

## **Mid Day Meal Scheme in India (MDMS)**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*Mid Day Meal is the world's largest school meal programme and reaches an estimated 12 crores children across 12 lakhs school in India. Mid Day Meal Scheme emerged out of the National Programme of Nutritional Support to primary education, a centrally sponsored scheme fomulated in 1995 to improve enrollment, attendance and retention by providing free food grains to government primary schools. The main aim of MDM scheme is to reduce hunger, accelerate education in schools by providing cooked food to improve nutritional status among children, improve the enrollment level, and improve attendance level and retention rate in schools and in other educational centers. The cost of MDM scheme shared between the central and state government. The central government provides food grains to the state. The entire cost of cooking, infrastructure development, transportation of food grains, payment to cook and helpers is contributed by centre with the state government. Moreover, the central government provides greater share of funds. Whereas, the contribution of state government differ from state to state. Hence, in the present paper an attempt has been made to enlighten the aims, objectives and fund allocation towards MDM scheme.*

*Key words: Scheme, School, Education, Government, Development*

### **INTRODUCTION:**

The Mid day Meal is a great scheme launched by the government in 1995 the motive of the scheme is to serve free meal to the students of government school, aided schools and to various other education centers. The ultimate view of the MDM scheme to enhancing enrolment, retention and attendance and simultaneously improving nutritional levels among children, the National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (NP-NSPE) was launched as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on 15<sup>th</sup> August 1995. Firstly, the Mid-Day Meal programme was introduced in 1925 in Madras Corporation by the British administration. A mid-day meal programme was introduced in the Union Territory of Puducherry by the French administration in 1930.. Tamil Nadu was a pioneer in introducing mid-day meal programmes in India to increase the number of children attending to school; K. Kamaraj, then Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu introduced its first in Chennai and later extended it to all districts of Tamil Nadu. During 1982, July 1 onwards, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, M. G. Ramachandran upgraded the existing Mid-day meal scheme in the state to improve 'nutritious condition keeping in the mind that 68 lakh children suffering from malnutrition. Gujarat was the second state to introduce

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an MDM scheme in 1984, but it was later discontinued. A midday meal scheme was introduced in Kerala in 1984, and was gradually expanded to include more schools and grades. By 1990–91, twelve states were funding the scheme to all or most of the students in

their area: Goa, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura and Uttar Pradesh. Karnataka, Orissa, and West Bengal received international aid to help with implementation of the programme, and in Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan the programme was funded entirely using foreign aid. In Karnataka, Children's Love Castles Trust started to provide mid-day meals in 1997. A total of eight schools were adopted and a food bank programme and an Anganwasi milk Programme were started. The food-bank programme was replaced by the State Government midday meal scheme. In 2001 MDMS became a cooked Mid-Day Meal Scheme under which every child in every Government and Government aided primary school was served a prepared Mid-Day Meal with a minimum content of 300 calories of energy and 8-12 gram protein per day for a minimum of 200 days. The Scheme was further extended in 2002 to cover not only children studying in Government, Government aided and local body schools, but also children studying in Education Guarantee Scheme (EGS) and Alternative & Innovative Education (AIE) centers. In September 2004 the Scheme was revised to provide for Central Assistance for Cooking cost @ Re 1 per child per school day to cover cost of pulses, vegetables cooking oil, condiments, fuel and wages and remuneration payable to personnel or amount payable to agency responsible for cooking. Transport subsidy was also raised from the earlier maximum of Rs 50 per quintal to Rs. 100 per quintal for special category states and Rs 75 per quintal for other states. Central assistance was provided for the first time for management, monitoring and evaluation of the scheme @ 2% of the cost of food grains, transport subsidy and cooking assistance. A provision for serving mid-day meal during summer vacation in drought-affected areas was also made.

In July 2006, the Scheme was further revised to enhance the cooking cost to Rs 1.80 per child/school day for States in the North Eastern Region and Rs 1.50 per child / school day for other States and UTs. The nutritional norm was revised to 450 Calories and 12 gram of protein. To facilitate construction of kitchen-cum-store and procurement of kitchen devices in schools provision for Central assistance @ Rs. 60,000 per unit and @ Rs. 5,000 per school in phased manner were made.

In October 2007, the Scheme was extended to cover children of upper primary classes (i.e. class VI to VIII) studying in 3,479 Educationally Backwards Blocks (EBBs) and the name of the Scheme was changed from 'National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education' to 'National Programme of Mid-Day Meal in Schools'. The nutritional norm for upper primary stage was fixed at 700 Calories and 20 grams of protein. The Scheme was extended to all areas across the country from 1.4.2008.

