

**PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT OF
MIDDAY MEAL SCHEME IN SCHOOLS
THE TAMIL NADU EXPERIENCE
1956 TO 1992**

**DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION
MADRAS - 600 006**

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P R E F A C E

National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration had conducted the Second Survey on Educational Planning and Administration at all India level in the year 1980-90. As a part of the survey N.I.E.P.A. intended to have a case study report entitled "Planning and Management of Midday Meal Scheme in Schools - The Tamilnadu Experience".

This case study report explains the geographical and demographic features, economic and social indicators of Tamilnadu to have an idea about the environment under which the massive welfare scheme is being implemented. This report covers the period from the inception of the Midday Meal Scheme for the first time in India 1956 to 1992. The features of Midday Meal Scheme, the planning and Management, impact of the scheme, the role of CARE in Midday Meal Scheme are covered in detail.

The Nutritious Noon Meal Programme was introduced by replacing the midday meal scheme in an elaborate and systematic way by late M.G.R. the then Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu in the year 1982-83 for a noble cause. The genesis of the scheme, planning and management, impact of the scheme are also vividly described in this report. In this report, the articles published in various magazines, newspapers and research papers are also used to highlight the features of the scheme.

The criticisms of the present scheme at the time of its inception are also enlisted and analysed without bias, to make this report more comprehensive.

I appreciate Thiru N. Murugesan, M.A., D.I.M., Assistant Director of School Education (Statistics) who has prepared this report elaborately covering all the important aspects of this lauded welfare scheme and highlighting the impact of the scheme on health and education of the poor children in schools.

I hope this report will be of immense use to the Educational Planners, Administrators and Research students.

Place: Madras-600006

Sd/- C. PALANIVELU,
DIRECTOR OF SCHOOL EDUCATION.

Date : 12-5-1994

FOREWORD

National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration had intended to have a case study report entitled "Planning and Management of Mid-day Meal Scheme-The Tamilnadu Experience", as a part of the second survey on Educational Planning Administration at All India Level in the year 1989-90.

As such, this case study report has been prepared by Thiru N. Murugesan, M.A., D.I.M., Assistant Director of School Education (Statistics) in an elaborate manner covering the period from the inception of the Mid-day Meal Scheme for the first time in India-1956 to 1992-93. In this report the feature of the Mid-day Meal Scheme, the Planning and Management, impact of the scheme, the role of the CARE etc., are explained in detail.

The genesis of the Nutritious Noon Meal Programme, Planning and Management, impact of the scheme are covered in separate chapter. The criticisms of the Nutritious Noon Meal Programme surfaced at the time of inception are also analysed without bias in this report to make it comprehensive.

I hope this report may be useful to the Planners, Administrators, Research Scholars to a great extent.

Place: Madras-600006

Date: 3rd May, 1994.

Sd/- S. PARAMASIVAN
Director of Elementary Education &
Director of Government
Examinations(I/C).

NUTRITIOUS NOON MEAL PROGRAMME

INTRODUCTION

Any policy making apparently precedes from the identification of problems. As far as the policy of nutrition intervention, in most of the countries proceeds from the problem of malnutrition among children, poor economic status of the parents and poor enrolment in schools. Available information indicates that there are nearly 43 countries all over the world implementing the scheme of free school lunches.

In India the problem of malnutrition especially among children was identified very acute and various committees were appointed to study the problem. Based on the committees' reports, the government tried to solve the problem of malnutrition, as such national noon meal scheme was started as early as in 1925 mainly for poor children. Subsequently, the milk-in-school scheme was started in 1934. However these schemes did not fulfil the objectives but it was considered the beginning for the subsequent noon meal schemes in Tamil Nadu.

✓ The midday meal scheme with the objective of reducing the school dropouts at the primary level, promoting universal education and improving the nutritional status of the children, was introduced in Tamilnadu for the first time in India in the year 1956 by Thiru K. Kamaraj, the late Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

The midday meal scheme was definitely a scheme with the primary objectives of helping lakhs of poor children and poor parents to overcome nutritional deficiency and encourage the growth of enrolment in schools.

The midday meal scheme was depending mostly on voluntary contribution, hence it was inevitable to limit the total number of beneficiaries at school level and also at district level. Further, under this scheme children were fed 200 days in a year as such no substantial improvement in health status of the beneficiaries was possible. However this scheme was considered more essential in the process of achieving universal education in Tamil Nadu.

Education being the dominant dimension, human resource planning essentially involves making concrete decision with regard to education to facilitate future action regarding participation of human resources in economic development.

As a part of human resource development, investment on health, nutrition and education becomes necessary. Investment on health and nutrition can increase potentiality of the young children in terms of health, physical and mental capacity to learn. In view of this, the nutrition programme for children in schools is a definite attempt to achieve the overall human resource development. This programme is really sensitizing the qualitative and quantitative human resource development.

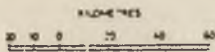
In the process of human resource development M.G.R.'s "Chief Minister's Nutritious Meal Programme" plays a vital role. Since M.G.R.'s scheme covers all the poor children and feeds them at least one time in a day throughout the year. This helps to improve the nutritional status of the children. Further, the objectives of the scheme are not only to improve the health of the children but also to achieve the universal primary education, to reduce the number of school dropouts and to educate the children and parents about the nutritional values of health.

The nutritious meal scheme is a unique and major welfare scheme with substantial size of budget allocation with a potential for employment generation for weaker section. One cannot come to the hasty conclusion that this scheme is highly unproductive. Nowadays it is largely felt that investment becomes very essential for human resource development like any other sector of the economy. Expenditure on nutritious meal scheme is an essential investment for the growth of primary education for poor children at the initial stage as part of human resource development which itself is a long term return to the investment.

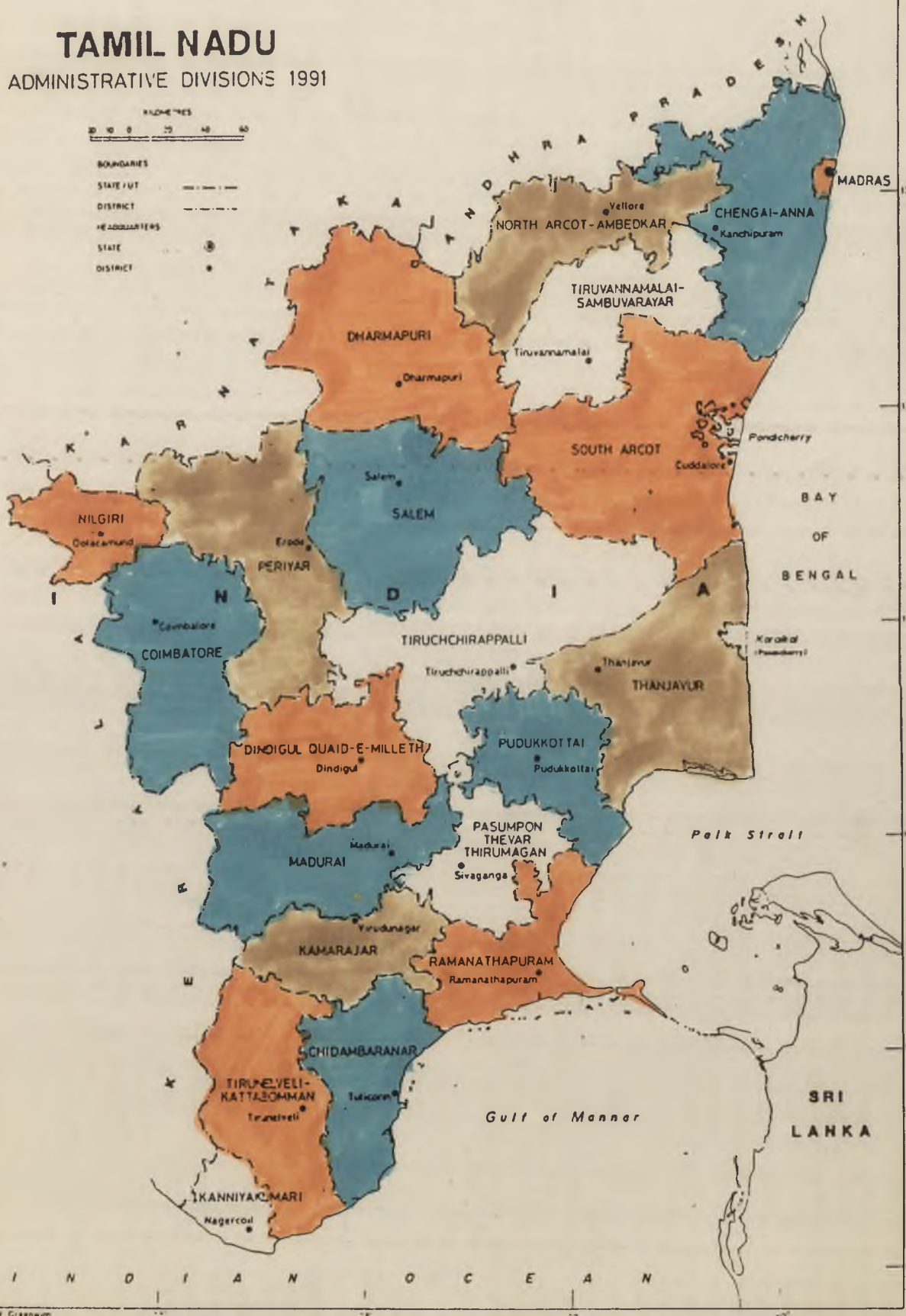
The nutritious meal scheme emerges as a political commitment and becomes permanent welfare scheme for the upliftment of the poor children. A separate department of nutritious meal scheme has been established to implement the scheme effectively since the scheme attracts the population under poverty line. The nutritious meal scheme is really a break through in achieving the objective of improving the nutritional status of the school-going children and their education.

TAMIL NADU

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISIONS 1991



- BOUNDARIES
- STATE / UT
- DISTRICT
- HEADQUARTERS
- STATE
- DISTRICT



Based upon Survey of India map with the permission of the Surveyor General of India
 The territorial waters of India extend into the sea to a distance of twelve nautical miles
 measured from the appropriate base line

Chapter-I

GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURE OF TAMIL NADU:

Tamilnadu is the land of ancient culture, artistic, architectural metropolises, intellectual literature and science extending between 8 degree 5" and 13 degree 35" north latitude and between 76 degree 15" and 18 degree 20" east latitude. The mighty tides of Bay of Bengal on the east and Indian Ocean on the south are washing the 1000 Kms. length of shores of Tamilnadu and also forms its boundaries on the east and south. On the North side, the State shares its boundary with the Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh and on the West side it shares borders with Kerala. The Southern-most tip of Indian Peninsula is Kanyakumari, a well-known tourist spot where the three seas; the Arabian Sea, the Indian Ocean and the Bay of Bengal mingle. The State can be divided into two natural divisions physiographically, i.e. western hilly region and eastern ghats. The Thottabettu, the mountain peak in the Nilgiris District, Kodaikanal in Dindigul Anna District, Yercaud in Salem District are the hill resorts. The natural scenery is revealing the flora and fauna of Tamil Nadu where no mountain peak reaching above 8,000' high, no river longer than 800 kms, no landscape continuously fertile or barren beyond a few thousand square kilometres. The mountain peak in Tamilnadu is not as high as Himalayas to originate perennial rivers to make the

soil ever green. However, the important rivers Cauvery, Pennar, Palar, Vaigai and Thamiraiavaruni make the soil of Tamil Nadu green partly.

The Tamil Nadu extends over an area of 1,30,058 sq.kms. which constitutes 3.96% of the total area of India, which is 3,28,7276 sq.kms. Among the 22 States in the Indian Union, Tamilnadu is in the 11th rank as far as area is concerned.

The Tamilnadu is one of the thirsty regions of India and looks up to the heaven to quench its thirst. Rainfall occur in this State during the monsoon seasons, namely South West monsoon and North East Monsoon. Fortunately, the monsoon is punctual and beneficent and that is why agriculture is not a total failure. It is obvious that the prosperity of Tamilnadu is directly related to the punctuality of the monsoon.

However the rainfall during the seasons is not in the same scale throughout the Tamilnadu. Few districts such as The Nilgiris, Kanyakumari and part of Coimbatore receive highest rainfall to the maximum of 3,000 mm and above, and the districts of north Tamilnadu, namely Chengalpattu, North Arcot, South Arcot receive moderate scale of rainfall to the maximum of around 1,500 mm. In other districts such as Periyar, Tiruchirapalli, Ramanathapuram, Salem and Dharmapuri receive lesser amount of rainfall compared to other districts. To sum up, the average rainfall of the State is above 1,000 mm.in a year.

The weather scale of the State can be broadly segregated as hot weather season, South-West monsoon season, the retreating monsoon season, and cold weather season. The State experiences hot Summer and warm Winter. The extent of rainfall in different places influences the temperature distribution in the State. Drier area is having great range of temperature compared to the coastal areas. Normally the average temperature increases from February onwards and reaches its highest level till the month of May and afterwards the temperature starts decreasing gradually every month. The lowest temperature is generally recorded during December and January.

The soil of the State have been classified into 8 major classes and 20 special order associates which identifies in terms of the principal characteristics. Soil types are generally Red loam, lateritic black sandy and red sandy. Among these types redloam is predominant. Limestones, magnesite, gypsum ore, bauxite, iluminite, fire clay, lignite and iron ore constitute the wealth of the State.

The Tamilnadu is mostly depending on Agriculture like other States. Here more than 52% of total area is being cultivated to feed 5.6 crores of people. The major crops cultivated in Tamilnadu are rice, groundnuts, millets, sugarcanes, cotton etc. Still agriculture dominate major portion of the State income of Tamilnadu compared to Industries. Among the total

main workers nearly 28% constitutes cultivators and more than 30% constitutes agriculture labourers which explicitly shows the dependence on agriculture.

The selected socio economic indicators of Tamilnadu are given at the end of this Chapter to have an idea about the growth of Tamilnadu during the Plan periods.

DEMOGRAPHIC FEATURES:

India is the largest democratic and the second most populous country in the world, with 843.93 million of people as per the 1991 census. The population of Tamilnadu is 55.6 million as per 1991 census which works out to 6.59 % of total population of India. Tamilnadu ranks 7th in population among States and Union Territories. The decadal variation, density of population for the census period 1901-1991 is given below as a part of demographic indicator of Tamilnadu.

Census	Population	Decadal variation.	Density
1901	19,253,637	---	148
1911	20,902,616	8.57	161
1921	21,628,518	3.47	166
1931	23,472,099	8.52	180
1941	26,267,507	11.91	202
1951	30,119,047	14.66	232
1961	33,686,953	11.85	259
1971	41,199,168	22.30	317
1981	48,408,077	17.50	372
1991	55,638,318	14.94	428

The decadal variation steadily increased over the census periods and reached high (22.30%) in 1971 census and fell in 1981 and 1991 census years considerably.

The growth of literacy rate in the census years is very appreciable compared to other States in India. The female literacy is however less compared to male, showing the negative attitude of parents towards their female children in giving education for their existence. However it is noticed that this attitude has been changing and the importance of women education for their social upliftment in the democracy is largely felt. The literacy rates in the census years in Tamilnadu is given below:-

+

LITERACY RATE/CENSUS YEARS:

Census Year	Persons	Male	Female
1901	7.64	14.52	1.02
1911	9.18	17.14	1.53
1921	10.38	18.55	2.43
1931	11.34	19.98	2.94
1941	16.19	25.61	6.88
1951	28.85	31.73	10.06
1961	31.41	44.54	18.17
1971	39.46	51.78	26.86
1981	46.76	58.26	34.39
1991	63.72	74.88	52.29

The distribution of population in the rural and urban areas of the State is not uniform throughout. The hilly regions of Western and Eastern ghats and their neighbouring areas have low population density. The elevated portion of the State are scarcely populated. The density of population is high in Madras, Coimbatore, Madurai, Trichy and Salem districts. It is noticed from the census records that the urban population is rapidly increasing during the census periods. The distribution of rural and urban population and the percentage distribution is furnished below:-

URBAN RURAL POPULATION AND THEIR PERCENTAGE
TO TOTAL POPULATION, 1901-1991

Year	No. of Urban units	Urban	Rural	Percentage of Urban Population.	Percentage of rural Population.	Sex Ratio
1901	133	2724781	16527849	14.15	85.84	1044
1911	162	3149137	17753479	15.07	84.93	1042
1921	189	3428079	18200439	15.85	84.15	1029
1931	222	4230382	19241717	18.02	81.98	1027
1941	257	5173682	21093825	19.70	80.30	1012
1951	297	7333525	22785522	24.35	75.65	1007
1961	339	8990528	24696425	26.69	73.31	992
1971	439	12464834	28734334	30.26	69.74	978
1981	434	15951875	35456202	32.95	67.05	977
1991	469	19027033	36611285	34.20	65.80	971

The percentage of rural population is noticed decreasing during the census period from 1901 to 1991 and on the other hand the percentage of urban population steadily increasing which indicates the higher level migration of population to the urban areas and also indicates the increase of urbanization in the State. The Number of Urban units has been increased from 133 in 1901 census year to 469 in 1991 census year. The sex ratio is noticed steadily decreasing from 1044 in 1901 to 971 in 1991 census.

Further young age and old age dependency rates for the census period is also furnished in the Table below: -

4

DEPENDENCY RATES, 1901 TO 1991

Year	Percentage of population in the age group			Young age depen- dency	Old age
	0-14	14-59	60 & above		
1901	39.7	54.7	5.6	83	14
1911	37.8	56.3	5.9	78	16
1921	34.4	56.7	4.5	76	16
1931	38.8	56.7	5.9	76	12
1941	38.7	56.7	4.6	76	12
1951	36.2	58.2	5.6	72	16
1961	37.6	56.8	5.6	76	15
1971	37.8	56.5	5.7	77	15
1981	34.8	58.7	6.5	59	11

The young age dependency - $\frac{\text{Population 0-14 Age group}}{\text{Population 14-59 Age group}} \times 100$

The old age dependency - $\frac{\text{Population of age 60}}{\text{Population of 14-59 age group}} \times 100$

It is noticed from the Table above that the old age and young age dependency rates during the census periods is fluctuating due to fall in the birth rate and death rate.

TOTAL OF MAIN WORKERS, CULTIVATORS, AGRI. LABOURERS,
HOUSEHOLD INDUSTRY, & OTHER WORKERS

Year	Sex	Total main workers	Cultiva-tors	Agricul-tural	Household Industry Labourers	Others workers
1951	T	21990710	15083838	6906872*	8330885	5413694
			(68.59%)	(31.41%)	(37.88%)	(24.62%)
	M	10811410	7540122	3271288	4215702	2683132
	F	11179300	7543716	3635584	4114383	2730562
1961	T	15351621	6457833	2828374	1206812	2357573
			(42.07%)	(18.42%)	(7.86%)	(15.36%)
	M	10103326	4230028	1445041	681052	1580584
	F	5248295	22785	138383	525760	176989
1971	T	14734967	4607787	4450065	619913	1362715
			(31.26%)	(30.46%)	(4.21%)	(9.25%)
	M	11667065	4026578	2817580	486913	1111601
	F	3074092	581209	1672485	183519	252114
1981	T	19026393	5559103	6037601	898277	6531412
			(29.22%)	(31.73%)	(4.72%)	(34.33%)
	M	13677055	4341818	3179244	561138	5594855
	F	5349338	1217285	2858357	337139	936557
1991	T	2297697	5729489	7846190	1069751	832626
			(29.94%)	(34.16%)	(4.66%)	(36.24%)
	M	15756894	4190508	4092820	605288	686828
	F	7214803	153981	3753370	464463	145798

* Includes production, commerce & transport
(The percentage of workers to total main workers is given in the parenthesis).

It is seen from the table above that the percentage of cultivators and agricultural labourers is high compared to household and other workers during the census period which shows the agriculture is the main occupation for the majority of our population.

DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS OF TAMILNADU

The development indicators of Tamilnadu for the year 1951 to 1991 corresponding to the census years is prescribed below to have an idea of the growth of certain sectors of Tamilnadu economy.

Sl.	Sector	1951	1961	1971	1981
1.	Population (in crores)	3.01	3.37	4.12	4.84
2.	Literacy Rate (%)	20.85	31.41	39.46	46.76
	A. Less population		60352	72959	57461
3.	State Income (Rs. in crores)	615.77	1111.85	2371.10	6381.02
4.	Per capita Income at current price (in Rs)	204	334	581	1324
5.	At constant price	257	334	581	584
6.	Agriculture (Total cropped area) ('000' Hectres)	6391	7270	7641	6989
7.	Foodgrain Production ('000' Tonnes)	3607	5703	6884	7376
8.	Actual Rainfall (in mm.)	762.3	867.0	968.0	952.7
9.	Percapita Production of foodgrains (in Kg.)	119.4	165.9	164.4	149.8

Sl.	Sector	1951	1961	1971	1981
10.	Industries (No. of registered manufacturing Industries). (Year: 1955)	781	819	6140	10989
11.	No. of Workers (Year: 1955)	138297	229606	477565	679507
12.	Value of Output (Rs. in lakhs) (Year: 1955)	11411	28183	155513	813012
13.	Index No. of Industrial production (base year 1960)	--	110.4	183.9	201.7 (Base Year 1970)
14.	Electricity Generation (M.U.)	731	2551	6816	11654
15.	Consumption (M.U.)	585	2042	5457	9135
16.	Communication Length of roads	27259	27352	68416	121554
17.	No. of Post Offices	4046	5762	8027	7961
18.	Telegraphic Office	18	---	30	48
19.	No. of Telephones * Madras city only	--	*24730	*72352	*337851
20.	Transport No. of Registered Motor Vehicles (Commercial)	11624	18022	37949	28845
21.	-do- Non commercial	21879	37334	1093012	238255
22.	Education No of schools (all types)	26571	28491	3460	36753
23.	Enrolment (in lakhs)	47.06	52.78	69.81	91.28

Sl.	Sector	1951	1961	1971	1981
24.	No. of colleges	56	59	158	194
25.	Enrolment	39414	44793	169090	171341
26.	No. of Professional colleges	27	36	50	80
27.	Enrolment	8592	15121	38122	n.a.
28.	Budget Expenditure on Education (Rs. in lakhs)	--	3866	8184	24900

**TAMILNADU STATE PLAN EXPENDITURE BY MAJOR SECTOR
FROM THE FIRST OF THE SEVENTH FIVE-YEAR PLAN EXPENDITURE**
(Rs. in crores)
(Percentage share in brackets)

Sl. No. Sector	First Plan (1951-56)	Second Plan (1956-61)	Third Plan (1961-66)	Annual Plan period (1966-69)
1. Agriculture and allied services	9.57 (11.91)	30.62 (16.31)	74.53 (21.47)	66.57 (25.01)
2. Co-operation	0.11 (0.14)	1.88 (1.00)	5.52 (1.59)	2.52 (1.08)
3. Irrigation & Flood control	20.15 (25.06)	17.56 (9.35)	31.46 (9.06)	12.54 (4.71)
4. Power	30.28 (37.67)	79.15 (42.16)	119.20 (34.34)	104.26 (39.17)
5. Industry & Minerals	1.53 (1.90)	14.08 (7.50)	23.73 (6.84)	16.56 (6.23)
6. Transport & Communication	2.70 (3.36)	5.52 (2.94)	11.74 (3.38)	10.44 (3.92)
7. Social & community services	16.05 (19.96)	37.96 (20.21)	80.25 (23.12)	52.50 (19.72)

Sl. No	Sector	First Plan (1951-56)	Second Plan (1956-61)	Third Plan (1961-66)	Annual Plan Period (1966-69)
8.	Economic Services	---	0.99 (0.53)	0.72 (0.01)	0.46 (0.17)
9.	General services	---	---	---	---
Total:		80.39 (100.00)	187.76 (100.00)	347.15 (100.00)	266.18 (100.00)

	Fourth Plan (1969-74)	Fifth Plan (1974-78)	Mid-term Plan (1978-80)	Sixth Plan (1980-85)	Seventh Plan (1985-90)
	103.75 (18.56)	93.28 (11.19)	83.50 (11.74)	769.90 (21.12)	940.06 (14.88)
	7.87 (1.41)	38.55 (4.63)	16.33 (2.30)	26.12 (0.72)	54.13 (0.86)
	28.29 (5.06)	59.65 (7.16)	40.71 (5.72)	161.33 (4.43)	343.74 (5.44)
	210.05 (37.58)	259.82 (31.17)	279.59 (39.32)	967.57 (26.55)	1770.81 (28.03)
	33.00 (5.90)	50.54 (6.05)	47.34 (6.66)	293.18 (8.04)	504.86 (7.99)
	30.73 (5.50)	86.06 (10.32)	88.94 (12.51)	295.68 (8.11)	342.00 (5.41)
	142.82 (25.55)	237.68 (28.52)	152.17 (21.40)	1108.68 (30.42)	2292.84 (36.29)
	2.45 (0.44)	2.65 (0.32)	0.51 (0.07)	2.13 (0.06)	18.61 (0.30)
	--	5.38 (0.64)	2.04 (0.28)	19.98 (0.55)	50.39 (0.80)
	558.96 (100.00)	833.52 (100.00)	711.13 (100.00)	3644.61 (100.00)	6317.44 (100.00)

EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION

(ix) Priority given to Education in the Five Year Plans

Year	Total Plan Outlay of the State	Plan Outlay on Education	Plan Expenditure on Education	Percentage of the Plan Outlay on Education to the total State Plan Outlay	Percentage of the Plan expenditure on Education to the Plan outlay on Education
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
(Rupees in Lakhs)					
1980-81	4,85,39	22,41	18,80	4.6	83.9
1981-82	6,06,76	25,47	24,29	4.2	95.4
1982-83	8,44,54	37,60	36,41	4.5	96.8
1983-84	9,76,15	44,68	37,06	4.6	82.9
1984-85	11,71,59	56,93	53,80	4.9	94.5
1985-86	13,41,48	58,38	53.34	4.4	91.3
1986-87	14,01,56	67,61	66,40	4.8	98.2
1987-88	15,55,08	84,35	79,15	5.4	93.8
1988-89	16,76,78	82,12	86,52	4.9	105.4
1989-90	16,27,73	81,43	114,69	5.0	140.8
1990-91	18,70,16	45,94	90,94	2.5	198.0
1991-92	20,44,92	63,80	89,64	3.1	136.3
1992-93	22,03,82	87,23	87,48 (R.E)	4.0	100.3

Source: Plan-Budget link books of the respective years
(Total Plan outlay and Education outlay)

Note.2: Plan expenditure on Education is Expenditure on State Plan Schemes, Centrally Sponsored Schemes and shared equally schemes.

