

Vol 3 Issue 2 March 2013

Impact Factor : 0.2105

ISSN No : 2230-7850

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Monthly Multidisciplinary  
Research Journal

*Indian Streams  
Research Journal*

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**RNI MAHMUL/2011/38595**

**ISSN No.2230-7850**

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## WORLD'S LARGEST SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMME - MID DAY MEAL (MDM)

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### Abstract:

*Teachers reports that the programme makes it easier to retain children in the school after the launch break since children who go home for launch often do not return to school. Out lays for the programme have increased substantially from Rs. 2907 crone in 2004-05 to Rs. 11397 crone in 2012-13 children covered under MDM scheme have performed better than those who are not getting a school meal.*

### INTRODUCTION

The Mid Day Meal Programme is the world's largest school Feeding Programme. Under this programme nearly 11 core children's are covering. The mid day meal programme has become a catalyst of a host of education related benefits. The efficacy and coverage of this programme is more than any other scheme implemented so far.

Attendance and enrolment vates, especially of girls, have shown significant increase. Learning achievement is found to be higher in schools serving mid day meals. Many parents reports that it has now be come easier to send their children to school each morning, especially the younger ones.

Teachers reports that the programme makes it easier to retain children in the school after the launch break since children who go home for launch often do not return to school. Out lays for the programme have increased substantially from Rs. 2907 crone in 2004-05 to Rs. 11397 crone in 2012-13 children covered under MDM scheme have performed better than those who are not getting a school meal.

### OBJECTIVES:-

Driving hunger out of school.  
Helping children concentrate on classroom activities.  
Encouraging children to attend school regularly, particularly children of disadvantaged groups.  
Providing nutritional support to children at elementary school level.  
Breaking social barriers or all kinds and promoting social harmony.

### COVERAGE:-

Hot cooked meal served to all children of primary and upper primary classes attending.  
Government, local body and government aided schools.  
Education guarantee scheme and alternative and innovative centers including madarsas and maqtab supported under Sarva Shiksha abhiyan.  
In drought affected areas MDM is saerved during summer vacation.

**NUTRITION CONTENT:-**

To achieve objectives of the scheme the guidelines prescribe the following nutritional content in the mid Day meal.

Sr.No.	Components	Primary	Upper Primary
1	Calorie	450 Calories	700 Calories
2	Protein	12gms	20gms
3	Micro-nutrients	Adequate quantities of micro nutrients like iron, Folic acid, vitamin –A etc.	

This nutrition value is achieved by a complement of following food items.

Sr.No.	Item	Primary	Upper Primary
1	Food grains ( Rice/wheat)	100	150
2	Pulses	20	30
3	Vegetables	50	75
4	Oil and Fat	5	7.5
5	Salt and condiments	As per need	As per need.

**MENU :-**

Varies menu, decided locally.  
Menu to be displayed prominently in every school.  
Every child to get full meal to his/ her satisfaction.

**FINANCIAL COMPONENTS OF THE SCHEME :-****i) Borne entirely by central government.**

Supply of food grains @100gms per child per school day for primary and @150gms for upper primary stage for FCI go downs.

Assistance for transportations of food grains from FCI go downs to schools.

For north Eastern states UTS@ Rs. 75 per quintal.

Assistance for kitchen devices @ Rs. 5000/- per school.

**ii) Shared with the states /UTS.**

Cooking cost Rs. 2.89 per child per day for primary classes & Rs. Rs. 4.33 per child per day for upper primary classes.

Cooking costs include cost of pulses, vegetables cooking oil, condiments & fuel.

The cooking cost to be enhanced by 7.5% every year.

From 1st April :-

Payment of honorarium of Rs. 1000 per months to cook cum helper.

One Cook cum helper for schools having up to 15 students, to for school having 25-100 students and one additional 200 cum helper for every addition up to 100 students.

Since one December 2009 the cost construction of kitchen cum store is to be determined on the basis of plinth area norm and state schedule of rates.

Govt. of India has prescribed 20sq.mt. plinth area for kitchen shade in schools having up to 100 children for every additional up to 100 children. Depending upon the local conditions.

The cooking cost, honorarium & Cook cum helper and the cost of construction of kitchen cum stores will be shared between the centers & NE states on 90:10 basis & with others states /UTS, on 75:25 basis .

#### **IMPLEMENTATION :-**

State/UT Government are responsible for the implementation of the scheme.

Where primary education is transferred to panchayats & urban local bodies, the responsibility & implementation & supervision has been developed to the gram panchayats / Municipality. Otherwise the standing committee respectable for education related issues at various levels is made responsible for implementation of this scheme.

#### **QUALITY CONTROL :-**

Joint inspection of FCI and state representative of food grains before lifting, storing food items in dry & safe places, cooking in hygienic environment in kitchen shade, checking of the cooked food before serving is invariably carried out to maintain quality.

#### **COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN THE SCHEME :-**

Representatives of gram panchayats/ gramsabha and village education committee, school management & development committee , self help group of women mothers NGO's are assigned active roles in implementation and supervision of the scheme.

Role of Teachers :- Teachers are not to be involved in any such activity which hinders teaching and learning process. Their duty is to test the food before serving and to ensure that food is taken in a hygienic and orderly manner in a spirit & together.

**Monitoring :-** Elaborate arrangement for village block, district, state and national level monitoring. Forty institution engaged to monitor the scheme independently.

1. The monitoring mechanism takes into account everything from availability of food grain, cooking fuel, menu, hygiene, kitchen sheds, utensils, quality of food, involvement of mothers and feed back from children.

#### **CONCLUSION :-**

World's largest school feeding programme which is known by Mid Day meal (MDM) programme covered nearly 11 crore children in India. This scheme benefited the primary and upper primary education in the following ways.

Effectively alleviates classroom hunger.

Incentive for poor families to send children to school.

Enhance enrolment.

More significantly of girls.

Improves daily attendance particularly of girls & children from poorer sections.

Helps reduce dropout rate.

Improvement in retention , learning ability and achievement.

Curbs teacher absenteeism.

Community vigil has improved teacher performance.

Narrow's social distances.

Sharing of common meal enhance socialization & reduces prejudices.

Generates employment opportunities for more the 10 lack people mostly women from disadvantaged

**WORLD'S LARGEST SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMME - MID DAY MEAL (MDM)**



sections.  
Mobilises mothers for effective implementation.

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