

# National Programme Of Mid-Day-Meal in Schools [MDMS]

Annual Work Plan & Budget  
2011 - 2012

State: WEST BENGAL



मध्याह्न भोजन योजना  
Mid Day Meal Scheme

## 1. Introduction:

### 1.1. Brief history, objectives and rationale of the Mid-Day-Meal Programme.

With a view to boost universalization of Primary Education (class I-V) by improving enrolment, attendance, retention and learning levels of children, especially those belonging to disadvantaged sections and to improve nutritional status of students of primary stage, the Cooked Mid-Day-Meal Programme was started in West Bengal in 1100 schools of six districts from January, 2003. Thereafter coverage of schools increased gradually and till 2010-11 (upto December) the programme has covered 8519472 students from class I to class V of 73841 Primary Schools and Shishu Shiksha Kendras and 3396453 students of class VI to class VIII of 8715 Upper Primary schools and Madhyamik Shiksha Kendras of the state.

### 1.2 Process of Plan Formulation.

With a population of 82 million in 2001, West Bengal is the fourth largest populous state situated in eastern India. With a density of 904 populations per square K.M., as per 2001 Census, West Bengal is currently the most densely populated state in the country. About 72% of the state's population lives in rural areas and the rest 28% in urban areas. The percentages of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe population are 28.6 and 5.8 respectively in the rural areas and 19.9 and 1.5 respectively in the urban areas. Among the minorities, the Muslims are the dominant section accounting for about 28.06% of the total population of West Bengal. These three categories namely SC, ST & Minority together account for more than half of the population of rural Bengal.

Population pressure puts stress on basic infrastructural needs as well as on the provisions of health and education services. The extremely high population density obviously affects per capita resource allocation. Due to active interventions in all these fields, birth and death rates have declined more rapidly in West Bengal than in India as a whole. During the period 1991-2001, the decline in birth rate has been nearly double while the decline in the death rate has been one and a half times than that of the all-India average. Infant mortality has also declined at a rate that is marginally higher than that of all India average. Sex ratio for women in West Bengal is historically worse than that of national average but the situation has improved recently and it is now just above the national average. Sex ratio for the age group 0-6 years was 963 in 2001 whereas the all India average was 927. In comparison to the all India average this sex ratio in this state is also higher in case of all age-groups, which is a very positive sign. Life expectancy in West Bengal is well above the national average, and the state is one of the good performing states in this regard, though this figure is below the national average in case of some districts like Malda, Cooch Behar, Birbhum and Murshidabad.

The literacy rate in West Bengal has always been higher than the all-India average and West Bengal ranks sixth among the major states in this regard. Until the last decade, the progress in literacy, especially in case of female literacy, was relatively slow in the state. To achieve the goal of "education for

all", the State Government took up concentrated efforts through various special schemes such as "total literacy campaign", "non-formal education" etc. resulting in an increase of the literacy rate from 48.6% in 1981 to 69.2% in 2001 in the state. While rural literacy rate is predictably lower than that in the urban areas, it has improved rapidly in the recent past. In spite of all these, the female literacy in the rural areas is still lower in comparison to other groups.

As on 30.09.2010 there were 76424 eligible Primary Schools and Shishu Shiksha Kendras and AIE Centres with an enrolment of 9503055 students from class I to class V and 12613 Upper Primary Schools and Madhyamik Shiksha Kendras and AIE Centres with an enrolment of 5079591 students from class VI to class VIII. As per DISE Report of 2009-10, average provisional drop-out rate is 4.97 percent at Primary level and 8.22 at Upper Primary level.

After receipt of Annual Plans from the districts and Siliguri sub-division those are checked with the QPRs and Off-take reports as submitted by them and after that exercise and considering the demographic status of West Bengal the Annual Plan of the state is finalized.

