

Measuring Effectiveness of Mid Day Meal Scheme in Rajasthan

Participatory Expenditure Tracking Survey



CUTS Centre for Consumer Action, Research & Training, Jaipur
in partnership with the World Bank



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Final Report

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Executive Summary

1.1 Abstract

1.1.1 The Government of Rajasthan (GoR) is implementing the Mid Day Meal (MDM) scheme at the direction of the Supreme Court of India for providing cooked meals to the school going children up to primary level from the year 2002. This is being implemented as a part of the National Food Security Programme of Government of India (GoI). The main objectives of the scheme were to increase enrollment, attendance and retention and enhance the nutritional status of the students in primary classes.

1.1.2 The GoR started providing cooked meals in 2002. From April 2005, it has switched over to a new scheme making it more attractive and effective. The results of the study show that the new scheme would prove more effective in achieving its objectives.

1.1.4 The objective of this study is to develop a participatory process to track the expenditure and quality of implementation of the scheme. The study was conducted in the Chittorgarh district to test the methodology. For this purpose 211 schools covering all the 14 blocks of the Chittorgarh district were selected. The field research consisted of personal observation of school meal preparation and distribution, and detailed semi-structured interviews with teachers, cooks, primary school children and parents.

1.1.5 For ensuring proper utilisation of public money, implications of the scheme and to gauge the benefits to the targeted students, tools of Participatory Expenditure Tracking (PET) survey and citizen report card system were adopted. This also checked corruption in performing different activities under the scheme and mis-utilisation of public money and impact on education for all and improvement in health of poor children.

1.2 Strategy adopted

- Seeking inputs and actively involving government officials and community stakeholders regarding the pilot project.
- Arranging orientation of surveyors for getting better results of survey and to create awareness among participants.
- Compiling and interpreting primary data from different perspectives and angles collected by the surveyors from the different stakeholders.
- Analysing the secondary data collected from different angles like allotment of funds and food grains, utilisation, timely receipt, etc.
- Brainstorming on the survey results with various stakeholders.
- Preparing a set of recommendations emerging out of discussions with the aim of taking it forward to the state government as well other concerned authorities.

1.3 Key Research Findings

Citizen Report Card

1.3.1 The study found that cooked mid-day meals have become part of the daily routine of the schools, though the menu varied substantially from school to school. Practically most of the parents and students interviewed affirmed that the quality and taste of the MDM is good. Majority of interviewed parents also opined that the nutrition and health status of their children improved due to MDM but it was difficult to measure the same scientifically. According to the perception of different stakeholders, MDM is being managed well to a large extent and have appreciated the efforts made by the government in this direction. Majority of parents and students feel that quality

of education has improved. About 63 and 70 percent of the children in 4th and 5th standards could read and write properly. This percentage for the overall students from 1st to 5th standard is 53 (read) and 48 (write).

School Level Issues

1.3.2 One of the main objectives of the MDM is to increase enrollment and retention in the primary level schools. The analysis shows that the enrollment and retention has increased in about 64 percent of the schools over the last three years. However, the enrollment of girls has increased in 58 percent of the schools. Many stakeholders believed that the MDM programme was responsible for increasing enrollment and attendance in the schools, though they felt that the increase is not as per expectations.

The school timings are around 6 hours for all students. There is only a half an hour break for lunch in the schools, which is not enough by any measurements for the preparation and distribution of the food. If the food is prepared before the lunch break, even then it is not enough to distribute it in half an hour. Practically it consumes two hours daily. Teachers have to help in the preparation and distribution of meals. On analysis it was revealed that 68 percent of teachers spend more than 1 hour (17 percent or more than their allotted teaching time) in managing MDM and this could reflect on overall teaching quality. Most of the teachers complained that the programme had increased their workload significantly and teaching was hampered. There was a general consensus among stakeholders that teachers should be relieved from the MDM work and their duty should be only monitoring the MDM.

The hygiene behaviour of children was far from desirable, despite heavy infrastructure provisioning. 61 percent schools have latrines, but are being used in only 21 percent schools because of lack of water facility. 92 percent children do not wash hands with ash/ soap before eating (not provided in schools) and 95 percent do not clip their nails. Most schools lack appropriate cooking and storage space/facility. In all these factors, disparities exist between schools that are easily accessible and those that are in the remote areas.

While many teachers reported receiving acceptable to good quality of grains, close to 30 percent reported receiving less (weight of grains). There is no set system for measuring the weight of food grains before delivering at the schools.

Local Organisations

1.3.3 The Parent Teacher Committees (PTCs) or the Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs) are mainly on paper and most parents do not know about these committees. This could be another factor influencing the overall quality of education. Though the *Gram Panchayats* (GPs) are responsible for implementing the MDM, they are virtually absent in management of MDM and other school activities.

Food Grains and Fund Flow Tracking

1.3.4 There is a clear under utilisation of the food grains allotted at all levels. Unutilised quantity of food grains is increasing against the sanctioned quantity. The unutilised fund (conversion cost) remaining with the districts is high and increasing year over year. While the districts have un-utilised funds, most blocks in Chittorgarh district reported over-utilisation of funds and negative balances. Only about 20 percent schools receive conversion cost monthly. The remaining 80 percent get money once in 3 months or more. Most of this remains at the *Panchayat Samiti* level.

1.4 Overall assessment

1.4.1 The study findings thus indicate that overall implementation of MDM scheme in Chittorgarh district is good and has had some impact on enrollment, retention and attendance of students in primary schools. The quality of education, nutrition and health has also improved to some extent. But the schools are still lacking in infrastructure facilities like kitchens, storerooms, latrines and sufficient classrooms. Water facility is also not available in many schools.

1.4.2 Though many private agencies/NGOs/Societies like Nandi Foundation, Sanwalia Trust, Akshya Patra and Annapurna Samities have now come forward to provide MDM to the school children in few districts of the state, but their participation is only in a limited area. They are covering a very insignificant number of schools.

1.4.3 Though GoI and the GoR have taken initiative to develop infrastructure facilities and providing more funds under MDM but accountability and proper implementation is to be addressed. Following issues need to be addressed on priority to achieve the objectives of the MDM scheme:

- How can the overall quality of education be improved?
- How can the enrollment and retention issues be addressed?
- How can the local organisations be roped into managing the education and made accountable to its citizens?
- How can financial and food grain transactions be better accounted and used effectively?

2.1. Background

2.1.1 Food insecurity, and the threat it poses to the health and development of children, is of critical concern to governments in developing countries. One strategy of government intervention gaining attention and international support has been the implementation of school meal programmes. These programmes can take various forms relative to each state's socio-economic needs, but all share the common aim of alleviating hunger and improving the health and nutritional status of children.



2.1.2 By supporting health, nutrition and education goals, school meal programme can have a multi-pronged impact on a nation's overall social and economic development. Moreover, while such programmes address immediate, short-term hunger, they also incorporate a nutritional education component to educate children and families on health, nutrition, and attaining food sufficiency.

2.2 National Programme

2.2.1 The National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education commonly known as Mid Day Meals (MDM) Scheme was launched in August, 1995 consequent to an explicit mention made in the Finance Minister's budget speech regarding expansion of this scheme at the all-India level because of the favourable impact of the scheme on children in some states as well as the comfortable food stock position in the country. Initially, the programme was started in 2408 blocks of the country. Coverage was extended to whole country by 1997-98.

2.2.2 All students of primary classes (I-V) in the government, local body and government aided schools in the country were covered in all States and Union Territories (UTs). From October 2002, the programme was extended to children studying in Education Guarantee Scheme and Alternative & Innovative Education (EGS & AIE) Centres. Private un-aided schools are not covered under the programme. It was one of the important and vital steps in addressing the problems confronted towards the Universalisation of Elementary Education in the state as well as in the whole country. At the inception of the scheme 3 Kgs of raw food grains per student per month were distributed.

2.2.3. On 28th of November, 2001 the Supreme Court of India directed all the state governments to provide cooked mid day meal to the students in all the government and government aided schools instead of providing the raw food grains.

2.3 Objectives

As per GoI guidelines, the programme is intended to give a boost to Universalisation of Primary Education by enhancing enrollment, retention, education and attendance and simultaneously impacting the nutritional status of students in primary classes.

2.3 Implementation arrangements in Rajasthan

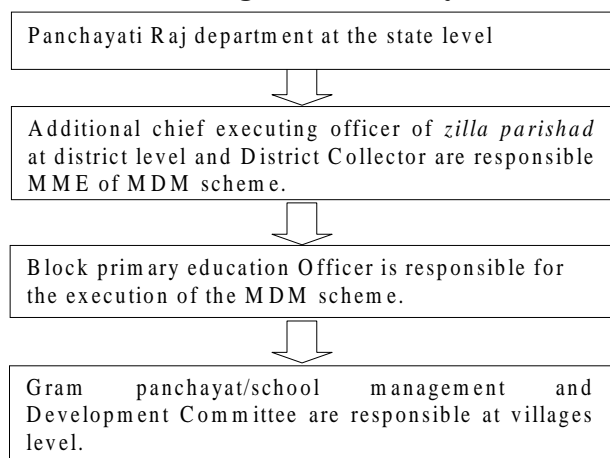
1.3.1 Enforcing the Supreme Court's decision for providing Mid-Day Meal to the school children, GoR adopted the 'Mid-Day Meal Scheme' on 28th February, 2002 and implemented it from July 2002 in government/government-

aided primary schools. Under the scheme only boiled wheat with groundnut and raw sugar (*Gur*) were distributed to the students. From April 2005 the state government further improved the MDM scheme and issued new guidelines providing different menus for each day of the week and involving other departments for the better implementation of the MDM scheme.

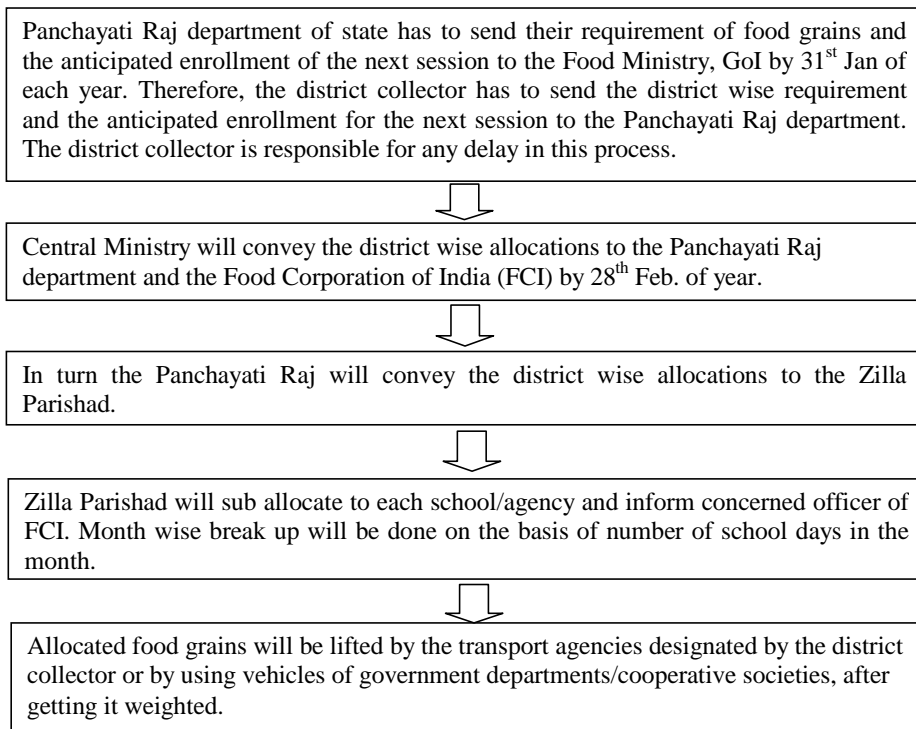
2.3.2 Under the scheme, the GoI is providing Rupee 1/- and Rupee 0.50 is being provided by the state government per student per day as cooking conversion cost. Now from the current session (2006-07) the GoR has increased its contribution to Rupee 1/-. Infrastructure for MDM is to be developed by the state governments from funds available under other schemes. *Panchayati Raj* department is responsible for its overall implementation. From November 2005, a separate office of Mid-day Meal Commissioner has been established at the state level for monitoring and proper implementation of the scheme.

2.3.3 Overall impact of the MDM Scheme in the state based on the key indicators i.e. increase in enrollment & attendance, education, health and nutrition level of the children of government primary schools is positive, though more transparency, accountability and effective implementation of the scheme is to be ensured to achieve the complete objectives. The real position of the key-indicators has been explained in the subsequent chapters.

