

MID –DAY MEAL SCHEME IN KARNATAKA – A PROGRAMME FOR HUNGER FREE CLASSROOM

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ABSTRACT

Hunger and Malnutrition are the two major Problems in Indian Economy. India Ranks 97 out of 118 countries in Global Hunger Index. To eradicate the problem of Hunger and malnutrition among the school going children Mid-Day Meal Programme was introduced. History of Mid-Day Meal Programme lies in the pre-independence period. In the year 1925 for the first time, the mid-day meal programme was introduced in India. It became a nationwide programme after the Directions of Supreme Court of India. The main objective of the Mid-Day meal programme is to increase the enrolment of students in primary, higher primary and high school levels of education. Along with these objectives, the programme is concentrated to eradicate hunger and malnutrition among the students, especially among the school going children. In Karnataka Mid-Day meal Scheme was started in the year 2002 by the government and in the year 2013 government of Karnataka implemented Ksheera Bhagya Yojana to the students in which 150 ml of hot milk is given to all children thrice in a week. In recent years many of the NGOs Joined hands with the Government in providing a free cooked meal to the school going children. These are the welfare programme which is introduced to fight the hunger and malnutrition of the children and also to improve enrolment and quality of education.

KEYWORDS: Malnutrition, Hunger, Pre- independence, Mid-Day Meal & Ksheera Bhagya

INTRODUCTION

India with a population of 1.3 billion is experiencing tremendous growth in GDP, food grain production, industry and in many other fields for the last two decades. In this period the food grain production has increased by 2 times and the per capita consumption is increased by 3 times. However India produces sufficient food for its population, it is unable to provide access to food to a large number of people especially women and children.

According to FAO 190.7 million People that is 14. 5% of India's population is undernourished. 51.4% of women in reproductive age between 15 to 49 years are anaemic. Further according to this report, 38.4% of the children aged under five in India are stunted. India ranks 97 out of 118 countries in the world in Global Hunger Index 2016. To overcome this problem of hunger and Malnutrition especially among the school going children Mid-Day Meal programme was launched in India.

History of Mid – Day Meal Scheme in India

With the objective to enhance enrolment, attendance and reducing their classroom hunger and to improve the nutritional status of the then School going children Mid – Day Meal Scheme was started for the first time in India by Madras Corporation in 1925 as a School lunch programme. In the year 1974, the National Policy on Children Declared the children of the country were its supreme human resource. This policy stressed the state to ensure full physical and mental

development of children. As a result of this states like Gujarat, Kerala and Tamil Nadu and the Union Territory of Pondicherry had Universalised a cooked meal for children studying at the primary stages. In the later stage, the national programme for Nutritional support to Primary education commonly known as Mid-Day Meal Scheme was launched in India in August 1995.

On November 2001, in its interim order in Peoples Union for Civil liberties Versus Union of India and Ors a (writ Petition (Civil) No. 196 of 2001) the Apex court decreed that “State governments must implement the mid-day meal scheme by providing every child, in every school and government assisted primary schools with a minimum content of 300 calories and 8-12 grams of Protein each day of school for a minimum of 200 days. Those governments dry rations instead of cooked meals in all government and government-aided primary schools in half of the districts of the state (in order poverty) and must within a further period of three months (28th May 2002) extend the provision of the cooked meal to the remaining parts of the State.” This order by the Honourable Supreme court of India was one of the First Achievements of Right to Food Campaign. The order was followed by organized public pressure for the introduction of cooked mid-day meals in the primary schools. In April 2002, in response to this pressure and to the court orders, all state governments have initiated the Mid-Day Meal Programme which has been benefitted more than 100 million children. This Mid-Day Meal Scheme of India is so far the largest nutrition programme in the world.