## **2. Description and assessment of the programme implemented in the current year (2010-11) and proposal for next year (2011-12) with reference to:**

### **2.1 Regularity and wholesomeness of mid day meals served to children; reasons for programme interruptions, if any and planning to minimize them.**

Mid-Day-Meal is served regularly and wholesomeness of the meal is maintained by adding seasonal vegetables with the meal. Due to abnormal price hike of vegetables and condiments the programme was often interrupted. Some of the educational institutions, where the number of enrolled students was low, were not being able to continue the programme daily at the permissible cooking cost per student. During the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter adequate food grains could not be supplied to the Districts due to lapses of food grains at the end of 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter and non-supply of food grains by the FCI Authority to some Districts. The block level and sub-divisional level functionaries, the members of the village education committees, school level monitoring committees, members of mother teacher associations and the teachers tried their best to keep the programme running.

### **2.2 System for payment of cost of food grains to FCI. Foodgrains Food grains management, including adequacy of allocation, timeliness of lifting, transportation and distribution, and suitability of storage at different levels. Challenges faced and plan to overcome them.**

Supply of Food Grains/Rice to Schools forms the Central part of the Flag-ship Project known as Cooked Mid-Day-Meal Project. The same is supplied by government of India free of cost.

Government of India allocates rice to the State nodal Officer who in turn makes sub-allotment to the nodal Officers in the districts and Kolkata areas with direction to lift within 25th of the last month of any quarter.

Some quality measures are taken to ensure lifting of good quality of rice. Stack of rice of FAQ (Fair and Average Quality) is identified prior to lifting. Rice as per allocation is lifted from the identified stack and joint sample is drawn in a sealed cover which is kept at different points namely Block Office, DC F&S' Office, Distributors / Dealers' godown to help solve problem if cropped up at later stage.

MR / SR distributors / dealers appointed by Food and Supplies Department are authorized to lift and arrange reaching such lifted Stock to the school points as per advice list chalked out by concerned BDO.

The Nodal Officers in the Districts and Kolkata areas are requested to arrange payment for cost of food-grains to FCI within 20 days of the receipt of the bills.

Despite issues of instruction on lifting and payment some un-avoidable circumstances stand in the way. Non-availability of adequate quantity of rice, good quality of rice sometimes at nearby FCI go down points, local problems in the Districts like Midnapore East, West, Bankura, Purulia, Darjeeling, etc. are negative points in the process. With all such constraints the Scheme can not be allowed to suffer.

Food grains were fall short for all the districts of this state during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. In case of lifting and transportation there was no difficulties in the matter. Some schools have reported storage problems of food grains at the school buildings. The plinth area norm has been introduced for construction of kitchen-cum-store shed. This will definitely minimize the storage problem.

At present there are 26627 schools, which do not have kitchen-cum-store sheds and there are 17631 schools, where construction work could not be started, though fund for construction @ Rs. 60,000/= per unit has already been allotted to those schools for the second case. It is due to escalation of price of construction material.

2.3 System for release of funds provided under cooking costs (Central and State). Please indicate the dates when the fund was released to Directorate/State Authority, District/ Block/ Gram Panchayat and finally to the Cooking Agency/School.

After receipt of fund from the Government of India, the same is sent to the Finance Department of the State Government for allotment of the state's share and after receipt of both; the School Education Department allots Central and State share of cooking cost to the District Magistrates who sub-allots the said fund to the Block Development Officers and Sub-Divisional Officers after drawing the same from the Treasuries and Block Development Officers and Sub-Divisional Officers in their turn disburse the same to the schools / Self Help Groups as per their requirement.

The fund flow statement during 2009-10 is as follows:-

Sl. No.	Cooking cost covering the months	Date of receipt of Central share	Date of release of fund by the State	Date of release by the Districts and Blocks
1	May and June, 2010	10-05-2010	25.06.2010 28.06.2010 30.06.2010 20.08.2010	Districts use to release fund after drawing the same from the treasury within 20 days and the Blocks / Municipalities use to release fund through fund transfer account within 7 days.
2	July, August and September.2010	15-09-2010	19.10.2010 28.10.2010 07.12.2010 14.12.2010	
3	October, November and December, 2010	14-12-2010		

2.4 System for payment of honorarium to cook cum helpers and implementing Agencies namely NGOs / SHGs / trusts / Centralized Kitchens etc.