Note.1: Plan outlay on Education includes State Plan Schemes, Centrally Sponsored Schemes and Shared Equally Schemes.

Chapter-II

GENESIS OF THE MIDDAY MEAL NUTRITIOUS MEAL PROGRAMME

Tamil Nadu is the land of ancient culture, intellectual literature, beautiful architecture, human hospitality and also is one among the pioneer States in India in various aspects including introduction and successful implementation of various schemes for the welfare of the people and is lauded even at the international level. One among the welfare schemes attracted that has global application is nutritious noon meal scheme.

Policy making apparently proceeds the inspiration, identification of problems etc. The genesis of the Midday Meal/Nutritious Meal programme is the outcome of the inspiration of improving health status of children especially from poor families to save them from killer diseases resulting mostly out of malnutrition.

Tamil scriptures glorified food and those who provide it to others and condemned those who tasted its flavour themselves. Poet Subramanya Bharathi declared that the entire world deserved to be destroyed if even a single human-being went hungry. Gandhiji wrote that for the poor God revealed Himself in the ricebowl. Thiruvalluvar says, it is indecent to eat alone - even if what you eat is God's food - keeping out your guests.

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It was felt that hunger among children would cause irreversible damage to the society and nation. The then Chief Minister late M.G. Ramachandran publicly acknowledged how his family and himself was saved from death by his neighbour through timely rice donation. The inspiration from this experience delivered the output as a reputed welfare scheme. Removal of hunger among children is not the only aim of the scheme, but unsurfaced reasons are also there. These other aims may be identified as removal of social disparities, economic backwardness, improving nutritional status, enrolment in schools and preventing school droupouts etc.

LITERACY POSITION

Illiteracy is the key indicator of the socio-economic backwardness of a nation. The economic and literacy growth depend on each other and accelerate each other. The literacy growth rate of Tamilnadu was very low before the period of independence. This was because the British rulers did not take initiative for the growth of education. Education during British period was considered a privilege for the rich people. The poor could not even dream of education while they struggled hard for their existence.

After Independence the literacy growth rate was considerably increased due to the effort put forth by the government for the growth of education. The literacy rate in the various census period shown below indicates the educational status of Tamilnadu.

<u>Census Year</u>	<u>Literacy Rates</u>
1901	7.64
1911	9.18
1921	10.38
1931	11.34
1941	16.19
1951	20.81
1961	36.39
1971	45.40
1981	54.38
1991	63.72

The literacy rate of Tamilnadu in 1951 census period was only 20.81 that is nearly 80% of the population was illiterate and in 1981 census period the literacy rate was 54.38 that is nearly 45% of the population was illiterate. So many reasons can be attributed for this poor literacy growth. It necessitated the implementation of incentive programme in the State to motivate the

majority of population below the poverty line to have at least primary education. The midday meal/nutritious meal scheme was the outcome of the incentive programme.

SOCIAL DISPARITIES:

Unity in diversity is the special characteristics of the Indian Union. Indians belong to different religion, caste, creed and speak different languages and adopt different culture but they feel that they are Indians.

The Social disparities still exists since it has deep root. The caste system in the society does not fade away even now since it is imprinted in the minds of the children. The evils of the casteism can be slowly wiped out by educating the suppressed sector of the society. The real growth of education can be seen by achieving universalisation of education. Education must be ensured to the downtrodden people to fit them in the preferred social order for the sake of communal harmony. The people of the suppressed castes must be motivated, induced to educate their children by introducing welfare Schemes. Nutritious meal scheme is the outcome of this inspiration. Further, in schools the interaction of children from various caste groups dissolves the complexes imprinted in the minds of the children. It was felt that the interdining of children in schools would break the caste barrier.

ECONOMIC BACKWARDNESS:

The imbalance and mismatch of the growth of population and employment generation is another indicator of economic backwardness of a nation. Since the growth of employment and education is interlinked and act as a catalyst for each other, the growth of education was felt as the immense need of the hour. The majority of people below the poverty line could not feed their children sufficiently and they pressed their children to work in field for their bread. The schoolage children were forced to leave their education due to their poverty, by their parents. The per capita income given in the following table clearly indicates the economic backwardness of the people of Tamilnadu.

PER CAPITA INCOME

YEAR	At current price (in Rs.)	At constant price (in Rs.)
1950-51	204	257
1960-61	334	334
1970-71	581	581
1980-81	1324	584*

* (Source: Commissioner of Statistics)

It was inspired that education had to be ensured to the weaker sections of the people by alleviating burden of the parents in feeding their children atleast one time in a day. The school meal scheme was the result of this inspiration for achieving the universalisation of education even under the conditions of economic backwardness of the State.

NUTRITIONAL STATUS:

Nutrition is part of health. The problem of nutrition is universal. According to the Diet Atlas of India, Tamilnadu had the lowest mean per capita daily consumption of calories and proteins among the thirteen States listed below, i.e. 36 grams for protein and 1498 for calories as against all India mean of 53 and 1985 and the allowance of 44 and 2400 recommended by the ICMR.

MEAN PER CAPITA DAILY CONSUMPTION OF CALORIES AND PROTEINS IN THE STATE

<u>Sl.No.</u>	<u>States</u>	<u>Protein in Grams.</u>	<u>Calories</u>
1.	Andhra Pradesh	53	2040
2.	Bihar	56	1865
3.	Gujarat	54	1612
4.	Haryana	Not available	
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	63	2265
6.	Himachal Pradesh	Not available	
7.	Kerala	47	1842
8.	Madhya Pradesh	98	2779
9.	Maharashtra	68	2281
10.	Karnataka	66	2220
11.	Rajasthan	77	2044
12.	Tamilnadu	36	1498
13.	Punjab	84	2832
14.	Uttar Pradesh	66	2307
15.	West Bengal	48	1927
	All India	53	1985
	ICMR's Recommended allowance	44	2400

Source: 'Nutrition in Tamilnadu' page 12, Dr. Rajammal P. Devadas

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The 1961 food habit survey in Tamilnadu as per Census Department showed a mean per capita consumption unit of 2500 calories had a per capita requirement of 2800 calories. The national sample survey for 1969-70 recorded the consumption expenditure in Tamilnadu. As per the survey, 55 percent of the households spent less than 79 paise per head per day which was the money equivalent of the minimum 2200 calories and which marked off poverty from bare sufficiency. The calory intake that obtained in the case of children below three years was 700 against the recommended 1200 per day.

Malnutrition lowers the childrens' resistance to disease resulting in higher mortality. Protein deficiency between the ages 1 and 5 in a child is irremediable. That is the time when the brain is formed in this stage protein deficiency results in irreparable damage to the mental health of the children. About 15 percent of the total population comes under 0-14 age group. The malnutrition drastically affects the mental and physical growth of the poor children in this age group. The midday meal scheme was conceived in this angle to avert the irreparable damage to the society.

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ENROLMENT IN SCHOOLS:

Another factor which is also equally important for the inception of midday meal scheme is enrolment position in schools. It is already stated that the growth of education is mostly affected by the economic backwardness, social disparities etc. It is seen from the table below that only 57 per cent of children in the 6-11 age group enrolled in I-V Std. in schools in the year 1956-57 and the remaining 43 per cent was away from school. It was felt that poor enrolment in schools would result in so many social problems in the future. Since education is considered as stepping stone for the overall development of a nation, it is very essential to accelerate the growth of qualitative and quantitative education.

Year	Projected population 6-11 age group	Enrolment I-V Stds.	Percen- tage
1951-1952	4445450	1792148	40.31
1952-1953	3998855	1868147	46.72
1953-1954	4051996	2069070	51.06

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Year	Projected population 6-11 age group	Enrolment I-V Stds.	Percen- tage
1954-1955	4108710	2180492	53.07
1955-1956	4416836	2597872	53.31
1956-1957	4592700	2597872	56.57

Source: Public Instruction Report

It was thought that the midday meal scheme would have given expected improvement in the growth of enrolment in schools. As such the scheme was launched in the year 1956 as a voluntary scheme. Most expectedly the scheme received positive support from the public.

SCHOOL DROPOUT:

Another important aspect which has to be analysed in the process of formulation of educational planning is school dropouts. School dropout means the children enrolled in schools becoming unable to continue their studies and leaving the schools due to various reasons. The fixing of target to enroll all the school age children in schools and the total achievement of this target volume would give the end result provided all the enrolled children in schools do complete their studies.

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The school drop out rate worked out with particulars available in the available old records indicate the importance to initiate appropriate steps to reduce it to a minimum level. The dropout rates in I-V Stds from 1951-52 to 1955-56 is given in the table below:

DROP OUT RATE

<u>Year</u>	<u>I-V Stds</u>
1951-1952	61.30
1952-1953	60.92
1953-1954	60.08
1954-1955	59.79
1955-1956	59.15
1956-1957	58.51

It is seen from the table above that the drop out rate in the year 1956-57 in Stds. I-V was 58.51 that is out of the total children enrolled in Ist Std. in the year 1952-53 only 41 percent was in V Std. in the year 1956.57 and the remaining 59% discontinued their studies. Here the small percentage of detained pupils in I-V Std. may not reflect much in the drop out rate. Such alarming situation has to be checked. The importance of reducing the drop out rate was felt. The midday meal scheme served the purpose.

The genesis of the midday meal scheme is directly correlated with few factors stated above. Above all the spontaneous motherly instinct blossomed in the mind of the then Honourable Chief Minister of Tamilnadu late M.G. Ramachandran and induced him to implement this expensive welfare scheme in Tamilnadu for the sake of upliftment of the poor children in a systematic way in the year 1982.

MIDDAY MEAL SCHEME

Origin

Malnutrition among children especially from poor families prompted the rulers to introduce a mid-day meal scheme in Schools. It had the origin in Germany, France and other continental countries, but its most rapid development began in England in early 1900s. School lunch programme began in the U.S. in the early part of the 20th century. Available information indicates that about 43 countries all over the world give free lunches to school children as a part of remedying malnutrition among children from poor families.

In India even before independence, the government was trying to tackle the malnutrition problem in child-population. Various Committees were appointed to study the depth of the problem. Based on the recommendations National Noon Meal Scheme was started mainly for the poor school children in as early as 1925. In the year 1934 the Milk-in-School scheme was started

providing one third pint of milk daily for 50 paise to the elementary school children. This Scheme was highly supported as a means of combating malnutrition and also an inducement to the parents to enrol their children in schools.

In the year 1925 Madras Corporation took the initiative and introduced Midday Meal Programme and provided free meals to 250 poor school children. However it did not cover the entire State. It was the lead for the Mid-day Meal Scheme introduced on a large scale at first time in India by the then Chief Minister of Tamilnadu late Thiru K.Kamaraj in 1956. Today almost all States and Union territories are implementing the scheme in different patterns to suit their financial sources.

GENERAL FEATURES OF THE SCHEME

The School Mid-day Meal Scheme in the Elementary Schools was launched in 1956 as a voluntary movement. Encouraged by the people's support for the cause, the Government of Tamilnadu placed the scheme on an organised basis in 1957 by framing a draft scheme to give financial support to this scheme.

Primarily, the midday meal scheme was implemented in elementary schools in rural areas, to feed the poor pupils and was gradually extended to all rural and urban areas after gaining local financial support. Since the scheme was started as a voluntary movement, Government involved local people in administrating this scheme such as collection of private voluntary

contribution either in kind or in cash or both. Further Local Bodies were directed to contribute fairly to this scheme, however government issued grants substantially. The Municipalities were also permitted to contribute money from out of their General Funds to the Mid-day Meal committees constituted by them in areas within their jurisdiction.

NATURE AND SUPPLY OF MEALS:

The meal ordinarily consisted of cooked rice with sambar or butter milk or curd and vegetables or pickles. With the commencement of CARE Programme the Government supplied milk powder from October, 1961, Corn Meal from Feb, 1962 and bulgar Wheat, Vegetable oil and rice from March, 1962. The CARE contribution to Midday Meal Scheme was substantially high and the food supplied to the children was more nutritious. Under the Mid-day meal Scheme poor children in I-VIII standard in schools were fed 200 days in a year. The Government issued grant to meet the expenditure incurred for 100 days and the expenditure for another 100 days was met from the free gifts of food articles from CARE.

The food was prepared hygienically in the School Meal Centres and supplied to pupils in schools. The pupils in schools in Chengalpattu, North Arcot and South Arcot districts were supplied food prepared in Central Kitchens established in those districts. The Deputy Inspectors of Schools who were also the

inspecting authorities were instructed suitably to ensure minimum standard of hygiene in the preparation and serving of food to children and thereby avoided food poisoning and other dangers.

Storage of food articles collected from public, CARE gift food items and other food articles purchased were ensured free from insects, bacteria and wastage was avoided thereby.

School meal centres were encouraged to maintain kitchen garden and the produce like greens, vegetables in the garden were used and made the food more nutritious.

BENEFICIARIES:

Usually the mid day meals were not supplied to all children in schools. The eligible children, mostly from very poor families were selected and fed. The selection was made by the School Committees and they fixed the ceiling with regard to the resources. Initially, the Government did not restrict the number of pupils selected for feeding by the Committee and by District Educational Officer. Since the expenditure on the payment of grant increased year after year, the Government restricted the number of pupils selected for mid day meals through out the State and directed to select not more than 1/3 of children enrolled in I - VIII Std. in aided elementary schools and elementary schools in Panchayat, Municipal and Corporation areas in all districts, except in The Nilgris district where the maximum limit was 1/2 of the total enrolled. However the maximum limit was relaxed at the

time of drought and in the drought affected areas. The number of beneficiaries of this scheme was going on increasing year after year and the expenditure on the side of Government was also gradually increasing.

The number of beneficiaries and the expenditure for the period from 1957 to 1981 is furnished below:

NO. OF BENEFICIARIES AND AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE 1957-58 TO 1980-81

Year	No. of Beneficiaries (in lakhs)	Expenditure (Rs. in lakhs)
1957-58	2.29	7.32
1958-59	4.00	12.81
1959-60	7.75	63.06
1960-61	8.88	82.75
1961-62	11.57	107.82
1962-63	13.15	122.56
1963-64	13.11	122.19
1964-65	15.27	142.35
1965-66	17.27	160.94
1966-67	16.26	175.00
1967-68	18.00	160.00
1968-69	18.00	146.00
1969-70	18.00	196.00
1970-71	16.18	196.00
1971-72	16.37	198.00

Year	No. of beneficiaries (in lakhs)	Expenditure (Rs. in lakhs)
1972-73	17.64	214.00
1973-74	17.99	218.00
1974-75	18.14	388.00
1975-76	20.03	450.00
1976-77	20.18	480.00
1977-78	20.25	500.00
1978-79	20.25	504.00
1979-80	20.25	537.00
1980-81	20.51	529.00

In the following paragraphs the general administration of the mid-day Meal scheme, financial administration, personnel administration, the role of CARE, inspection and evaluation system have been briefly described.

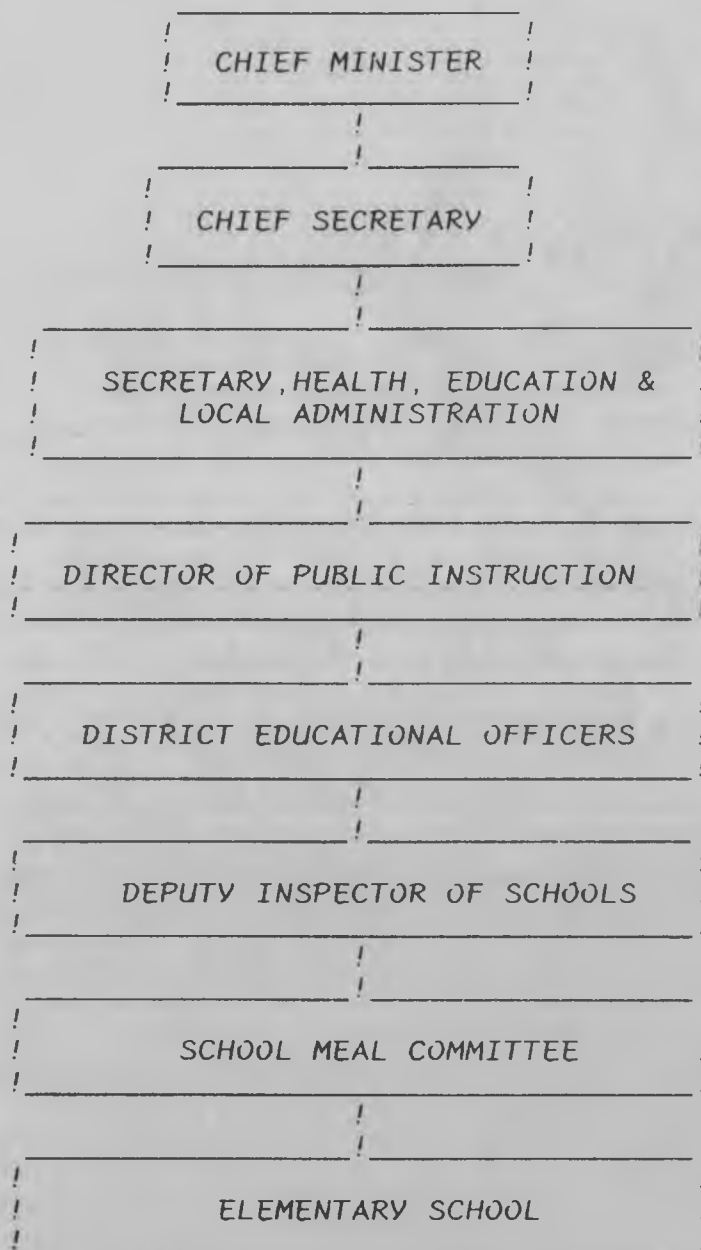
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE MID-DAY MEAL SCHEME:

Government of Tamilnadu, as a social welfare measure and as an effective catalyst for the improvement of health status of children and growth of enrolment in schools, approved the draft scheme for the supply of free school meals for the pupils in elementary schools on 1st November, 1957 (G.O.Ms.No.1850/Edn. dated 8.11.1957). The Department of Health, Education, & Local

Administration was the head of Administrative Department at Secretariat level. The Director of Public Instruction was the Second Level Administrative and Implementing authority who evaluated the scheme from time to time with the assistance of field level officers of the Department.

+ The Organisational Chart of the Mid-day-meal Scheme at the time of inception is given below as per G.O.Ms.No.1850/Edn. dated 8.11.1957.

MID-DAY MEALS SCHEME ORGANISATIONAL CHART



As already stated, the Midday Meal scheme was launched as a voluntary movement and subsequently Government released grant but the scheme was mostly depending on public donations and contributions. Later on Government involved local bodies namely Panchayat Unions, Municipalities and Corporations and made them to contribute for this scheme. As the lower-most administrative and

implementing authority the School Committee directly involved the local donors and collected cash or kind to feed the children in schools.

THE SCHOOL MEAL COMMITTEE:

The Administration of the Scheme for the supply of meals to the Children in elementary schools in I to VIII Standards was carried on by the local donors who themselves constituted two committees namely General committee and Executive Committee.

CONSTITUTION OF COMMITTEES:

General Committee: The General Committee of the local donors who were contributing either in cash or in kind or in both for the supply of schools. The local donors fixed the minimum level of contribution to become the member of the General Committee. However there was no limit mentioned to the total number of members in this committee. Those who paid the minimum amount of contribution fixed, become the member of the committee. The members of the General committee elected the Chairman and other office bearers of the executive Committee and administered the scheme. The General Committee was empowered to frame the rules and regulations such as fixing the tenure of the memberships, conditions to become the member, election modalities, responsibilities of the chairman and other office bearers in functioning the scheme etc.

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Executive Committee: The Executive Committee was elected by the General Committee. The Chairman of the General Committee was also the Chairman of the Executive Committee. The office members of the executive committee was elected by the General Committee. The number of the executive committee members was also fixed by the General Committee. The executive committee members were empowered, to transact the business of preparation and supply of meals to the school children. The executive committee authorised the Chairman or any one of the members of the executive committee to be in charge of money and materials collected and to correspond with the office of the Education Department relating to the functioning of midday meals scheme and to receive Government grants. The Headmasters of the Schools were also the Non member Secretary of the General and the Executive Committees. If the committee was common to more than one school one particular Headmaster was nominated as the Secretary by the Chairman of the Committee. The Composition of the committee prescribed in special rules (i) to (iii) was only suggestive and it was open to the Committees to verify it in any manner to suit the local conditions.

FUNCTIONING OF THE COMMITTEE:

The General Committee used to meet at regular intervals of time as decided by the Committee itself. Since the Executive Committee was empowered to transact the business of scheme activities, the functions of the Executive Committee were prescribed in the G.O.Ms.No.1850/Edn., dated 8.11.1950 as follows:

a. to collect money or fund things as required for the supply of school meals from public as donations.

b. to arrange the preparation and serving of meals and for the custody of money and things collected.

c. to select the pupils to be provided with free school meals.

d. to appoint the servants necessary for the preparation and serving of the meals and to supervise their work.

e. to do all such other acts and the things as might be necessary in order to achieve the object of the scheme.

MEMBERSHIP OF EMPLOYEES OF GOVERNMENT AND LOCAL BODIES:

Notwithstanding anything contained in the Government Servants' Conduct Rules, the rules for the personal conduct of officers and servants of local bodies and Municipalities and any other rules for employees of Government and local bodies and Municipalities might work as members of the Committee constituted under the scheme after obtaining the permission from their higher authorities. However they were not allowed to participate in collection of donations in any way.

Recognition:

The Committees constituted for the functioning of the midday meal scheme were recognised by the Deputy Inspector of Schools who were authorised to grant recognition for those Committees. The Deputy Inspector of Schools followed the procedure prescribed by the Director of Public Instruction in granting recognition. While granting recognition Deputy Inspector of Schools followed the order of priority.

1. All private school meal centres which were in existence on 8.11.1957.
2. New centres opened thereafter in Block Development and National Extension Services areas.
3. Other centres opened thereafter with special prior permission of the Director of Public Instruction.

PARTICIPATION OF MUNICIPALITIES:

The Government of Tamil Nadu permitted (G.O. Ms. No.862/Education dated 28.4.1960) the Municipalities to constitute themselves into local Committees Co-opting other persons if necessary for the purpose of administering the Midday Meal Scheme in elementary schools managed by them, subject to the rules and conditions laid down in G.O.Ms.No.1850 Education dated 8.10.1957.

