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Performance Evaluation of Mid-day Meal Initiative in India

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Abstract
The Mid-Day Meal is a school meal program promoted by the GoI to improve the nutrition level within school going children across the country, which has become one of the largest run program in the world, serving more than 1,265,000 schools and 120 million children in the SEC. This article discusses the status of lunch programs in India and implementation of local lunch programs.

Keywords: MDM, Nutrition, Funds Allocation

Introduction
The National Basic Nutrition Education Support Program (NP-NSPE) was launched on August 15, 1995, funded by Central Government to improve the nutritional quality of school going children while increasing student enrollment, retention and attendance.
In 2001, MDMS evolved into a midday meal in which all children in all state-funded elementary schools should have lunch with at least 300 calories, and 8-12 grams of protein per day, for a period of minimum to 200 days. In 2002, the program expanded to include children in public, public, and local schools, as well as children in the Centers for Guaranteed Education (EGS), and Alternative and Innovative Education (AIE).
This aim of the programmer is also to achieve multilateral goals such as sending children to school and ending caste inequality. The goal is to end widespread poverty and improve child attendance and health, with many children in India suffering from malnutrition.

Table 1: Country wise Year of Introduction of School Meal Programme

Name of the Country	Year of Introduction
United Kingdom	1945
United States of America	1946
Switzerland	1946
Japan	1947
Australia	1950
China	1964
Indonesia	1967
Thailand	1970
Korea	1973
Singapore	1975

Sources: Kalpana Parikh & Summiya Yasmeen, 2004

The fact that this minimalist system improved student enrollment and retention shows how important hunger and malnutrition can play a role in encouraging children to leave school. It was introduced in 1945 by the United Kingdom, in 1946 by the United States, and in 1946 by Switzerland (Table 1). In India, the program was introduced in 1995.

Indian Lunch Program History
Half-day school lunches in India have a long history. In 1925, the Madras Municipal Corporation introduced a luncheon program for disadvantaged children. By mid of 1980s,

Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Pondicherry have introduced universal lunch programs with their own resources for elementary school children. Table-2 shows the implementation scenario of mid-day meal programs in India

Table 2: Shows the implementation scenario of mid-day meal programs in India

S. No.	Name of States	Year of Launching of MDM	Glimpses
1	Tamil Nadu	1923	Started in Madras City by Madras Municipal Corporation & extended to full State in 1982.
2	West Bengal	1928	Started in Calcutta city by Keshav Academy of Calcutta as compulsory Mid-day Tiffin on payment basis at the rate of four annas per child per month.
3	Maharashtra	1942	Started free mid-day meal in Bombay. It was launched in 1995-96 as a centrally sponsored scheme.
4	Karnataka	1946	Started in Bangalore city to provide cooked rice and yoghurt. There was provision of giving 3 kg of rice/wheat per month / per child who had 80% or more attendance in 1995. Cooked meal was started in 7 northeastern districts during 2002-03.
5	Uttar Pradesh	1953	In introduction of a scheme on voluntary basis to boiled gram, groundnuts puffed rice and seasonal fruits.
6	Kerala	1960	CARE (Cooperate American Relief Everywhere) under US Assistance had funded scheme during the period 1960-1983 (in a pilot manner).
7	Bihar	1995	Started with dry ration of 3 kg/per student/per month and started providing cooked meal in 30 blocks of 10 districts in 2003-04.
8	Andhra Pradesh	1995	There was provision of giving 3 kg of rice/wheat per month per child with 80% or more attendance in school.
9	Madhya Pradesh	1995	Initially dry rations or Dalia was provided.
10	Rajasthan	1995	Students of Government Primary schools were provided wheat at the rate of 3 kg / per student / per month
11	Arunachal Pradesh	1995	Initially only dry ration was provided in five districts of the state, extended to all schools since 2004.
12	Punjab	1995	Students of Government Primary schools were provided wheat at the rate of 3 kg per student / per month and switched over to cooked meal in one block of every district in 2002-03.
13	Haryana	1995	Initially implemented in 17 blocks of 6 districts & extended to 44 blocks where female literacy rate was lower than the national level in 1996-97.
14	Himachal Pradesh	1995	Initially dry ration was provided.
15	Jammu & Kashmir	1995	Initially dry ration was provided.
16	Meghalaya	1995	Started with dry ration of 3 kg per student / per month.
17	Jharkhand	2003	It was taken up on a pilot basis in 3140 government primary schools in 19 districts initially.