Honorarium per cook cum helper is paid at the rate of Rs. 1000/- with effect from 01-12-2009 following the table below.

1 to 25 Students → 1 cook-cum-helper  
26 to 100 Students → 2 cook-cum-helper  
For each next 100 - 1 each

It is the duty of BDO / Municipality concerned to make payments to cook-cum-helper against the bill submitted by cooks belonging to SHGs and certified by School Authority.

2.5 System for procuring cooking ingredients (pulses, vegetables including leafy ones, salt, condiments, oil and fuel etc.), Commodities, which are centrally purchased and supplied to schools or locally purchased at school level.

Cooking ingredients like pulses, vegetables including leafy ones, salt, condiments, oil and fuel etc. are purchased locally by the members of Self Help Groups/others.

2.6 System for cooking, serving and supervising mid day meals in the school and measures to prevent any untoward happening.

In most of the schools of the State, cooking and serving of cooked food are done by the members of the Self Help Groups excepting in the schools situated at DGHC areas, where the same is done by the members of Mother Teacher Associations. Besides officials deputed from block/ sub-division/ district and ward councilors the teachers of the concerned school, panchayat members and mothers of the children supervise it.

## 2.7 Procedure for getting Kitchen shed constructed.

In the matter of getting kitchen sheds constructed the following procedures are followed in this State:-

After receipt of fund from the Government of India under the Mid-Day-Meal scheme for the purpose of construction of kitchen sheds the same is sub allotted to the districts.

The districts, in their turn, sub allot the fund to the concerned Village Education Committees through the Sub Inspectors of schools and to the Managing Committees after dovetailing this fund with other available funds of various Development Programmes, such as NREGA, BRGF etc. so that the kitchen sheds are constructed as per need of the schools depending on the roll strength. Finally the village Education Committees in case of Primary Schools and Shishu Shiksha Kendras and the Managing Committees in case of Upper primary Schools and Madhyamik Shiksha Kendras take up the responsibility of constructing the kitchen sheds.

In some places the BDOs and Executive Officers of the Panchayat Samities are entrusted to do the construction work through their technical staff. The Zela Parishad Engineers or other departmental Engineers also are also doing the construction work as decided by the Executive Committee of the Districts.

## 2.8 Procedure of procurement of kitchen devices from (i) funds released under the Mid Day Meal Programme (ii) other sources.

- i) Under MDM, an amount of Rs. 44.957 Cr. has already been allotted to the districts for provisioning of Kitchen devices in 87971 schools.
- ii) No fund from other sources has been utilized for this purpose.
- iii) The fund required for the next financial year is Rs. 142.50 lakh.

Kitchen devices are given to the Districts at the rate of Rs. 5000/- pre unit only. This per unit sanctioned amount was not sufficient in cases of some schools, where due to high enrolment of students the requirement of kitchen devices was more than that of other schools, the concerned Village Education Committees/Managing committees contributed some fund from their ends to meet the requirement. Besides this, even in some cases, the Panchayat Samities contributed from their own fund to those schools so that those educational institutions could purchase the required additional kitchen devices from that.

It may be mentioned here that fund for per unit cost should be increased on the basis of the number of students.

## 2.9 Capacity building and training conducted for different categories of persons involved in the Mid Day Meal Programme.

Teachers' training is in progress through Primary Board, Secondary Board and DIETs. Community mobilizers have also been trained. Training with special focus of Monitoring and Evaluation of MDM Programme has been done by the Districts who have been provided fund and guidelines for the same.



A team headed by Professor Shankar Chakraborty attached to the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Kolkata had been engaged for imparting training to all master trainers of all districts and the master trainers are now imparting training to the persons of self help groups and other persons involved in cooking.

