

Chapter V

Mid Day Meal in Jalpaiguri

Municipality

&

Rajganj Block

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5.1 Introduction

Discrimination in social and economic progress in any civilised society could be cracked by education. Education helps to develop functional & analytical ability for individuals'. Involvement in education does not only increase efficiency, it also helps to lead quality and societal, individual life. Elementary education is the base of our education system. During this elementary period, students are encouraged to think independently and to develop basic values of social life. To achieve this, Government of India made a constitutional right to provide free and compulsory education to all children until the age of 14 in the year 1950. This policy was strengthened by the direct involvement of the Central Govt. through Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) in the year 2001. The Midday Meal scheme is one of the major strategies to strengthen. In a nation-building process, education plays a pivotal role and it is the first and foremost duty of the Govt. to provide education with food security. Poverty is an external determinate which relate to economic and social deprivations. Social deprivation is solely depended on lower income, insecurity and discrimination in society. Due to these above factors, children from lower income group are not able to enrol themselves in the schools. Poverty remains a great challenge to India, and poor lifestyle, malnutrition, food insecurity and lower rank in HRD are the outcomes of poverty. Approximately, 19.8 million children below age 6 are undernourished (ICDS 2015) and only 9.6 percent of children between 6-23 months in India receive adequate diet (NFHS 4, 2015-16). Out of total children in India, 36 percent of children under 5 years age are underweight in the country. Apart from this, only 32 percent of children finish their school education, and only 2 percent of the schools offer complete school education from class 1 to class 12 (DISE 2014-15). Children are the most valuable asset to the nation, as the nation gets economic benefits from their future activities. According to census India (2011), the total population of India is about 1.2 billion and out of 31.1 percent of the group falls between the age group 0-14 years. The factors as mentioned earlier directly linked with the poverty. Government Of India has been taken several projects for improving literacy rate. The MDM programme was launched to provide full plate launch to hunger child who cannot concentrate their studies with an empty

stomach. This programme was introduced to overcome hunger of the child, especially who belongs to the poor socio-economic background. Govt. Of India is continuing to attract the children to school by providing food security to the children. It was also observed that parents are also sending their children to the schools as it fulfilled the basic needs of hunger and education simultaneously. The world's biggest school launch programme, MDM promises to provide daily nutrient requirement in the form of cooked meal in the school premises, However, there are many countries who introduced school meal programme according to their needs like the United Kingdom (1945), United States of America (1946), Japan (1947), China(1964), Thailand(1970), Indonesia(1967), Korea (1973).

Midday meal programme is a public welfare programme, and it was first introduced in the Madras Corporation area in the year 1925. The Madras Corporation started distributing cooked mid-day meal Apart from Madras; several other cities initiated the programme of MDM. Keshav Academy of Calcutta introduced tiffin in the form of MDM for school children against payment basis in 1928. Later, this programme was extended in various parts of the country like Kerala (1941) and Mumbai (1942), Bangalore(1946), Uttar Pradesh (1953). With the help from UNICEF, skimmed milk powder was provided to the children in the age group 6-13 in Mumbai. In Bangalore, cooked rice with curd and in Uttar Pradesh, boiled or roasted grams, ground-nut, puffed rice or seasonal fruits were provided to school children on a voluntary basis. International agencies like the UNICEF, FAO, WHO assisted the several states in India to provide launch programme during 1950. Later, Applied Nutrition Programme (ANP) was developed by Govt. of India for feeding the school children with nutrition value. Other international agencies, like Catholic Relief Service (CRS), Co-operative of American Relief Everywhere (CARE) also assisted the programme by providing nutritional foods. All these efforts were taken by the Govt to prevent and protect the child from hunger and malnutrition. Later, all the above-discussed launch programme was included in the MDM of Govt. of India and received full attention in 1995 and merged with SSA in all over the country with an aim to maximise enrolments and minimising drop out in the age group 6-11.

5.2 MDMs & Introduction in India

Food is one of the basic needs and sharing or offering food is a universal tradition by all the communities in the world. India also experienced a long tradition in respect for food. In 1950,

India adopted a progressive constitutional, and it aimed to ensure economic, social and political justice with equality and dignity. Indian Constitution does not recognise “ The Right to Food” as a fundamental right. However, Article 21 of the India constitution guarantees a fundamental right to life and personal liberty. The right to get quality food is necessary for human life and one of the fundamentals duty of the Govt. to arrange adequate means to livelihood. Article 47 spells out the responsibility of the state concerning nutritional support and standard livelihood. Article 32 of the Constitution Right to Food has become a guaranteed fundamental right, and therefore the State must ensure the provision of availability of food to every household, particularly for the poor household. Now, ‘ right to education’ and ‘right to food’ are the fundamentals rights of every Indian citizen. After independence, India adopted various strategies to improve the nutritional status of the children. So, for the development of the nutritional status, Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS) was introduced in 1975 in 33 blocks and aimed to provide holistic development of children (0-6 years) in the form of supplementary nutrition, immunisation, health check-up and health education. The primary objectives of ICDS are :