In order to make them more effective and ensure local contributions and proper preparation and distribution of Midday Meals, the Government of Tamilnadu directed (G.O.Ms.No.126/ Education dated 18.1.1962) to involve the President of the concerned Panchayats as the Chairman of the General as well as Executive Committees for all the Midday Meal Centres in the jurisdiction of the Panchayat. Likewise the woman member of the Panchayat was made as member of the General Committee of all the Midday Meal Centres within the jurisdiction of the Panchayat. Further, with a view to give proper representation to important section of the society in the village, Government directed (G.O.Ms.No.905/ Education dated 24.4.1962) to involve the Harijan member of the Panchayat concerned as a member of the General Committee of all the Midday Meal Centres within the jurisdiction of the Panchayat.

Government thus made fuller participation of the local people and ensured public contribution and local support for effective implementation of the Midday Meal Programme in the State.

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE MIDDAY MEAL SCHEME:

Initially the Midday Meal scheme was launched in the year 1956 as a Voluntary movement without incurring any expenditure from Government side. Subsequently the Government approved the draft scheme and draft rules submitted by the Director of Public Instruction (in his letter No.453/PD-1/57, dated 11.10.1957) to

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Government. The Government of Tamilnadu (in G.Ms.No.1850 Edn. dated 8-11-1957) made provision of Rs.10 lakhs in the 1957 Annual Budget towards the expenditure of the scheme and allotted new head "Grants for School Meals to Elementary School Pupils" under "37 Education - S.Miscellaneous - C.Scheme under the Second Five Year Plan". The Government of Tamilnadu also opened new detailed head, "XXVI, Education-General-contribution-1 Grants from Union Government" for the credit of grant from the Government of India for this scheme.

The Government grant did not cover the entire expenditure incurred for the supply of free meal to the elementary school children in I-VIII Std., however the major portion of expenditure was met out from the donations in cash or kind or both from the public. As already stated the successful functioning of this scheme was entrusted to the school meal committees.

The Government directed the school meal committees to collect a minimum contribution of 4 paise per meal either in cash or in kind from the public and the Government paid to the school meal committee a grant calculated at the rate of the amount equal to the amount by which the actual expenditure exceeded 4 paise per meal per pupil or 6 paise per meal per pupil whichever was less. The Executive Committee established by the General Committee was also in charge of financial administration at the level of school meal centres.

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The Executive Committee calculated the expenditure only in recurring nature as per the guidelines issued then and there by the officials of the Education Department to the extent of amount worked out at the rate of 6 paise per meal per pupil for the total number of beneficiaries of the centres and forwarded it to the concerned Deputy Inspector of Schools in the prescribed formats within the time limit. (The specimen format is enclosed at the end of this report). The recurring expenditure included the cost of foodstuff, the wages of the cooks and the servants employed and contingencies connected with the preparation and serving of food. The non-recurring expenditure such as purchase of utensils, maintenance of cooking sheds etc., was borne by the School Meal Committee itself. Those expenditures were not to be met from the Government grants as per the instruction.

PROCEDURE FOR SANCTION OF GRANT:

It was felt that the payment of advance grant was necessary for the smooth functioning of the scheme, as such it was arranged to release the advance grant to school meal centres well in advance for each quarter. The Chairman of the Executive Committee usually applied for the quarterly advance grant furnishing the particulars such as total number of working days during the quarter, total number of pupils selected for the provision of school meals, estimate of government grant due etc., to the Deputy Inspector of Schools concerned well in advance. The Deputy Inspector of Schools scrutinised the particulars furnished by the Chairman of the Executive Committee with reference to the

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number fixed by the District Educational Officer for provision of school meals and recommended for the payment of advance at the rate specified in Rule (3) (amount at the rate of grant with effect from 1st November 1957 or such later date as may be fixed by the District Educational Officer, the Executive Committee of every school meal committee may be paid a grant calculated at the rate of the amount equal to the amount by which actual expenditure exceeds 4 paise per meal per pupil or 6 paise per meal per pupil whichever is less). With commencement of CARE Programme, the Government supplied milk powder, corn meal, bulgar wheat, vegetable oil and rice to the midday meal centres. Expenses were allowed to be incurred only on miscellaneous items like sambar, chutney, vegetable, side dishes and other condiments. In this way Government instructed not to incur expenditure more than 4 paise per meal since CARE commodities were supplied. Therefore Government directed that all the school meal committees had to calculate the expenditure on midday meals only for the cost of ingredients (other than CARE Commodities) required for the preparation of sambar, chutney, vegetables, side dishes and condiments, cost of the wages given to the cook, other service, other than contingencies connected with the preparation and serving of food. The transport charges of the CARE commodities were met from the public contribution (as per G.O.Ms.NO.1003/Edn, dated 3.5.1962) with effect from 1st Feb.1962.

On receipt of the recommendations, the District Educational Officer sanctioned the grant. In the process of sanctioning the grant, the District Educational Officer ensured that the grant paid for the previous quarter in advance was fully adjusted.

The Chairman of the Executive Committee furnished monthly return for every month in the form prescribed by the District Educational Officer. The monthly return contained the information regarding the grant received in advance for the quarter, the amount adjusted upto the end of the month, the number of pupils fed during the month, the grant payable etc. The return was also signed by the Headmaster/Headmistress of the school concerned.

The District Educational Officer was the authority in releasing government grant to midday meal centres located in Municipal as well as Panchayat Union areas. Under Madras Panchayat Act - 1958, Panchayat Unions were formed under section 65(e) of the Act, it was the duty of the Panchayat Union Councils to make reasonable provision for carrying out the requirements of Panchayat Union in respect of opening, maintenance and expansion or improvement of elementary schools, including payment of grants to private managements in respect of elementary schools. In accordance with the provisions in Panchayat Act, the grant for midday meal paid by the Government to the local midday meal committee was transferred and the Panchayat Union Commissioners paid the local Committee from the Panchayat Union fund after the receipt of the bill passed by the District Educational Officer and that such amount was compensated by the specific school meal

grant. Thus the primary responsibility of sanctioning the advance grants to the midday meals committee in Panchayat Union area including aided schools was transferred from District Educational Officers to Panchayat Union Commissioners. However the responsibility for distributing midday meal grant to the schools in Municipal areas and aided schools in the Corporation area was retained by the District Educational Officers. (as per the G.O.Ms.No.2075/Education, dated 27.9.1960).

Since the Panchayat Union expressed their weak financial position to pay the quarterly advance grant to midday meal centres in their jurisdiction, the Government was forced to sanction the compensatory grant in advance in four quarterly installments payable on or after the 1st April, 1st July, 1st October and 1st January respectively from 1961-62 onwards based on a rough estimate of the grant required by the Commissioner of Panchayat Unions. The advance grant was disbursed by the Panchayat Union Commissioners based on the bills passed by the District Educational Officers to the school meal centres. This system of sanctioning grant to the Panchayat Union resulted in excess payment and it was noted in the year 1961-62 and 1962-63.

The Government re-examined the situation and decided that the Director of Public Instruction was the competent authority to regularise the advance grant payable to each Panchayat Union and empowered the Director of Public Instruction to disburse the midday meals advance grant to the Panchayat Unions in four quarterly installments, since he was the competent authority to fix the ceiling of beneficiaries of Midday Meal Scheme.

The Panchayat Union Commissioners furnished the statements showing advance grants paid to them by the Director of Public Instruction and the grant actually disbursed by them to the midday meal centres under their jurisdiction during the previous financial year to the Director of Public Instruction before 1st June of each year. (G.O.Ms.No.652/Education dated 4.5.1964).

DISTRIBUTION OF ADVANCE GRANT:

As per the G.O. above mentioned the Director of Public Instruction sanctioned advance grant to the Panchayat Union Commissioners in a quarterly basis. The Panchayat Union Commissioners disbursed the advance grant to midday meal centres based on the bills passed by the District Educational Officers in the form of cheques in favour of Secretaries of the Midday Meal Centres concerned every month. (G.O.Ms.No.104, Education, dated 2.1.1965) With reference to the orders in Government Memorandum No.34851 R.D. Accounts C/61-1, dated 10.4.1961 the elementary schools in Panchayat Unions were formed into different groups for the purpose of disbursement of salary of teachers and the cheques were sent to the Headmasters of the central school of these groups concerned. Therefore the same procedure was followed to disburse midday meal advance grant in the form of cheques to the headmasters of the central schools.

In partial modification of the orders issued in the above mentioned G.O., Government directed to issue cheques for the total amount of advance grant to midday meal centres functioning in

Panchayat Union elementary schools in favour of the Headmasters of the central schools concerned instead of separate cheques as was issued before to the Secretaries of the Midday Meal Centres. Along with the cheque, a statement was attached in duplicate showing the amount of advance grant sanctioned to each of the centres attached to the central school. Simultaneously the Secretaries of the respective midday meal centres were also informed about the amount of advance grant sanctioned for each centre so as to enable them to collect the amount from the Headmaster of the central school concerned. The paymaster obtained the signed receipts from the Secretaries of the centres of group of schools in two slips and retained one copy with him and sent the other copy to the Panchayat Union office by post. The Panchayat Union Commissioners were instructed to issue cheques for midday meals without delay so as to avoid hardships.

In the case of midday meal centres functioning in aided elementary schools, the advance grant was disbursed in the form of cheques to Secretaries by post (G.O.Ms.No. 1726/Education, dated 18.9.1965). Subsequently, (G.O.Ms.No.892/Education, dated 7.6.1974) the District Educational Officers were authorised to release the grant for midday meal centres in Panchayat Union areas in order to avoid the administrative difficulty and to avoid undue delay from 1.7.1974 onwards.

The expenditure incurred by the Government in implementing the midday meal scheme in Tamil Nadu for the period 1957-1981 is furnished in Table-1 of this chapter, however the

particulars relating to public contribution, donation in the form of cash, kind, materials, land etc. are furnished separately since these particulars could not be traced out from the available records.

AUDITING

The Midday Meal Scheme after the implementation received high public support and effected positive result on the growth of education benefiting poor children. Increase in the number of centres, the number of beneficiaries, the volume of transaction, public criticism in meeting out the expenditure etc. necessitated to adopt certain procedures of accounting and auditing the expenditure incurred, as such Government of Tamilnadu introduced systematic audit system for auditing the accounts of the midday meal centres receiving government grants from the year 1963-64 onwards as per the recommendations of the Public Accounts Committee. The Government of Tamilnadu directed the procedure of audit system in detail in G.O.Ms.No.2088, Education, dated 28.9.1963.

The accounts of the midday meal centres situated in Panchayat Union areas were audited by the Panchayat Extension Officer. The audit of the accounts of the midday meal centres in Town Panchayat, Municipalities and Corporation areas were done by the Examiner of Local Fund accounts.

The auditors of the Panchayat Union, Municipalities, Townships, Corporation areas sent the copy of the audit report in respect of each school meals centres in their respective areas to the District Educational Officers concerned and Divisional Panchayat Officer. The Divisional Panchayat Officer consolidated the main features in respect of the Centre in each Panchayat Union area and sent them to the Examiner of Local Fund Accounts. The Examiner, Local Fund Accounts in turn consolidated the reports at district level and sent them to Government for perusal and for further action, rectification and suitable instructions to improve the financial management system of the scheme.

As per the Government instructions the school meal centres maintained various registers in the prescribed forms for proper auditing and inspection. The forms and registers were (1) Receipt Book, (2) Cash Book, (3) Vouchers, (4) Bank Account, (5) Stock Registers (6) Tools and Plant Registers, (7) Attendance Registers (8) Minutes book etc.

The audit objections and rectification of defects pointed out in the audit reports etc. on the accounts of midday meal centres raised by the Panchayat Extension Officers were watched by the Divisional Panchayat Officers. In the case of audit done by the Examiner of Local Fund Accounts in respect of midday meal centres in Town Panchayat, Municipalities, Corporations watching the settlement of objections, rectification pointed in the audit reports were dealt with by the same department.

Chapter-III

'CARE' AND MIDDAY MEAL SCHEME

"Co-operative for American Relief Everywhere" (CARE) was incorporated on November 27, 1945 as a voluntary, non profit, non-political, non-secretarian, non-governmental agency to assist millions of unfortunates, destitute people. In Europe after the World War-II, CARE food packages first reached Le Marve in France on May 11, 1946 and soon afterwards in 10 countries in Europe and Great Britain. As Europe recovered from the ravages of war, CARE began a phased withdrawal from the countries it had served, and became involved in assisting needy millions of people in other countries. In the early 1950s, Public Law 480 was enacted, under which statute major supplies of food were made available to the world's poor through voluntary agencies such as CARE. America was the major contributor and also the major source for CARE.

CARE had been very active in India since March 6, 1950. Under an agreement with Government of India, the principal activity of CARE was importing of food commodities for various national and State sponsored supplementary nutritious programmes directed towards the young children' and mothers' relief activities and economic development schemes.

CARE commenced its operation in Tamilnadu in 1957. CARE-Tamil Nadu began its first partnership programme (first also in India) on October 2, 1961 which was the midday meal programme to feed the poor children in schools. With the commencement of CARE Programme, Government supplied milk powder from October 1961, corn meal from Feb. 1962, and bulgar wheat, vegetable oil and rice from March 1962 for the midday meal centres.

Since CARE contribution to midday meal scheme increased substantially, Government of Tamil Nadu directed that CARE food commodities had to be used to feed the children for 100 days and for another 100 days Government grant had to be used to feed the children in Schools. CARE commodities supplied to midday meal scheme and its approximate value is given below for the years from 1962-63 to 1983-84.

THE QUANTITY/VALUE OF COMMODITIES SUPPLIED BY
'CARE' ORGANISATION TO THE MIDDAY MEAL CENTRES
IN TAMILNADU FROM 1962-63 TO 1983-84

<i>Year</i>	<i>Quantity</i>
	<i>(in Million Pounds)</i>
1962-63	7.15
1963-64	22.82
1964-65	27.80
1965-66	29.71
1966-67	31.43
1967-68	34.76
1968-69	38.65
1969-70	n.a.
1970-71	42.19
1971-72	49.25
1972-73	56.36
1973-74	55.30
1974-75	55.15
1975-76	31.02

Year	Quantity (in Million Pounds)
1977-78	40.00
1978-79	40.00
1979-80	40.00
1980-81	20000 (tones)
1981-82	13050 "
1982-83	13050 "
1983-84	11000 "

CARE COMMODITY FLOW

The CARE-Tamilnadu imported the required quantity of commodity for Tamil Nadu Midday Meal Programme and handed over to the Education Department for distribution to school meal centres. The Education Department arranged to transport the commodities from the port to city transit godowns. At that time there were two godowns one at Nandanam and other at Thiruvanmiyur in Madras district.

Balhar Mill:

Balhar mill received required quantity of bulgar wheat from CARE and produced targetted quantity of Balhar. The Balhar stock moved to city godowns of Corporations of Madras, Coimbatore and Madurai directly from the mill for distribution to centres.

City Transit Godowns:

The two transit godowns namely Thiruvanmiyur and Nandanam received commodities directly from Port and Balhar Mill. The godown at Thiruvanmiyur usually supplied stock of CARE commodities to Regional Godowns as per the Education Department's allocation and Godown at Nandanam supplied the stock of CARE Commodities as per the indent to Madras Ranges, Central Kitchens, and 7 Municipalities in Chengalpattu District. In addition to the supply of food commodities these godowns received oil and supplied it to the Regional godowns as per the indent made by the Education Department.

The ten regional godowns supplied CARE food commodities to range and Central Kitchens. All midday meal centres received food commodities from ranges and stored safely in their centres.

'CARE' Assistance to Central Kitchens

Beginning with 1967, 97 Central Kitchens in Chengalpattu, South Arcot and North Arcot Districts were constructed with CARE assistance at a cost of Rs.2 crores. Further CARE supplied 224 delivery vans as gift for supplying food from Central Kitchens to the schools and subsequently gave assistance to replace the petrol vehicles into diesel vans to minimise the transport costs of supplying food. In this way CARE replaced 33 petrol vehicles and supplied diesel vans. In addition to that, CARE provided vehicles to the inspecting officers to inspect the school centres and Central Kitchens for the proper functioning of the scheme.

A workshop for servicing, repairing and maintenance of those vehicles as well as the cooking equipment in the Kitchens was constructed with CARE assistance at a cost of Rs.15 lakhs at Vikravandi in South Arcot District.

CARE Warehousing Constructions:

As a follow up action the chain of 10 Regional Godowns already constructed by CARE, 2 transit godowns one at Madras with a capacity of 1500 M.T. and another one at Tuticorin with a capacity of 200 M.T. were constructed with CARE assistance. One more Central Godown at Adyar in Madras was constructed with the help of CARE at a cost of about Rs.30 lakhs.

CARE CONTRIBUTION OTHER THAN MIDDAY MEAL SCHEME:

a) Health Education in Primary Schools:

This programme was inaugurated in the year 1980 to impart health education through the infrastructure as primary school. Highly resourceful persons were trained and they gave training to primary school teachers. The primary school teachers in turn introduces the health consciousness and acted as primary detectors of health setback of school children. CARE contributed for this scheme in the form of educational media such as film, printing of manual etc., in collaboration with SCERT at a total cost of Rs. 1.8 lakhs.

b) Balwadi feeding Programme:

CARE assistance in the Balwadi feeding programme commenced in May 1970. Under this scheme the pre-schoolers and pregnant/lactating mothers were supplied with cooked food given by CARE 300 days in a year. The ration of CARE food was 80 gms. of grain and 7 gms of oil per beneficiary per feeding day. Under this programme CARE contribution was nearly 276 lakhs in a year. Apart from this, CARE contributed about Rs. 182 lakhs for special nutrition programme and another Rs. 182 lakhs in a year for feeding all the days in a year under modified special nutritious

The CARE extended assistance to construction of Balwadi Centres, Balwadis Feeding Programme, Chief Minister's Nutritious Meal Programme and also for Pondicherry Midday Meal Programme.

The CARE also assisted in the field of Agriculture by adopting Agriculture Co-operative Society in Coimbatore District and provided 5 tractors and a service shed for repairing and maintenance of tractors. Further, in collaboration with Tamilnadu Dairy Development Corporation CARE constructed milk sheds in 5 milk societies in Chengalpattu District and also supplied dairy equipment.

The CARE also assisted Government in rehabilitation of flood affected areas during 1976 by providing cooked food packets, clothing, cash assistance, etc. to the extent of one million dollars. CARE was also active again during the floods of 1978.

Management of Storage and distribution of CARE commodities:

The CARE-Tamilnadu contributed to the midday meal scheme was about 27,000 MT. of commodity every year valued at Rs.900 lakhs. Out of 200 feeding days in a year under Midday Meal Scheme the children in schools were fed for 100 feeding days by CARE contribution. The proper storage and distribution of CARE commodities and Oil was felt essential and the system was strengthened gradually.

The CARE gift-food was imported under Indo-U.S. Agreement as well as Indo-CARE Agreement. The food commodities and oil was transported to transit godowns at Madras and Tuticorin. The Tamilnadu Government had to bear a sizable amount of harbour dues for loading, unloading, storage etc., of gift commodities every year. The Government of Tamilnadu initiated steps to get rid of the financial burden relating to the Harbour dues. Ultimately the Government of India empowered the Director of School Education to incur the harbour dues every year.

The transportation cost was met out from the School Meal Grant. The transit godowns and regional godowns were under the Education Department staff in the cadre of Deputy Inspector of Schools who received the food commodities as per the records and stored safely for the distribution to the school centres. The range offices properly maintained records showing receipt and supply of food commodities and any damages, shortages, losses etc.

As a part of proper storage and distribution of CARE commodities field inspection was felt necessary for which Field Officers were appointed, in each district. The Field Officers periodically inspected the Ranges/Central Kitchens and verified records relating to receipt and supply of food commodities and furnished the inspection reports.

Range Visit Reports:

This report was filled-in each time by the Field Officer relating to his visit to the Range/Central Kitchen. Along with this report a programme review report was also prepared with specific remarks and suggestions for improving the performance of the system.

In this visit report Field Officer noted the stock verification particulars such as opening and closing balance as on the date of visit, including the particulars relating to shortages, losses, destroyed damages, pending recovery orders etc.

Programme Review:

Under this review the immediate previous three months was taken. It includes the total number of CARE feeding days under the review period, the feeding strength, CARE commodity weight in k.g. and total No. of bags supplied to all midday meal centres in the ranges and Central Kitchens, the actual grain consumption for the review period etc. If programme performance efficiency dropped below 80% reasons were probed in deep and remarks were given in programme review reports.

Indent of CARE commodities:

Indents of CARE Commodities were prepared (specimen enclosed) by the Range/Central Kitchen and forwarded to the Regional godowns to supply stock adequately and in time. Generally indents were submitted immediately after the CARE distribution date.

The Deputy Inspector/Supervisor in Central Kitchens, received the supply from regional godown immediately and tallied with indented quantities.

Empty containers and sale of proceeds:

The empty containers of CARE commodities were disposed of periodically by the Deputy Inspector of Schools at the rate fixed by the Director of School Education and remitted to the District Educational Officer. However in case of Central Kitchens, CARE contractors collected the empty containers periodically.

INDENT-CUM DELIVERY-CUM-ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM
FOR 'CARE' COMMOITIES:

<p>From : The Commissioner/Medical Officer Panchayat Union/Municipality/ Primary Health Centre.</p>	<p>To: The Deputy Inspector of Schools,</p>
---	---

Dear Sir,

Sub: Indent for the month of

Please supply the following CARE commodities through
the bearer of this Indent whose signature is attested below

Balahar/ Bags -----	SFD bags -----	S/Oil Tins -----
---------------------------	----------------------	------------------------

- a. For SW Balwadies
- b. For MCH Centres
- c. For RDLA Balwadies
- d. For SNP Centres
- e. For Primary Health Centres

Total: -----

Date/Seal

B.D.O.

Attested Signature of Mr. Specimen Signature
Designation

Specimen Signature attested:

B.D.O. Date/Seal

Delivered the following :
CARE commodities:

Balahar/
Bags

SFB.
Bags

S/Oil
Tins

- a. For SW Balwadies
- b. For MCH Centres
- c. For RDLA Balwadies
- d. For SNP Centres
- e. For Primary Health Centres.

Total:

Date/Seal

Deputy Inspector of Schools.

Received the following
CARE commodities;

Balahar/
bags

SFB
bags

S/Oil
tins

- a. For SW Balwadies
- b. For MCH Centres
- c. For RDLA Balwadies
- d. For SNP Centres
- e. For Primary Health Centres.

Total:

Date/Seal

Signature of authorised
representative of the Commissioner
with designation

The following Records/Registers were maintained by Transit Godowns/Regional Godowns:

1. Allocation Schedule
2. Stock Registers
3. Way bill incoming/outgoing and acknowledgement
4. Indent Vs supply Register
5. Storage/Damage Register
6. Storage/damage documentation file
7. Form-V with attachments
8. Range/Central Kitchen Form-VI
9. Form-VI consolidation report
10. Audit Report file
11. Godown maintenance file
12. Stock file
13. General correspondence file

The Deputy Inspectors and superintendents of Central Kitchens also maintained similar records and registers.

The Midday Meal Centres also maintained the following records.

1. Midday Meal Attendance Register
2. CARE stock & Issue Register
3. Non CARE Register (Rice)
4. Cash Register
5. Pass Book
6. Vouchers

Processing of Shortage/Damage Reports at CARE-Tamilnadu

All losses and damages of CARE commodities were required to be reported to CARE immediately upon occurrence/detection. According to the Indo-CARE agreement the concerned Government Department was responsible for proper safe keeping of all commodities and any losses and damages become its liability and resulted in payment of commodity cost to CARE.

The CARE used these claims as tools for bringing about programme improvement and minimise losses and proper keeping of commodities in future. Thus the officials were made responsible for the losses/damages of CARE commodities and ensured proper keeping of commodities.

The CARE-Tamilnadu maintained claim register for all shortage/damages reflecting relevant details. As soon as a shortage/damage report, also known as Form X, was received by CARE office, it was immediately reviewed and the following step by step procedure was followed.

- 1 Upon receipt of Form-X it was immediately given a serial number and entered in the claim register.

2. A complete and thorough review of the report was then carried out. If satisfied other documentation details were entered in the claim register. If something was found lagging the report was laid and clarification sought from the point of loss or the Field Officer was asked for follow-up.

3. Once the report was complete in all details it was reported to the Claim Review Panel. However in case of damages disposal/destruction was carried out simultaneously.