2.10 Management Information System at School, Village/Gram Panchayat, Block, District and State level.

MIS has started in some districts. Remaining districts have been instructed to establish MIS immediately. MIS in state headquarters is yet to be introduced. Steps have already been taken to introduce MIS at all levels. The State Cabinet has recently approved a monitoring structure for State / District / Block and School Level. Posts of MIS Coordinator have been created in the State headquarter and also in the districts. Very shortly these posts will be filled up.

2.11 Systems to ensure transparency and openness in all aspects of the programme implementation, including inter alia, food grains management, ingredients procurement, cooking and serving, appointment of cooking staff, construction of kitchen sheds and procurement of cooking devices.

Instructions have been issued to display the quantity of food grains received, quantity of food grains utilized, other ingredients purchased and utilized, number of children given MDM and roster of community members involved in the programme on weekly / monthly basis and menu on daily basis at all educational institutions, where the Mid-Day-Meal programme has started, to ensure transparency and openness in all aspects of the programme. Accounts of Mid-Day-Meal are placed in the meetings of the concerned Village Education Committees / Ward Education Committees.

2.12 Measures taken to rectify:

- a) Inter-district low and uneven utilization of food grains and cooking cost.
  - b) Intra-district mismatch in utilization of food grains and cooking cost.
  - c) Delay in delivering cooking cost at school level.
- a) The matter has been brought to the notice of the District Nodal Officials in State level meetings. Unspent balance of districts in respect of the previous year against the release of cooking cost was monitored from the State level. Besides this, uneven utilization of food grains and cooking cost are discussed in the state level meetings with the district level officials and during visit to districts the state level officials specifically monitor this issue.
  - b) Same as (a) above.
  - c) District and Block level Nodal Officials have been instructed to look into the issue specifically and they are regularly monitoring this so that no delay occurs in the matter of delivering cooking cost at school level.

### 2.13 Details of Evaluation studies conducted and summary of its findings.

Evaluation studies were conducted by two teams- one headed by Professor Shankar Chakraborty attached to the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Kolkata in South 24 Parganas and Kolkata and the other team headed by Professor Utpal Roy Choudhury attached to the department of Food Technology and Biochemical Engineering, Jadavpur University, in Howrah and North 24 Parganas.

Main observations of the teams are as follows:-

- (1) Basic infrastructure of kitchen-cum-store sheds are lacking in some of the visited schools and smoke nuisance is created in those schools where dry wood is used as fuel. The teams have suggested construction of smokeless chullas in those schools.
- (2) Most of the schools, visited by the teams, served rice and mixed vegetables as mid-day-meal. The teams have suggested addition of leafy vegetables and eggs in the menu and display of daily menu chart at a conspicuous place of the school concerned.
- (3) Separate dining halls/places are to be arranged at schools to create attraction for the children to take lunch.
- (4) Basic training regarding best hygienic practices is to be imparted to members of self help groups and others involved in cooking.
- (5) Coordination amongst various agencies is to be ensured for monitoring and control over the programme on a regular basis for having better performance.
- (6) In the schools visited by the teams, average attendance was 80%. As observed by the teams, this scenario is to be changed through active participation of all concerned.
- (7) Finally, the teams have observed that before lifting of rice it is to be ensured that the allotted rice was of fair average quality.

### 2.14 Brief write up on best practices followed in the State.

Many schools grow vegetables in the kitchen gardens of the schools and utilize the vegetables in Mid-Day-Meal. In some schools in Birbhum district, fish for Mid-Day-Meal is procured from the ponds managed by the school teachers. Besides this, in some schools of Purba Medinipur district the community members often contribute their agricultural produce to this programme. The other Districts are being encouraged with these activities.

### 2.15 Instances of unhygienic food served, children falling ill, sub-standard supplies, diversion/misuse of resources, social discrimination and safety measures adopted to avoid recurrence of such incidents.