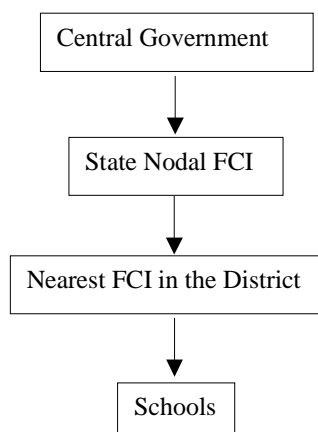
2.4. Flow Chart for delegation of authority of MDM scheme



2.5 Allocation of food grains to state, district and local level



2.6 Flow chart of food grains supply channel



2.7 Transfer of allocated money

Funds from central and state government will be transferred to the nodal agency (Panchayati Raj department) that is responsible for implementation of the Scheme.



Panchayati Raj department will transfer the allocated money to the PD (personal deposit) Account of Zilla Parishad on the basis of enrollment of the district

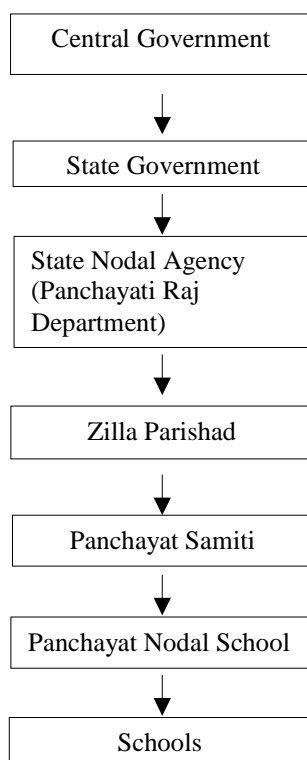


Zilla parishad will transfer the money to concern block on the basis of enrolled students in the respective Panchayat samities.



Panchayat samities will transfer the same directly to the school management and development committee (SMDC). In the absence of SMDC the allocated money shall be transferred to the respective Gram Panchayat.

2.8 Flow chart of conversion cost



3. Scope and Objective

3.1 Objective

The objective of this study is to develop and test a participatory process to track the expenditure and quality of implementation of the scheme thereby enhancing the 'accountability' of the service providers towards the customers/citizens.

3.2 Scope

The pilot is limited to the Chittorgarh district in Rajasthan as CUTS, the organisation that has conducted this research, has a good rapport and field presence in this district. Moreover, 27 percent of the total district population is of scheduled castes/scheduled tribes, which is scattered in all the 14 blocks of the district.



3.3 Methodology

3.3.1 A mix of social accountability tools viz: participatory expenditure tracking (PETS) and citizen report cards (CRC) were used. The PETS tool was used to gather information regarding budget allocations, budget transfers and expenditure. The CRC tool was used to generate citizen satisfaction scores on the management and delivery of the mid day meal services in schools. School going children and parents of such children were covered for this purpose. This also covered the other actors like teachers, cooks to cull out issues related to their roles and responsibilities.

3.3.2 A pilot field visit was conducted in two nearby villages of Chittorgarh to study the real situation in the primary schools and to form a strategy for the study. This was followed by field research consisting of visits to the selected primary schools to observe meal preparation and distribution and detailed semi-structured interviews with government school teachers, parents, students and cooks of the primary schools. Comprehensive questionnaires were prepared for all the stakeholders covering every aspect of the MDM.

3.3.3 A total of 211 schools of all the blocks of the Chittorgarh district were covered for both the surveys. The schools were chosen on parameters like: size, access, backwardness of the location, etc. In all 422 teachers, 2210 students, 2210 parents and 211 cooks were interviewed to know about their perception on the different aspects of the MDM scheme.

3.3.4 Care was taken to ask questions in a non-suggestive manner, and where possible, the accuracy of interview responses was checked by asking the same question to different stakeholders and comparing with first-hand observation. Despite best efforts by the trained surveyors, it could be possible that some of the responses were not true as the interviewed persons could not understand the question properly, or that they deliberately gave false answers due to any reason. The researchers estimate that such cases would not be more than 5 percent.

3.3.5 The Programme executing authorities were also taken into confidence for providing the accurate information or data related to the MDM Scheme. They were also explained in detail the purpose of the research, mainly that the results of the study would be helpful in better implementation of MDM Scheme by making further improvements.

3.3.6 Sequence of actions: (i) Scoping visits, discussions and stakeholders workshop to understand and frame the overall scope (ii) development, field testing and finalisation of survey instruments (iii) stake holder surveys (iv) secondary data collection of budgets, fund flows etc (iv) stakeholders workshops to discuss the results and finalising the results, and (v) finalisation of report.

3.4. Key Activities performed

- Project Launch Meeting & Orientation of Surveyors on 21 October, 2005
- Orientation of Surveyors on the different questionnaires on 2 February 2006
- Survey and participatory expenditure tracking from 3 February to 31 May 2006
- De-briefing Meeting at Chittorgarh on sharing of key findings of the survey on 11 May 2006
- State level dissemination meeting on 8 June 2006

Key Findings and Key Analysis

Section-I

4. Key Survey Findings

The key findings based on the perception of different stakeholders regarding MDM and data collected under PETS, is as under:

4.1 MDM implementation, Quantity and Quality

4.1.1 All the government and government-aided primary schools have the provision of MDM on each working day. The parents or guardians were questioned whether their children were getting MDM every day. 90 percent of the total parents interviewed admitted that their children get MDM every day.



4.1.2 Under the MDM scheme each student of class I to V is to be served by a cooked meal that comprises 300 calorie and 8-12 gm of protein, on each of working day of school. All the government/government-aided primary schools, children studying under Education Guarantee Scheme and Alternative & Innovative Education are to be covered under the scheme. The cooked meal must be 100 gm. of food grains. It will also continue uninterrupted during the summer vacation in those areas, which has been declared as the drought area by the state government. The taste and quality of the cooked MDM play an important role for its consumption by the students. Keeping this in view, the provision of menu has been introduced which will be prepared by a district level committee for 15/30 days. The menu will be based on the children's' preferences local availability of raw material etc. Menu of the mid-day meal should, as far as possible, vary from day-to-day. Menus should be planned in a suitably decentralised manner.

The stakeholders were asked whether children are getting different meals as per prescribed norms. 95 percent of the parents, 91 percent of the students and 99 percent of the teachers reported that the children are getting different menu on different days.

4.1.3 The mid-day meal programme is also meant to be a vehicle for inculcating social equality among children. There should not be any discrimination and segregation of any sort. It should be utilised as an opportunity to infuse in children, values of equality, cooperation and discipline.

The stakeholders were questioned whether the children eat meals in the school or carry it home. It was revealed that 89 to 95 percent of different stakeholders (parents, teachers, students and cooks) accepted that the children consume MDM at school. This shows that the schools surveyed inculcate social values amongst the children in their schools.

4.1.4 The taste and quality of the cooked MDM play an important role for its consumption by the students. Keeping this in view, the provision of menu has been introduced which will be prepared by a district level committee for 15/30 days. The menu will be based on the children preference, local availability of raw material etc.

Looking at the importance of the issue, the students were asked about the quality of meal they are provided. The students from the different standards including both boys and girls responded about the quality of MDM. 97 percent of the students marked the MDM as average or above average.

4.1.5 The menu will be based on the children preference, local availability of raw material etc. Menu of the mid-day meal should, as far as possible, vary from day-to-day. It is possible to plan an economical, yet varied and nutritious menu, and this must be done in consultation with the local community, mothers, PTA, women's Self-Help Group, as also nutrition experts like staff of Home Science Colleges and officers of Food & Nutrition Board of the Government of India posted in the State/UT.

A district level committee constituted by the Panchayati Raj Department for MDM will decide the type of meal.

A question was asked from students on which menu they like most. From the response it was revealed that 43 percent students like *Dal Bati* in the menu of MDM while 17 percent and 12 percent students like *namkin rice* and *sweet Rice* respectively. The remaining students have different preferences.

4.1.6 As already mentioned above, the cooked meal must be 100 gm. of food grains. The stakeholders were asked whether the MDM provided to children is sufficient for them. 27 percent of the parents and 11 percent of the students reported that the MDM is insufficient and not as per the requirements of a growing child. The rest were of the view that it is sufficient for one person.

4.2 Heath and Nutrition

4.2.1 Apart from hygienic processing of ingredients and cooking of meal, it is important that children themselves are trained to eat their meal hygienically. For this, they must be encouraged to develop habits like:

- i) Washing their hands with soap before eating,
- ii) Cutting their nails regularly,
- iii) Using clean utensils for eating,
- iv) Avoiding littering and wastage of food, and
- v) Cleaning their plate and rinsing their hands and mouth after eating.

The table below shows the habit of washing hands before eating MDM:

Table 1: Hygienic habit among the students		
Particulars	Frequency	Percent
Only water	1798	86.0
Soap	143	6.8
Do not wash	134	5.5
Detergent	11	0.5
Clay	3	0.1
Ash powder	2	0.1
Total	2091	100.0
Source: Students under the MDM scheme.		

It shows that 86 percent of the students wash their hands only with water, which is not a hygienic practice. Only 8 percent of the students wash their hands by using hygienic material like soap, detergent, clay, ash etc. while 5.5 percent of the students do not wash their hands before eating.

4.2.2 All the schools must have the basic facilities like drinking water, urinals, latrines, etc., which are necessary for the students to remain in the schools for the longer period. In particular girls need these facilities as compare to the boys.

The students were asked about availability of these facilities in their respective schools. In reply 88 percent of the students responded that they have proper arrangement of drinking water in the schools. Urinals are available in

82 percent schools; but only 62 percent of those are being used. On the other hand, 61 percent of the schools have latrines but only 21 percent of the toilets are being used, as water for its use is available only in 43 percent of the schools.

4.2.3 The mid-day meal programme should also be utilised for appropriate interventions relating to micronutrient supplementation and de-worming, e.g.

- i) Administration of six monthly doses for de-worming and vitamin-A supplementation.
- ii) Administration of weekly iron and folic-acid supplementation, and
- iii) Other appropriate supplementation depending on common deficiencies found in the local area.

The students were asked about the visits by doctors or nurse for health check up to their schools and providing supplementary (vitamin/iron) pills over the last six months. 88 percent students replied that the doctors or nurse had visited their schools during the last six months, but they were not able to specify the number of times nurses/ doctors visited. 90 percent of the students replied that they were given supplementary pills in their schools regularly and that they take these pills. Only a small fraction of 0.5 percent of the students said that they throw away the pills.

4.2.4 One of the main objectives of the MDM scheme implemented in the primary schools is to maintain the nutrition level and improvement in the health of the children. As such the parents/ teachers were asked for improvement in the health of the children. In reply, 77 percent of parents affirmed improvement in health & nutrition level of the children due to the MDM scheme. Teachers of 38 percent of the schools say that health and nutrition have improved on the basis of their own perception/records. As this study methodology was on user perception basis, no scientific analysis to verify these statements were undertaken. There is a need to verify and establish the facts through appropriate scientific data collection methods.

A further analysis of rural / urban status of health and nutrition level of the school children revealed that health status of the students in rural areas has not improved as compared to urban areas. The improvement in health is 10 percent less in rural areas compared to urban areas.

4.3 Education (positive impact)

4.3.1 The MDM scheme has been implemented in the primary schools with an objective to increase the enrollment & attendance of children, retention in the school, and improvement in quality of education. On inquiring about the above indicators, 72 percent parents interviewed affirmed an increase in average per day attendance and 72 percent agreed on improvement of quality of education. They credited MDM scheme for the same.

Box 1: Enhanced Daily School Attendance

There is also much informal evidence that mid-day meals have enhanced daily school attendance (and not just annual enrolment). Many parents, for instance, reported that mid-day meals had made it much easier for them to persuade their children to go to school in the morning. Most teachers also felt that mid-day meals had raised daily attendance, especially among young children. Some of them added that mid-day meals make it easier to retain pupils after the lunch break.

After getting details of the last three years from the teachers and their personal view it is revealed that 64 percent of the schools have shown increase in enrollment of children and their retention. 11 percent schools do not have any facts or figures to prove whether there is any improvement or not, while 25 percent of the schools have not shown any significant improvement towards the same.

4.3.2 One of the main objectives of MDM scheme was to boost girls' enrollment specially those belonging to disadvantaged sections. Still girls are most neglected group of the society in the backward area of the state. For this the teachers were asked to furnish the data for increase in girls' enrollment. On analysis the information it was revealed that as against overall enrollment increase in the 64 percent of schools, girls' enrollment was reported to increase in only 58 percent of the schools. Though this is an encouraging scenario, greater attention is needed on this crucial aspect.

4.3.3. Improvement in the quality education is one of the important objective supposed to achieve through the MDM scheme. Comments of parents were solicited over improvement in the quality education. In reply 23 percent of the parents felt that the quality of education is good, 58 percent termed it as satisfactory. But in survey it was found that only 53 percent of students could read and 48 percent could write well. This needs more attention.

