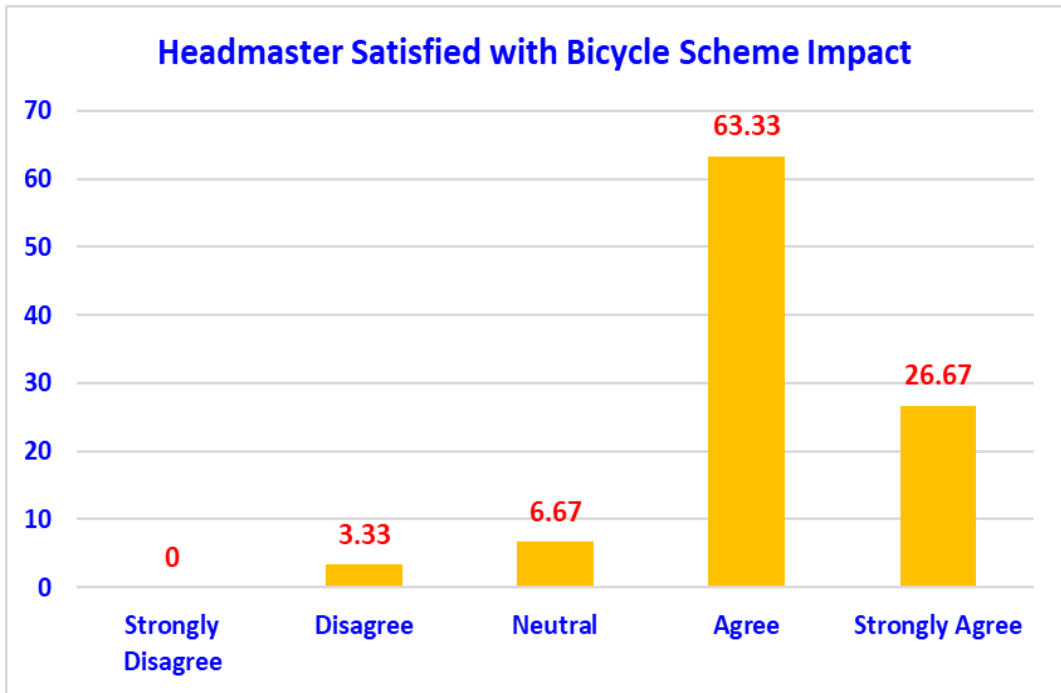


Fig 1.6 HM Responses on satisfaction of the Scheme

Fig.1.6. highlights the headmaster's response to the impact of the bicycle scheme. The figure demonstrates that 63.33% of headmasters agree that they are satisfied with the impact of the bicycle scheme. 26.67% of headmasters strongly agree with this statement, while 6.67% remain silent and 3.33% disagree with it.

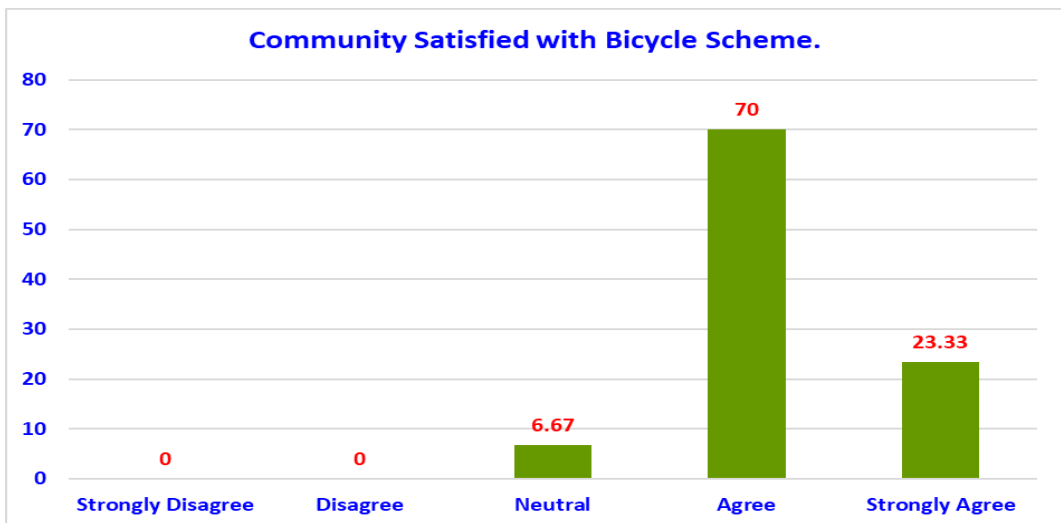


Fig. 1.7 HM Responses on Community Satisfied with Bicycle Scheme

Fig.1.7. highlights the headmaster's response to the community's satisfaction with the implementation of the scheme. The figure demonstrates that 70% of headmasters agree that community members are satisfied with the bicycle scheme. 23.33% of headmasters strongly agree with this statement, while 6.67% remain silent on it. The result demonstrates that community members are satisfied with the bicycle scheme, according to the headmaster's opinion.

INTERPRETATION

The program serves as a strong motivating incentive, increasing learner satisfaction and accessibility. Bicycles have a logistical impact; they reduce tardiness and absenteeism, which enhances academic performance indirectly. The program is well-liked by administrators and the general public and it has widespread support outside of students. Despite the plan's effectiveness, it requires more logistical support, either for replacement, distribution or maintenance operations. The program improves learner happiness and accessibility by acting as a powerful motivating incentive. The logistical influence of bicycles is evident; they lower absenteeism and tardiness, which indirectly benefits academics. The program has broad support outside of students and is valued both administratively and socially. Although the plan is successful, it needs improved logistical assistance, possibly for distribution, replacement or maintenance procedures. The program boosts accessibility and student happiness by acting as a powerful motivating incentive. The logistical impact of bicycles is obvious; they lower absenteeism and tardiness, which benefits pupils in the classroom in a roundabout way. The program has broad support outside of students and is well-liked by administrators and the general public. Even with its success, the idea still needs greater logistical assistance for procedures like maintenance, distribution and replacement.

ANALYSIS OF COLLECTED DATA FROM THE PARENTS UNDER THE FREE BICYCLE SCHEME

Table 2.1 represents the responses of the parents about the Free Bicycle Scheme, where 98.67% were aware of the scheme and its benefits, whereas 1.33% were not aware of the scheme. 91.33% of parents agreed with the statement that the attendance of the children is increasing day by day, whereas 8.67% were not in agreement with the statement. 96% of parents were satisfied with the safety and convenience of the bicycle, whereas 4% were not satisfied with the same. 77.33% agreed with the problems related to maintenance of the bicycle, whereas 22.67% did not agree with this. 95.33% agreed that the Free bicycle scheme benefits the students and also their family members because of its usability in their daily work, whereas 22.67% did not agree with the statement.

92.67% agreed that the free bicycle scheme affected their family life in a positive direction, but 7.33% did not agree with the statement. 95.33% agreed with the statement that the scheme encouraged parents to enroll in the school, whereas 4.67% were not in favor of the statement. 92.67% of parents were in favor of the statement that they were encouraging others to send their children to school but 7.33% were not encouraging others to send their children to school. 92% of parents were in favor of the school management committee getting the benefit of the scheme, but 8% were not in favor of the management committee getting the

benefit of the scheme. 98.67% of parents were happy with availing the benefits of the scheme, but only 1.33% were not satisfied with the scheme.