In our State no such incident reported so far. Low qualities of food-grains were supplied sometimes in some sporadic areas but the average supply of food-grains is FAQ. Misuses of resources were reported one or two times but those were promptly redressed. Social discrimination is not a factor in our state. In a word whenever any deviation from approved Govt. norms is reported to any corner that was duly taken care of and prompt redressal measures were adopted to stop future recurrence.



2.16 Extent of involvement of NGOs and Civic Body Organizations (CBOs)/PRIs in the implementation and monitoring of the scheme.

The elected Panchayat / Municipal members are Chairmen of Village Education Committees / Ward Education Committees who look after the implementation of the scheme at village/ward level. At District and Block level, Karmadhakshyas of the related Sthayee Samity of Zilla Parishad and Panchayat Samity are members of the respective Steering-cum-Monitoring Committee. Some NGOs implement Mid-Day-Meal in some schools for street children and Special Schools.

2.17 Status of School Health Programme with special focus on provision of micro-nutrients, Vitamin-A, de-worming medicine, Iron and Folic acid, Zinc and recording of height, weight etc.

Check up of health of the children is being done with the help of doctors of Government run Primary Health Centres. Supplementation of micronutrients is done where necessary.

2.18 Steps taken to strengthen the monitoring mechanism in the Block, District and State level and status of constitution of SMCs at these levels. Status of formation on standing Committee at village / school / cooking agency level.

The Cabinet of the State Government has sanctioned creation of posts of Project Director, Administrative Officer, Accounts Officer, MIS Coordinator and Group-D Staff for the State Headquarter for monitoring and supervision of Mid-Day-Meal in Schools scheme. Cabinet has also sanctioned creation of post of one Deputy Magistrate, one Accounts Officer and one MIS Coordinator for each of the 18 districts. 441 posts of Assistant Inspectors of schools have also been sanctioned by the Cabinet for monitoring and supervision of Cooked Mid-Day-Meal scheme at the block level. Till the posts of Assistant Inspectors are filled up, one Block Level Supervisor has been engaged in each of the 341 blocks of the state. Arrangements for manning the posts sanctioned by the Cabinet are going on and the monitoring structure would be commissioned soon. Besides, at Districts and Block / Municipality level contractual posts of Accountant, Assistant Accountant, Data Entry Operators have been created. At State level posts of Deputy Director (Civil), Deputy Director (Food), Accountant, head Assistant and Data Entry Operators have been created and filled up. All these posts are contractual in nature.

2.19 Strategy for establishment of Monitoring cell at various levels namely, Block, District and State Level for effective monitoring of the Scheme.

Monitoring of the Scheme:-

Any scheme to be successful needs a vibrant monitoring system. Hence, all the Nodal Officers right from PD, CMDMP to Block Development Officer stick to a active monitoring mechanism and ensure that the officers engaged in monitoring perform their responsibilities properly and submit monitoring report in prescribed format.

Monitoring needs to be done from two parameters.

- a) Programme Parameter - in this parameter it needs to be ensured that all children get uninterrupted satisfactory quality of MDM.
- b) Impact Parameter - In this parameter we should judge what effect the programme is having in terms of improving children.
  - i) Nutritional status
  - ii) Regularity of attendance
  - iii) Retention in an completion of elementary education.

As per Govt. order and the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India it is compulsory for all Govt. and Govt. aided schools to run the MDM scheme without fail. Hence, barring the Nodal Agencies right from State Level to block level it is also the binding duty of all officials of School Education Department like DIs(PE/SE), AIs and SIs to supervise and monitor the MDM scheme in each and every school and to see that the programme is implemented as per Govt. norms and in case of repeated non compliance/violation of Govt. orders/circulars initiate action against any school failing to implement this programme. The DIs and AIs are required to submit a monthly monitoring report in a given format (format-A) every month. The AIs should also submit the same to the Block Development Officers in addition to the DI of his district. The DIs are likewise required to submit a monthly monitoring report in the given format (format-A) to the Secretary, School Education Department by the 10th of every month. The Director, School Education Department would ensure that the mechanism works effectively.