4.3.4 On detailed analysis of quality of education and ability of students to read and write, the following position emerged:

A. Quality of education of students belonging to remote (not connected by road) areas: (Survey focused on four blocks)

Table 2: Quality of education among the students of remote areas						
Reply	Students able to read (percent)			Students able to write (percent)		
	I-III rd	IV-V th	I-V th	I-III rd	IV-V th	I-V th
Yes	21	62	39	27	62	43
No	52	22	39	49	24	38
Not properly	27	16	22	24	14	19
<i>Source: Students under the MDM scheme.</i>						

B. Quality of education among the students of all the 211 schools.

Table 3: Quality of education among the students of all 211 schools						
Reply	Students able to read (percent)			Students able to write in (percent)		
	I-III rd	IV-V th	I-V th	I-III rd	IV-V th	I-V th
Yes	32	63	48	37	70	53
No	27	9	18	23	7 15	
Not properly	41	28	34	40	23	32
<i>Source: Students under the MDM scheme.</i>						

Table numbers 3 and 4 show that the percentage of students belonging to classes I-III of remote areas who cannot read and write was almost double as compared to all (211) schools taken together. The same position was observed in case of students belonging to IV and Vth standards.

C. Comparison of students (in percent) of rural and urban situated schools in terms of their ability to read and write simple words:

Table 4: Comparison of students of rural and urban situated schools in terms of their ability to read and write simple words				
Reply	Rural		Urban	
	Students can read book	Students can write sentences	Students can read book	Students can write sentences
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Yes	29	40	47	59
No	35	30	27	26
Not properly	36	30	26	15
<i>Source: Students (Respondents)</i>				

The above table shows that 71 percent of students belonging to rural areas were either not able to read or unable to read properly simple sentences, as against 53 percent of students belonging to urban areas. respectively. Only 29 percent in rural areas and 47 percent of the students in urban areas can read well.

It also reveals that 60 percent of the students belonging to rural areas were either not able to write or could not write properly whereas in urban areas 41 percent students were either not able to write or could not write properly. However, 40 percent of the students in rural areas and 59 percent in urban areas can write simple sentences well.

4.4 Education (negative impact)

4.4.1 Under the purview of guidelines of MDM scheme it is mentioned that the teaching process should not be affected because of MDM and students should not be involved in the activities of MDM. It was affirmed by the cooks, that 31 percent of them were being assisted by the children in the process of cooking food, arranging or bringing fuel, fetching water, cleaning food grains, mixing flour, washing utensils, serving food, etc. Such type of activities certainly has an adverse impact on the education of the students.

4.4.2 The MDM programme should not be implemented in such a manner that it, in any way, adversely effects either the duration or quality of actual teaching & learning in school. As a corollary, teachers should not be assigned responsibility connected with the programme except the following:

- (i) Tasting of food prior to being served to children with a view to ensuring that it is of good quality, and is wholesome, and
- (ii) Supervision of actual serving and consumption of the mid-day meal so that it is done in an orderly manner, and children consume their meal hygienically.

The mid-day meal should be so organised that the entire process of serving and consumption of the meal does not take more than 30-40 minutes.

The table below depicts teachers' time consumed in MDM Scheme:

Table No. 5: Time spent by the teachers in the activities in MDM per day			
Time spent in hours	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
NA	12	1.4	1.4
6.00	4	.5	1.9
4.00	12	1.4	3.4
3.00	52	6.3	9.6
2.50	20	2.4	12.0
2.00	136	16.3	28.4-NA=27
1.50	56	6.7	35.1
1.30	4	.5	35.6
1.25	4	.5	36.1
1.00	272	32.7	68.8-NA=67.4
.75	16	1.9	70.7
.50	124	14.9	85.6
.25	44	5.3	90.9
.00	76	9.1	100.0
Total	416	100.0	
Source: MDM In-charge & Teachers of the selected Govt/ Govt aided primary schools			
** NA: Not Replied			

It is apparent from the above table that most of the teachers are actively involved in the activities of MDM. 67 percent of the teachers spend one and more than one hours in the activities of MDM. Spending more than one hour on the activities other than teaching (total school hours is six only) will severely effect the quality of education that needs to be imparted.

4.5 Community participation and involvement

4.5.1 It is obligatory for the parents to know about the MDM, which is being served to their children. In particular mothers know much more about the taste and preferences of their child. It was asked from the parents interviewed whether they have visited the school of their child during the session. 74 percent of them responded in the affirmative while 26 percent had never visited the school. They were also asked whether they have tasted the MDM and did they like the taste and quality of the MDM. Out of the above who visited the school, 62 percent

accepted that they visited to see MDM activities but only 32 percent of them tasted the cooked Meal and liked it. This shows their apathetic attitude towards the scheme.

4.5.2 At the local level, state governments were expected to assign responsibility for implementation and supervision of the programme to an appropriate body e.g. gram panchayats, municipalities, village education committees, parent teacher associations or school management-cum-development committees.

After analysis of survey results it has been revealed that 84 percent of the parents and 85 percent of the gram panchayats are not assisting in any MDM activity being operated in the schools. Only very few schools reported that the Gram Panchayats or the local people are assisting the process of MDM.

4.5.3 Under the provision of MDM scheme there must be parent teacher committees in each village/school which will be responsible for the monitoring of MDM at local level.

Parents were asked about the existence of parent teacher committees in the schools in their village. 72 percent of the parents responded that there is no such committee in the village, whereas, 6 percent did not know. Only 22 percent of the parents affirmed about the existence of the committee in the villages. However it was concluded from the survey that committee had been formed only in 30 villages among the selected 211 villages.

4.6 Infrastructure (for MDMS and Schools)

4.6.1 Infrastructure in a school plays an important role towards the quality education, while proper facilities required for preparation of MDM contributes towards the quality and its hygienic preparation. These facilities can be made available in the schools through various schemes of government. Some are listed below:

- Kitchen cum store: funds under Sampurna Gramin Rojgar Yojna (SGRY) National Slum Development Programme (NSDP), Urban Wage Employment Programme (UWEP) and Swarn Jayanti Sahri Rojgar Yojna (SJSRY)
- Adequate water supply: Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme, Swajaldhara Programme, Drinking Water Supply Programme.
- Cooking device (stove, smokeless chulla, cooking gas etc)/ Containers for storage of food grains and other ingredients/ Utensils for cooking & serving: under SSA (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan) from annual school grant of Rs. 2000/- per annum per school.
- The gas connection will be provided by HPL company free of cost.

The analyses revealed that 95 percent of the schools do not have a kitchen shed, 62 percent of the cooks interviewed said that MDM is being cooked in an open space, which is not hygienic. Some are cooking either in the verandahs, classrooms where teaching get affected or in the houses of cooks.

80 percent of the schools have the facilities of drinking water. Only 36 percent of the schools have separate storeroom for MDM, while 83 percent of cooks confirmed that they have sufficient utensils for preparation of MDM. Only 53 percent of the teachers said that sufficient classrooms (as per requirement) were available.

4.6.2 As per MDM guidelines fuel (kerosene/fuel wood/charcoal/LPG) should be stored safely, so that there is no fire hazard. Smokeless *chulhas* should be used to the extent possible. Use of firewood should be discouraged as far as possible in the interest of environmental protection.

The survey revealed that 76 percent of the cooks are using wood or *kanda* for cooking MDM. only 13.5 percent of the cooks are using gas and 9.9 percent are using kerosene as fuel for MDM. Wood and *kanda* both produces smoke at large scale, which is hazardous for health as ash particles of wood and *kanda* get into the food. However, 8 percent of the cooks are not provided fuel; they arrange it by their own.

4.6.3 Comparison of infrastructure facilities available in rural and urban schools:

Table No. 6: Comparison of Infrastructure facilities in rural and urban schools						
Urban (Number of schools in percent)						
Whether Available	Kitchen	Store room	Potable Water	Utensils	Sufficient class rooms	Latrines/ Urinals
Yes	11	42	87	84	59	79
No	89	58	13	16	41	21
Rural (Number of schools in percent)						
Yes	2	32	75	83	50	84
No	98	68	25	17	50	16
Source: MDM In-charge & Teachers of the selected Govt/ Govt aided primary schools						

The above table reveals that infrastructure facilities of urban schools are better in comparison to the schools situated in rural areas. However it was found that latrines/urinals are available in 84 percent of rural schools while in urban it is only in 79 percent.

The best course is to construct kitchens. However, temporary arrangement could be made at common places of villages like panchayat/community halls instead of verandahs, classrooms or open spaces.

4.7 Timely flow of Funds and Food grains

Funds

4.7.1 Each school is required to send its monthly expenditure statement, bill, and vouchers for wages of the cook alongwith monthly report to the panchayat samiti. Within 15 days of submission the Panchayat Samiti shall make the adjustment.

There is inconsistency in the reimbursement of the conversion cost for MDM. There is no specific time on which the schools get reimbursed. This inconsistency effects the continual implementation of MDM scheme.

There is irregularity in the reimbursement of the conversion cost. 47 percent of the schools receive the funds once for three months, 12 percent schools receive once in six month, 21 percent get funds every month, 18 percent get once in two months and 2 percent get reimbursement on the availability of funds. This aspect was discussed with the authorities of Panchayati Raj department; they informed that money is advanced to every school for conversion cost on the basis of enrollment. But they do not submit monthly utilisation certificates/ accounts in time. Hence reimbursement is delayed. On the other hand the district and block level implementing agencies always get funds on time.

4.7.2 Each and every job must get honored suitably, at appropriate time and it should be transparent. On analysis it was found that 98 percent of the cooks get the same amount of wages for which they sign, however, only few (below 2 percent) of the cooks have informed that the actual amount they receive is less than what they sign on.

The delay in payment of wages was further analysed and it was found that 76 percent of the cooks receive their wages on time and 8 percent receive their wages 3-4 months late. 6 percent reported that they get their wages when funds are available and that there is no specific period or time for payment.

Food Grains

4.7.3 District collector will be responsible for lifting food grains of Fair Average Quality on time and he will delegate the responsibility of transportation of the same to the committee as envisaged in the detail report (Annexure-I). The committee will be responsible to check out the quality of the food grains.

Allocated food grains will be lifted by the transport agencies designated by the district collector or by using equipments of government departments/cooperative societies, after getting it weighted.

4.7.4 For timely preparation of MDM it was essential to know about the timely receipt of food grains. The MDM teacher in-charge of the schools was asked about the timely receipt of food grains. On analysis it was revealed that 69 percent of the selected schools receive food grains on the stipulated time. However, it was noticed by the surveyors that there was no food grains in the stock of 5 schools, therefore, MDM were not being cooked.

In remaining 31 percent of the schools the delay in receipt of food grains and status of arrangement made in case of non-receipt of food grains is depicted in the tables shown below:

Table No. 7: Delay in delivery of food grains		
S.No.	No. of days delayed	Percent
1.	6-10 days	3.4
2.	11-15 days	3.4
3.	More than 15 days	4.3
4.	NA**	88.9
Source: MDM In-charge & Teachers of the selected Govt/ Govt aided primary schools Aided primary schools		
**Not Applicable: It means that they get Food grains on time		

Table No. 8: Management of MDM during the period of delay		
S.No.	Sources	Percent
1.	Own source	1.92
2.	Official source	1.44
3.	Private source	0.96
4.	Wait for further receipt	2.9
5.	Previous stock	3.85
6.	Not Applicable	88.94
Source: MDM In-charge & Teachers of the selected Govt/ Govt		

Delay in receiving food grains

Table no. 7 shows that delay of more than 15 days in delivery of food grains is in 4.3 percent of schools while as a whole 11 percent receive food grains in delay that varies from 6-15 days.

Table no. 8 reveals that 2.9 percent of the schools are not cooking MDM due to unavailability of food grains. However, 8 percent are arranging MDM from various sources. However, in remaining schools it is received in time.

4.7.5 Allocated food grains will be lifted by the transport agencies designated by the district collector or by using equipments of government departments/cooperative societies, after getting it weighted.

On analysis it came out that only 23 percent of the schools receive food grains after getting it weighted. 77 percent of the schools either do not weigh or they believe on the weight mentioned on the bags. It could be possible to weigh the food grains through measurement cups of 15 Kg or 20 Kg, which is easily available in the villages. But MDM in-charge of 12 schools complained that they receive less quantity of food grains as compared to what is written on bags. It is also reported by the teacher in-charge of five schools that they returned back or do not receive the open bags of food grains. Therefore, a proper weighing system is needed.

Where *samities* are supplying MDM, teachers expressed that the food grains are not being received by the teacher in-charge, as respective *samiti* or group receives it.

4.7.6 The quality of food grains that are being supplied by the central government through FCI and those being purchased locally was ascertained. On analysis it was found that wheat and rice are of above fair average quality in 97 percent of cases. Raw materials purchased locally are better at 99.5 percent for above fair average quality. It shows that 3 percent of the schools receive below average quality of food grains for MDM.