Table 1.2 Responses of the Parents about the Free Bicycle Scheme

Sl No	Items	Yes	No
1	Aware of the Free Bicycle Scheme	77.33	22.67
2	The Free-Cycle Program Boosts Children's School Attendance.	53.33	46.67
3	Satisfied with Bicycle Safety and Convenience	77.33	22.67
4	Problems with Bicycle Maintenance	48	52
5	Program Benefits for Family and Child	60	40
6	Impact on Family's Daily Routine	77.33	22.67
7	The Program Encourages School Enrollment	95.33	4.67
8	Encourage Others to Use Govt. Education Schemes	53.33	46.67
9	Assist the School Via the Management Committee	92	8
10	Happy With the Program's Role in Motivating Students	61.33	38.33

In the present study, ten questions were asked of the parents to collect information regarding the implementation of the bicycle scheme. The questions are designed in the form of a two-point scale. The responses are reported in the following figures.

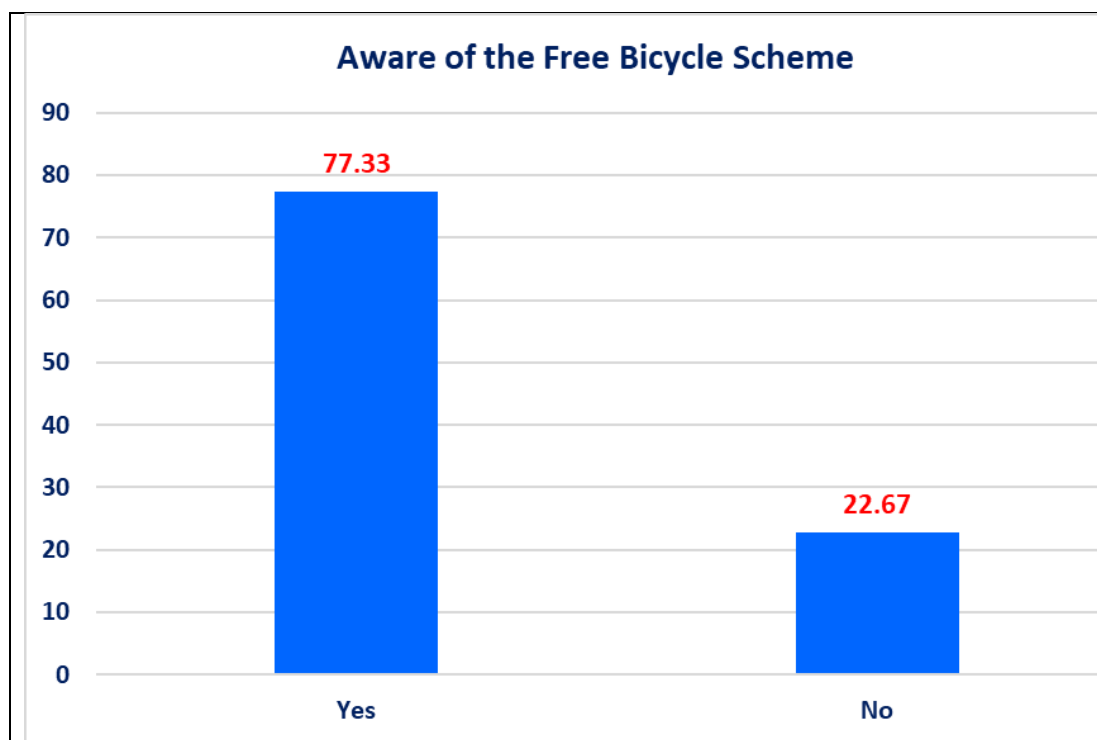


Fig. 1.8 Parents' Responses on Awareness of the Free Bicycle Scheme

The parents' response towards the awareness of the free bicycle scheme was presented in Fig. 4.60. The figure demonstrates that the majority of the parents (77.33%) are aware of the free bicycle scheme. The figure demonstrates that parents have the awareness towards the implementation of bicycle scheme.

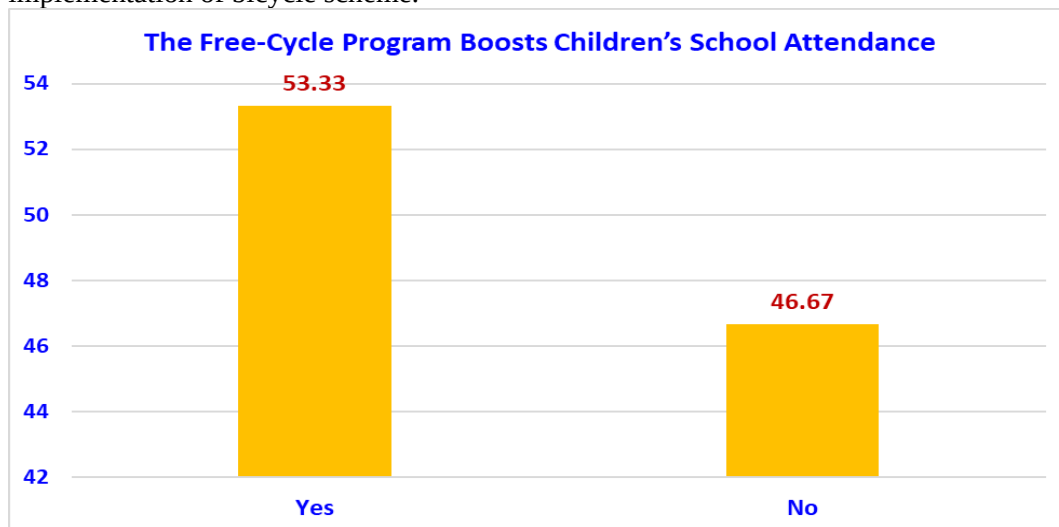
**Fig.1.9 Parents Responses on The Free-Cycle Program Boosts Children's School Attendance**

Fig.1.10 demonstrates the parents' response towards the students' attendance by the implementation of the free-cycle scheme. The figure depicts that 53.33% of parents opined that the student's attendance was enhanced due to the implementation of the free-cycle program. The implementation of a free cycle program motivates the students to come to the school regularly. The result depicts that the incentives motivate the students to attend the school regularly. They may have some financial burden. They may face some difficulties in reaching the school on time, or the distance between the school and the house may hamper their regularity. This problem may be minimized after getting the bicycle from the government and they are regular in the school.