#### Quality Monitoring:-

Effective empowerment of mothers to involve themselves in the MDM feeding process of their own children will surely go a long way in maintaining the quality of the MDM. The school authority may deploy the mothers on rotational basis daily in 3/4th numbers so that they can associate themselves in the MDM process right from pre-cooking process to serving of the MDM to their children. This would not only improve the satisfaction of the mothers about the feeding of their children but also help maintaining transparency and avoid gossips. On the other hand external evaluation will surely reveal the impact of the MDM service as well as the fact that the MDM is being implemented as per Govt. norms. If not where is lacuna and what to do for plugging the loopholes?

Again before lifting of the food-grains it is the binding duty of the Food & Supplies departments as well as the representative of the Nodal Agency that the quality food-grains are being lifted for MDM. By way of sampling and sending of the said sample packets to concerned corners.

Through all these above measures community involvement as well as quality monitoring of MDM can be ensured

#### Field Visit:-

For effective implementation of the MDM scheme physical monitoring through inspection is very important. Officers dealing with MDM programme will visit district regularly and ascertain through field visit that the programme is being implemented satisfactorily. Likewise officers at the district sub-division

and block levels must closely monitor all aspects through field visits, following schedule of monthly inspection of schools by officers of various levels is suggested.

- 1) District Magistrate - 5 schools (For) (Format-C)
- 2) ADM Development/In-charge of MDM -10 schools (Format-C)
- 3) Sub-divisional Officers -15 Schools (Format-C)
- 4) Block Development Officers - 20 Schools (Format-C)
- 5) DI-(Primary & Secondary)-20 Schools(Format-A)
- 6) Sub-inspectors/AIs of schools - 20 schools (Format-A)

As far as practicable the field visits should be unscheduled. Critical observation should be recorded in a questionnaire by interview of a broad range of individuals. The questionnaire should contain feedback from Head Master, Cooks, Organizers, childrens who take cooked MDM and their parents, the children of disadvantaged sections, community leaders PRIs etc. The report should be analyzed and findings should be documented and reported in SMCs meetings of all levels. The respective Nodal officers will take necessary remedial measures.

#### State Level Monitoring System :-

At the state level the state steering-cum-monitoring committee would review the MDM work at least six monthly interval and arrange taking necessary action so that MDM function is carried out smoothly and grievance redressal at all corners is done in time. They would also review the district steering-cum-monitoring committees report regularly and arrange taking necessary remedial measures as early as possible. The state SMC would also ensure that SMC meetings at all levels are held regularly and necessary feedback is communicated to the State Authority promptly.

The duties of all SMCs are to guide the implementing agencies and to monitor that the scheme is being implemented as per Govt. norms. They would also assess its impact and take corrective steps as it is necessary, discuss on the effect of coordination and ensure that coordination and convergence among concerned departments are take effect as it should have been for effective implementation of the scheme. It would also be their duty to mobilize community support and promote public-private partnership of the programme. All SMCs should ensure that meetings are held regularly at respective levels and feedbacks are sent to respective higher authorities.

Presently all monthly, quarterly and annual reports and returns are being generated manually. To make the reports and returns more speedy and accurate we are trying to develop a systematic MIS System for MDM. We have already negotiated with the NIC & Webel Authorities for developing such a MIS System. Hope one of the MIS Systems would be finalize shortly.

On the other hand to get daily feedback from the schools directly, along with the district and block authorities, we are consulting several electronics service providers for development and introduction of a IVRS System. With the adoption of this IVRS System we would be in a position to get a feedback of the

number of children taking MDM daily, quantity of rice consumed daily and the menu served on that day etc. daily direct from the schools.

2.20 Arrangement for official inspections to MDM centres and percentage of schools inspected and summary of findings and remedial measures.