4.8 Monitoring MDM

4.8.1 The Mid-Day Meal Programme would need to be monitored in two ways, namely:

- i) How well the programme is being implemented (i.e. in terms of all children regularly getting a meal of satisfactory quality), and
- ii) What effect, if any, the programme is having in terms of following indicators:
 - a) Nutritional status
 - b) Regularity of attendance, and
 - c) Retention in and Completion of Primary Education.

4.8.2 On evaluating the quality of MDM prepared it was found that 75 percent of the cooks are being monitored and being checked for the quality of food prepared by them. Generally teacher in-charge for MDM checks the food. Some times external authority of block level or district level come to check but it happens rarely. During inspection prepared MDM is being checked in terms of their quality, quantity (100 gm of food grains and pulses/ vegetable) and appropriate mix of other ingredients (Oil, Spices, Chili etc.).

4.8.3 For other indicators like nutritional status, regularity of attendance, retention in the school the findings were discussed with the executing authorities of Panchayati Raj department (State Nodal Agency) and Education Department (Programme controlling agency) during de-briefing and State Level Conference. These executing agencies informed that they check the MDM during their scheduled visits of the schools and through various reports submitted by the schools.

4.9 Compliance with Supreme Court order

4.9.1 Appointment of part-time staff as cooks, helpers etc. should be as far as possible be women, with due preference being given to women belonging to SCs and STs in accordance with the orders of the Supreme Court.

On analysis of data produced by the authorities of the selective school it was revealed that 74 percent of the cooks were female. Only 13 percent of the cooks interviewed were from SC/ST category, while 64 percent were from OBC category and the remaining 24 percent were from general category. It was however, reported that in some of the schools where cooks were from general category because parents do not allow their children to eat MDM prepared by any low caste cook.

4.9.2 The school authorities were asked for facing problem in appointment of SC/ST category persons. From the replies given it was revealed that 9 percent of the selected schools faced problems related to casteism, in appointment of cook for MDM. 85 percent of the schools do not face any problem. It was also reported that people from these community were not ready to work as a cook on such a low wages.

Box 2: Case Story

In Rajasthan, however, cases of *dalit* cooks were largely confined to schools with no upper-caste children. We also noted instances of active parental resistance to the appointment of *dalit* cooks, as in Kolu Pabuji (Jodhpur district, Rajasthan) where a Rajput parent had thrown sand in the mid-day meal because a Meghwal woman had cooked.

Source- <http://www.frontlineonnet.com/fl2016/stories/20030815002208500.htm> —>

Section-II

Expenditure Tracking

4.13 State Scenario

4.13.1 Utilisation of food grains/conversion cost allotted to the state:

Table No. 9: Utilization of food grains allotted to the state (in quintals)							
S. No.	Year	Total sanctioned by central government	Total lifted by the state government	Total utilisation	Unutilised quantity of food grains	Percentage of unutilised with reference to lifting	Percentage of lifted food grains with reference to sanctioned
1.	2003-04	1689193.66	1364874.40	1338274.20	26600.20	2	81
2.	2004-05	1685682.30	1210270.59	1106270.37	104000.22	9	72
3.	2005-06	1961082.97	986546.89	841679	144867.11	15	50
Source: Panchayati Raj Department statement							

- The above table shows that quantity of food grains unutilised with reference to the quantity lifted by the state is 2, 9 and 15 percent respectively in the years 2003-04 to 2005-06. This trend shows that the unutilised quantity of food grains is increasing year over year.
- On the other hand the quantity of food grains lifted by the state govt. is decreasing every year with reference to the sanctioned quantity (81, 72 and 50 percent in the year 2003-04 to 2005-06, respectively). This could be due to over estimates of enrollment of students, actual reasons are to be ascertained.

Table 10: Utilisation of cooking conversion cost by the state (Rs in lakhs)								
S.No	Year	Central contribution	State contribution	Total available funds	Allotment to the districts	Expenditure during the year	Unutilised balance with districts	Percentage of unutilised fund against total allotted fund
1.	2003-04	3000	7000	10000	10000	6194.01	5831.07	58.31
2.	2004-05	14743.22	7500	22243.22	22243.22	6520.73	15722.99	70.70
3.	2005-06	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Source: Panchayati Raj Department statement								

- The above table shows that the unutilised fund remaining with the districts is increasing year over year that is from 58 & 71 percent during the year 2003-04 & 2004-05.
- Though there was unutilised fund with the districts it is surprising to see reports of negative balance with some of the blocks. (See table no. 13)

4.13.3 Conversion cost sanctioned by GoR to Chittorgarh district:

Table 11: Conversion cost sanctioned by State Govt. to Chittorgarh district (Rs in lakhs)							
S.No.	Year	Opening balance	Total allotment	Total available balance	Expenditure during the year	Unutilised balance	Percentage of unutilised fund against total available fund
1.	2003-04	160.45	285.43	445.88	146.67	299.21	67
2.	2004-05	299.21	639.80	939.01	186.84	752.17	80
3.	2005-06	752.17	589.83	1342.00	NA	NA	NA
Source: Panchayati Raj Department, Zila Parishad, Chittorgarh.							

- Analyses shows that during the year 2003-04 & 2004-05 the unutilised amount of conversion cost was 67 and 80 percent respectively.
- This infers that the conversion cost is being sanctioned as per the enrollment of students but the unutilised figure gives the picture of very low attendance of students or some other lacunae in the allotment system.

4.13.4 Utilisation of food grains allotted to Chittorgarh district

Table 12: Utilization of food grains allotted to Chittorgarh district (in quintals)									
S.No.	Year	Total sanctioned by GoR to district		Total food grains lifted by the district		Distributed to the blocks		Percentage of short lifting with reference of sanctioned	
		Wheat	Rice	Wheat	Rice	Wheat	Rice	Wheat	Rice
1.	2003-04	48180.66	Nil	31811.64	Nil	31811.64	Nil	34	-
2.	2004-05	26634.08	26634.08	20642.30	10696.5	20642.30	10696.5	23	60
3.	2005-06	40175.42	17218.04	23086.90	11435.60	23086.90	11435.60	43	34
Source: Panchayati Raj Department Zila Parishad, Chittorgarh.									

- The above table shows that the lifting was short in wheat and rice that ranged from 23-43 and 60-34 percent during the years 2003-04 to 2005-06 respectively, as compared to the quantity allotted to the district.
- However, the whole quantity of food grains lifted by the district was distributed to the blocks, as reported by the district level authorities.

4.13.5 Conversion cost Sanctioned by Zilla Parishad to Panchayat Samities (block level) during 2004-05:

Table 13: Conversion cost Sanctioned by Zilla Parishad to Panchayat Samiti during 2004 -05 (in Rs.)						
S.No.	Name of block	Sanctioned amount to the panchayat samiti by zilla parishad			Total spent by panchayat samiti	Remaining amount
(1)	(2)	Total allotment (3)	Earlier unspent amount (4)	Total 3+4 (5)	(6)	Total 5+6 (7)
1.	Arnod	2339815	-775815	1564000	1369870	194130
2.	Pratapgarh	2714925	-642925	2072000	3659250	-1587250
3.	Choti Sadri	1576125	-421125	1155000	1595985	-440985
4.	Badi Sadri	617000	115357	732357	1139080	-406723
5.	Nembaheda	655000	159580	814580	1270775	-456195
6.	Bhadesar	1462490	-342490	1120000	1235740	-115740
7.	Dungla	550000	-135967	414033	833411	-419378
8.	Chittorgarh	2340685	-484665	1856020	2020860	-164840
9.	Kapasan	1034545	-189545	845000	980290	-135290
10.	Bhopalsagar	690272	-95272	595000	988766	-393766
11.	Rashmi	605000	9760	614760	385610	229150
12.	Gangrar	881640	-191640	690000	738355	-48355
13.	Bengu	1271152	-277152	994000	1406840	-412840
14.	Bhainsrodgarh	1330975	-345975	985000	1058882	-73882
	Total	18069624	-3617874	14451750	18683714	-4231964
Source: Panchayati Raj Department						

- Table no. 11 above shows that the amount under the head of MDM was 939.01 lakh with the Chittorgarh district. Whereas, the allotment made by Zilla Parishad to all the 14 blocks was only 180.70 lakhs, which is only 20 percent of the total amount available with the district.
- The above table depicts that out of 14 blocks, 12 blocks have over utilised the funds and only two blocks have unutilised amount.
- Over utilisation by the majority of the blocks shows that either they are arranging the funds from other sources available with them or there may be flaw in the book adjustments.

4.13.6 Conversion cost sanctioned by Zilla Parishad to Panchayat Samities during 2005 -06:

Table No. 14: Conversion cost Sanctioned during by Zilla Parishad to Panchayat Samiti the 2005 -06(in Rs.)						
S.No.	Name of block	Sanctioned amount to the panchayat samiti by zilla parishad			Total spent by panchayat samiti	Remaining amount
(1)	(2)	Total allotment (3)	Earlier unspent amount (4)	Total 3+4 (5)	(6)	Total 5+6 (7)
1.	Arnod	4200000	194130	4394130	4050639	343491
2.	Pratapgarh	7550000	-1587250	5962750	14166123	-8203373
3.	Choti Sadri	4200000	-440985	3759015	2912250	846765
4.	Badi Sadri	2100000	-406723	1693277	2437711	-744434
5.	Nembaheda	3600000	-456195	3143805	3487832	-344027
6.	Bhadesar	3450000	-115740	3334260	3344625	-10365
7.	Dungla	2200000	-419378	1780622	3671543	-890921
8.	Chittorgarh	5702000	-164840	5537160	10493568	-4956408
9.	Kapasan	1800000	-135290	1664710	4362930	-2698220
10.	Bhopalsagar	2007000	-393766	1613234	2519634	-906400
11.	Rashmi	2000000	229150	2229150	6739715	-4510565
12.	Gangrar	2623000	-48355	2574645	2125980	448665
13.	Bengu	3835000	-412840	3422160	3413705	8455
14.	Bhainsrodgarh	1952000	-73882	1878118	2478563	-600445
	Total	47219000	-4231964	42987036	65204818	-22217782

Source: Panchayati Raj Department Zila Parishad, Chittorgarh.

- The allotment made by Zilla Parishad to all the 14 blocks was only 472.19 lakh, whereas the expenditure incurred by all the blocks was 652.05 lakh.
- The above table depicts that out of 14 blocks, 10 blocks have over utilised the funds and only four blocks have unutilised amount.
- Over utilization by the majority of the blocks shows that either they are arranging the funds from other sources available with them or there may be flaw in accounting system or book adjustments because this type of practice is occurring every year, as would reflect from table no. 13 above.

4.14.7 Utilisation of food grains by the Panchayat Samities (Block) during 2004-05

Table No. 15: Utilization of food grains in the year 2004-05 (in Quintals)

S.No	Name of block	Total sanctioned	Total lifted by P.S		Total available	Total cooked	Remaining stock	Percentage of food grains utilised
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
1.	Arnod	3137.00	2179.57	2979.57	1897.05	282.52	10
2.	Pratapgarh	5484.33	4343.22	4343.22	3838.45	504.77	12
3.	Choti Sadri	2889.58	2296.18	135.99	2432.17	2066.00	366.17	15
4.	Badi Sadri	2326.30	1763.69	507.93	2271.62	1658.85	612.77	27
5.	Nembaheda	2662.41	2550.69	361.40	2912.09	2708.76	203.33	7
6.	Bhadesar	2521.23	2282.83	259.37	2542.20	2005.14	537.06	21
7.	Dungla	1657.58	1541.27	533.83	2075.10	1232.59	842.51	41
8.	Chittorgarh	5786.20	4417.60	722.19	5139.79	2374.12	1865.67	36
9.	Gangrar	2138.74	1698.88	241.94	1940.82	1452.70	488.12	25
10.	Kapasan	1733.09	1398.59	278.69	1677.28	1101.99	575.29	34
11.	Bhopalsagar	1776.74	1208.69	0.28	1208.97	949.27	259.7	22
12.	Rashmi	2380.71	1476.82	300.10	1776.92	1391.15	385.77	22
13.	Bengu	5136.36	2508.59	405.69	2913.89	2160.56	753.33	26
14.	Bhainsrodgarh	2934.24	1672.25	38.11	1710.36	1371.23	339.13	20
	Total	42564.51	31338.87 (74%)	3785.52	35924	26207.86	8016.14	

Source: Zilla Parishad and District Education office.

Analysis

- The quantity of food grains lifted by all the Panchayat Samities was 74 percent of the total sanctioned.
- Food grains unutilised under panchayat samities varies from 7-41 percent, while in 10 panchayat samities the unutilised food grains is more than 20 percent.
- This shows that the food grain sanctioned is based on the enrollment but the less lifting could be due to less attendance of the students.