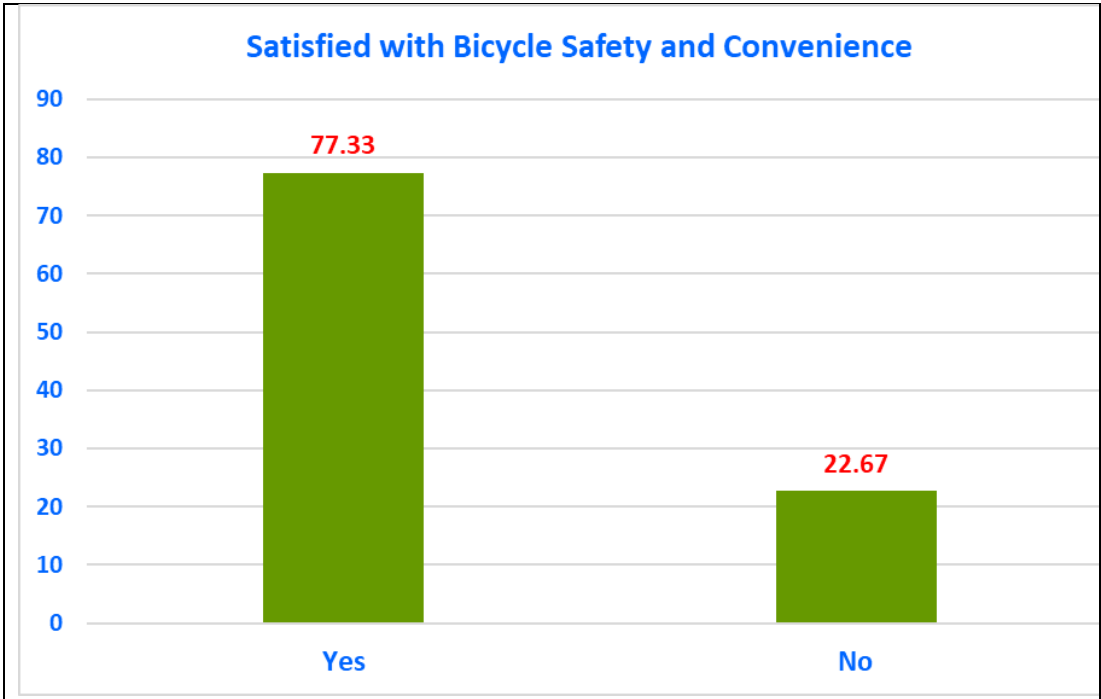


Fig.1.11 Parents' Responses on Satisfaction with Bicycle Safety and Convenience

Fig.1.11 highlights the parents' satisfaction with bicycle safety and convenience. The figure demonstrates that more than 77.33% of parents are satisfied with the safety of the bicycle they received. Only 22.67% of parents responded that they are not satisfied with the safety and convenience of the cycle they received.

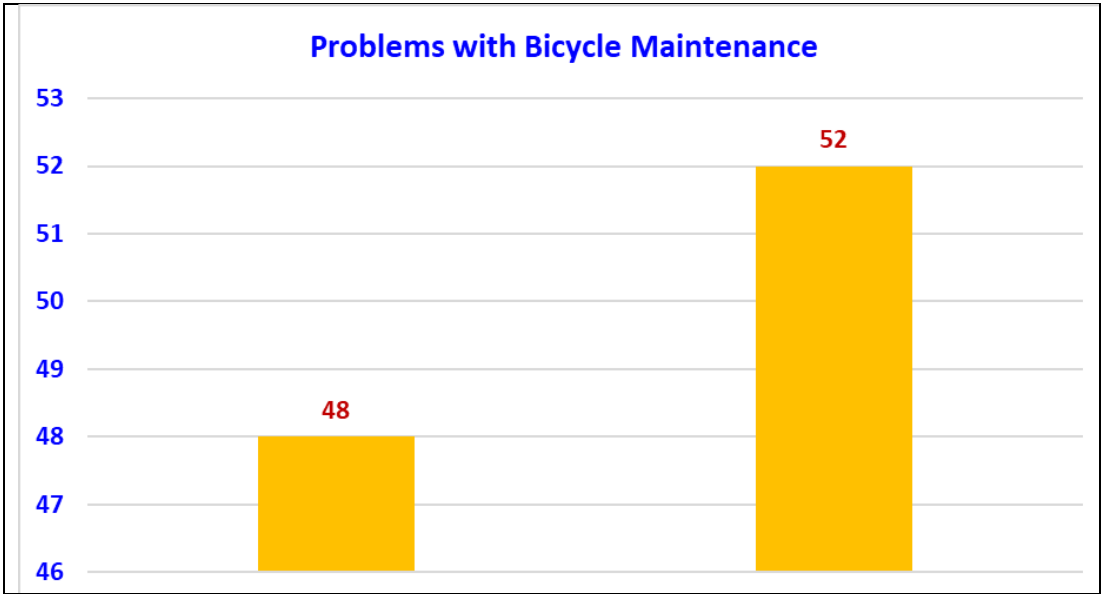


Fig.1.12 Parents' Responses on Problems with Bicycle Maintenance

Fig. 4.63 highlights the parents' response to the maintenance of the bicycle. The figure demonstrates that 48% of parents face problems in the maintenance of the bicycle, while 52% did not face any problems.

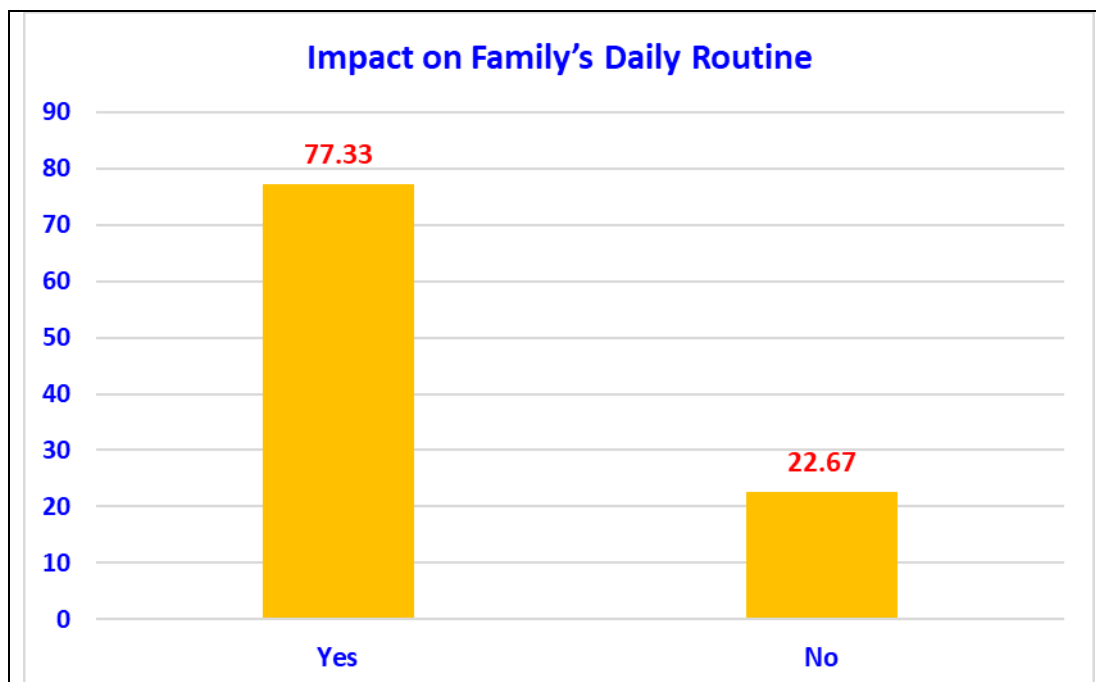
**Fig.1.13 Parents' Responses on Impact on Family's Daily Routine**

Fig.1.13 highlights the responses of the parents towards the impact of this scheme on family's daily routine. The figure demonstrates that 77.33% of parents responded that the implementation of the scheme has the impact on family's daily routine. After getting the cycle they also managed many works to perform in the day-to-day life.