History of Mid –Day Meal Scheme in Karnataka

Mid – Day Meal Scheme was started in Karnataka by the state government with the directions of Honourable Supreme Court of India. This programme started for the children of Class I to V started in North – Eastern Districts of Karnataka on 01-06-2002. Later the scheme was extended to other districts of Karnataka from July 2003. The programme further extended to the children studying Class I to V of Government aided schools from 01-09-2004. From 01-10-2004 Mid – Day Meal Programme was extended to all the children studying in Class I to VII. Now Government of Karnataka is providing hot cooked meals to the children studying in Class VIII to X of government and Government Aided Schools out of its own resources. Along with the cooked meal to the children 150 ml of hot milk is given to all children from 1st to 10th standard in Government and aided Schools of Karnataka Thrice a week (alternative days) under Ksheera Bhagya Yojana which was implemented on 1st August 2013. Along with Government, there are 71 NGOs Joined hands in the Mid-Day Meal Programme covering 14 Districts, 5587 Schools and 931130 Students

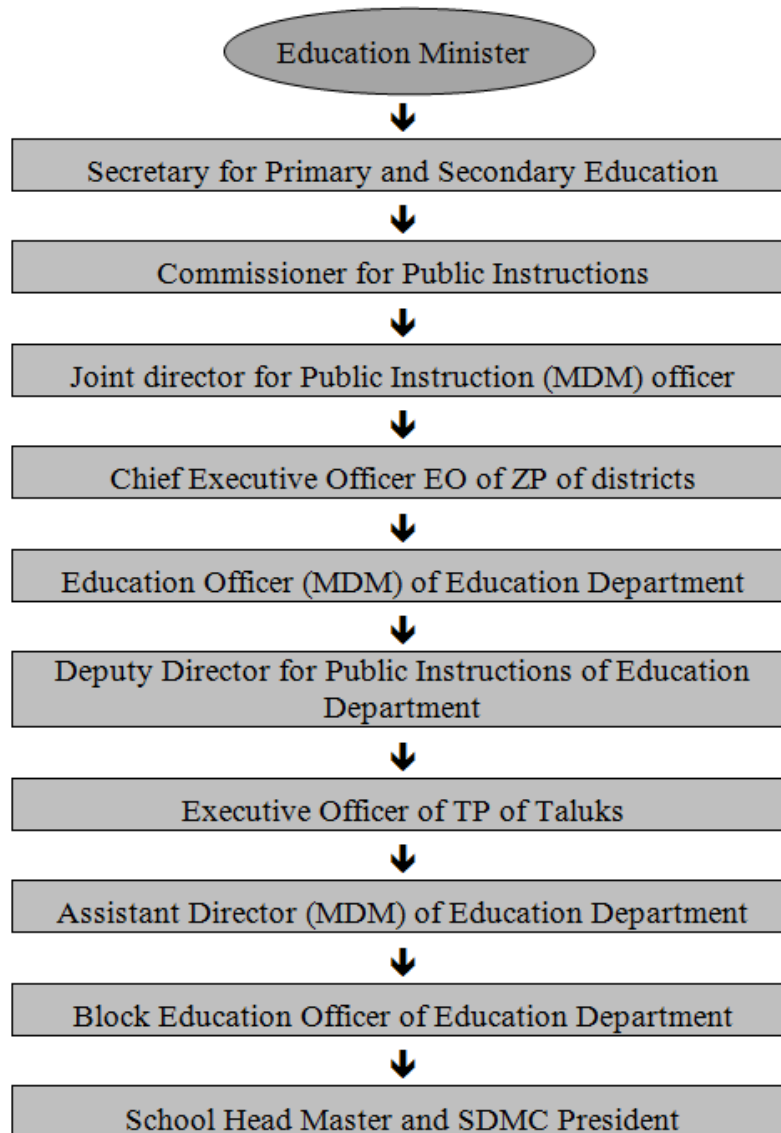
Objectives of Mid – Day Meal Scheme

The objectives of the Mid-Day Meal Scheme are as follows

- Improving the nutritional status of children in class I to VIII in Government, Local Body and government Aided Schools and EGS and AIE Centres.
- Encouraging Poor Children, belonging to disadvantaged sections, to attend school more regularly and help them concentrate on classroom activities.
- Providing nutritional support to children of Primary stage in drought affected areas during summer vacation.
- Improve learning levels of children.
- Ensure Social Equity.

Management Structure of Mid – Day Meal Scheme in Karnataka

For the smooth functioning of the Mid-Day Meal Scheme, a hierarchical management structure has been developed starting from state administration to the School and Gram Panchayat Level. Thus the scheme of operation holds the following administration levels in the state. The following chart shows the operation of the Mid-Day Meal Scheme Administration in the State.