4.13.8 Utilisation of food grains by the Panchayat Samities (Block) during 2005-06

Table 16: Utilization of food grains in the year 2005-06 (in Quintals)

Sl.	Name of block	Total sanctioned		Total food grains lifted by panchayat samiti		Total released to schools by panchayat samiti		Total cooked		Remaining stock		Percentage of Food grains lifted with reference to sanctioned	
		Wheat	Rice	Wheat	Rice	Wheat	Rice	Wheat	Rice	Wheat	Rice	Wheat	Rice
1.	Arnod	3920	1680	2207	1130	2001	908	1850	819	356	311	56.29	67.28
2.	Pratapgarh	5400	2300	3595	1786	2843	1327	3200	1566	396	220	66.58	77.67
3.	Choti Sadri	3080	1320	1554	972	1289	839	1578	1040	-24	-68	50.45	73.66
4.	Badi Sadri	2100	900	1146	444	900	749	1089	649	57	-206	54.58	49.30
5.	Nembaheda	3430	1470	1751	992	1528	916	1471	934	280	58	51.05	67.49
6.	Bhadesar	2450	1050	1451	728	720	378	1364	810	87	-82	59.21	69.35
7.	Dungla	2270	980	1807	874	515	328	1027	642	779	232	79.58	89.21
8.	Chittorgarh	4395	1908	2465	1042	1798	1227	2344	1496	121	-454	56.09	54.62
9.	Kapasan	1890	810	1111	469	819	470	1027	574	84	-105	58.76	57.86
10.	Bhopalsagar	1640	710	692	373	718	477	771	558	-79	-183	42.19	52.53
11.	Rashmi	1610	690	879	413	1025	523	1168	635	-289	-222	54.81	59.80
12.	Gangrar	1780	770	1164	605	853	512	986	592	178	13	65.42	78.60
13.	Bengu	3350	1400	1605	771	1168	726	1494	889	111	-119	47.92	55.04
14.	Bhainsrodgarh	2860	1230	1660	836	1028	555	1313	698	347	138	58.05	67.99
	Total	40175	17218	23087	11435	17205	9935	20682	11902	2404	-467	57.47	66.42

Source: Zilla Parishad and District Education office.

Analysis

- The quantity of food grains wheat and rice lifted by all the panchayat samities was 57 and 66 percent respectively of the total sanctioned.
- The table no 23 and 24 shows that food grains were unutilised in the year 2004-05 in all the blocks. Whereas, in the year 2005-06, out of 14 blocks, over utilisation of wheat and rice was observed in three blocks, whereas in five blocks only rice was over utilised.
- Here the question arises how this over utilisation is being managed at the block / school level?

4.13.9 Flow of funds from Block to the centers of MDM.

- The analysis is based on record made available by 21 schools of two blocks, which reflects that the delay occurred from block to school level towards the flow of funds is 1-2 months and some times three months.
- *** We tried hard in order to get such data from some more blocks but could not succeed.

4.14 Functioning of Annapurna Samities

- Since November 2005, a separate MDM commissioner office is functioning under which the cooperative department of Rajasthan is also being involved in implementation of MDM through selected cooperative societies from each block of the state. Two cooperative societies have been selected commonly known as Annapurna Samiti from each of the block. In Chittorgarh district 28 Annpurna Samities were providing MDM in 188 schools of 28 Gram Panchayat of all the 14 blocks.
- On analysis of month-wise conversion cost and food grains allotted to these Samities since December 2005 to March 2006 it was found that the data is not reconciling opening and closing balances of every month. Though they were receiving the food grains and the conversion cost regularly in advance and on time.
- The percentage of beneficiaries in these schools varies from 43 to 85 percent.

Comparative Cost per MDM

The State Government has now involved the NGOs in the MDM Scheme like Akshysya Patra, ISKCON, Nandi Foundation, etc. Trusts are also providing MDM in the primary schools like Sanwalia Trust in Chittorgarh district. As per news in Hindustan times the 23 June 2006, cost of per meal provided by Akshya Patra comes to Rs.5/-.

The cost of the meal prepared through the teacher-managed process comes to about Rs 4/- including the notional cost of teachers' time. Some scholars argue that the teachers were anyway present and therefore their notional time cost should not be calculated. In such a scenario, the meal cost is less then Rs4/- per meal.

Thus, the difference between the cost of the meals cooked by the above NGOs and schools in about Rs 1/- or more. It might be noted that cost of the meal prepared by the NGOs benefits from scale of operations as each NGO prepares meals for many schools together. If such scale of operations benefits were not considered, the difference between costs would be even more.

Assuming that quality of the meals cooked in both the processes were same, there is a need for the State government to increase the cost per meal, which could be used to enhance the process and quality.



Recommendations and Future Actions

5.1 Conclusions and Recommendations:

The following are the key findings and recommendations.

- Despite limitations in the process, the MDM is well implemented and is well accepted by the parents and students.
- The teachers seem to spend a considerable part of their time and energies on the management of MDMs, affecting the quality of teaching. Other alternatives should be explored.
- There is a scope to enhance the grants for improving the quality of preparing the MDM in schools, based on the costs incurred by big NGOs. A part of the additional cost could be used to provide management support to the teachers by contracting local youth, SHGs etc.
- While NGOs, CSOs could be an alternative provider, past experience in other schemes suggest that there are not many of them.
- Despite the gram panchayats being responsible, on paper, for the implementation of the MDM they do not play any role. So is the case with the parent-teacher associations. Ways should be found to enhance the capacities of these vital local government units in managing the education and development of their children. Performance based incentives and competitions could be explored to enthuse the Local Governments.
- The system of supplying grains to the schools needs to be tightened and measures should be taken to ensure weighing of grains before handing over to the teachers.
- There are huge unspent balances on account of food grains sanctioned, lifted and used. So is the case with the conversion costs. There seems to be a big time gap in many schools in receiving the conversion costs. The system of budgeting, accounting and monitoring is poor and needs to be improved.
- There is a slow progress in enrollment of girls in primary schools, to boost up girls enrollment more efforts are to be made along with sensitising the community at large.

5.2 Conclusion

- 5.2.1 The field research indicates that cooked mid-day meals have now become a permanent part of the daily routine of rural as well urban primary government schools of Chittorgarh district. The parents and students are mostly happy with the implementation of the scheme. The government is continuing to increase both the funding and the quality requirements for the Mid-Day Meal Scheme with a trend replacing more nutritious and appetising menus. However, an extensive analysis of the impact of the school meals on the nutritional status of primary school children is beyond measurement unless some scientific methodology is adopted.
- 5.2.2 Still a large part of the child population below the age of 14 years is deprived of even primary education level. Though Mid-Day Meal scheme would prove a mile stone towards achieving the goal of universal education for all as targeted under the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), but looking to the slow

progress in this direction more concentrated efforts are needed with the private-public participation in the process.

- 5.2.3 The Local Governments are constitutionally bound to be responsible for education and related activities. Ways should be found to enthuse local governments to take on these responsibilities and be accountable to its citizens. In the current set-up local governments are completely missing in action.
- 5.2.4 This was a pilot study focused on Chittorgarh District and hence does not reflect the situation across the state. The methodology developed for Chittorgarh district could be improved upon and used across the state to measure the performance of the scheme and identify issues of concern. Such a statewide study would be useful for the state to make any policy decisions.

EVENT PHOTOGRAPHS & NEWS



Making
Bati in
open
area



Project Launch Meeting and Orientation of Surveyors October 21, 2005



मेवाड़ी मीरां, अक्टूबर 22, 2005

मिड डे मील के क्रियान्वयन में जनभागीदारी आवश्यक-गुप्त

चितीड़गढ़, 21 अक्टूबर (वि)

मध्याह्न भोजन योजना सरकार की प्राथमिकता वाली योजनाओं में से एक है एवं जिले में इसके अच्छे एवं उद्देश्य पुरक परिणाम आ रहे हैं लेकिन इसे और प्रभावी बनाने के लिये योजना के क्रियान्वयन में जनभागीदारी तथा स्थानीय संस्थाओं का उपयोग अपेक्षित है। उक्त विचार जिला कलेक्टर आनुजीव गुरु ने स्वयंसेवी संगठन कट्स मानव विकास केन्द्र के द्वारा विषय बैंक के सहयोग से प्रारंभ की गई मध्याह्न भोजन योजना पर व्यवसायिक सहभागी आंकलन परियोजना को शुक्रवार को यहां एक होटल में आयोजित सुधार बैठक के अवसर पर मुख्य अतिथि के रूप में व्यक्त किये।

जिला कलेक्टर ने कहा कि मिड डे मील योजना के तहत बच्चों के शिक्षा एवं पोषण को ध्यान में सुधार तथा उन्हें शिक्षा की ओर आकर्षित करने हेतु चलाई जा रही मिड डे मील योजना के तहत लक्ष्य चका हुआ एवं विविध प्रकार का व्यंजन भोजन दिया जा रहा है जिससे गरीब बच्चों अच्छा पोषण मिल रहा है एवं बच्चे शिक्षा के प्रति आकर्षित हो रहे हैं। जिला प्रतापन का प्रयास है कि स्वयंसेवी संगठनों, धार्मिक संस्थानों एवं औद्योगिक इकाईयों का सहयोग प्राप्त कर इस योजना को और अधिक प्रभावी बनाने एवं बच्चों को मुक्तता पुरक भोजन देने की दिशा में प्रयास किये जा रहे हैं। उन्होंने कट्स द्वारा प्रस्तावित मध्याह्न भोजन योजना के सभी के संदर्भ में चर्चा करते हुए कहा कि इस आंकलन के माध्यम से जो सूचनाएं एवं सुझाव

प्राप्त होंगे उससे इस योजना को और अधिक प्रभावी बनाने में मदद मिलेगी।

सुधार बैठक के अवसर पर अपने विचार रखते हुए अतिरिक्त मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी जिला परिषद मुनिल कुमार झा ने जिले में चल रही मिड डे मील योजना के क्रियान्वयन के संबंध में जानकारी दी उन्होंने कहा कि

जहां पर अभ्यापकों एवं सेवा प्रदाताओं का जनप्रतिनिधियों तथा स्थानीय लोगों के साथ अच्छा सम्बन्ध है वहां इस योजना का क्रियान्वयन बहुत ही अच्छे ढंग से हो रहा है।

जिला शिक्षा अधिकारी श्रीमती ज्योती धोबी ने कहा कि जैसे तो जिले में इस योजना का क्रियान्वयन अच्छी प्रकार

हो रहा है एवं बच्चों को शिक्षा एवं पोषण की दृष्टि से अच्छा लाभ मिल रहा है इस योजना के माध्यम से बच्चों के स्वास्थ्य शिक्षा एवं पोषण के अधिकार के क्षेत्र में अच्छा कार्य हो रहा फिर भी मिड डे मील योजना के संदर्भ में कट्स द्वारा किये जाने वाले आंकलन से इससे में और सुधार के क्षेत्रों का पता चलेगा एवं रही सही खासियां को भी दूर करने में मदद मिलेगी।

इस अवसर पर विषय बैंक के प्रतिनिधि जी.पी.आर. पुरी योजना के क्रियान्वयन में सामाजिक जवाबदेहिता की आवश्यकता प्रतिपादित कि एवं उन्होंने सामाजिक जवाबदेहिता को बढ़ाने हेतु अपनाये जाने वाले विभिन्न माध्यम एवं तरीकों की जानकारी तथा देश एवं विदेशों में सामाजिक जवाबदेहिता संबंधित उदाहरण देकर इसके फायदों को बताया। कट्स के सहायक निदेशक जॉन पेरियन ने कहा कि किसी भी योजना के क्रियान्वयन में सामाजिक जवाबदेहिता को बढ़ाना कट्स के लिये एक प्राथमिक एवं गहनपूर्ण मुद्दा है चूंकि मिड डे मील योजना एक बहुउद्देशीय लाभकारी योजना है एवं इस योजना का क्रियान्वयन में सामाजिक जवाबदेहिता को व्यापक समग्र स्तर पर एवं प्रभावी क्रियान्वयन सुनिश्चित किया जा सकता है कट्स द्वारा शुरू किया जाने वाला मिड डे मील व्यवस्था के आंकलन भी इस योजना में सामाजिक जवाबदेहिता बढ़ाने का एक प्रयास है। चितीड़ संकायत



जिला कलेक्टर गुप्त मिड डे मील अनुसूचीकरण कार्यशाला को संबोधित करते हुए।

हाइटेक किचन के लिए जिक ने दिए 65 लाख

सिंदूरताल जिला लिमिटेड ने मिड डे मील योजना हेतु चितीड़गढ़ में हाइटेक किचन बनाने के लिए 65 लाख रुपये दिये हैं जिससे करीब 25 से 30 हजार बच्चे लाभान्वित होंगे। यह परियोजना जिला कलेक्टर आनुजीव गुरु ने शुक्रवार को यहां मिड डे मील परियोजना सुधार बैठक एवं सर्वेक्षण आयोजन कार्यक्रम को संबोधित करते हुए बी।