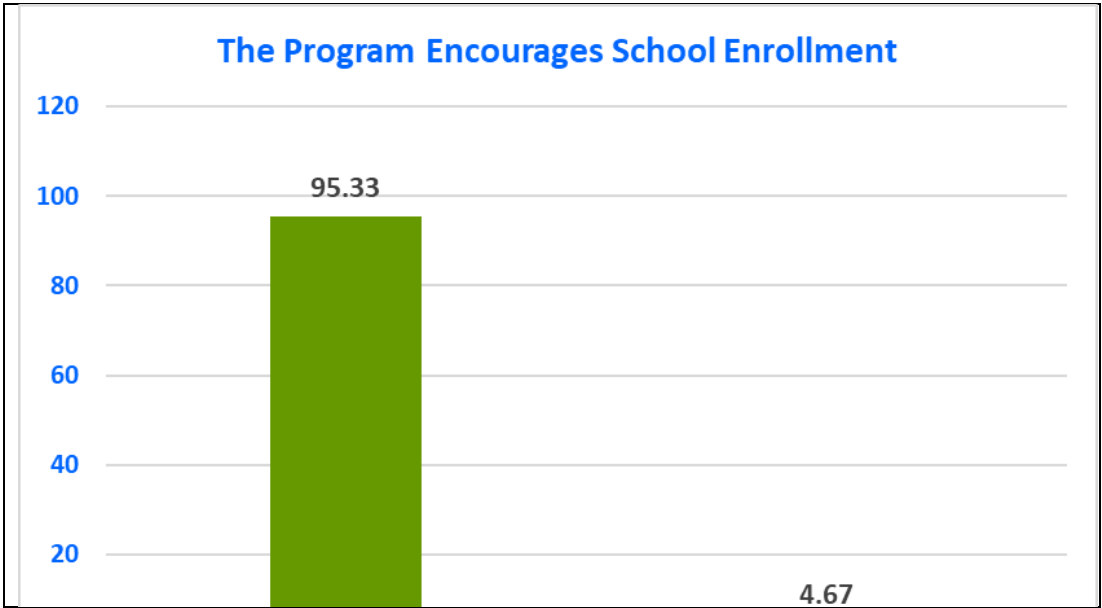


Fig.1.14 Parents' Responses on The Program Encourages School Enrollment

Fig.1.14 highlights the responses of the parents towards the enrollment. The figure demonstrates that 95.33% of parents responded as the enrollment rate enhanced due to the implementation of the scheme.

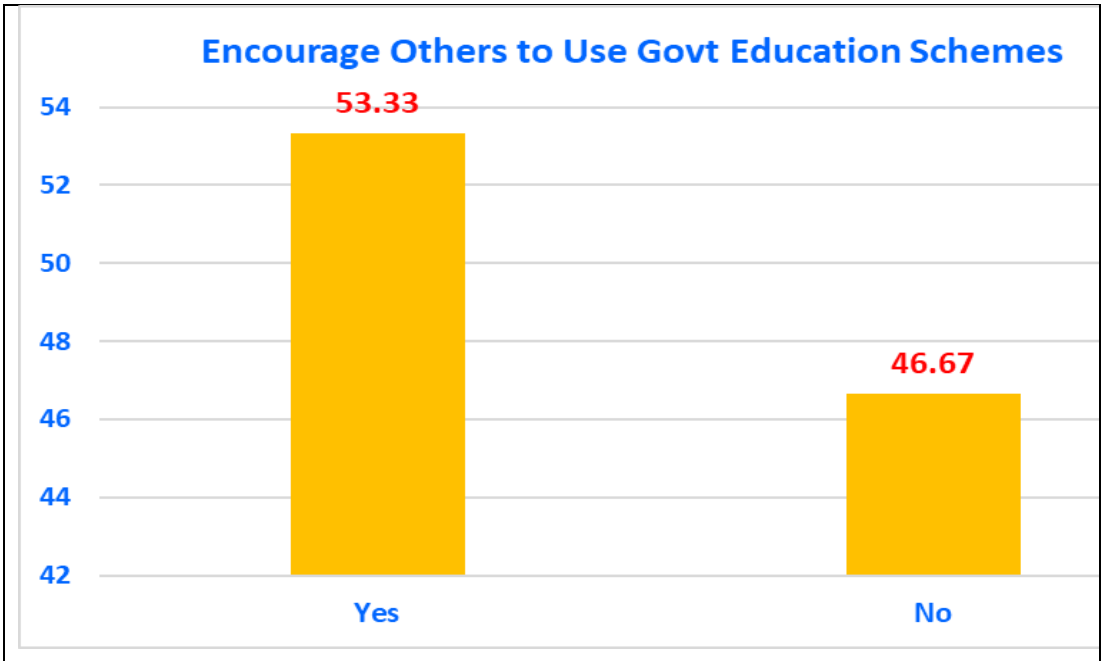


Fig.1.15 Parents' Responses on Encourage Others to Use Govt. Education Schemes

Fig.1.15 highlights the parents' responses on encourage others to use the government education schemes. It was reported that 53.33% of parents opined yes to encourage others to use the government education schemes, while others response came as no. The result depicts that the parents getting benefits by the implementation of such schemes will encourage others to take the benefits from the govt. schemes.