4. The Claim Review Panel decided collectibility/ uncollectibility of all claims.

5. Once the claim status had been decided the CARE reported them to their headquarters in an Interior Claim Statement.

6. As soon as a loss was reported in the Interior Claims Statement a removal order from inventory was passed on (in case of census level low level losses the Education Department sort out the authorisation for removal).

7. A claim statement was then sent to Government for payment to CARE.

The losses/damages of CARE Commodities was dealt centrally and steps were taken to reduce losses and damages. Further, proper audit system was felt necessary to ensure proper storage and distribution system in improving the CARE-Tamilnadu

Programme. Basically the audit was a continuous process and it was done periodically. Every audit of accounts pertaining to CARE commodities was supported by an "Audit verification Certificate". Audit verification certificate was issued by the Range officials where the audit was over. The audit verification certificates included the following information.

1. The identification particulars of the Range, that is the Code No. and district/block in which the range was located.
2. The name of the Field Officer who conducted the audit.
3. Audit period/date of audit.
4. Transaction which included the closing balance of commodities in the last audit which was also the opening balance of the current month's receipts during the audit period. That is total stocks received by the Range as per way bills drawn the Regional Godown/other range points including any excess receipts which were not noted in the way bills, issued during audit period, that is all issues to midday meal centres that were supported by Form VII, shortages/damages removed from inventory by CARE, closing balance at the end of audit period, receipts after audit period to date of visit as per Way Bills from the Regional godown other range points including excess receipts which were not noted in the way bills, issues after audit period that is all issues noted in the way bills, issues after audit period that is all issues made to midday meal centres as per distribution register

from the next day after audit period to the date, shortages/damages removed from inventory after audit period to the date of visit, closing balance of the day or visit /date of audit, physical balance, difference that is shortage/excess etc.

The information relating to nutritive value of CARE commodities are also available and presented below:

NUTRITIVE VALUE OF 'CARE' COMMODITIES

(Per 100 gms. of dry commodity)

	Calo- ries	Pro- tein (gms)	Fat (gms)	Car- bo- hy- drate (gms)	Cal- cium (mg)	Phos- pho- rus (mg)	Iron (mg)	Vit- amin A (IU)	Thia- min (B1) (mg)	Ribo- flav- in (B2) (mg)	Nia- cin (mg)	As- cor- bic Acid (C) (mg)
	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.
Rice	363	6.7	0.4	80	24	94	.8	-	.87	.63	1.6	-
Bulgur wheat	354	11.2	1.5	76	29	338	3.7	-	.28	.14	4.5	-
SOY fortified bulgur	350	17.3	2	70	54.3	385	4.7	-	.25	.13	4.19	-
Corn SDY Milk	380	20	6	60	1000	800	18	1700	.8	.8	.8	40
Balahar	400	24	2	62	-	-	-	1300	.30	.40	5.0	-
SOY Bean salad Oil Peanut oil	884	-	100	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non fat dry milk	363	35.9	.8	52	1308	1016	.6	2200	.35	1.8	.9	7

The CARE contribution to Midday Meal Programme to feed the children in schools for 100 days and further extended to 120 days which resulted in reduction of Government expenditure in implementing the noble programme meant mainly for improving the health status of the poor children in schools. The CARE assisted in many government programmes as stated above and their role was remarkable. The CARE contribution was decreasing from 1980-81 and completely stopped in the year 1984-85. However the role of CARE in the history of the Midday Meal Scheme in Tamil Nadu is unforgettable.

MIDDAY MEAL THROUGH CENTRAL KITCHEN:

Under the midday meal scheme, the midday meal centres were made responsible for the preparation and supply of meals to the poor children right from the beginning of the scheme that is from 1956. To establish a central kitchen to prepare midday meals on a large scale in a hygienic way for supply to school children was the idea conceived by the administration. It was an important development in the system of preparation of food under this scheme. At first, in the year 1967 when late Thiru C.N. Annadurai was the Chief Minister of Tamilnadu, the Central Kitchen was constructed with the assistance of CARE at Sekkadu in Poonamallee Panchayat Union in Chengalpattu district and declared open by him. Subsequently, impressed by the performance of the Central Kitchen the entire schools in Chengalpattu, North Arcot and South Arcot

districts were covered by establishing 97 Central Kitchens one at each Range of the Deputy Inspectors of Schools in these three districts. The CARE-Tamilnadu provided assistance in the construction of all the 97 Central Kitchen buildings and also supplied closed vans for the Central Kitchens to transport the cooked food to all school meal centres free of cost. The CARE supplied 111 four-wheeler and 63 three-wheeler vans to those Central Kitchens for the delivery of food to schools.

The Central Kitchens were provided with all facilities for the preparation of meals in a hygienic way for the schools located in the concerned development Block/Range. The lead co-operative societies supplied kerosine as fuel for cooking purpose to these central kitchens whereas fire wood was used in all other feeding centres. The Central Kitchen prepared the food as per the scale well in advance and packed it in aluminium containers hygienically and delivered them to the schools by noon through closed vans and collected empty containers in which the food was supplied the previous day.

STAFFING PATTERN OF CENTRAL KITCHEN:

Initially one Supervisor in the cadre of Assistant was posted for each central kitchen to look after all the activities of the Central Kitchens under the control of Deputy Inspectors of Schools. The Kitchen Supervisor applied for quarterly advance through Deputy Inspector of Schools and received advance amount through Deputy Inspector of Schools. The required commodities

such as rice, dhall etc., were supplied by the Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd. The oil and kerosine were supplied by the Co-operative societies. The Kitchen Supervisor maintained all the records and registers prescribed for the school meal centres.

The Central Kitchens were also subject to inspection and stock verification by the officers of the Education Department as well as Revenue Department. The Central Kitchen Supervisor's post was upgraded to the level of superintendent from the level of Assistant in the year 1981 and the Supervisors come under the direct control of District Educational Officer. The Supervisors were empowered to place indents of food articles and permitted to apply for advance grant directly to the issuing authority that is the Civil Supplies Corporation authorities/D.E.O. respectively. Each Central Kitchen was provided with one Superintendent, cooks, one helper-cum-watchman, one driver, 3 or 4 casual labourers.

The total number of staff in the 97 Central Kitchens in Chengalpattu, South Arcot and North Arcot districts at the time of closure, i.e. on 15.9.1982, was as follows:

Sl.No	Name of Post.	Scale of pay.	No. of Posts.
1.	Superintendent	Rs. 500-25-675-30-855 -35-925	97
2.	Cook	Rs. 250-5-330-10-400	194
3.	Helper-cum- watchman	Rs. 250-5-330-10-400	94
4.	Driver	Rs. 310-10-400-15-500	88
5.	Servants	Casual Labourers (on daily wages at the rate fixed by Collectors)	411

Out of more than 9 lakhs of pupils fed in these three districts under the Chief Minister's Nutritious Meal Programme for Children, about 4 lakhs children were fed through cooking centres in each of 3099 individual schools and more than 5 lakhs in 5065 schools were fed through 97 central Kitchens functioned in these three districts in 1982 (at the time of closure of Central Kitchen). With a view to supply fresh and hot food to school children Government ordered the closure of all the 97 Central Kitchens in these three districts with effect from 15.9.1982 and arranged for feeding of children in the said 5065 schools with effect from 15.9.1982 on the same pattern as in other non-central kitchen areas that is those children got food cooked afresh in their respective schools.

Government sanctioned a sum of Rs. 38.15 lakhs as non recurring expenditure for the provision of additional utensils, containers for storing rice, dhall and oil at the rate of Rs. 3/- per child, one tumbler and one plate at the rate of Rs. 4/- per

child and for the construction of cooking shed where accommodation was not available at the rate of Rs.3/- per child; in total Rs.10/- per child for the above mentioned 5065 schools. The Government also directed to incur the recurring expenditure that is Midday Meal Grant to the above 5065 schools in the same manner as to the schools in other areas.

The Government also directed the Director of School Education to wind up the 97 posts of Superintendents and the Director of School Education absorbed the 97 posts of superintendents in the existing vacancies of the Department.

Further, out of 194 cooks, 97 were promoted as full time cook on their existing scale of Rs.250-5-330-10-400 in 97 individual school kitchens from 15.9.1982 when the cooks resigned or retired the substitute was appointed only on part time basis on Rs.2/- per day. The other 97 promoted cooks from the category of Servants were also absorbed as cooks in individual school kitchens from 15.9.1982 but they were not paid any scale of pay but they were paid wages at the rate fixed by the Collectors. This rate of wages was personal to them and when they left service the substitutes were appointed only as part time cook on Rs.2/- per day.

At the time of closure of Central Kitchens there were 88 Drivers in 97 central kitchens. Those drivers were absorbed in the existing vacancies of various government departments. The 97 Helper-cum-Watchmen working in the Central Kitchens were also

absorbed in the individual schools as helper and the 411 Servants working as Casual labourers in the 97 Central Kitchens were also absorbed in various departments.

The above mentioned 111 four wheeler and 63 three wheeler closed vans provided to the 97 central kitchens were also allotted to various departments including education departments with driver posts.

The Central kitchen utensils and containers were also distributed to the School Meal Centres, the other things which were not usable by the school centres were sold out through auction and the money was deposited in the treasuries.

The preparation and serving of midday meals to the poor children in schools in these three districts by the central kitchen system longed for the period of 25 years in Tamil Nadu.

Chapter - IV

OUTLINE OF PURATCHI THALAIVAR M.G.R. NUTRITIOUS MEAL PROGRAMME:

The Children are the human assets of the Nation. The task of carrying the country forward and bearing the burden of development falls on their shoulders. The late Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru had once observed "If we neglect our children and do not look after them today, we will be creating many more difficult problems for ourselves in the near future". As children are the human wealth of the nation, it is the responsibility of the nation to look after them by providing basic requirements, when their parents are unable to carry out their responsibility to make their children valuable assets to the nation due to social limitations.

The objective of compulsory education is to have all round development of children. To achieve this objective of Universalisation of Education, the children must be helped to have sound health and minds. The nutritious meal scheme is the means to achieve the noble end.

Thus, the Chief Minister's Nutritious Meal Programme is considered as a scheme of unique significance and is a massive welfare scheme. This scheme is being implemented in Tamil Nadu from 1st July 1982. The administrator of this scheme was M.G.R., the then Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. The name, "Chief Minister's Nutritious Meal Programme" was changed as Tamil Nadu Government

Nutritious Meal Programme by D.M.K. Ministry and now as, "Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. Nutritious Meal Programme by present A.I.A.D.M.K. ministry under the leadership of Dr.J.Jayalalitha. The scope of the scheme was enlarged from time to time and now it covers feeding of pre-school children in the age group 2+ to 4+ in rural and urban areas, school children in the age group of 5+ to 15 enrolled in I Std. to X Std. in elementary, middle, high and higher secondary schools, old age pensioners, ex-servicemen, widows of ex-servicemen who are receiving old age pension from Government of Tamil Nadu Ex-servicemen Personnel benevolent Fund. The Pre-school children that is 2+ to 4+ are fed through Child Welfare Balwadies/Anganwadies. The School children who have five years of age in I to X Std. are fed through the nutritious meal centres located in the respective schools. The old age pensioners are provided cooked meals through Child Welfare Centres/Nutritious Meal Centres and they are allowed to carry the cooked food supplied to them to their homes so as not to disturb the pre-school education of the children.

Actual Date of Implementation / Enlargement of This Programme:

As stated in the above paragraph the Tamil Nadu Nutritious Meal Programme was implemented from 1st July 1982, covering all the poor children without any ceiling of number of children in the age group 2+ to 4+ and the children in schools in the age group 5+ to 9+ in rural areas and this scheme was extended by covering the above age group children in urban areas from 15.9.1982. Again this scheme was extended by covering the school

children in the age group 10 to 15 from 15.9.1984. Further this scheme covered old age pensioners from 15.1.1983 subsequently ex-servicemen/widows of ex-servicemen who are receiving old age pension from out of Ex-servicemen Personnel benevolent Fund from 1.1.1984.

Objectives Of The Scheme:

1. The objective of the Scheme is not only to ensure adequate nutrition but also to improve the health status from nutritional deficiency of the economically disadvantaged children and also to facilitate the overall growth and development of these
2. This programme is intended as an effective incentive to achieve the Universalisation of Elementary Education.
3. This programme aims to act as an effective incentive to reduce the school dropout and to ensure full retention in schools at least in primary standards.
4. It has also been designed to foster sound social behaviour around children and dispel feelings of differences between various castes and communities.
5. The programme also aims in bringing about a gradual socio-economic transformation among the poor section in rural and urban areas.

6. It is also a massive programme to provide employment opportunities especially for women below the poverty line.

7. This programme also aims to alleviate the agony of starvation among the poor, destitute, old age people, old age pensioners etc.

Feeding Scale Of The Nutritious Meal:

The Government has prescribed the feeding scale per day per beneficiary to the various categories of the age group of children/old age pensioners are as follows:

FEEDING SCALE

Sl No.	Name of commodity	Children in the age group			Old age Pensioners
		2+ to 4+	5+ to 9+	10 to 15 VI-VIII IX&X	
(Quantity in grams)					
1.	Rice	80	100	100 120	200
2.	Dhall	10	15	15 15	15
3.	Oil	7	7	7 7	7
4.	Vegetables	50	50	50 50	50

There has been no change in the feeding scale prescribed by the Government for commodity rice, dhall to the various categories of beneficiaries from the date of implementation of the programme, however the scale of edible oil per beneficiary per day has been revised from time to time as follows:

Scale of Edible Oil per beneficiary per day					
Sl. No.	Category of beneficiary	From 1.7.82 to 2.7.83	From 3.7.83 to 14.9.84	From 15.9.84 to 30.9.89	From 1.10.89 onwards.
(Quantity in Grams)					
1.	Children in the age group 2+ to 4+	7	5	3	7
2.	Children in the age group 5+ 9+	7	5	3	7
3.	Children in the age group 10 to 15	3	7
4.	Old age pensioners	14	10	3	7

Government has allowed to spend 3 paise for vegetables, fuel and condiments per beneficiary per day. The break up component of 13 paise is:

Vegetable 5 paise

Fuel 5 paise

Condiments 3 paise

(iron fortified salt - 0.5 paise out of 3 paise)

COST PER MEAL:

The approximate cost per meal supplied to various categories of beneficiaries as per existing rates for the scale fixed per beneficiary is worked out and presented below:

Category	Cost per meal (in Rs.)
1. Pre-school children age group 2+ to 4+	0.89
2. School children age group 5+ to 9+	1.05
3. School Children age group 10 to 15	1.12
4. Old age pensioners	1.42

Number of feeding days for various categories:

The pre-school children in the age group 2+ to 4+ and the School children in the age group 5+ to 9+ who are enrolled in I to V Standards and old age pensioners are being fed under this scheme all the 365 days in a year. On government holidays which are normally festival days the children and the old age pensioners mentioned above are provided pre-cooked food packets on the previous day itself along with the meals for the day for the consumption on the next day. The food packets of Tamarind rice without vegetables for school children 5+ to 9+ and rice balls made of rice flour and jaggery for pre-school children are prepared and distributed to them in a carry-home packets for consumption on those government holidays.

The school children in VI to VIII standards are fed only for 220 days in a year and the other school children in IX and X Standards are fed for only 200 days in a year that is only on school working days.

The nutritious meals are provided to the pre-school children below the poverty line in the age group 2+ to 4+ through the Child Welfare Centres located in all villages and in slums in urban areas and the school children below the poverty line in the age group 5+ to 9+ and 10 to 15 and old age pensioners through respective school centres.

Additional Benefits Apart From Nutritious Meal:

Apart from nutritious meal, the pre-school children in the age group 2+ to 4+ and the school children in the age group 5+ to 15 were supplied one boiled egg once in a fortnight from June 1989 that was during the regime of D.M.K. under the leadership of Thiru K. Karunanidhi as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. The boiled eggs were supplied only to children who expressed their willingness to consume eggs. The children who did not want boiled eggs were supplied protein-enriched "Energy food" (Saththu Mavu balls) made out of wheat, ragi, puffed Bengal gram, dhall/green grams, dhall, Soya/Groundnut Jaggery once in a fortnight at the rate of 30 grams per beneficiary from October 1990.

Further, under Nutritious Meal Programme the children in the age group of 3 to 6 years are given vitamin 'A' capsules once in 6 months. The Director of Public Health and Preventive Medicines has been entrusted with the responsibility of purchase and distribution of these capsules to the children.

Purchase Of Vegetables, Fuel And Condiments:

The Nutritious Meal Organisers are allowed to purchase required quantity of vegetables, fuel and condiments locally from open market on daily basis calculating the total number of beneficiaries on the scale of quantity fixed for each meal. The organisers are instructed to purchase good quality of fresh vegetables. There is no bar to the purchase vegetables from the vegetable Co-operative Societies, if they can compete in quality and price with others.

Supply Of Eggs For The Scheme:

As already stated the free supply of boiled eggs to the nutritious meal beneficiaries once in a fortnight started from June, 1989 and the supply of required quantity of eggs for the scheme has been entrusted with the following agencies:

a. The Tamil Nadu Poultry Development Corporation, Madras has been entrusted to supply eggs to all the nutritious meal centres located in Corporation areas at Madras (including ICDS Centres), Chengai M.G.R., North Arcot, Trichy, and Madurai districts.

b. In regard to the remaining districts such as South Arcot, Dharmapuri, Salem, Periyar, Coimbatore, The Nilgiris, Thanjavur, Nagai, Pudukkottai, Ramanathapuram, Pasumpon, Kamarajar Chidambaranar, Dindigul, Tirunelveli and Thiruvannamalai, open tenders has been invited by the respective District Collectors for the entire district. The selected contractors, after finalising the tenders by the Collector used to supply eggs to the Panchayat Union office in the district since they are the delivery points. The TAPCO has also been permitted to participate in the tenders. The distribution of eggs for the nutritious meal centres located in the respective Panchayat Union areas are arranged by the respective Block Development Officers. Towards transportation of eggs from Panchayat Union offices to the centres, the Government gave discretionary powers to the District Collector to incur the expenditure. Out of the above sixteen districts TAPCO is the successful bidder for supply to four districts namely Pasumpon, Thiruvannamalai, Dharmapuri and Kamarajar.

Supply Of Protein Enriched Food:

Protein enriched food has been supplied to those who are not taking boiled eggs from 8.10.1990. The requirements of energy food for the district is assessed by the District Collectors and placed orders with nearby Women's Co-operative Societies once in a month indicating the quantity to be supplied to each of the taluk godowns of Tamilnadu Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd. and date by which supply to be made. The Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation distributes enriched food commodities to the feeding centres along with other food commodities as per the indent made. The Director of Social Welfare is the co-ordinating officer relating to supply of "Energy food" by the Women's Co-operative Societies and also is authorised to fix the price of Energy food including incidental charges to be incurred by the Societies from time to time.

The Role Of 'Civil Supplies Corporation'

In Nutritious Meal Programme:

The Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation plays a vital role in Nutritious Meal Programme in procuring food commodities sufficiently and distributing to the feeding centres promptly. The Civil Supplies Corporation procure the food commodities and stock them in Taluk level godowns safely. In regard to requirement of rice, the Tamilnadu Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd. is expected to stock adequate quantity of white rice (common) through their procurement operation for the supply to the feeding centres. In case of non-availability of adequate stock of white

rice (common) the Corporation is also permitted to supply white rice (fine) to the centres and obtain ratification of Government subsequently. As far as the supply of dhall, the Tamilnadu Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd. has to supply certain varieties of dhall which are selected by the Government of Tamilnadu to the feeding centres. At present the Civil Supplies Corporation procures and supplies Toor Dhall/Meson Dhall/Greengram Dhall as per Government instructions through 'open tenders'.

Edible oil required for the programme is met through supply of part of the palmolein allotted by the Government of India under public distribution system. The Civil Supplies Corporation supply the palmolein in barrel with pumps. The respective lead societies operating in the area lift the palmolein barrels from the Civil Supplies taluk godowns and pumpout the required quantity of oil at various feeding centres and return the supply barrels to the respective godowns. The Regional Joint Registrars are the co-ordinating officers at the district level for ensuring lifting of oil and other food commodities by the lead societies from the taluk Civil Supply godowns. The Regional Joint Registrars obtain the details of feeding centres, number of beneficiaries and economic transport route plan from the Chief Educational Officer, Personal Assistant to the District collector (Panchayat development) and operate the work of distribution in the district among the various lead societies. Since the monitoring responsibility has been taken away from the Director of School Education and entrusted with the Director of Social Welfare and Nutritious Meal Programme, the Joint Registrar has been instructed to contact the P.A. to Collector (Nutritious Meal),

District Social Welfare Officers, Panchayat Union Commissioners for obtaining the above particulars. The Joint Registrars also ensure the lead Societies to make arrangements for proper distribution of commodities to the feeding centres well in advance in order to maintain the buffer of 15 days' stock of food commodities in the feeding centres. The actual transport charges incurred by the lead Societies is reimbursed to them. The lead Societies collect the transport charges from the Civil Supplies Corporation on production of vouchers relating to actual transport charges incurred and the acknowledgement slips duly signed by the receiving Officers of the feeding centres. Further, the Joint Registrars obtain reports fortnightly from the lead Societies relating to the particulars of liftment of commodities, transport, receipts of transport charges etc. The special officers of the lead societies ensure the village fair price shops to stock with adequate quantity of spices like turmeric powder, chillies, coriander tamarind and asafoetida. The Government have also issued instructions to the implementing agencies to purchase the condiments from the village fair price shops to the maximum extent possible. The Joint Registrars /Special Officers also keep in touch with Collectors wherever necessary to seek his good offices in solving problems.

The cost of food commodities, rice, dhall and oil supplied by the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd. including transport charges and handling margin for the movement from their taluk godowns to the various feeding centres in the district are streamlined by the respective District Collectors and by the concerned heads of departments for Madras City every month.

The Government of Tamil Nadu have streamlined the procedure for payment to the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd. from 1.4.1991 so as to ensure speedy settlement of dues.

Under this revised procedure, the full cost of rice and dhall is settled by District Collector, Head of Department (now Social Welfare Department only) based on the rates notified by Government at the beginning of the financial year till the end of that year. After the completion of that year suitable adjustment of excess/deficit is worked out with reference to the actual cost of rice/dhall computed for entire supply during the year.

Relating to the settlement of bills for supply of palmolein by the Co-operative Societies, the rates fixed by Government is adopted from time to time.

In regard to transport charges, the District Collectors are permitted to buy at the uniform rate of 1.4% of the value of food commodities transported in a month. Reimbursement of handling margin is at the rate of 0.4% of the value of food commodities transported from the taluk godowns to the feeding centres under the nutritious meal programme.