As already referred to in Para 2.19 arrangement for official inspection to MDM centers has been made a must for officers of every level. Besides District Magistrates, Additional District Magistrates, Officers In-charge of MDM Cells at District Level, SDOs, BDOs, DIs AIs, SIs have been deployed for physical inspection of the MDM centers. They discuss the feedback in the steering-cum-monitoring committees at respective levels so that prompt correctional measures can be taken in case of any deviations found during official inspection.

2.21 Feedback/comments in respect of report of Monitoring Institutions designated for the State to monitor implementation of MDM and action taken thereon.

- ☞ Visva Bharati University has externally evaluated the implementation of MDM in Uttar Dinajpur & Purba Medinipur district of W.B during the period from 1st August 2009 to 31st January 2010.
- ☞ The District Magistrates have been apprised of their observation and requested to take necessary correctional measures.

**Important observations of the institution and action taken instructions are as follows:-**

- Regularity in serving Mid-Day-Meal in upper primary schools in comparison to that of primary school is lagging behind.

**Action Taken:-**DMs have been requested to look into it seriously so that no interruption in the Mid-Day-Meal service is made during the school days.

- Only 30% schools received cooking cost in advance. Hence the teachers have to run the Mid-Day-Meal on loan.

**Action Taken:-**Instructions has been issued to ensure that cooking costs are reached to schools in advance.

- Beside rice, dal and seasonal vegetables, eggs are given 3 to 4 times in a month.

**Action Taken:-**Variety of menu is an attraction of Mid-Day-Meal. Hence besides rice, dal and seasonal vegetables it has been instructed to see how frequent we can serve egg / fish in a week.

**Observation of PEO of the Planning Commission (May2010)**

- They observed that 45.01% of children were spending 8.51 hours per week in washing utensils.

**Action Taken:-** Much stress has been taken to improve infrastructural facilities of the MDM Scheme specially the pucca kitchen sheds and increase of number of water connection in each school.

It is also true that there is no provision for increase of water connection in MDM. Hence, we are trying to do this work with the help of the local body & Panchyat Authorities extending their Rural/Urban ongoing schemes in the Schools.

We hope that with the increase of water connection and engagement of parents specially the mothers the washing time in schools specially during lunch hour would be systematic and less time consuming.

2.22 **Grievance Redressal Mechanism if any, used by the State/UTs**

Redressal mechanism means and includes some norms / procedures resorted to for keeping a system /Scheme alive or responsive to the needs of beneficiaries. It plays an important role for the survival / sustenance of any Scheme. Similarly some norms / methods stated below constitute the redressal mechanism of CMDMP which is already in place and circulated to all Nodal Officers in the Districts and Kolkata for obedience and compliance.

- 1) Formation of a Monitoring Committee at all levels from State to the Blocks to over see the functions of the Scheme.
- 2) Physical Monitoring of the Scheme through field inspection by Officers from DM to SI of Schools.
- 3) Display of information at a conspicuous place of each School informing
  - i) Quantity of food grains received, date of receipt.
  - ii) Total number of students covered under the Scheme.
  - iii) Number of days and time when the meals are served.
  - iv) Quantity of food grains supplied with menu.
  - v) Name of the Cooking Agencies.
  - vi) Name of the BDO with phone Number.
- 4) Engagement of hotel management and Food Technology of Jadavpur University, to oversee quality of food served and hygienic condition and safety of Kitchen rooms.



2.23 Overall assessment of the manner in which implementation of the programme is contributing to the programme objectives and an analysis of strengths and weaknesses of the programme implementation

All out efforts have been taken by Govt. of West Bengal to improve standard of Education at all levels like Primary and Upper Primary with emphasis on attendance of the students with nutritional food support to them.

With the active support of Government Officers, Local Bodies, Panchayat Raj Bodies and Community involvement this programme has reached a satisfactory level leaving a major impact on Socio Economic aspects in our State.