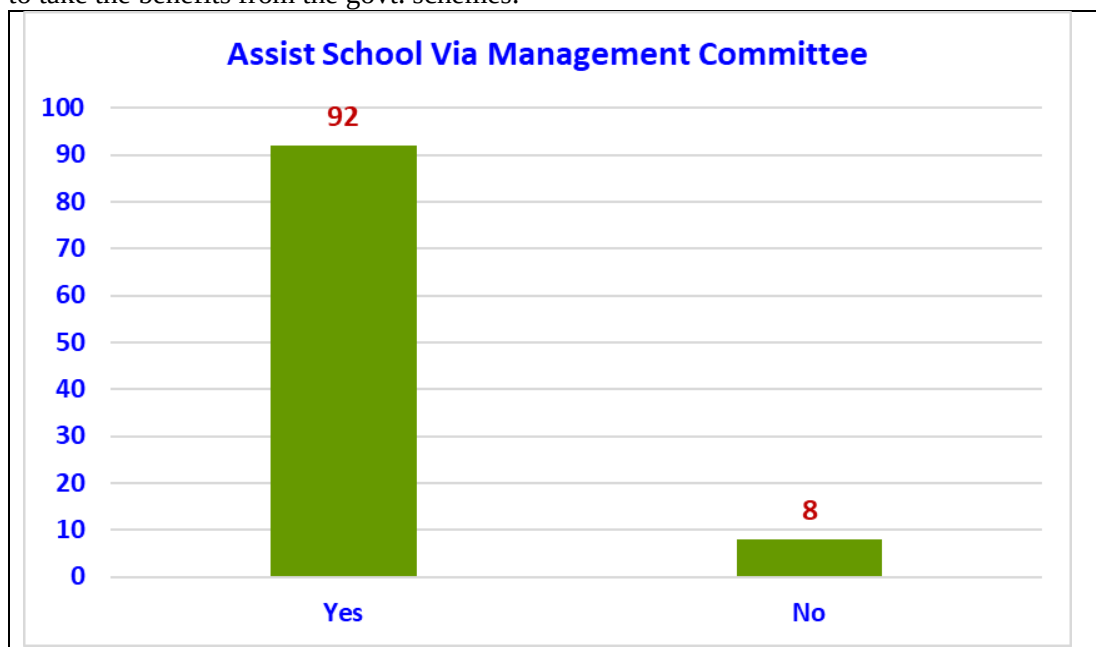


Fig. 1.16 Parents' Responses on Assist School Via Management Committee

There was a statement "Assist school via management committee" and to this statement, 92% of parent said yes (Fig.1.16). They responded that the scheme helped the school through school management committee. The committee also helped the school to reached the student and to offered the benefits of the scheme in due time.

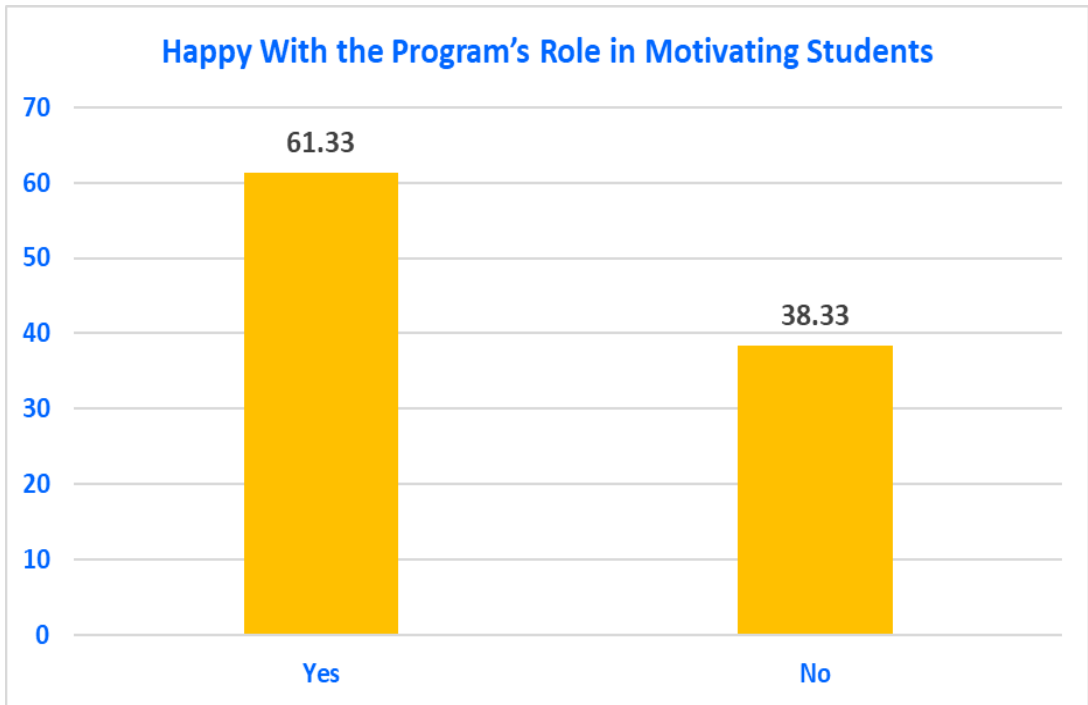


Fig. 1.17 Parents' Responses on Happy with the Program's Role in Motivating Students

Fig.1.17 demonstrates the parent's responses towards the role of the scheme in motivating the students. The majority (61.33%) of the parents informed that they are happy with the role of the scheme. The scheme also motivating the students to enhance their learning. The students residing far away from the school are easily come to the school and able to learn.

Interpretation

This high degree of awareness suggests that the plan has received adequate publicity and has successfully reached its target market. practical efficacy of the plan in guaranteeing consistent attendance and lowering logistical obstacles. This shows confidence in their kids' safety and trust in the bicycles' quality. The program helped families to manage their time more effectively and lessened the everyday stress associated with school commutes. The program has had a cascading effect on education promotion.

It is evident from the parents' comments that the Free Bicycle Scheme is highly valued and regarded as a worthwhile government program. It has helped to enhance family routines, lessen travel stress, boost punctuality and improve school attendance. More community support and family involvement have also been spurred by the program. Through localized support systems, a minor maintenance concern (mentioned above) could be handled. Overall, the program is positioned by parental feedback as an effective and long-lasting intervention in the field of education. An overwhelming sense of positivity is indicated by the majority of indicators being above 90%. The maintenance of bicycles is a significant challenge, since one in five persons report difficulties.

The program has produced notable social and educational benefits, such as improved motivation, attendance and even the capacity to oversee family routines. Government initiatives and educational pursuits. This data demonstrates how the bicycle program can boost school-age students' mood and motivation while also taking care of practical concerns.

ANALYSIS OF THE STUDENTS' DATA UNDER FREE BICYCLE SCHEME

Table (1.3) represented the responses of the students about Free Bicycle Scheme. 93% of students are aware about the free bicycle scheme of Odisha. The launching of the bicycle scheme also impacts on the attendance of the student in the school. The table demonstrates that majority (90.67%) of the students have a favorable impact on their attendance. After lunching the free bicycle scheme and getting the bicycle, the students are getting benefit for the travel time, increases their punctuality at school. 94% of respondents said riding a bicycle shortened their commute, and 93.33% said it improved their punctuality to school.

95.33% expressed satisfaction with the bicycles' condition and safety, while 87.33% expressed satisfaction with the program as a whole and how it affected their trip from home to school. 96.67% of respondents said that riding a bicycle helped them in balancing their everyday activities and academic obligations. 88.67% of respondents stated that they will motivate others in their community to utilize such government schemes. 96% of students responded that their Parents were pleased with the scheme. Almost all students (98.67%) indicated satisfaction with the program, demonstrating widespread support.