The procedure has been modified by the Government of Tamil Nadu from 4.6.1982. The Tamil Nadu Government have sanctioned ten crores of rupees to the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation as ways and means of advance to enable the Corporation to procure, store and transport the food commodities required for the scheme and arrange for the regular supply without interruption

This is a permanent fund and recouped periodically by presentation of necessary vouchers and bills. The Civil Supplies Corporation provides an advance to each of the lead societies in the districts towards transport charges. The advance amount to the lead societies is restricted to a maximum of Rupees 10-lakhs. Under the Tamilnadu Nutritious Meal Programme, the quantities of food commodities supplied by the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd to the feeding Centres are given below:-

QUANTITY SUPPLIED (in Metric Tonnes)(In Lakhs)

Year	Rice	Dhall	Oil
1982-83	1.68	0.25	0.12
1983-84	1.92	0.27	0.11
1984-85	2.24	0.32	0.09
1985-86	2.21	0.31	0.07
1986-87	2.28	0.31	0.07
1987-88	2.31	0.31	0.07
1988-89	2.18	0.29	0.07
1989-90	2.25	0.30	0.04
1990-91	Not available		
1991-92			
1992-93			

The average off-take of food commodities for a month under the scheme is as follows:

	<u>Quantity in M.Ts.</u>
Rice	19,000
Dhall	2,600
Oil	200

PURATCHI THALAIVAR M.G.R. NUTRITIOUS NOON MEAL PROGRAMME

NO. OF NUTRITIOUS MEAL CENTRES BY DISTRICT--1990-91

Sl. No.	District	<u>No. of Centres</u>		
		Elementary	Secondary	Total
1.	Madras	534	201	735
2.	Chengalpattu MGR	2603	264	2867
3.	South Arcot	3224	290	3514
4.	Thanjavur	3219	337	3556
5.	Madurai	1786	199	1985
6.	Dindigul Anna	1357	88	1445
7.	Ramanathapuram	1111	82	1193
8.	Kamarajar	1185	128	1313
9.	PasumponMuthu- ramalingam	1078	107	1185
10.	Tirunelveli Kattabomman	1854	174	2028
11.	Chidambaranar	329	126	1455

Sl. No.	District	No. of Centres		
		Elementary	Secondary	Total
12.	Kanyakumari	488	200	688
13.	North Arcot	3515	360	3875
14.	Thiruvannamalai Sambuvarayar			
15.	Salem	2187	256	2443
16.	Dharmapuri	1938	187	2125
17.	Tiruchirapalli	22772	310	3082
18.	Pudukottai	1219	109	1328
19.	Coimbatore	1628	216	1844
20.	Periyar	1635	148	1783
21.	The Nilgiris	425	81	506
Total		35037	3863	38950

PURATCHI THALAIVAR M.G.R. NUTRITIOUS NOON MEAL PROGRAMME.
TAMILNADU.
NO. OF BENEFICIARIES - 1990-91

No.	District	Elementary	Secondary	Total
1	Madras	166496	90470	256966
2.	Chengalpattu M.G.R.	340821	153067	493888
3.	South Arcot	541899	145850	687749
4.	Thanjavur	416544	192182	608726
5.	Madurai	279100	98260	377360
6.	Dindigul Anna	160571	63787	224358
7.	Ramanathapuram	144099	30553	174652
8.	Kamarajar	127316	46444	173760
9.	Pasumpon Muthuramalingam	127729	34090	161819

No.	District	Elementary	Secondary	Total
10.	Tirunelveli Kattabomman	269847	48284	318131
11.	Chidambaranar	129049	48284	318131
12.	Kanyakumari	124846	118759	243605
13.	North Arcot Ambedkar	493421	228938	722359
14.	Thiruvannamalai Sambuvarayar			
15.	Salem	344646	138079	482725
16.	Dharmapuri	248076	106918	489614
17.	Tiruchirapalli	370173	119441	489614
18.	Pudukottai	169425	49231	218656
19.	Coimbatore	164418	101138	265556
20.	Periyar	141684	56581	198265
21.	The Nilgiris	66415	37755	104170
	Total	4826575	1908448	6735023

PURATCHI THALAIVAR M.G.R. NUTRITIOUS NOON MEAL PROGRAMME,
NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES.

Sl. No.	District	No. of Employees.		
		Elementary	Secondary	Total
1.	Madras	1701	678	2379
2.	Chengalpattu M.G.R.	7897	849	8746
3.	South Arcot	9978	601	10579
4.	Thanjavur	9876	1074	10950
5.	Madurai	5504	627	6131
6.	Dindigul Anna	4194	303	4597

Sl. No.	District	No. of Employees.		Total
		Elementary	Secondary	
7.	Ramanathapuram	3597	294	3891
8.	Kamarajar	3869	407	4276
9.	Pasumpon Muthuramalingam	3487	342	3829
10.	Tirunelveli Kattabomman	5911	546	6457
11.	Chidambaranar	4124	396	4520
12.	Kanyakumari	1513	631	2114
13.	North Arcot Ambedkar	9842	1171	11013
14.	Tiruvannamalai Sambuvarayar			
15.	Salem	6792	810	7602
16.	Dharmapuri	6013	592	6605
17.	Tiruchirapalli	8479	954	9433
18.	Pudukottai	3792	351	4143
19.	Coimbatore	4979	667	5646
20.	Periyar	5006	463	5469
21.	The Nilgiris	1307	251	1558
Total		107967	12007	119968

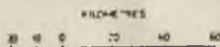
**GENERAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE
PURATCHI THALAIVAR NUTRITIOUS NOON MEAL PROGRAMME**

There was no separate Head of Department for administrating and co-ordinating the Nutritious Meal Programme till 1992. At the time of inception, the scheme was named as "Chief Minister's Nutritious Meal Programme" because it began with the personal initiative of the late Chief Minister M.G. Ramachandran. Under the deposed D.M.K regime the scheme was named as "Tamilnadu Government Nutritious Noon Meal Programme".

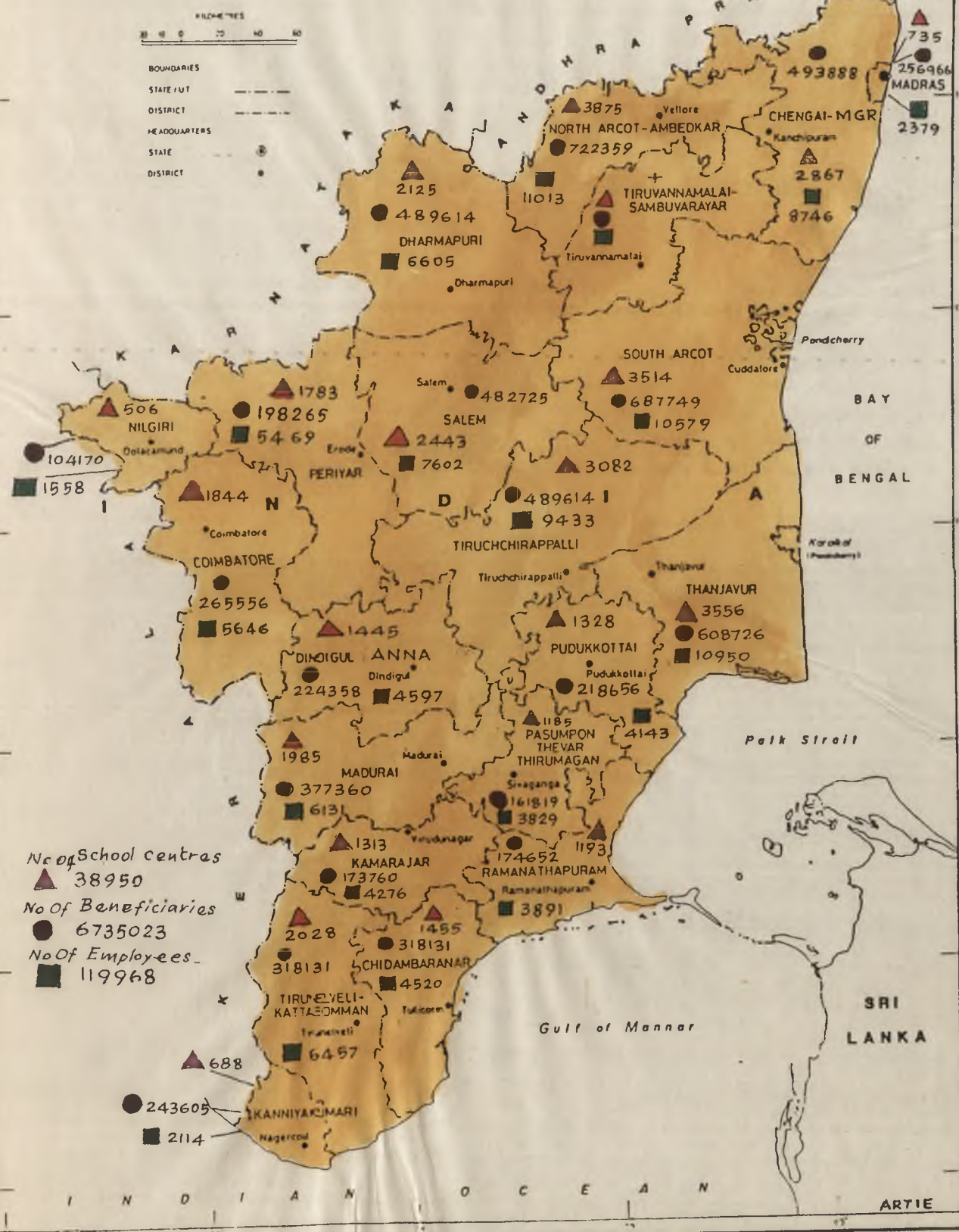
Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R Nutritious Noon Meal Programmes
No of Nutritious Meal Centres - by District - 1990-91.

TAMIL NADU

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISIONS 1991



BOUNDARIES
 STATE (UT) ---
 DISTRICT ---
 HEADQUARTERS ●
 STATE ○
 DISTRICT ○



No of School centres
 ▲ 38950
 No of Beneficiaries
 ● 6735023
 No of Employees
 ■ 119968

Based upon Survey of India map with the permission of the Surveyor General of India. The territorial waters of India extend into the sea to a distance of Twelve nautical miles measured from the appropriate base line. © Government of India Copyright, 1990

The present Chief Minister Dr. J. Jayalalitha has changed the name of the scheme as "Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R.'s Nutritious Noon Meal Programme". The new scheme was primarily implemented through the Director of School Education as a monitoring authority and other departments, such as Social Welfare, Municipal Administration, Backward class, and Forest were also the monitoring and co-ordinating authorities in respect of feeding the children in schools under their control.

The organisational structure of Chief Minister's Nutritious Noon Meal programme at the time of inception is presented below:

Subsequently the Organisational structure was also changed from 11.6.1990. As per Government order all the nutritious meal centres in the elementary/middle/high/higher secondary schools under the control of Director of Elementary Education/Director of School Education/Director of Adi-Dravidar and Tribal Welfare/Director of Most Backward and Denotified Communities and Principal/ Chief conservator of Forests were transferred to the control of the Director of Rural Development for administration, supervision and maintenance of these centres. The District Collector was the implementing authority for the scheme at District level as it was before. The following were the heads of departments administering the Scheme:

Sl. No.	Name of the Centres.	Head of Department Administering the Scheme.
1.	Child Welfare Centres (Including feeding programme of age group 2+ to 4+)	Director of Social Welfare.
2.	Nutritious Meal Centres in Government/Aided Schools under the Elementary/School Education Departments	Commissioner of Rural Development.
3.	Nutritious Meal Centres in Municipal/Corporation Schools	Director of Municipal Administration.

At the district level District Collectors were the implementing authority. The Child Welfare Centres and the Government/Aided Schools Centres in rural areas and also urban areas in the districts were under the control of respective Block Development Officers at block level. The Child Welfare Centres in Municipal areas and municipal school centres were under the control of respective Municipal Commissioners. The Nutritious

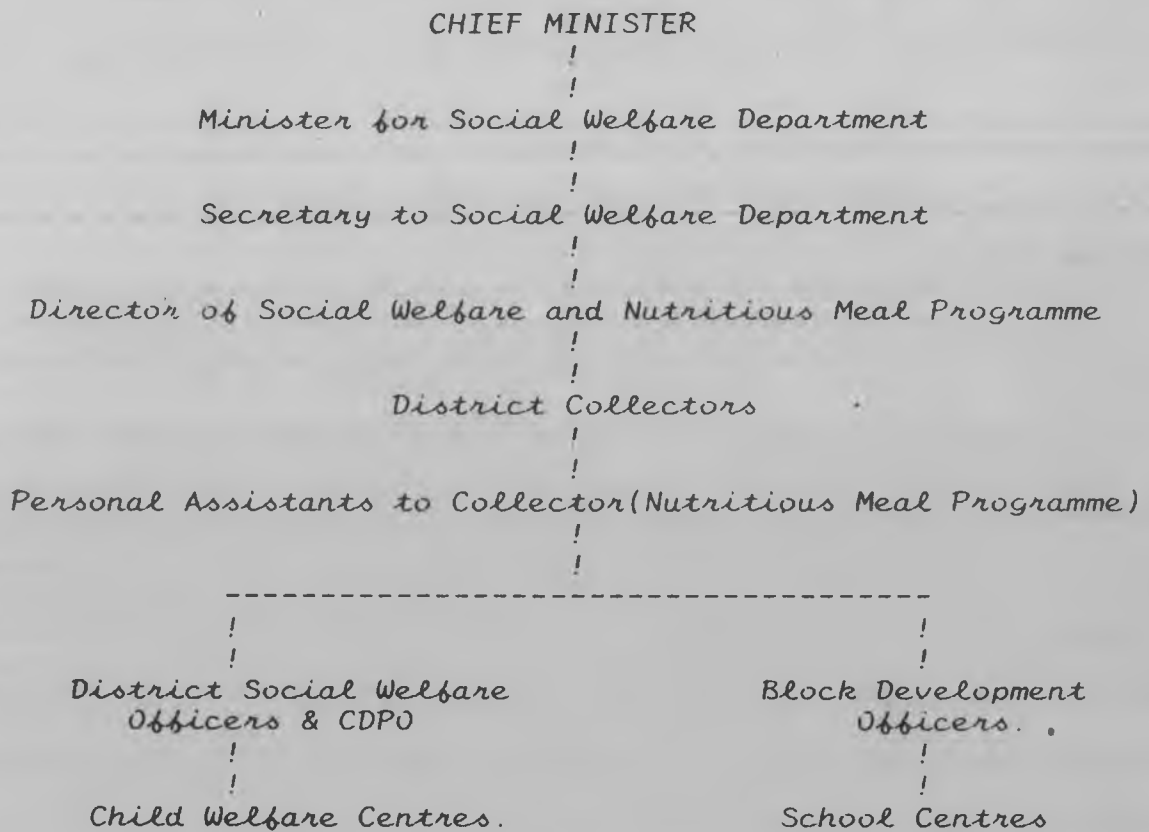
Meal Centres in the Corporation Schools in Madras, Madurai, Coimbatore, Corporation areas were placed under the control of respective Corporation Commissioners. In respect of Integrated Child Development Service Scheme (ICDS) the children in the age group of 2+ to 4+ were provided with food under Nutritious Meal Programme and the centres were under the control of Child Development Project Officers.

Again the organisational structure has been changed with creation of separate directorate for this scheme relieving the R D & L A. Department from administrative powers. The Social Welfare Department has been bifurcated into Social Welfare and Nutritious Meal Department and Department of Physically Handicapped. The Director of Social Welfare and Nutritious Meal has been made the head of the department for the implementation of Puratchi Thalivar MGR's Nutritious Meal Programme. The existing organisational structure at the district level has not been changed. The District Collectors are implementing the programme through the Noon Meal Personal Assistants, Rural Development set up and Social Welfare machinery. The transfer control of Personal Assistants (Nutritious Meal Programme) to District Collectors in the districts is vested with the Director of Social Welfare Department.

The Director of Social Welfare has been redesignated as the Director of Social Welfare and Nutritious Meal Programme controlling all the categories of centres that is Pre-School

Centres under ICDS/TINP, Pre-School Centres in the Block Development Officers and Municipal Commissioners and all the categories of School Centres.

The present organisational structure of the Puratchi Thalaivar Nutritious Meal Programme is presented below:



Committee at different level for implementation of the scheme:

The administrative system of the Puratchi Thalaivar Nutritious Meal Programme has been streamlined and improved from the inception of the Scheme. The Committee established and functioned under the old system of midday meal scheme has been modified. Under the new scheme the functioning of the Committee Constituted at different level is described in the following paragraphs.

a) Local Committee For Child Welfare Centres:

The Block Development Officer who is empowered to constitute the village level committee for each child welfare centre with approval of the respective District Collector. To provide local participation Government have issued instructions to constitute village level committee consisting of two or three Madar Sangam members, Village Level Officers and or local philanthropist. Child Welfare Organiser is also the Member Secretary to look after the functioning of the Child Welfare Centres.

b) Local Advisory Committee for School Centre:

An Advisory Committee has been established in each school centre to look after the functioning of the Centre. This Committee consists of ten members from among parents and service-minded people of the locality. Due representation is also given to women and weaker sections. The Nutritious Meal Organiser is also the Member Secretary of the Committee and the punctuate President is the ex-officio Chairman of the Committee.

e) District Level Committee:

The Government have ordered the reconstitution of District Level Committee as such two representatives from Rotary and Lions Clubs and District Members of the State Social Welfare

Board are the Members of the District Level Committee. The Collector is the Chairman and Personal Assistant (NMP) to the Collector is the Member Secretary of the Committee to review the functioning of the Scheme periodically.

d) High Level Committee at the State Level:

The High Level Committee consists of 18 official Members besides Chairman and one non official Member namely Tmt. Rajammal P. Devadas, Vice-Chancellor, Avinashilingam Home Science College, Coimbatore, or her nominee. The High Level Committee periodically reviews the overall functioning of the scheme in the state. Further it provides suggestion for improvements in the system of overall administration.

PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION

The new Nutritious Meal Programme is claimed as the 'single largest employment programme for the rural areas in Independent India in the last 35 years which has brought about a revolutionary change in the rural landscape'. It is also claimed to be the major Women's employment programme and anti-poverty programme to the women in rural and urban areas. The pattern of staff position in each centre is presented below:

STAFF POSITION.

Normally one child Welfare Organiser and two Child Welfare assistants are appointed for each Child Welfare Centre.

As far as Nutritious Meal Centre in Schools concerned one nutritious meal organiser, one cook and helper are appointed on temporary basis. In regard to centres exceeding 500 beneficiaries one additional cook and additional helper are usually appointed.

HONORARIUM/WAGES FOR THE STAFF:

The staff working in the Child Welfare/Nutritious Meal Centres are categorised as part time employees and they are paid honorarium/wages per month as follows:

1. Child Welfare Organiser	... Rs. 240/-
2. Child Welfare Assistant	... Rs. 100/-
3. Nutritious Meal Organiser	... Rs. 210/-
4. Cook	... Rs. 100/-
5. Helper	... Rs. 60/-

In addition to honorarium/wages, the Child Welfare Organiser/Nutritious Meal Organiser are given special allowance of Rs.10/- p.m. The Child Welfare assistants, Cooks, Helper are given Rs. 5/- p.m. as Special Allowance.

In respect of staff working in the centres in schools catering to children in the age group 10 to 15 are also given full honorarium/wage as per the government's revised order for all the months in a year except summer vacation. However they are paid proportionate honorarium/wages for two days, i.e. a day after the closure of the school and a day prior to the re-opening of the school.

PROCEDURE OF APPOINTMENT OF STAFF IN CHILD WELFARE CENTRES:

The candidates seeking appointment for the post of Child Welfare Organiser must have passed S.S.L.C. under old regulations or Passed X Std. under new regulations. The minimum educational qualification is relaxed to the applicants seeking appointment for the above post in hilly areas as a pass/failure in VIII Std. Age limit prescribed for selection of the above post is between 25 to 35 years. In the case of widows, age relaxation is given upto 40 years. The applicant should be resident of the village where the Child Welfare school centre is located.

The selection of candidates for the above posts in Panchayat Union areas in each district is done by the Selection Committee comprising of Personal Assistant (NMP) to the Collector of the district concerned as Chairman, Commissioner of Panchayat Union and District Social Welfare Officer concerned as its Members. The power of issuing appointment order is vested with District Social Welfare Officers.

The selection of candidates to the post of Child Welfare Organisers in respect of the Child Welfare Centres in Corporation areas is made by the selection committee comprising Personal Assistant (NMP) to Collector as Chairman, the Educational Officer in Corporation as a nominee of the concerned Corporation Commissioner and the District Social Welfare Officer as members. The appointment order is issued to the selected candidates after obtaining the approval of the Collector concerned.

The selection of the candidates to the post of Child Welfare Organisers in respect of the Centre in Municipal/Township areas is done by the Committee with P.A. (NMP) to Collector as Chairman and the Municipal Commissioner/Executive Officer of the Townships, as the case may be, and the District Social Welfare Officer as its Member.

CHILD WELFARE ASSISTANT:

The qualification for the post of Child Welfare Assistants are selected by the respective Committee from the local community and resident of the village in which the centre is located. The age prescribed for the above post is 25 to 40 years. Preference is given to widows.

NUTRITIOUS MEAL ORGANISERS IN SCHOOL CENTRES:

The educational qualification for appointment to the post of Nutritious Meal Organisers is a pass or fail in S.S.L.C. under old regulation or in X Std., under new regulations. Insofar as centres in hill areas are concerned the educational qualification of VIII Std. pass or fail is considered sufficient. Apart from the educational qualification the individual should have a good knowledge of Tamil especially sufficient knowledge of Thirukkural and the individual should be capable of maintaining the accounts properly. The age group prescribed for this post is 25 to 40 years. However the lower age limit is relaxed to 18 years if the candidate is not available in hill and tribal areas and in other backward areas the lower age limit is relaxed to 20 years.

Generally the candidates are selected from the local area where the centre is located. If the suitable candidates are not available, the candidate who resides within 3 k.ms. from the location of the centre are considered for selection for the post.

Other things being equal, women particularly widows and destitutes are given priority in selection. Further, the appointing authority observes the policy of the Government, that is employment for one person for one family at the time of selection of candidates for the post.

The selection to the post of Nutritious Meal Organisers to the School centres under the control of Panchayat Commissioners is done by inviting application from the eligible candidates through advertisement in local dailies. For the purpose of selection, no committee is constituted, however the Panchayat Union Commissioners scrutinise all the application as per the instruction and procedure mentioned above and tabulate them, indicating all the details and forwarded them to the respective Collector of the district for approval. The Panchayat Union Commissioner are to issue the appointment order from the approved list and only in the name of the Collector.

Insofar as the Corporation/Municipal school centres are concerned, vacancies should be filled-up by inviting applications from the candidates through advertisement in the dailies on the basis of prescribed qualifications/conditions of appointment for the post and selection through a Selection Committee Constituted for the purpose. For Corporation School Centres, the selection Committee comprises, the Commissioner of the respective Corporation, as Chairman, the Educational Officer and the Health Officer of the respective Corporations as its Members. In regard to Municipal School Centres, the Personal Assistant (NMP) to the Collector of the district functions as Chairman of the Selection

Committee and with Municipal Commissioners of respective Municipality and the Municipal Health Officer (wherever Municipal Health Officer is not available in a Municipality, the Regional Director of Municipal Administration) as its Members.

HELPERS AND COOKS IN SCHOOL CENTRES:

The persons to be selected are from the locality where the centre is located. Preference is given to women and among them to widows. The age-limit is 30-45 years, with relaxation upto five years in the case of widows. The Block Development Officers/Municipal Commissioners/Corporation Commissioners are the appointing authorities for the posts in the Government and Aided school centres/Municipal schools/Corporation schools respectively.

APPLICABILITY OF RULE OF RESERVATION:

As a very large employment opportunity is created in rural and urban areas on account of this programme, the rule of reservation is made applicable for filling up the posts of Organisers under Tamil Nadu Government Nutritious Meal Programme as per the Government Order.

TRANSFER OF STAFF OF TAMILNADU GOVERNMENT NUTRITIOUS MEAL
PROGRAMME FROM ONE DISTRICT TO ANOTHER: -

As per the Government instructions the requests for transfer of staff from one centre to another and from one district to another is rejected straight away whatever be reasons specified for such transfers. In case of need for transfer under unavoidable circumstances the individual has to first resign his job in the present centre and apply for a fresh job at the centre where required. In case, the reasons for such request is proved reasonable, the individual is appointed without resorting to advertisement for selection in the centre of choice provided there is a vacant post in that centre and that the individual produces satisfactory service certificate from the previous centre. However, while making such appointments the policy of Government in providing employment of only 'one person for one family' is strictly followed.

The Government have also issued specific instructions that in case of request from women organisers for a transfer from one centre to another centre is received to enable her to live in one station where her husband is employed, she has to resign her present job and apply for the post in the centre of her choice after vacancy arises in that centre. It has been laid down that in such cases, the women organiser is given preference and appointed in vacant post without advertising.

The Government have also delegated powers to all the District Collectors to transfer Child Welfare Organisers, Child Welfare Assistants, Nutritious Meal Organisers, Cooks and Helpers working under Tamil Nadu Government Nutritious Meal Programme in exceptional circumstances like (i) Maintenance of law and order problems in the specific areas of their districts, (ii) Avoidance of caste or communal clashes and maintenance of communal harmony and (iii) maintenance of good moral standards and discipline in the centres under their control with a view to avoid adverse public criticism and enable functioning of centres smoothly. The 3 km. rule of appointment should however be followed by Collectors while making such transfers.

Mutual transfers is also permitted by the Collectors of the Districts based on the merits of each case. Ratification of government is however to be obtained in all such cases.