Sources: PEO Report No. 202, GoI, May, 2010.

India's Latest Challenge in Long-Day Food

July 2006, the plan was amended to increase cooking costs to Rs 1.80 per child per school day for Northeast provinces. Rs 1.50 per child per school day for the other states and UT. The diet given to children got increased to 12 grams of protein and 450 calories per day. Central support of Rs. 5,000 per school was given to facilitate the construction of kitchen shops and the procurement of kitchen equipment. In October 2007, the program was expanded to include high school students enrolled in the classes from VI to VIII studying in 3,479 Educationally Backwards Blocks. The system name was also changed from National Nutrition Assistance Program to Undergraduate Education Compulsory School. The nutritional norm for upper primary stage children got fixed at 700 Calories and 20 grams of protein.

A total of 11.77 Cr children got benefited in 2009-10, and 11.04 Crore during 2009-10. During 2011-12, total coverage was 10.52. During 2012-13 and 2013-14, 10.68 Cr and 10.45 Cr children were covered.

Table 3 shows the range of lunch programs in India between 2010-11 and 2015-16. The program covers Rs 10.46 crores in 2010-11 to Rs 10.23 crores in 2015-16. During this period, the program will be awarded to children over 10 million rupees per year.

Table 3: Trends of Coverage (in cores)

Years	Primary	Upper primary	Total
2010-11	7.33	3.13	10.46
2011-12	7.18	3.36	10.54
2012-13	7.2	3.47	10.67
2013-14	7.1	3.69	10.79
2014-15	6.66	3.56	10.22
2015-16	6.68	3.55	10.23

Sources: www.mdm.nic.in, data as on 14-01-2017

Regulations on the distribution of funds and food crafts according to the Manual

The program guidelines have been revised several times. In 2002, the first guidelines for lunch planning on the nutritional value of food aid and infrastructure were published. The guidelines were revised in 2004 and 2006. Currently, 2006 guidelines are in force. Table-4 shows the distribution standards for silver and grain according to the guidelines.

Table 4: Shows the distribution standards for silver and grain according to the guidelines

Items	CMDM, 2002	CMDM, 2004	CMDM, 2006
Nutritional Contents			
Calories	Not Prescribed	300	450
Proteins	Not Prescribed	8-12 grams	12 grams
Micronutrients		Not Prescribed	Adequate quantities of iron, folic acid, Vitamin-A etc.
Transport Subsidy	Rs. 50 per quintal with Hill Transport Subsidy.	Rs. 100 per quintal for N-E States & Rs. 75 per quintal for other States & UTs.	Rs. 100 per quintal for N-E States & Rs. 75 per quintal for other States & UTs
Subsidy against cooking cost	Not Provided	Re. 1.00 per child per school day.	Rs. 1.80 per child per school day for N-E States & Rs. 1.50 per child per school day for other States and UTs.
Subsidy for Management, Monitoring and Evaluation (MME)	Not Provided	1.8% of total Assistance (Free food, transport cost & cooking cost).	1.8% of total Assistance (Free food, transport cost &cooking cost).
Infrastructural Assistance			
Construction of Kitchen-cum-store	Not Provided	Convergent with SGRY, NSDP & UWEP programmes.	Maximum of Rs. 60,000 per unit in addition with other programmes.
Drinking water Facility		Convergent with SSA, ARWSP & Swajaldhara programmes.	Convergent with SSA, ARWSP & Swajaldhara programmes.
Kitchen Devices		Rs. 2000/- under SSA programmes.	Rs. 5000/- per school per annum.

Sources: PEO Report No. 202, GoI, May, 2010.

Budget Estimation and Allocation for the Scheme

Table-5 shows the total annual public expenditure and final production. The government allocated more than 80% of the revised estimates by 2007-08 that rose to 99% by the end of 2015-16.