Table 1.3 Responses of Students in Free Bicycle Scheme in percentage

Sl No	Items	Yes	No
1	Free Bicycle Scheme Planned by the Government of Odisha	93.33	6.67
2	Scheme Increases Your School Attendance	76	24
3	Bicycle Scheme Affects Your Travel Time from School	18	82
4	Having A Bicycle Has Helped You to Be More Punctual for School	93.33	6.67
5	Satisfied With the Safety and Condition of The Bicycle Provided to You	95.33	4.67
6	Satisfied With the Free Bicycle Scheme and Its Impact on Your Home-To-School	65	35
7	Free Bicycle Scheme Affects Your Daily Activities Along with The School Work	30	70
8	Motivating Anyone from Your Locality to Avail Govt. Facility	88.67	11.33
9	Parents are Happy with the Bicycle Scheme	76	24

10	Are you Happy With the Free Bicycle Scheme Provided by the Government	98.67	1.33
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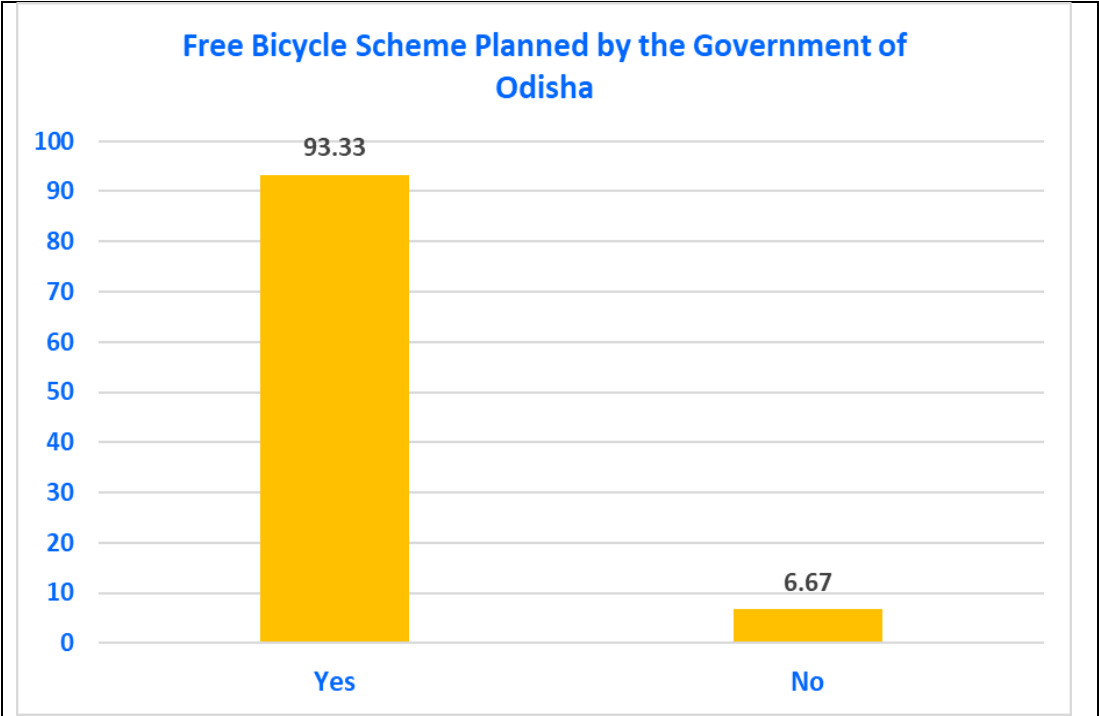


Fig.1.18 Students' Responses on Free Bicycle Scheme Planned by the Government of Odisha

Fig.1.18 demonstrates the student's response on free bicycle scheme planned by the government of Odisha. The majority of the students (93.33%) responded that they are satisfied with the free bicycle scheme launched by the government. The students are getting benefits by the implementation of the scheme. The students are easily come to the school after getting the bicycle freely from the government.

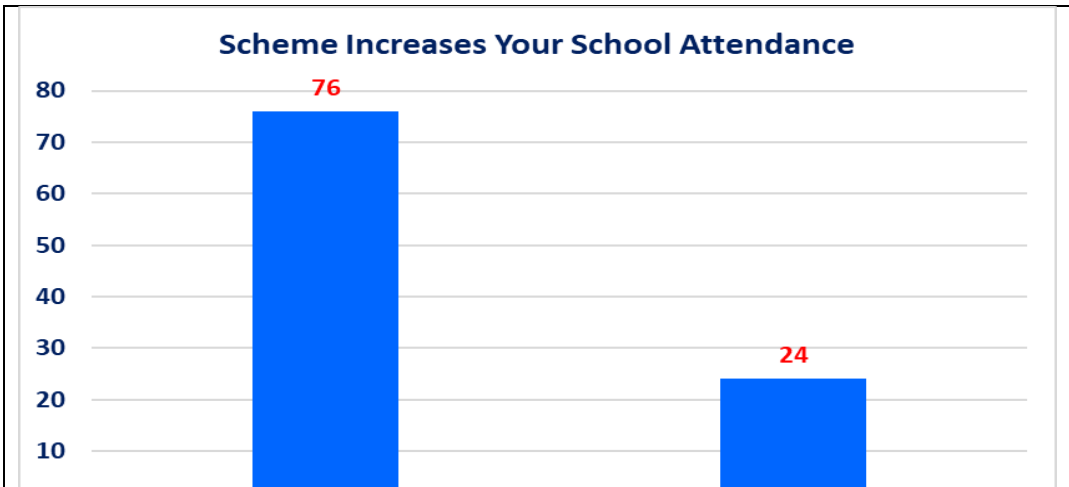


Fig.1.19 Students' Responses on Scheme Increases Your School Attendance

Fig.1.19 highlights the student's response about their attendance. Seventy-six (76%) percentage students responded that the attendance of the students is increased due to the implementation of the scheme. The implementation of the scheme motivates the students to come to the school regularly and hence, the attendance of the student is increased.

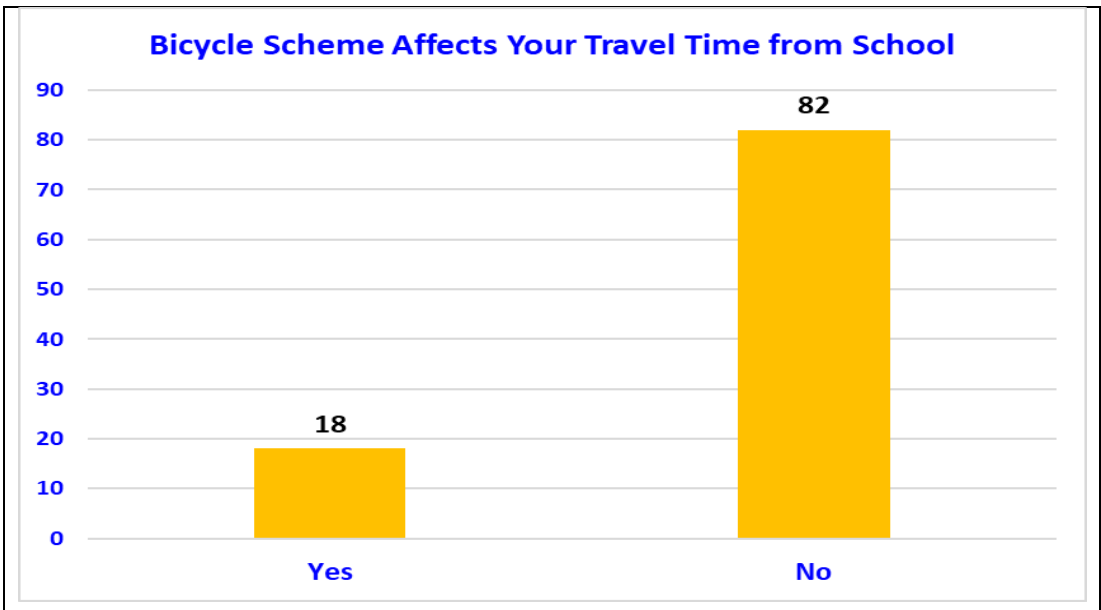


Fig. 1.20 Students' Responses on Bicycle Scheme Affects Your Travel Time from School

Fig.1.20 demonstrates the student's response on the effect of the bicycle scheme on travel time. The figure depicts that the majority (82%) of the students are getting benefits of the launching the scheme. After getting the bicycle, it helps them to reduce their school time.