DISCIPLINARY CONTROL OF THE STAFF WORKING AT THE CENTRES:

The staff attached to the centres are classified as permanent part-time employees of respective local bodies. They are paid consolidated honorarium/wages every month. They are not governed by any Service Rules and they are not entitled for any casual leave or any other concession applicable to the regular Government servants. They are permitted to absent for not exceeding 2 days in a month. They are not transferrable from one centre to another in the normal course. In order to ensure

effective control over the staff at the TGNMP centres to facilitate smooth functioning of the scheme, the Government have issued following orders prescribing disciplinary control:

a. These staff can be imposed penalties of 'suspension' and 'dismissal' for pilferage, misconduct, negligence of duties or any other similar grave irregularities.

b. the following authorities are competent to impose penalties of suspension and dismissal of the staff in the Child Welfare Centres to the extent noted below:

(i) Child Welfare Organisers:

Post	Authority competent to suspend.	Authority competent to dismiss.
Child Welfare Organisers (Non-ICDS centres)	Block Development Officers.	District Social Welfare Officers
Child Welfare Organisers	Child Development Project Officers	Child Development Project Officers
Child Welfare Organisers (non-ICDS Centres) in Municipal areas.	Municipal Commissioner.	Collector

(ii) Child Welfare Assistants, Runners/Food Carriers:

Post	Authority competent to suspend and dismiss.
Child Welfare Assistants (Non-ICDS Centres)	Block Development Officers
Child Welfare Assistants (ICDS Centres)	Child Development Project Officers.
Runners/Food Carriers	Block Development Officers.

The authorities competent to dismiss a particular category of staff are also empowered to order their suspension. As the representative of the Collector, the Personal Assistant (NMP) to the Collector is empowered to order on the spot suspension of any of the above categories staff for serious malpractices, subject to ratification by the Collector.

The order passed by the competent authority as above is final and no appeal can be made against the order passed by the authority. However, the Collectors are empowered to review and modify, if necessary, any order passed by the above authorities mentioned.

c). The following authorities are competent to impose penalties of suspension and dismissal of staff in the school centres to the extent noted below:

(i) NUTRITIOUS MEAL ORGANISERS:

Post	Authority competent to suspend.	Authority competent to dismiss
Nutritious Meal Organisers (Municipal schools)	Municipal Organisers	Collectors
Nutritious Meal Organisers (Corporation schools)	Chief Educational Officer of the Corporation.	Commissioner of Corporation
Nutritious Meal Organisers (Govt/Aided schools)	Block Development Officers.	Collectors

In regard to Nutritious Meal Organisers in Government/Aided schools, the fact of suspension made by the Block Development Officers is to be reported to the Collector within a week and the Collector has to review the suspension order within a month and pass final orders. The orders of dismissal of such Nutritious Meal Organisers shall vest with the District Collector and no appeal lies against such orders. In regard to cooks and

helpers in Government/Aided school centres, the Block Development Officers are empowered to suspend and as well as to dismiss them. The Personal Assistant (NMP) are vested with review powers after dismissal of them.

In regard to Cooks/Helpers in Municipal schools, the Municipal Commissioners are competent to suspend and as well as to dismiss them. In regard to Cooks/Helpers in Corporation schools, the Chief Educational Officer of the Corporation are competent to suspend as well as dismiss them.

In regard to Nutritious Meal Organisers in Municipal/Corporation schools the authorities competent to dismiss them are also empowered to order suspension. As representative of the Collector, the Personal Assistant(NMP) to the Collector is empowered to order on the spot suspension of any of the staff in the Municipal/Corporation school centres for serious malpractices subject to ratification by the Collector.

The Order passed by the competent authority as above is final and no appeal can be made against the order passed by the authority. However the Collectors are empowered to review and modify, if necessary, any order passed by the above authorities.

At the time of inception of Nutritious Meal Programme, the Director of School Education was the monitoring authority and who was provided with supporting staff to implement the programme at the headquarter as well as in the field level offices. The Government sanctioned certain category of posts such as one

Accounts Officer, One Assistant Director (Noon Meal), 3 Superintendents, 6 Assistants, 3 Junior Assistants, One Steno-typist, 2 Typists and 6 Office Assistants to the Director of School Education headquarters. Subsequently, the government also sanctioned certain posts for field offices such as Field Officers at each revenue district and one Accountant's post for each educational district for the effective supervision and proper maintenance of accounts.

Since the responsibility of monitoring the scheme was transferred to the Director of Rural Development from the Director of School Education in the year 1990, the above category of posts were absorbed in the existing vacancies of School Education Department itself. However the field officers posts were treated as vanishing posts, that is, the posts are being lapsed when the working officers retire from service.

Since the Director of Rural Development was made the monitoring authority of the Nutritious Meal Programme from the year 1990 the Government sanctioned certain category of posts for the Directorate of Rural Development such as one Joint Director, one Accounts Officer, one Superintendent, two Assistants, one Stenotypist, one Typist and one Office Assistant.

After establishing a separate head of department for this massive scheme, namely the Department of Social Welfare and Nutritious Meal Programme in the year 1993, the above mentioned posts sanctioned for the Director of Rural Development have been transferred to that department. Further the Personal Assistants

to the Collectors (NMP) though working under the control of the District Collector the Director of Social Welfare and Nutritious Meal Programme is empowered to transfer them.

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION:

Unlike the midday meal scheme, the Nutritious Meal Programme covers all the poor children in I std. to X std. in schools and also 2+ to 4+ pre school children and the total expenditure is being borne by the government with Budget provision. At the time of inception, that is, for the year 1982-83, the actual expenditure was 106.31 crores and gradually increasing year after year to the extent of 256.32 crores of rupees as Budget Estimate for the year 1992-93. The huge expenditure on the Nutritious Meal Scheme requires proper financial administration to make use of the Budget provision to the maximum level by way of continually achieving the objectives of the scheme.

BUDGET ESTIMATE AND ACTUAL EXPENDITURE

YEAR	Budget Estimate sanctioned for the year	Actual Expenditure
	(Rupees in Crores)	
1982-83	107.14	106.31
1983-84	134.44	141.47
1984-85	155.38	155.73
1985-86	164.74	160.46
1986-87	170.60	158.31
1987-88	174.36	170.16
1988-89	178.25	161.67
1989-90	174.08	186.89
1990-91	194.93	n.a.
1991-92	235.84	n.a.
1992-93	256.32	n.a.

The Director of School Education was the monitoring and supervising authority of the scheme from 1982, that is from the inception of the scheme to 1990. During this period the government made arrangements to procure and distribute food commodities to the feeding centres through Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd. Other expenditure such as buying condiments, vegetables, fire woods, etc. were met from the Government grants released to them through District Educational Officers. The District Educational Officers were the sanctioning authorities and the Deputy Inspector of Schools were the recommending authorities. The grant was released for every quarter based on the recommendations of the Deputy Inspector of Schools. The Deputy Inspector of Schools received application for advance grant for the quarter on or before 10th of the month

preceding the quarter for which the grant was claimed from the Noon Meal Organisers and scrutinised with reference to the number of beneficiaries and other probable expenditure and recommended to the District Educational officer before 20th of the same month to release the grant. On receipt of the recommendation, the District Educational Officer immediately sanctioned the amount on verification of the recommendation and ensured the amount reached the organisers of the centre on 1st of the quarter for which the grant was due. The grant paid in advance for the quarter was adjusted before sanctioning the grant for the succeeding quarter.

The grant was calculated at the rate of 11 paise per child to cover the expenditure on condiments, vegetables and fire woods wages of cook and helper at the rate of Rs.2 for cook and Re.1/- for helper per day, and contingent expenditure at the rate of Rs.20/- for the school centre with the strength of up to 500 beneficiaries towards of cost of account books, transport, soap etc.,

MODE OF PAYMENT OF GRANT:

The District Educational Officer released the grant to each centre located in the area other than Panchayat Union in the form of bank draft. The grant to the centres in Panchayat Union areas was credited in P.D. account of the concerned A.E.Os and the A.E.Os disbursed the amount to Secretaries.

The Secretary of the centre on receipt of these cheques or draft immediately deposited them in the Post Office Savings Bank account or in nationalised bank or cooperative bank or scheduled bank nearest to the centre. The Secretaries of the centres withdraw the required amount whenever necessary to meet the expenditure for the above mentioned purpose.

Release/sanction of quarterly advance grants to the Centres

1991-1992 -

The monitoring and supervising responsibility was transferred from the Director of School Education to the Director of Rural Development at the end of the year 1990 and thereby there was a slight change in the financial administration of this scheme.

As far as the Child Welfare Centres are concerned, the Director of Social Welfare was the authority to release the quarterly advance grant to meet the expenditure on feeding the children in the age group 2+ to 4+ at the rate of 13 paise per child per day., honorarium to the Child Welfare Organiser, Child Welfare Assistants and contingent amount for the centres located in the urban and rural areas.

As far as the Government /Aided school centres are concerned the Commissioner of Rural Development allotted to each District Collector except Madras district on the basis of the funds sanctioned by Government. In regard to Madras city the

funds requirement was placed at the disposal of the Director of Municipal Administration, Madras, as the Government/Aided school centres in Madras city were under the control of the Commissioner of Corporation of Madras. Based on the funds allocated, the District Collector released the quarterly advance grant to the Panchayat Union Commissioner to cover the expenditure on feeding the school children 5+ 14 at the rate of 13 paise per child per day, honorarium/wages for the organisers, cook, helper and contingencies in the centres. The Panchayat Union Commissioner in turn released grant to the organisers in the form of cheques. Similarly the Director of Municipal Administration released the advance quarterly grants to the commissioners of Corporation of Madras, Madurai and Coimbatore. The Commissioners in turn disbursed the advance grants to the organisers of the centres.

Further the Director of Municipal Administration released the advance grant to the Commissioners of Municipalities to incur the expenditure on feeding the children in Municipal schools, honorarium wages to the staff, and contingencies in respect of the school centres run by the Municipalities.

RELEASE OF GRANT FROM 1992 ONWARDS:

Government have established a separate head of department namely the Director of Social Welfare and Nutritious Meal Programme to look after the scheme by transferring the monitoring and supervising power from the Director of Rural Development to the new department. However Government did not

upset the existing district administrative structure. At present the release of quarterly advance grant towards honorarium, expenses towards purchase of vegetables, fuel, and condiments, contingent expenditure etc. in respect of Municipal School centres in districts and School centres in Madras city is being looked after by the Commissioner of Municipal Administration, Madras. The District Collectors are also looking after the release of grant in respect of all other school centres as was expressed in the above paragraph. The expenditure towards supply of food articles like rice, dhal, oil etc. to school centres by Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd. is being controlled by the Commissioner of Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection, Madras.

AUDITING AND INSPECTION:

Since the Government expenditure on Nutritious Meal Programme was continued to be high even from the very beginning, the Government enforced the proper audit system. Even at the inception of the programme the Local Fund Audit Department was empowered to audit and do the physical verification of the stock of food commodities at the centre level. The Accountant General of Audit Department was incharge of the audit in the accounts maintained at district offices such as District Educational Offices and at Directors' offices who were the authorities for releasing quarterly grant. Subsequently, the Director of School Education was relieved from the responsibility of implementing the programme. The Accountant General is the authority of auditing

the accounts maintained at the offices of the District Collector, Local Funds Audit is the authority of auditing the accounts maintained at Nutritious Meal Centres and Panchayat Union offices. The audit report ultimately are being reviewed by the Government.

INSPECTION:

Auditing and inspection is the effective feed back system to improve the performance of any scheme. Since the Nutritious Meal Programme is an unique and elaborate scheme covering about 68,000 centres, about 2-lakhs of employees, about 65 lakhs of children and incurring about 250 crores of rupees and handling about 2.5 lakhs of metric tonnes of food commodities every year, it needs regular feedback system as such effective inspection including physical verification of staff is in practice.

As long as the Director of School Education was in charge of implementing and monitoring the scheme, the offices of the School Education Department such as Chief Educational Officers, District Educational Officers, Field Officers, Assistant Educational Officers, Deputy Inspectors of Schools inspected the centres and submitted periodical inspection report to the Director and the Director in turn submitted such reports to the Government. Subsequently the Director of Rural Development was made the implementing authority, Government issued the following orders relating to the inspection of centres.

(a) All the Collectors of the districts except Madras, heads of departments involved in the programme and three Corporation Commissioners were instructed to inspect a minimum of 10 centres every month and send their inspection reports to Government. Those reports were reviewed at the Government level and reviews issued from the Secretary, Social Welfare and Nutritious Meal Programme Department/Chief Secretary to Government.

(b) All P.A.s (Nutritious Meal Programme) to the Collectors were assigned to inspect a minimum of 20 centres every month and send their reports to Government. These reports were reviewed by the Secretary (SW. & NMP.)

(c) All the officers at the district level in the Revenue, Education, Social Welfare, Rural Development and Municipal Administration were instructed to inspect 10 Centres every month. Further V.A.O. and Revenue Inspectors were also instructed to inspect 10 Centres at least every month. The Collectors/Heads of Departments were also asked to send a report to Government every month showing the number of centres inspected by those officers by 15th of the following month. These reports were reviewed by the Secretary, Social Welfare and Nutritious Meal Programme and review report was sent to Collector/Heads of Departments properly.

Similar system of auditing and inspection is being continued even after the establishment of separate Directorate for this programme. With a view to have qualitative and effective

inspection, the Collector/Heads of Departments has given suitable instructions to the inspecting officers to conduct surprise checks of attendance at centres at the time of feeding to find out variation, if any, in the number of beneficiaries actually taking meals.

PREVENTION OF PILFERAGE /LEAKAGE OF FOOD COMMODITIES:

At the beginning of the scheme, the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd. had been authorised to procure and distribute food commodities to the Nutritious Meal Centres properly without giving chance to public criticism. The Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd. had been suitably instructed by the Government to supply rice and dhal to the feeding centres in the standardised bags of 100 kg., 50 kg., 20 kg., and 10 kgs.

The District Collectors and other Revenue officials not lower than the rank of Revenue Divisional Officers/Divisional Development Officers had been empowered to undertake random verification of the standardised bags of rice and dhal in the godowns of Civil Supplies Corporation prior to commencement of delivery of such food commodities to the feeding centres, to ensure the correct weightment of bags and also empowered to intercept delivery lorries enroute to check the liftment of commodities for proper supply without pilferage.

Further, strict instructions were issued to the field level officers to check the stock of food commodities available in the centre as against the stock noted in the stock register of food commodities maintained by the organisers.

The Organisers were instructed to maintain the following registers so as to perform perfect inspection at the feeding centres:

1. Register of school meal beneficiaries.
2. Daily attendance Register of beneficiaries.
3. Cash books
4. Receipt books
5. Voucher files
6. Stock registers
7. Bank Account pass book
8. Visitors book
9. Minutes book of Advisory Committee, etc.

This system of checking the supply of food materials in the feeding centre is also in practice.

DAMAGES/THEFT OF FOOD COMMODITIES

The Government never failed to take preventive steps to protect the food commodities from natural calamities such as air, flood, fire, etc., for which organisers were provided with safe containers/vessels. Further, pucca sheds were constructed to

store the commodities in the portion of the centre itself. Sometimes theft of food commodities by local miscreants had to be faced; on such occasions organisers used to lodge police complaints. Sometimes higher authorities were forced to write off these loss. However, the Government instructed the authorities to fix responsibilities on the organizers for the loss, shortage, damage, etc. The competent authorities, that is, the inspecting officers could order for the recovery of amount fixed by the Civil Supplies Corporation from the organizers if they noticed irregularities at the time of inspection or visit apart from the disciplinary action against them. The Organisers were suitably instructed to maintain the registers showing the particulars relating to loss, damage etc. and these particulars should not be written off from the register without obtaining orders from the competent authorities.

CONSTRUCTION OF COOKING SHEDS:

As far as the school meal centres are concerned, cooking sheds are available since midday meal scheme was in operation, however new cooking sheds were constructed if necessary for the new school centres for which certain procedure is followed. The Secretary of the concerned school meal centre got quotation including cost of labour and materials and forwarded them to the District Educational Officer concerned for approval. After obtaining the approval of the District Educational Officer

the construction work of cooking shed was taken up. At present the District Collector concerned is in charge of sanctioning the construction of cooking sheds if it is necessary.

At the time of inception of the Nutritious Meal Programme, the sheds for Child Welfare Centres were constructed as semi pucca structure uniformly as per government instructions subject to the sanction of the Public Works Department. The Government have also fixed the ceiling of the expenditure for construction of temporary kitchen sheds-cum-storage room for new school feeding centres depending upon the number of beneficiaries as follows:

A sum of Rs.1,000/- per centre with feeding strength below 200, Rs.1,500/- for 201 to 300, Rs.2,500/- for centre with feeding strength of 301 to 500 and Rs.5,000/- for centre with 501 and above. Provision of funds for the construction of new kitchen sheds and for repairing the cooking sheds is felt to be a strain on the part of government hence it has been decided to consider the possibility of using the funds allotted under "Jawahar Velaivaippu Thittam" in the year 1991-92 for undertaking construction of new kitchen shed and repairing the existing sheds etc. to the extent possible after the allotment of funds by Government of India.

In order to involve the voluntary organisations, the Collector of all districts were asked to launch a drive in April 1991 to have all centres white washed/repared with the assistance of public/voluntary agencies in the first instance. As such

42,000 centres were white washed. Further, as a part of this step, the involvement of major industrial/business houses to undertake renovation of the feeding centres by the scheme of adoption was also initiated. However it was not made compulsory or a continuous process. This type of initiative was helpful in reducing the financial burden on the part of Government to certain extent.

PURCHASE OF VESSELS/UTENSILS:

At the time of inception of the programme vessels/utensils were supplied to all the centres uniformly through government agency. Government had also fixed ceiling of expenditure for the purchase of cooking utensils for the new centres duly sanctioned as follows:

A sum of Rs.1,000/- per centre in which the feeding strength of 200 and below, Rs.1,500/- for feeding strength of 201 to 300, Rs.2,500/- for feeding strength of 301 to 500, Rs. 5,000/- for feeding strength of more than 501.

The ceiling for the purchase of plates and tumblers had been fixed as 25 sets of tumblers for a strength of 500 and below, 50 sets for a strength of more than 500. Plates were purchased at the rate of Rs. 6/- for each child. At present generally the utensils are to be purchased only from nearest TANSI Supermarket or Co-operative institutions. If these utensils/tumblers/plates are not available in any of these institutions they are purchased

after getting three or more quotations and these quotations are to be approved by the District Committee. The ceiling is also applicable to the centre where additional beneficiaries are enrolled and the centre can incur the expenditure for the purchase of utensils according to the ceiling slabs after getting approval of the District Committee.

After a period of 10 years from the implementation of this scheme, there has been persistent demand for replacement of existing vessels from all feeding centres through District Collectors. In view of the huge amount of expenditure involved Government have decided to replace the utensils in a phased manner. As such Government had sanctioned Rs. 1 crore for the year 1991-92 for the replacement of vessels. The Government have also permitted the District Collectors to receive vessels, tumblers, plates etc. as donations, from voluntary organisations like Rotary Clubs, Lions Clubs and also from local philanthropist. These donations are received only in kind and not in cash.

PROVISION OF DRINKING WATER FACILITIES TO THE FEEDING CENTRES:

Provision of drinking water to the school feeding centres as well as child welfare centres sometimes needs proper plan and action especially during the drought period. Usually, the centres in rural areas make arrangements of their own for regular supply of water and do not face much problems in this arrangements of water supply. The centres in urban areas face little difficulty relating to water supply especially the centres

in Corporation area experience hardship in getting proper water supply. However all the nutritious meal centres have been ensured regular supply of water for drinking and cooking purposes. As far as Madras city is concerned the Metro Water Supply and sewerage Board has been pressed into service for the regular supply of drinking water to all the nutritious meal centres including the aided schools. The nutritious meal organisers in Madras city centres are instructed to collect the water supplied by the Metro Water authority in a hygienic way in drums or in suitable vessels. All the Nutritious Meal Centres in rural and urban areas have been provided with adequate water supply throughout the year by all means.

TAMIL NADU EXPERIENCE OF THE NUTRITIOUS MEAL SCHEME

The Nutritious Meal Programme is justified on many grounds such as nutritional, employment, welfare, wealth, education and even social.

NUTRITIONAL PERFORMANCE:

Supplementary feeding is perhaps the optional way of raising food in-take to compensate the nutritional deficiency among poor children. The Midday Meal Scheme has made some headway in upgrading the nutritional level of school going children from the family below poverty line. Under the midday meal scheme, the children were fed only 200 days in a year whereas, under the Chief Minister's Nutritious Meal Programme, the children in the age group 2+ to 11 are being fed on all days of a year, however the children in the age group 12 to 15 are being fed 200 days in a year, that is, on all the school working days. As such the Chief Minister's Nutritious Meal Programme is widely considered a scheme of nutritional success.

"Targeted feeding schemes have been technically criticised that they are inept in including those with satisfactory nutritional status, and inept in excluding the most

severely malnourished who do not attend the school, that they are targeted at individual within the household whereas malnourishment is a household problem solvable only at the house hold level and that, if they succeed, they raise the growth paths of children above levels which can be maintained once the beneficiaries grow past the age of eligibility " .

In Kerala, the targeted feeding scheme in operation which consists of a meal of 325 calories and 12-14 grams of protein is given to the children in the age group 6-9 in 8,926 schools. The feeding scheme is targeted for 160 days in a year but actually operates for between 84 to 124 days in a year. A sample study was done in Kerala to study the degree of nutritional success by comparison of 1932 participants and 1815 non-participants showed no significant difference in growth between the two groups and forced into the conclusion that the programme had no impact. In Madhya Pradesh, the feeding scheme consists of a meal of 312-350 calories and 14-19 grams of protein provided to 10,463 schools to children in the age group 5-15 targeted for 180 days but operates for 125 day on an average in a year. Similar evaluation on sample basis was done as was done in Kerala which showed no significance. It is clearly indicated from the above cases that anthropometric scores were highly correlated with the number of days on which the children were fed. Beaton and Ghassain's general review of supplementary feeding scheme made for the U.N. gave evidence.

Unlike in Kerala and Madhya Pradesh, the Nutritious Meal Programme in Tamil Nadu is a great success. The Nutritious meal programme in Tamil Nadu consisting of a meal of 410 calories is provided to the pre School children in the age group 2 to 5 and 510 calories to the school children. The age range of the children who are being fed is wide that is 2 to 15. Further, those children in the age group 2 to 11 are being fed throughout the year. Therefore it must have a positive impact upon the nutritional status of the children in schools.

A nutritional evaluation made for UNESCO concluded that nutritional status has improved among the children as a result of the Chief Minister's Nutritious Meal Programme in Tamilnadu. This conclusion was derived from two data sets. Firstly, standard anthropocentric data relating to 3219 selected children, reasonably balanced according to sex and age and drawn from 37 preschool feeding centres including 8 urban centres and 33 schools including 7 urban schools in the region of Coimbatore district. Measurement of height and weight and arm circumference were made in January 1983 that is 6 months after the implementation of the scheme and again four months later. Anthropocentric increments is given below:

ANTHROPOCENTRIC INCREMENTS:

(6 months to 10 months after start of participation in Noon Meal Scheme)

	MALE			FEMALE		
	Measured Increments (MI)	ICMR Increments (ICMRI)	Measure-ment as proportion of Norms (%)	Measured Increments (MI)	ICMR Increments (ICMRI)	Measure-ment as proportion of Norms (%)
Height (Cms)						
2	2.1	--	108	1.8	--	106
3	1.7	2.03	104	1.4	2.0	101
4	1.7	1.4	104	1.7	1.56	105
5	1.1	3.47	103	1.2	4.23	100
6	1.1	0.83	105	1.2	1.0	101
7	1.3	1.2	106	1.6	1.36	102
8	1.6	2.27	104	1.5	2.7	99
9	1.4	1.7	104	1.4	0.43	102
Weight (Kg.)						
2	1.63	--	111	1.25	--	111
3	1.0	0.57	109	1.06	0.73	102
4	1.01	0.5	108	1.01	0.36	116
5	0.64	0.76	103	0.86	0.63	112
6	0.79	0.36	104	0.84	0.5	110
7	0.90	0.3	103	1.08	0.77	100
8	0.96	0.76	100	0.92	0.4	100
9	1.02	0.73	98	1.18	0.4	99
Arm circumference (cm)						
2	0.46	--		0.49	--	--
3	0.37	0.23		0.34	0.263	--
4	0.43	0.13		0.38	0.133	--
5	0.2	0.14		0.21	0.06	--
6	0.22	0.16		0.20	0.06	--
7	0.66	0.3		0.60	0.4	--
8	0.56	0.16		0.55	0.36	--
9	0.61	0.2		0.71	0.06	--

Source: Barbara Harriss, Child nutrition and poverty in South India (Noon Meals in Tamil Nadu - Appendix-J)

As per the format of the UNESCO evaluation, the average gain in height of participating children was 0.81 of standard gain for boys and 0.77 for girls. The very least, one can conclude

that, the Nutritious Meal Programme did not rise the rate of growth in height of the average participant to a normal level. The average gain in weight was 1.75 times the standard for males and 1.87 for females. The annualised average difference between the weight increment of this programme beneficiaries and of ICMR norms is 0.84 kg. for school boy and 1.3 kg. for school girl. The average gain in arm circumference was 2.75 expected gain for boys and 2.68 in the expected gain for girls. The average value for most parameters at 6 months after participation were close to or exceed ICMR and other internationally recognised norms.