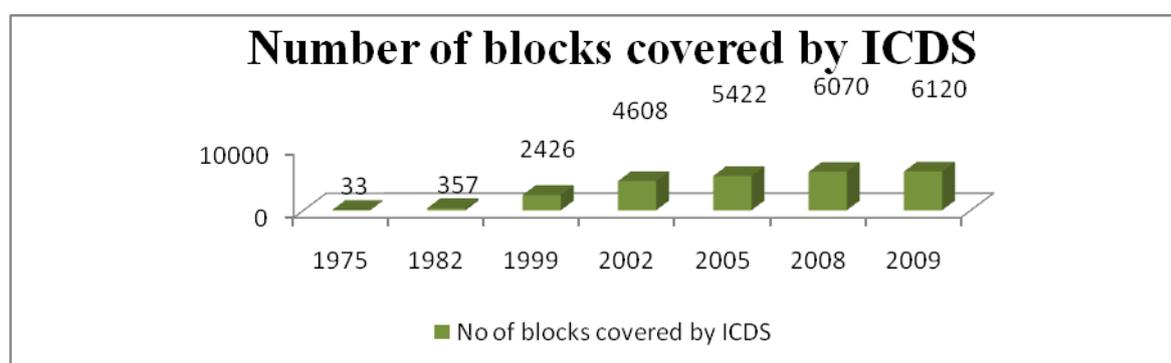
- 1) To improve the nutritional and health status of the children (0-6 years),
- 2) To develop the foundation of proper psychological, physical and social development of a child.
- 3) To reduce mortality, malnutrition and school dropout.
- 4) To achieve effective coordination of policy and implementation amongst the various departments to promote child development,
- 5) To enhance the capability of the mother to look after the normal health and nutritional needs of the child through proper nutrition and health education.⁹

The above objectives are provided through the network of Anganwadis in the form of supplementary nutrition(SNP), Non-formal pre-school education (PSE), immunisation, health check-up, nutrition and health education (NHE). By fulfilling the above objectives, the ICDS is expected to attain the goal of the Millennium Development Goal.

⁹ Anganwadi Feeding (<https://www.akshayapatra.org/anganwadi-feeding>)

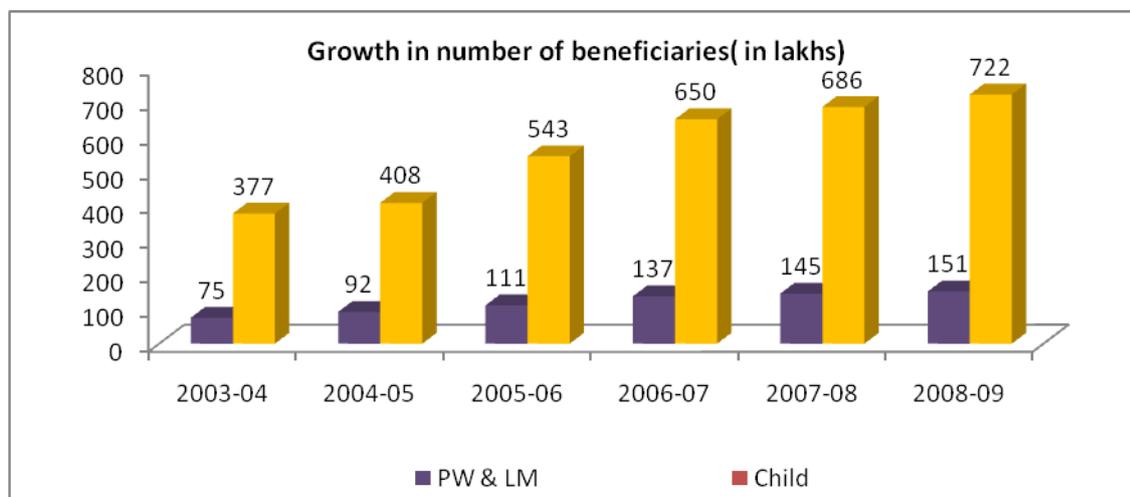
The aim of ICDS to do welfare of children and for expected mothers by providing cooked foods and morning breakfast. The involvement of NGO manages this process. The Govt. Of India prescribes the nutritional norm as 500 calories and 12-15 grams of protein of children in the age 0-6,600 calories and 18-20 grams of protein to pregnant and nursing mothers and 800 calories and 20-25 grams of protein to malnourished children. The supplementary nutrition was provided @ Rs.5 per child, Rs.5.50 per pregnant & nursing mother & Rs.6 per mal-nourished child per day till 30.06.2013. However, considering the price escalation, GOI revised cost norms Rs.6 per child per day, Rs.7 per pregnant mother per day and Rs.9 per malnourished child per day. Though the ICDS programme was introduced in 1975 among 33 community development blocks, it has multiplied in through the country. Chart 5.1 shows the trend of ICDS over 30 years. As the number of blocks increasing, the number of beneficiaries has also risen in respect of children (0-6 years), pregnant and nursing mothers. Chart 5.3 shows that, number of recipients including PW & LM (Pregnant women and (Lactating Mothers) and children has been grown at a steady rate, at an average 9.2 percent from 2002 to 2008. Despite all initiatives,42 percent of children in India are suffering from malnutrition and most of them belong to the poor economic background. In this situation, most of the children from this family were away from schools to support the family income with their parents. So, it is necessary to take significant steps to prevent the children from hunger & malnutrition and also to enrol them in the nearby schools also. Mid Day meal scheme was introduced by the Govt of India to fill every child stomach irrespective of caste