Before getting the bicycle, they are coming to the school through walking and after getting the cycle, they regularly come to the school with the help of the bicycle.

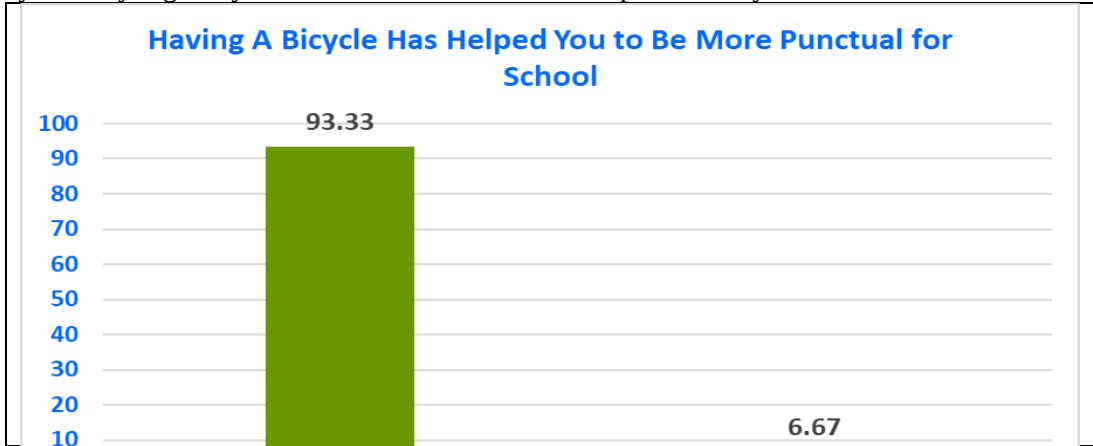


Fig. 1.21 Students' Responses regarding Punctuality

More than 93% of students responded that they are more punctual in school after getting the bicycle from the government through school (Fig.1.21). It helps them to minimize the distance between their home and the school.

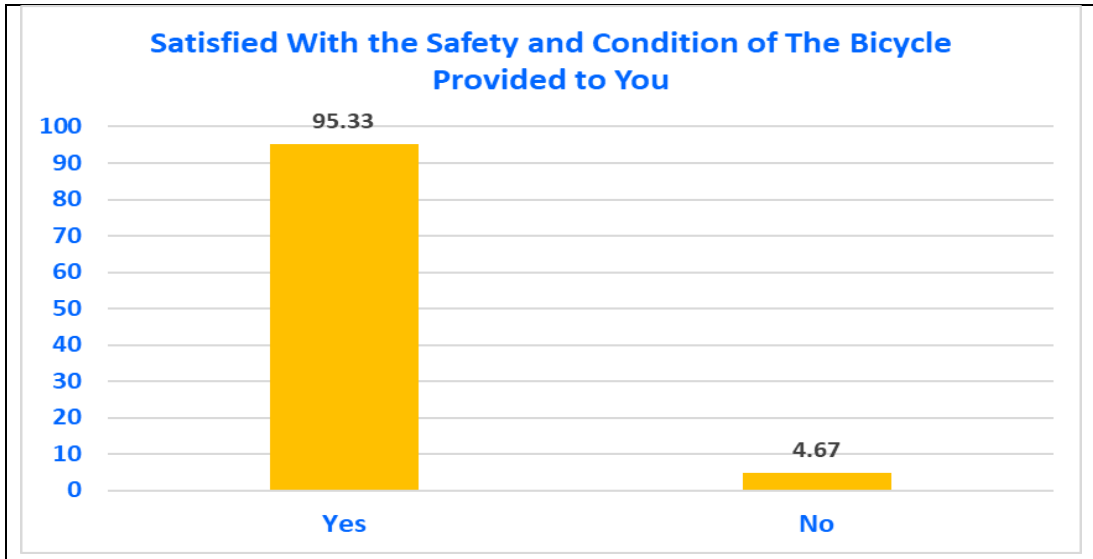


Fig. 1.22 Students' Responses on safety concerns

Table 1.22 demonstrates the student's response with the safety of the bicycle they received. The figure demonstrates that majority (95.33%) the students are satisfied with the safety of the bicycle.

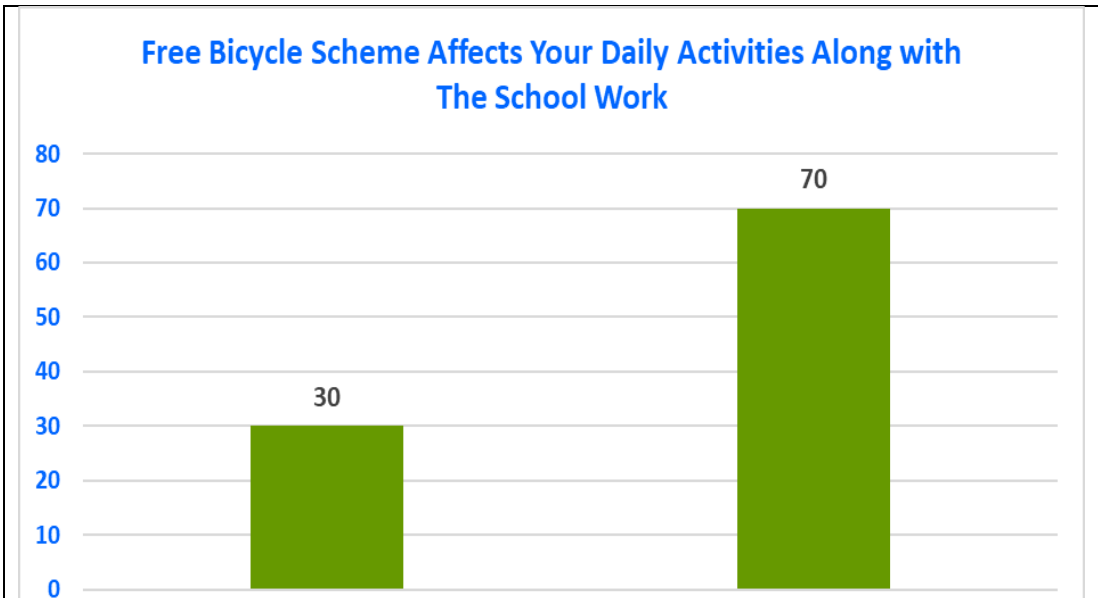


Fig. 1.23 Students' Responses on the effect of daily activities

Fig.1.23 highlights the student's response regarding the effect of the scheme on daily activities. 70% students are responded that their daily activities are not hampered by the implementation of the bicycle schemes, while 30% responded that the daily activities are hampered by the implementation of the scheme. The result depicts that there is no relationship between the daily work with free bicycle schemes.