The second data set was for food intake. A total of 22 selected preschool children beneficiaries and 10 selected school meal beneficiaries were compared for nutritious intakes with similar total of controls. These two groups were compared with ICMR standard. The main substantive feature of this evaluation of food intake revealed that nutrient consumption was everywhere far lower than ICMR norms. Deviation from nutritious norms were more intense than those from anthropocentric norms.

HEALTHY PERFORMANCE:

Malnutrition can be assessed anthropocentrically or through food intake studies or clinically. Malnutrition can be corrected by adequate intake of balanced food but it cannot be assumed that nutritious meal can alleviate specific deficiencies. However, this programme improves the health status of the malnourished children. Hence it is apt to use the sample study

analysis done by Dr. Rajammal P. Devadas, a research scholar, to highlight the positive significance of the nutritious meal programme relating to the health status of the children. While the clinical examination of participants in the Kerala Nutritious Meal Scheme revealed marginal benefits after 4 years, clinical research on 3219 children in and around Coimbatore District in Tamil Nadu, within the first year of the Nutritious meal programme showed a remarkable reduction in symptoms of disease attributable to nutritional deficiencies from 76% of children with one or more symptoms of signs to 25%.

THE CLINICAL OBSERVATION ON NUTRITIOUS MEAL BENEFICIARIES IN COIMBATORE DISTRICT

Symptoms of Diseases	Percentage of children (Total No. of children 3219)	
	6 months after inception of the scheme.	10 months after inception of the scheme.
Angular stomertitis	46.7	14.1
Mild anemia	38.2	11.0
Sleeding gyms	30.6	4.7
Dry skin	29.3	12.2
Dental carids	22.4	18.9
Bitotis spots	8.3	2.0
Haemoglobin level	8.42	9.47

Source : Devadas 1983 (C) p.22

EDUCATION:

Universalisation of Elementary Education is one among the objectives of Education Policy of India for which programme of action has been charted. As far as Tamil Nadu is concerned welfare scheme like supplementary feeding scheme was implemented even in 1950's in the name of Midday Meal scheme with certain limitations. Subsequently the Chief Minister's Nutritious Meal Programme is now being implemented in an organised manner with wide range of children in the age group 2 to 15 to accelerate the growth of education at primary level and reduce the school dropouts substantially. School enrolment in I-V Std. from the year 1956 to 1990 is given in the annexure. At the inception of the midday meal scheme, that is 1956, the enrolment in I-V Std. in all type of schools was around 26-lakhs which was only about 57% of the population in the age group of 6-11 and this percentage was being increased year after year and now Tamil Nadu has achieved cent per cent enrolment of children in the 6-11 age group before the end of Seventh Plan period. The nutritious meal programme is a very effective welfare measure for the achievement of universalisation of Elementary Education.

In addition to the growth of enrolment in Std. I-V in schools, it is useful to analyse the average attendance of children to study the impact of N.M.S. A sample survey was conducted in Kanniyakumari district to analyse the impact of N.M.S. on education. Under this survey 17 sample schools were selected in Nagercoil education district and data had been collected from those schools for the period 1978-79 to 1988-89.

This was done with a view to understand the trends for the pre and post Chief Ministers' Nutritious Meal Programme period. The percentage of average attendance in the sample schools is furnished below:

YEAR	Govt. Aided Schools			Government schools			All Sample Schools		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
1978-79	92.3	91.6	91.9	87.6	86.4	87.0	89.2	87.5	88.6
1979-80	92.2	92.7	92.4	84.5	86.0	85.3	87.9	88.8	88.5
1980-81	93.0	92.6	92.6	85.9	86.3	86.1	86.9	87.3	87.8
1981-82	93.1	93.0	93.1	86.8	85.0	85.9	89.6	87.7	88.2
1982-83	92.6	92.5	92.5	86.1	84.4	85.2	88.5	87.7	88.8
1983-84	92.4	92.1	92.2	86.7	86.8	86.7	87.7	87.8	87.8
1984-85	94.0	92.1	93.0	86.6	86.6	86.6	87.8	87.2	88.3
1985-86	93.7	89.6	91.6	88.0	86.6	87.3	89.8	87.8	89.6
1986-87	93.7	89.0	91.4	88.7	89.3	89.0	89.2	87.7	89.0
1987-88	93.9	92.6	93.2	89.1	88.5	88.8	91.3	90.1	90.9
1988-89	93.9	93.1	93.5	89.9	88.7	88.6	93.6	92.6	91.1
Period-I	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.2
Period-II	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.4

Source: Economic & Political Weekly, Oct. 24-31, 1992.

The percentage of average attendance for the study period shown above shows the rising trend in Government aided schools and government schools. The average attendance growth rate is high in Government schools during the past C.M.N.M.P. period than in Pre C.M.N.M.P. period. Further the percentage of attendance of boys is always higher than girls in

the rest of the academic years. The growth rate presented in the above table gives encouraging picture of equality in the growth pattern among boys and girls. At this point it is concluded that Nutritious Meal Scheme has a definite impact on the attendance as observed from the above data.

IMPACT ON SCHOOL DROPOUT.

Universalisation of Elementary Education is one among the objectives of Education Policy which emphasises the suitable programme of action to reduce the alarming school dropouts. It has been presumed that the implementation of NMS would have an impact on the school dropouts and which would be the effective welfare measure to induce the children in continuing their studies. The school dropout rate in I to V stage for the period from 1956-57 to 1990-91 is given in the annexure shows the steady declining trend. At the time of inception of midday meal scheme that is in the year 1956 the drop out rate in I-V stage was 58.5% and the dropout rate in the year 1982-83 was 28.39 that is at the time of inception of Chief Minister's Nutritious Meal Programme. This dropout rate is further reduced at 18.27 in the year 1992-93.

The sample survey report relating to Kanniyakumari district for the period 1978-79 to 1987-88 that is Pre C.M.N.M.P. period (1978-79 to 1981-82) and post C.M.N.M.P. period (1982-83 to 1987-88) revealed the declining trend of the school dropouts. The dropout rate of the 17 sample schools for the above period is given below:

DROPOUT RATE I-V STD.

Year	Boys	Girls	Total
1978-79	7.8	8.9	8.3
1979-80	8.3	8.0	8.2
1980-81	7.7	7.9	7.9
1981-82	7.6	7.7	7.7
1982-83	6.3	6.4	6.4
1983-84	6.4	7.1	6.7
1984-85	5.5	5.7	5.6
1985-86	6.0	6.1	6.1
1986-87	4.9	5.1	5.0
1987-88	3.5	3.8	3.7

It is observed from the table above the drop out rate of boys and girls declined little rapidly in the post C.M.N.M.P. period. The dropout rate was comparatively lower in Government aided schools than government schools among boys and girls but it was far lower in urban schools than in rural schools. Further it is observed that the dropout rate declined much more among girls in government schools and in urban schools than in all other schools. However the sample size is comparatively very small which reflects the impact of CMNMP on enrolment, attendance and dropouts very significantly.

IMPACT ON EMPLOYMENT:

The Nutritious Meal Scheme is not only the largest nutrition intervention of its kind, it is also claimed to be the largest single employment programme. Employment has been provided

to women, destitutes and widows. In the year 1983-84 the total employment in pre-school centre and school centres (totally about 63,000 centres) was 1,80,118 of which 88% were women. The districtwise number of employees, number of feeding centres and the number of beneficiaries for the year 1983-84 are given in the following table.

DISTRICTWISE NO. OF NUTRITIOUS MEAL CENTRES
NO. OF EMPLOYEES AND NO. OF BENEFICIARIES

Sl. No	Dis-trict	Pre-School Centre	School Centre	Employment		Beneficiaries 1983			Beneficiaries 1984		
				Pre School	School	Pre School	School	OAPs	Male	Fe-male	Sche-duled caste
						(in Lakhs)			(in Lakhs)		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1	Madras	1236	60	3708	1362	0.8	1.4	0.1	1.1	1.2	0.9
2	Chengal pattu	2540	2248	7926	7351	2.6	2.6	0.1	3.0	2.4	2.3
3	North Arcot	3049	3349	9151	10047	3.3	3.1	0.2	3.4	3.1	2.3
4	Dharma-puri	1381	1831	4143	5511	1.4	1.9	0.1	1.9	1.5	0.9
5	South - Arcot	2910	8851	9408	3028	3.3	3.9	0.1	3.8	3.5	2.8
6	Salem	1863	2113	5563	6370	1.5	2.6	0.2	2.3	1.8	1.2
7	Pernyar	1128	1562	3384	4714	0.7	1.4	0.1	1.1	0.9	0.5
8	Nilgiris	281	421	604	1277	0.1	0.6	0.0	0.4	0.4	0.3
9	Coimba-tore	1381	1548	4147	4521	1.0	1.9	0.1	1.6	1.4	0.9

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.
10.	Trichy	1968	2699	5904	5086	1.6	2.2	0.1	2.0	1.8	1.7
11.	Thanjavur	2141	3021	6423	7254	1.8	3.3	0.2	2.7	2.5	2.0
12.	Pudukkottai	1118	1165	2304	3483	0.9	1.2	0.1	1.1	1.0	0.6
13.	Madurai	2458	3031	6766	6175	2.2	4.1	0.2	3.3	3.0	0.7
14.	Ramnad	1940	3216	5317	9466	1.1	3.4	0.1	2.4	2.2	1.0
15.	Tirunelveli	1800	3145	5390	9547	1.6	3.8	0.1	2.9	2.6	1.5
16.	Kanyakumari	650	561	1695	1866	0.6	1.4	0.1	1.0	1.0	0.4
Total:		27,844	39,362	81,533	87,058	24.3	38.7	1.9	34.0	30.3	20.0
Tamil-nadu											

Source Economic and Political Weekly, October 24-31, 1992

It is obvious from the above table that the labour intensity in pre-school under this scheme is high in South Arcot District and low in The Nilgiris District. The labour intensity in school under this scheme is high in North Arcot district and low in The Nilgiris District. The Districtwise number of employees, number of centres for the year 1990-91 is given in the annexure. In addition to these categories of posts such as organisers, cooks and helpers, certain other categories of ministerial posts and officers posts have also been created in the administrative offices. It is obvious that there is no other scheme implemented in Tamil Nadu or even in India for the last 35 years that provided employment opportunities to more than 1.6 lakhs of people. Hence it is claimed as the single largest employment programme for the rural areas. This scheme has brought a revolutionary change in

the rural landscape. It is also claimed to be the major women's employment programme and also anti-poverty programme for the women in rural and urban areas.

SOCIAL EFFECTS:

It is presumed that the nutritious meal programme would be helpful to develop the social interaction among the children without caste, creed bar. The Coimbatore District study evaluates the N.M.S in the following positive terms: "The food cooked and served by scheduled caste women is freely eaten by children belonging to all castes and communities with regard to preschool children irrespective of their caste and religion, (they) learn to move, mingle, eat, play and learn together thus equipping themselves from an early age to be true citizens of India, transcending all differences and divisions in the socio-economic transformation of the under-privileged is being achieved".

The nutritious meal scheme is claimed as the "harbinger of a new social order". It is the scheme which helps to establish a casteless society for the harmony.

Chapter-VI

THE CRITICISM AGAINST NUTRITIOUS MEAL SCHEME:

Any scheme and that too such a large and most significant scheme named as Chief Minister's Nutritious Meal incurring heavy expenditure on the part of the Government does not escape from criticisms. The main acquisition levelled at MGR is that he is promoting himself at the Government expenditure in order to have a sound footing in politics. It cannot be rejected that this scheme has definitely enhanced the image of MGR as the 'Benevolent of God' of the masses, the hand which has given them food. The very name of the scheme "The Chief Minister's Nutritious Meal Programme" is clear indication of the intention to boost the MGR cult which skilfully used for political mobilisation and creations of vote banks.

MGR has enlarged this scheme as a well organised one and improved it in a systematic way by covering the entire Tamil Nadu feeding more number of children than under midday meal scheme. This scheme is largely attributed to the 'nobility of conception. MGR wanted that hunger and poverty are no more theoretical possibility or abstract dangers. Whatever be the criticism the Nutritious meal programme in Tamil Nadu is being implemented as an effective welfare measure for the poor children which in turn helped the nation by improving the human resources.

Another criticism levelled against this scheme is that it is mostly unproductive and hence inflationary. Every year approximately 200 crores are being pumped into economy causing inflation. It is stated that the price of paddy and vegetables and other ingredients, such as dhal, oil, etc. has seen increased since the introduction of the scheme. It is stated that the expenditure of the scheme is being increased year after year that is more than 200 crores of rupees. If this huge amount is spent on the State Electricity Board the deficit can be cut down. The expenditure of this scheme exceeds the planned annual investment in agriculture and also the combined total investment in education, urban development drinking water and sewage.

True, it is an expensive welfare scheme in the State. Lakhs of children are hungry, not in good health, and neglected. Is it not the responsibility of the Government to safeguard the welfare of the poor children? The children are the human resource of the nation. The human resource development has to incur some amount of expenditure. It can be justified that the expenditure around 200 crores of rupees in a year on the welfare of the 63 lakhs of poor children in improving the potential human resource stock is not high for achieving the result. It is not unfair on the part of the Government to spend several crores for the attainment of noble objectives of improving the health status of poor children.

At the time of inception of this scheme 'Chief Minister's Nutritious Noon Meal Programme Fund' was created and donations, voluntary contributions were collected along with one

day salary from government employees one month salary from A.I.A.D.M.K. M.L.A.s and M.P.s and collection from one show of cinema theatres for financing this scheme. Criticism levelled against this procedure of collection of money for this scheme and stating that the misuse of fund was also possible in the absence of auditing. This criticism lead the government to make the budget allotment for this scheme from 1983 onwards.

Another criticism is that Gandhian Policy of Prohibition strictly followed in Tamil Nadu was scrapped for funding the implementation of the scheme. However, Tamil Nadu Government have not lifted prohibition but only restored partial prohibition to wipe out illicit liquor trade and further Government has taken necessary steps including propaganda relating to evils of liquor especially among the weaker section through mass media like Radio, T.V., Cinema, Press etc.

Again it was stated that in implementing this feeding scheme the teachers especially in primary schools were pressed to do various jobs to make the scheme a great success which resulted in loss of teaching hours and also resulted in the deterioration of primary education. Government perused the situation and relieved the teachers from the responsibility of implementing this scheme by appointing nutritious meal organisers. Further the entire responsibility of the implementation of the scheme has been vested with newly established Department of Social Welfare and Nutritious Meal Programme.

Another criticism levelled against this scheme is that the children not attending the school in the age group 14-16 are not covered, though they belong to poor families since they are forced to work for the livelihood of their family. It is stated that this scheme does not cover the entire children from the family below the poverty line since they are not enrolled in schools. It is a known fact that this new scheme covers all the children in schools from poor families and the organisers are instructed to be liberal in providing meals to the children in schools who prefer to take the meals and thus more than 60% of school children are fed under this scheme.

One among the objectives of scheme is to improve the enrolment in schools as such all schoolage children are induced to be in schools and thus it is the great success in achieving the target of universalisation of elementary education in Tamil Nadu even before the end of Seventh Plan period.

Inspite of all these hardships and criticisms the scheme has captured the imagination of the large masses of poor sections of the people which is the potential strength of the rulers to continue the scheme for the welfare of the poor children. It is considered that it is probably the shrewdest political move of MGR's career till date blending social benefit most effectively with population. The nutritious meal Programme is given top priority intervention in the rural food economy or a food resource which could affect in many aspects of people's lives, nutrition, social status, income; work and political allegiances.

CONCLUSION

In history, Tamil Nadu is the first State giving top priority in child nutrition in Government's food policy by implementing such a large and expensive welfare scheme covering all the children from the families below the poverty line enrolled in schools, UNESCO has set its seal of approval on an evaluation apparently indicating spectacular anthropocentric gain among children who eat nutrition meal. The nutritious meal programme is an elaborate social welfare scheme being implemented in a systematic way more effectively rather than the old midday meal scheme.

Under the midday meal scheme, the children enrolled in I to VIII stds. in the elementary schools alone were fed. Under the nutritious meal programme the children in the age group 2 to 16 are being fed.

Another important aspect of the new scheme is that the children in the age group 2 to 14 are being fed all the 365 days in a year, unlike the previous midday meal scheme in which the children were fed only 200 days in a year, resulting in significant improvement in the health status of the children.

Further the nutritious meal scheme provides nutritious meal for all the school children from the family below the poverty line without any fixation of ceiling unlike the midday meal scheme in which the ceiling was $\frac{1}{3}$ of the total school children

enrolled. Under the nutritious meal scheme instructions have been issued to the organisers that liberal view should be taken of the poverty criteria and that no child who volunteers to partake of the meal should be denied the opportunity.

Under the previous scheme, the Government had contributed only 10 paise per meal per child and local body had contributed 5 paise and in many the cases local body contribution was not proper and thus the midday meal scheme was heavily relying on voluntary contribution. Under the nutritious meal scheme, government contribution is 45 paise per meal per child and thus government have undertaken the entire financial responsibility for this programme. Further Government have appointed special staff such as organisers, cooks, helpers, etc. relieving the teaching community from the physical work connected with the implementation of the scheme. Under the old scheme of midday meal no special staff had been sanctioned by the Government, the teaching community was given responsibility to run the scheme. Thus the nutritious meal scheme is very systematic, elaborate and pragmatic programme than the old midday meal scheme.

The primary objective of the scheme is to improve the health status of the several lakhs of poor children. Since the children are fed on all days in a year, the improvement of health status of the children is observed in the education study made by UNESCO and researchers at different times. It is the scheme for the poor children with direct positive impact on the development of educated manpower resource of the country. Human resource development is considered vital for the national economic growth

which needs investment in the planning process, the nutritious meal scheme plays a role in increasing the stock of potential human resource for which spending of several crores of rupees is meaningful and also deserving.

Another objective is to increase the enrolment and to reduce the dropouts in schools. It is recorded that after the introduction of nutritious meal scheme the enrolment in I-VIII Stds. in schools increased to a remarkable extent and it is also indicated that there is sizable fall on the school dropout which results in the increase of mean year study. Tamilnadu has achieved cent per cent enrolment of children in I-V sts. even at the end of Seventh Plan period. In this context one cannot neglect the impact of nutritious meal programme on the process of attainment of universalisation of elementary education. It is the empirical evidence that the dropout rate in I-V std. has fallen from 30.36 to 18.27 in the 11 year period of the implementation of the scheme, that is 1981-82 to 1992-93. This scheme covers more than 60-lakhs of poor children in schools, however it is told that this scheme does not cover the children in the schoolage group not enrolled in schools or dropped out for various reasons. It is the scheme interlinking the object of improving the health status of the children and improving the enrolment in schools with the scope of covering school children and motivating all the parents to enrol their children in schools in the process of achieving universalisation of elementary education. The nutritious meal scheme serves the purpose in achieving the end result.

Another aspect of the scheme is employment generation in rural areas giving importance to women development. It is a mighty employment programme providing employment opportunity especially for women and has brought revolutionary change in the rural landscape. It is the single largest employment programme for the rural areas in independent India in the last four-and-half decades. This scheme provided employment opportunity and more women participation in all walks of life which is largely felt for the national growth. As part of the noble concept of women development, this mighty employment programme has involved large number of women in implementation of this programme and brought their efficiency to surface, for identification and recognition in public life.

Above all this scheme is considered as a harbinger of a new social order. The inter-dining of children in schools develop intimacy among the children dissolving castes and creed bar. The children and their parents accept the preparation and serving of meals by cooks and helpers from SC & ST communities. Further, children learn about cleanliness, hygiene, and nutritional value of food etc. It is being possible to achieve the socio-economic transformation of the underprivileged in the state which is the immense need for the attainment of communal harmony.

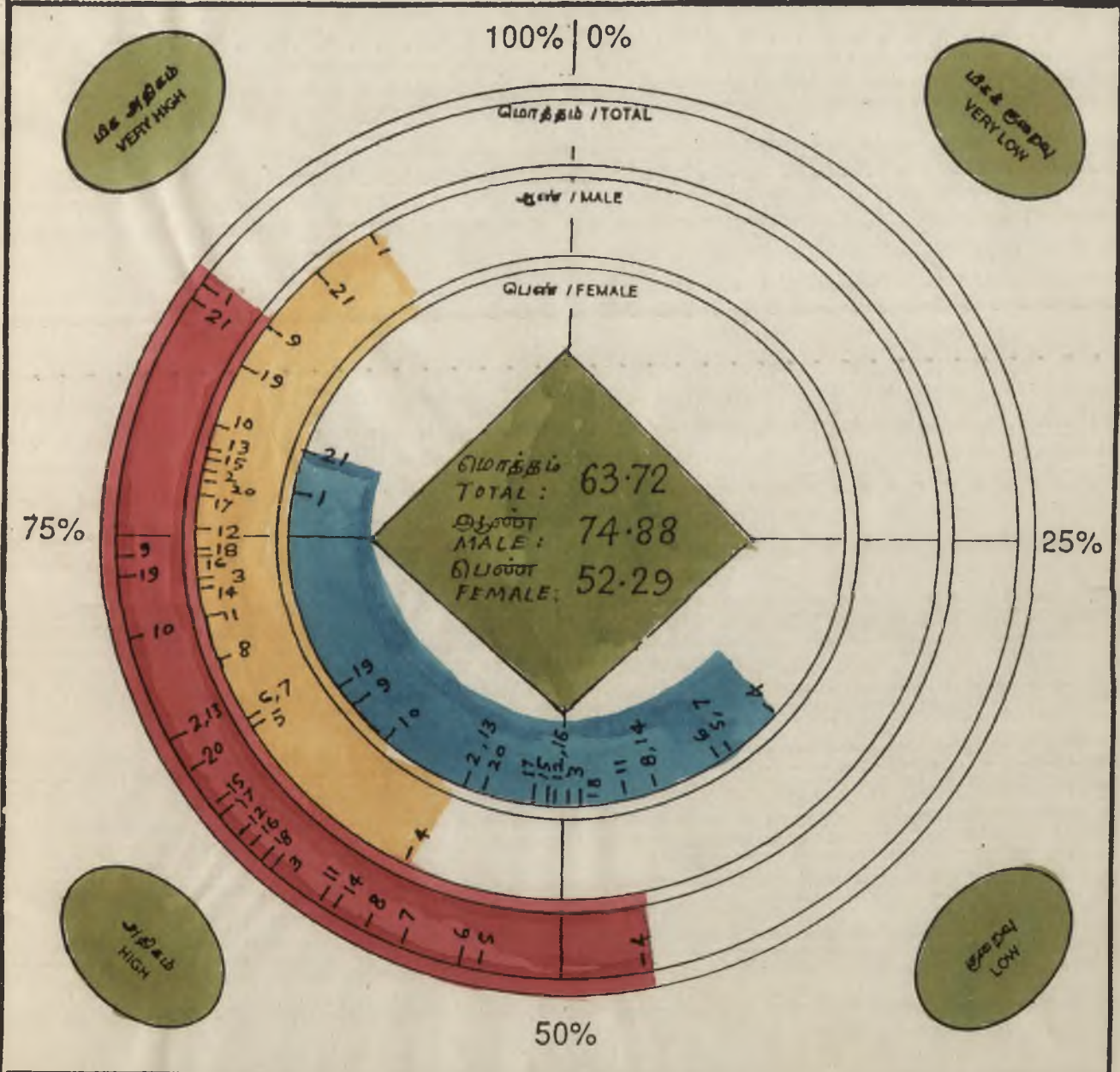
The nutritious meal programme has given enormous satisfaction to the poor and won the appreciation of enlightened people. This scheme is justified on many grounds such as nutrition, employment, welfare, health, education and social.

This is the most expensive welfare scheme, serves many purpose and has ushered in a new era in the political, economic and social history of Tamilnadu, assimilating all criticism and aspiring for unmatched end result.