Figure 5.1 Number of blocks covered by ICDS



Source: Evaluation report on integrated child Development service (Vol-I), Programme Evaluation Organisation, Planning Commission, GOI, 2011

Figure 5.2 Number of beneficiaries through MDM in India



Source: Evaluation report on integrated child Development service (Vol-I), Programme Evaluation Organisation, Planning Commission, GOI, 2011

and income. Before the MDM programme, several launch programmes were organised by different states. The following table shows the different launch programmes among different states:

Table 5.1 Different types of launch programme across the various states.

Name of the states	Year of introducing launch programme	Description
Andhra Pradesh	1995	Provision of giving 3kg wheat/rice per month to a child attendance over 80%
Madhya Pradesh	1995	Dalia was provided
Rajasthan	1995	Provision of giving wheat@ Rs.3 per kg per student per month
Arunachal Pradesh	1995	Dry rations was provided
Punjab	1995	Provision of giving wheat@ Rs.3 per kg per student per month
Himachal Pradesh	1995	Dry rations was provided
Jammu Kashmir	1995	Dry rations was provided
Meghalaya	1995	Dry rations was provided

Source: planning commission ,GOI,2010

Government schools were chosen for this project to provide the mid-day meal to the maximum number of children and the centrally sponsored scheme called mid-day meal was introduced in the all Govt.schools on 15th August 1995. The prime objectives of MDM were to increase enrolment, attendance and nutritional level among underprivileged children.MDM scheme was extended to all children studying (class 1-V) in Government, Government aided, local body schools, EGS and AIE centres.

National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (known as MDM) is the most significant launch programme and covering more than 12 crore children in nearly 10 lakh primary schools. Initially, the scheme was provided with the provision of minimum 300 calories and 8-12 grams protein. Central Govt. modified the scheme w.e.f September 2004 and the cooked meal was given to children in schools with the following components.

- i) Free food gains of 100gms (rice/wheat) per child.
- ii) Cooking assistance or cooking cost @ Re1 per child.
- iii) Reimbursement of transportation cost @ 75 per quintal.
- iv) Management, monitoring and evaluation cost @ 2 percent of the cost of the food grains, transport facility and cooking assistance.
- v) Provision of mid-day meal during summer vacation in drought-affected areas.

Again, the MDM was revised and extended to children studying in upper primary schools (classes V to VIII) and nutrition norms fixed by the Central Government for the child minimum of 700 calories and 20 grams protein by providing 150 grams of food grains per child. From 2009, Central Govt made some changes to improve the implementation of the MDM scheme. The modifications are

- i) Increase the Provision of quantity pulse from 25gms to 30gms and vegetables from 65gms to 70 gms.
- ii) Cooking cost increased from Rs.1.68 to Rs.2.50 for primary and Rs.2.20 to Rs.3.75 for upper primary.
- iii) The honorarium for cooks and helper was paid of Rs 0.40 per child per day.

Due to the successful implementation of the MDM, drop out ratio was substantially decreased and during 2012-13,10.68 crores children at primary level had been covered 12 lakh schools and 10.45 crore children were covered in 11.58 lakh schools during 2013-14.