**The first positive impact** of the CMDM Programme has been in the increase of roll strength in our Schools and the attendance therein. Students belonging to the economically weaker strata of our society have been its chief beneficiaries. This has also helped in lowering the drop out percentage in our Schools.

**Secondly**, we all know that hunger is the greatest enemy in the way of spreading education and also tells upon their health condition not to speak of malnutrition. CMDMP has definitely stood by the side of these students of the weaker sections of the society by providing a full meal at least one time in a day. The MDM is also in some cases the main source of nutrition for the child. The Medical Check-up, tied up with the Health Department Officials, for School students also indicated the impact on the general health of students.

**Thirdly**, CMDMP is a boon to the students of drought affected areas, specially during summer time as it provides nutritious support to children of elementary stage.

**Fourthly**, CMDMP has also promoted gender empowerment by the increasing number of employment opportunities for poor rural women. In our State women constitute approximately 93 % of persons who have been engaged in MDM cooking purpose out of total 2,34834 cook cum helpers. Opening of such employment opportunity is one of the major positive spin offs of CMDM Programme. It's socio economic impact cannot be underestimated.

**Lastly**, we can say that CMDMP has been instrumental in the inflow of more than 1000 crores of rupees in our economy by way of infrastructures creation, purchase of cooking materials, cost of food grains, honorarium to Cook-cum-helpers, and ancillary activities related with CMDMP. Inflow of such a huge amount of funds in the implementation of CMDMP has a direct impact on the Socio Economic aspect of our society.

Although the coverage of MDM in Rural Areas is satisfactory, we are facing some challenges, specially with regard to space problem for kitchen purposes, in Urban Areas like Kolkata, Siliguri, Asansol etc. Other challenges include:-

- Erratic and inadequate supply of LPG is a point of our weakness.
- Cost of Kitchen Devices per school still remains at Rs.5000/-, but in schools where MDM taker students strength is higher, this ceiling of Rs.5,000/- per

school is quite insufficient which results problems during implementation at the school level.

- We are yet to install a MIS system for MDM reports and returns. This is urgently necessary to avoid delay and confusion in sending and generating reports and returns for MDM.
- We all know that construction of Hygienic Pucca Kitchen-cum-store is very important for preparation of safe and Hygienic Mid-Day-Meal in all Schools. We are yet to construct such sheds in all schools. In some cases the earlier ceiling of Rs.60,000/- unit cost per kitchen-cum-store shed stood as a block due to escalation of prices.
- Implementation of MDM in cosmopolitan areas like Kolkata, Siliguri, Asansol etc. still remains a challenge.

The problem of lack of community participation in the MDM scheme has to some extent been overcome by spreading awareness with the help of seminars/work shops and media campaign. Staff shortage problem has also been improved with the engagement of extra manpower at all levels.

As a result of all these measures the performance of MDM in our state has been brighter. The coverage of primary schools has been increased from 90.15% (2009-10) to 96.62% during 3rd quarter of 2010-11 financial year. Again the enrollment coverage has increased from 88.23% to 88.96% on the relevant period. In the case of upper primary school coverage it rose from 62.53% to 75.47 % (upto 3rd quarter 2010-11) and the coverage of enrollment in this stage rose from 61.14% to 72.42 % during this period.

The problem of Urban Areas has been proposed to be managed in the following ways.

- Area wise cluster kitchen sheds. Already 5 such cluster-kitchens sheds have been constructed in metropolitan areas.
- Engagement of reputed NGOs to run these centralized kitchens and transporting the same to the allotted schools in hygienic condition.
- Regular supply of LPG with the help of LPG supplying authorities.
- In case of reluctance of the school managing committee/teachers, we would first take recourse to method of persuasion and if the reluctance persists we would initiate action as per School Education Departments circular and the direction of Hon'ble Supreme Courts of India if compelled to.

Hope, with the adoption of all these methods the coming years would definitely experience a brighter scenario in respect of MDM in our state.



Hungry Summer Challenged by Mid-Day-Meal at Potapara Pry. School, Purba  
Medinipur.

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