



EVALUATION OF THE MIDDAY MEAL SCHEME IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT The Midday Meal Scheme, or PM-Poshan Shakti Nirman in Hindi, is a mandatory but free school meal programme in India designed to enhance the nutritional status of school-age children nationwide. The programme supplies free lunches on working days for children in government primary and upper primary schools, government-aided anganwadis (pre-school), madrasas and maqtabs. Serving 120 million children in over 1.27 million schools and Education Guarantee Scheme centres, the Midday Meal Scheme is the largest of its kind in the world. In 1920, A. Subbarayalu Reddiar, the first Chief Minister of the Madras Presidency, introduced the mid-day meal scheme in a Corporation school in the Thousand Lights area. The initiative was based on the idea proposed by P. Theagaraya Chetty, who was serving as the President of the Justice Party at the time. The Midday Meal Scheme has been implemented in the Union Territory of Puducherry under the French Administration since 1930. In post-independent India, the Midday Meal Scheme was first launched in Tamil Nadu, pioneered by the former Chief Minister K. Kamaraj in the early 1960s. By 2002, the scheme was implemented in all of the states under the orders of the Supreme Court of India. In 2021, the Central Government announced that an additional 2.4 million students receiving pre-primary education at government and government-aided schools would also be included under the scheme by 2022. Under article 24, paragraph 2c of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, to which India is a party, India has committed to yielding "adequate nutritious food" for children. The programme has undergone many changes since its launch in 1995. The Midday Meal Scheme is covered by the National Food Security Act, 2013. The legal backing for the Indian school meal programme is akin to the legal backing provided in the US through the National School Lunch Act.

KEYWORDS : Benefits of Mid-Day Meal

INTRODUCTION

Schooling is significant component of the cultural advancement of a country. With a normal education pace of 75 per cent, the non-industrial nations actually are lagging behind advanced nations in this respect. The normal factor for low education rates in agricultural nations is the pervasiveness of destitution. Because of poverty, one-third of younger students are malnourished in agricultural nations. The students who are malnourished are immature both physically and psychologically, which makes tutoring hard for them. To battle the effects of destitution and further develop school investment among these students, different plans and projects are introduced throughout the world. The school focuses on enrolment, assistance and upkeep of the beneficiary students. The scheme of free meals at midday is the most significant and scheme encourages poor students to attend schools. Mid-Day Meals at school help reduce school expenses and moderate hunger.

Each Indian student is qualified who has the age of 6 to 14 as "basic right" which is given under Article 21A of the Constitution. Subsequently, the Government should ensure free training for all kids and guarantee that every last one of them goes to class on a daily basis. It is estimated that 20 per cent of Indian kids (in the 6-14 age bunch) lack of school instruction. This influences their future from numerous points of view. The present circumstance is a gross infringement of the basic privileges of the kids. Under Article 21A of the Constitution, Indian kids are qualified for nothing and mandatory schooling from the age of 6 to 14. These rights are likewise by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Children, to which India is a signatory. The prosperity of students is everybody's duty, not only that of their folks. For sure, guardians alone are not generally ready to secure their wards advantages, particularly when they face problems like poverty, ignorance, chronic weakness and social segregation. This is why the assurance of student's privileges relies heavily upon social game plans like general tutoring.

History of Mid-Day Meal Program

The Madras Corporation began giving prepared Mid-Day Meal to students in government schools, in the Madras City in 1923. After Independence the Government of India presented the Mid-Day Meal Program (MDM) for expanding school education and improving the health status of elementary school students. It is expected that these upgrades would lead to improved learning results for the students. Interestingly, the school-taking care of program was presented in the province of Tamil Nadu during the year 1960 by the then Chief Minister, Sri Kamaraj. However, the principal significant push came in the year 1982, at the point during the period of then Chief Minister of Tamilnadu, Dr. M.G. Ramachandran who decided to universalize the program for children in all schools up to 10th class. The Mid-Day Meal program has started in Gujarat in 1980, in Kerala in 1995. On 28th November, 2001 the Supreme Court of India gave a land mark

direction which made it obligatory for the Government to give arranged meals to all students in all Government and Government helped grade schools. The Government of Andhra Pradesh started the Mid-Day Meal program in January 2003 and it was implemented for children from I to VIII Classes on October 2005. Nonetheless, some new examinations portray a descending pattern in country grade school support. Studies demonstrated the inability of students in perusing, composing, and numerical abilities. This has happened despite the way that the MDM is served consistently in these schools. This requires a further test into the job of Mid-Day Meal program for expanding school interest, working on the wholesome status, and learning results for the recipient students.