DISTRICTWISE POPULATION - 1991 CENSUS

Sl. No.	Revenue District	Persons	Male	Female
1.	Madras	3,795,028	1,966,408	1,828,620
2.	Chengal-pattu MGR	4,620,967	2,361,017	2,259,950
3.	North Arcot-Ambedkar	3,000,208	1,510,157	1,490,051
4.	Dharmapuri	2,395,606	1,232,292	1,163,314
5.	Thiruvannamalai-Sambuvarayar	1,997,458	1,007,566	989,892
6.	South Arcot	4,870,871	2,475,544	2,395,327
7.	Salem	3,914,239	2,025,652	1,888,587
8.	Periyar	2,322,851	1,184,841	1,138,010
9.	The Nilgiris	704,827	354,732	350,095
10.	Coimbatore	3,531,078	1,848,629	1,682,449
11.	Dindigul	1,768,679	896,442	872,237
12.	Tiruchirapalli	4,114,323	2,074,415	2,039,908
13.	Thanjavur	4,526,709	2,268,389	2,258,320
14.	Pudukottai	1,322,494	659,241	663,253
15.	Pasumpon Muthuramalinga Thevar	1,074,989	529,703	545,286
16.	Madurai	3,447,595	1,748,126	1,699,469
17.	Kamarajar	1,554,350	779,086	775,264

மாவட்டவாரிக் கல்வியறிவு LITERACY RATE BY DISTRICTS 1991



1. சென்னை 2. செங்கல்பட்டு எம். ஜி. ஆர். 3. வடாற்காடு அம்பேத்கார் 4. தருமபுரி
5. திருவண்ணாமலை சம்புவராயர் 6. தென்னாற்காடு 7. சேலம் 8. பெரியார் 9. நீலகிரி
10. கோயம்புத்தூர் 11. திண்டுக்கல் அண்ணா 12. திருச்சிராப்பள்ளி 13. தஞ்சாவூர்
14. புதுக்கோட்டை 15. பசும்பொன் முத்தாராமலிங்கம் 16. மதுரை 17. காமராஜர்
18. இராமநாதபுரம் 19. சிதம்பரனார் 20. திருநெல்வேலி கட்டபொம்மன்
21. கன்னியாகுமரி

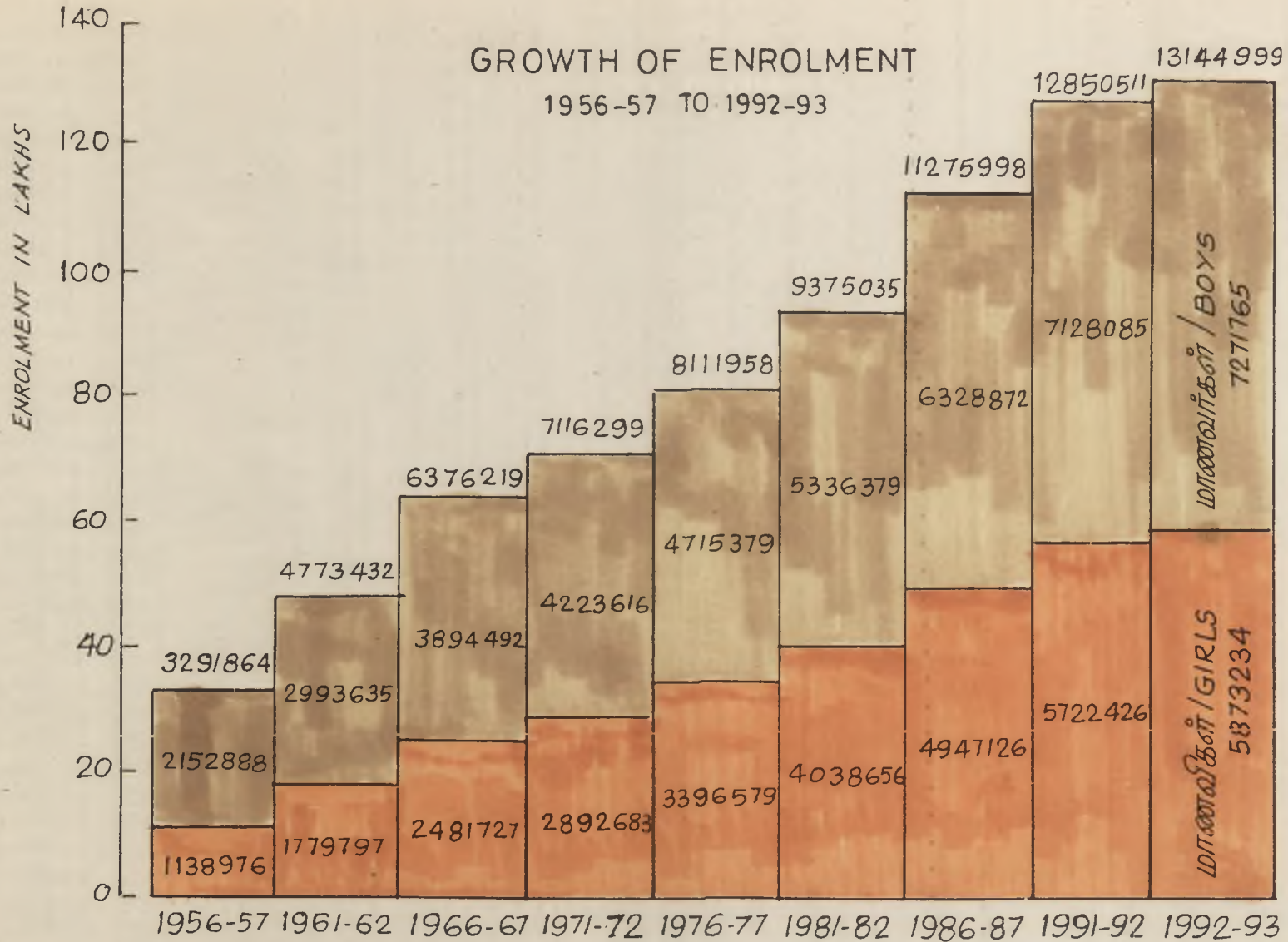
1. Madras 2. Chengalpattu M.G.R. 3. North Arcot Ambedkar 4. Dharmapuri 5. Thiruvannamalai
- Sambuvarayar 6. South Arcot 7. Salem 8. Periyar 9. Nilgiris 10. Coimbatore 11. Dindigul Anna
12. Thiruchirapalli 13. Thanjavur 14. Pudukottai 15. Pasumpon Muthuramalingam 16. Madurai
17. Kamarajar 18. Ramunathapuram 19. Chidambaranar 20. Tirunelveli Kattabomman 21. Kanniyakumar

Sl. No.	Revenue District	Persons	Male	Female
18.	Ramanathapuram	1,135,887	562,387	573,500
19.	Chidambaranar	1,455,796	711,087	744,709
20.	Thirunelveli-Kattabomman	2,493,189	1,224,319	1,268,870
21.	Kanniyakumari	1,591,174	777,914	793,260
Total		55,638,318	28,217,947	27,420,371

EFFECTIVE LITERACY RATE BY DISTRICT AND BY SEX
(PROVISIONAL 1991 CENSUS)

Sl. No.	Revenue Districts	Persons	Male	Female
1.	Madras	81.34	88.03	74.14
2.	Chengalpattu MGR	66.25	77.10	54.86
3.	North Arcot Ambedkar	61.22	72.87	49.28
4.	Dharmapuri	48.63	58.86	37.79
5.	Tiruvannamalai Sambuvarayar	54.03	67.10	40.62
6.	South Arcot	54.56	67.34	41.37
7.	Salem	56.39	67.32	44.72
8.	Periyar	57.52	69.50	45.09
9.	The Nilgiris	72.58	83.00	62.00
10.	Coimbatore	69.60	78.91	59.49
11.	Dindigul Anna	59.18	71.44	46.51
12.	Tiruchirapalli	62.54	74.92	49.87
13.	Thanjavur	66.44	77.87	54.86
14.	Pudukottai	58.83	72.66	44.94
15.	Pasumpon- Muthuramalingam	63.81	77.71	50.14

GROWTH OF ENROLMENT 1956-57 TO 1992-93



Sl.No.	Revenue Districts	Persons	Male	Female
16.	Madurai	62.05	73.83	49.87
17.	Kamarajar	63.65	76.22	50.92
18.	Ramanathapuram	61.25	73.91	48.70
19.	Chidambaranar	72.00	81.15	63.07
20.	Tirunelveli- Kattabomman	65.32	76.96	53.92
21.	Kanniyakumari	80.93	85.78	75.97
TAMILNADU		63.72	74.88	52.29

ENROLMENT IN ALL TYPES OF SCHOOLS BY SEX
FOR THE PERIOD 1956-57 TO 1990-91

YEAR	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
1956-57	2152888	1138976	3291864
1961-62	2993635	1779797	4773432
1966-67	3894492	2481727	6376219
1971-72	4223616	2892683	7116299
1976-77	4715379	3396579	8111958
1980-81	5244850	3382820	9127670
1981-82	5336379	4038656	9375035
1982-83	5528852	4188500	9717352
1983-84	5747095	4416981	10164076
1984-85	5946494	4599525	10546019
1985-86	6137640	4787287	10924927
1986-87	6328872	4947126	11275998
1987-88	6526147	5140347	11666494
1988-89	6683909	5279573	11963482
1989-90	6843397	5424771	12268168
1990-91	6984874	5573833	12558707

PERCENTAGE OF ENROLMENT TO TOTAL POPULATION
OF THE CORRESPONDING AGE GROUP
FOR THE PERIOD 1965-66 TO 1990-91

YEAR	AGE GROUP 6-11	AGE GROUP 11-14	AGE GROUP 14-17/14-16 FROM 1978-79	AGE GROUP 16-18
	I-V	VI-VIII	IX-X STD	XI-XII
1965-66	87.61	47.31	29.65	--
1966-67	88.93	49.70	32.30	--
1967-68	92.80	51.87	32.88	--
1968-69	92.15	52.57	33.05	--
1969-70	92.06	55.00	34.03	--
1970-71	94.13	55.01	35.03	--
1971-72	89.30	49.00	32.40	--
1972-73	93.20	54.10	33.20	--
1973-74	90.02	52.03	33.00	--
1974-75	90.30	52.60	33.00	--
1975-76	90.00	52.00	33.00	--
1976-77	91.70	54.40	34.10	--
1977-78	93.42	56.82	33.35	--
1978-79	94.25	58.25	26.02	--
1979-80	94.64	59.68	38.44	15.93
1980-81	95.22	61.42	39.90	16.66
1981-82	94.54	64.40	41.36	18.07
1982-83	96.20	66.03	42.57	18.13
1983-84	97.96	69.40	44.87	18.50
1984-85	98.66	72.10	47.45	19.59
1985-86	100.01	76.23	50.61	20.45
1986-87	100.37	79.63	52.85	20.89
1987-88	100.96	83.26	54.79	22.47

YEAR	AGE GROUP	AGE GROUP	AGE GROUP	AGE GROUP
	6-11	11-14	14-17/14-16 FROM 1978-79	16-18
	I-V	VI-VIII	IX-X STD	XI-XII
1988-89	101.01	85.80	56.14	23.68
1989-90	101.16	88.28	57.69	24.85
1990-91	101.99	90.58	59.42	26.04

DROP-OUT RATE BY STAGE

YEAR	PRIMARY STAGE (I TO V)		
	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
1961-62	51.87	59.54	54.86
1962-63	49.82	58.84	53.41
1963-64	49.19	58.01	52.71
1964-65	48.79	57.14	52.19
1965-66	48.16	56.39	51.62
1966-67	47.72	55.78	51.20
1967-68	46.57	54.92	50.26
1968-69	45.82	53.21	49.04
1969-70	45.12	52.60	48.31
1970-71	44.80	51.78	47.79
1971-72	43.76	50.37	46.63
1972-73	42.98	49.76	46.01
1973-74	41.19	48.89	44.67
1974-75	40.27	48.02	43.79
1975-76	39.41	47.67	43.14
1976-77	38.01	47.01	42.08

YEAR	PRIMARY STAGE (I TO V)		
	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
1977-78	36.39	44.67	40.14
1978-79	34.35	42.88	38.22
1979-80	29.22	37.93	33.18
1980-81	28.58	35.18	31.58
1981-82	28.07	33.10	30.36
1982-83	25.50	31.75	28.39
1983-84	23.63	29.76	26.48
1984-85	21.34	25.28	23.14
1985-86	20.13	25.20	22.48
1986-87	19.86	25.06	22.29
1987-88	19.44	24.46	21.78
1988-89	19.17	24.01	21.42
1989-90	18.78	23.64	21.05
1990-91	18.27	22.68	20.32
1991-92	17.72	21.16	19.31
1992-93	17.11	19.62	18.27

DROP OUT RATE

YEAR	MIDDLE STAGE (I TO VIII)		
	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
1964-65	70.17	79.95	73.98
1965-66	69.50	79.14	73.33
1966-67	68.86	78.82	72.84
1967-68	68.06	78.44	72.29
1968-69	67.72	78.11	72.09

YEAR	MIDDLE STAGE (I TO VIII)		
	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
1969-70	66.92	77.90	71.67
1970-71	66.13	77.56	71.18
1971-72	65.91	77.13	70.80
1972-73	65.34	76.82	70.23
1973-74	65.04	76.49	69.94
1974-75	64.79	76.02	69.67
1975-76	64.32	75.92	69.51
1976-77	63.86	75.48	69.11
1977-78	64.41	74.92	69.18
1978-79	62.93	73.62	67.75
1979-80	61.11	72.25	66.15
1980-81	59.97	70.95	64.93
1981-82	58.82	69.23	63.54
1982-83	57.94	68.98	62.96
1983-84	56.57	66.66	61.16
1984-85	53.93	64.51	58.86
1985-86	51.47	62.23	56.45
1986-87	47.66	57.82	52.38
1987-88	44.08	53.14	48.22
1988-89	41.33	51.35	45.97
1989-90	40.87	50.65	45.43
1990-91	40.17	49.43	44.48
1991-92	37.48	46.50	21.67
1992-93	34.76	43.54	38.86

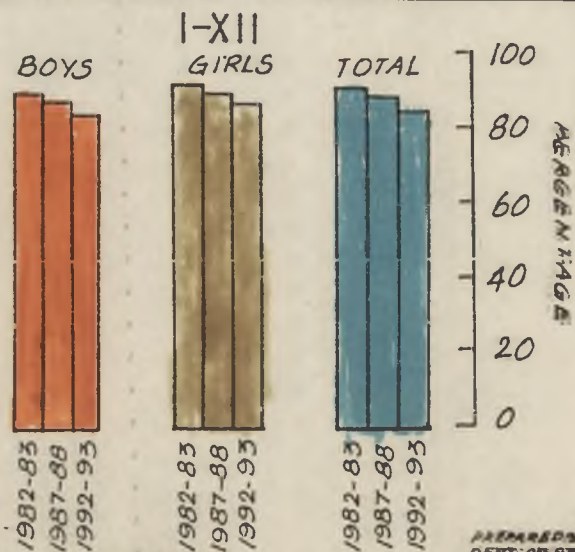
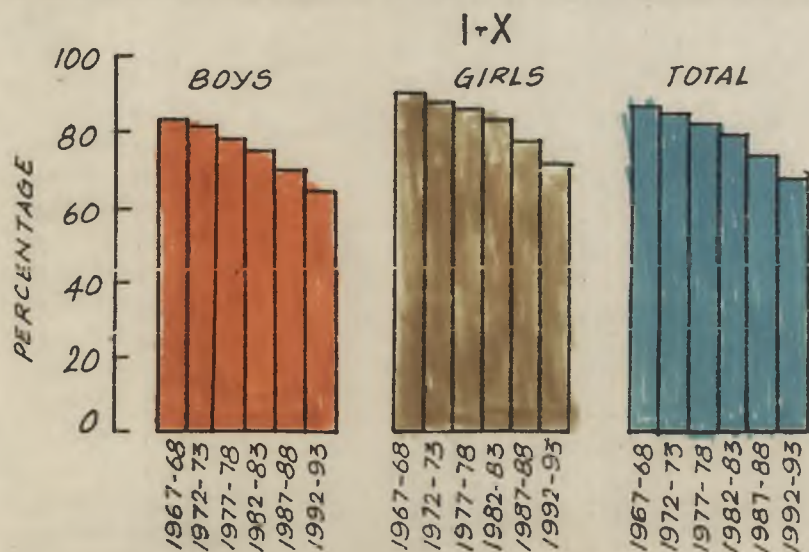
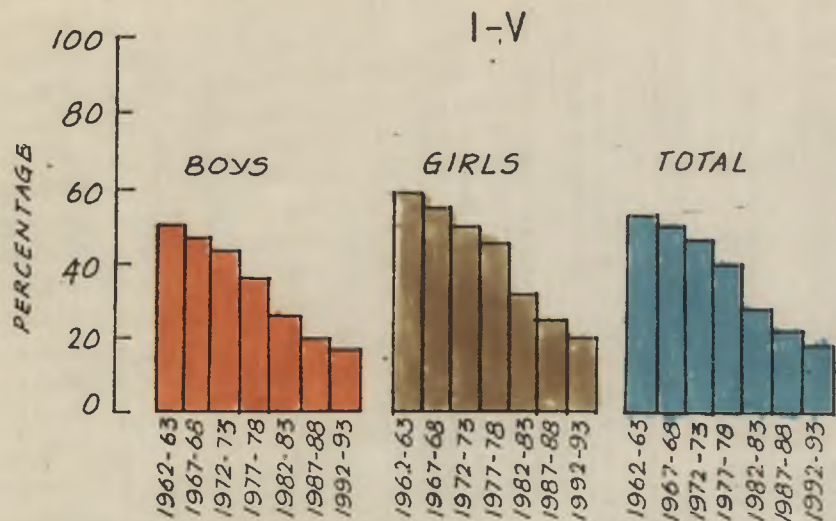
DROPOUT RATE UPTO HIGH SCHOOL STAGE (I TO X)

YEAR	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
1967-68	82.73	89.58	85.40
1968-69	82.07	89.12	84.87
1969-70	81.87	88.84	84.65
1970-71	81.41	88.51	84.30
1971-72	80.94	88.17	83.98
1972-73	80.52	87.79	83.66
1973-74	80.07	87.38	83.30
1974-75	79.76	87.07	82.94
1975-76	79.39	86.71	82.51
1976-77	78.64	86.10	81.84
1977-78	78.18	85.74	81.46
1978-79	77.90	85.56	81.36
1979-80	77.59	85.27	81.07
1980-81	76.00	84.01	79.62
1981-82	75.08	83.21	78.75
1982-83	74.72	83.04	78.48
1983-84	73.27	82.20	77.32
1984-85	72.95	80.87	76.55
1985-86	72.03	79.71	75.53
1986-87	71.41	78.59	74.68
1987-88	69.72	77.32	73.24
1988-89	66.75	76.45	71.26
1989-90	66.11	73.85	69.64
1990-91	64.91	72.38	68.32
1991-92	64.46	71.93	67.94
1992-93	63.65	71.02	67.08

DROPOUT RATE UPTO HIGHER SECONDARY STAGE
FROM 1978-79 TO 1990-91

YEAR	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
1978-79		(No +2 Class)	
1979-80	89.86	93.38	91.43
1981-82	89.21	92.09	90.52
1982-83	88.85	91.36	89.8
1983-84	88.77	91.23	89.88
1984-85	88.31	90.70	89.39
1985-86	88.11	90.00	88.97
1986-87	87.50	89.64	88.47
1987-88	87.13	88.84	87.91
1988-89	86.52	88.58	87.46
1989-90	85.11	87.98	86.44
1990-91	84.23	86.60	85.31
1991-92	83.92	86.07	84.91
1992-93	82.94	85.39	84.08

DROP-OUT RATE (IN SCHOOLS)



DROPOUT RATE OF SCHEDULED CASTE AND SCHEDULED TRIBE
1984-85 TO 1990-91

YEAR	STAGE	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
1984-85	Upto Primary (I-V)	26.96	33.85	30.05
1985-86	-do-	26.26	31.34	28.50
1986-87	-do-	25.86	31.06	28.15
1987-88	-do-	25.66	30.98	28.10
1988-89	-do-	23.39	30.89	26.93
1989-90	-do-	23.30	30.54	26.71
1990-91	-do-	23.04	30.42	26.52
1984-85	Upto Middle (I-VIII)	59.79	68.04	63.22
1985-86	-do-	56.86	65.91	60.95
1986-87	-do-	54.14	64.18	58.71
1987-88	-do-	52.59	56.29	54.25
1988-89	-do-	51.76	53.62	52.58
1989-90	-do-	51.22	53.49	52.22
1990-91	-do-	50.83	53.34	51.98
1984-85	Upto High School (I-X)	80.49	87.63	83.47
1985-86	-do-	80.01	87.34	83.14
1986-87	-do-	78.24	86.02	81.71
1987-88	-do-	76.08	84.74	80.00
1988-89	-do-	73.89	83.43	78.23
1989-90	-do-	73.38	82.32	77.38
1990-91	-do-	73.10	82.05	77.03
1990-91	Upto Hr. Sec. Stage (I-XII)	90.16	94.13	91.97

Annexures

PURATCHI THALAIVAR M.G.R. NUTRITIOUS NOON MEAL PROGRAMMENO. OF NUTRITIOUS MEAL CENTRES BY DISTRICT--1990-91

Sl. No.	District	No. of Centres		
		Elementary	Secondary	Total
1	Madras	534	201	735
2	Chengalpattu MGR	2603	264	2867
3	South Arcot	3224	290	3514
4	Thanjavur	3219	337	3556
5	Madurai	1786	199	1985
6	Dindigul Anna	1357	88	1445
7	Ramanathapuram	1111	82	1193
8	Kamarajar	1185	128	1313
9	PasumponMuthu- ramalingam	1078	107	1185
10	Tirunelveli Kattabomman	1854	174	2028
11	Chidambaranar	329	126	1455
12	Kanyakumari	488	200	688
13	North Arcot Ambedkar			
14	Thiruvannamalai Sambuvarayar	3515	360	3875
15	Salem	2187	256	2443
16	Dharmapuri	1938	187	2125
17	Tiruchirapalli	2772	310	3082
18	Pudukottai	1219	109	1328
19	Coimbatore	1628	216	1844
20	Periyar	1635	148	1783
21	The Nilgiris	425	81	506
Total		35037	3863	38950

PURATCHI THALAIVAR M.G.R. NUTRITIOUS NOON MEAL PROGRAMME.
TAMILNADU.
NO. OF BENEFICIARIES - 1990-91

No.	District	Elementary	Secondary	Total
1.	Madras	166496	90470	256966
2.	Chengalpattu M.G.R.	340821	153067	493888
3.	South Arcot	541899	145850	687749
4.	Thanjavur	416544	192182	608726
5.	Madurai	279100	98260	377360
6.	Dindigul Anna	160571	63787	224358
7.	Ramanathapuram	144099	30553	174652
8.	Kamarajar	127316	46444	173760
9.	Pasumpon Muthuramalingam	127729	34090	161819
10.	Tirunelveli Kattabomman	269847	48284	318131
11.	Chidambaranar	129049	48284	318131
12.	Kanyakumari	124846	118759	243605
13.	North Arcot Ambedkar	493421	228938	722359
14.	Thiruvannamalai Sambuvarayar			
15.	Salem	344646	138079	482725
16.	Dharmapuri	248076	106918	489614
17.	Tiruchirapalli	370173	119441	489614
18.	Pudukottai	169425	49231	218656
19.	Coimbatore	164418	101138	265556
20.	Periyar	141684	56581	198265
21.	The Nilgiris	66415	37755	104170
Total		4826575	1908448	6735023

PURATCHI THALAIVAR M.G.R. NUTRITIOUS NOON MEAL PROGRAMME,
NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES.

Sl. No.	District	No. of Employees		Total
		Elementary	Secondary	
1.	Madras	1701	678	2379
2.	Chengalpattu M.G.R.	7897	849	8746
3.	South Arcot	9978	601	10579
4.	Thanjavur	9876	1074	10950
5.	Madurai	5504	627	6131
6.	Dindigul Anna	4194	303	4597
7.	Ramanathapuram	3597	294	3891
8.	Kamarajar	3869	407	4276
9.	Pasumpon Muthuramalingam	3487	342	3829
10.	Tirunelveli Kattabomman	5911	546	6457
11.	Chidambaranar	4124	396	4520
12.	Kanyakumari	1513	631	2114
13.	North Arcot Ambedkar	9842	1171	11013
14.	Tiruvannamalai Sambuvarayar			
15.	Salem	6792	810	7602
16.	Dharmapuri	6013	592	6605
17.	Tiruchirapalli	8479	954	9433
18.	Pudukottai	3792	351	4143
19.	Coimbatore	4979	667	5646
20.	Periyar	5006	463	5469
21.	The Nilgiris	1307	251	1558
Total		107967	12007	119968

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