जी गुप्त ने कहा कि योजना के तहत जिले में सांघरिया मंदिर मंडल 55 स्कूलों के बच्चों को छात्रा किलाने की व्यवस्था कर रहा है। इन कार्य में मंदिर मंडल सरकारों के साथी के अतिरिक्त 25 पैसे प्रति बालक खर्च कर रहा है। उन्होंने बताया कि इस कार्य के लिए जिले के अन्य धार्मिक इकाई आसवादा मठ, इलाहा मठ, जौतियादा मठ, अम्बानादा आदि आने आ रहे हैं जो तराईय हैं।

दैनिक नवज्योति, अक्टूबर 22, 2005



चितीड़गढ़ के एक होटल में कट्स द्वारा मिड डे मील को लेकर एक दिवसीय कार्यशाला को सम्बोधित करते हुए। प्रेस फोटो-गोविन्द त्रिपाठी

मिड डे मील

शिक्षा की प्रधान नीति की राहों में जाते जाते बच्चों को भोजन करने पुरक का काम है उन्होंने जनप्रतिनिधियों को इस योजना में सक्रिय बनने के भागीदारी बनने का आह्वान किया। सुधार बैठक के प्रारंभ में कट्स के सम्पादक ज्योती गुप्त ने अपने स्वागत करते हुए कहा कि सुधार बैठक के उद्देश्यों एवं अपेक्षाओं के बारे में जानकारी दी। उन्होंने कहा कि परियोजना के बारे में जानकारी अधिकारियों एवं अनुसूचित क्षेत्रों के लोगों परियोजना के बारे में सुनिश्चित कर उनका सहभागिता सुनिश्चित करना है। कट्स के के.पी. गुप्त ने सर्वेक्षण परियोजना, इसके क्रियान्वयन एवं शिक्षा संबंधितों में सहभागिता को अवसर बताया। सुधार बैठक में जिले के प्रशासनिक अधिकारी, जनप्रतिनिधि, खास शिक्षा अधिकारियों, शिक्षा अधिकारियों, मिड डे मील योजना से जुड़े हुए अभ्यापक, स्वयंसेवा समन्वयक के प्रतिनिधियों एवं सामाजिक कार्यकर्ताओं सहित 100 लोगों ने अपनी सहभागिता प्रदान की। खास शिक्षा अधिकारियों एवं अभ्यापकों का कहना था कि अभ्यापकों को इस योजना के क्रियान्वयन की जिम्मेदारी से मुक्त रखा जाय क्योंकि हाकिम उन्हें अपने दैनिकिक कार्य सम्पन्न करने के लिये पर्याप्त समय मिल नहीं। सुधार कार्यशाला के प्रस्ताव सर्वेक्षणों की अनुसूचीकरण कार्यशाला सर्वेक्षण को यह विषय मिड डे मील योजना व्यवसायिक के संबंधित सर्वेक्षणों में बना लिया।

मिड डे मील के क्रियान्वयन में जन भागीदारी जरूरी- गुप्त

चित्तौड़गढ़, 21 अक्टूबर [प्रेस.]। मध्याह्न भोजन योजना सरकार की प्राथमिकता वाली योजनाओं में से एक है एवं जिले में इसके अच्छे एवं उद्देश्य पूरे परिणाम आ रहे हैं। लेकिन इसे और प्रभावी बनाने के लिए योजना के क्रियान्वयन में जनभागीदारी तथा स्थानीय संस्थाओं का उपयोग अपेक्षित है।

ये विचार जिला कलक्टर आशुतोष गुप्ता ने स्वयंसेवी संगठन कट्स मानव विकास केन्द्र की ओर से विश्व बैंक के सहयोग से शुरू की गई मध्याह्न भोजन योजना पर व्यय का सहभागी आंकलन परियोजना की आयोजित सुधार बैठक के दौरान व्यक्त किए। कलक्टर ने कहा कि मिड डे मील योजना के तहत बच्चों को शिक्षा एवं पोषण की स्थिति में सुधार तथा शिक्षा की ओर आकर्षित करने के लिए

यलाई जा रही मिड डे मील योजना के तहत ताजा पका हुआ एवं विविध प्रकार का हॉटकर भोजन दिया जा रहा है जिससे गरीब बच्चों को अच्छा पोषण मिल रहा है एवं बच्चे शिक्षा के प्रति आकर्षित हो रहे हैं। उन्होंने कट्स द्वारा प्रस्तावित मध्याह्न भोजन योजना के सर्वे के संदर्भ में चर्चा करते हुए कहा कि इस आंकलन के माध्यम से जो सूचनाएं एवं सुझाव प्राप्त होंगे उससे इस योजना को और अधिक प्रभावी बनाने में मदद मिलेगी। अतिरिक्त मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी जिला परिषद सुनिल कुमार झा ने जिले में चल रही मिड डे मील योजना के क्रियान्वयन के संबंध में जानकारी दी। उन्होंने कहा कि जहां पर अभावकों एवं संस्था प्रधानों का जनप्रतिनिधियों तथा

स्थानीय लोगों के साथ अच्छा सम्बन्ध है। वहां इस योजना का क्रियान्वयन बहुत अच्छे ढंग से हो रहा है। जिला शिक्षा अधिकारी नर्बदा भांगी ने कहा कि जैसे ते जिले में इस योजना का क्रियान्वयन अच्छी प्रकार हो रहा है एवं बच्चों को शिक्षा एवं पोषण की दृष्टि से अच्छा लाभ मिल रहा है। इस योजना के माध्यम से बच्चों के स्वास्थ्य शिक्षा एवं पोषण के अधिकार के क्षेत्र में अच्छा कार्य हो रहा है। इस अवसर पर विश्व बैंक के प्रतिनिधि जी.वी.आर. मूर्ति योजना के क्रियान्वयन में सामाजिक जवाबदेहि की आवश्यकता प्रतिपादित कि एवं उन्होंने सामाजिक जवाबदेहि को बढ़ाने के लिए अपना जमाने वाले विभिन्न माध्यम एवं तरीकों की जानकारी दी। कट्स के

सहायक निदेशक जार्ज चेरियन ने कहा कि किसी भी योजना के क्रियान्वयन में सामाजिक जवाबदेहिता को बढ़ाना कट्स के लिए एक प्राथमिक एवं महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दा है चूंकि मिड डे मील योजना एक बहुउद्देशीय लाभकारी योजना है।

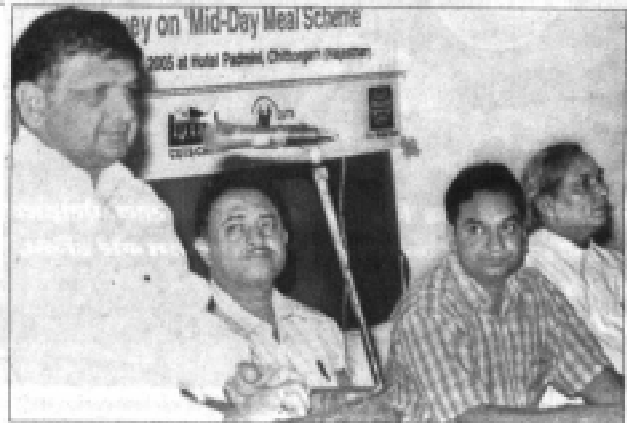
चित्तौड़गढ़ पंचायत समिति की प्रधान उद्येश्वरी मोपा ने कहा कि बच्चों को भोजन कराना पुष्प का काम है। उन्होंने जनप्रतिनिधियों को इस योजना में सक्रिय रूप से भागीदार बनने का आह्वान किया। सुधार बैठक के प्रारंभ में कट्स के समन्वयक धनसिंह रावत ने स्को का स्वागत करते हुए उद्देश्यों एवं अपेक्षाओं के बारे में जानकारी दी। कट्स के के.सी. शर्मा ने सर्वेक्षण परियोजना, इसके क्रियान्वयन एवं विभिन्न गतिविधियों से सहभागियों को अवगत कराया।

कट्स की बैठक

समय से बच्चों के स्वास्थ्य शिक्षा एवं पोषण के अधिकार के क्षेत्र में अच्छा कार्य हो रहा है। इस अवसर पर विश्व बैंक के प्रतिनिधि जी.वी.आर. मूर्ति योजना के क्रियान्वयन में सामाजिक जवाबदेहि की आवश्यकता प्रतिपादित कि एवं उन्होंने सामाजिक जवाबदेहि को बढ़ाने के लिए अपना जमाने वाले विभिन्न माध्यम एवं तरीकों की जानकारी दी। कट्स के

राजस्थान पत्रिका

अक्टूबर 22, 2005



मिड-डे मील योजना पर कट्स की ओर से आयोजित कार्यशाला को सम्बोधित करते हुए जिला कलक्टर आशुतोष गुप्त।

मिड डे मील सरकार की प्राथमिकताओं में से एक-गुप्त

न्यूज सर्विस

चित्तौड़गढ़, 21 अक्टूबर। जिला कलक्टर आशुतोष गुप्त ने कहा कि मिड डे मील सरकार की प्राथमिकताओं में से एक है। विद्यालयों में ताजा एवं पके हुए भोजन परोसने से बच्चों के नामांकन में भी वृद्धि हो रही है। जिले भर में मिड डे मील व्यवस्था का कुशल क्रियान्वयन हो रहा है। जिला कलक्टर गुप्त यहां पद्मिनी होटल में कट्स के तत्वावधान में मध्याह्न भोजन योजना पर व्यय का सहभागी आंकलन एवं सर्वेक्षण की आयोजित कार्यशाला में बोल रहे थे। उन्होंने कहा कि मिड डे मील में कई दानदाता, व्यापारिक प्रतिष्ठान और ट्रस्ट भी अब रुचि लेते हुए आगे

आ रहे हैं। अकेले सांवलिया मंदिर मण्डल ने पचपन स्कूलों में बच्चों को पका हुआ भोजन परोसने का जिम्मा अपने हाथ में लिया है। गुप्त ने कहा कि हिन्दुस्तान जिंक ने भी अपनी भागीदारी सुनिश्चित करते हुए पैसट लाख

रुप दे देने की पहल की है जिससे पच्चीस हजार बच्चों को ताजा भोजन शीघ्र ही उपलब्ध हो सकेगा। उन्होंने शिक्षकों को भावी पीढ़ी का कर्णधार बताते हुए उनमें स्वास्थ्य और शिक्षा को भी महत्वपूर्ण बताया। कार्यशाला में प्रधान रामेश्वरी

मोपा ने भी विचार व्यक्त किए। कार्यशाला को जिला शिक्षा अधिकारी प्रारंभिक नर्बदा भांगी, विश्व बैंक के प्रतिनिधि जे.वी.आर. मूर्ति, कट्स के सहायक निदेशक जार्ज चेरियन ने भी संबोधित किया। संचालन धनसिंह रावत ने किया। कार्यशाला में जिले भर के बी.ई.ई.ओ., समाजसेवक, कट्स के प्रतिनिधि के.सी. शर्मा, मदनगिरी गोस्वामी मौजूद थे।

दैनिक नवज्योति

अक्टूबर 22, 2005

दैनिक भास्कर, फरवरी 4, 2006

आमुखीकरण कार्यशाला

चित्तौड़गढ़, 3 फरवरी • कासं। स्वयं सेवी संस्था कट्स की ओर से मिड डे मील स्कीम की स्थित के आंकलन के लिए सर्वेकर्ताओं की एक दिवसीय आमुखीकरण कार्यशाला हुई।

समन्वयक धनसिंह रावत व सर्वेक्षण प्रभारी मदनगिरी गोस्वामी के अनुसार जिले की चौदह पंचायत समितियों के चुनिंद 211 विद्यालयों के सेपसिंग के तौर पर 2110 बच्चों, 2110 अभिभावकों, 422 मिड डे मील प्रभारी अध्यापकों व 211 पोषाहार तैयार करने वाले रसोईयों सहित 4853 लोगों से सहायकार कर पोषाहार योजना के बेहतर संचालन विचार लेकर रिपोर्ट राज्य सरकार को प्रेषित की जाएगी।

कट्स के मिड डे मील योजना प्रभारी के.सी. शर्मा व सहायक प्रभारी दुधेश्वर ने सहभागियों का पोषाहार योजना व सर्वेक्षण के बारे में जानकारी दी।