5.2.1 Mid day Meal under National Food Security Act,2013

The Govt. of India introduced “Mid Day Meal Rule 2015” on 30.9.2015. The provision related to mid-day meal scheme is included in the National Food Security Act,2013. The Ministry of HRD finalised the necessary provision and rules after consultation with state and other related Ministries. The rule was known as Midday Meal Rules,2015 and effected from the date of notification in the Gazette of India.food security allowances to be paid to beneficiaries in case of non-supply of meals for specified reasons. The significant features of this rule are as follows:

- a) Entitlements of children:** Every child shall be provided hot cooked meal having the nutritional standard of 450 calories and 12 gm of protein for primary and 700 calories and 20 gm protein for the upper primary level.The hot cooked meal shall be provided in the school premises only.
- b) Implementation of the scheme:** Each school shall have the facility for cooking meal in hygienic manner. Urban area schools may use the facility of centralised kitchen for cooking the MDM and meals should be served in the schools only.
- c) Management Committee-**As per Right To Free and Compulsory Education Act,2009, the SMC monitors the MDM scheme implementation and other provisions of the scheme like cleanness of the cooking place and hygiene of the meal.
- d) The utilisation of school fund-**In case of unavailability of the food grains .cooking cost from the Government, the head teacher of the school shall be authorised to use any fund of the school to continue the mid-day meal in the school. State Government shall be also liable to pay Food Security Allowance by 15th of the succeeding month due to unavailability of the food grains and other costs from Central.
- e)Testing of the meals-**The cooked mid-day meal shall be tested and evaluated by the Government Food Research Laboratory to confirm nutritional standard and quality.

5.2.2 Major Objectives of Mid Day Meal

National Programme of Nutritional Support of Primary Education (NPNSPE) was introduced as a centrally sponsored scheme on 15th August 1995, covered 2408 blocks in the country. The Govt identified the principal objectives of MDM as education and food for all children by providing i) Improving nutritional status of children in classes I to VIII in Government, local body and Government aided schools and Education Guarantee Scheme (EGS), Alternative and innovative Education Centres. ii) Encouraging poor children from the disadvantaged community for regular class attendance and concentration on studies. iii) Nutritional support to elementary schools children especially drought affected areas. No doubt; human potential and development of the state are always facing challenges without proper education. The government has been spending a considerable amount to achieve the goal of 100 per cent universalisation of elementary education. The constitutional commitment of free education as ‘Right of children to free and compulsory education Act’ came into effect on 1st April 2010. However, still, children from weaker section of the society suffer from hungry, low nutrition and also proper care in education. Malnutrition affects in regular attendance and also overall objectives of the mission. The primary objectives of MDM are focussing mainly hunger and education by providing:

- i) Improving nutritional support of school going children in classes I-VIII in Government, local body and Government aided schools, and Education Guarantee Scheme (EGS) and Alternative and Innovative Education Centre (AIE) under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.
- ii) Encouraging poor children to attend school regularly by providing MDM in the schools.

No doubt education is one of the constitutional commitments in the development of human potential. Central and State Govt. are continuously trying to provide educational facilities to achieve the 100 per cent goal of universalisation of elementary education. So, the constitutional commitment has been implemented by the introduction of free and compulsory education of all children up to 14 years of age.

5.3. Background of Mid day Meal programme in Jalpaiguri Sadar and Rajganj Block:

In the district, Jalpaiguri, which was a part of West Bengal state, under “ Mid-day meal programme “ had responded very positively to all the children specified under the scheme. Jalpaiguri is regarded as one of the developed districts concerning education and employment. In this respect, MDM became a vital part of elementary education to attain the objectives of enrolment, retention and attendance in primary schools. Previously it was known as National Programme for Nutritional Support to Primary Education, but now it was revised as National Programme for Mid Day Meal.

Table 5.2 Brief summary of Mid Day Meal Programme in Jalpaiguri

1995 (introduction of MDM)-till 2002	National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education was introduced and free food grains were provided to every child in primary schools (class I to V) in Govt, Local Body and Govt. aided schools.	
April 2002 to March 2003	The Project was extended through EGS and AIE and started serving cooked hot meal in all primary schools.	
2006	The programme was to upper primary class (VI to VIII) in Govt. and Govt. aided schools under the guidelines of NP-NSPE	
2007 onwards	Mid day meal programme started in all Govt, Primary and upper primary schools in all districts of the state.	
	Primary	upper primary
	(Cost of meal per child per school day)	
w.e.f July 2008	Rs.2.58	Rs.2.60
w.e.f 2009	Rs.3.00	Rs.3.75
w.e.f 2010	Rs.3.30	Rs.4.00
2011-12	Rs.3.40	Rs.4.40
w.e.f 01.07.2016	Rs.4.13	Rs.6.18