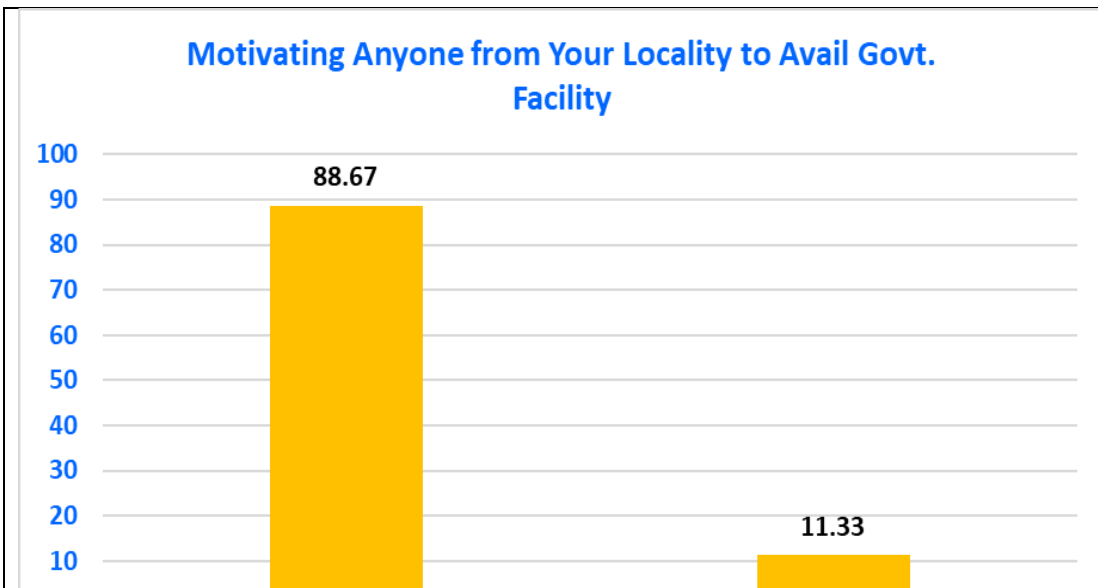


Fig. 1.24 Students' Responses on Motivating others to avail facilities

Fig.1.24 demonstrates the students' response on motivating others of the locality to avail government facilities. More than 88% students responded that they will motivate other students of their locality to avail the government facilities. Basically this scheme is associated with educational sector.

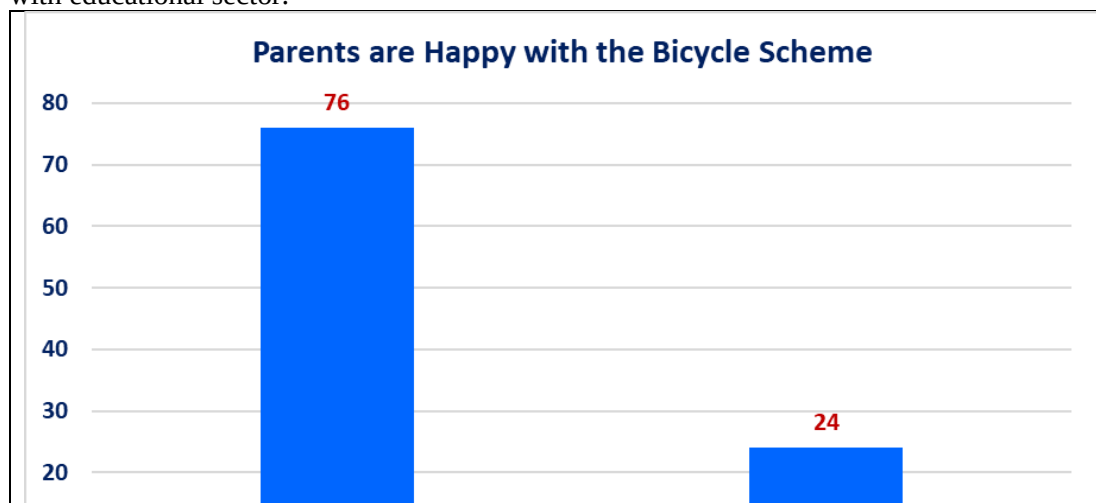


Fig.1.25 Students' Responses on satisfaction of the Scheme

Fig.1.25 demonstrates the students' response on their parents' happiness with the bicycle scheme. 76% responded that their parents are happy with the bicycle

4.7.3.1 Headmasters

According to the results obtained and analyzed on bicycle scheme, most of the headmaster are informed that the scheme was motivated the students to continuing their study. They answered that the students are satisfied with bicycle initiatives. After the implementation of the scheme, the attendance of the students and their punctuality increased. This scheme also helps the students to improve their academic achievement. Most of the headmasters are satisfied with the impact of the scheme. It was reported that more support was needed for maximize the scheme benefits.

4.7.3.2 Parents

Parents are aware about the free bicycle scheme launched by the government. The programme helps the student to increase their attendance. Parents are satisfied with the safety of the bicycle received by their child. It was also reported that the family's daily routine was hampered due to implementation of the scheme. This may be help in performing all other daily house works after the schooling hour. Parents are interested to inform other community members regarding the benefits of the scheme. They supported the schools through school management committee.

4.7.3.3 Students

The launching of the bicycle scheme also impacts on the attendance of the student in the school. The table demonstrates that majority (90.67%) of the students have a favorable impact on their attendance. After launching the free bicycle scheme and getting the bicycle, the students

are getting benefit for the travel time, increases their punctuality at school. 94% of respondents said riding a bicycle shortened their commute, and 93.33% said it improved their punctuality to school. 95.33% expressed satisfaction with the bicycles' condition and safety, while 87.33% expressed satisfaction with the program as a whole and how it affected their trip from home to school. 96.67% of respondents said that riding a bicycle helped them in balancing their everyday activities and academic obligations.

The scheme helped the students to increase the attendance of the students. There are so many benefits of lunching the schemes. Due to lunching of the schemes, the students can easily come to the school. They can also support their family after their schooling hour. They also motivate the other students of their locality to take benefits of this type of govt. schemes. The schemes not only help the students, but also help the family members, school communities, teachers and headmasters towards the academic growth of the school.

CHALLENGES AND LIMITATION

While the scheme has yielded positive outcomes, certain challenges persist:

- Poor road conditions in remote villages reduce the utility of bicycles.
- Lack of maintenance services and spare parts can make the bicycles unusable over time.
- Some students reported difficulty riding on hilly or forested paths, requiring targeted road development or alternative solutions.

EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE STUDY

The educational implications of implementing the educational schemes in the school are-

- Increasing the self-motivation of the students to learn
- Enhances the enrollment rate in the school.
- Enhances the attendance rate in the school
- Promotes collaborative work among the stakeholders
- Scope for growth and development of the academic excellence of the school
- Reduces the stress from the parents and the students' minds.
- No fear towards the financial burden

CONCLUSION

The Free Bicycle Scheme is proof that sometimes the most significant changes come from the simplest fixes. For hundreds of rural students what began as a means of transportation has evolved into a representation of freedom, strength, and hope. Initiatives like these provide important insights into how meeting basic necessities can open doors to learning and opportunity as we strive for inclusive and equitable education for everyone.

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