दैनिक भास्कर मई 12, 2006

मिड डे मील में दाल-बाटी पसंद है बच्चों को

चित्तौड़गढ़, 11 मई / कास। एक स्वयंसेवी संस्था के सर्वे के अनुसार सरकारी स्कूलों में मध्याह्न भोजन करने वाले बच्चों को सबसे ज्यादा दाल-बाटी पसंद है। करीब 72 प्रतिशत अभिभावक भी इस योजना को बच्चों के शैक्षणिक स्तर और स्वास्थ्य के लिए अच्छा मानते हैं।

स्वयंसेवी संगठन कट्स की ओर से विश्व बैंक के सहयोग से क्रियान्वित मिड डे मील योजना पर सहभागी आंकलन और सर्वेक्षण परियोजना के निष्कर्ष पर गुरुवार को कलेक्टर के आয়োजित परिचर्चा में कट्स प्रतिनिधि के.सी. शर्मा और दूधेश्वरकुमार ने ये तथ्य प्रस्तुत किए। इनकी रिपोर्ट के अनुसार 92 से 95 प्रतिशत बच्चे स्कूल में ही मध्याह्न भोजन करने लगे हैं। वे इसमें दाल

बाटी को बहुत पसंद करते हैं। 67 प्रतिशत अभिभावकों का जहर यह मानना है कि इस योजना की जिम्मेदारी उनके ऊपर होने से शैक्षणिक कार्य प्रभावित होता है।

इस परिचर्चा को मुख्य अतिथि के रूप में संबोधित करते हुए एसपी टी.सी. डामोर ने कहा कि मध्याह्न भोजन योजना से स्कूलों में नामांकन बढ़ने के साथ ही बच्चों का शैक्षणिक स्तर भी बढ़ता है। इससे बच्चों के स्वास्थ्य एवं पोषण की स्थिति में भी सुधार सामने आया है।

अतिरिक्त कलेक्टर प्रशासन

राजेन्द्रसिंह शेखावत ने कहा कि जिले में संचालित मध्याह्न भोजन योजना का प्रभावी ढंग से क्रियान्वयन हो रहा है, लेकिन इसमें जनभागीदारी बढ़नी चाहिए। कट्स के एसेसिएट डाइरेक्टर जार्ज चेरियन ने कहा कि राज्य में यह योजना कलेक्टर के तहत से संचालित हो रही है। सर्वेक्षण एवं आंकलन का उद्देश्य यह जानना

है कि कहाँ और सुधार की गुंजाइश है। जिला परिषद के अतिरिक्त मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी सुनीलकुमार झा ने योजना के तहत राशि एवं खानगी अर्बन के साथ योजना की मानिट्रिंग संबंधी व्यवस्था की जानकारी दी।

जिला प्रारंभिक शिक्षा अधिकारी नरेंद्रा भांबी ने कहा कि योजना का प्रभावी रूप से पर्यवेक्षण किया जा रहा है। इस योजना में और अच्छी गुणवत्ता के लिए जिले में कुछ स्थानों पर हाइटेक किचन, रसोई घर निर्माण एवं स्वयंसेवी संस्थाओं की भागीदारी बढ़ाने के प्रयास जारी हैं। राशमी प्रधान शिवशंकर दाधीच, छोटीसादड़ी प्रधान मनोहरलाल आंजना समेत कई लोगों ने विचार रखे। कट्स सम्मन्धक धनसिंह रावता ने स्वागत करते हुए बताया कि मध्याह्न भोजन योजना पर व्यय का सहभागी आंकलन के सर्वेक्षण के तहत 211 गाँवों एवं विद्यालयों से तथा 2110 अभिभावकों, 422 अभिभावकों, 211 मध्याह्न भोजन के रसोइयों एवं 2110 बच्चों से जानकारी ली गई।

स्वयंसेवी संस्था के सर्वे का निष्कर्ष

राजस्थान पत्रिका, मई 12, 2006



चित्तौड़गढ़ के जिला प्राथमिक शिक्षा अभिकरण सभागार में गुरुवार को कट्स की ओर से आयोजित कार्यशाला में मौजूद अधिकारी।

जागरुकता से सफल होगी योजनाएं

चित्तौड़गढ़, 11 मई (पर्स।)। मध्याह्न भोजन योजना बहुत ही उपयोगी एवं महत्वपूर्ण योजना है। यह बच्चों में शैक्षणिक स्तर को बढ़ाने, नामांकन में वृद्धि एवं बच्चों के स्वास्थ्य एवं पोषण की स्थिति में सुधार के लिए उपयुक्त है।

यह योजना और अधिक प्रभावी बन सके इसके लिए लोगों की जागरुकता आवश्यक है। लोगों की जागरुकता से ही सकारात्मक योजनाएं सफल होती हैं। यह विचार जिला पुलिस अधीक्षक टी.सी. डामोर ने स्वयं सेवी संगठन 'कट्स' की ओर से विश्व बैंक के सहयोग से क्रियान्वित मध्याह्न भोजन योजना पर व्यय का सहभागी आंकलन एवं सर्वेक्षण परियोजना के निष्कर्ष पर गुरुवार को डी.आर.डी.ए हाल में आयोजित परिचर्चा

में व्यक्त किए।

अतिरिक्त कलेक्टर राजेन्द्रसिंह शेखावत ने कहा कि कट्स की ओर से किया गया सर्वेक्षण दर्शाता है कि जिले में संचालित मध्याह्न भोजन योजना का प्रभावी ढंग से क्रियान्वयन हो रहा है। यह एक सन्तोष का विषय है लेकिन मध्याह्न भोजन में जनभागीदारी को बढ़ाकर इसकी गुणवत्ता को और बढ़ाया जा सकता है। परिचर्चा में कट्स के डाइरेक्टर जार्ज चेरियन ने कहा कि निश्चित रूप से मध्याह्न भोजन योजना एक महत्वपूर्ण एवं बहुउपयोगी योजना है चूंकि यह न केवल भूखमरी एवं कुपोषण को कम करती है बल्कि यह बच्चों के शैक्षणिक स्तर को बढ़ाने, बच्चों के नामांकन में वृद्धि तथा उनके विद्यालयों में तहराव सुनिश्चित

करने में भी काफी मददगार है।

परिचर्चा के दौरान अतिरिक्त मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी जिला परिषद सुनील कुमार झा ने योजना के तहत राशि एवं ग्रामों के आंकलन एवं योजना की मनेटरिंग सम्बन्धित व्यवस्था की जानकारी दी।

हाई टेक किचन का निर्माण रसोई घर निर्माण एवं स्वयंसेवी संगठनों तथा स्थानीय लोगों की भागीदारी बढ़ाने के प्रयास किए जा रहे हैं। राशमी प्रधान शिवशंकर दाधीच छोटीसादड़ी प्रधान मनोहरलाल आंजना सहित कई जन प्रतिनिधियों, ब्लॉक शिक्षा अधिकारियों, अभिभावकों, सामाजिक कार्यकर्ताओं ने भी अपने विचार व्यक्त किए। सम्मन्धक धनसिंह ने सभी का स्वागत किया।

State Level Dissemination Meeting June 8, 2006



Dainik Navjyoti, June 9, 2006

नब्बे फीसदी को भाता है मिड-डे मील

नगर प्रतिनिधि

जयपुर, 8 जून - सरकारी व गैर सरकारी प्राथमिक विद्यालयों में चलाई जा रही दोपहर भोजन योजना को 90 प्रतिशत से भी अधिक लोग पसंद करते हैं और इसमें मिलने वाले भोजन की गुणवत्ता भी औसतन अच्छी है।

बच्चों के स्वास्थ्य एवं शिक्षा पर भी इसका सकारात्मक प्रभाव रहा है। पर बच्चों के नामांकन में अपेक्षित वृद्धि नहीं हुई है, खासकर बालिकाओं के मामले में। जो खाद्यान्न भारत सरकार द्वारा उपलब्ध कराया जाता है, उसका राज्य सरकार द्वारा गत तीन वर्षों में उठाव औसतन 67 प्रतिशत रहा है। ये तथ्य कट्स संस्था द्वारा चित्तौड़गढ़ जिले में संचालित दोपहर भोजन योजना पर किए गए सर्वेक्षण एवं व्यय के आकलन से उभर कर सामने आए हैं, जिन्हें कट्स सेंटर

फॉर कन्ज्यूमर एक्शन, रिसर्च एण्ड ट्रेनिंग द्वारा विकास अध्ययन संस्थान, झालाना डूंगरी के सभागार में आयोजित राज्य स्तरीय परिचर्चा में प्रस्तुत किए

बच्चों के स्कूल छोड़ने में कमी हुई है साथ ही उनके स्वास्थ्य पर भी अच्छा प्रभाव पड़ा है। वहीं विधायक एवं जनसेवा समिति के अध्यक्ष



गए। परिचर्चा को सम्बोधित करते हुए विधायक डॉ. नाथूसिंह गुजर ने कहा कि दोपहर भोजन योजना से

डॉ. सी.पी. जोशी ने बताया कि योजना के क्रियान्वयन में जवाबदेहीता सुनिश्चित किया जाना आवश्यक है।

उन्होंने सहभागिता का कार्य पंचायती राज संस्थाओं को सौंपने की वकालत की। कार्यक्रम की अध्यक्षता करते हुए महालेखाकार राजस्थान जयपुर सुश्री सरोज पुनहानी ने बताया कि महालेखाकार कार्यालय द्वारा भी समय-समय पर दोपहर भोजन की समीक्षा की जाती है तथा तथ्यों दस्तावेज बनाकर उन्हें सरकार को भेजे जाते हैं। संभागीय आयुक्त राजेन्द्र भानावत ने कहा कि दोपहर भोजन योजना में छात्रों की गलत उपस्थिति बताकर राशि का दुरुपयोग किया जा रहा है। परिचर्चा में विश्व बैंक के प्रतिनिधि जे.वी.आर. मूर्ति ने योजना के आकलन एवं सर्वेक्षण से प्राप्त तथ्यों पर विस्तृत प्रकाश डाला। इसके अलावा चर्चा में विश्व बैंक के विनोद सहगल, संस्थान के डॉ. एस. एस. आचार्य, सह निदेशक जॉर्ज चेरियन ने भी अपने विचार रखे।

Rajasthan Statement, June 9, 2006

दोपहर भोजन योजना का सकारात्मक प्रभाव

(स्टेटमेंट संवाददाता)

खयपुर, 9 जून। सरकारी व गैरसरकारी प्राथमिक विद्यालयों में चलाई जा रही दोपहर भोजन योजना को 90 प्रतिशत से भी अधिक लोग पसन्द करते हैं और इसके तहत मिलने वाले भोजन की गुणवत्ता भी औसतन अच्छी है। बच्चों के स्वास्थ्य व शिक्षा पर भी इसका सकारात्मक प्रभाव रहा है, लेकिन बच्चों के नामांकन में अपेक्षित वृद्धि नहीं हुई है। ये तथ्य कट्स संस्था की ओर से चित्तौड़गढ़ जिले में संचालित दोपहर भोजन योजना पर किए गए सर्वेक्षण व

व्यय के आंकलन से उभर कर आए हैं, जिन्हें कट्स सेंटर फॉर कन्स्यूमर एक्शन, रिसर्च एण्ड ट्रेनिंग (कट्स-कार्ट) की ओर से विकास अध्ययन संस्थान, झालाना डूंगरी के सभागार में आयोजित राज्य स्तरीय परिचर्चा में प्रस्तुत किए गए।

इस अवसर पर भाजपा विधायक डॉ. नाथसिंह गुर्जर ने अपने विचार व्यक्त करते हुए कहा कि दोपहर भोजन योजना से बच्चों के स्कूल छोड़ने की दर में कमी हुई है और उनके स्वास्थ्य पर भी इसका अच्छा प्रभाव पड़ा है। उन्होंने कहा कि

योजना के क्रियान्वयन में कुछ कमियां हैं, इसके लिए स्थानीय सभी स्कूलों में योजना की मॉनिटरिंग के लिए कमेटीयां बनाई जानी चाहिए। परिचर्चा को संबोधित करते हुए कांग्रेस विधायक व जनलेखा समिति के अध्यक्ष डॉ. सी.पी. जोशी ने कहा कि योजना के क्रियान्वयन में जवाबदेहिता सुनिश्चित किया जाना आवश्यक है।

कार्यक्रम की अध्यक्षता करते हुए महालेखाकार राजस्थान सरोज पुरहानी ने अपने संबोधन में कहा कि महालेखाकार कार्यालय भी समय-समय

पर दोपहर भोजन योजना की समीक्षा करता है और तथ्यों का दस्तावेजीकरण करके उन्हें सरकार के पास भिजवाता है। संभागीय आयुक्त राजेन्द्र भानावत ने योजना के विभिन्न पहलुओं पर प्रकाश डालते हुए कहा कि जो आंकलन किया जाता है, उसकी सार्थकता तभी है जब संबंधित योजना में सुधार किया जाए।

परिचर्चा के प्रारम्भ में अपने स्वागत भाषण में कट्स के सहनिदेशक जॉर्ज चेरियन ने दोपहर भोजन योजना के उद्देश्यों व अन्य पहलुओं पर विस्तृत प्रकाश डाला।

Hindustan Times, June 9, 2006

Mid-day meal scheme proves beneficial: Survey report

HT Live Correspondent

MID-DAY meal scheme running in the government and aided primary schools is being liked by more than ninety percent students. The quality of the meal is also above average. It has shown the positive impact on the education and health of the students. Though the mid day scheme has not increased the particular girl child in schools as expected.