Table 5: Shows the total annual public expenditure and final production

Year	Budgeted Estimation	Revise Estimation	Releases	% of Release in Total Estimation
2007-08	7324.00	6678.00	5835.44	87.38
2008-09	8000.00	8000.00	6539.52	81.74
2009-10	8000.00	7359.15	6937.79	94.27
2010-11	9440.00	9440.00	9128.44	96.69
2011-12	10380.00	10239.01	9901.91	96.70
2012-13	11937.00	11500.00	10867.90	94.50
2013-14	13215.00	12189.16	10927.21	89.64
2014-15	13215.00	11050.90	10526.97	79.65
2015-16	9236.40	9236.40	9151.55	99.08

Sources: http://mdm.nic.in/, Retrieved on 14-01-2017

State-Wise Funds Allocation

Table 6 shows the distribution of state funds during year 2015-16, and 2016-17 respectively. Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, and Maharashtra were heavily funded for these year's due to over-population and student recruitment. In terms of confederate territories, Delhi received a large share. Northeastern regions such as Nagaland, Mizoram, Tripura, and Sikkim received the least.

Table 6: State-wise funds allocations

S. No.	State	2016-17 (Rs. In Lakhs)	2015-16 (Rs. In Lakhs)
1	Andhra Pradesh	Rs.6491.76	Rs.7073.15
2	Arunachal Pradesh	Rs.700.77	Rs.673.46
3	Assam	Rs.11776.90	Rs.11484.48
4	Bihar	Rs.27343.43	Rs.30684.11
5	Chhattisgarh	Rs.6452.79	Rs.7505.70
6	Goa	Rs.269.60	Rs.307.72
7	Gujarat	Rs.8866.02	Rs.9660.26
8	Haryana	Rs.3502.14	Rs.4351.29
9	Himachal Pradesh	Rs.1842.44	Rs.1605.95
10	Jammu & Kashmir	Rs.2269.86	Rs.2240.87
11	Jharkhand	Rs.6680.63	Rs.7110.35
12	Karnataka	Rs.9686.14	Rs.11065.00
13	Kerala	Rs.4136.82	Rs.4653.18
14	Madhya Pradesh	Rs.14098.82	Rs.17879.15
15	Maharashtra	Rs.19825.98	Rs.22266.36
16	Manipur	Rs.578.63	Rs.706.41
17	Meghalaya	Rs.1449.65	Rs.1363.96
18	Mizoram	Rs.432.66	Rs.393.92
19	Nagaland	Rs.535.28	Rs.502.87
20	Odisha	Rs.10293.62	Rs.11644.65
21	Punjab	Rs.3893.73	Rs.4403.79
22	Rajasthan	Rs.9804.45	Rs.11099.09
23	Sikkim	Rs.211.44	Rs.211.64
24	Tamil Nadu	Rs.9783.77	Rs.11054.42
25	Telangana	Rs.4062.31	Rs.4817.76
26	Tripura	Rs.1063.58	Rs.999.53
27	Uttarakhand	Rs.2524.47	Rs.2031.31
28	Uttar Pradesh	Rs.24954.65	Rs.28383.47
29	West Bengal	Rs.24134.16	Rs.27161.43
30	A & N Island	Rs.87.13	Rs. 66.52
31	Chandigarh	Rs.150.96	Rs.111.62
32	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	Rs.116.96	Rs.94.30
33	Daman & Diu	Rs.59.63	Rs.45.40
34	Delhi	Rs.3226.52	Rs. 2345.85
35	Lakshadweep	Rs.27.10	Rs.22.41

Sources: http://mdm.nic.in/, Retrieved on 14-01-2017

Conclusion

The MDM program was launched with the goal of improving the nutritional status of children while increasing student enrollment, retention, and attendance. Through this program, in 2015-16, 10.3 million children in 11.5 million schools will receive nutritious hot meals. In 2015-16, 25.53 million chefs and assistants, primarily from the SC/ST/OBC community, were brought in to provide MDM for school children. 7.81 lakhs' kitchens and warehouses were built to ensure children's grain and hygienic nutrition.

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