Source :NP-NSPE Guidelines 2010

The new version Cooking cost per child per day increased to Rs.4.13 and Rs.6.18 respectively for primary and upper primary schools. Central and State will share the cooking cost in the ratio of 60:40. Majority of the population of the district are in the village. So, it is evident from table no 5.3, a significant number of primary schools are situated in the villages

Table 5.3 No of primary schools in West Bengal & Jalpaiguri

Primary schools		2005-06	2013-14
	West Bengal		55603
Rural		42793	65692
% of school in rural area		76.96	85.34
Jalpaiguri		2002	3849
Rural		1829	3511
% of school in rural area		91.35	91.21

Source: Calculated from DISE data (2005-06 & 2013-14)

5.4 Administrative Agencies of MDM at National, State, District and Village Level

While implementing MDM, Central and State Government Should jointly work to achieve the goal of MDM and also State government should follow the guidelines which are issued by Central Govt. A committee is formed NSMC (National steering cum monitoring committee) to evaluate the impact and provide advice to the Central and also to monitor the programme. The MHRD is the nodal agency for sanction the funds to the different state Govt.

To execute the main objectives of MDM ,various central and state agencies are involved in the process like FCI (food corporation of India),the Department of Food and Civil Supplies, Department of social welfare at the state level , Department of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Food and Public Distribution Department are involved in the implementation process of MDM.

The school education department, Government of West Bengal is the nodal body for the introduction of mid-day meal in the state. The following state-level officers are responsible for administrative control of MDM.

- i) Project Director
 - ii) Dy. Director (civil)
 - iii) Dy Director (food)
 - iv)MIS co-ordinator
 - v)Accountant
 - vi) Head Assistant
 - vii)UDC
 - viii) data entry operator.
- In the district, District

Magistrate is the nodal officer of this scheme with the help of SDOs , BDOs and other supporting staff.

Block level mid-day meal scheme is administered by the assistant inspector of school ,supervisor, assistant accountant and data entry operator. In a municipal level, the MDM scheme is managed by joint commissioner/chairman of the municipality, assistant accountant and a data entry operator.

In India, generally all the plans are formulated by the Central Govt, and state Government of different states act as an agent to implement the policies with the help of local administration. The state Govt. Are supposed to implement those policies that ensure the equal access to basic needs such as education, health, food, employment. State Government has to practice the central policies to eliminate the social and economic inequalities.

In this context, cooked mid-day meal programme was introduced to address the children of poor socio-economic background. Financial assistance and ration are provided by the central but the distribution and monitoring responsibility lies with the state Govt. The State Govt with the help of local bodies co-ordinates and maintains detail record of the MDM scheme. The record includes attendance of students of students, quantity of foods sanctioned from FCI, quantity of foods supplied to schools/blocks, expenditure incurred for salary to cooks, vegetables, and other cooking ingredients.

The MDM programme has been controlled and monitored by different agencies at the different level. These are shown as below:

Table 5.4 Different types of monitoring agency

Different Agency	Agencies Responsible
National Level	National Level Steering Cum monitoring Committee and Programme Approval Board
State Level	State Level Steering Cum monitoring Committee and Nodal Agency
District Level	District Magistrate/District Nodal Agency
Village Level	Gram Panchayat/Municipality
School Level	VEC,SMDC,PTA,MTA

Source:<http://mdm.nic.in>

5.4.1 National Level steering Cum monitoring Committee

A monitoring system has been developed to manage and evaluate the system to attain the goal of the midday meal. As the cooked food is provided to the children, there is utmost need of quality, hygiene and safety of cooking items and kitchen. At the national level, NSMC and PAB were constituted under the MHRD for the smooth and effective functioning of MDM. NSMC is responsible for programme implementation, taking corrective actions, making coordination among different departments, mobilising community support, promoting PPP (Public-private partnership) model. The committee issued guidelines about the testing of the meal and it was stated that at least one teacher must test cooked meal and a register is to be maintained for that. Central assistance is given to all schools for making a kitchen-cum – stores for the safe storage of food items to avoid moisture and malpractice. The committee also specified the cooking cost for primary and upper primary classes per child per day for the purchase of cooking items. As per MDM guidelines, the logo of MDM should be made on the wall of the school to make aware of MDM to children, parents and other community members. As the District Magistrate should conduct meetings at least quarterly intervals.