At the state Level Commissioner of Public Instruction has the responsibility to implement the programme and the Joint Director of MDMS is the Nodal officer for the Programme. District Level Implementation Committee under the chairmanship of District Collector/ Chief Executive Officer of Zilla Panchayat shoulders the Responsibility of programme implementation and the supervision. The DDPIs (Admin) have to assist and coordinate at the district level implementation of MDM Programme.

At Taluk level there is a steering and monitoring committee under the chairmanship of Assistant Commissioner of Sub–division/ Executive Officer of Taluk Panchayat and they are looking after the complete responsibility of the programme implementation and supervision. At the School Level, the head cook and SDMC president are shouldering the

responsibility of Mid-Day Meal at School Level. Mother's Committee has also been Constituted as per the directions of the central government.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

Table 1: Table Showing the Number of Schools Covered Under Mid – Day Meal Scheme (As on 2016-17)

Levels of School	Government	Aided	Total
Primary	2148	248	21726
Higher Primary	22327	2781	25108
High Schools	4581	3813	8394
Madrasas	50	0	50
NCLP	29	0	29
Total	48465	6842	55307

Source: www.schooleducation.kar.nic.in

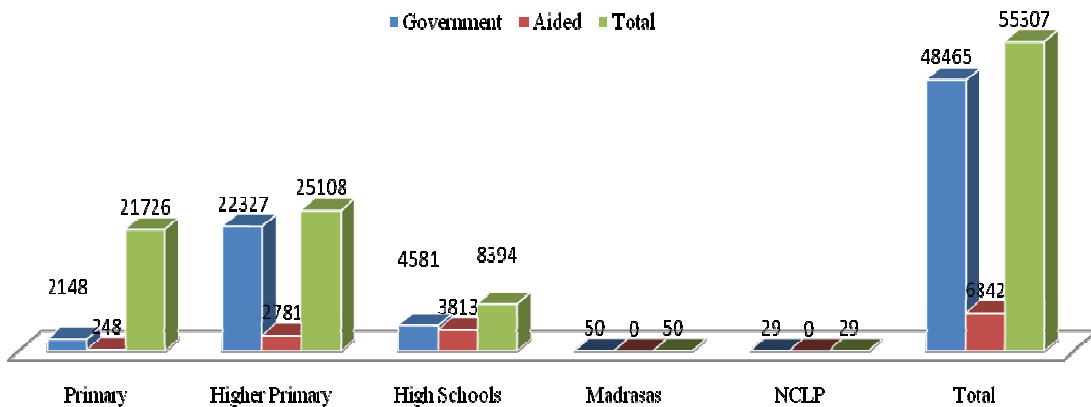


Figure 1: Number of Schools Covered Under Mid – Day Meal Scheme (As on 2016-17)

Table 1 Shows the School covered Under the Mid-Day Meal Scheme in Karnataka. The Table Indicates that the Share of Government Schools is 87.63% and the remaining 12.37% is covered by Government aided Schools. It means that a large number of Government Schools are getting the benefit of mid-Day Meal Programme in Karnataka.

Figure 1 Shows the Number of Schools covered under Mid-Day Meal Scheme in Karnataka as on 2016 – 17. In the figure, it is clear that most number of Government Schools that is 48465 Government Schools is covered under the Mid-Day Meal Scheme in Karnataka. And Higher Primary Schools are having the maximum share among the different levels of Schooling.

Table 2: Table Showing Number of Beneficiary Students Covered (As on 2016-17)

Class	Sanctioned (in Lakhs)	Enrolment (in Lakhs)	Average Beneficiaries (in Lakhs)	Percentage of Beneficiaries Against Enrolment
1 – 5	29.09	30.94	28.08	90.76%
6 – 8	17.57	18.45	16.70	90.51%
9 – 10	11.00	11.85	10.30	86.92%
Total	57.00	61.24	55.08	89.94%

