

Title : AKSARA DASOHA PROGRAM MANAGEMENT- Impact Of Med Meal Programme On Primary Education - A Case Study With Reference To Belthangady Taluk.

By Mr. John Baptist D'Souza.

i. Brief objective of the project:

The study is initiated to understand how the Akshara Dasoha programme is functioning in the area where our college is situated. The study is also relevant from the point of analyzing the reactions of the school children, Teachers. Parents and School Development and Managing Committee and its effects on the objectives of the scheme. The study will be source of reference based on primary data and the analysis undertaken through descriptive statistics.

The Study was taken up with the following objectives:

1. To present brief history, objectives and rationale of the Midday Meals Programme in the state of Karnataka.
2. To document best practices in the implementation of Mid day Meals Programme in the State of Karnataka with reference to Belthangady Taluk.
3. To describe and assess the implementation of the programme
4. To give suggestions based on the Analysis, interpretations and findings of the study.

ii) Work done so far and results achieved and publications, if any, resulting from the work

(Give details of the papers and names of the journals in which it has been published or accepted for publication:

The project is completed within the specified period and is in accordance with the original plan. The study concentrates on the Akshara Dasoha- Mid day meal program of Karnataka State with special reference to Belthangady taluk. The study throws light on the opinions from students of Lower Primary, Higher Primary and High school. The questionnaire method is used to gather the data. Altogether 100 questionnaires were served. Interviews were also held with the Teachers and Parents.

Interviews were also held with the heads of Akshara Dasoha Program. The secondary data is collected from reports, journals, research articles, and books.

iii) Has the progress been according to original plan of work and towards achieving the objective. If not, state reasons: _

Yes. The project is completed according to the original plan of work.

iv) Please indicate the difficulties, if any, experienced in implementing the project: **No**

v) If project has not been completed, please indicate the approximate time by which it is likely to be completed. A summary of the work done for the period (Annual basis) may be sent to the commission on a separate sheet: **The project is completed**

vi) If the project has been completed, please enclose a summary of the findings of the study.

Two bound copies of the final report of work done may also be sent to the Commission.:

Following is the summary of my findings on MDM Programme.

A. School Enrolment Goes Up.

- Evidences suggest that MDM have a major impact on school participation, particularly among girl,
- There is much informal evidence that MDM have enhanced daily school attendance.
- Many parents for instance, reported that MDM had made it much easier for them to send their children to school in the morning.
- Children need less coaxing, as they now look forward to going to school.
- Most teachers also felt that MDM had raised daily attendance.
- Some teachers also pointed out that MDM make it easier to retain pupils after the lunch break.

B. End of Classroom Hunger.

- Before MDM many children reach school on an empty stomach in the morning, either because they are not hungry at that time or because their parents are too busy to arrange an early morning breakfast. This problem is resolved.
- MDM is a protection against hunger in general. The poor households such as those headed by widows or landless laborers have the assurance of a free lunch every day for their children.

C. Learning to Share.

- MDM have an important socialization value. As children learn to sit together and share a common meal.
- One can expect some erosion of caste prejudices and class inequality.

D. Gender Aspects.

- MDM reduce the gender gap in education, since they boost female school attendance than male attendance.
- MDM contribute to gender equity by creating employment opportunities for poor women.
- MDM contribute to the liberation of working women: when children get a hot meal at school, mothers are free from the burden of having to feed them at home in the middle of the day.

E. Organisational Concerns.

- Kitchen facilities are good
- Cooking utensils are sufficient
- Lunch plates are provided to children by public donations
- Drinking water is available in the school premises

F. Health Supplements.

The government of Karnataka provides health supplements as part of MDM programme. These include:

- Iron and folic acid tablet – 3 tablets in a week for 1 to 5th std. students
- Iron and folic acid tablet – 1 tablet in a week for above 5th std. students
- Vitamin A – Once in six months
- Albendazole for worms – Once in 6 months
- Kshera Byaghya (milk) – 3 days in a week.

G. Hygienic Factors.

- Cooks take bath everyday and come with clean clothes to cook food in the school.
- In all schools cooks wear head scarf and apron before they start cooking.
- Cooks come to school before commencement of the school. They clean the kitchen. They sweep the floor and swab.
- They clean the food grains first and wash vessels and also clean the vegetables and greens. They cut the vegetables
- Cleanliness is maintained in all schools while serving food to children.
- Children wash their hands before and after meals with soap and teachers supervise this regularly and guide them to wash properly. The students and teachers are trained to clean their hand in particular method.
- Cooks close the lids of the vessels while cooking and after cooking.
- Kitchens are well equipped with good ventilations.
- Kitchens are tidily swept and swabbed before and after cooking.
- Kitchen walls and roofs are dusted every day, so that the lizards, cobweb, cockroaches and other insects are avoided falling into the cooked food.
- The waste water after cooking is managed well so that the schools atmosphere is kept clean.
- The food grains, vegetables, greens and ingredients are kept on shelves or benches.
- Cooks use pure good water for cooking.

- The water tanks and drums are cleaned often with bleaching powder.

H. MDM Process.

- As soon as the school prayer is over and attendance is taken, cooks get the indent i.e., number of children who consume mid day meal from the Head master of the school.
- Based on the number of beneficiaries who take mid day meals she collects food grains and ingredients from the store as per norms and starts cooking by using LPG.
- She enters the details of the beneficiaries, food grains and ingredients used and cost utilized for preparation of food in the concerned registers on the same day.
- Other cooking ingredients are procured from the shops at wholesale concession rates and are used to prepare sambar at school itself by the cooks, which is of better quality and also in ample quantity.
- The food is cooked by using pressure cookers (to cook dhal and vegetables without spoiling nutrient contents) which helps to retain proteins and nutrients. It is also safe to use them and cooks are well trained to use pressure cookers properly.
- As soon as cooking process is over, cooks clean the place of serving and then serve the food to children.
- Cooks clean the place of serving after the meals. They clean the vessels and arrange them in order for the next day's work and close the kitchen.

I. Safety Measures.

- The gas cylinders are used economically and safely. The cylinders are kept in safe place.
- Fire Extinguishers have been installed in all the schools compulsorily as per the direction of Hon Supreme court. The training has been given to handle and use the equipments on a proper way by the fire brigade officials.

vii) Any other information which would help in evaluation of work done on the project.

At

the completion of the project, the first report should indicate the output, such as

(a) Manpower trained : **Students are trained to collect the Primary data**

(b) Ph.D. awarded : **Not Applicable**

(c) Publication of results : **NA**

(d) other impact, if any : **Created awareness among the Cooks regarding the importance of cleanliness.**