Status of Literacy in India

The education rate in India has expanded from 18.33 per cent in 1951 to 74.04 per cent in 2011. Hence, in 60 years, the proficiency rate has expanded by 57.49. There is huge decrease in total number of non-literates from 328.88 million in 1991 to 304 million in 2001. The female rate additionally expanded from 52.21 per cent in 1991 to 74.04 in 2011 (21.83 rate focuses) whereas in the case of males it has expanded from 64.13 per cent to 82.14 per cent (18.01 rate focuses) during a similar period. Female education rate over the most recent 10 years has developed at a faster rate than the male proficiency rate. A significant instructive issue in the nation is high dropout rate in various degrees of school training which has likewise been altogether more for girl students when compared with boys. The team report on schooling for girls uniformity has featured that for each 100 girls took a crack at class-I in metropolitan regions, stay in class-V, VIII and XII - 82, 62 and 14 individually. The decrease is more disturbing in rural areas where the comparable figures are 40, 18 and 01 separately. While the general enrolment of girls has expanded, the dropout pace of girls in the provincial areas, particularly from the upper levels, remained very high. School dropout rates of provincial girls are twice those of boys. Presently, a minuscule extent of all kinds of people has an advanced degree a little more than 3 per cent of boys and 1 per cent of girls. Albeit a minuscule extent of the India's populace goes to school, girls represent 33 per cent of the understudies at this level.

Impact of Mid-Day Meal Programme

The goal of the MDMS was to increase enrolment of kids in elementary schools and at the same time improving status of students. The MDMS has been modified and also universalized in September 2004 and made it to help at the pace of Rs. 2 per pupil in each school day for changing over food requirement into hot prepared meals for kids in classes' I-V in government, private-aided, and government-supported schools. The number of students covered under Mid-Day Meal has increased from 3.34 crore in 3.22 lakh schools in 1995 to 12 crores in 9.5 lakh primary schools/ EGS (Education Guarantee Scheme) in 2006-07. It is conjectured that MDMS will cover around 18 crore kids continuously 2008-09. The dietary benefit of meals for

needy students has been fixed at 700 calories got from 150 gm of oats and 20 gm of heartbeats.

The World Food Program (WFP) gives school meals, which works probably as a strong motivation for guardians to send their children to schools and helps to create the required foundation which is major for a children's future scholarly turn of events and actual prosperity.

Details and Budget Estimates and Expenditure in India

There are 5.08 lakhs schools have covered under the Mid-Meal programme in Andhra Pradesh. The particulars meeting to the expenditure on Jagannanna Gorumudda (Mid-Day Meal) value are presented in tables

Government of India has been spending large amounts since 2009-10 for achieving one of the millennium development goals of UNO. All the children should be in schools as per the right to education in Act 2009. As a result of this act and also implementation of the Mid-Day Meal programme, the number of drop out will certainly reduce to minimum level. Every State should be free from child labour, child prostitutes and street children as the state. Government have strictly implemented the Mid-Day Meal programme. The details relating to the Budget estimates and expenditure on MDM in India, are shown in the following table 1.

Table - 1 : Budget for Mid-Day Meal Programme

Year	Budget estimates	Revised estimates	Released	Expenditure	percentage of utilization
2007-08	7324.00	6678.00	5835.44	-	87.38
2008-09	8000.00	8000.00	6537.52	-	-
2009-10	8000.00	7359.15	6937.79	-	-
2010-11	9440.00	9440.00	9128.44	7786.56	-
2011-12	10380.00	10239.01	9901.91	9235.82	-
2012-13	11937.00	11500.00	10867.90	10196.98	-
2013-14	13215.00	12189.16	10927.21	10873.75	-
2014-15	13215.00	11050.90	10526.97	-	-
2015-16	9236.40	9236.40	9151.55	-	-
2016-17	9700.00	9700.00	9483.40	9700	92.42
2017-18	10000.00	10000.00	9095.81	-	-
2018-19	10500.00	9947.74	9518.08	-	-
2019-20	11000.00	9912.21	9629.35	-	-
2020-21	11000.00	12900.00	12882.11	11500	-
2021-22	11500.00	-	9988.11	-	-

The table above shows that the number of schools particularly the government schools as increased from 4.3 lakhs during 2017-2018 to 5.08 lakhs during 2019-2020, registering as increase of 25.98 per cent. The amount spent on Jaganna Goru Mudda has also considerable increased from Rs. 307.17 crore during 2017-2018 to Rs. 413.07 crore during 2019-2020, constituting an increase of 34.48 per cent later on both the number of schools and the assessment on Jaganna Goru Mudda programme schemes to be decreased but 6 months period (upto Nov 2021), the government has spent Rs. 179.43 crores to around 2.66 lakhs schools during 2021-22. On the whole, the government of Andhra Pradesh has very much positive attitude towards increasing the menu and also the allocation of funds for Jagannanna Goru Mudda scheme for the wellbeing of the poor children in schools. Nowadays is name modified dokka sithamma scheme.

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