#### **INITIATIVES BY THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT:**

The government of India initiated the National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (NP-NSPE) on 15 August 1995. The objective of the scheme is to help improve the effectiveness of primary education by improving the nutritional status of primary school children. Initially, the scheme was implemented in 2,408 blocks of the country to provide food to students in classes one through five of government, government-aided and local body run schools. By 1997–98, the scheme had been implemented across the country. Under this programme, a cooked mid-day meal with 300 calories and 12 grams of protein was provided to all children enrolled in classes one to five. In October, 2007, the scheme included students in upper primary classes of six to

eight in 3,479 educationally backward blocks, and the name was changed from National Programme for Nutrition Support to Primary Education to National Programme of Mid-Day Meals in Schools. Though cooked food was to be provided, most state chose to provide "dry rations" to students. "Dry rations" refers to the provision of uncooked 3 kg of wheat or rice to children with 80% attendance.

## **AIM OF MID-DAY MEAL:**

The Mid Day Meal is an important instrument for combating classroom hunger and promoting better learning. It works as an incentive for parents to send their children to school with the hope for at least one nutritious meal for the day. The children of government school mostly come from economically backward families. The main aim of MDM scheme is to reduce hunger and accelerate quality education in school by providing cooked food to improve nutritional status among children, improve the enrollment level, and improve attendance level and retention rate in schools and in other educational centers.

## **THE OBJECTIVES OF MID-DAY MEAL:**

The main objectives of Midday meal schemes as follows:

- the ultimate objective of mid day meal scheme is to improve the nutritional status of children in classes' I-V in Government, Local Body and Government aided schools, and EGS and AIE centers
- mainly the MDM scheme tries to encourage children, belonging to disadvantaged sections, to attend school more regularly and help them concentrate on classroom activities
- MDM scheme main goal is to provide nutritional support to children of primary stage in drought affected areas during summer vacation
- To improve effectiveness of primary education by improving the nutritional status of children thereby reducing malnutrition.
- Promote feeling of oneness and secularism amongst various different religions and cultures.

While focusing on improving nutritional level and attendance, AkshayaPatra also aims to address two Sustainable Development Goals: Zero Hunger and Quality Education.

## **ENTITLEMENTS:**

The nutritional guidelines for the minimum amount of food and calorie content per child per day are evident from table 1. For primary section from class one to five, each meal provides 12 grams of protein and 450-calorie energy, 100 grams of wheat or rice, 20 grams of dal, 50 grams of vegetables and 5 grams of oil and fat. For upper primary section from class six to eight each meal provides 20 grams of protein and 700 calorie energy, 150 grams of wheat or rice, 30 grams of dal, 75 grams of vegetables, and 7.5 grams of oil and fat. It strive to ensure that MDM scheme provides healthy nutritious and packed with all the important fibres, vitamins, and nutrients required for healthy growth of the children. In the case of micronutrients (vitamin A, iron, and foliate) tablets and de-worming medicines, the student are entitled to receive the amount provided for in the school health programme of the National Rural Health Mission.

**Table 1: Entitlement norm per child per day under MDM**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Primary (class one to five)</b>	<b>Upper primary (class six to eight)</b>
<b>Calories</b>	450	700
<b>Protein (in grams )</b>	12	20
<b>Rice / wheat (in grams )</b>	100	150
<b>Dal (in grams )</b>	20	30
<b>Vegetables (in grams )</b>	50	75
<b>Oil and fat (in grams )</b>	5	7.5

**ALLOCATION OF BUDGET:**

The central and state governments share the cost of the Midday Meal Scheme, with the centre providing 60 percent and the state’s 40 percent. The central government provides grains and financing for other food. Costs for facilities, transportation, and labour are shared by the federal and the state governments. While the eleventh five-year plan allocated Rs/-384.9 billion (US\$5.6 billion) for the scheme, the twelfth five-year plan has allocated Rs/-901.55 billion (US\$13 billion), a 134 percent rise. The public expenditure for the Mid-Day Meal Programme has gone up from Rs73.24 billion (US\$1.1 billion) in 2007–08 to Rs132.15 billion (US\$1.9 billion) in 2013–14. The per day cooking cost per child at the primary level has been fixed to Rs4.13 (6.0¢ US) while at the upper primary level is Rs6.18 (8.9¢ US).