Figure-5.3 Logo of Mid Day Meal Scheme



The committee also recommended the social audit of the scheme. The two districts of Andhra Pradesh conducted the social audit with the help of SSAAT (Society of Social Audit, Accountability and Transparency) to ensure public accountability in response to MDM. As the quality is an issue, there is a need for testing of food samples to judge the chemical contents such as moisture, fat, protein, vitamins. The laboratory report discloses the material facts about the cooked mid-day meal. The state should take an active part to ensure the quality of MDM through sample checking by CSIR and National Accreditation Board. Despite these,

if any unwanted incident in the school, Headmaster/Headmistress should be responsible for that. The district authorities (District education officer, District Health Officer, District Magistrate) should take immediate action, and prompt medical treatment is provided to children. The success of the scheme depends on supervision and control of Gram Panchayat at village level and municipality in the urban area. In every district, District Nodal Agency(DNA) is responsible for the implementation of the scheme with the help of DM, DSWO(District social welfare officer), BDO and gram panchayat or municipality members.DNA is provided monthly district allocation by SNA(state nodal agency), and DNA ensures that every school have allocated their part. At the village level, the implementation of MDM is managed by School Education Rural Development, Women and Child Development and Social Welfare. Involvement of NGOs, a self-help group in respect of supplying food is encouraged.

As per RTI guidelines, all the schools are required to display information in respect of above issues under MDM..Before the introduction of RTE Act,2009,most of the primary schools in urban and rural Jalpaiguri were brought under the coverage of MDM. The following tables shows the details mid day meal coverage in Jalpaiguri district.

Table 5.5 Number of Institutions- (Primary) (Source data : Table AT-3A of AWP&B 2017-18)

Sl. No.	Districts	No. of Institutions	No. of Institutions serving MDM	Non-Coverage	% NC
1	Jalpaiguri	1840	1840	0	0%

Souce:PAB-MDM 2017-18

Table 5.6 Coverage of Children vs. Enrolment in North Bengal (Primary) (AWP&B 2017-18)

Sl. No.	Districts	Enrolment as on 30.9.2016	Average number of children availing MDM	Diff	% Diff
1	2	3	4	5=4-3	6
1	Alipurduar	114651	114069	-582	-1%
5	Cooch Behar	235784	232585	-3199	-1%
6	D/Dinajpur	141343	135403	-5940	-4%
7	U/Dinajpur	391477	372005	-19472	-5%
8	GTA	57300	56620	-680	-1%

Continued Table 5.6

Table 5.6 Coverage of Children vs. Enrolment in North Bengal (Primary) (AWP&B 2017-18)

11	Jalpaiguri	180361	157800	-22561	-13%
13	Malda	493768	435279	-58489	-12%
21	Siliguri	78628	78183	-445	-1%

Souce:PAB-MDM 2017-18

Table 5.7 Number of meal to be served and actual number of meal served during 2016-17

Sr. No.	District	No of meals to be served during 1.4.2016 to 31.12.16	No of meal served during 1.4.16 to 31.12.16	% Meals Served
1	2	3	4	5
1	Alipurduar	16858632	16882212	100%
2	Bankura	52359132	36727532	70%
3	Birbhum	59083941	52835556	89%
4	Burdwan	96019273	83249704	87%
5	Cooch Behar	35078841	34422580	98%
6	Dakshin Dinajpur	20499003	20039644	98%
7	Uttar Dinajpur	63402122	55056740	87%
8	Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA)	12288486	8379760	68%
11	Jalpaiguri	28475104	23354400	82%

Souce:PAB-MDM 2017-18

For example, in 2017-18, 100 per cent of all the schools in Jalpaiguri were found to have launched the MDM programme. However, the coverage was 87 per cent in 2017-18 in respect of average numbers of children availing MDM against total enrolment. Again the progress in MDM participation was also lowest among the other district in North Bengal. The

figures relate to the number of meal served, and it was found that Jalpaiguri had experienced a lower percentage of meal served.

Table 5.8 Coverage of schools (Primary) in studied area under MDM scheme

Sample Area		Primary(Govt.aided/Govt.Sponsored)	
		Total No. Schools	% of schools introduced MDM
Jalpaiguri	Urban	40	40 (100%)
Rajganj	Rural	40	40 (100%)
Total		80	80 (100%)

Source- Field survey

From the above table it was found that, all the private schools in Jalpaiguri sadar and Rajganj are not covered by MDM.

5.5 Perception of the students regarding Mid Day Meal Scheme

Children are the main stakeholders of the MDM scheme. To evaluate the programme the following components were measured to evaluate the scheme.

5.5.1 Regularity of the Mid Day Meal:

It is the responsibility of the school authority that, mid day meal should be provided to each student in form of cooked food without any disturbance. The students (numbering 360) were asked about the regularity of the mid day meal. All the student respondents responded positively about the regularity of the MDM in Jalpaiguri and Rajganj block.