Source : www.schooleducation.kar.nic.in

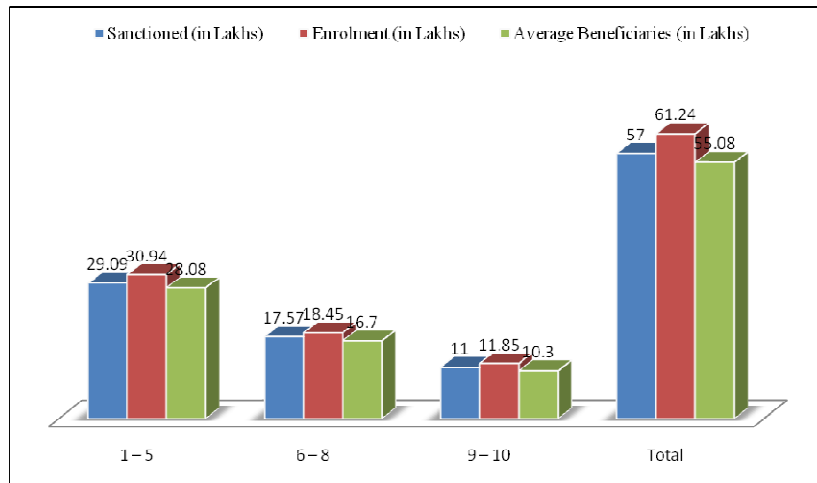


Figure 2: Number of Beneficiary Students Covered (As on 2016-17) (In Numbers)

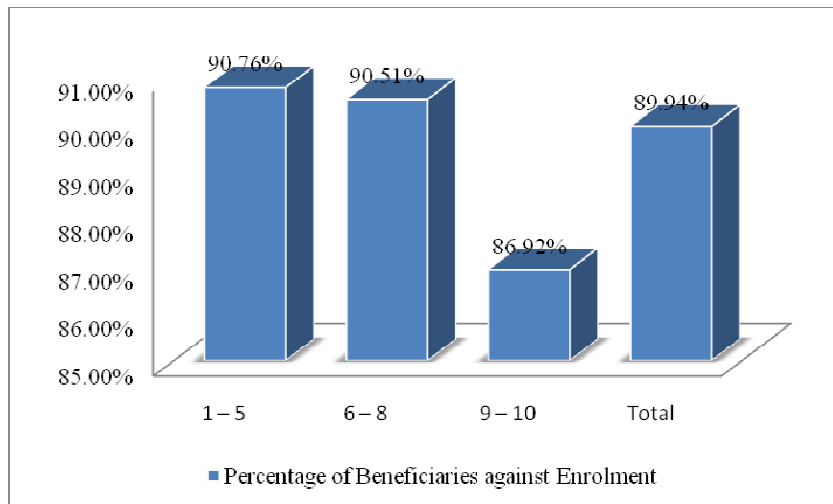


Figure 3: Number of Beneficiary Students Covered(As on 2016-17) (In Percentage)

Table 2 shows the Number of Beneficiary students Covered with Mid-Day Meal Scheme in Karnataka In the year 2016-17. The table indicates that 55.08 lakh students out of 61.24 lakh the enrolled students to the school education are benefitted with the Midday Meal Programme. That is 89.94% of the total students in Karnataka are getting Benefitted with the Mid Day Meal Programme. The students of Class 1-5 are the highest in number in terms of Benefits with coverage of 28.08 lakh students out of 30.94 lakh enrolled students. This is depicted in Figure 2 and Figure 3

FINDINGS & SUGGESTION

- Government Schools are the highest Beneficiaries of the Mid-Day Meal Programme in Karnataka.
- Higher Primary Schools are covered in large number when it compares to the Primary and High School Levels.
- Un-Aided Schools are not covered under the Mid-Day Meal Programme.
- Enrolment of the students to the different Levels of Education is high when it compared with the sanctioned enrolment.
- Only 50 Madrasas are covered under the Mid-Day Meal Programme

Suggestions

- Mid-Day Meal programme Should Cover the Un-Aided Schools also
- Mid-Day Meal Programme should extend to the Pre University Level especially to those which are in rural areas.
- Mid-Day Meal Should extend even to the graduate level at a minimum price covering especially the rural areas

CONCLUSIONS

Mid-Day Meal programme is one of the welfare programmes for children. This programme was introduced to remove the hunger among the school going children and helping them to concentrate on education. Along with the eradication of hunger, this programme is also providing nutrition to the children through nutritious food. With the implementation of the mid-Day Meal Programme enrolment of the students increased especially in the rural areas. This programme eradicates the two major problems in the economy that is hunger and Malnutrition. NGOs Should Join Hands with the government for the further extension of the programme and to achieve the goal of Hunger-free Class Room at all Levels of Education.

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