With support from the central and state governments, Akshaya Patra began operating its Mid-Day Meal Programme in 2000 and inculcated a set of rules and guidelines related to child health and growth, the quantity of calories and proteins required for children from specific age groups, the quantity of grains that can be allotted to each child, and so forth. With an effective Public-Private Partnership, the mid-day meals have been served above for 24 years.

**Table 2: Union Budgetary Allocation**

<b>Year Wise Outlay under Mid-Day Meal Scheme (Rs. in Crore)</b>			
<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>BE</b>	<b>RE</b>	<b>Releases</b>
<b>2019-20</b>	Rs.11000.00	--	Rs.232644.30
<b>2018-19</b>	Rs.10500.00	--	Rs.9518.08
<b>2017-18</b>	Rs.10000.00	--	Rs.9095.81
<b>2016-17</b>	Rs.9700.00	Rs.9700.00	Rs.9483.40
<b>2015-16</b>	Rs.9236.40	Rs.9236.40	Rs.9151.55

<b>2014-15</b>	Rs.13215.00	Rs.11050.90	Rs.10526.97
<b>2013-14</b>	Rs.13215.00	Rs.12189.16	Rs.10927.21
<b>2012-13</b>	Rs.11937.00	Rs.11500.00	Rs.10867.90
<b>2011-12</b>	Rs.10380.00	Rs.10239.01	Rs.9901.91
<b>2010-11</b>	Rs.9440.00	Rs.9440.00	Rs.9128.44
<b>2009-10</b>	Rs.8000.00	Rs.7359.15	Rs.6937.79
<b>2008-09</b>	Rs.8000.00	Rs.8000.00	Rs.6539.52
<b>2007-08</b>	Rs.7324.00	Rs.6678.00	Rs.5835.44

**EXPENDITURE:**

Total expenditure under Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) in India during the year 2015-16 and 2016-17 was Rs. 991221 lakhs and Rs. 877096 lakhs respectively. The top 10 States/UTs in terms of expenditure under MDMS during 2016-17 were Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Rajasthan and Gujarat. Expenditure in Bihar under MDMS was Rs. 102997.04 lakhs during 2016-17. It accounted for 11.74% of the total expenditure under MDMS during this period. Expenditure in Uttar Pradesh under MDMS was Rs. 98931.05 lakhs during 2016-17. It accounted for 11.28% of the total expenditure under MDMS during the same period. Expenditure in West Bengal under MDMS was Rs. 94713.17 lakhs during 2016-17. It accounted for 10.80% of the total expenditure during the same period. Expenditure in Maharashtra was Rs. 80581.67 lakhs during 2016-17. It accounted for 9.19% of the total expenditure under MDMS during the same period. Expenditure in Madhya Pradesh under MDMS was Rs. 70513.81 lakhs during 2016-17. It accounted for 8.04% of the total expenditure under MDMS during this period. These top five states accounted for 51.05% of the total expenditure under Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) in India as a whole during the year 2016-17. Expenditure under MDMS in Karnataka was Rs. 44603 lakhs during 2016-17, which accounted 5.09% of the total expenditure during the same period. Expenditure in Tamil Nadu was Rs. 42989.63 lakhs during 2016-17, which accounted 4.90% of the total expenditure during the same period. Expenditure in Odisha was Rs. 42267.63 lakhs during 2016-17, which accounted 4.82% of the total expenditure during the same period. Expenditure in Rajasthan was Rs. 41685.96 lakhs during 2016-17, which accounted 4.75% of the total expenditure during the same period. Expenditure in Gujarat was Rs. 32466 lakhs during 2016-17, which accounted 3.70% of the total expenditure under MDMS during the same period. The above-mentioned top 10 states accounted for 77.92% of the total expenditure under MDMS in India as a whole during the year 2016-17.

**CONCLUSION:**

Despite numerous policies and adequate resources, the credibility of this scheme is struggling from a grave crisis. Nevertheless, over all these issues, progress is extremely frustrating. The control on the quality of food to be eaten is almost non-existent. Moreover, attention is not paid at the hygiene and cleanliness of food stuffs and nobody is ready to take the responsibility of the quality of meals served. Mainly some people made

profits by selling the products given by the government to the schools, many places the scheme was not properly implemented, the food provided to the children was of low quality rather rotten or spoilt and does not meet the minimum requirements of nutrients etc.

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