These facts were presented in state level dissemination meeting organized by CUTS-Center for Consumer Action, research & training (CUTS-CART) in association with World Bank at Institute of Development Studies on Thursday. These facts have emerged out of the survey and expenditure tracking conducted by CUTS organization in Chittorgarh district.

During last three years lifting of the food grain by the state government was sixty seven percent on an average against the sanctioned food grains by Government of India. The

unutilized fund remaining with the districts is increasing year over year, pointed out the survey.

Addressing the met, MLA Nathu Singh Gujar said that due to Mid Day Meal Scheme dropout rate has reduced, the scheme has also shown the positive impact on health of students. Though, there are some lacunas in the scheme that can be addressed only by ensuring people awareness and public participation.

MLA and the President, Public Accounts Committee, C.P Joshi emphasized over the need to fix accountability, he suggested for improving the traditional accounting system and also includes the need of social audit, Joshi also stressed upon that government should decentralize the whole system to the Panchayati Raj Institutions.

Presiding over the meeting, the Accountant General (Audit), Rajasthan, Jaipur Suroj Punhani said that the Audit Department is also involve in time-to-time review of the MDM

scheme and the report forwarded to the state. She assured that the accounting system would be improved by incorporating social audit. She emphasized over the need of creating awareness among the people about the accounting system.

Divisional Commissioner, Rajendra Bhanawat stressed that the utility of the evaluation is significant only when it is act upon. He also pointed out the fact that funds are being misused by infringing the attendance of the students, and the quality of education has not improved upto the expected level.

S.S Acharya, IDS, pointed out the fact that involvement of teachers in the MDM activities hampering the teaching work, which affect the quality of education.

George Cheriyan, Associate Director of CUTS-CART, Jaipur, briefed the objective and other important aspects of the scheme and about the social accountability tool of the survey.

Rajasthan Patrika, June 9, 2006

जनसहभागिता से जोड़ें मिड डे मील योजना

विधायक एवं प्रदेश जन सेवा समिति के अध्यक्ष डॉ. सी.पी. जोशी ने कहा कि ग्रामीण विद्यालयों में चलाई जा रही मिड डे मील योजना को गुणवत्तापूर्ण बनाने के लिए इसे जन सहभागिता से जोड़ना होगा। डॉ. जोशी गुरुवार को कट्स सेंटर फॉर कंज्यूमर एक्शन, रिसर्च एंड ट्रेनिंग (कट्स-कॉर्नर) की ओर से विकास अध्ययन संस्थान में आयोजित राज्य स्तरीय परिचर्चा को संबोधित कर रहे थे। कट्स संस्थान ने विश्व बैंक के एक प्रोजेक्ट के तहत चित्तौड़गढ़ जिले में मिड डे मील योजना का सर्वेक्षण किया। सर्वे पर बहस के लिए आयोजित परिचर्चा में विशिष्ट अतिथि विधायक नारायण गुर्जर, महालेखाकार (लेखा परीक्षा) सरोज पुनहानी, संघीय आयुक्त राजेन्द्र भानवत, विश्व बैंक के प्रतिनिधि जे.बी.आर.मूर्ति, विकास अध्ययन संस्थान के डॉ. एस.एस. आचार्य, कट्स के सहनिदेशक जार्ज बेरियन आदि ने विचार रखे।

Dainik Bhaskar, June 9, 2006

■ परिचर्चा : झारखण्डा दंगरी के सभापति ने गुरुवार को आयोजित राज्यस्तरीय परिचर्चा में कट्स (सेंटर फॉर कंज्यूमर एक्शन रिसर्च एंड ट्रेनिंग) संस्थान ने ऐसे तथ्य प्रस्तुत किए जो बताते हैं कि विद्यालयों में चलाई जा रही मिड डे मील योजना को नब्बे फीसदी लोग पसंद करते हैं। इन तथ्यों को उन्होंने चित्तौड़गढ़ जिले में संचालित मिड डे मील योजना पर किए सर्वेक्षण में पाया। कार्यक्रम में विधायक डॉ.नारायण गुर्जर, जनसेवा समिति के अध्यक्ष डॉ. सी.पी. जोशी, महालेखाकार (लेखा परीक्षा) सरोज पुनहानी, संघीय आयुक्त राजेन्द्र भानवत, विश्व बैंक के प्रतिनिधि जे.बी.आर.मूर्ति, विकास अध्ययन संस्थान के डॉ. एस.एस. आचार्य, कट्स के सहनिदेशक जार्ज बेरियन आदि ने विचार रखे।

राजस्थान पत्रिका, जून 15, 2006

मिड डे मील अच्छा पर नामांकन नहीं बढ़ा

कट्स का सर्वे

चित्तौड़गढ़, 14 जून [प्रेस]। 'सरकारी व नैर सरकारी प्राथमिक विद्यालयों में चलाई जा रही मिड डे मील योजना को 90 प्रतिशत से भी अधिक लोग पसंद करते हैं। इसके तहत मिलने वाले भोजन की गुणवत्ता भी औसतन अच्छी है। बच्चों के स्वास्थ्य व शिक्षा पर भी इसका सकारात्मक प्रभाव रहा है, पर बच्चों के नामांकन में अपेक्षित वृद्धि नहीं हुई है। खासकर बालिकाओं के मामले में। सर्वे में यह बात भी सामने आई कि जो छात्राएं भारत सरकार द्वारा उपलब्ध कराया जाता है, उसका राज्य सरकार द्वारा गत तीन वर्षों में उठाव औसतन 67 प्रतिशत रहा है। जो राशि भोजन पकाने के लिए उपलब्ध कराई जा रही है, उसमें भी वर्ष 2001-02 से

2004-05 की अवधि में लगभग 21 से 71 प्रतिशत तक राशि अनुपलब्धी रही है। ये तथ्य 'कट्स' द्वारा चित्तौड़गढ़ जिले में संचालित मिड डे मील योजना पर किए गए सर्वेक्षण एवं व्यय के आंकड़ों से उभर कर सामने हैं। इसे कट्स की ओर से जयपुर स्थित विकास अध्ययन संस्थान, झारखण्डा दंगरी के सभापति में आयोजित राज्य स्तरीय परिचर्चा में प्रस्तुत किए। उक्त अवसर पर राजस्थान विधानसभा सदस्य डॉ.नारायण गुर्जर ने अपने विचार व्यक्त करते हुए बताया कि दोपहर भोजन योजना में बच्चों के स्कूल छोड़ने की दर में कमी हुई है साथ ही उनके स्वास्थ्य पर भी अच्छा प्रभाव पड़ा है। यद्यपि योजना के क्रियान्वयन में कुछ खामियां हैं, इसके लिए स्थानीय सभी स्कूलों में योजना की मॉनिटरिंग के लिए कमेटी बनाई जानी चाहिए। साथ ही यह

भी सुझाव दिया कि इसके सुगम संचालन के लिए "अल्प पत्र" जैसी अन्य नैर सरकारी एजेंसियों को भी शामिल किया जाना चाहिए। परिचर्चा को सम्बोधित करते हुए राजस्थान विधानसभा सदस्य एवं जनसेवा समिति के अध्यक्ष डॉ.सी.पी.जोशी ने कहा कि योजना के क्रियान्वयन में जवाबदेहिता सुनिश्चित किया जाना आवश्यक है। लेखा पद्धति की पुर्नवी परम्पराओं से हटकर सामाजिक ऑडिट को इसमें शामिल किया जाना चाहिए। उन्होंने इस बात पर जोर दिया कि सहभागिता का कार्य सरकार ने स्वयं अपने हाथ में ले लिया है, इसे संघीय राज्य संस्थाओं को सौंपा जाना चाहिए। कार्यक्रम की अध्यक्षता महालेखाकार (लेखा परीक्षा) सुश्री सरोज पुनहानी ने की। इस मौके पर विधायक नारायण गुर्जर, डॉ. सी.पी.

जोशी, संघीय आयुक्त राजेन्द्र भानवत, विश्व बैंक के प्रतिनिधि जे.बी.आर.मूर्ति ने भी संबोधित किया। मिड डे मील योजना की महत्ता पर नर्वेड भाष्यी, निरुद्ध शिक्षा अधिकारी ने बताया कि योजना के क्रियान्वयन में जनभागीदारी को भी बढ़ाया जा रहा है।

कार्यक्रम में चित्तौड़गढ़ से हरिहरचन्द्र गौड़, ब्लॉक शिक्षा अधिकारी चित्तौड़गढ़, ताराचंद रम्य, ब्लॉक शिक्षा अधिकारी गंगार, कमलेशचन्द्रावत योगी अतिरिक्त ब्लॉक शिक्षा अधिकारी कपासन, रामलाल बजाज अध्यक्ष, राजकीय उच्च प्राथमिक विद्यालय रवतिपा एवं महेसा भारतार संचालक उधोयता सूचना एवं परामर्श केन्द्र पोयालसर सहित 55 लोगों ने भाग लिया। परिचर्चा का संचालन 'कट्स' के आर.के.शर्मा ने किया।

The Hindu, June 15, 2006

Mid-day meal scheme a success story in Rajasthan

Enrolment of children at the elementary level has improved, says new study

Special Correspondent

JAIPUR: The much-talked about mid-day meals scheme introduced in Rajasthan in the Government and Government-aided primary schools has had an affirmative effect on enrolment of children, particularly of the girl child, at the elementary level. It has helped improve the quality of education as well as the health of students, besides helping the families to tide over the problems of hunger and malnutrition, a new study has indicated.

A participatory expenditure tracking survey on the scheme in the district of Chittorgarh in Rajasthan, conducted by CUTS-Centre for Consumer Action, Research and Training (CUTS-CART) in association with the World Bank reported improvement of enrolment in 64 per cent of the schools and improvement in retention in 51 per cent

• Improvement in quality of education and health of students

• Drop-out rate also falls but marginally

• 92-95 per cent of the students have meals at schools

schools in past three years. The enrolment of girls registered an increase in 58 per cent of the schools surveyed while it was found that quality of education improved in 49 per cent of them.

The survey results were presented at a State-level dissemination meeting before experts, World Bank representatives, JVR Murty, Vinod Sahgal, MLAs, C.P. Joshi, Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee and Nathu Singh Gujjar, besides Rajendra Bhanawat, Divisional Commissioner, Jaipur, Saroj Punhani, Accountant General (Audit), Jaipur, Sarathi Acharya,

director of the Institute of Development Studies, Jaipur and former director S.S. Acharya.

Presenting the findings, the survey team leaders, K.C. Sharma and Dhudeshwar Kumar, however noted the decline in lifting of foodgrains by the State Government in the past three years. The off take of foodgrains was 67 per cent on an average during the period against the total grains sanctioned by the Centre. The unutilised fund (conversion cost) remaining with the districts had steadily increased from 27 per cent to 71 per cent during 2001-02 to

2004-05, they noted.

However, the dropout rate among children from Class I to Class VIII in the district in 2005-06 had been a little less at 37.12 per cent compared to 39.85 at the State level. Chittorgarh, on the other hand, had a wider gender gap at 11.56 per cent in the same category of children against 10.71 per cent at State level in 2005-06.

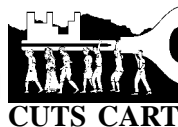
On the flip side again was the number of cooks employed for preparing the mid-day meals which stood at 7 and 6 per cent from Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes, respectively, though the Supreme Court had issued a directive asking to give preference of SC/ST cooks. A maximum, 64 per cent cooks, belonged to the backward communities while the forward castes accounted for 23 per cent.

The survey found the quality of food served in the schools to

the liking of the parents and the children. About 92-95 per cent of the students ate the mid-day meals at school and found it satisfying both qualitatively and in quantity.

The State had initially started the mid-day meals with "googri" or boiled wheat with either salt or jaggery. It started providing variety from April 2005 under the new guidelines of the Supreme Court. Under the guidelines, roti-subzi, roti-dal, puri-sabzi, mithe chawal, namkeen chawal, khichri, mitha daliya, namkeen daliya, lapsi and dal-chawal are in the menu.

Earlier the Centre was providing Re.1 per student as cooking conversion cost against 50 paise from the State Government. In the current session (2006-07), the Rajasthan Government has increased its contribution to Re.1.



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