

## **ABSTRACT**

*Nutritious food plays a crucial role in supporting the growth, development, and cognitive abilities of school-aged children. Lack of adequate and balanced nutritional intake can lead to poor learning concentration and nutritional status issues in elementary school children. The free nutritious meal program at schools is one step taken to improve students' nutritional status and learning concentration. This study aims to determine the effect of providing free nutritious meals on changes in learning concentration and nutritional status of students at Doli-Doli Elementary School, Mandrehe District, in 2026. This study used a quantitative method with a quasi-experimental design using the Kolmogorov-Smirnov approach. The population in this study was all students at Doli-Doli Elementary School, Mandrehe District. The study sample consisted of 168 students selected using the Slovin formula. The variables studied included learning concentration and nutritional status. Learning concentration was measured using a concentration test sheet, while nutritional status was measured through weight and height measurements to calculate Body Mass Index (BMI). Data analysis used a paired sample t-test to determine differences before and after the provision of free nutritious meals. The results of the study showed an increase in student learning concentration after the provision of free nutritious meals. Furthermore, there was a change in students' nutritional status, indicating improvement after the intervention of the free nutritious meal program. The statistical test results showed a p-value of 0.001 ( $p < 0.05$ ), indicating a significant effect between the provision of free nutritious meals on changes in learning concentration and student nutritional status at Doli-Doli Elementary School, Mandrehe District, in 2026. The conclusion of this study indicates that the provision of free nutritious meals significantly increased learning concentration and improved the nutritional status of elementary school students. Therefore, the free nutritious meal program in schools is expected to continue to be implemented as a policy to improve student health and the quality of the learning process.*

**Keywords:** *free nutritious meals, learning concentration, nutritional status, elementary school students.*