5.5.2 Quality of the Food

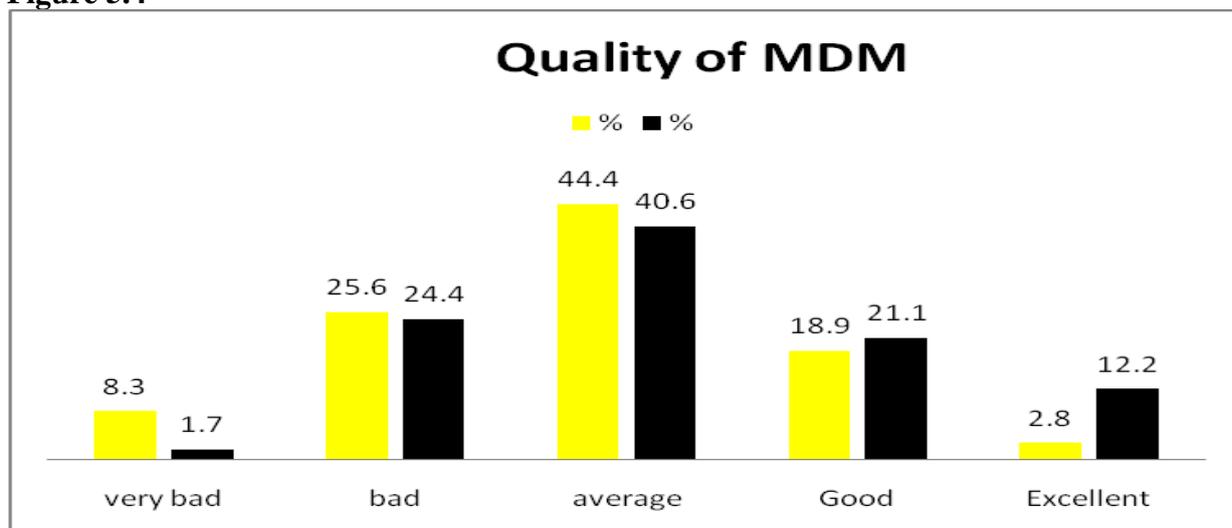
The students were asked about the quality of the food in respect of taste and smell of meals being provided to them. Their responses have been classified as “Excellent”, “Good”, “Average” and “Bad”. The analysis to this is shown below

Table 5.9 Details of the quality of the Food

Quality (taste and smell)	Jalpaiguri		Rajganj	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
very poor	15	8.3	3	1.7
poor	46	25.6	44	24.4
average	80	44.4	73	40.6
Good	34	18.9	38	21.1
Excellent	5	2.8	22	12.2
Total	180	100	180	100

Source-Field Survey

Figure 5.4



Source- Field Survey

The above analysis shows that, out of total 180 students in Jalpaiguri, 80 (44.4percent) expressed “ average” opinion about food, followed “ Good” 34 (18.9 percent),” Bad” 46 (25.6 percent) and “ Excellent” 5 (2.8 percent). The investigator has found that rice was nicely cooked but the quality of rice was poor and vegetables include potatoes and soya bean only.

Out of 180 students from Rajgunj, 73 (40.6 percent) felt that the taste of the MDM is of average.The number of students who considered the taste of the food is excellent is 22 (12.2 percent). Further, out of 180 respondents, 3 (1.7 percent) highlighted the very poor quality of the mid-day meal. However, the majority of the respondents from Rajgunj considered the midday meal satisfactory..

5.5.3 Left over of MDM

The researcher investigated about the quality of the food and observed that there are some cases of leftover food.

Table 5.10 Details of Leftover of food

		Left over of the Meal n=180		
		Daily	Sometimes	Rare
Jalpaiguri	Number	9	128	43
	%	5	71.11	28.89
		Left over of the Meal n=180		
Rajganj		Daily	Sometimes	Rare
	Number	0	38	142
	%	0.00	21.11	78.89

Source-Field Survey

From the respondents, it was observed that 71.11 percent of students had ended their midday meal with some leftover food while 28.89 percent respondents replied with no leftover food in Jalpaiguri. There were only 5 percent of the total samples evidenced with leftover of food daily basis. However, in Rajganj block, 78.89 percent responded with no leftover of the food, and 21.11 percent students replied with some leftover of food. The researcher has not found in any cases of daily leftover of food in Rajganj block.

5.5.4 Hygiene and safe issues of the MDM

Table 5.11 Details of hygiene and safe of the MDM

Jalpaiguri		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Hygienic MDM	Excellent	13	32.5	32.5
	Good	22	55	87.5
	Average	5	12.5	100
Rajganj		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Hygienic MDM	Excellent	11	27.5	27.5
	Good	27	67.5	95
	Average	2	5	100

Source-Field Survey

The most significant aspect of MDM is that MDM must be hygienic. To ascertain this, head teachers were asked about the safety and hygiene of MDM which is provided to school. The above table disclosed that 87.5 percent of the respondents in Jalpaiguri confirmed about the hygiene and safety of MDM whereas in Rajganj 95% confirmed in this respect. It may be highlighted that, 12.5 percent and 5 percent respondents in Jalpaiguri and Rajganj found the MDM safety and hygiene is an average nature.

One of the important considerations of MDM is that food must be hygienic and each school is expected to provide MDM with safety and utmost care. The guidelines on Food and Hygiene for providing MDM in schools have been formulated to ensure safety and hygiene food in respect of procurement, storage, preparation and serving of food items. The guidelines are as follows:

The headmaster is the authority of the school and his duty to implement the MDM successfully in his school. So, it is deemed essential to get information from 40 head teachers from Jalpaiguri with regard to hygiene factors in MDM. The headmaster responsibilities are as follows

- i) Only packed dal, salt and other ingredients with AGMARK quality symbol should be purchased.
 - ii) Vegetables should be purchased fresh and should be used as early as possible to avoid longer storing.
 - iii) All raw materials should be physically checked and cleaned.
 - iv) For chopping vegetables , a clean cut board should be used.
 - v) Cooking must be done with low lid to avoid loss of nutrients.
 - vi) Testing of the food by the teacher is mandatory .Maintenance of separate register for testing the food is compulsory.
 - vii) The Cooking accessories, cooking utensils and should be cleaned and must be kept in good condition. Cook and helper should be aware of personal hygiene and by annual health check up should be necessary.
 - viii) There should be provision within the daily routine in respect of washing hands with soap for all children, cooks and teacher.
 - ix) The Kitchen store should be clean and adequate for cooking .The premises should be kept free from all types of insects.
 - x) Continuous supply of water should be in the schools.
- In respect of all the hygiene factors mentioned above, the details analysis is shown as under:
- xi) The kitchen and the cooking areas should be cleaned every day prior to and after the meal is cooked.

5.6 Perception of the head teachers regarding Mid Day Meal Scheme

For successful implementation of MDM, adequate supply of raw materials with standard quality should be supplied and proper implementation of this scheme depends on State Govt/ local bodies. An effort has been made to get to know the extent of hygiene factors facilities are available in schools from head teaches. To confirm this, “whether the meal is hygienic or not?” was asked and responses have been presented as below

Table 5.12 Hygiene factors of MDM

Jalpaiguri				Rajganj		
Hygiene Meals						
	Always	Sometimes	Rare	Always	Sometimes	Rare
Hygiene Factors			Hygiene Factors			
Purchase of AGMARK quality Rice,dal,etc	40 (100%)	0	0	40 (100%)		0
Purchase of fresh vegetables	40 (100%)	0	0	40 (100%)	0	0
Physically verification of raw materials	40 (100%)	0	0	40(100%)	0	0
cooking must be done with low lid	23(57.5%)	17 (42.5%)		35(87.5)	5(12.5%)	
Testing of the food by the teacher	40 (100%)			40 (100%)		
The kitchen and the cooking areas should be cleaned	40(100%)			40(100%)		
Cook and helper should be aware of personal hygiene and by annual health check up should be necessary			40 (100%)			40 (100%)
Continuous supply of water in the schools	40(100%)			40(100%)		

Source-Field Survey

All 40 headmaster/head teacher in Jalpaiguri Sadar and Rajganj have reported that they purchased the AGMARK quality of rice,dal and other ingredients from the local market. It may be highlighted that,headteacher or other teachers regularly have verified the raw materials which could be used for the cooking mid day meal. The 40 urban schools where the researcher has visited found the place of cooking in all schools separately maintained. All the schools have the facility of kitchen shed but researcher. found that all children bring their own plates from home for meal in the schools and after the meal, children themselves wash their plates and glasses.

For drinking water in schools, all the schools have the facility of useable drinking water facilities. But, researcher has not found a single water purifier in any schools. As cooking gas cost more and irregular supply, all schools depend on dry wood or bamboo for cooking. There is no separate place (dinning hall) for distribution of mid day meal in all the urban schools in Jalpaiguri municipality and mid day is served in the varanda. As there is provision of annual health check up of cook and helper as per guidelines issued by the MHRD on 13.02.2015. but , all the headmaster in the primary schools reported that no such initiatives have been taken so far.